



# CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

## NEWSLETTER

Editor Mary Wallace  
Edition 4 – Nov 2007

### Calendar of Events

An Invitation is extended to all leaders and their families to join the region in celebrating the end of the Scout year and the festive season

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER  
12 noon  
THE POINT TAVERN  
MIDGE POINT

We have made a group booking with the tavern and we ask you to purchase your own refreshments. There is a wide range of menu options available. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Please advise your attendance by 1 December  
Jane  
[janemumford@hotmail.com](mailto:janemumford@hotmail.com)  
49554432

### Regional Commissioners Report

100 years of Scouting is fast coming to an end. One would argue that there has been a full 12 months, 24 hours in a day etc. this year. It seems to have passed so quickly. 2007 has been a full year of Scouting activities. The number of C5s I have seen are indicative of this. This shows the commitment the Leader's in Central and Coastal Region have in providing to the youth members a full and varied program. If these people didn't volunteer their time, there would be no Scouting.

and every person within the Group must be involved in. If you are interested in becoming a Leader or know someone else who might be, please let your Group Leader know.

In 2008 we'll celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Australia. 2008 is officially The Year of the Scout. A commemorative coin will be struck at the Australian mint and there will be a number of activities throughout the year to mark this special occasion.

We finally had our Brownsea Island camp combined with JOTA / JOTI recently. A lot of people put a lot of work into making these events a reality. It was pleasing to see so many youth, leaders, parents and helpers getting together and enjoying the fun and fellowship of Scouting.

I will take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given their time to Scouting. It is difficult challenge to manage that delicate "family, work, scouting" balance. Stay safe over the festive season and we'll be back ready for

**2008 THE YEAR OF THE SCOUT**

**Yours in Scouting**  
**Lance Hodda**  
**Region Commissioner**  
**Central and Coastal Region**



### A Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award

Bob and Margaret Hodda were both presented with a Paul Harris Fellow Award on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

Bob and Margaret have spent a life time serving the youth of Mackay through the Scouting Movement. The Scout Movement is very dear to the Rotary Clubs in the district as can be demonstrated by the number of Rotarians on the executive committee. Bob and Margaret are worthy recipients of the Paul Harris Fellow awards."

The Mackay Rotary Club Board selects the recipients of these awards very carefully. The recipients are recognised as outstanding individuals who have provided a life time of service to their community and that service is in line with the objects of Rotary.

Well done, Bob and Margaret. Congratulations from all in scouting in the Central and Coastal Region.

## *Brownsea Island Camp*

Our recent Brownsea Island/JOTA/JOTI camp was successfully held on the weekend of 20 & 21 October and a good weekend was had by all. Approximately 100 youth members and 45 leaders and parents joined in a weekend of activity and fun. Groups travelled from Bowen, Whitsunday, Proserpine, Sarina and Mackay and we were also joined by the Girl Guides on Saturday Night. Saturday was spent on base activities such as water activities, Rowallan trails, campfire cooking, craft, deconstruction and rope bridges with a carnival and wide game during the evening. Sunday was greeted by a simple scouts own and picnic races. JOTA and JOTI ran throughout the entire weekend. A HUGE thankyou to all the groups who travelled and to the leaders and parents who helped out during the week end.

**Jane Mumford**  
**Regional Leader Major Activities**

*The Fillies up and ready to run.*



## *Joey Scout News*

Well, the year is nearly over, it has gone so fast! One minute we are having our Planning Meeting at the start of the year, then our Regional Mob Holiday, then our Joey Scout Jaunt, and now Christmas is nearly upon us.

I know I have been away for 8 weeks since then, so I guess this also could be a reason it has gone so fast.

I would just like to thank all the Joey Scout Leaders for all their hard work during the year. I know how much time is taken away from your families when you have the responsibility of running a Mob.

So I would just like to say (after your Mob Break ups) relax, enjoy your time with your families, and have a wonderful Christmas!

I look forward to working with you all in 2008.

