

Issue 3 2004
September Edition



NEWSLETTER

Scouts Australia

Central & Coastal Region



Editor Mary Wallace

📅 Dates to Remember

16/17 Oct 04 JOTA / JOTI

Contact RL Ray Jones

Regional Commissioner's Message

The latest reports still show a decline in membership across the State and these figures are the same for the Central & Coastal Region.

This is not good news nor is it an acceptable situation.

We have spent a tremendous amount of time and set up resources as a result of implementation of the "Charter" which sets good standards for Scouting only to see a steady decline in membership.

We were to set off on holidays at the end of August but we have not departed for various reasons although not doing as much work and not at the office. This has possibly given me a better insight to Scouting in the Region as I have been at home to talk with people who have a reason to make contact.

We have had to deal with a number of contacts who have discussed their concerns and in some instances, their lack of satisfaction

The information received shows clearly the following outcomes:

- *Whilst some Groups are "Chartered" some appear to be not following the guidelines.*
- *Some activities, especially journeys such as the Adventurer Level and Scout Medallion are definitely being conducted outside of the guidelines and Regional Leaders have been instructed to ensure that the youth members are given every opportunity to display their own initiatives without the leaders holding their hands for the full distance.*

- *The Regional Team and the resources established within this team are not being fully utilized by the Groups.*
- *Some Groups are not supporting the Regional events such as Jota/ Joti where over one years work has been expended by a small team to give a much wider scope to this activity. Amongst new input into the activity Telstra have donated a "dish" to help us with this communication activity along with computers being made available from various sources. I am informed that some Groups have not offered the opportunity for their members to become involved because "they always do their own thing" and are not interested in the Regional Resource.*
- *Some leaders are not following their duty statement and are, in fact encroaching on the grounds of other leaders' domain thus causing unrest in the camp.*
- *Back biting and adverse comments of other people's efforts seem to be high on the list of concerns.*
- *Following the line system developed within the Region seems to be a source of concern. Some people are in fact making out of line statements which should be the responsibility of the District Commissioner. As you would appreciate, this causes undue stress and embarrassments as well as wasting the time of the District Commissioner and others to correct matters and keep them within the appropriate guidelines. I can assure that the Regional Team would be much happier moving forward than having to continually "put out bush fires" and address aggressiveness, disappointment and general unpleasantness brought about by unthoughtfulness and/or mischievous actions/words.*
- *Some resource committees are in place according to the "Charter" but do not seem to be in operation.*
- *Accounts with Branch Headquarters are beyond the 30 day credit limit – some are well over the normal expected industry trading period with outstanding amounts.*
- *Poor communication still seems to be an issue.*

Whilst the above items are the ones of annoyance they do not dominate and we would like to reduce them to a zero count for an ideal situation. These items are not directed at any one Group or person/s and are listed as constructive notes with the desire to assist in achieving top quality relationships and product delivery.

The Region is accountably progressive with emphasis on growth to the Movement through the delivery of quality programming. Harmony amongst our people with greater emphasis on quality achievements through good teamwork would be an asset.

The Movement should deliver fun, friendship and a feeling of a job well done if we all follow the guidelines and maintain the quality of high standards required with the introduction of the "Charter"

Yours in Scouting

R W Hodda
Regional Commissioner
Central & Coastal Region



A word (or two) from the District Commissioner

Many activities have taken place since our last newsletter with some Sections having produced quite exciting themes with imaginative and creative program content.

Members have participated in the Region Cub Scout Rally, World Scout Day, Charter Presentations, Queensland Leader's Activity Weekend (QLAW), Parkside Stocktake, 10 Year Old Camp, Operation Rainbow Bird, Queen's Scout Presentation, Abseiling, Hiking, Sleepovers, Pack Holidays, Mob Holidays, Bike Hike, Defensive Driving, Progressive Dinner, Visiting places of interest in the community, Providing service to the community, Conservation Projects, Award Presentations, Advancement Ceremonies, Meeting with community representatives, Fundraising and regular formation meetings.

