



Editor Mary Wallace

i Dates to Remember

5/6/7 Dec 03 Skills Training 1 Course
 2nd Dec 03 Leaders Christmas Party
 25th December Christmas Day
 5-15th Jan 04 Jamboree Adelaide
 May Day Weekend 04 Megativities Camp
 At Camp Bundaleer - Lake Proserpine

Christmas Break Up

for Leaders
 District Team Members
 Regional Team Members
 Partners and Families

Date: Tuesday, 2nd December 2003

Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm

Place: Souths Leagues Club, Milton Street,
 Mackay

Theme: "Christmas".....the rest is up to you

Dress code: Casual

RSVP: Thursday, 27th November 2003

Via email (or) Phone 49548801

Group Leaders and Leaders In Charge, could you
 provide a Group response

Newsletter Notes from the Regional Commissioner

Hello to all you supporters of Scouting and the youth
 within our community. A very dedicated band of
 positive and quiet achievers who, in most instances,
 like to go unnoticed.

Well, for all of the team within the Central and Coastal
 Region I believe a big "BRAVO" is justly deserved.
 You definitely show there is no "I" in "TEAM" and we
 have a great team.

I thank those who have helped Margaret and I through
 a difficult year, to meet the challenge of change, to

attempt to meet the requirements of the "Twenty
 Fifteen Plan", the Groups' Charter, the concentration
 on the growth to the Movements membership and more.
 Thank you for wanting to help the youth in the
 community.

Thank you for the high standards and ideals that are
 apparent.

To those who played drawback – well, let's not worry
 about those and hope they will look at it from a better
 perspective for the future and learn that there is more
 fun and a better life with our teamwork.

We will always have the possibility of people like the
 fellow called "Mirror" – he was always going to look
 into it! Then we had the fellow called "Singlet" – he
 was always on someone's back! Now the joker called
 "Judge" – he was always sitting on a case!

Lets all look for achievements that will provide self
 satisfaction and grow the Movement whilst maintaining
 the high standards and ideals. Should we not strive to
 improve them and encourage many more people to join
 such a strong organization as the "Scouts" that offers
 a great program and more for the youth of our
 community?

Don't worry about the lack of time – just go and do it
 and enjoy it – join the Movement, I mean!! You die if
 you worry; you die if you don't worry – so? Why
 Worry? Just join the "Scouts"!!

Are you as Leaders all convinced that you will live
 until you are round the 200 years of age mark? You
 will have to reach this age to get all the things done
 that you would like to have completed before you fall
 off your perch!

Anyway, so much for all that – we wish you all a Merry
 Christmas and a Happy New Year. See ya in the Scouts
 in 2004

Bob Hodda



Some Coming Events: (Dates will be confirmed ASAP)

- *January 2004 – Regional Leaders Meeting with Group Leaders as guests to the meeting*
- *Mid February 2004 – Regional Leaders Activity Weekend at Rowallan Park with the Branch Commissioner Team in attendance.*
- *Mid March 2004 – Advertising Scouting to the Region and recruitment drive with John Weaver and the “Escape Car”. John will be in the Region for a week. This activity will be discussed at the Regional Leaders Meeting and an itinerary drawn up.*
- *“Megativities” in May?*
- *We have approval from the Chief Commissioner to have a Central & Coastal Region Venture to Vanuatu during the school holidays in September 2004. Details of the Venture and applications will be available early in the New Year.*

Some Ramblings:

I was given the opportunity recently when a grade five class conducted their school camp at Rowallan Park to take them on a hike of the area and tell them about life in the early 1900's. They were a very interested in the history of the Park and the current plans to maintain its heritage.

It has been very dry out at the Park and we have not commenced the work on the production of a sports oval on the existing parade ground. We hope to get this under way early next year.

RL Dave Brown is still working on the abseil tower construction and it is hoped to have this operational early in the New Year.

RL Mary Wallace has been providing good information to the Media and we have received good coverage over the past year. Thanks Mary for a job well done.

I have a draft of the website material for the Region compiled by Lance Hodda. It is excellent work and everyone should check it out when it goes onto the web in the near future.

Anyway – that's enough from me

*Bob Hodda
Regional Commissioner
Central & Coastal Region*

A word (or two) from the District Commissioner

The year of 2003 is drawing to a close with Christmas just around the corner. What a busy but challenging year it has been which I guess is part of the reason it has passed us by so quickly.

There are 31 members in Mackay District who are looking forward to an exciting start to 2004. They are attending the 20th Australian Jamboree at Woodhouse in South Australia from the 5th to 15th of January. Play the game fairly, care for one another and have a wonderful time guys. Queensland has 1411 applications consisting of 1064 Scouts, 26 Venturer Scouts, 9 Rovers, 19 other adults and 293 Leaders which will comprise 31 Jamboree Troops. A great effort from Queensland.