**Wendy Harm (Wallaby)**  
**Regional Leader Joey Scouts.**

## *Thoughts from Bowen*

I am always amazed at how much can happen in a matter of weeks. Bowen has seen: a Cub Scout Halloween party, been fishing, spent a fabulous day on the water biscuiting, sailing, canoeing, kayaking and snorkeling, a Scout 'Fantasmagorical Hut Trip' camp, the Brownsea Is. JOTA/JOTI Group Camp, made box ovens and cooked cakes, held a Produce Stall, sold more chocolates and made plans to reopen Joeys next year. There are still breakup sleepovers, going up ceremonies, a Rover Crew to develop and next year's brochure drop through the schools to organise – all before school breaks up in December.

As Christmas looms closer, I am coming to the end of my second year as an adult in Scouting. I spent my entire youth in Brisbane in Guiding and a few years as a Rover back in the late 70's then had no involvement for some 25 years between. My recollection of my youth years in both movements is one of fun... absolute fantastic fun! They were without doubt, some of the best years of my life, and perhaps the most significant reason I took on this job – to enable my children and other Bowen youth, to experience the fun that I had.

Now as an adult I can see this did not come to be, without a lot of effort on behalf of the many leaders and supporters in both movements who gave their time and effort, year after year to make it possible. I can now appreciate how much effort a section leader has to give, to make it work for the youth. To all the Section Leaders out there – I marvel at what you do and the effect it may have on the youth you work with.

I can also see now that Section Leaders can not work independently of support for very long. To be effective, the Section Leader needs support from both within the group and from the movement at large. I have learnt the value of the parent body and have been fortunate that the

*Bowen Group is being supported by a small group of Mums and Dads who are willing to get involved and they amaze me with their seemingly endless supply of energy and goodwill.*

*Increasingly as a GL, I see that the support from outside of Bowen comes in many shapes and forms. All those activities I may have participated in when young, were not just random, spontaneous events but the result of extensive planning and preparation of a large team of supporters. I also now recognise that the physical infrastructure made available to us wasn't necessarily just gifted to the movements nor was it miraculously self maintaining. People worked hard to make it happen and to ensure its availability to youth when needed.*

*Where did the organisers find the energy to do those things as well as hold down jobs, raise families, study and do all those other necessary things? This side of 'behind the scenes' Scouting is there for groups and sections to 'pick and choose' from, which I imagine, makes it even harder to facilitate however without it, our local programmes would be severely lacking in depth and quality.*

*In my current role, I guess I can start to appreciate all the different parts of the movement which make it what it is. To all of you out there who read this - thank you for supporting Bowen throughout 2007, and thanks for doing what you do. It helps me do what I want to do - to give our youth the time of their lives - a time which, when they think back on it, will always put a smile on their face!*

*Brolga GL Bowen*

### *Whitsunday Scout Group*

*We had 30 people partake in the Brownsea Island camp at Rowallan in October and everyone had a fantastic time thanks to the regional leaders involved. We had a great family camp and had lots of parents and siblings. About 12 of us stayed an extra night and a very big thank you to Tim Johnson who stayed back on the Sunday after his very busy week and weekend to help teach me to cook a roast in the camp oven on the BBQ (looked like rain so no fire) so I could then teach the youth in the future. The Cub Scouts prepared all the veges and dished up. The next day we went ten pin bowling, as we don't have those fun things in Airlie Beach, which finished the weekend off*

*nicely. The 27<sup>th</sup> October saw our Cub Scout Pack down on the beach joining in on the sand sculpting competition for the Reef Festival and we came 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> winning a grand total of \$280.00. We tricked and treated on the 31<sup>st</sup> dressed in costume and were overloaded with sweets. And then to end the reef festival last weekend we entered a float into the street parade. The youth helped paint banners and one very dedicated mum spent hours on the finer touches to the float. A very big thank you to Tanya for all of her help. (Mind you her great ideas also had me doing a weeks worth of paper machèing and painting etc) Porters very generously loaned us their truck for the weekend and Whitsunday Garden Centre loaned us a pond and donated some dirt so we could have a big mud bath on the float. We had parents and siblings carrying the banners to make our numbers look greater and we were very honoured to have the Proserpine Joey Scouts join us also. We won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in our category and received another \$100. So over the Reef festival fun activities we raised \$380 from having fun and not slaving over a hot BBQ like we have done for the last 3 years. The Joey Scouts have just finished their Mob Buddy activities with Proserpine. One trip was the Jaunt then 2 weeks ago Whitsunday went to Proserpine Den and made bird feeders and played games and last week Proserpine came to the Whitsundays and learnt about wildlife, environment and whales. From the word going around they all had a great time and made lots of new friends. The Cub Scouts are going to the Lagoon this week to work on their swimming badges and to enjoy pizzas purchased with their hard earned winnings. On Sunday both the Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts have been invited by the RSL club to join them for Remembrance day at 10.45am. Following the service the Cub Scouts are going to the Whitsunday Sailing club to learn how to sail Sabots.*

