

SIR LESLIE WILSON SCOUT DISTRICT

The Sir Leslie Wilson Scout District was formed in 1959 and is located in Northeast Brisbane, Queensland, and currently consists of six Scout Groups:

- **Enoggera Group** at 61 Hurdcotte Street Enoggera, established in 1931,
- **Everton Park Group** in Teralba Park at 120 Pullen Road, established in 1956,
- **Grovely-Mitchelton Group** at 172 Blaker Road Mitchelton, established 1954,
- **McDowall-Bunya Group** at 11 Cabrilla Street Everton Hills, established 1981,
- **Samford Group** at Cash Avenue (North) Samford, established 1962, and
- **Wahminda Park Group** at Baden Lane on Samford Road Ferny Hills, established 1980.

SIR LESLIE WILSON



Sir Leslie Wilson
Qld Chief Scout (1932 – 1942)

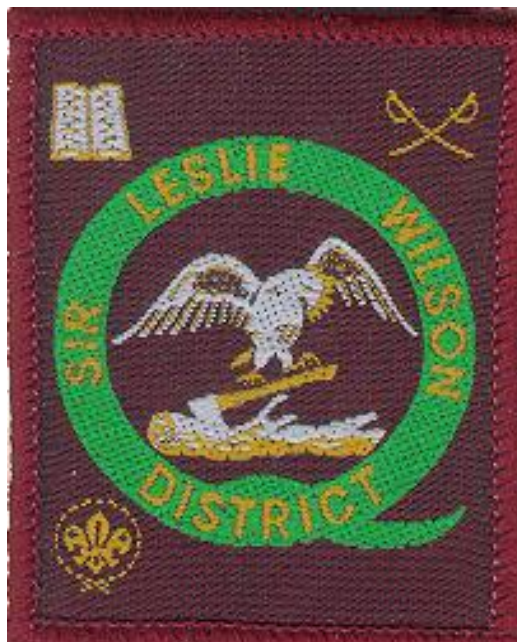
The District was named after Sir Leslie Wilson. Sir Leslie Wilson was a Colonel in the British Army, who served at Gallipoli and in France during the WW1. Sir Leslie was appointed Governor of Queensland, and Queensland Chief Scout (1932-1942) prior to and during the Second World War. Sir Leslie was a very keen supporter of Scouting having been a personal friend of Baden-Powell, and a Region Commissioner in the UK before being appointed as Qld State Governor. He was too old to have ever been a scout himself.

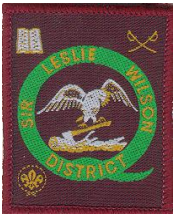
THE DISTRICT BADGE

All Scouts in Sir Leslie Wilson District wear this badge on their uniform. The badge was designed by a former District Commissioner, Mr Lex McPherson, and incorporates three scout section colours, Yellow for Cubs, Green for Scouts and Maroon for Venturers.

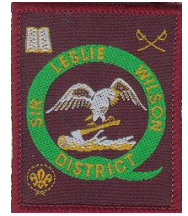
Features in the badge are:

1. A large green 'Q' denoting Queensland with the name 'Sir Leslie Wilson District' within the shape.
2. The 'Hawk' represents the Scout name of Sir Leslie Wilson and probably came from the 'Hawke' Battalion he commanded during the First World War.
3. The 'Axe & Log' is the Scout training sign.
4. The 'Crossed Swords' is the office of Sir Leslie Wilson as soldier & Governor of Queensland (1932-46). This also symbolises our duty to self – to do our best and seek the highest achievement we can.
5. The open book is symbolic of the 'Open Bible' reminding us of our duty to God.
6. The world Scouting emblem symbolises membership of a world-wide organisation and our duty to others.





THE HISTORY OF SIR LESLIE WILSON SCOUT DISTRICT



1. The District was formed in 1959 and the Groups in the District at that time were:-
 - a. Enoggera, established in 1931
 - b. Everton Park, established in 1956
 - c. Grovely, established 1954
 - d. Mitchelton, and
 - e. 3rd Newmarket (Corbie Park).
2. These Groups, prior to the formation of the District, were part of the Brisbane North District. The remaining Groups joined the District as they were formed. Known history of these groups is detailed below.

Enoggera

3. Enoggera is the oldest group in the District having been established in 1931. The den is located at 61 Hurdcotte Street, Enoggera.