Di Boucher has been instrumental in ensuring the Cub Scout Rally and Ten Year Old Camp went ahead as planned. Di coordinated the events with the support of Leaders and helpers who worked together to ensure their success. All but one Group in the Region participated in the Cub Scout Rally which was enjoyed

by Cub Scouts and Joey Scouts. Ten Year Old Camp was attended by 22 Cub Scouts and Leaders and three Bucasia Scouts who provided assistance on this important training weekend.

Presentation of the Queen's Scout Award to Brendan Ross at the Banksia Group Den was a pleasant experience and Brendan can be justly proud of his efforts in gaining this Award. Preparation for and presentation of this important occasion were in keeping with the significance of the Queen's Scout Award and I trust Brendan will have fond and lasting memories of his special day.

Mackay City Central and Banksia Groups have been presented with their Charter Certificates and new Queensland scarves. Moranbah and Sarina Groups have reached Charter status and we look forward to their presentations in the near future. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations to the following recipients of Adult Recognition Awards announced on World Scout Day.

Janet Brown, GL Moranbah Group, Certificate of Merit; **Rod Lean** ASM NU Mackay City Central Group, Certificate of Merit; **Peter Mumford** RL Central & Coastal Region, Silver Arrowhead; **Jo Brzozowski** JSL Banksia Group, Silver Arrowhead; **Lance Hodda** ASM U Sarina Group, Silver Koala, **Harry Roestenburg**, RA Mackay City Central, Silver Emu.

For reasons unknown we seem to be experiencing difficulties in implementing the Scout Section Journey Planning and Emergency Guidelines. I urge all Scout Section Leaders to familiarise themselves with these requirements so that a Scout attempting a Journey at any level whether it be Pioneer, Explorer or Adventurer, will receive the necessary guidance he or she is entitled to in order to meet the standards required. The document is most user friendly and provides all requirements of journey planning in clear, concise detail and is to be used within Queensland Branch. When a Scout Section Leader does not have the required qualifications to carry out the role of Supervisor for all three Journeys or Assessor in the case of the Pioneer Journey, a suitably qualified person will be nominated by the Regional Leader responsible for the Scout Section. Assessors for Explorer and Adventurer Journeys are appointed by the Regional Commissioner and/or District Commissioner. Our current appointments are Regional Leaders Marg Barber and Dave Brown.

Should a copy of the Journey Planning and Emergency Guidelines document be required please let me know.

Section membership criteria is detailed in the Message from the Chief on page 2 of the September 2004 Scout About Newsletter. This should clear up any misconceptions we may have had regarding age ranges within our Sections.

With the support of members and their families and friends we undertook to provide our services to Parkside Timber and Hardware to assist with their stocktake on 31st August 2004. I wish to acknowledge Rotarians Rob Denman, Adrian Gibson, Ross Hyland, John Taylor and Greg Whitmore who boosted our team to the required number. My sincere thanks to all participants for their commitment to fundraising for our District.

Keep up the good work, have fun, keep smiling and until next time "Good Scouting".

*Margaret Hodda
District Commissioner
Mackay District*

Joey Scout Section Report

I had the great pleasure of being invited to the Harry Potter Mob Holiday held by Banksia Joey Scout Mob on the 10th, 11th and 12th September. Friday Night we arrived at Platform 9 3/4 (Mackay Train Station) and met Hagrid, who walked all the young wizards down the platform to Hogwarts Express (the Tilt Train). On the train the young wizards put on their robes in preparation for the arrival at Hogwarts Station (Sarina Station) where they were met by Hagrid with his lantern. On arrival at the Hogwarts School the young wizards were met by Dumbledore the Headmaster who greeted them as they entered the Great Hall with Professor McGonagall. After entering the Great Hall, the Sorting Hat put all the young wizards into their Houses where they stayed all weekend.

Over the weekend, the young wizards learned how to fly broomsticks with Madam Hooch and played a game of Quidditch. Herbology classes included repotting Mandrake Heads, Care of Magical Creatures included Flubber Worms, and a game of Hinky Pinks. Saturday night we enjoyed the Great Feast, Dumbledore put a spell on dessert to make it special and to see some of the faces it surely was!

The young wizards also enjoyed enchanted pictures as well but by this stage they seemed to be under a sleeping spell and most missed the end.

