



CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

NEWSLETTER

Editor Mary Wallace

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Calendar of Events

19-20th July Scout Out at Rowallan Park

Regional Commissioners Report

Welcome to another busy year in Scouting. 2008 is the "Year of the Scout", as you all will be well aware. We are also celebrating the Centenary of Scouting in Australia and the Centenary of Scouting in Queensland. This is a very significant milestone for Scouts Australia and Scouts Queensland and we have the opportunity to be a part of it.

The first major event for the Centenary Celebrations is the Centenary Camps over the Easter break. Bowen and Whitsunday Coast Scout Groups are getting together at Kamp Kanga for a "full on" camp and activities. Sarina Scout Group are once again running the 24 hour Driver Reviver stop at Waverly Creek and are having their Group "Centenary Camp" there for the 4 days.

John Alcorn has resigned from his position as Executive Committee Treasurer for Central and Coastal Region. John and his wife Carolyn have moved from Mackay. John was Treasurer for 4 years. I thank John for his commitment and support and wish John and Carolyn all the best in their retirement.

ScoutOut 2008 – Rowallan Park 19-20 July.

This is a first for Central and Coastal Region. This event is usually held at BP Park. I urge all Leaders (not just Scout Leaders) and Patrol Leaders to get their applications in now and help make this weekend a success. This will be an exciting weekend and has been planned to give Leaders ideas and skills whilst having a great time. Leaders will be camping and participating in Scoutout Patrols for the weekend. Some of the activities planned are:- Dinner under the stars on Saturday night. (Prepared by the

participants). The Saturday program will be a Mini Nighthawk (only short distance between bases). Sunday will be more Activities and Games.

Congratulations to Banksia Scout Group and the recipients of the Scout Medallion and Grey Wolf Awards in 2007 who featured in the latest edition of "ScoutAbout". Well done.

*Lance Hodda
Region Commissioner
Central and Coastal Region*

Joey Scout Section

This year has begun a little wet. Our Joey Scout Planning Meeting was cancelled in February due to an overload of water from the heavens in our Region. So it will now be held on March 15th and hopefully the rain will hold off this time. Our plans for this years' Mob Holiday are underway and it was suggested by a clever Joey Scout Leader that we do a Mini Olympics to coincide with the Olympic Games this year. What a great idea, we will be discussing this theme on Saturday and there are certainly plenty of ideas out there.

I received an invite to the Proserpine Scout Den on Friday 22nd February for their Founders Day Campfire. This was a lot of fun, with plenty of good singing voices amongst youth members, leaders and family members. Thanks to the cooks for a great sausage sizzle, and to Proserpine and Whitsunday Coast for a great night, well done!

We gain some leaders, some leave and some leaders transfer to another section and this year is no different. I would like to keep them all in Joey Scouts as they are so great! But as is the life of a Leader we move on. So I would like to wish them all well in their next ventures and hopefully we will cross paths from time to time. Thank you to all of you.

Also welcome to the new Joey Scout Leaders, I am looking forward to meeting you all and I am sure you will all have some great ideas too!

*Wendy Harm (Wallaby)
RL Joey Scouts.*

Whitsunday Coast Scout Group

The Whitsunday Coast Scout Group has started the year with a bang. The Joey Scout leader has gone away until June and we had 5 new Joey Scouts turn up on the first week back. We went tadpoling in our very fast flowing creek from all of the summer rain and the second week went to the beach to look at all the devastation caused by the storm that washed 65 boats onto the shore, rocks or sunk. On the 22nd February 17 youth members joined with the Proserpine Scout group at their Den for a Founders Day Campfire and a sausage sizzle. We were entertained with songs and skits from both groups. Regional Leader Wendy Harm joined in and helped lead the singing.

