



CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION NEWSLETTER

Editor Mary Wallace
July Edition 2|2010

Calendar of Events

- 16/17th Oct JOTA & JOTI- Rowallan Park
- 13th Nov Aquatastics (Proposed date)
- Calen District State College Pool

Adult Recognition Awards that were announced on 1st August 2010 for Central and Coastal Region.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT— The Certificate of Merit is awarded for good service to the Association for a period of at least three years.

Natalie Askew Assistant Cub Scout Leader Sarina Scout Group

Megan Kropp, Group Leader Moranbah Scout Group
Dougal McWhinney Region Leader Central and Coastal Region

SILVER WATTLE — The Silver Wattle is awarded for outstanding service to the Association for a period of at least twelve years.

Brett Tomlinson Group Leader Sarina Scout Group

SILVER EMU — The Silver Emu is awarded for sustained and exceptional service to the Association for a period of at least twenty years.

Julie Thompson Region Leader (Cub Scouts) Central and Coastal Region



Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Scout Fellowship

News from the Regional Commissioner

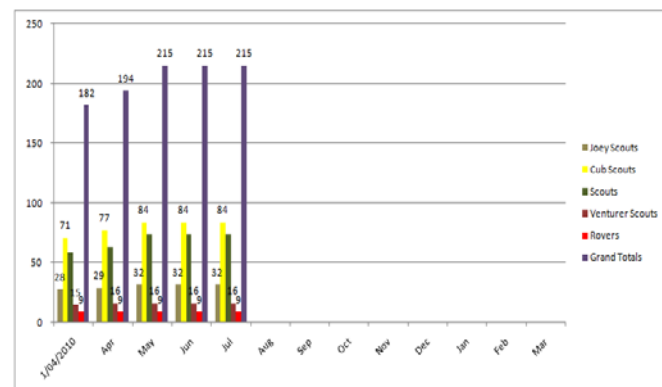
Firstly, I would like to congratulate all recipients of Adult Recognition Awards for 2010. These awards are granted for good service beyond the level of service

normally expected of a person in carrying out the responsibilities of the appointment or position held as well as carrying out those duties to a high standard.

The Central and Coastal Region AGM was held on the 6 July. John Taylor graciously accepted to continue as Region Executive Chairman for another term as did Ray Cross as Secretary, and Reg Ross as Treasurer. These gentlemen are an essential part of Central and Coastal Region and like the rest of us, give a lot of their time to keep the business of Scouting running for the our Youth. For those interested, the Central and Coastal Region Annual Report will be available for download from the Central and Coastal Region Website - www.centralcoastal.scoutsqld.com.au .

Youth membership has recovered slightly with an additional 36 youth members joining Scouts in Central and Coastal Region since 1 April, bringing the total to 215.

Leaders remain our major recruitment challenge. Without qualified Leaders it is difficult to maintain the standard of programming for our youth members. “Burnout” of our existing Leaders is always a concern as they work to maintain the high standard of program and activities. It is not just the “2 hours” a week for a section meeting. Our Leaders spend many hours planning and preparing their weekly program as, as well as the weekend camp and activities. I realise that is not much of a sales pitch for Leader recruitment. Like everything, with a few more Leaders and parent help, the work load is shared and the rewards are great when you see the youth members learning and having fun.



In June I had the pleasure in attending Joshua Brzozowski's Queens Scout presentation at Banksia Scout Den and Hayden Bradford's Grey Wolf Award presentation in Bowen. It is pleasing to see these young people being rewarded for the hard work they have put into achieving these awards and the fun they had doing it. In both instances the Group put on a wonderful

afternoon and celebrated the occasion in the true Scouting spirit. Well done to both Josh and Hayden.

Please be aware that the access into Rowallan Park travels through private property on which cattle graze. There is an observed "gentleman's agreement" that **speeds will not exceed 15kph**, noise is kept to an acceptable level as well as keeping a close lookout for cattle and avoid "spooking" them. This practice helps to keep good neighbourly relations.

Until next time, good Scouting

Lance Hodda
Region Commissioner

Protocols

There appears to be a reasonable amount of uncertainty as to when and where we are permitted to wear certain scarves as a necessary part of our Scout uniform.