Grovely

4. Grovely Scout Group was established on 29 Mar 1954 and met in private homes or the St Matthews Grovely hall until a hall was built and opened in 1957 at 172 Blaker Road, Mitchelton. Grovely Group amalgamated with Mitchelton Group on 22 April 2004 to form Grovely-Mitchelton Scout Group.

Mitchelton

5. Formed in ???, the Group operated from a hall at 670 Samford Rd, Mitchelton until it was amalgamated with Grovely on 22 April 2004, after having failed to recruit leaders and losing most of its youth.

Everton Park

6. Formed in 1956. The original den was at 818 Sth Pine Road. In 2010 Brisbane City Council resumed and sold the land and moved the Group to a new hall, shared with Guides in Teralba Park at 120 Pullen Road.

McDowall Bunya

7. McDowall Bunya Scout Group was formed in 1981, originally in Wonargo District and was transferred to SLW District in 1989. McDowall Bunya Group was originally part of Wonargo District, met at McDowall School, then moved to the den at 11 Cabrilla St, Everton Hills. The Group became part of SLWD later, when Wonargo District closed in about 1988 / 89.

Samford

8. Samford Group was formed in 1962, closed 1974 and reopened in 1980. The Samford Group hall and facilities are at 62 Cash Avenue North, Samford on the West end of the BP Park Scout property.

Wahminda Park

9. Wahminda Park Group was formed in 1980 and met for a time in PRSC rooms at James Drysdale Pk (Old Dump on Jinker Track), until GVK Lions played a major part in the new building at Wahminda Park on Baden Lane off Samford Road, Ferny Hills.

Alderley (no longer operating)

10. Alderley Scout Group formed in 1963 and met at a den in Sicklefield Street that is now the Brisbane North Region HQ. At about late 1983, or early 1984, SLWD was having trouble supporting the Sicklefield St. Building as well as the Grinstead Park building which was now vacant (Grinstead Park Group was definitely closed by this time). Brisbane North Area Office needed to relocate from Edward Street in the city, and a deal was struck between SLWD and BNA. BNA took over Sicklefield St. and SLWD moved to the Grinstead Park Building in 1984.

11. BNA made extensive repairs and modifications to the badly run down Sicklefield St. building, and paid SLWD a sum of money to allow them to make Grinstead Park Building suitable for District HQ, and to conduct DTMs etc.

Grinstead Park Scout Group (no longer operating)

12. Grinstead Park was formed as Venturers & Rovers only in 19??, expanded to a full group in 1968. The group closed in 1980, Rovers and Venturers continued until 2004. The building was the old Jamboree Post Office Building from 8th Australian Jamboree held at Jindalee Dec 1967 - Jan 68. The building was shifted soon after the end of the Jamboree, as Jindalee was a Housing Development (Jamboree Heights etc) and we had to get everything off site soon after the end of the Jamboree. In 1984 SLWD moved from the Sicklefield St building to the Grinstead Park Building. The hall burnt down in ???? and the remains of the foundations can be seen near the current SLWD Scout Chapel in Grinstead Park west of Shand Street.

Lehi Scout Group (no longer operating)

13. Lehi Scout Group was formed in 1969 and closed in 2001. The group was sponsored by the Gaythorne Mormon (LDS) Church.

Camden Park Scout Group (no longer operating)

14. Camden Park Group was formed in 1970 and closed in 2002. They met at a den located at 49 Dinterra Avenue Ferny Hills.

District Strength

15. The District strength at 1 Apr Census has been as follows:

Date	Leaders (excl Adult helpers)	Youth	Total	Remarks
2018	72	315	387	
2019	65	317	382	
2020	64	294	358	
2021	73	390	463	Post COVID
2022	76	374	450	
2023	73	385	458	

District Commissioners of Sir Leslie Wilson District

Mr Noel Coar (Chief Commissioner 1968-72)	1959 – 1961	Mr Bob McIntosh	1999 - 2001
Mr Lex McPherson	1961 – 1964	Mr Bob Greer	2001 - 2003
Mr Arthur Lelliott	1964 – 1967	Mr Keith Gridley, CSM	2004 - 2005
Mr Col Hoyes	1967 – 1970	Mr Gary de Baugh	2005 – 2006
Mr Ray Watt	1970 - 1977	Mr Brendon Dickenson	2006 – 2016
Mr Alan Boshier	1977 - 1987	Mr Russell Davie	2017
Mr Ken Pilkington	1987 - 1988	Mr Owen Richmond	2017 - 2023
Mr Des Allen	1988 - 1993	Ms Judith Brumler	2023 -
Kerry Griffin	1993 – 1999		

WHERE IS SIR LESLIE WILSON DISTRICT?

