



NEWSLETTER
Scouts Australia
Central & Coastal Region



Editor Mary Wallace

📅 Dates to Remember

6th Dec 06 Northern Beaches Bowls Club Xmas Party
21st Jan 07 9am to Noon Seaforth Scouts Open Day

Congratulations

Dennis Tuckerman has recently presented with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Foundation. The award is in honour of Melvin Jones founder of Lions Clubs International and is the highest form of recognition to a Lions Club Member. It is awarded for Humanitarian Services to the community. Dennis received a plaque and his name will be inscribed in a revolving wall in Oakbrook, Illinois, USA.

Dennis along with his wife Heather are both involved with many voluntary organisations in Mackay, not only Lions and Scouting, but Meals on Wheels, Friends of the Library, Friends of the Mackay Entertainment Centre, and Pensioner Assistance all to which they give their time freely.

Congratulations, Dennis from the Central and Coastal Regional Team, Leaders and Youth Members. We are all proud of what you have achieved.

From the Regional Commissioner

During our recent holiday in New Zealand we embarked on a conducted tour of the Cadbury Chocolate Factory where I came across the following statement in a historical plaque made about eighty years ago by the founder of the operation. In this he stated:

“A foreman should be chosen for his/her leadership qualities and not by his/her driving force”

I considered this a very healthy, notable statement and one which could apply to our organization in current times.

I guess it is the adverse to one which is known within our organization as “Recruitment by Crisis”.

Back in the early 1960’s General Motors Holden’s Manpower Development Team said “The trained man wins”

They also stated in reference to a bad supervisor: “The best way to keep a person on their toes was to keep them on their knees”

Just some words on which to ponder!



Since returning from our trip to New Zealand there has been numerous very productive meetings including the Regional Commissioners Conference in Brisbane. I intend to highlight the important issues which have an affect on all Groups within our Region and thus avoid another Regional Management Meeting at this late stage of the year when time is at a premium.

Membership decline was a major issue. This subject is always on the list these days as we tend to see the State membership in youth members, adult leaders and support personnel in decline. Our Regional figures indicate an increase since 1st January 2006, but if we are to compare figures back some years we are a long way behind. For an example, the Cub Scout Rally in the sixties and seventies boasted numbers like seven hundred and people were prepared to travel to ensure their members did not miss the opportunity to participate.

Today we have about seventy attend and we hear all the usual reasons for not attending along with the reasons for parents and support personnel declining to become involved with the Group. These comments include but are not limited to: It’s too far to travel! Fuel is too expensive! My husband works 28 hours a day, 8 days a week and I have to work too! It’s all too much! And so on it goes!

But we battle on regardless. It is worth some thought to try and dismiss the above paragraph content and encourage the parents of our youth members to become involved and make them feel welcome. They are our premium resource base which provides excellent opportunities for recruitment of the personnel we require to meet our Group needs and Charter requirements. Time has continued to prove this is the resource from where the majority of our Leaders and support personnel are recruited.

I believe most parents recognize their obligations to their children but are afraid to become involved for the fear of not knowing how to tie the knots or read the compass and the many skills required to be a leader or support person. I believe it is our job to quell these fears and a good parent / child induction will go a long way to "getting to know each other". Find out what skills they can offer the Movement in support of the time that will be given to their children. This may well come from their profession and/or from a hobby. Whatever time and expertise they can contribute should be enthusiastically accepted whilst quietly building confidence and trust into the partnership of families and scouting.

The Movement has excellent training facilities and is an authorised educational provider. Prospective leaders and support personnel should be informed that we provide the necessary training to deliver the program and we have a proven method of delivering this program through our Charter System that meets all the requirements as an Authorised Educational Provider.

Had an interesting memo from one of our Leaders the other day (no names mentioned!) – it read:

RC Bob,

Next meeting with the Chief, see if he can lobby the Government for some more weekends. I think another 3 or 4 (March, May & August 07) would be good. Either that or get this daylight saving thing passed in Qld but let us decide when and where we use the daylight we save!

Name and appointment supplied

I will pass this request to the Chief and I am sure we will be able to use this to overcome the objections listed in a previous paragraph when addressing busy parents.