The Maroon Scarf comes in two (2) sizes – Small and Large not Youth and Leader. Whilst most Leaders will require the large scarf the size purchased for a Youth Member is their or their parent's choice.

QBSI was amended in 2009 to read as follows:-

SECTION 4 - PROTOCOLS

4.5 Uniforms

4.5.4 General Uniform Matters

(b) Scarves

It is the Policy of the Queensland Branch that all Youth Members and Leaders wear the Queensland Maroon scarf.

A Leader entitled to wear the Gilwell scarf may do so only at Training events.

Trainees attending a Wood Badge Training 1 Course will be issued with a grey scarf which shall be worn for the duration of the Course.

Scarves for special activities and special camps may be approved for wear by Members participating in the activity or camp as follows:

Group/District Activity or Camp: Approved by Chief Commissioner

Region Activity or Camp: Approved by Chief Commissioner

Branch Activity or Camp: Approved by Chief Commissioner

Special scarves may only be worn for the duration of the special activity or camp and while travelling to or from the special activity or camp.

(c) Gang Show and Revue Scarves

Members of approved Gang Shows and Scout Revues may wear special scarves during performances of that Gang Show or Scout Revue and when visiting other Scout Revues provided that the approval of the design and the wearing of the scarf has been given by the Chief Commissioner. These special scarves will **NOT** be worn on other occasions.

QBSI 3.5.9 WEARING OF AWARD DECORATIONS

Members of the Movement are often in doubt as to the occasions when it is correct to wear Award Decorations. It is difficult to define and list all the functions at which these Decorations should be worn, as so much depends on circumstances, however, generally speaking, Scout Decorations should be worn at functions, or similar gatherings such as:

- Whenever a Vice-Regal personage is present
- Events as which the Chief Commissioner is present
- Branch, Region, District or Group Annual General Meetings
- Branch, Region or District Scout Balls
- Opening of Scout Dens or special Group functions
- Special functions at which distinguished guests are present
- World Scout Day and Founders Day

This applies equally to Supporters and Uniform Members.

QBSI provides additional information regarding Awards.

QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARDS

Over the years I have received many invitations to attend Queen's Scout Award presentations. In more recent times I have received the "odd" invitation to presentations of the Queen Scout Award. I am sure this is a complete oversight by the organisers.

The Royal Certificate which is usually presented to recipients at a ceremony at Government House, displays the words Queen's Scout and is stamped with the signature of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II.

APPOINTMENT TITLES

The June 2010 edition of Encompass provided a Policy Update on Appointment Restructure effective as of 1st

April 2010. The prefix of "Youth Program" and "Youth Program Support" has been removed from all appointments.

e.g. Youth Program Leader Joey Scouts is now
Joey Scout Leader

Youth Program Assistant Leader Scouts is now
Assistant Scout Leader

Youth Program Support Region Commissioner
is now Region Commissioner

Youth Program Support Region Leader is now
Region Leader

Youth Program Support Adult Support Member
Uniform or Non Uniform is now Adult Support
Member Uniform or Non Uniform

A complete table outlining the conversion is available
in *Encompass*.

The only appointments using the title of Adult Support
Member are that of Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary
whether they choose to be a Uniform or Non Uniform
Member.

Certificates of Appointment noting the changes will not
be reissued until such time as they are required
through a normal process e.g. Change of Appointment.

N.B. We do not have 'al' added to the word Region
when making reference to Region appointments, titles,
sections or activities.

For those of you who are avid readers of *Encompass*,
you most likely have filed the updates appropriately.
For those who are reading it for the first time, I am
pleased to be able to bring you up to date with the
above information.

Margaret Hodda
Assistant Region Commissioner
Training Development

Bowen Scout Group

A milestone was achieved for the Bowen Scout Group
this term when we had the honour of celebrating
Hayden Bradford's Grey Wolf Award. This is the first
Grey Wolf presented in Bowen (took us a while) but
hopefully will be the first of many to come. Thanks
Lance and Brian for making the trip and helping us
make the day a very special one for Hayden. Also
thanks to Julie, for helping us through some sticky
patches on the journey.

Cub Scouts camped with our Scouts this term, for two
of the three long weekend at Euri Creek. They have
almost completed their Level 1 and Level 2 Bushcraft
as a result.