Sunday Morning included a Wizards Own, we learned how to make Flying Keys, and also had the House Cup games and challenges.

Other characters there included the Minister of Magic, Madame Pomfrey, Professor Snape and Scabbers who proved to be very popular. The House Elves Dobby, Winky and Nicholas, also made the weekend special for the Joey Scouts. They had to wear 'teatowels' for clothes and Dobby also had his pointy ears. Many thanks go to the Leaders and parents for all the efforts put into making it such a great weekend. It is a lot of hard work but the looks on the Joey Scouts faces make it all worthwhile. They really got into the theme and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Thank you also for inviting me to come along. I wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Wallaby's tip: If you are ever in the situation where you are missing a bung in your airbed, use an unopened bottle of glue as this works well I found out! Thanks Pera!

Don't forget when planning a Sleepover or Mob Holiday to look outside the square and try something different!

Wendy Harm, (Wallaby) RL Joey Scouts

Scout Section Report

This year Operation Rainbow Bird was a hike over two days, 11th and 12th of September.

Day one was a good day for a hike, sunny but a little on the cool side. The track along the Crediton Creek was a good walk to get us broken in for the next day. Along the river to the Broken river camping grounds is a distance of about 10.5km.

Day two was a hike from the camping grounds to the Eungella Chalet along the Clarke Range track taking in the Sky Window and other look outs along the way, a distance of just over 10 klms.

Day 2 also showed us experimenting with putting the faster and slower walkers in different positions and demonstrating what happens when the faster walkers get to far ahead. The overall pace is actually faster with the slower walkers in front. (I would suppose that it is a form of peer group pressure actually pushing them a bit harder)

Only two groups participated this year with 7 scouts plus 2 leaders from Banksia and 5 scouts with one leader from Mackay City Central as well as 2 Regional Leaders.

We all had a great time, ask the campers from Banksia about the pig coming to visit the campsite in the middle of the night. The leaders enjoyed the overseas campers next door on the Friday night, the entertainment was great.

Thanks to everyone who participated, you helped to make it a fun weekend.

Marg Barber (RIK)



Rover Ramblings

During the last few months the Mackay Rovers have been keeping active with their weekly program as well as a few more major activities.

Daffodil Ball

As many of you may be aware the annual Daffodil Ball was held at the Mackay Entertainment Centre on Saturday 14 August. This event is held each year in an effort to raise money for the Queensland Cancer Fund. This year the crew put the Rover motto of Service into action and assisted in preparations for the Ball. Assistance was given most of the day setting up tables and chairs, folding napkins and setting tables as well as blowing up hundreds of helium balloons. After a short break to attend the Mackay City Central Group Charter Presentation we returned in the evening in full uniform. Our main duties for the evening were showing people to their seats as they arrived and selling raffle tickets. The guys also found themselves useful retrieving balloons that had escaped and floated up to the rather high ceiling. All the Rovers had a most enjoyable time and being in our uniforms provided a great opportunity for positive exposure with the general community as well as some of our local business leaders. The evening was a great success and once again raised a large amount of valuable funds for this most worthwhile cause.

Corporate Car Wash

On Saturday 4 September we held a Corporate Car Wash at the old Mitre 10 Building on the corner of Gordon and Gregory Streets as part of our fundraising efforts for Tassie Moot. Tassie Moot is the Australian Rover Moot being held at Lake Barrington at the end of this year. We are trying to get every member of our Crew to be able to attend this event.

We had businesses sponsor us to wash fifty cars for free and in return we handed out advertising material from each of the businesses who supported us to the drivers of the fifty cars.

The car wash was reasonably successful. We believe that we could have washed more cars had we been in a different location where people were stopping for some other reason not just to get their car washed.

Service Moot

On the weekend of the 11 & 12 September the crew took a trip to the Caves near Rockhampton for a Central Queensland Moot that involved Rovers from Mackay to Maryborough.

