



CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

NEWSLETTER

Editor Mary Wallace
April Edition 1/2009

Calendar of Events

- 9th May Aquatastics Calen District College*
- McIntyre Street, Calen 1pm to 4pm*
- 1st & 2nd August World Scout Day Camp*
celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Mackay
and 60th Anniversary Celebrations of Rowallan Park
- 25th July to 1st Aug Scouting Display at*
Mackay City Library

Report from the Region Commissioner

Welcome to Scouting for 2009. Looking at the Region Calendar, it would appear that we have another active year ahead of us. This year we celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Mackay. We plan to celebrate with a Region Camp on the 1st August (World Scout Day) at Rowallan Park. Jane Mumford, Region Leader - Region Events and her team have already started the planning for this event. Each Group has been asked to have representation on the team to provide ideas from their Group and take back information as well. I trust that each Group now has that person in place. We want this to be a weekend camp with a difference (for the right reasons) with the participation of every formation within the Region.

The 2008-2009 Scouting year is now history. This year, for the first time, the Group Leaders were able to complete their Group Census on line, making life easier for the Group Leader and for the Branch Membership Officer.

As a region we didn't do very well in youth membership retention. We had a decrease of 2.9% since the 1st April 2008. This equated to 122 youth members resignations. The Joey Scout and Cub Scout Sections suffering the most. Overall the Scout & Venturer Scout Sections benefited from an increase in numbers. The lack of Leaders has had a significant impact. Many

Group and Section Leaders are doing two, or in some cases more, roles to keep a section operating. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, in becoming a Leader please contact your Group Leader.

Recently, I was invited to visit Bowen & Whitsunday Coast Scout Groups during their camp at Camp Kanga (Proserpine). I had a most enjoyable time as did the youth. I also took the opportunity to present Whitsunday Coast with their Group Charter Certificate and Recharter.

Congratulations also to Mackay City Central who were recently rechartered for the 2nd time.

I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable Easter Break (despite the wet weather).

Lance Hodda
Region Commissioner
Central and Coastal Region

Training Development

*I take this opportunity to emphasise to all adult members the benefits of reading the Queensland Branch monthly issues of **Encompass**. This valuable resource is available on the Scouts Queensland website www.scoutsqld.com.au and can be downloaded from the Members Only Area. If you do not have internet service discuss with your Team Leader the possibility of having a hard copy provided. Since its introduction in September 2008 **Encompass** has grown from 16 pages to 32 pages. Central & Coastal Region has featured in four of the six issues to date.*

*It has become evident that some Leaders within our Region have varying interpretations as to the correct usage of certain forms used in our administration system. The Chief Commissioner has seen fit to state the correct procedure for the use of some forms in the issues of **Encompass** in order that everyone receives the same information. Forms referred to are **Form A5 – Youth Registration Form** and **Form F6 – Non-Member Activity Release and Indemnity** which*

were explained in the September 2008 issue. In the October issue the Chief Commissioner refers to **Form C5** and **Form C4** in his column *Message from the Chief*. The Chief's column in the November issue refers to **Age Ranges**. This is another area which attracts requests for clarification.

On the page bearing the heading **Administration** a box appears each month for **Updated Forms**. This is worth keeping an eye on as it assists us to keep up to date with our administration requirements.

I have selected the above as they are necessary in the day to day running of our Sections, but I do not suggest for one minute that your reference to **Encompass** should stop here. Each issue is informative and provides excellent reading from cover to cover. Accept it as a resource and ensure you get your copy each month.

Badges - With AJ2010 approaching I thought it timely to mention that we have on hand a number of badges suitable for badge swapping. We have our present **Central & Coastal Region Badge**; the now defunct **Mackay District** and **Whitsunday District** badges: **Mackay District Scout Camp** and **Rowallan Park 50th Anniversary** badges. The cost of each badge is \$2. Group Leaders can assist by promoting the availability of the badges to their members thus providing early opportunity to purchase badges for swapping at the Jamboree. Region Leader Information Technology, Dougal McWhinney has placed these badges on the Region Website for all to view. We also have some packs of 10 assorted **Cub Scout Rally** badges at a cost of \$2 per pack. These could be suitable for incentive awards or Christmas gifts or for those just wanting to add to their collection, camp shirt or camp blanket.

I am the current custodian of these badges and will be pleased to supply orders on request.
Good Scouting !

