



# CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

## NEWSLETTER

*Editor Mary Wallace  
June Edition 2/2009*

### *Calendar of Events*

*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August "Scoutfest" celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Mackay and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Rowallan Park  
25<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> Aug Scouting Display at Mackay City Library*

### *Roundabout Rowallan Park*

*The weather has played an important role in the activities and the environment so far this year. The constant rain in the early part of the year was most beneficial to the environment whilst it had an adverse affect on the access and usability of the Park.*

*This is like the wet seasons we had back when I was a young Scout. In fact, the Park was inaccessible for the first three month of the year and Groups were asked not to plan to go to Rowallan Park during January through to end of March and to be wary of April with the prediction of follow up rains called April showers.*

*This year we had to ask people to avoid using the Park and confine usage of the road to the caretakers who experienced some difficulty in negotiating the road to and from their home on many occasions. Like many years ago the caretaker's car was parked at the causeway and they used the tractor to negotiate the access road. The flooded creek also gave them the old country style living as it rose and fell blocking access to Mackay on numerous occasions.*

*Bonnie, being a very capable cook, managed to keep the larder full and produce the meals at home as required in the true country style.*

*Some activities were postponed while others were cancelled or transferred to other venues*

*during this seasonal wet weather which unavoidably reduced our income as well as halting ground maintenance work.*

*The result of the good rains is an abundance of growth with the ground now still very wet in places where tractor access is still unwise. The recently installed rain water tanks are full to overflowing and the underground water levels replenished to a point where the natural springs that were once part of the natural resources of the Park are again running. It would be nice to think that such natural resources could once again become common place.*

*I did hear some comments that the tracks and the back section of the Park was too dangerous to enter as they were not mown and there were trees down across some places on the tracks. This did not really astound me (it did provide me with some inner disappointment) as, in my view, today we encourage the young people to want everything delivered to them on a silver plate instead of allowing them to "throw a little caution to the wind" and indulge in some backwoodsman and explorer style activity whilst displaying some imagination and enjoying the bush land beauty so readily available to them. I can say this without fear of contradiction that this is what we did at Rowallan Park as children in the Scout Movement, young adults and through to our "Grey Nomad" status. I still enjoy walking the tracks, although much more slowly and cautiously these days as the old bones creak and groan, braving the scrub itch and ticks that are as part of the wild as the birds with their different tunes in the crisp morning air and the abundance of animal and reptile life that scurries about or stands still to observe the intruder into their domain.*

*Throw your mind back and imagine what life was all about for the pioneers of this country; the hardships they endured were smothered by the family circles that were the backbone of the bush land lifestyle. They enjoyed living off the land and living with nature, to share the birdsong and the animal world in the beautiful*

*Australian bush where the trickle of water from the nearby creek set the back ground of peace and tranquility. The smell of the wood smoke fire with the aroma of the bacon and eggs coupled with the fresh toast from the campfire coals is just overwhelming.*

*Such a lifestyle could well be lived at Rowallan Park situated just 13 km from the Mackay City Centre. You can live it for a weekend or you can live it for a week. You can have early morning or late afternoon walks along the bio-diversity trails, set beside the dam and observe the wildlife in their natural surroundings. You can cook your meals over the open fire, burn your toast and go to bed with the bush land and camp smells that will surpass the city smog smells any day.*

*There is a multitude of projects in progress at Rowallan Park which will enhance the current infrastructure to meet other outdoor/indoor needs as may be desired. Our plans are to increase these creature comforts to meet the demands of the general public for training purposes, for family recreation, for Scouting and Guiding to teach the youth members using the Aims and Principles of the organizations through planned programming to become better citizens for the future, for other organizations, schools and church groups etc to share our piece of paradise.*

*The “back country” will always be bush land with its trails to allow people to live their dream. The front section will continue to be developed to meet the demand for various activities. You can get it walking; you can get it riding a bike; you can get it sitting round the campfire but you can only get it by living your dream of being a bushman/woman or the backwoodsman/woman or explorer or just a relaxed camper; you can get it all at Rowallan Park with a little imagination and making time to live a dream – and only activity can drive the dream.*

*Make your plans today to prepare your family for a camp at Rowallan Park. Invite your friends to join you and head for the camping ground with your dream firmly focused and armed with the determination that will make your dream come to be a reality – leave the city life with all its haste, impatience and frustrations behind! Make your phone call now to the caretakers and book your site. You can bring your tent, you may wish to bring your car and caravan, you may*