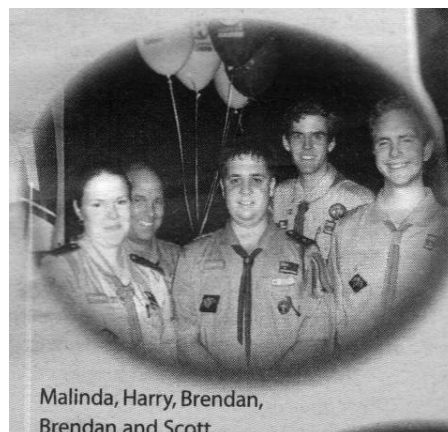
Over the weekend we carried out some service on a private property including rebuilding a driveway and some general cleaning up. There are some caves located on the property which the owner allows the local scouts to utilise.

The owner greatly appreciated our assistance and all the Rovers in attendance agreed that it was great to help someone who was so willing to help the Scout Movement.

Malinda Winter

Crew Leader

Mackay City Central Rover Crew



Malinda, Harry, Brendan,
Brendan and Scott

Photo of Rovers at the Daffodil Ball as printed in the September Edition of "City Life"

Vanuata Venture

June/July 2005

In the June/July school holidays next year we are aiming to send a group of Venturer Scouts from Central and Coastal Region to Vanuatu for ten days of fun, service, friendship, discovery, challenge and relaxation.

At this stage the cost for each participant is estimated at less than one thousand dollars with major fundraising events planned to reduce this amount further.

***Interested? Aged 14 years or older by June 2005?
Prepared to experience worldwide scouting in person?
Think about the adventure! Think about the fun!***

More information available from your group leader soon.

***Jayne Mumford
Regional Leader Major Activities***

Jota & Joti

Lots of preparation has been done to make the 47th Annual Jamboree on the Air and 8th Jamboree on the Internet one to be remembered.

Come along to Rowallan Park on Saturday 16th October and Sunday 17th October to join in the fun. Chat live with other Scouts and Guides worldwide. Access the world via HAM Radio and Computer Chat Rooms using 2 way satellite. All sections can join in the fun and friendship.

Visit for the afternoon or the morning or camp for the weekend.

All groups have application forms.

Contact Ray Jones at 49548845 (after hours) should you require any further information.

***Ray Jones
Regional Leader – Special Activities***



2004 Cub Scout Rally

“**Jungle Gathering**” was the theme for the Central and Coastal Region Cub Scout Rally, which was held at Rowallan Park, near Mackay, on Saturday 24th July 2004.

Approximately 80 Cub Scout and 15 leaders from Mackay and Whitsunday Districts and 8 Regional Leaders, as well as parents and supporters, enjoyed the afternoon of activities. Cub Scout packs that attended the rally were from Bowen, Whitsunday Coast, Moranbah, Sarina and Mackay.

Mrs Diane Boucher, Youth Program Leader, Cub Scouts, co-ordinated the fun activities, which fitted into the theme. Some of the activities were as follows:-

- Jungle Vine Jaunt – Ropes Course
- Canoeing
- Kaa’s Twisters – making & cooking damper twists
- Jungle Tucker – pikelet cooking
- Akela’s Den – Jungle Animal woggle making
- Jungle Masks – animal masks
- Jungle Collage – collage pictures
- Mowgli’s Mission – Jungle food gathering
- Kaa’s Delight – see what Kaa has eaten
- Jungle Training – Knock-ems – jungle animals
- Waingunga River Fishing – magnet fishing and fish identification

Mr Dennis Tuckerman, Regional Leader, Scout Fellowship and Memorabilia, displayed his vast collection of badges, uniforms, and animals from the Jungle Book story.

Special guests who attended the Cub Scout Rally were the Regional Commissioner, Central and Coastal Region, Mr Bob Hodda, and District Commissioner Mackay District, Mrs Margaret Hodda.

***Mrs Mary Wallace
Regional Leader
Community Relation***



Banksia Scout Group Report

One of Banksia Group's highlights for the term was the Queen's Scout Badge presentation to Brendan Ross. This was the second Queen's Scout presentation within a year. The work involved in this great effort, which was completed on the eve of Brendan's 18th birthday, was on display for all to see. Many kind words and funny stories were shared and the day will not be forgotten for many years to come.