*On the 26th February the Joey Scouts started a Community Helpers program and we visited the Airlie Beach Fire station for a tour, powerpoint presentation and hands on hoses and look in the truck. The Joey Scouts also learnt about the dangers of campfires and the correct way to put one out etc. On the 2nd March we donned our gloves and rubbish bags and hit the creeks and parks for our annual Clean up Australia Day activity. The official clean up had been cancelled due to weather, however the scouts braved the winds with 20 turning up to help (including parents). We collected 8 bags of rubbish. On the 8th March we joined the Region for the Aquastastics Carnival held at Calen School. The youth members had an absolute blast with all the fun events organised by Region. I would like to say a big thank you to region as it is nice to go to something that you haven't had to organise for a change (especially as I am currently running Joey Scouts & Cub Scouts) These days are always great fun and well organised by leaders with a wealth of experience. I would just like to note that **WE WON THE TEAM SPIRIT AWARD** of the golden snorkel, sadly passed over by the Bowen Group. I think it is Sarina's year next year, their drum war cry was great. Our winning chant of the day was*

*I don't know what you've been told
Whitsunday Coast is good as gold*

*Our team is the best
We cheer louder than the rest.*



This week the Joey Scouts are going to visit the Ambulance station and then after Easter the Police Station. On the 18th March Proserpine Scout group are going to join us for Harmony day celebrations. This will also be second part of Mob Buddy badge. We will be doing an afternoon on other cultures including St Patricks day where we will be having hot cooked spuds. Each youth is to dress up as someone from another country or in green for Paddys Day. We will have a show and tell of souvenirs and some tasting plates of food from other countries. We are also hoping an Aborigine Elder will join us again like last year and talk about her cultural history.

The big Easter Centenary Camp is on from the 22nd March- 24th March at Camp Kanga. At this stage we will be joining Bowen, not sure if Proserpine are attending this one. Lesley has kindly invited us to join her and has taken on the major task of the organising. THANKS LESLEY. We have about 5 families partaking on this camp. It really is a difficult time as so many people go away for Easter but for the ones that are going I hope you all have a great time.

***Cub Scouts** - The first week back we had 8 new Cub Scouts join us for the afternoon, total of 17 Cub Scouts. With the leader being away the aid of a parent volunteer was welcomed. One group cooked Fried Rice for Chinese New Year while the other group supervised by the parent helper went tadpoling. The outcome of this parent staying was a bonus because he would like to become a leader.*

The Cub Scouts have been busy doing Boomerang work and also participating in the above events with the Joey Scouts.

This week a lady from Landcare is coming to visit the youth and bringing some donated plants with her to get our garden started. I would like to take the youth members sailing again but will wait until the stinger season and bad weather goes away.

As for the group in a whole, we are ready to be CHARTERED along with all of the above going

on I have sat in front of my computer doing up scout plans and reports for the chartering process. I have a full committee organised and hopefully a leader for each section. I am now just waiting for the next step but am hoping to be chartered by April for the start of the Scout financial year. YEAH

*Kathy Ball
Leader in Charge
Whitsunday Scout Group*

Bowen Scout Group

Our year has begun just as busy as all those before. Australia Day, Founders Day, community events, new youth and parents in the group, camps to organise and plans to make. Christmas is looking good already!

Our numbers are still small however this year for the first time in our history our Group has all five sections open.

For the first time in our known history, we have a Rover section - thanks to the Chief, Ryan, Scott and Lance for helping us get this through. For us it means being able to retain members who previously have had to exit the group unless they took on leadership roles.

Joey Scouts have reopened after 18 months with no leader. Our CSL of two years – Tania - has moved sideways into Joey Scouts and has them hopping all over the place. (Raising a mob of tree huggers I believe). We have a top notch parent helper (Kelly) permanently rostered on with Joey Scouts and the future looks sustainable and bright.

Sustainable is a key word here. Being so small, it does not take much to send everything out of kilter. To fill the hole created by Tania's move to Joey Scouts, two of our Rovers (Tim and Robyn) have stepped up to the plate and taken on Cub Scout Leadership roles.