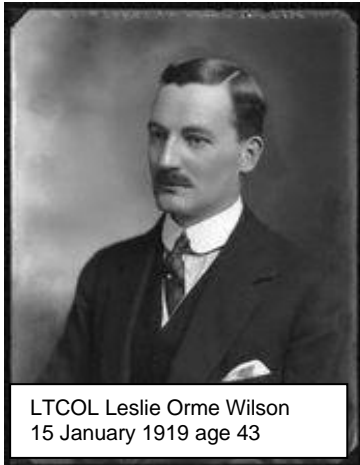
Scout Districts do not have formally defined boundaries; however, the general area of Sir Leslie Wilson Scout District is shown in the map below. The District is generally bounded by Enoggera Barracks and D'Aguiar range on the south, Trouts Road and Old Northern Road on the east, The South Pine River on the north and Brisbane State Forest in the west. The locations of the six current scout groups are marked below. The District also has Baden Powell Park located within its boundaries at Samford.



Sources: Information above was obtained from a range of SLW District notables including Des Allen, Kerry Griffin, Bob Greer, Keith Gridley, Gary de Baugh, Edna and Noel Sparrow and John and Wilma Morrison (originally in 2006). Where conflicts in information occurred, I have used the information provided by the DC incumbent at that time as authoritative. Updates have been added since then. Ed – Owen Richmond.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAIL - COLONEL SIR LESLIE ORME WILSON, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., D.S.O.

Sir Leslie Orme Wilson was born 1 Aug 1876 in London, UK, son of Henry Wilson, stockbroker, and his wife, Ada Alexandrina, nee Orme.¹



LTCOL Leslie Orme Wilson
15 January 1919 age 43

He was educated in London and was appointed as a second lieutenant in the Royal Marine Light Infantry in 1895. He served with distinction in the Boer War as a Lieutenant from 1899 – 1901, being mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps, and the Distinguished Service Order. From 1903 to 1909 he served in the rank of Captain as aide-de-camp to the NSW Governor, Sir Harry Rawson. It was at this time that Baden Powell (BP) was establishing the Scout Movement and he soon became an enthusiastic support of Scouting. Captain Wilson returned to the UK in 1909, marrying Winifred May Smith, the daughter of a Sydney merchant. In 1913 he entered politics as a member of the British House of Commons. The Rt. Hon. Lt Col Leslie Orme Wilson MP represented Reading from 8 Nov 1913² until late 1923.

Picture source: <http://www.npg.org.uk/live/search/portrait.asp> accessed 7 Nov 05

With the outbreak of the First World War he was made a temporary Lieutenant Colonel and given command of the 2nd (Hawke) Battalion of the 1st Naval



Badge of the
Royal Naval Division

Brigade in the Royal Naval Division. The battalion was part of the hastily assembled Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF)³ that landed on Cape Helles at Gallipoli in April 1915⁴. This was one of the most futile and desperate actions of the war. Casualties were horrific. Wilson was wounded and again mentioned in dispatches. In 1915 he was sent to France and in November 1916 was severely wounded.

Sir Leslie Wilson achieved the military rank of Colonel⁵ although this was probably an 'honourary' rank as he only attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel whilst in the British Army. In some cases officers of the British Army were allowed to take the title of the next higher rank on retiring.



Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson
Picture source: Mr J Morrison

In 1918 he resumed his political career and in 1922 was appointed to the Privy Council. During this time he also held a position as a County Commissioner of Scouts⁶ (equivalent of Regional Commissioner). In 1923⁷ SLW was appointed Governor of Bombay, India, and held the position until March 1926.⁸ In India he continued his interest in Scouting, became Chief Scout of Bombay.

1. Ritchie, J. (ed), *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 12: 1891 – 1939*, Melbourne University Press, p.528.
2. <http://www.angeltowns.com/town/peerage/rcommons1.htm> accessed 14 Nov 05.
3. <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lhcma/cats/hamilton/h0-0802.htm> accessed 14 Nov 05.
4. Rhodes, R.J. 1965, *Gallipoli*, Pan, London, pp. 156, 162.
5. <http://www.angelfire.com/rnb/dps/qld2.html> accessed 14 Nov 05.
6. Interview with Manfred Cross, President of Scout Qld and Scout Aide to SLW during WWII of 8 Dec 05.
7. <http://www.answers.com/topic/list-of-stewards-of-the-manor-of-northstead> accessed 14 Nov 05.
8. <http://www.rulers.org/indprov.html> accessed 14 Nov 05.

