



NEWSLETTER

Scouts Australia Central & Coastal Region



Editor Mary Wallace

📅 Dates to Remember

23rd July Regional Cub Scout Rally Rowallan Park

Joey Scout Section

Joey Scouts have been busy since last newsletter. They met at St Helens Beach near Calen for their Annual Central and Coastal Region Joey Scout Jaunt on Saturday 7th May 2005. Joey Scouts and leaders from Banksia, Bucasia and Mackay City Central Groups attended.

The Joey Scouts enjoyed the afternoon of activities, which were conducted around a "Castaway" theme. They had scavenger hunts, a craft activity where they made grass huts from paddle pop sticks, magnetic fishing, and they had to identify the fish they caught, treasure island maps, played games and made sand sculptures.

Our Regional Mob Holiday was held on the 18 and 19th June and was a great success. All arrived as a clown or circus animal ready to begin. We decorated the kitchen and bunk rooms with streamers and balloons to look like a circus tent. We began with Clown face painting, balloon animals, and a game of Lion Tamer. Hoop challenges included: somersaults, star-jumps, skipping and blowing up balloons. Acrobats included: tight rope walking while balancing a bean bag on your head, juggling, funny face balloons, balance beam and stilts. The Joey Scouts particularly enjoyed the Low Ropes Course organised by Ray Jones who did a fabulous job. Thank you Ray.



Our night time activities included a Campfire with lots of singing, afterwards we were to have Circus charades but all the Joey Scouts decided they were tired and went off to bed by 9pm. (Mind you they seemed a little more energetic once they were in bed). After breakfast, we had a Scouts Own and then it was back into the activities, which included bubble blowing,

parachute games, Comets (with many landing in trees), and games.

By this stage many were ready for home (mostly the leaders) so after morning tea and closing parade we were on our way. Ready to do it all again next year. Can't wait. Thank you to all the leaders and parents for your help. It was great to see and invaluable.

The next morning we were off to Vanuatu. What a great trip. The trip of a life time and I don't think any regrets. I know many of us were talking about doing it again. And I am sure we will.

Wendy Harm

Regional Leader Joey Scout Section

Scout Section

The Regional Scout Camp this year was a great success, not so much as in numbers but in the quality and attitude of the scouts. In all there were 34 scouts and 11 leaders.

The camp started on Friday night with the basic set up of camps. Saturday morning saw the start of the activities, which included navigation, camp fire cooking, monkey nut woggles, construction and rope work.

Saturday afternoon was the time to start cooking the three-course meal that was to be judged. The rest of the campsite also had to be finished off to competition camping standards.



The food was delicious, a leader from a different group was invited to dinner, and each patrol set out to impress the judges. The winner was very hard to pick, as the standard was so high. (I did not know scouts could cook so well). In the end there was a tie for first place between Hawk Patrol from Bucasia and Panther Patrol from Mackay City Central. Well done guys and girls you did a wonderful job.

The Regional Shield will now spend 6 months with Hawk Patrol and 6 months with Panther Patrol.

*A combined Venturer Scout Unit helped out by arranging the campfire and by the running of a wide game, which was very successful.
A good weekend was had by all.*

Marg. Barber, Regional Leader Scout Section

Sarina Scout Group

The Cub Scout Section is still increasing in numbers. On April 4 Cub Scouts camped at Rowallan Park for the weekend and signed off on some more of their Yellow Cord. Those same Cub Scouts have since completed the remainder of their Yellow Cord and will have them presented in the next two weeks before they progress into Scouts.

The Scout Section has been focused on camp cooking this term. I must say they haven't done so badly, although they could have cooked the damper a bit longer. The same damper catered for those that like it well done and those that like it rare.

The Group had its AGM and our very efficient Group Committee Executive graciously accepted to give the group another year of their time and expertise. Thanks to Nev, Michele, Lynn, Jenny and Stuart.

The Group Committee has replaced our old wood fired computer with a new second hand one in the den. We have signed up to WAME for 12 months and already two Scouts are using it to do their Information Technology Challenge Badge.

Three of our Leaders, Tim, Judy & Brett, and one of our Venturer Scouts, Ian, winged their way off to Vanuatu. Judging by the stories and photos everyone (including the locals) had a fabulous time and shared a lot of good old Scouting fellowship and fun. The Cub Scouts and Scouts have already had a "slide night" and report from Brett.

