



# CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

## NEWSLETTER

Editor Mary Wallace

December Edition 4/2008

### Calendar of Events

14 Dec 100 metre Damper 8am Mackay

Showgrounds Troppo Markets

10am Dec 26th to 2pm 29th Dec Driver

Reviver Waverely Creek

### Rowallan Park

*It is the festive season and it is a Merry Christmas, a Happy and Prosperous New Year from all of the people at Rowallan Park, the Fellowship, the Caretakers and the few casual supporters who work hard to maintain the property as well as try and raise funds for capital works.*

*Whilst I make the above statement in good faith and trust we will be here next year to reaffirm the 2009 Merry Christmas let us reflect back over fifty-nine years of the existence of Rowallan Park and what joy it has brought to many people of the community – yes, Rowallan Park will be sixty next year!*

*Rowallan Park has touched the lives of people too numerous to mention, it has had a lasting effect on the lives of many young people who have had their dream time at Rowallan Park – they have been the backwoodsman, the frontier person, the outdoor master cook, the trailblazer the person who could withstand the elements of nature and meet the challenges life deals from the bottom of the pack. A marvelous adventure of life into the unknown – the unexplained noises of the night following a magnificent sunset, and a wonderful bush cooked meal over the open embers of a natural fire, smoke in the eyes, an anxious night and to rise early next day to a welcome sunrise ushered in by the bird song and nature at its best. All this and more at Rowallan Park just thirteen kilometers from the Mackay City Heart.*

*We have helped nature provide environmental trails along with documentary descriptions to help everybody obtain an understanding of the beautiful bush along with the environmental and personal values that abound.*

*I could delightfully go on with these wonders of the Park but we have a very serious side to this valuable asset and that is: its future – can we afford to pay our way. There is the insurance – just \$13000.00 due by the end of March. There are the ongoing costs of normal maintenance items such as fuel for the machinery, maintenance for them, building maintenance, ground maintenance and on and on it goes.*

*Then there are the capital costs to improve our infrastructure to meet the demands of the community and acceptable industry standards.*

*The current income from the Park does not meet the costs of the insurance let alone meet the other ongoing costs.*

*We need a replacement tractor, one with some more horse power to replace our small but reliable 1982 model. A recent perusal around the dealers shows we need about \$35000.00 or more for this project. We need to upgrade the accommodation unit and the ablution block. The kitchen should be upgraded to meet the industry standards. How much the costs and where do we obtain these funds????*

*In some recent discussions with our State Chief Commissioner the question was asked on how much funding I thought we needed. I suggested we start at about four million dollars. He currently avoids this subject when speaking to me and of Rowallan Park. I think it is called shock.*

*The working committee which comprises of mostly Fellowship members is all over the age of sixty years and some are closer to seventy. These are the people who asked for help with a working bee recently. We were blessed with the added assistance of two people from out of town,*

*a young scout and his two friends who were not even members of the Movement.*

*A very big thanks to the people who were able to give their time, we achieved a lot and whilst all were totally exhausted we departed the Park with the satisfaction of fulfillment of a job well done and beating that bloke called "Murphy" who accompanied us for the weekend.*

*We are now faced with meeting the challenge of retaining Rowallan Park and as a Christmas wish I urge people to take more interest in the property, use it as much as possible and promote it to others. As a New Year resolution I ask for everybody to join me and the Rowallan Park Fellowship in the determination to meet the challenge and ensure that it has a very happy sixtieth birthday with many more birthdays to follow thus allowing our young people to enjoy the dreams described in paragraph two and let us older ones reflect on our combined achievements.*

*Meeting challenges means change. Change usually upsets somebody. But in the end we must meet the challenge of change, learn to compromise to our best advantage if we are to succeed, and succeed we will! Churchill was no quitter and neither are we!*

*And it's still a Merry Christmas, a Happy and Prosperous New Year to everybody.*

**R W (Bob) Hodda**  
**Assistant Region Commissioner**  
**Campsites and Community Development**

## ***Regional Joey Scout Report***

*What has happened to this year? It is nearly Christmas again and not too long ago we were sitting around the table discussing what we were going to do for our annual Mob Holiday. Well! that was March.*

*Not a lot has happened since the last newsletter so I will keep it short.*

*I was recently invited to attend a Promise Challenge presentation at the Banksia Joey Scout Mob. On the 11<sup>th</sup> November four Joey Scouts will receive their Promise Challenge Certificates and badges for all their hard work.*

*Congratulations goes to: Thomas Henderson, Nicholas Hazell, Matthew Pullom and Rhys Smyth.*