Margaret Hodda
Assistant Region Commissioner
Training Development

Rowallan Park News April 2009

The weather pattern for 2009 has been more like the old days where the wet closed the Park for the first four months of the year with boggy roads and soggy fields. I believe we have received more than half of our annual rainfall and we have only passed a quarter of the year. We actually closed the Park for a period of time as additional traffic on the road would have prevented the caretakers from getting in and out for supplies and other essentials. The industrial bin had to be taken out to the bitumen road as access was not possible by the contractor's truck. Barry was seen by several members "picking up his wheelie bin" from Glendaragh Road during the afternoon which resulted in a few friendly calls and emails to me. Barry has done his best to keep the growth of grass in check whilst working on building sites, road and drainage works.

A major problem taking a considerable amount of time by numerous people was a broken water main which emptied the tanks in a day or so. Not an easy task to find a wet spot in the ground when the rain persisted in keeping everything wet. Not all people were considerate when the leak could not be found and they considered themselves deprived of services! Pity that some people are so shortsighted and inconsiderate but we must soldier on!

Some booked activities arranged for the park were either, cancelled, directed to another venue or postponed to a more suitable time when the Park was dried sufficiently for safe use which would not cause damage to the property. A "new" second hand 120 HP tractor is being acquired to relieve our little 55 HP Ford of its overloaded job. It is hoped to have the machine on site within the next 14 days, everything being equal.

When this machine has been set in service we have some major oil leaks to attend to on the Ford. The cost of gaskets etc are not expensive but the time to split the tractor in half is a major task. Again we must soldier on!

We have been successful in obtaining a grant for a kitchenette in the new activity building. The Fellowship is now authorized to proceed with the work to be carried out by the contractors who supplied the original quotes.

The Commonwealth Water Grant Project has now been completed with all funding exhausted. The associated documentation is now prepared and ready to go to the auditor. There is a bit of tidying up to complete the physical job and this can be organized when the weather permits and people are available.

Jeff Jessop has been successful in obtaining drainage pipes to improve our overall drainage system in accordance with our current Scout Plan as well as being able to improve road drainage within the Park. Jeff has spent a considerable amount of time cutting and preparing these pipes off site and then acquired a truck and transported them to the Park. We convey our many thanks to Jeff in recognition of his efforts.

Many man hours were spent in an endeavour to locate our loss of water from the tanks due to the busted water main. For those people involved, please accept our sincere thanks for your assistance. This will always be an ongoing problem as the earth moves and pushes rocks into the poly lines. This problem is often compounded by traffic driving over water lines and pressing the rocks further into the pipes until a leak occurs. Then we have the problem of locating the leak!

We have encountered a major leak in the Barry Spratt Dam. A compound was purchased by the Fellowship at a cost of approximately \$760.00 which, when broadcast around the affected areas of the leak is sucked into the damaged portion where this product swells to approximately 30 times its size to block the leak. We are currently observing the result from the initial broadcast before making further decisions on future works. Our thanks go to Barry Spratt, Harry Roestenburg, Mike Oakley and Tim Johnson for their efforts with this job. Also thanks to anyone I may have missed that was involved with this job and many others that have been performed since the last newsletter.

In conclusion, please give Jane Mumford all the support possible in her bid to have the World Scout Day, 100 years of Scouting in Mackay and the 60th Anniversary of Rowallan celebrated at a combined camp with a difference at Rowallan Park on 1st & 2nd August this year.

Bob Hodda & Harry Roestenburg

Regional IT Support

Hi all, I would like to introduce myself as the new IT Support person in the region. Over the last 4 years I was a Scout Leader in Gladstone with Kareeba Scout Group returning to Mackay for work (I left in 1990). Some of you I knew when I was progressing through the youth sections (all the way through to Rovers) and over time I am sure I will gradually get to know everyone about the place.

You may have noticed a bit of activity on the Region and Group websites over the last couple of months. The Group websites have gone through some long awaited overhauls as I implemented a standard template for all the Group sites. A couple of small changes will be implemented to the Group sites in the coming weeks and I am looking forward to hearing any comments (good or bad) and any suggestions the Groups feel are needed. Currently I am maintaining the content on each site so if you have any stories and/or photos from recent events, send them through and I will place them on your webpage. Any Group that has someone keen to look after their site let me know and I will gladly get them started.

Design work has started on the Region website. At present the layout will be similar to the Group websites except it will be Region based. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the site let me know and I will see what can be done.

My work will at times take me past some of the more remote Groups we have and I am hoping to drop by and say hello over the coming months. If you have any Scouting IT needs please contact me as I am always willing to assist where possible. I am always available via e-mail (see the Region website).

Dougal McWhinney

*Region Leader – YPS Information Technology
Central & Coastal Region*

Region Joey Scout Report

Hi everyone and welcome to another busy year for 2009. So far this year all the Joey Scout Leaders in the Region came together for their Planning Meeting to plan our next Region Mob Holiday. This year it will be held on the 18th and 19th July. Our theme will be an Under the Sea Adventure to be held at Rowallan Park, Mackay.