*select a motor home, or you can opt to use the onsite accommodation or you may like to rough it in the “Starlight Motel”! The choice is yours – you build the dream, but always remember – activity will drive your dream!!*

*Welcome to Rowallan Park! It is like everything in this world “use it or lose it”*

*“Activity will drive your dream”*

*It is “Good night” from me and “Good night” from Harry. See you next issue!*

**Bob Hodda**  
**Assistant Region Commissioner**  
**Campsites, Community Development & Fellowship**

### *Aquatastic*

*On the second Saturday in May, we held our annual Aquatastic at Calen District State College. Our usual date in March was postponed due to the region being under a cyclone watch. The attendance was well down on previous years, but the enthusiasm was there...initially. It was cold...in fact the last event could have been a shiver relay! Banksia Scouts were the winners of the team spirit award ..the golden snorkel. Tim, Nathan and Pete kept the sausage sizzle going and in all, I think it was a great afternoon*



### *Scoutfest*

*August 1 & 2 2009.*

*Come and join in the celebrations!  
Central and Coastal Region are celebrating 100 years since they opened a scout group in Mackay and our wonderful scouting reserve  
Rowallan Park is having its 60th Birthday.  
Join us for a family camp at the park*

and discover the different activities in our Aqua, Adventure and Discovery Zones. Dance the night away with our Bush Band and catch up with friends and ex scouts during our expo on Saturday afternoon. For full details talk to your group leader or contact Jane.  
[janemumford@hotmail.com](mailto:janemumford@hotmail.com).

### *Rowallan Park Working Bee*

Saturday June 27 8am

Enclosed shoes, hat, gloves, water and whipper snippers

Morning Tea and Lunch supplied

With all the rain it has been impossible to keep the grass under control

Please just spare an hour or so to keep it safe for our kids.

**Jane Mumford**

**Region Leader Major Activities**

### *Region Joey Scout Report*

Well preparations are well and truly under way for our Region Mob Holiday. It will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July at Rowallan Park. Mobs attending (I hope) are Mackay City Central, Banksia, Proserpine, Moranbah and Sarina. Our theme is an Under the Sea Adventure and will run from Saturday morning until Sunday lunch time.

Anyone wishing to drop in around morning or afternoon tea is welcome to come and have a cuppa and cake.

Well, that's about all I have. Remember, keep HOPping!

**Wendy Harm (Wallaby)**

**Region Leader Joey Scouts.**

### *Rovers Scout Report*

St. George's Ball is the major formal event held by Queensland Rovers each year. This year it was held on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April at the Mecure Hotel in Brisbane. The event is attended by both past and present Rovers as well as members of the Scouting community at large and the general public (generally friends or partners of Rovers). Again this year it was a sold out event, with everyone making the most of the opportunity to get dressed up in their finest and to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

The Ball also serves as an occasion to present awards to those deserving throughout the Queensland Roving community, as well as a few fun ones as well. This year the highest award, The Rover Service Award, was presented to a very deserving Peter Shields who has put many hours into Queensland Rovers over the last few years. Two Mackay Rovers (pictured) attended the ball. We enjoyed it immensely and would recommend it to all.

Yours in Scouting,

**Stuart Wolsey**



Picture (left to right): Stuart Wolsey (Mackay Rovers), Michelle Leeke (Stafford Rovers, Brisbane), Michael Stiplovsek (Mackay Rovers).

### *Cub Scout News*

The year is going very fast and we are into the sixth month already.

The Central and Coastal Cub Scout Leadership course was held in February at the Mackay City Central scout den. This venue worked out well due to the wet weather we had been experiencing in Mackay and Rowallan Park was closed.

Cub Scouts from around the Region participated in the course, but unfortunately due to the weather it made things a bit difficult for some Groups to come.

The 8yr old camp was held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Rowallan Park.

This camp was specifically targeted at the Award Scheme in Cub Scouts, which is the Boomerang Award Scheme.

The Cub Scouts had a fun filled exciting time. Their test work was delivered in various ways, by games and activities. The reward was to have their Passport marked off on the day.

The next Region event coming up is the 9 year old day activity being held at the end of July.