Biographical detail - Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson continued:

Sir Leslie Wilson was appointed Governor of Queensland from 13 June 1932 until



Sir Leslie Wilson being carried by scouts at Government House, Brisbane. Source: Qld Scouts archives

23 April 1946⁹ and was the Chief Scout of The Boy Scouts Association, Queensland Branch from 1932 until 1942.

During his time as The Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson was an enthusiastic supporter of the Scouts and used to enjoy visiting camps and scouting activities on a regular basis. He was a very cheerful, polite and easy going character and was well liked by the scouts of that time.¹⁰ He campaigned strongly to build up to poor financial position of the Scout movement in Queensland and actively supported the establishment of Air Scouts.¹¹

While Sir Leslie Wilson was too old to have been a Scout himself, he epitomised the spirit of Scouting, always supporting outdoor activities and actively leading and being involved in the Scout movement¹². His strength of character and outstanding personal example illustrated many of the facets of the Scout Law and Promise of that time. He was a man of honour; loyal, courteous, friendly, cheerful, obedient and thrifty, and he displayed a readily apparent sense of duty to God and King (country).¹³

“Handsome and courteous, Wilson had natural presence. His affable nature, keen interest in sport and unflagging support he gave to organisations [such as Scouts] and service functions during the war years were warmly regarded by Queenslanders.”

- Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 12: 1891 – 1939¹⁴

By the early 1940s his relations with The Boy Scouts Association were strained by his disagreement with the Chief Commissioner, Charles Snow, over the introduction of payment for the Chief Commissioners position, as he believed it should be an honorary position¹⁵.

He resigned as Chief Scout in 1942 and in 1945 the Scout Association acknowledged his support by naming the Sir Leslie Wilson Scout Camping Ground in Florence Bay, Magnetic Island, in his honour¹⁶.

On leaving office as Governor in 1946 he returned to live in his home county of Surrey in the UK. He died on 29 September 1955 at age 79 after being run down by a truck while walking.



Beach Entrance – Sir Leslie Wilson Scout Camp, Florence Bay, Magnetic Island. Source: Fones, R. p 70.

9. http://www.qld.gov.au/about_queensland/history/queensland_governors.html accessed 14 Nov 05.
10. Interview with Manfred Cross, President of Scout Qld and Scout Aide to SLW during WWII of 8 Dec 05.
11. Fones, R. 1992, *In the light of all the year: A history of Scouting in Queensland*, The Scout Association of Australia – Queensland Branch, Brisbane, p.89.
12. Pan Pacific Jamboree, 1955, ‘Obituary – Sir Leslie Wilson’ p. 3.
13. Baden-Powell, R 1935. *Scouting for boys: The official handbook for Boy Scouts*, Arthur Pearson, London, p. 12.
14. Ritchie, J. (ed), op cit, p.529.
15. Interview with Manfred Cross, President of Scout Qld and Scout Aide to SLW during WWII of 8 Dec 05
16. Fones, R ibid.



Sir Leslie Wilson - Chief Scout of The Boy Scouts Association,
Queensland Branch (1932 – 1942) Photo source: Qld Scout HQ

Sir Leslie Wilson's decorations include:

- DSO - the Distinguished Service Order awarded 1901. The DSO is a military decoration awarded for meritorious or distinguished service by officers during wartime, typically in actual combat.¹⁷
- CMG - Companion in The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, appointed in 1916.¹⁸ This is a British order of chivalry to honour individuals who have rendered important services in relation to Commonwealth.
- GCIE – Knight Grand Commander in The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire appointed in 1923. This is an order of chivalry founded by Queen Victoria in 1877.
- GCSI – Knight Grand Commander in The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India appointed in 1929.
- GCMG - Knight Grand Cross in The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, appointed in 1937.¹⁹

17. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Service_Order accessed 14 Dec 05.

18. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_and_Commonwealth_orders_and_decorations accessed 14 Dec 05.

19. An occasionally used humorous mnemonic from Yes, Minister to remember the seniority order is: CMG "Call me God", KCMG "Kindly Call me God" and GCMG "God Calls me God".



The attached photo shows the State Chief Scout, Sir Leslie Wilson, welcoming World Chief Scout Lord Robert Baden-Powell during his brief visit to Brisbane enroute to the Frankston Jamboree 1934.