Lance Hodda
For Sarina Scout Group

Proserpine Scout Group

All of our Group Committee positions have been filled at our AGM. We have been successful with recent fund raising events which included:-

- *Car park and raffle at our grounds during the Proserpine Show.*
- *Cleanup and car park at the Young Guns rugby league game in Proserpine.*

The cub scouts and scouts are to participate with the bring a friend month in August.

The cub scouts have 7 members with a new leader and an experienced assistant leader.

The scouts have 9 members with a trained leader and assistant leader.

Greg Walker
Group Leader, Proserpine Scout Group

Our trip to Paradis! *by Dean and Tash*



"Arrgh! Not more Vanuatu stuff", you all think, as you turn green with envy. We'll try to keep it short I promise, but Mary really wanted a young thing's view about the trip so here goes... The trip started on a really high note, with our contingent being presented with leis made for us by the kids and getting a lovely performance at the airport by the Scout band. Straight away we noticed that we were in a foreign country as everyone drove on the wrong side of the road! However, the people are the friendliest we have ever seen in our short little lives. Everyone says "hello" when you pass in the street. Not at all like the western world. We think that Australia should adopt the Vanuatu idea of a midday siesta... it's a fabulous concept... everyone goes home at 11:30, has lunch and a sleep... and then goes back at 1:30. It really gives new meaning to island time. I think all of us had trouble adjusting back to rushed western time when we got back, although I know that we are a lot more relaxed these days, because we know it will happen when it happens.

Of course there was the inevitable daily trip to the markets to get presents or fruit or bread, or just to indulge in a shopping spree. All the leaders got quite a shock when all we young things decided that we wanted to eat healthy and decided to have daily cook-ups in the boys' room. Being young and away from home, it was not expected that we would cook for ourselves, but after a daily trip to the local Bon Marche, quite a few heads and noses turned as they passed our door. So surprised and impressed were

some people that they could not resist trying to mimic our delicious dinners the night after.

Perhaps the most important and rewarding aspect of the trip was not just the activities, but the experiences and meeting the people. The kids in the villages and in the schools were a joy to teach and paid such wonderful attention. Some of the Leaders found themselves wanting to take the kids home. Also meeting wonderful people like Red Cross volunteer Sarah, who always seemed to be there looking after us and our Vanuatu Scout leaders, Noel, Tony and Tim. Our wonderful guide Jameson had a wicked sense of humour and always managed to bargain quite a few things for us, leading to the saying "Have faith in Jameson". All we young things (the under 30's) + Harry would go everywhere in a frog green bus driven by Wilson. The days Wilson couldn't make it his brother - "Brother blong Wilson" as we called him - became our driver. Because he was always there for us with a big smile on his face, we all chipped in and bought Wilson a shirt embroidered with WILSON so that he would remember us forever. These people made the trip something really special for us and we will never forget them.

Just a note about the title - Our trip to Paradis!
Because Vanuatu has both English and French parts, these languages appear everywhere and we couldn't help, but pick up some sayings.

**Dean and Natasha Salty, Venturer Scouts
Mackay City Central Group**

Vanuatu 2005

24 Scouting members from Central and Coastal Region had 10 days of activities in Vanuatu, where we were treated like royalty and had an absolutely fabulous time. On the agenda was running scout meetings, leaders meetings, a campfire, visiting schools and handing out exercise books, pencils etc. visiting the Red cross, the National Vanuatu Women's Council, the High Commissioner, the Town Hall, the Volley Ball Grand Finals, (Wayne Harm had to present one of the trophies) We went to church on Sunday at the Anglican Church which was a two hour service and we had to introduce ourselves to the congregation, we had brunch at the church hall afterwards which was supplied by the Australian High Commissioner. The church choir was unbelievable, the harmonising was absolutely beautiful.

Scout meetings were run at New Man Place Village (the children didn't go to school that day), at Vila North State School, during school time, and at Tagabe Scout Group, which was sponsored by the Anglican Church. We had to buy all of the supplies and the resources to run the scout meeting as they have very little resources. On the night before we left the balls, hoops, rope etc were presented to the Leaders.