*I was overseas in April and May visiting my friends in Denmark. While staying in the town of Gjern I had the wonderful opportunity of visiting the local Scout Group. I visited the Venturer Scout night at the Den, and they were having a cooking night. Jens (Scout Leader) showed me around the Den which is made of timber and has a thatched roof. He also said they are struggling to get leaders, which is a problem in the area. He allowed me to take photos of himself and of the Venturer Scouts enjoying the activity. The Scout leader whose name is Jens Kristoffersen, also owns a mink farm. He invited Roy and I to come and visit his farm and show us around the farm. This was very interesting and to dress up to protect the animals was a bit different too.*

**Julie Thompson (Rikki)**  
**Region Leader Cub Scouts**



### *Whitsunday Coast Scout Group*

*Our Kitchen is Finished!!!! Thanks to Tania Edwards (Parent) who successfully applied for the Gambling Grant we now have a new kitchen. We are also getting a new storeroom downstairs to store the trailer, canoe and camping equipment. Hopefully this will start next week. We now have the perfect spot for any other groups to come and visit the Whitsundays. A spacious den, new kitchen with oven, fridge, crockery, cutlery etc, a view over Cannonvale Beach and an easy walk to the beach and park. It is a ten minute drive into Airlie Beach and the Lagoon and so close to all the tourist activities, the islands and the reef.*

*We will hold an AGM and opening of new facilities when storeroom is finished. We will keep you posted.*

*Cub Scout News- At this stage I am waiting to get leaders trained so I can start the group up again. I have two new leaders very keen to run the Cub Scout Section.*

*Scout news- The scouts are busy trying to get through their Pioneer badge work to get them to the Jamboree. We have just about finished Campcraft, now only the hike to do and am hoping to do that at Rainbow Bird this year. We are now working on Citizenship and are progressing well. The scouts have visited both Fire and Ambulance to cover Fire Safety and Emergencies this term. They had a visit from Nigel Rowe (Cannonvale fire protection) for training and discussions on the use of fire extinguishers and fire blankets. They covered all sections in the fire awareness badge. Each scout had a turn at checking the gage, pulling the pin and using the extinguisher.*

*Unfortunately at the time I was in front taking a photo and I obviously was not seen as I seemed to be the fire and got quite wet. They used both the water and the powder and after seeing how powerful the powder was I was grateful I was shot at with the water and not the powder. The youth really enjoyed this activity and have requested they do it every week.*



*The scouts have been busy fundraising for the Jamboree. They raised \$975 from the Rotary Community raffle, \$500 for a chocolate drive, \$500 for manning the Rotary car park for the boat show and we have a few sausage sizzles coming up.*

*On Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> May was the annual pamper day again where in the past we have made a sizable amount of money. Unfortunately this year I haven't had as good a response from the volunteer beauticians or people wanting the treatments, as times are hard for everyone.*

Hopefully we will still make a couple of hundred dollars.

On the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> May we attended our first Region Scout Camp. The new scout leader Stefan, new scouts and myself arrived at Rowallan Park on Friday night to give us plenty of time to set up correctly for our assessment on Saturday. The youth members also had to prepare a three course meal (including a roast) and breakfast the following morning for a guest judge. Our troop decided on homemade pea and ham soup (even soaked the peas in the morning so ready in afternoon), roast beef with gravy and veges and chocolate bananas. I personally thought as a young troop eldest twelve and only four youth members, they did very well at setting up. Unfortunately with no lashing skills etc we had no gadgets. Our troop joined with the Sarina troop for activities and they actually won the orienteering course. We all went to attend the campfire with our prepared skits etc and it was not to happen (not sure why I think fire area was wet) so Whitsunday Coast and Moranbah joined forces and sat around Moranbah's fire and did our skits. There were some other visitors also who joined in the activities.

We attended the environment day with Jo (Perra) at Proserpine Den on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May.



**Kathy Ball, Group Leader**  
**Whitsunday Coast Scout Group**

## *Bowen Scout Group Report*

Bowen Scouts have spent four nights under canvas this term over the two long weekends, in our favourite campsite by Euri Creek, only 20 minutes from the den, where we get to undertake a range of activities we are unable to do elsewhere. Euri Creek is seasonal and also used as an irrigation source by adjoining farmers. By the end of June it is usually dry remaining unusable until April the following year after wet season flooding has subsided. Just one night under canvas leaves me yearning for a hot shower and warm bed in the comfort of my own home but the fun and enjoyment of the youth is always worth it and with the help of parent helpers and our Rovers and Venturer Scouts, these camps were a huge success.