Back to the subject matter a little more seriously, I believe once we have recruited our leaders and support personnel we need not adopt the attitude that the position is now filled and "she'll be right, mate". We need to continue to support these people and train them to become proficient and professional in their roles. For our youth members' sake, we must create an awareness of our accredited educational organization with the expertise to deliver accredited training that is recognized in the workplace as well as within our Movement. We must promote the old saying of: "The Trained Person Wins" and develop the Cadbury Chocolate Factory Founders statement of leadership. If things such as this worked for General Motors and the Cadbury Chocolates then we have the resources to make it work for us. We just need to make it happen and we can apply the daylight saved where we need it when our Chief Commissioner successfully lobbies the Government.

The next major item was membership costs. They will be reviewed for next year in line with rising costs of everything and the inflation factor. It is an obvious conclusion that the rising costs of membership could be offset by a significant increase in membership. This subject was discussed at length from many angles during the conference with the same result. We need to increase our membership with youth members, sectional leaders and resource personnel to maintain the goals of the Twenty Fifteen Scout Plan.

We have the "Charter" in place which sets the guidelines to success. It is my intention for the Regional Team to help every Group achieve the "Chartered" status as quickly as possible. Some Groups with whom I have had the opportunity to discuss their current status indicate great things are on the move. We have three Groups who are "Chartered", a number of Groups who are close to completing the requirements and one that I understand is tackling the job with renewed enthusiasm following a long period of time with limited leadership and support personnel. In total the Groups in the Region are working towards the Goals with success within reach. Keep up the good work!

We have been successful in supporting the people of Seaforth with the formation of a new Group. They have completed initial training with Margaret & Lance Hodda and everybody is invited to their open day at Seaforth on Sunday, 21st January, 2007. Sarina Group will be displaying a rope bridge and Mackay City Central will be operating a merry – go – round. We encourage every Group to contribute to the morning from 9.00am to Noon with a display to help Seaforth to

be launched. A flyer has been sent by e-mail and I hope everyone has received this invitation. You won't go hungry either. To raise some funds the group will be operating a sausage sizzle and cold drinks will also be on sale. The Seaforth community will be supporting the function as well with their markets day. For more information and to book your site for the morning, please contact Group Leader Crystal Neilsen on 07 49590105.

Under separate cover I will send out the updated Regional Structure following some new Regional appointments. This information along with our Regional Calendar of Events can be accessed from our website as well.

The new appointments within our Region follow their acceptance to my invitations for the various positions. I have pleasure in announcing that Mr Tim Johnston has accepted the role of Regional Leader, Scout Section, Mrs Judy Johnson, the role of Regional Leader, Venturer Scout Section, Mr Joe Kearns as Assistant Regional Leader Scout Section and Mr Brett Tomlinson to the role of Group Leader, Sarina Group. I take this opportunity to welcome Tim, Judy Joe and Brett to the Regional Team and I am sure that their expertise and support will benefit the members of our organization. Please help me welcome them to their new roles! Don't forget the Christmas Party on the 6th December at the Northern Beaches Bowls Club. All Leaders, Support Personnel and families are invited – see you there!

In conclusion I have copied the poem below, that I believe is applicable today and probably more so for our Scouting people. I trust you will enjoy!



The Boxes

By Gary Bear

26th October 2003

Once I had a dream, a dream so real and true
I feel the need to tell some one, I've decided to tell you

I dreamt I walked along a street
I was invited into a store
Where I saw some coloured boxes
Resting on the floor.

The Store Keeper said Choose the best
Be careful as you seek
I carefully picked the black one up
To examine and maybe keep.

'You cannot open any box
Until you've chosen well'
The Store keeper's voice rang in my ears
It was so very hard to tell

I picked up the dark Red one
And then the White one too
The Yellow and the Black one.
What was I to do

I was confused, I could not decide
All boxes looked the same
If I choose the wrong one
Would I be to blame

I felt and shook and looked again
What was I to do
The Store Keeper smiled and said these words
These words I share with you

**They are not really boxes, they are people in your hands
They represent all races, that are known to Man.
Should you open every one, inside they're all the same
The only real difference is, their colour and their name.**

Next time you walk along a street
Think of all the one's you'll meet
Though different names and colours too
These souls are all a part of you.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR from
Margaret & Bob Hodda**

Thank You

to Banksia Scout Group for the use
of their Scout Den and for the
catering at the presentation of the
Adult Recognition Awards.