Easter is almost upon us and I suspect most of us are looking forward to a nice break over the long weekend. Where ever you are and where ever you travel to over the long weekend, stay safe and have a relaxing time. And above all, don't eat too much chocolate!

Wendy Harm (Wallaby)
RL Joey Scouts.

Roventure 2009

Roventure 2009 will be something to remember for years to come. The experience, laughs and getting to know the Rovers who you will become a part of in the near future was definitely worth the 2 hour plus drive each way.

We had a great time from arrival late Friday night after an enjoyable car trip with Peter and Pera. After being greeted by all the Rovers at 10pm, waiting for Brisbane to arrive and setting up tents by car light it was off to get a nice Rover sleep-in on Saturday morning. It was a meet and greet session on Saturday morning as we all got to get to know some of the Rovers and Venturers from around the state a bit better. After that we split up into groups and did different activities during the day. A highlight of Saturday was the "Try-Hard Myer Models". It was sometimes hard to tell a boy from a girl! During the day, a few people managed to end up in the water trough on the side of the camp. The most inspirational response to being put in the trough came from Scott, the Rover in charge of the event - let's just say that we now know that windscreen wipers do work for wet jeans.

That night, after the PowerPoint of all the events of the day, was the awesome disco with plenty of people dancing into the morning (many of whom with no shame – and caught on video)! Unfortunately, due to uncontrollable events and

numerous concern calls over gloomy Cyclone Lame-ish, we had to return to Mackay early on Sunday morning – and into the "killer" no-show cyclone (of which we didn't notice a tree blowing in the wind until Sarina). During a few stops at houses, we concluded that as the weekend didn't cost the Venturers a cent that this was the best camp a Venturer Scout could hope for.

This was my second and final year going to Roventure as a Venturer Scout. I am already looking forward to the next Roventure when I'll be a Rover! It truly was an enjoyable weekend and I encourage any Venturer Scout to get involved with the Rovers and attend as many Roventures as possible. After all, it's great networking!

Zac Girvan, Unit Chairman Banksia Venturer Scout Unit

Bowen Scout Group.

I am pleasantly tired as I write this, having returned from a weekend at Proserpine Dam where Whitsunday Coast and Bowen combined forces for a Group camp. We were able to fly Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer Scouts and Rover flags and watch on as the RC presented Lachlan (Whitsunday Coast) with his Grey Wolf Award. Our combined packs worked on First Aid and Canoeing badges whilst Scouts navigated their way around the dam on a three hour sojourn as part of their Water Activities Target.

Weekend highlights include an investiture in canoes on the far side of the dam, a great campfire where our Dads performed an entertaining number; Mums taught us a song we did not know and our Rovers and Venturer Scout put on a fire twirling demonstration.

On Founders Day, Bowen was proud to see Harrison awarded his Joey Scout Promise Challenge – our first Joey to complete this award, at our Sleepover Birthday party attended by our Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rovers. Joey Scouts have closed the doors as we are again without Leaders in that section.

Scouts have been busy with housekeeping tasks now we have enough to form three patrols but it took several weeks to elect Patrol Leaders,

appoint APLs and work out the best fit for patrol composition. That's not all they have done though – a number have completed Pioneer Citizenship whilst all have worked on Emergencies with several visits to our local Ambulance and a marathon 500m stretcher carry which helped them realise teamwork produces better results.

The two overnight Group activities this term have helped our new Cub Scout Leaders see the potential for fun in Scouting. We look forward to what next term offers as Bagheera and Rikki take over the planning. It will be an exciting year!

Lesley Bullemor (Brolga)
Group Leader, Bowen

Whitsunday Scout Group

Whitsunday Coast Cub Scouts started the term in February with Chinese New Year programs, Shrove Tuesday cooking pancakes on homemade stoves from Milo Tins, a party for Founders Day with a program on Baden Powell, a movie night for the Jungle Book, Tadpoling and last week a trip to Proserpine Scout Den to join them for Harmony day celebrations.