Since our last newsletter two more Mackay City Central Scouts have achieved the honour of being awarded the Australian Scout Medallion. Sam Franettovich was presented with his award on 17th October 2003 and Dean Salty is looking forward to his presentation on 5th October 2003. Congratulations on your achievements Sam and Dean.

Thank you to all who assisted in vacating the Macalister Street Den previously occupied by the now amalgamated 7th Mackay Group. This was a big job extending over two days but with a great team effort the task was accomplished. The Scouting spirit came to the fore once again. Thanks so much. The Uniting Church has taken over the building for their own use.

Our end of year family social night will be held on Tuesday 2nd December 2003 at Souths Leagues Club, Milton Street, Mackay commencing 6.30 for 7.00pm. The evening will have a Christmas theme and the rest is left to the imagination of participants. The cost of meals and drinks will be the responsibility of individuals. A play room is available for young children. Please contact your team leader for further details and to ensure a seat is reserved for you.

A big BRAVO to everyone for their efforts and support throughout the year to ensure this great game of Scouting continues to thrive. On behalf of the Mackay District Team I extend best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable, safe and relaxing Christmas and all that brings you and your families much love, good health, happiness and success in 2004.

*Margaret Hodda
District Commissioner Mackay District*

Report from Whitsunday District

Three new leaders from the Whitsunday Coast Group attended the Leadership 3 training course in late October at Rowallan Park.

A District Venturer Scout council meeting was held in Bowen on 10th October and the Bowen Group provided a wonderful BBQ meal for the visitors. A District Venturer Scout sleepover at the Whitsunday Coast den on 31 October, together with a fast-food meal and the "Fantasea" fireworks at Airlie Beach foreshore.

A District Executive meeting was held at the Proserpine den on 15th October with a visit by Wayne Harm ARC. Some planning took place towards a toilet and shower building and the District was successful in receiving a small grant for Megactivities 2004, from the Whitsunday Shire Council.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Bowen and Whitsunday Coast Executive committee meetings to discuss the 2015 Scout Plan, following the presentation at Rowallan Park by the Chief Commissioner and the Branch team in late August. A District Level 1 Anchor Badge Course was held at the Bundaleer campsite on the first Wednesday of the September school holidays. This course was conducted by Mark "Mango" Mangles of Pioneer Park and Leaders, Venturer Scouts and Scouts attended for a great activity.

The Proserpine Dam has a Class 1 declared pest infestation called "Mimosa Pigra". Mimosa Pigra is a branched thorny shrub 3-6 metres in height and grows both in water and land. It invades waterways, flood plains and wetlands, forms impenetrable thickets and chokes out native vegetation, grassland and crops. SunWater has introduced restrictions on the use of the Whitsunday District Campsite which includes no access to the water from the Scout site. All access by the Scouts and the public to the water is via the boat ramp. If this restriction is not successful the whole dam will be put in quarantine.

The Collinsville Scout Group has not been operating for sometime, all leaders have resigned and there are no youth members. They were meeting at the State School. Their scout equipment has been forwarded to the Bowen Group for their use and storage until such time they recommence.

Greg Walker
District Commissioner, Whitsunday District

Report from the Joey Scout Section

Getting in early for next year. I would like to organise a Joey Scout Jaunt and Regional Mob Holiday for the 5th and 6th June 2004 at Rowallan Park and thought it would be a good idea for the Joey Scout Leaders to put it in their diaries.

Theme: Maybe a Bushranger theme or Eureka Stockade, any ideas or suggestions? You can email me or ring me.

Keep Hopping!

Wendy Harm

Regional Support, Joey Scouts Section

Report from Scout Section

Here is a report on the Scout Leadership Course held last weekend, 31/1/2 Nov. 2003.

The course was run over two days and two nights, with 24 scouts, a course leader and 4 leader instructors. We also had a leader in training from Proserpine, who as part of his training came for the weekend. One scout leader who came out to visit got roped in to run some of the modules.

It was very hot, and a little uncomfortable, so we chased the breeze around for the weekend. It was a full on course, with not a lot of free time, but the scouts coped remarkably well. The level of participation and scout spirit was high, and the course was enjoyed by most.

The scouts now go back to their troops to finish of the course with an individual project, to be completed in the next 8 weeks. When competency is achieved they will be presented with Leadership Certificate and an epaulette to wear on their uniform.

Modules in the Leadership Course included Leadership Skills,

Task Management, Personal Safety, Teamwork, and many more skills that when learned, they will carry on into their adult life.

