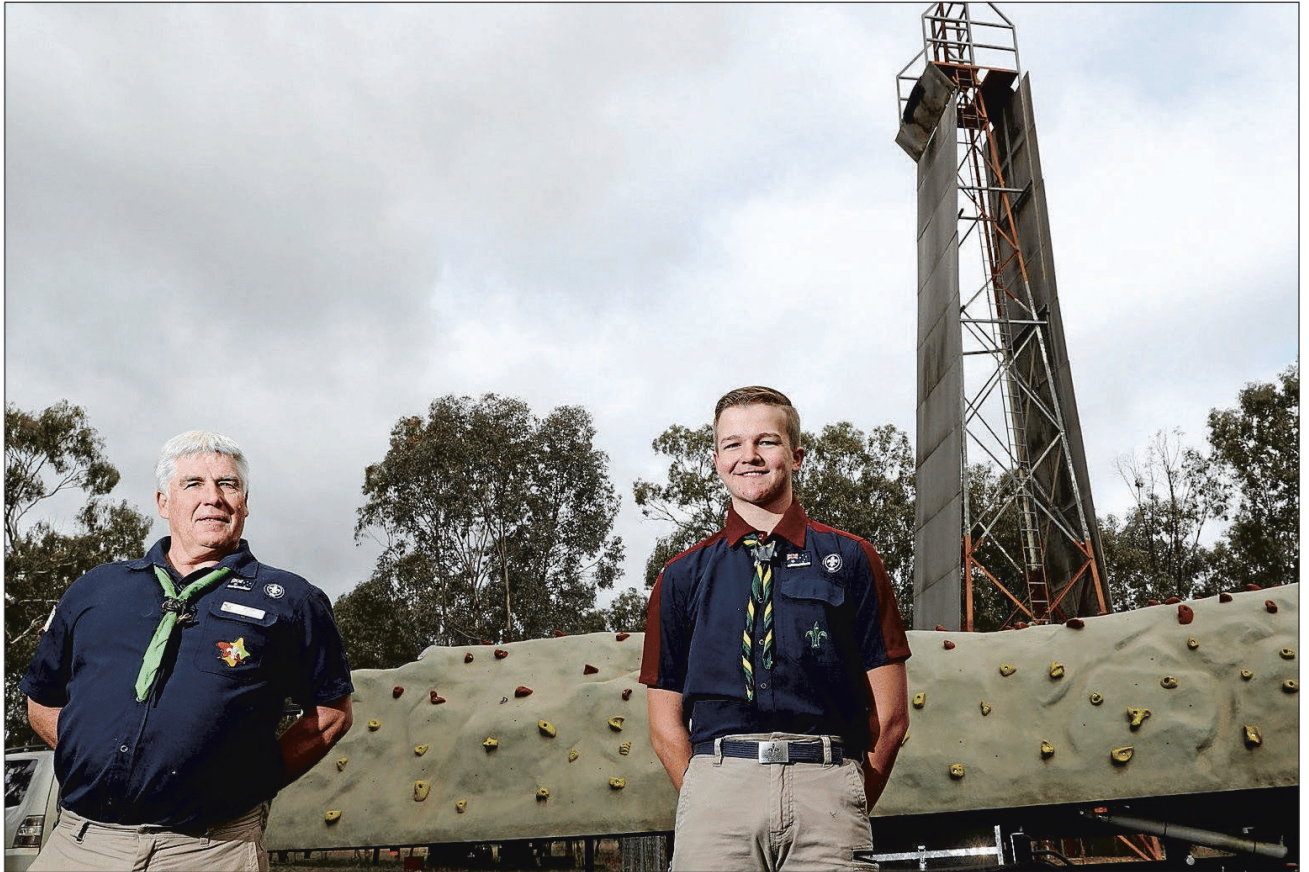




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NEW HEIGHTS: Riverina Region Commander Ian Petty and Venturer Scout Liam Logan are looking forward to seeing the new and improved Camp Kurrajong. The upgrades will include a new climbing wall, flying fox, and abseiling gear. **Picture: Emma Hillier**

Cash earmarked for Camp Kurrajong renos

BY KENJI SATO

A MAJOR overhaul is in the works for Camp Kurrajong Scout Park, which has received \$459,000 in government grants to patch leaky roofs and renovate ancient buildings.

New equipment, including a climbing wall which will be fully kitted out with abseiling gear and a flying fox, will be installed as part of the upgrades.

Once all the works are complete it is expected the facility will be opened to schools and other youth groups around Wagga.

The funding announcement was a long-awaited piece of news for Scout leader Ian "Breaker" Petty, who said some of the buildings were more than half a century old.

"Most of the halls are 60s vintage. We've kept the maintenance up as much as we can, but there's a few things we need to upgrade

- leaking roofs, stuff like that," Mr Petty said.

"We'd like to have this done by Christmas."

Venturer Scout Liam Logan, 16, is looking forward to trying his hand at the new climbing gear, being a massive fan of bouldering and abseiling.

The Wagga High School student first joined the Scouts at age 12, and since then has acquired a taste for outdoor adventure sports.

"I've learnt heaps of things - abseiling, rock climbing, caving, proper spelunking, knot work, bush work, hiking skills, all sorts of things that allow you to get outdoors," Mr Logan said.

"Just getting around with the community is also great, I love doing that. We helped a lot of people out - before COVID, at least."

Wagga MLC Wes Fang said the funding was part of a COVID-19 stimulus package for Scouting groups on Crown land.

"Scouts NSW is one of our state's largest and most popular youth organisations that helps communities build leadership skills, resilience and friendship through healthy activities for young people, so it's great to support them," Mr Fang said.

In May, Member for Wagga Joe McGirr had a go on the Camp Kurrajong flying fox, which he described as "a thrill".

"Only a few weeks ago, I had the chance to visit Camp Kurrajong and to try out some of the great activities that are on offer for Scouts. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit," Mr McGirr said.

"I'm pleased that these two great Scouting facilities have received funding for improvements and repairs, which will no doubt bring a lot of joy to thousands of Scouts in the future and help Scouts with their important ongoing work for our community."