Ian, our Scout leader is moving into Venturer Scouts. Our Scouts have formed some solid relationships with each other under Ian's mentoring. I see a long Scouting future for them provided the Group can provide solid leadership.

Our group had a great time at Aquatastics – thanks again Jane and crew – we appreciate

what you do. The sausages were better than ever this year too!

On our immediate doorstep is our 2 night Easter Centenary Camp. We have combined with Whitsunday Coast for this and are expecting a head count of around sixty scouting youth, parents, siblings and leaders. By the time it is over our section leaders will be looking for a pay rise I think!

Hope you are all doing well – look forward to seeing you again sometime soon.

*Lesley Bullemore, Group Leader
Bowen Scout Group*

Proserpine Scout Group

2008 has seen a change with most of our Section Leaders. Simon Aalbers has taken on the role of Joey Scout Leader. Simon comes with Scouting experience, having been a Scout himself. Bronwyn Wren is the new Cub Scout Leader. Roger Madsen has moved from Cub Scouts to help Lloyd Fox with Scouts. Greg Walker resigned last year as our Group Leader and Bronwyn Wren has taken on the role of Leader In Charge.

The highlight of our term was celebrating Founder's Day with Whitsunday Coast Group. It was wonderful to see everyone participate in a skit and in between skits, some of the younger members entertained us with jokes. The members enjoyed the yells (for some it was their first experience) and although our singing was not Australian Idol standard, the members (and parents) had a wonderful time singing along.

This year our Committee will be concentrating on upgrading our Scout Den. Part of our Den (Joey/Cub Scout Sections) used to be the old Proserpine School relocated during the early 1970's.

*Bronwyn Wren
Leader In Charge
Proserpine Scout Group*

Banksia Scout Group

Australian Scout Medallion

On Friday 30th November 2007 Joshua Brzozowski and Michael Timms were presented with their Australian Scout Medallions, at a special ceremony to mark the occasion.



Joshua Brzozowski joined Joeys Scout in Edmonton near Cairns in October 1999 and progressed to Cub Scouts before coming to live at Andergrove. He achieved the Yellow Cord Award before progressing to the Scout Section. Joshua achieved his Pioneer, Adventurer and Explorer Level cords. Joshua is a Patrol Leader in his Troop and he attended a Scout Leadership course. He planned a Canoe Skills day at Rowallan Park and ran a Lantern Stalk Wide Game at a scout meeting. Joshua attended the Australian Jamboree in Elmore Victoria at which he had the responsibility of being a Patrol Leader.

Joshua along with Michael planned a 30 kilometre hike at Waitara Station in the Nebo area for their Journey for the Adventurer Level Badge. Only the older members of the troop took part in the hike through diverse and sometimes difficult terrain.

Michael Timms advanced to the Scout Troop in 2004 after completing his Yellow Cord Award. He achieved the Pioneer, Explorer and Adventurer Level Cords. He was a Patrol Leader and attended a Scout Leadership Course and planned and ran a Mock Emergency programme that offered the Banksia Scouts the opportunity to sharpen their First Aid Skills.

Regional Commissioner Lance Hodda presented Joshua with his Australian Scout Medallion and Cloth Badge and Regional Leader Mary Wallace spoke on Joshua's scouting history. Group Leader Jo Timms presented Michael with his Australian Scout Medallion and cloth badge and Joey Scout Leader Toni McNeill, Michael's ex Scout Leader spoke on Michael's scouting history.

Family, friends and Regional Leaders, scouting leaders and youth members of Banksia Scout Group celebrated the occasion with a finger food supper and a cake especially made for the event.

Both Joshua and Michael will advance to the Venturer Scout Section early this year and begin the challenge of achieving the Queen Scout Award.

Grey Wolf Award

Cub Scout Daniel O'Neill was presented with his Grey Wolf Award on Thursday, 6th December 2007. The Grey Wolf Award is the highest award in the Cub Scout Section.