The scouts that were on the course came from Moranbah, Sarina, Proserpine, Banksia, and Mackay City Central Groups. The boys outnumbered the girls 20 boys to 4 girls.

A busy but good weekend was had by all.

Marg Barber (RIK) Regional Leader, Program Support, Scout Section

Report from Sarina Scout Group

District Church Parade was well attended by the Sarina Scout Group with 4 Leaders, 4 Adult Helpers, 1 Venturer Scout, 9 Scouts and 8 Cub Scouts attending. It was certainly an interesting service and the youth members are still talking about it. Swimming and McDonalds finished off a great day.

Lance Hodda was also presented with his 15-year service badge.

Jenna attended the Jamboree Shakedown and is looking forward to the Jamboree.

Sarina Group camped at Rowallan Park for the JOTA- JOTI weekend with a few new Scouts having their first camp.

We had 4 Scouts attend the Scout Leadership Course and are now putting their new skills into practice.

Cub Scouts had their break-up camp on the 8th & 9th November. We had a very interesting visit to the Mackay & District Military Museum, swimming and Pizza Hut. Sunday morning some of the Cub Scouts completed their red and blue swimming badges. Kite flying was a great hit as well.

7 scouts and two leaders and two parent helpers worked at the Special Children's Christmas Party on Friday 21st November.

Scouts will be having a camp at Rowallan Park with McDonalds and bowling to finish the weekend.

We would like to take this opportunity to
WISH EVERYBODY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
SEE YOU ALL IN 2004

Lance Hodda
GEO Sarina Group

Bowen Scout Group

We are a small group in Bowen but with big ideas. We are looking to move to Denison Park but will need to build a shed of our own. We currently meet at the Girl Guide Hut in Brisbane Street. We have 4 Cub Scouts, 8 Scouts and 1 Venturer. 3 of the cub scouts are going up and 4 scouts are going up. We have 5 leaders.

The Cubs Scouts had a day program for Jota/Joti. We went to Mr Eric Neale's (who is a amateur radio operator) place where we made contact with a number of Groups also they went on the computer

at Eagle's place again making contact with a number of groups. Three cubs will complete their Gold Boomerang shortly and one is just starting his bronze. We meet on Tuesdays from 5.00pm to 6.30pm.

3 Scouts and 1 Leader are looking forward to Jamboree. The Scouts have camped at a beach just north of Abbott Point. They are working towards Blue and Green cords. Also 4 are working on their link badges. Had a sleepover at the den for Jota/Joti. We also went to Mr Eric Neale's place where they contacted groups who will be in their camp at the Jamboree. They also visited Coastland Ministries radio station. Coastland keeps contact with Missionary Boats in the Pacific. Eagle talked to missionaries who were at the Fly River in New Guinea. Eagle had actually met them when he was at Thursday Island in June. They also visited the local FM Christian Radio Station. Also the Scouts made contact over the net with the Scouts they will meet at Jamboree.

Venturers have formed a district unit with Venturers from Proserpine and Cannonvale. They have had a gathering to form the unit and also have visited Airlie Beach for a sleepover and are planning a camp at Bundaleer with Banksia Venturers. The local SES will be involved with the going up ceremony but that is still in the planning stages.

Greg Windsor (Eagle)
Group Leader Bowen.

PS I actually spoke to Rhonda Windsor the Secretary of Bowen Group, over the radio from Rowallan Park at Jota. Mary Wallace, Editor.

Proserpine Scout Group

Our Cub Scouts and Scout numbers have remained the same over the few months, even though we participated with "bring a friend month" in August.

Three of the older scouts have formed a Venturer Unit together with Lone Venturer Scout Marc Rowe from Whitsunday Coast. They recently attended two District activities and council meetings. The 3 Venturer Scouts are enjoying the freedom and social meetings with some scouting activities

combined. They are coming to terms with having some combined meeting with fellow Venturers from Banksia, Bowen and Whitsunday Coast Groups

The Cub Scouts are to have an end of the year camp at Bundaleer on 22&23 November together with the Whitsunday Coast. Cub Scout leader Helen Keen is planning an interesting weekend of activities.

The Scouts are to have a Hike from the town to the Proserpine River landing downstream at Glen Isla and have a Sunday lunch later this month.

Six scouts attended the Jamboree Shakedown camp and three APL's attended the Scout Leadership course together with Scout Leader Lloyd Fox.

The scouts that attended all mentioned they had a great time and enjoyed meeting other scouts.

The Jamboree Scouts met their troop leader Mark "Mango" Mangles at Bundaleer during the September school holidays. The Pioneer Park Scout Group camped for a week at Bundaleer and on the Wednesday a Level 1 Canoe Charge Certificate course was conducted by Mango for Whitsunday District Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Leaders.