Training Development

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's that time of year again with only four weeks remaining in the countdown to Christmas.so the media keeps reminding me.

The wheels of Scouting have turned so fast this year and my calendar of events has been a busy one. Unfortunately training courses have not been as busy as I would have liked with some courses failing through lack of participants. The result is disappointment for the one or two Leaders who did apply.

I take this opportunity to encourage Leaders to make every effort to take advantage of training opportunities available in 2007. I also urge Group Leaders to support their team members in this regard. Progression through the training program in order to honour the commitment made at the time of signing the Mutual Agreement is important. It is as equally important for us to meet our training obligations to gain the knowledge, skills, and self confidence to be able to undertake our Scouting role in accordance with the standards set by the Association. With more training we can have more FUN!

Well done to those who have continued to work towards the completion of the various training components.

The PLA System is currently undergoing an overhaul. One of my goals for 2007 is to have Leaders who meet the set criteria, receive the appropriate training and accreditation to carry out the role of the Personal Leader Adviser. This will boost another important avenue of support for our Leaders-in-training.

I congratulate Janet Brown, Debbie Rutherford, Gary Wrench, Jane Mumford and Bruce Miller on their commitment to attend the Wood Badge 1 Course in Rockhampton this weekend. At last report there were 19 applicants and I do believe this course is the biggest of its kind to be held at Seonee Park. I trust our Leaders will have a wonderful Wood Badge 1 experience.

As event co-ordinator I would like to thank all Scouting members and other community members, in particular the Rotary Clubs, who responded to our calls for assistance to carry out the Parkside Timber and Hardware stocktake earlier in the year and again for the two postponements in August and September. The

April stocktake earned us \$1500 for Region funds and all assistance is greatly appreciated by the Executive Committee.

I wish the entire Central & Coastal Region team a safe and Happy Festive Season and look forward to the 100 Years of Scouting Celebrations in 2007.

Margaret Hodda
Assistant Regional Commissioner
Training Development

Joey Scout Report

I am sitting here at my computer wondering where the year has gone. How time flies when you're HOPPING along.

Joey Scouts are doing well with the addition of 2 new mobs in the Region. We now have Mobs at Sarina and Moranbah and will have a new one starting in Proserpine in 2007. Unfortunately, we have lost our mob in Bowen. This takes our Mobs up to 6 in the region. Keep up the good work, everyone.

Banksia Joey Scouts have reported that 3 more Joey Scouts have earned their Promise Challenge badges. These have been earned by older Joey Scouts and just in time to advance to Cub Scouts next year. So far, Banksia has had 5 Promise Challenges awarded this year.

If there are any Mobs out there that also have Joey Scouts that have earned their Promise Challenge, or if you have done something special or unusual with your mob, please let me know so I can put it in the newsletter.

Recently, I attended a joint Mob Holiday at Calen District State College for Banksia and Whitsunday Coast Joey Scout Mobs. Calen was the obvious choice as it midway between Mackay and the Whitsunday's.

The theme for the weekend was "Harry Potter." Joey Scouts arrived in time to fly in on their broomsticks to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. They were met by Professor Dumbeldore, Professor Snape, Professor McGonagal, Professor Lupin, Filch and his cat and Moaning Myrtle. Once they were settled, the Sorting Hat Ceremony began. The Joey Scouts were sorted into their houses for the weekend.

Over the weekend, the young wizards attended Potions class: Floating paperclips and chameleons. Flying

lessons: Dragons Lair, Muggle skittles, magical creatures.

Herbology class included repotting the Mandrake Heads. Later on, a game of Quiditch was enjoyed by all.

After lunch, they attended Care of Magical creatures and Defence against the Dark Arts class: Boggarts and Hinky Pinks.

A visit to Hogsmeade (the swimming pool) was welcomed by all considering it was so hot. Then it was time to return to the castle for the Great Feast, Singing and a showing of enchanted pictures before retiring for the night.

Sunday brought a new day, and after breakfast Joey Scouts participated in a Wizards Own, a lesson on Flying Keys and the House Cup games and challenges. Before leaving on the Hogwarts Express the young wizards were presented with a certificate and a Magic licence.