The first of those camps was also shared with
Whitsunday Coast Scouts and Leaders. As both groups
had signed up for the Scouts in Action Week, a mock
emergency was staged with our Cub Scouts being
willing casualties in a car/bus/plane/train crash,
covered in fake blood and wounds of enormous
proportions. Whilst the Scouts were somewhat
intimidated by the number of casualties, they had fun
working out why a crash victim in the middle of the
bush had nails embedded in their skull!

As an exercise in emergency treatment, it taught the
scouts the need to quickly take control and exercise
leadership, summarise the situation then prioritize and
delegate tasks. These did not happen on the day and
chaos followed but a later discussion showed they all
realised they were equally as valuable skills as
knowing the relevant first aid.

The Scout Troop also attended the local ambulance
station over three nights for a series of hands on
activities as part of Scouts in Action Week. We are
fortunate to have very capable QAS officers able to
teach at 12 year old level which had all our Scouts
keen to attend and willing participants in discussions
and activities.

The set of three long weekend camps was also used as
an opportunity to trial 'patrol camping'. Previously we
did not have the numbers to allow this. One central
QM store and a common programme were used but
each patrol was responsible for their own cooking and
campsite. Scouts loved it and indicate they don't want
to go back to the 'group camp' style but as a Leader on
a patrol camp, I found it more stressful. As the first
opportunity to have some freedom in camp, some youth
chose to take full advantage of the reduced supervision
- I am now more the wiser.

This has been part of our strategy to attempt to have
the Patrol system operating as it was intended. It is not
easy when all of the youth are less than 13 year old –
particularly not easy on the PLs who at 12 years of age
do not always have the leadership skills required to
keep it fun for everyone. We are however persevering
in the hope that more of them will stay in the troop past
13 years of age even though they are at high school
and peer pressure and Scouts don't mix well. We now
have eighteen regularly attending Scouts so we are
hopeful that a 'safety in numbers' effect might start
happening – they are no longer the odd one out
amongst their peers.

The last of the long weekend camps was a great
success running to a survivor theme – no eliminations
but a patrol versus patrol competition. At the start of
camp a list of challenges was circulated along with the
programme outline. Meals had to occur at given times
but the rest of the weekend activity was of their own
choosing. Patrols were invited to undertake challenges
which earned them points. The only rule was that the

whole patrol had to work together on one challenge at a time. Some challenges had to be undertaken in a certain order but there was lots of room for flexibility in the remaining ones. Activities included ceremonies & traditions, bushcraft & survival skills, campcraft, pioneering, sport & games, first aid, art & craft, drama, music & poetry - something for everyone. Of greatest interest to all was the use of magnesium flints for fire lighting. The flints are \$5 from eBay ex China and I don't think we will have to buy matches ever again. The Scouts all knew of Bear Grylls "Man vs Wild" and were interested to learn he is the Chief Scout of the UK. What they found even more exciting was that they too 'can light a fire without matches' in a matter of seconds as long as they have prepared well first (the self-discipline to prepare is the skill they need to practice).

Cub Scouts enjoyed visiting the Scout camp to see the results of some of the activities such as watching buckets of water being thrown over shelters with patrols huddled beneath and seeing the gateways and totem poles constructed from found materials. A great weekend which left me feeling the preparation was after all was said and done, really worth it.



**Lesley Bullemore, Group Leader
Bowen Scout Group**

Whitsunday Coast Scout Group

First of all we would like to acknowledge the Whitsunday Regional Council for approving our application for the Community Assistance Grant-Equipment Grant.

We were granted \$1100 out of the \$1700 I requested so we are very very grateful for these much needed funds. This grant money went towards a scout section flag, to lighting and power points in our new storage shed as well as security lighting in our main den area. This will make such a difference to the uses we can now have in our storeroom- like seeing without torches etc and the youth being able to use it as a work shop. The security lighting will hopefully keep the vandalising down also. The rest of the money is going towards a portable Baby Q bbq so that when we go on camps where we can't have fires (which is all of the Whitsundays) we can still

cook roasts and puddings etc as well as being light weight for fundraisers.

So a big thankyou to the Whitsunday Regional Council for offering these grants to the local community groups it certainly saves us a lot of fundraising.

The second grant we received was the Australian Government volunteer Grant 2009 in which we received \$2,255.