We did a half-day community service at the Brotherhood retreat home that they were building. Some of the men did cement rendering, the women and some of the younger members cleared brush, and pulled out weeds to clean up the area around the house.

We saw the real Vanuatu. We went to the villages. It is a very poor country, but the people are very friendly, and are always ready to feed you. We ate plenty of fruit while there. We stayed at backpacker accommodation in the town of Port Vila. The place was clean and the beds were good, but the solar hot water system, without electrical back up was the only minus. Had cold or lukewarm showers while we were there but the weather wasn't cold so it wasn't too bad. After we had been there for a few days news spread and people in the streets were saying they are the Australian Scouts. They knew us even though we weren't in uniform when we went up town, but there weren't many white people around anyway.

We did leave a little money behind at the tourist places in our free time. Visited a cultural village, the museum, and went to Hideaway Island to

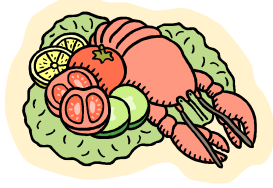


the underwater post office, and went snorkelling on the reef. There was no worry about sharks or stingers there. We took the free ferry to Iririki Island Resort for drinks and dessert one night and on the Saturday afternoon we hiked around the island. (It is small.) On Wednesday we paid a local bus driver to drive some of us around the Island of Efate and we visited a few places of interest, visited the beach where Survivor Vanuatu was filmed and had a swim in a hot spring bath at Beachcombers and a dip in a sea at the most picturesque beach you could ever imagine, Eton Beach.

Some of the young folk played a round of golf and hired a caddie for the morning.

Wayne couldn't resist dinning at the restaurant downstairs from the hotel, when he saw lobster was on

the menu and what the price was, it didn't take any arm bending to have a group of us join him, and the crepes with lemon juice and sugar with ice-cream were scrumptious as well. We all dinned together for the Sunday night roast buffet at the hotel across the road and on the Tuesday night at the "Flaming Bull" Hotel.



Brett with his hollow legs polished off his big steak, half of Wayne's steak and some of someone else's salad. We found out that night that Louis plays a mean game of pool. The French Pastry Shop and the Chinese Restaurant were very popular venues as well.

We had a great send off party on the balcony of at the Olympic Hotel on the Wednesday night. We provided some of the food and the Vanuatu Scout Leaders provided the rest including the Kava. (Wayne said he slept well that night) We had some scouts there to entertain us and to do some skits, we responded and run some skits as well. We were taught a song at the first scout group we visited and we sung it at every gathering we had. "One big Happy Family, God's Family" (Sang it on the plane as well)

The trip was not without it's little incidents. First night Di did some money laundering in the bottom of the harbour incident and paid a local to dive in and retrieve her purse. Di also lost her new scout belt, she left it in the bag of second hand uniforms that she donated to the Vanuatu Leaders. Some one spotted it during the day on a leader. He was a very worthy recipient, he proudly wore Di's belt with his uniform, with his good clothes, and with his work clothes.

Harry made the best foot in mouth blunder for the trip. At each place we went to, a different male member each time did the introduction speech, and it was Harry's turn at Tagabe Scout Group and he said " he hopes the Group gets "Big Numbers" " We wondered why there was a murmur in the audience. Greg Sutherland told us what Big Numbers meant over there. "It refers to the size of a males appendage"

Brendan Graham was the favourite, as the scouts got to know him as "Turtle". "We want Turtle!" Tash and Dean were introduced as brother and sister, twins, so they were popular as well. Dean joined in with the scout band at New Man Place Scout Group and strummed a few numbers on the guitar.

Margaret Barber's red hair fascinated the children.

Digital cameras were a big hit with the children, as they would form groups and wanted their photos taken so they could see themselves in the camera when you played it back to them.

Scout Leader Tony presented Louis with a painting of a cat, seeing he was very kind to the cat at the hotel. Not like someone else who made a cape for the cat and wanted to see if it could be a Super Cat and fly.

Re: The Green Bus driven by Wilson
We preferred the White Bus and preferred to be in front of and not following the Green bus as the fumes from the exhaust were a danger to the Ozone Layer.