At the final meeting of the term were two special presentations. The first was the presentation of the charter document to the group. Without the help of all associated with the group this would not have been possible. On the same night Joann Brzozowski was presented with the Silver Arrow Head in recognition for her work as a leader in the Joey Scout Section.

Each section, and the group as a whole, have been very active and seen keeping the OUT in ScOUT.

The challenge from the Chief to have a meal in a public place on World Scout Day saw a Big Breakfast in Bunnings Carpark. The recipe for success = a good roll up, McDonalds food, a public carpark and a good imagination. Image is a major focus in the 2015 plan.

The group was also seen out and about in uniform, hats and sunscreen with 40 members and family door knocking for the Queensland Cancer Fund. With only 1 weeks notice this is a great result.

Our OUTings seem to be getting bigger and so is the group, in the last term there have been 12 new youth members sign up and a number of others who have visited.

The quality of the sectional programs has played an important part in this growth and to add to the knowledge of the leaders Banksia sent Toni McNeill SL and Joann Brzozowski JSL to Brisbane to attend QLAW. Both leaders have reported a good weekend and have brought back a wealth of information. We all look forward to this information and ideas being incorporated in the groups current programs. The Joey Scout section proved that the magic associated with scouting is alive and well. It all began on Platform 9 ³/₄ (Mackay Station) and a trip on the Hogwarts Express (Tilt Train) to Platform 7 ¹/₂ (Sarina Station). Then it was on to Hogwarts School of Magic and Wizardry (Sarina Scout Den). The sorting hat, the great hall, flying lessons (broom sticks of course), and much more kept all in high spirits.

The Cub Scout Section have been busy and have spent a great deal of time away from the den. Cub scout rally, 10 year old camp, 10 pin bowling and sausage sizzle at BG's, a wide game at the harbour and a scavenger hunt in town. All of that sounds like a term of activity but the best was yet to come. Bucasia Cub Scouts were invited to Banksia Scout Den for the inaugural Cub Wars (no not fighting but a fun night of Alien Baseball) Banksia was victorious but everyone was a winner. Next year it is planned to do it all again.

The Scouts went back to basics for the term. With such a young troop the leaders decided to go back to the beginning and start again. That meant back to the early days of staves and BP. Every thing lead up to Operation Rainbow Bird which was planned, this year, by 2 Banksia Scouts, Liam McNeill and Joshua Brzozowski. From the reports received it would appear to have gone well.

The Venturer section have also had a great term. A Hike was conducted at Mt Britton near Nebo those who attended had a great time. The section has grown recently and with the advancement of scouts into venturer scouts. A strong unit is developing.

*Yours in ScOUTing
Jean Brown GL*

Bucasia Group

Bucasia group has been busy for the month of August. All sections participated in bring a friend and much fun was had by all. We had a group disco at the end of the month with about twenty youth member and friends attending. We also participated in ten year old camp with our two scouts and a leader assisting with activities. Joey Scouts had a fancy dress party and Cub Scouts visited Banksia Cub Scout Pack and finished the term with a progressive dinner.

Nadine Cini, Group Leader

Bowen scout Group News

We entered a float in the Lions Festival Parade. The theme for the parade was the colours of Bowen. It was a bright colourful event. Our float was covered in drawing representnig the varius aspects of life in Bowen from Fishing to Market Farming Cattle the reef etc. There was also a large worm made of paper machè that the Venturer Scouts constructed. The reason for this is the Venturer Unit are known as the worms. We also had all sections flags adding to the colour as well as the Australian flag. We are also busy preparing for Jota/Joti. We are camping at a place called Pick Handle, which is a small recreation reserve on the Bogie River about half way between Bowen and Collinsville. Eric Neale is our operator who will set up his radio Gear for us. We will come back to Bowen to visit the Volunteer Marine Rescue communications base and look over their boat if they are not out on rescue. The internet will also happen Sunday afternoon at Eagles place.

*Greg Windsor (Eagle)
Group Leader, Bowen Scout Group*

Chaplains Corner

An activity based on Peace of Spirit.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Theme True Happiness - true Peace

Object Piece of A4 paper

Source The folding was shown to me by a teacher, source unknown. The patter was adapted to our region.

There once was a man who was searching for true happiness. So he began to think of things that could make him happy. He decided to build a house. For sure he would be happy with a big brand new house.