*In December we will all be visiting the Proserpine Nursing home for Carol singing and gift giving. Then to finish our fundraising year off we are selling glow sticks and hotdogs at the Carols on the Beach.*

*This is by far the biggest year that Whitsunday Coast has had in the last 4 years I have been involved and a big thank you goes out to all that have supported us and leant us hands and advice. We have increased leader numbers and youth membership numbers by 60%, we have camped 3 or 4 times we travelled to Brisbane, have joined in*

*all the Regional days and had the big fundraising events. (We are all new to this and we have pulled it off). Now all we have left is to become chartered.*

**Kathy Ball LIC**

*Proserpine Scout Group*

*Our Scout Group participated in the Proserpine Harvest Festival last month and won a prize for their float "Pirates of the Caribbean" in the street parade.*

*Cubs and Scouts took part in a day walk recently along part of the Whitsunday Great Walk.*

*Our group Christmas Party is currently being organised and hopefully Santa will be attending.*

*I advise that I have recently resigned from my role as "Group Leader". I have appreciated the opportunity to perform this role during the past eight years and have enjoyed the people I have met and worked with during this time. The experience has been a rewarding one and I wish the group well in their future endeavors.*

*Merry Christmas to all and a Happy and Healthy New Year.*

*Yours in Scouting,*

*Greg Walker*

***Mackay City Central***

*The past term has been busy with the usual wide range of interesting activities from our creative section leaders. Enrolments have gradually risen over recent months in all sections and it is interesting to note that the proportion of girls in the group is steadily rising.*

*A working bee was organised to clean up in and around the den and make some minor repairs. Leaders and the usual band of stalwart parents attended, finishing the tasks that had been set for the day. A "thank you" barbecue for those parents who helped raise money during the year has been planned.*

*Our two Venturer Scout leaders Donald and Sylvia Neville will be leaving us as they travel to Brisbane over Christmas. They and their two scout daughters Christine and Kimber-Lee will be missed. We wish them all the very best for the coming year.*

*Brian Harvey will be overseas for our group's end of year festivities, and I would like to take this*

*opportunity to thank him publicly for his on-going support and guidance.*

**Paul Becker**

**Group Leader**

***Rowallan Park Environment***

*Although it looked like we were going to get wet Stuart, Brendan, Amanda, Tash and Michael (Skippy) rocked up with their enthusiastic Rover Adviser to implement an erosion control programme on the creek bank behind the kitchen. This became necessary as a tree died and took a large portion of the bank with it. On arrival Brendan showed his excellent rope skills by setting up safety lines and harnesses for Stuart and himself to hang off for the next 4 hours. The Rovers then proceeded to install a layer of Geo Matting pegging it in every 500mm offsetting each row. Did I mention the drop of approximately 20 metres and that the matting is a little slippery after you cover the natural terrain? Tash and Amanda assisted by supplying the pegs to Brendan and Stuart and Harry proved what we all have known for ages Rover Advisers can do anything including retrieving the remaining Geo Matting from the bottom of the drop. The Sherpas have nothing on Harry, Skippy assisted with the retrieval near the top. This led to a short break to enjoy the Fellowships latest fundraising efforts of some delicious lamingtons then back to work planting out the geo matting with approximately 20 native trees to stabilise the bank and stop the erosion. The last trees were planted just as Mindy arrived with a well deserved lunch. The Rovers achieved a successful outcome for the area and their assistance is greatly appreciated.*

*Geo matting is a product like carpet underlay that enables plants to get established before rotting into the ground as mulch.*