One observation: - A group of us went for a walk along the esplanade one night when there was a free concert. There were three bands playing to cater for the different tastes. In the crowds of hundreds, we only saw two people smoking, no one drinking, and there was no rubbish left behind. (I went for my morning walk along the esplanade the next morning.) The Aussies could learn from that.

The first morning in Vanuatu I was woken at 5.30am by a fellow singing in the street. (No he wasn't below my window, serenading me.) He had a beautiful voice, and I don't know how someone could be that cheerful so early in the morning, and after a few days I didn't want him to be so cheerful so early in the morning and by the last couple of days I didn't hear him at all. (I slept in.)

For those who don't know there are no traffic lights in Vanuatu and to drive on a roundabout was scary. Everything is like the US driving on the wrong side of the road. After a few days we became used to which way to look when crossing the streets and there were many one way streets.

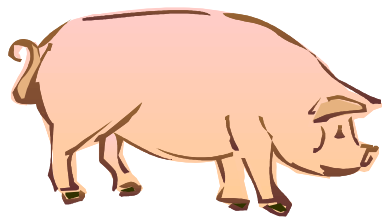
he markets were a fascinating place, with lots of fruit, vegetables, fire- wood, carvings (wood and sandstone), and shell and bead jewellery. Some suggested to by a coconut bra, but we didn't think it would pass through customs. There were lots of woven baskets, and dolls and different colourful wrap around skirts, and shirts, and dresses. At the markets most of the stallholders sat on the ground and if you were there late at night time many of them slept on the ground at their stall.

I had a very tense few moments at the airport in Vanuatu, when I found out there was no return ticket for me. (I thought I was going to have to stay a few more days and come home with Marg and Ray. I could have cramped their style and shared their room.) Jane

came to the rescue. Brett had two seats on the plane booked for him.

A very big, **THANK YOU**, to Jane Munford for her months of negotiations, and planning for our trip. I do hope she enjoyed it as much as we did, as I know she had a big responsibility keeping the program on track and running smoothly. It was a huge success and we all enjoyed it. Greg Sutherland's sister Elizabeth Warren helped Jane immensely with the planning and we are gratefully for her support. It was excellent to have Greg along with us to do some interpretation and have him organise his cousin Jamieson to look after us. Greg's knowledge of the people and of the area was a big help. Greg even had a masseur visit the hotel everyday. He did get plenty of business and I am sure he would have liked it if we had stayed longer.

We all chipped in and bought Jane a big wooden pig as a thank you gift.



The things that we will remember the most were the friendliness, the kindness and generosity displayed by the Vanuatu people which was overwhelming as everywhere we went we were greeted by a gathering of smiling faces and there were always tables of food prepared for us. We were all very humbled by the experience and are looking forward to continuing to help out with scouting and the schools in Vanuatu, with resources and further training for the scouting leaders.

Mary Wallace, Regional Leader Community Relations

The Gang Show

Straight, from customs and the International Airport, we arrived at the Summit Hotel in Brisbane and had ten minutes to put our bags in our rooms and to touch up our deodorant and perfume and comb our hair, and we were off to the Schonnel Theatre (AKA The Roxy Theatre) and the Gang Show.

The first songs we were treated to were the John Travolta – Olivia Newton-John favourites “Grease” and “Summer Nights”. “Sync or Swim” a take off of synchronised swimming, was a real laugh. A Bit Greasy, The Beauty School Cop Out, Grease at the Prom, Rock and Roll is here to stay, Blue Moon, were

some other song/skits. The Cub Scouts from Red Six made a few appearances and did their rehearsals. In “Nearly Greased,” Sandra Tea, the tea lady visited the audience and she picked on Harry to help her with the tea. (She was one of his ex Rovers) Back to Grease, and “You’re the One that I want” and the Finale with Let’s Dance, Silver On the Scarlet, and Wonderful Life, rounded off another fabulous Gang Show.



It was great to catch up and talk to Sandra and Tara Tomlinson, Brett’s Mum and sister. Tara was performing in the Gang Show.

After the show we were invited backstage for the presentations, of the special Gang Show scarves for first time Gang Show cast members and the announcement of Gang Show Directors for the next twelve months.

**Mary Wallace
Regional Leader, Community Relations**