Fold paper so that the top right corner comes down as a triangle to meet the left side of the paper. Then fold the left top down to meet the right side of the paper. It should now look like a house.

He was happy for awhile, but then he began to get bored and thought -what I really need is a sail boat.

Unfold one angle so that the paper roughly resembles a sail boat with a big triangle sail.

He sailed all around The Whitsundays and then the World and he saw lots of interesting things, but again he began to get bored.

One day he saw a jet aeroplane fly over, so he got himself an aeroplane.

** Fold paper back into house form, then fold paper together and bend the sides down to form wings. Note, that the fold should be straight and parallel to the body of the "plane".*

He flew from country to country. He still could not find the peace and happiness that he was looking for.

He sat down one day and thought and thought about it - and finally he decided to go into outer space. Surely he could find happiness there. So he got himself a rocket.

** Tear the wings off the plane. It should look a bit like a rocket now, especially if you unfold the main fold.*

He flew off into the sky and flew right around the moon, yet he still could not find the happiness and peace he longed for.

Finally he came home, and when he got there he met a man who seemed to have the peace and happiness that he was looking for. So he asked the man, "How can I find peace and happiness? I have a house, and a sailboat, and an aeroplane, and even a rocket ship, but I still am not happy. Where can I find what I am looking for?"

The man smiled and said

** unfold the paper completely. It should now be a cross!*

"Until you find Jesus and ask him to rule over you and to guide and lead you each day, you will never find true joy, or peace, or happiness."

Greg Windsor, Chaplain

Queen's Scout Award

Bravo to, Brendan Ross who has recently been presented with his Queen's Scout Award, and I would like to share with you some of the activities that he partook to achieve this award. He contributed approximately 300 hours to complete the requirements of this award.

Community Involvement -

Clearing cabbage weed from local waterways, and undertook a water quality survey of a waterway. He participated in a trap and release program for the study of fauna species a Sugar Glider. He gained a Senior First Aid Certificate. He undertook 10 hours of practical community service to the Banksia Scouts, and 10 hours to Mackay State Emergency Service.

Adventurous Activities –

Brendan attended an overnight initiative activity with other Venturer Scouts. He went on two day and one night expedition to the top of Mt Dalrymple. He learned how to abseil and rock climb, the safety rules and equipment needed, and he demonstrated the skills he achieved.

Personal Growth -

Brendan was a member of the Mackay North High School Marching band, and a member of the Intermediate and Senior Concert bands and participated in performances. Brendan is a blood donor with the Mackay Blood Bank and chose to investigate the operations of the voluntary community service organization and reported on his findings. He has encouraged others to become donors. He became proficient at manual and computer assisted technical drawing.

Leadership Development –

Brendan participated in a 1 day Unit Management Course, and a nationally developed three-day Leadership Course in Brisbane. He was the Chairman of the Banksia Venturer Scout Unit for a period of 12 months. He prepared his Resume and presented it to two employers, one major and one small business. He took part in a mock job interview.

At the moment Brendan is enjoying being a member and Treasurer of Mackay City Central Rover Crew. He recently travelled to Brisbane to complete a defensive driving course organised by the Brisbane Rover Crew.

Brendan's other interests include, membership of the Mackay Land Rover Club as he enjoys four-wheel-driving. He is also an active member of the Mackay State Emergency Service and has been involved with the SES since being a cadet at Mackay North State High School for 3 years and then joining the Senior Group 2 ½ years ago. He achieved a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award as a SES Cadet. Brendan is a trained Air Observer with the SES and has a keen interest in vertical rescue and flood boat operations. He has attended many callouts with the unit for a variety of reasons.

While at high school Brendan was heavily involved with cultural activities by providing the lighting and sound service for many school performances.

Brendan previously worked part-time at "The Warehouse" for three years, but now has a permanent full time job at Mackay Toyota and is currently undertaking a Certificate III & IV in Information Technology by distance education through Cottonsoft, Mt. Cotton. He started at CQU this year but has deferred this IT Course for the time being to undertake his full time employment.

*Mary Wallace, Regional Leader,
Community Relations.*