*We have seen the re-emergence of the cats claw creeper in the back of the park and I would appreciate any assistance to again cut back the infestation. If we can organise some assistance this will give us a good lead into Autumn. The cats claw requires a great deal of hands on eradication as spraying has only limited success. If we physically cut and paint the vine we have a much greater success rate. If you have some available time please contact Jo Brzozowski to organise a suitable time.*

**Joann Brozowski**



## *News from Rowallan Park Campsite & Activity Centre*

*The replacement activity shed is well on the road to becoming a reality with the approvals received to accompany our submission for a grant to help us finance the project which will need a contribution of some \$40,000.00 from the Region to fully fund the proposed asset. A least three Rotary Clubs are involved with the project but so much has been achieved whilst Margaret and I have been touring the Kimberley's of Western Australia for nine weeks I am not sure which club members are responsible for the various sections of the project thus far. Suffice to say that it is on the way.*

*The new canoe shed being established over by the Barry Spratt Dam is well under way with the foundations completed and the concrete slab for the floor receiving the final pour today. This building is the result of the purchase by Rotary of the old Triq recycle shed from the Bayersville tip. The building was dismantled and removed to Rowallan Park where it is being re-erected for the use of our water activities property as well as general use.*

*The establishment of a "Camp Eagle Retreat" which consists of some interested people involved with the Mackay and Districts High Schools Chaplaincy has been given approval to use the portion of country adjacent the old canoe shed. Camp Eagle is the organization catering to the high school youth where camps are held on a regular basis at this site thus helping to provide the necessary income to support the growth and maintenance of the Rowallan Park Campsite and Activity Centre. The infrastructure set in place will have priority usage for Camp Eagle members as well as confirmed bookings from the Scouting Fraternity when required and available.*

*The Rovers have commenced work on the old Railway Station which has now been adopted as their home. The old place is starting to show signs of the TLC being administered amongst some good companionship building exercises are predominantly noticeable.*

*The Rovers and Venturer Scouts are responsible for a number of projects within the "Park" over the past year and their efforts and presence is most welcome and appreciated. A number of projects have been planned by VL Jo Brzozowski (Environmental Coordinator) and some Venturer Scouts supported by the Rovers to achieve the desired results. Thanks folks!*

*The Regional Executive has been successful in obtaining a grant to purchase a new ride on mower to replace the fifteen year old Toro Wheelhorse. We have had to raise some funds to make the purchase complete and the payment for the machine is currently being processed. We will probably keep the old one for support around the place as the price we would obtain from a sale would not be very significant.*

*Our Caretakers, Barry and Bonnie Spratt have been busy with Barry working the tractor well keeping the grass in check following some good rain as well as fixing the road system with his new scoop behind the tractor. The tractor and scoop have been invaluable in the earthworks required for the new canoe shed as well as extending the car park adjacent the Johnstone Lodge and making a new road to the "Rovers Home" Bonnie has been following up leads for occupancy (and income) for the Park as well as gathering the required specifications to upgrade our kitchen facilities, selling pies for a pie drive for the Fellowship amongst other things important to the smooth functioning of our asset.*

*Amongst many things the Fellowship has been raising funds, obtained a grant to purchase a laser level for work with our earthworks required for building sites etc, running pie drives as well as installing the new tanks and reticulation system from the roofs of the Johnstone Lodge and Kitchen from a \$20,000.00 Government Water Grant. Rain has prevented the latest working bee last weekend which may delay the scheduled completion date. President Ron Laffin has no doubt given a report to the newsletter from the*

*Fellowship but I believe I should make note of the formations achievements and congratulate them on their support to the Park. Thanks people!*

*A combined Rotary Clubs meeting, B-b-q and entertainment afternoon/evening was a welcome success in and around the old activity shed on Sunday giving Rowallan Park some well deserved advertising. I had the opportunity to speak to the club members on some of the history of the Park followed by four wheel drive tours of selected areas for interested people. Again this was well received and added to the success of the evening which had Mr Geoff Walsh providing the music and entertainment. The Rovers assisted with car parking and the preparation of the b-b-q.*