*They have all worked hard on their projects and will soon progress to Cub Scouts, where I know they will tackle many new challenges in the same way as they have done with their Promise Challenge. Congratulations once again and WELL DONE!*

*Well, as it will soon be time for groups to be breaking up for Christmas, and many looking forward to a well earned rest, I would like to wish you all a safe and Jolly Christmas. May all your Christmas wishes come true and I will see you all in 2009!*

**Wendy Harm (Wallaby)**  
**RL Joey Scouts.**

## ***Bowen Scout Group***

*Our Joey Scout Mob has been treasure hunting, performing at the circus and loved playing Scary monsters for Halloween They have 'sensed' their way around and are visiting New Zealand. They also went to JOTA/JOTI as part of the Group Camp and now have two Joey Scouts who will have linked to Cub Scouts before the year finishes and very likely our first Promise Challenge for a very long time – if not ever. On a sad note, we will say goodbye to Possum at the end of this term.*

*Whitsunday Coast Scouts and Cub Scouts combined with Bowen Group to camp at Rowallan Park for JOTA/JOTI. Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers Scouts and Rovers attended with our Joey Scouts and a number of parents utilising the lodge for the night. Our parents did a great job catering for us from the kitchen (sure beats cooking for 35 on a campfire!). We have made some good Scouting friends with Whitsunday Coast and look forward to the next time we meet. Thanks Region for making the radios and internet available to us.*

*Bowen Group is active in seagrass monitoring and we undertook our third monitoring session on the low tides in October. We have Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rovers participating as well as a number of people from the wider community with an interest in seagrass. You can see some photos of our*

afternoon at <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/gallery.html>. This is a great way to spend an afternoon and one which the youth generally enjoy. We love finding creatures on the tidal flats and are learning about our coastal environment. Those who have completed 8 hours over 6 months are entitled to their Landcare badges. It is also proving to be a good way to work in partnership with the wider community.

Early November our Cub Scouts went on a pack holiday to Proserpine Scout Den for a Boomerang Blitz. Everyone was kept busy rotating through bases in their relevant Boomerang level groups. Whilst we know this is not the ideal way to undertake Boomerang work, Bowen Cub Scouts have only held two meetings a month for the last two terms due to leader shortages and this sleepover gave them the chance to catch up and in some cases complete their awards. Proserpine Group were wonderful hosts and we thank them for inviting us into their midst. We hope next year to invite them to our Den. We have three Cub Scouts presently linking to Scouts and whilst the Cub Scout Pack will miss them, Scouts will gain some very keen youth who know how to tie knots, cook on open fires and mix it with the best of them! Watch out Scouts!!!

We will be saying goodbye to Tim and Robyn as our Cub Scout Leaders in December however they will remain Bowen Rovers. Yet again, our Group has benefited from the service given by these individuals - not to mention how much the Cub Scouts have enjoyed having younger Leaders. They have kept Cub Scout doors open an extra 12 months giving us time to find new Leaders – Brendan and Alison.

Our Scouts have also been meeting only twice a month. They recently camped with Proserpine Scouts at Proserpine Dam and thanks to Lloyd, learned how to use camp tools (including an axe) safely and use gas lighting. Scouts cooked in patrols for the group and believe it or not, the food was great!

Venturer Scouts will be closing next year due to lack of Leaders, however our Rovers are fortunate to have found an RA. Joe Williams, a former Scout from the Whitsunday Coast has accepted the role and looks forward to assisting them to meet their goals.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to thank those at Region level who have assisted Bowen make it through the year. You have given us many activities to choose from and our programme has always been full. Your efforts are appreciated.

I look forward to next year during which I am hopeful the youth from the three northern Groups can strengthen the friendships they have made in 2008. Things get so much simpler and heaps more fun when you combine forces!

Hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas.

Brolga  
GL Bowen

### ***Boomerang Blitz: Proserpine/Bowen Cub Scout Pack Holiday***

Having spent a week or four planning this weekend it was absolutely wonderful to see it play out almost perfectly. Our aim was to give those attending the chance to catch up to where they would like to be/should be on their Boomerangs.

Twenty-three Cub Scouts from both packs, held a sleepover at Proserpine Den. It was hot, incredibly hot... but it was fun and it was productive.

We chose to run the weekend using the principle of four small groups of five or six youth rotating through bases which covered activities relevant to Boomerang material. Groups were determined according to skill level of the Cub Scouts which worked well with similar numbers in each group.

We were fortunate to have seven leaders of varying experience able to assist in running bases and shepherding groups from A to B and nurse-parent Karen Dachs ran First Aid. We were also very fortunate to have parents able to look after catering – freeing up Leaders to focus on activities.