With this grant the money went towards a number of items- we purchased a chest freezer,(after fundraising events all leftover food was coming back to my place and taking up my freezer room until next camp or fundraiser),we also purchased \$300 worth of first aid supplies to restock our kits with new up to date products and a bigger choice.

I purchased some trolleys to make billy carts (as per Ken Whytes great suggestion)and some wheels. I still need to buy a few things to get them under way. Kitchen equipment- I purchased a nice big stock pot for our hot dog fundraisers so I don't have to take mine anymore and a big set of camp plates and mugs and so we cut down on the kit bags and youth forgetting things plus have a more hygienic camp, I am also looking at purchasing an urn for our events. We purchased some hand tools for the youth to do some woodworking and for repair jobs we may have around the den as well as a ladder so we can change the lights without climbing on each backs (only joking I would take my ladder in). We received money to help towards fuel costs for the leaders to attend training and camps and finally a large chunk to go towards ropes and pulleys etc so we can actually start doing some rope work.

I was away for May and June so wasn't around to see what the sections were doing but I believe that the cub scouts have been working really hard to get through their silver boomerangs to get them to the Cuboree. They have paid their first payment and I am in the motion of booking their airfares. They have done a few fundraisers but will need to do a few more to help cover the costs. We are also trying to organise their camps that they need to have- is there any word of the Regional Cub Scout camp happening? We would like to reward the cub scouts for their hard work but there isn't much in the Whitsundays. Do any other groups have any fun activity suggestions that aren't too expensive.

The scouts I believe ran a patrol activity where they cooked a camp fire meal and invited the parents along to enjoy. The scouts then had a sleep over at the den.

Four youth and three leaders that attended the Jamboree were invited as guest speakers to the Airlie Beach Rotary club meeting. We enjoyed a delicious meal, while we had a slide show of the photos from the Jamboree showing in the background. After dinner we had 20 minutes allocated to us to do a presentation, I described the Jamboree and gave some figures and facts while the youth each highlighted some things that

they enjoyed or was part of being there. The first talked about the daily routine, opening and closing ceremonies and some on site activities. The second one talked about what we took with us – ie the backpacks, shirt, the dog tags and also some souvenirs like emu. The third youth member talked about how their patrol were the overall winners of the video making and were each presented with a video camera on the stage at the closing ceremony, also how each group in the troop had to make a flag to hang on the entrance gate. Finally the fourth youth member talked about the fun, sweet talking, bribing, and bargaining involved in the badge swapping and had his camp blanket to show them badges from troops, contingents, overseas countries and special rare badges. He is still disappointed he didn't get a medical badge if anyone has two out there they would like to donate. The three adult members described our roles as service leaders and then answered any questions. I am sure we went way over 20 minutes I forgot to check because the youth were really excited and I didn't want to stop them. I also thanked the Rotarians for their ongoing support of their very generous donations to help us get to these events and the sponsorship of our ongoing insurance costs. This year and last year they also made a generous donation to Rowallan Park so that we can continue our training and region activities there.

Kathy Ball
Group Leader Proserpine Scout Group

Mackay City Central Scout Group Report

So far the Scouting year for the Mackay City Central Group has been hectic.

The weekend after the June long weekend saw the Mackay City Central group head out to Kinchant Waters Resort for our annual Family Camp. Whilst we were a little light on families joining us (other than Cub Scout families) but we all had a great time. Once again all sections were represented at opening parade with one of the Rovers dropping by. Sadly this year the Rovers were otherwise engaged but we hope to have them attend again in 2011.

Despite a smaller number of participants this year everyone had a great time swimming, canoeing, orienteering, playing games and performing skits around the campfire.

We also enjoyed the company of Assistant Region Commissioner (Group Support) Brian Harvey on the Sunday when he attended parade and invested our newest Scout Ryan at his going up ceremony.

The Joey Scout section is going from strength to strength with over 15 children for the past two weeks. We have so many Joey Scouts we will have to start a waiting list until some of our older Joey Scouts go up to Cub Scouts.