*One cannot miss the "Eco Tent" which adorns the horizon as you approach the Park these days. Rotary Clubs and our Regional Executive have been busy with this project as well as numerous others in procuring these at a most attractive price. They were too cheap to leave in their old location and Rover Adviser Harry Roestenburg managed to have them transported to the park where they come into the financial acquiring category of "falling off a truck" Thanks to the Regional Executive Members, to the people who donated the property and Harry for the delivery. It is our intention to refurbish these eco tents and have them installed in an appropriate location at the Park for accommodation units.*

*That will have to do from me as I have to make the deadline for our editor Mary or she may not get this article of news to print. Thanks Mary!*

**Bob Hodda**  
**Assistant Regional Commissioner**  
**Community Development & Campsite**

### *Vanuatu News*

*Dear Jane*

*Thanks for the mail we have not forgotten anybody at all.*

*Our visit to Mackay has a lot of impact in reviving scouting again in Vanuatu especially Port Vila. There has been a lot of publicity in our local papers and radio station about our visit especially the graves at Rowallan park and the home bush visit.*

*We are looking at helping to start new groups but at this stage we have not done anything yet because of the lack of aid materials and badges. Communities are interested but in the meantime we have to get our acts together with NSW.*

*Also our relationship with NSW is building up again after our visit. Last August two trainers from NSW were in Vanuatu running a "TRAIN THE TRAINERS" Bob MacDonald the International commissioner for NSW is coming over I believe to sort out matters in Vanuatu and also to review the draft of our first ever Vanuatu scout award scheme, leaders hand book etc...*

*I will accompany him to Santo from 16th to 19th November 2007 to go through the draft with a few leaders there.*

*We celebrated the Scout centenary last month. The activities included marching through town with the president of the Republic of Vanuatu leading the march who is also the Patron for the Vanuatu scouts followed by a BBQ.*

*Santo celebrated theirs in August.*

*My leaders will meet at my house tonight 31st October 2007 at 1900hrs Vanuatu time to do some editing on the draft documents I have mentioned above before Bob comes over.*

*Please pass our warm greetings to everybody we know for their contribution in taking the scouts in Vanuatu one step ahead. If it hadn't been for the Mackay visit our relationship with NSW would have been different. We never stop talking about our visit.*

*I will keep you posted for any scout developments in future.*

*Yours in scouting*  
*Toro (John Row)*

*Mackay City Central Venturer Scouts at Carnarvon Gorge*



## *Training*

*I could easily provide an extensive report on our wonderful holiday in the Northern Territory and the Kimberley Region of WA with the Harms but I guess, for the purpose of this exercise, I need to come back to reality and focus on Scouting.*

*Gary Wrench, Bruce Miller, Debbie Rutherford and Jane Mumford agreed on a common goal of having all work books and projects completed prior to my departure for holidays so that the relevant materials could be forwarded to Branch Commissioner Jean Clifford recommending the issue of their Wood Badge and Parchments. I am pleased to say each Leader applied the necessary determination and achieved that goal. We look forward to having four Leaders from Central & Coastal Region included in Jean's target of 100 Wood Badges issued in our Centenary Year. Congratulations to all and well done !*

*It was somewhat disappointing that our Leadership Training 2 Field Day and Wood Badge 1 Course scheduled for November were cancelled. The greatest level of disappointment lies with the one Leader who applied for the Field Day and two Leaders who applied for Wood Badge 1. Thank you to those people who honored their commitment to their training program.*

*Ten Venturer Scouts attended a Unit Management Course held at Rowallan Park in October. Well done guys and I trust you are now better equipped to run your Units in accordance with the Venturer Scout Section guidelines.*

*The 2008 training dates for our Region have been submitted for inclusion in the Branch Training Calendar. I encourage everyone to familiarize yourselves with these dates when they become available and include them in your planned training program for 2008. I would love to see more names "up in lights" next year as we celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Australia.*

*With another year drawing to a close I wish all members a safe and Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, good will and success in all you do.*