Daniel was presented with his Grey Wolf badge by his mother Mrs Lynne O'Neill who is an assistant Cub Scout Leader at Banksia Group and the certificate was presented by the Cub Scout Leader Mrs Mandy Paton.

To achieve the Grey Wolf Award Daniel was required to work at a high standard, possess leadership skills, determination and prove to be a valuable member of the Cub Scout Pack.

Daniel O'Neill joined the Banksia Scout Group as a Joey Scout in 2003 and progressed to Cub Scouts at the end of 2004. He achieved the Bronze, Silver and Gold Boomerang Badges. He attended several outdoor activities and achieved the required number of achievement badges and special interest badges, and went on a two hour hike at Eungella to fulfill the requirements of the Grey Wolf Award.

A special cake was made for the occasion and was cut by Daniel after the presentation of the award.



Joey Scout Report

At the end of 2007 the Joey Scouts worked with the Sarina Joey Mob to obtain their "Buddy Award" badge. They had to do 3 events together – Firstly we went to "Just Bead it" and made cool jewellery together. Early in 2008 they will venture down to Sarina for an activity to complete the badge.

The Joey Scouts finished off the 2007 year with the making of gifts for parents. They also decorated the Youth Helpers as Christmas Trees. A Mob Holiday at the Bucasia Guide Den with a Arrh-Pirate Getaway theme capped off a year of fun activities.

Cub Scout Report

Before Christmas a healthy number of Cub Scouts attended a carol singing and gift giving evening at Homefield Aged Care Facility. I must say, that everyone who attended had a GREAT time! The carols were sung beautifully and with so much enthusiasm, that we had several solo and duet performances take centre stage! The residents absolutely loved having us - I could tell by the looks on their faces, and by the way they joined in singing a few favourite Christmas tunes. The Cub Scouts handed out hand made Christmas cards and small gifts containing different teas and chocolates. We were generously thanked for taking the time to help spread some Christmas cheer.

Scout Section Report

At the end of 2007 Tom Hallam arranged a hike for the Pioneer Scouts up The Leap as part of his Scout Leadership Course. I have heard that there were a few clumsy Scouts who could not stay on their feet but I am sure that the next hike will be better. The highlight of the hike seems to be the snake that everyone walked over without seeing. Hiking is always best when your eyes are open boys.

Have you seen the Patrol Corners lately. All Patrols worked hard on painting cupboards, bench seats and patrol boxes for their corners. Now they have a place to really call home. Scorpion and Tassie Tigers earned a Patrol Activity Badge for their hard work. Well done to all the scouts who participated.

In November the PL's and APL's and myself took off on a camp at Cape Hillsborough as a reward for all their hard work this year

I would like to congratulate Josh Brzozowski and Michael Timms who were presented with their Australian Scout Medallions last month and Tom Hallam who was presented with his in February.

Venturer Scout Section Report

To finish 2007 the Venturer Unit achieved several things. With 5 members attending and completing their Unit Management course and several other tapes almost completed, well done everyone. We have had a varied program with flight simulations, cooking and hike preparations as well as clay target shooting and a movie marathon. We participated in the Regional Venturer Scout camp on Kinchant dam where they went canoeing, ski tubing and tried to knee board. Swimming seemed to be the order of the day and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our newest members enjoyed hiking for their Skills Award before attending the group break-up.

This year the Venturer Scouts have been participating in a Speechcraft Course led by Mr Brian O'Neill, an outstanding speaker, for Toastmaster International.

Jo Timms, Group Leader, Banksia Scout Group

2008 Scouting Aquatastics Carnival

The Annual Central and Coastal Region Scouting Aquatastics Carnival was held on Saturday 8th March 2008 at the Calen District State College pool. Approx 110 members of scouting plus many supporters from Bowen, Whitsunday Coast, Sarina and Mackay attended.