Not all Boomerang tasks were offered over the weekend. Bases included: First Aid, Health, Safety, Ropes, Traditions, Symbols, Fires and Cooking, Compass Trails and Navigation, Self Expression Skit or Magic Trick, Gold P&L



*Scouts Own planning and Bronze P&L Write a prayer (used in Scouts Own).*

*Each base had ready a programme for each boomerang level and if an activity finished early, a Fitness base with balls and skipping ropes had been set up so the group could undertake some of the Fitness tasks whilst waiting for the next activity. Leaders had been delegated bases some weeks prior and were required to plan their own activity for sessions with each level.*

*The highlights: all the Cub Scouts enjoyed fires and cooking and the water games; skits were well rehearsed and delivered made for an entertaining and well run Campfire; the Cub Scouts Own which really was the Cub Scouts own – all their own work; a really great unofficial skills training weekend for our new Cub Scout Leaders; being able to share the planning and delivery with other leaders made it less of a task for any individual and allowed time for leaders to switch off at various times; lots of built in extra time on day 1 which mostly kept the pressure off.*

*What we would do differently – aim to achieve half as much; be more diligent with Cub Scouts looking after their own clothing and possessions (3 missing scarves & woggles...); have 1 person delegated to the job of management – someone to liaise between catering and programming, looking after session changeovers etc – a camp chief who was not involved in session delivery.*

**Lesley Bullemor**  
**GL Bowen Group**



## ***Whitsunday Coast Scout Group***

*We have had another busy term. October the Cub Scouts and Joey Scouts participated in JOTI at dateline computers and the scouts joined the Bowen group at Rowallan Park for a camp and JOTA/JOTI. I would like to thank Lesley very much for allowing the scouts to participate with them they had a great time and met some more new faces.*

*On the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October the Cub Scouts and scouts enjoyed a fun filled weekend on camp at Conway Caravan Park (Atlantis) . They participated in compass trails set by the scouts, rope tying, water safety talk and rescues with bow line races on the grass. They all helped prepare the meals and even cooked scones on the fire BBQ at the beach for morning tea. They played dolphin soccer built Atlantis in the sand and had to find King Neptune's trident. They earnt sea dollars, for their manners and good turns, participating in all activities, and winning activities. They did sand art and made kites to fly on the beach as well as sand castings with plaster. They had an hour of free time to enjoy the pool and the jumping cushion both days. I had a Grey Wolf Cub Scout finish his duties on this camp which was including organising and preparing a scouts own. I would like to once again thank all of my parents that helped me on this camp, I think they enjoyed it as much as the kids did, but I did have them all working all weekend. BRAVO*

*On the 31<sup>st</sup> October we went Trick or Treating in costume after pre preparing the neighbourhood. November is festival time for Airlie Beach and I try to involve the youth as much as possible on their uniforms being seen in the community. We went on an organised bush walk with the National Park Rangers, entered the Sand sculpting competition in which they came 3<sup>rd</sup> and then later that afternoon participated in the Reef Festival Parade dressed a sea snake made of shopping bags, It is the year of the reef as well as the year of the scout so we had save our reef banners on our snake and recycle, reduce reuse slogans.*

*Last week we went to visit the Water Police and had a tour of their boat and safety equipment displays, the youth asked lots of questions and learnt heaps.*

*I was going fishing this week, but I don't have enough parent helpers so will try to get through some Boomerang work before our break up party next week.*

*That's us till next year. I am covering being a leader for Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts next year until April, then I am stepping down and hopefully just be doing the group leader role. We have applied for 4 grants this year so hopefully there will be a group next year to benefit from our hard work.*

*We are hoping to get our Scout Troop up running properly next year so they can be ready to participate in the Jamboree.*

*Merry Christmas to all and enjoy a very well deserved Scout break.*

*Kathy Ball  
Group Leader*

## ***Mackay City Central***

*The last few months have been busy with a range of activities. Thankfully the weather has been kind to us! A hangi cooking camp involving Cub Scouts and Scouts was held, with some local cooking experts helping out with the food preparation and cooking technique. Quoll was impressed, saying that "The meat was as tender as I have had in my life." One of our scouts, Tyla Fleay, successfully ran an evening of activities for the troop. At the moment the scouts are creating artistic mosaics.*

*Our big news for the group was Jacob Wrench receiving the Australian Scout Medallion. After his return from Brisbane, where he was presented to the Governor, Jacob was presented to the group, and received his medallion, badge and certificate at a ceremony attended by regional leaders, all sections and their parents. The evening was an enjoyable social get together.*