I am pretty sure, there was not one Joey Scout who didn't enjoy the weekend! I know there were some exhausted Joey Scouts who slept all the way home. I also know there were some pretty exhausted parents and especially leaders who would have liked to have slept all the way home, but couldn't.

Thank you to all the parents and leaders for such a fantastic weekend.. I know how much work goes into a weekend such as this, just so that the Joey Scouts can go home and say how much fun it was.

I would also like to take the opportunity at this time, to say, have a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing and working with you all again next year in 2007.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As for me, I have the Scout Jamboree to look forward to in the New Year. So I might see some of you there!

Wendy Harm
Regional Leader
Joey Scouts.

Environment Projects.

As you are all aware we have completed the Envirofund project for Rowallan Park and there are now maps and self guided information available for use at Rowallan Park. This is not the end of the Environment Projects. We have several Landcare options available to groups in the Whitsunday's,

Proserpine, Mackay and Sarina areas. It can also be organised in the Moranbah area. There are a couple of field days planned for the new scouting year. Check the calendar for dates. Anyone wishing further information for World Conservation Badges and Environmental sectional badges please contact me as I have information available Phone 49423716 or Email pb997660@bigpond.net.au I prefer email as I can then send the information directly to you.

There will be regular working bees at Rowallan Park. These are listed in the calendar. If you can assist for a couple of hours every few months to keep it at its best, it would be gratefully appreciated. Many hands make light work.

Regards
Jo Brzozowski

Mackay City Central Scout Group

Mackay City Central Scouts have had a camp at Kinchant Waters as a troop camp with lots of water activities and Jota/Joti camp at Rowallan Park. This was a fun camp with lots of different types of cooking.

On 1st December Hamish Auld, Craig Schurmann and Sarah Blakey will receive their Australian Scout Medallions.

Debbie Rutherford, Bruce Miller and Gary Wrench are going to Rockhampton to do training for their wood beads.

Allan Salty, MCC Scouts

Sarina Scout Group

Not all that much of a news worthy nature has transpired since the last new letter in Sarina Scout Group. The most significant happening was the recommencement of the Joey Scout Section. Welcome back Platypus, Kelly Tomlinson.

In August all sections had a group camp at Action Challenge, at Hay Point. Everyone had a really good time doing the ropes courses and other activities. Thank you to Noel Cowan.

We also made JOTA & JOTI a Group Camp, again with all sections attending. The youth members enjoyed the experience of communicating with other Scouts and Guides via the radio and computers, as well as participating in various other activities on offer over the weekend.

The Scout Section did some of their community service recently, helping out at the Special Children's Christmas Party in Mackay.

The Joey Scouts are having their end of year sleepover mid December and the Cub Scouts and Scouts have their end of year camps planned around the same time. The Group is having its Christmas Break-up at Grasstree Beach this year on the 16th December.

The Cub Section has their first camp for 2007 planned. It will be a 4 day camp in mid January.

In the mean time Sarina Group would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and see you in 2007.

Brett Tomlinson
Group Leader Sarina Group

Bowen Scout Group

Hi all from the north.

I would like to use my couple of inches, to acknowledge the contribution of a group of people who I feel Bowen Group owe significant thanks to.

It is easy to achieve high growth rates when you have only a few youth to start with, then add to the recipe some good quality Leaders, a good sprinkling of parents willing to get involved and youth so full of energy they inspire you to do better next time. Our Group today is healthy and growing. But there are two reasons why we are in such a favourable position.

The first is often acknowledged amongst articles such as this - the dedication of Leaders - in our case the combined effort of the Windsor's - Greg and Rhonda, kept the doors of our Scout Den open when the odds were against them.

The second reason is rarely acknowledged but is deserving of our recognition.

As The Chief pointed out at the ARMS in September, the problem isn't really the gaining of new members, but the retaining of the old.

In my group, I think those who made it through the ranks to Venturer level and stayed till they were of Rover age really deserve recognition. They became the backbone of our group - the glue that held it together regardless of how bad the Leader situation became.

None of these youth achieved major targets in the older section award schemes. The Group didn't have the Leaders to help them onto their feet. None of them are 'Career Scouts'. They are today typical teenagers undertaking first year uni or finishing year 12, holding down part time jobs, getting driver's licenses and having serious relationships with their opposite sex peers. There is a lot going on in their life other than Scouts.