Whitsunday Coast Group was the winner of the Golden Snorkel Award for Team Spirit. They were very enthusiastic with their war cry.

Members of scouting from all groups and their supporters were asked to wear team colours. Streamers and flags decorated their shelters and Sarina Group had a drum to add to the enthusiasm.

The afternoon was packed with fun activities such as: freestyle races, any other stroke races, surf ball relays, tube relays, collect a ping pong ball, balloon relays, and heave the lifeline relays, were all on the program for all to enjoy.

Thank you to Jane Mumford for the organisation of this event and to Tim & Judy Johnson and daughter Karen for the sausage sizzle.

Mary Wallace, RL Community Relations

Rowallan Park Campsite & Activity Centre

Wet weather has prevented many bookings at the Park to be cancelled. Not only has it been too wet to use the Park but the road became almost impassable. This has had an affect on our ability to maintain the income necessary to meet our monthly commitments. We are hopeful that we are able to make up the shortfall from an increased effort to have the Park gain more paying customers.

To this subject Jo Brzozowski has accepted the challenge of promoting the attributes of the property as an addition to her role as Environmental Coordinator. Jo is very conversant with the environmental biodiversity trails and other aspects having supervised the Federal Government Envirofund Grant project last year. Whilst Jo has accepted this challenge it is important to remember that her major role and first priority is that of Venturer Leader with Banksia Scout Group.

We were rather fortunate that the deluge of rain did not incur a great deal of damage to the Park but Barry has his time cut out with maintenance work repairing roads, cutting grass, repairing burst water pipes whilst giving the Mackay Rotary Club workers a hand to reconstruct the shed acquired from Bayersville last year. This shed is being constructed adjacent to the main dam and will be able to house our water craft and associated gear as well as being useful as an activity shed when required.

The Regional Executive has been successful in obtaining a couple of grants for capital works at the Park recently. You will be please to know that the replacement activity shed adjacent the parade ground has been funded by a successful grant and the material has been ordered. We have to demolish the remainder of the old shed as a matter of urgency as the contract for the new building has been signed and a work time frame established. This new shed will be larger than the old one with added facilities.

Another grant has seen the replacement of the old 14 year old ride on mower replaced with a new John Deere. This machine is a little more powerful with a slightly larger cutting base.

We have negotiated with another formation for a tenanted use of a portion of the property

adjacent the old canoe shed on an ongoing basis. This formation is known as Camp Eagle Mountain Retreat Ltd. It is formed by the Chaplain of The Mackay High Schools, Mr Phil Hall and the Iona Uniting Church minister, Mr Ewan McDonald. The section will be improved to provide ablution blocks and a sheltered area where the high school pupils will be attending training camps organized by Camp Eagle in accordance with their high standards and Rowallan Park Campsite & Activity Centre Guidelines. We welcome Camp Eagle to Rowallan Park and envisage a successful and long lasting association.

There has been an extensive planning and negotiating program applied since our last newsletter by both the Rowallan Park Fellowship and the Regional Executive Committee. It has all been carried out for the betterment of the Movement and the community with the Rowallan Park facilities being upgraded and business plan reviewed to enhance the property to meet current needs. These items are too numerous to mention but can be clearly observed as the year progresses.

Bob Hodda

Envia News

Although the human population of the region has suffered under the deluge of recent months the environment has reveled in the extra water available. Rowallan Park received 1800mm for January and February or 72 inches or six feet in the old measurements. Planning is underway for World Environment Day on June 1st at Rowallan Park with several local groups supporting the day. If you have any special requests get them in early so we can look at including them into the program. The environmental fun day will be on in Proserpine in May. The applications will be sent out in the next two weeks. There are several service projects underway in the park with Scott hoping to start re-vegetating Rover Hill as soon as we get some fine weather and Amanda tackling the recalcitrant Cats Claw creeper. Several of the Banksia Venturer Scouts are working on Environment Projects. More news next issue.

Jo Brzozowski.

Happy Easter!