Our Euri Creek camps are not 'work' camps. Our aim is to expose newer Scouts to the 'Out' of Scout in a way that minimises the work involved in troop camping. As we are not asset wealthy (Bowen only has 4 x 2 man and 2 x 3 man tents) the challenge of accommodating 19 people caused us some concern however the scouts themselves solved the problem with six of the older (12yo) scouts asking to spend the nights under hutchies. It surprised me to see their keenness to be outside and exposed during cool autumn weather – I underestimated just how much they can enjoy the 'out' of Scout – simple things that cost little can provide the enjoyment.

The highlight of the camps (other than the shenanigans of our Rovers or having two snakes come visit us) has to be the invention of the 'Choc Lovers Delight' desert – a Dutch oven creation involving chocolate cake mix, marshmallows, choc bits and tinned berries. Our Scouts are proving themselves worthy camp cooks.

Scouts have been working this term toward their Pioneer Campcraft with quite a few just waiting now to get their nights under canvas. Recent Patrol Activity involved a day at the den cooking two course meals from another culture, whipping and splicing and having a go at using GPS's. Thanks to the parents who offered their skills to make the day a success for the patrol. I did drop in and was a touch envious when I saw just how much fun the Scouts were having without me!

*Cub Scouts have a number of new members joining this term which now provides our leaders with the full cross section of award scheme activity. Since last newsletter, Cub Scouts have participated in Anzac Day services and the recent Million Paws walk where they offered their services as Course Marshalls. Three Bronze Boomerangs have been awarded during term as have numerous First Aid, Canoeist and Swimmer badges.*

*The Group has again participated in seagrass monitoring with a number of Cub Scouts and Scouts well on their way to earning Landcare badges. We are hopeful we can make a scrapbook of all the animals, shells, seaweeds and plants we discover whilst 'doing seagrass' as it always turns into an adventure somewhat like I imagine Joseph Banks had with Captain Cook when he first set foot on Australian shores! Even though it is our own backyard, our beaches are always a treasure chest of new discoveries washed in from near and far waiting to be discovered.*

*Seagrass monitoring is undertaken with the wider Bowen community and we appreciate the inclusiveness shown by the non-scouting folk as they willingly turn a fairly scientific event into a fun 'day at the beach' whilst still getting the job done.*

***Lesley Bullemor, Brolga  
Group Leader Bowen Scout Group***

*My apologies to Bronwyn's contribution to the April Edition of the Newsletter, I didn't open an attachment of an email. However I did include her photo. Below is the report.*

*M Wallace, Editor.*

***Proserpine Scout Group***

*Proserpine Scout Group has had a busy first term with the Cub Scouts concentrating on their Boomerang badge work and the Joey Scouts concentrating on their Challenge badges. Our Scout Section had a delayed start and a big thank you is extended to Roger Madsen for stepping in as Scout Leader while Lloyd Fox was out of action.*

*Five of our Cub Scouts attended the Cub Scout Leadership Course held in Mackay during*

*February. All attending Cub Scouts learned the importance of being a leader of a Six and more importantly, how to be a successful leader. It is great to see the Cub Scouts implementing this knowledge on Cub Scout nights.*

*Clean Up Australia was attended by Youth Members from all Sections picking up rubbish along the customary route from Faust Street to the Cemetery. Most of the participants were keen, especially the younger ones, and the most unusual object found was a couple of hot plate covers! Although not all participants received a Clean Up Australia T-shirt, everyone was treated to a sausage sizzle, drink and lollies afterwards.*

*The Cub Scouts and Joey Scouts joined forces on two occasions during March; firstly attending an outing to the local Fire Station where the Youth Members learned many aspects of fire safety within the home and out in the bush. Not only did they see the 'jaws of life' in action, they also held the jaws (with help) and agreed it would be a task to use them for any length of time. The highlight of the night was using the fire hose to knock down witches hats (and try to wet some of the other firemen!). A big thank you is extended to our local firemen for accommodating our Pack and Mob.*

*The second activity attended by both Cub Scouts and Joey Scouts was Harmony Day with Whitsunday Coast Group in attendance. Although the theme for Harmony Day was "Everyone belongs", 'Indigenous' was the sub theme with Youth Members learning about the Aboriginal Flag, playing musical instruments (didgeridoo and clapping sticks) while the highlight of the day was building a gunya (shelter). A huge thank you is extended to our local Aboriginal Elder, Irene Butterworth. Although Irene was unable to attend on the day, her knowledge and input were invaluable.*

***Bronwyn Wren  
Group Leader, Proserpine Scout Group***