But every week in Bowen, they turned up to meetings even though they had no section Leader. They assisted with Joeys, Cubs and Scouts which were all meeting simultaneously whilst the Group had no Section Leaders. They made up numbers in the younger sections games; they taught knots and square lashing, first aid and emergencies, cleaned up and comforted those in need. They were there every week, rain or shine.

Without doubt they enjoyed each others company but more importantly, they enjoyed it most 'at Scouts'. They could have hung around town together, or gone out with their non-scout peers. But they didn't. They came to Scouts, wore their shirts, scarves and berets whilst there and provided the role model to younger youth. They are the heroes of our Joeys and Cubs. The badges and cords they wore provided inspiration to younger members to achieve.

Sadly this era has come to an end as these youth move to different pastures for the next stage of their life journeys. Bowen Scout Group owes a special thank you to these youth. So to Kate, Tim, Cassie and Robyn, thank you for what you have given to our group over the years. We will miss you and wish you well in the future, trusting that you will always drop in when you come back to Bowen.

My message to other groups: never underestimate the worth of older Scouts/ Venturers/ Rovers to your group. As a value adding exercise you can get no better!

Lesley Bullemor
GL Bowen

Special Children's Christmas Party

Thank you to the three Sarina Scouts and leaders, three scouts/venturers from Mackay City Central and the Regional Leaders for doing their "Good Turns" by assisting at the Special Children's Christmas Party last Friday night.

JOTA & JOTI

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) was held for Scouting and Guiding members, worldwide on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd October 2006. Approximately 130 members of Scouting and Guiding from groups around Mackay and Sarina were at Rowallan Park for the weekend.

Mr Wally Douglas and Mr Bruce Lenahan and other members from the Amateur Radio Club manned the radios for the youth members and leaders to communicate with other scouting and guiding groups worldwide.

Many radio contacts were made, some of them being, Melbourne, Darwin, Cronulla, Narrabeen, Coffs Harbour and Auckland.

Jamboree on the Internet was very popular with the youth members. Regional Leader Lance Hodda and Rover Brendan Ross and Rover helpers kept the computers and the internet running for the youth members to make contacts to other scouts and guides within Australia and overseas, some of them being, Malaysia, Taiwan, Dubai, Yorkshire, Denmark, South Africa, South America and New Zealand.

Many of the Scouting and Guiding members took the opportunity to camp in tents overnight at Rowallan Park. Other activities that members enjoyed were: dismantling, parts of computers, VCRs and other electrical equipment to investigate how they work, a physical activity which was sock wrestling, and a campfire at night conducted by Mackay City Central Group. On Sunday morning the Regional Commissioner Mr Bob Hodda conducted a walk around the trails at Rowallan Park explaining the cultural significance of the Park.

The activities were enjoyed by all who attended and members will look forward to next year's JOTA and JOTI which is held annually worldwide on the third weekend in October.

Mary Wallace
Regional Leader Community Relations

- INVITATION -

- CHRISTMAS PARTY -

We have organised a Christmas get together (party) on the evening of 6th December 2006.

At the Mackay Northern Beaches Bowl Club, Mackay Bucasia Road, Rural View.

Commencing at 6.30pm.

The cost for the meal is \$18.00 each.

*Payment to the collector of monies on arrival will gain you a ticket for presentation when **requiring your meal**.*

*The meal will be a buffet style with a **Roast Ham, Pork and Lamb** complimented with **Roast Vegetables** followed with **Sweets of Plum Pudding with Custard. Tea or Coffee is included.***

Drinks are available at the dining room bar at normal prices.

*Business of the evening will be presentation of the remaining **Adult Recognition Awards** where possible and to have a good time.*

Dress for the evening will be smart casual.

*Would the recipients of this **invitation** please pass it onto all **Leaders and Supporters** as the invitation is to all, **including the families**. It is a family affair.*

RSVP to R W (Bob) Hodda is required by 5.00pm on Friday 1st December 2006 so that we may advise the caterers of our requirements. Phone 0427877630 or email bobhodda@bigpond.net.au or leave a message on 07 49548198.

Looking forward to sharing a pleasant evening to celebrate the Christmas Season and to reflect on the achievements of the past year.

RWHodda

R W (Bob) Hodda
Regional Commissioner