The Cub Scouts and Scouts each have an opportunity to raise some funds and promote scouting by conducting a sausage sizzle at the Chamber of Commerce "Carols by Candlelight" and the Rotary "Xmas Fair" respectively.



The group has been working towards satisfying the Scout Group Charter Criteria, which includes management, resources, program, leadership and image.

Our Group committee has been busy fundraising and organising a Xmas Party and a new group activity polo shirt.

Greg Walker, Leader in Charge
Proserpine Group

Jota and Joti 2003

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) was held for Scouting and Guiding members, worldwide on the weekend of the 18th and 19th October 2003. Approximately 96 members of Scouting were at Rowallan Park for some of the weekend and others camped for the weekend. 64 members of Guides made good use of the radios and computers as well.

Mr Ray Jones, Regional Leader, Special Activities, co-ordinated activities at Rowallan Park to join the world wide radio and internet link up.

Mr Wally Douglas and Mr Bruce Lenahan and members from the Radio Club manned the radios for the Youth Members and Leaders to communicate with other groups worldwide.

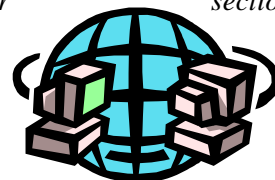
Many radio contacts were made however they were mostly, from scout groups in Victoria and New South Wales. On Saturday night an attempt was made to contact the



International Space Station as it passed overhead, however it was unsuccessful. The members were thrilled to see the Space Station travelling through our night sky.

Jamboree on the Internet was very popular with the youth members. There were 12 different channels for English speaking members and 50 contacts per channel could be made at any one time. There were also specific Channels for the Venturer Scout and Rover sections.

Contacts were made within Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland.



Compiled by Mary Wallace from information received from

Ray Jones, Regional Leader, Special Activities

Commonwealth Bank, Channel 10 Special Childrens Christmas Party

On Friday 21st November 2003 some scouting members participated in their leaders good turn activity by volunteering their services at the Special Children's Christmas Party at Ooralea Racecourse. Sarina had a good attendance, with 2 leaders 2 adult helpers and 7 scouts. Also volunteering were 2 Rovers, thankyou Melinda & Brendan (Turtle) 1 Regional Leader (Me) and two Scout Fellowship members.

It was surprising the number of children who said they were involved in scouting. Some attending from Moranbah and from Airlie Beach.

The Party organiser expressed her appreciation for the help provided by the Scouting Members.

Mary Wallace

Australian Scout Medallion Presentation to Sam Franettovich

*Sam Franettovich, a Scout from Mackay City Central Scout Group, was recently presented with his Australian Scout Medallion, the highest award that can be **achieved** in the Scout section.*

The Group Leader of Mackay City Central Scout Group, Mr Brian Harvey spoke of the significance of the Award and presented Sam with his Medallion, at a ceremony at the scout den attended by family, friends and fellow scouts.

The Australian Scout Medallion cloth badge was presented by Sam's Scout Leader, Mr Allan Salty.

Assistant Group Leader, Mr Bruce Miller, conducted the official ceremony, and also presented Sam with a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of the Group.

Regional Commissioner Bob Hodda and District Commissioner Mrs Margaret Hodda attended the ceremony and both congratulated Sam on his achievements.

Scout Leader, Mr Allan Salty, delivered an address on Sam's history in Scouting. Sam became interested in scouting when a friend invited him along to scouts in March 2000. He quickly started his progression up the scouting ladder. He earned his Pioneer Cord in September 2000 his Explorer Cord in September 2001 and Adventurer Cord in June 2003. Sam attended a scout leadership course and was successful in completing the tasks that were required to achieve his epaulette in July 2001. Sam displayed leadership skills so was elected by his fellow scouts as Assistant Patrol Leader, and in November 2002 he was elected Patrol Leader.

To achieve the necessary requirements of a Leadership activity, Sam organised and ran a Patrol Hike Camp from Fern Tree Gully at Broken River, Eungella to the diggings where they camped overnight and hiked to the Crediton Road intersection.

Mr Allan Salty commented that Sam is a cheerful scout who is willing to help out at all times, and never gave up in times of difficulty. His enthusiasm seems to rub off on his fellow scouts.

A sausage sizzle followed the presentation, and a special cake to commemorate the occasion was cut by Sam.

Sam will be presented with his Australian Scout Medallion Certificate at Queensland Scout Centre in Brisbane in early 2004.

Compiled by Mary Wallace
Regional Leader Community Relations
from information supplied by Allan Salty and Brian Harvey.



Merry Christmas



& A Happy New Year