Due to Leader commitments for the first couple of weeks, the Scouts started late this year. They joined the Cub Scouts for the Founders Day party and then covered some of their Scout Craft badge activities. We are now without a Leader in the Scout section and because of the Jamboree next year I will continue with the Scouts to assist them as best I can, so they can achieve their goal to attend Jamboree. As I have no Scout Section experience I am desperately seeking a Scout Leader, and I am asking for other Groups that may be able to assist me with some easy programmes or if you are wanting to do any walks or camps in our area, I am happy to organise information on destinations etc if you could organise and run the programme and allow my Scouts to join in with you. We were due to go on an overnight camp/hike with Bowen Scout group in February but due to the weather it was cancelled. I have covered different stoves and lighting fires with the Scouts, taken them to camp shop as an outing and got them to list what they think they would need for a camp. On Harmony Day we covered the heritage of many different countries and the Scouts are all

applying for penpals. This week they made aluminium can metho stoves and were very excited. I let them cook 2 minute noodles as I wasn't sure how long the stoves would last to cook anything else. I sent them home the week before to make the stands out of coat hangers with the assistance of their dads as I wasn't so good at that skill. Next week I am having the owner of Canfire come to give them a talk and demonstration on uses of fire hydrants etc and covering the fire awareness section, then they will be packing the trailer for the camp on the Saturday with the Bowen Scouts. They will each be cooking their own meal with a number of different cooking methods and have planned their own menu and shopping list. In the new term we will be visiting the ambulance and fire station. Last year we visited the water police. Bowen are also at this stage holding an overnight hike at Brandy Creek in which Lesley has invited us to join her again. I would like to thank Lesley very much. I sent out a cry for help in February to other Group Leaders and Lesley instantly replied with "You can come and join in any activities at our den" and offered to run a weekend programme just for us. I got her full terms programme which also assists me in knowing what to cover but gave me the opportunity of letting her know what we would like to participate in with her. A BIG THANKS LESLEY. I am looking forward to the Easter break as I have been very busy trying to keep the Cub Scout and Scout Sections running, by doing the programmes myself and searching for new Leaders etc.

Exciting news is we got the Breakwater Island Community Benefit grant and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund which will be helping us towards kitchen renovations and storage area downstairs. After this is completed it will be a great den for fellow Scout Groups to come for camps etc. Other community groups use our den so hopefully this will help them as well. I would like to thank Tania Edwards very much for applying for these grants for our Group. She was very busy at the time with work commitments but thankfully squeezed us in here and there to get them done and in. Since I have been involved with the Group we have never applied for any grants because it was all too daunting.

Until next time that's my news

Kathy Ball Group Leader Whitsunday Coast



*Harmony Day: "Building a Gunya"
Photo Supplied Brownyn Wren
Group Leader Proserpine Scout Group*

Australian Scout Medallion Presentation

*Banksia Scout
Matthew Timms was
presented with his
Australian Scout
Medallion at a
special ceremony on
Friday 13th March at
the Banksia Scout
Den, Fernleigh
Avenue. The
Australian Scout
Medallion is the
highest award in the Scout Section.*



Matthew joined the Banksia Scout Group in 2002 as a Joey Scout. He went up to the Cub Scout Section in 2003, and advanced to the Scout Section in December 2005 after receiving the Grey Wolf Award which is the highest award in the Cub Scout Section.

Scout Leader Mrs Lesley Kaye presented Matthew with his Australian Scout Medallion and cloth Badge. Region Commissioner Central and Coastal Region, Mr Lance Hodda congratulated Matthew on his achievements.

Mrs Kaye said that, Matthew is well known for his very pleasant lay back style, and at times his fountain of knowledge and his potential is overlooked. He along with another Scout organized a hike from Wandoo Station to Waitara Station for his journey for his Adventurer Cord. It turned out to be the coldest camp the Scouts had experienced with ice covering their tents and their socks as stiff as a

board. For his leadership activities Matthew along with another Scout constructed a tower, which did manage to take the weight of one scout at a time. He also held a cooking trail in which scouts had to follow bearings and directions to a half dozen bases, at which the Scouts were given ingredients to cook their lunch at the end of the hike. As a Good Turn, Matthew held a Christmas Toy Drive for unfortunate children. He collected three large washing baskets full of toys that were donated to the Salvation Army.

One of Matthew's talents is the art of camouflage, which has been put to good use in wide games held at camps.

Matthew led his patrol "Tassie Tigers" to being joint winners with a patrol from Sarina Scout Group, at the Region Scout Camp in 2008, which is judged on camping and cooking skills.

This year Matthew plans to improve his Patrol Leadership skills. He will advance to the Venturer Scout Section after attending the Jamboree in 2010.

Fellow Scouts at Banksia, Matthew's family, his mother Jo Timms Group Leader of Banksia Scout Group and invited guests, shared supper and a special cake made for the occasion after the presentation of the Australian Scout Medallion.

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

From Bowen to the North, Sarina to the South and Moranbah to the West, and all in between, get with the spirit and come together to make a big splash

AT "AQUATASTICS"

***Calen District State College on
9th May 2009 1pm to 4pm***