**Margaret Hodda**  
**Assistant Regional Commissioner**  
**Training Development**

## *Fun at the Fair*

*40 Cub Scouts and 10 Cub Scout Leaders from Central and Coastal Region with the help of Leaders and youth Members from the Scout Section and parent helpers descended on Rowallan Park on Saturday for the Annual Cub Scout Rally. The rally theme this year was "Fun at the Fair."*

*A surprise visit from a brightly dressed clown "Bingo" from the Whitsunday Coast kept Cub Scouts entertained, teaching them to juggle, and showing them how well he could do the activities that were on offer.*

*The Indiana Jones Course (Rope Bridge) and canoeing were the favourite activities for the afternoon, however there were plenty of activities to keep the Cub Scout involved, for example:- Marble Shootout, Penny Toss, Good Luck Toss, Balloon Burst, Flying Saucers, Ring the bottle, Ding a Ling, Blow Gun, Card flip, SOC Pop, and the Future (Scouting Videos from U-Tube). To fit in with the Jungle Theme of Cub Scouts, there were faces painted as Jungle Animal Characters.*

*Mrs Julie Thompson, Regional Leader Youth Program Support Cub Scouts, co-ordinated the days activities. The Regional Commissioner Mr Lance Hodda was special guest for the day.*

**Mary Wallace**  
**Regional Leader Community Relations**  
**Central and Coastal Region**



## *Australian Scout Medallion Presentation*

Two scouts, Trent Lamb and Liam McNeill, from Banksia Scout Group at Andergrove, were recently presented with their Australian Scout Medallion. A special celebration was held at the Scout Den for the presentation of the Medallions.

Trent Lamb joined scouting in 1997 as a Joey Scout and has progressed through the sections. In the Scout Troop he has achieved the Pioneer, Explorer and Adventurer Level badges and was a Patrol Leader. Trent attended a Leadership Course and the project that he chose to undertake was to run a day activity doing survival cooking with improvised devices.

Liam McNeil joined scouts in late 2002 as a Cub Scout. Liam achieved the Pioneer, Explorer and Adventurer Level badges and was a Patrol Leader. He also attended a leadership course and the project he chose was to design and produce a Monopoly game. To play the game you have to collect pegs to buy questions to move around a monopoly board. This game requires lots of energy and team work.

Together Trent and Liam planned and took the older members of their scout troop on a 120 km bike hike. They spent many weekends planning the course and taking grid references and drawing up the course. They started their bike hike from Macdonalds at Northside and rode along Sugar Shed Road, Yakapari, Mirani on Day 1, Day 2 Mirani, Gargett, Septimus, Mia Mia and back to Mirani, Day 3 Mirani, to North Mackay.

Trent's Scout Leader Toni McNeill presented him with his Australian Scout Medallion, and Regional Commissioner Lance Hodda presented Liam with his Medallion. Family and friends, and Leaders were amongst the guests at the presentation.

The greatest highlight of scouting for the scouts was attending the Australian Scout Jamboree at Elmore in Victoria in January 2007. Both Scouts have now progressed to the Venturer Scout Section.



Congratulations to Banksia Scout Group and the scouts concerned as there will be two more Australian Scout Medallions presented on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007

## *100 years of Scouting Activity Mackay City Central Joey Scouts*

Joey Scouts from Mackay City Central Scout Group earned their Adventure Challenge Badge. The Joey Scouts and Families held a morning at Queens Park. The morning started with a gathering at a Memorial in the park dedicated to the victory battle at Mafeking led by the founder of the Scouting Movement Baden Powell. At the memorial the families were told how Scouting Started 100 years ago and how the left handshake come into Scouting.

A family afternoon at Town Beach was also part of the Adventure Challenge badge. Games, Singing and Sand Sculpturing along with a B.B.Q. were enjoyed by the Joey Scouts and Families. As a result of the activities Joey Scouts earned their Adventure Challenge Badge along with everyone having a lot of family fun.

## *Farewell*

Dianne Boucher has sold her cottage on the beach front at Eimeo and is leaving the Region in the very near future. Until this year she had been a Leader at Bucasia Group for 20 plus years. She is a member of the Fellowship. Di is leaving to spend some time with her family on the Sunshine Coast, to travel and then to settle down probably in the Sunshine Coast area.

We will miss you Di and we wish you the best in the future. Keep in touch.