*The JOTA / JOTI camp was well attended, as was the following scout leadership camp.*

*We were pleased to be joined by two new Venturers, Alex who is new to Scouting, and Chris who has transferred from Kareeba. James, also from Kareeba, joined the Scout Troop and Callum has been welcomed into the Cub Scout pack. It was sad that Assistant Venturer Scout Leader Peter Schultz was forced to resign because of work commitments. The Unit has had to rethink their plans for a Christmas trip to the Whitsundays, and plans are underway for an alternative.*

*The Cub Scouts have had their share of outdoor activities, too. As well as the weekly meetings there*

*have been a number of camps at Rowallan Park in addition to an afternoon at the beach.*

*The section leaders and assistant leaders have all been very generous with their time, as has always been the case, and the group certainly is very grateful to them. Well done, all!*

*Paul Becker  
Group Leader*

## ***Moranbah Scout Group***

*The Moranbah Scout Group has been very busy this term with numbers growing across the three sections of Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts. We have also had interest from potential new leaders and will look at the possibility of starting up Venturer Scouts next year if interest continues.*

*We were fortunate to receive a donation of \$2000 from BMA Poitrel's Operation as part of the BMA Awards. Members of the project team who received the award came down to the den to hand over the (novelty) cheque with the Joey Scouts.*



*We were also involved in the Moranbah Relay for Life, raising money for the Queensland Cancer Council. There were four Cubs, six Joeys, and all nine Scouts attending along with our three section leaders and some parent help. We were able to keep our baton (the Scout flag) moving around the track for the whole 18 hours, particularly thanks to one of our parents, Theresa McNaughton who completed well over 200 laps and received the prize for most laps completed.*

*The Relay for Life was a great opportunity to remind the Moranbah community that Scouts is alive and well in Moranbah and we received a lot of positive feedback about our campsite and the Scouts QP tents.*

*Moranbah's nine Scouts took to the air waves of Moranbah's Community Radio 4RFM on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to earn their*



communications badge. The Scouts had visited the station a month earlier where they had been offered the opportunity of hosting their own radio show by the station manager. Thrilled at the chance, the Scout troop prepared over the coming month for the one hour show. With each Scout presenting their favourite songs, and Scout moments, the show was an absolute success. Without the support of the Moranbah community, opportunities such as this would not be possible.

Janet Brown, Group Leader

## ***Special Children's Christmas Party***

Each year some leaders and scouts do a good turn by helping out at the Special Children's Party. This year the same leaders who usually go turned up cheerily to help out. There were some youth members from Sarina Scouts who attended. This year's party was on the afternoon of Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Mary Wallace

## ***Australian Scout Medallion Presentation To Jacob Wrench***

Recently Mackay City Central Scout Jacob Wrench was presented with his Australian Scout Medallion at a special ceremony, attended by family friends, fellow scouts and cub scouts, Mackay City Central Leaders and Regional Leaders.

Jacob, entered the troop after linking from the Cub Scout section in October 2004. He is a quiet achiever but slowly continued to work on the requirements of the award scheme in the scout section. He earned his Pioneer, Explorer, and Adventurer cords along the way. He was a Patrol Leader and he attended and fulfilled the requirements of the Leadership Course, as well as an Anchor badge course.

Jacob organized a bike hike from the Scout Den in Lagoon Street, to Cape Hillsborough and the next day to Mirani, totaling 126 Kms, a feat on its own. He found out that there is a lot of preparation before the actual event, and it was not just a walk in the park.

Jacob enjoyed camping as he accumulated 28 nights camping while he was in scouts, 10 of those nights were at the 21<sup>st</sup> Australian Jamboree at Elmore in Victoria in January 2007. He earned proficiency badges in Cultural Heritage, Outdoor, Community, Astronomer, Fire Awareness and his passion Trade; where he has visions of becoming a Builder some day in the future.

Mackay City Central Scout Leader Allan Salty, said that, Jacob was a quiet achiever and slow worked away to fulfill the requirements of the Australian Scout Medallion with encouragement from his family and leaders.

Jacob has now advanced to the Venturer Scout Section.

**Compiled by Mary Wallace, from information supplied by Scout Leader Allan Salty.**



*The Troppo Markets, at the Mackay Showgrounds is the place to be on Sunday morning 8am 14<sup>th</sup> December*

**ONEHUNDREDMETRES4ONE  
HUNDREYEARS**

*Bring your bucket with you to hold your damper mix.*

*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy and Healthy 2009*