The Joey Scouts had a great mob holiday out at Rowallan Park on the 17th – 18th of July when they took

over the booking for the cancelled Region Joey Scout Camp. They had lots of fun learning about animals and doing some wonderful craft activities. Each of the Joey Scouts took home a bug catcher that they made themselves, plus a big bag of arts and crafts items. In the near future we will see the first of the promise challenge badges awarded to our older Joey Scouts.

The Cub Scouts have been steadily working towards earning their Boomerang badges and ultimately their Grey Wolf Awards. Sadly the Region Cub Scout camp was cancelled this year but we did manage to hold the Leadership Course at the MCC Den.

As some of you may know our Assistant Cub Scout Leader Lyn Lean is in Townsville undergoing radiation treatment for a lesion on her forehead. We wish Lyn a speedy recovery and that she and Rod have a restful time in Townsville. We hope to see Lyn back after about 6 weeks or so.

The MCC Scouts have also been steadily working towards their badges with many activities undertaken over the past few months.

Scouts and Venturer Scouts recently camped out on the banks of Nielsen Creek near Mt Jukes. Thanks to one of our Scouting families for allowing the use of their land. The Scouts have now found another great place to camp. They all loved it so much they are going back in the coming months to have a hangi.

Congratulations are in order to the MCC Kangaroo patrol who took out the overall trophy at the Central & Coastal Region Scout Camp. The Scouts also took out the Gadget award and the Campsite award. We are proud of their achievement and hope to see them compete again next year.

The Mackay City Central Venturer Scout Unit now has seven (hopefully soon to be eight) members – with an equal split of boys and girls. Sadly this year it seems other commitments outside Scouts have meant some of the Venturer Scouts activities have had to be postponed. The remaining activities for the year look like they will be a success.

A Christmas in July dinner was held on July 28 at the MCC Den. The Venturer Scouts did a brilliant job of decorating and organising the event. It was a great night to attend and the food was delicious!

The Mackay City Central merry-go-round was put into action once again at the Thanksgiving festival at the Council grounds. Many thanks to Allan Salty and his band of helpful Scouts/Venturer Scouts.

We look forward to seeing all the other groups from the region at the swimming carnival later in the year and at JOTA/JOTI.

Nikki McWhinney
Group Leader Mackay City Central Scout Group

Region Scout Camp 2010

The Region Scout Camp for 2010 was held at Rowallan Park on 24 & 25 July. There were 44 Scouts (7 Patrols) in attendance this year. Banksia sent 3 Patrols, Mackay City Central 1 Patrol, Moranbah 2 Patrols, and Sarina 1 Patrol. There were also 10 Scout leaders attending the camp.

Saturday consisted of opening parade, construction of camp, gadgets, etc and then they meet at the activities shed to see what was in store at the various bases. The 44 Scouts were separated into 5 Patrols and sent off to the 5 bases (Construction, Minute of Madness, First Aid & Emergencies, Fire Building and Orienteering). For construction the patrols were set a scenario to build a structure to keep the Scouts out of the flood waters (80cm high) that were due to hit shortly. All patrols did well and succeeded in keeping their members out of the water. Minute of Madness was similar to the TV show and the Scouts enjoyed the base trying to succeed in the challenges. The challenges required the Scouts to sort coloured lollies, sort cards, stack cups as well as nuts, bang their head around to clock up steps on a pedometer. At the First Aid base the Scouts were set a couple of scenarios that could possibly happen at camps (e.g. burn to leg after spilling boiling water from a billy) and were encouraged to discuss what actions they would do. At fire building the Scouts were asked to build a fire to burn through a string line. Not sure if any of the Scouts actually achieved this but I am lead to believe they had some interesting fires and one even melted the yellow protection cap on one of the star steel pickets! At orienteering the Scouts had to find letters that were positioned on compass bearings. Once they had the letters they could get some vowels and were then asked to place words on a Scrabble board using only the letter and vowels they had.

After the activities on Saturday afternoon Patrols returned to their camps to start preparations for the evening meal (which was being judged). All was going well until it rained with around 30 minutes of cooking time left. This threw a spanner in the works as most of the patrol fires went out but to the credit of all the patrols, all the meals (well mains at least) were completed just about on time and from all reports the meals were very good and everyone had a good feed. The rain also put a stop to the campfire but we held a review instead in the activities shed. The skits were certainly interesting, especially the one lead by the leaders (Monawee and Quoll).

A few of the Scouts had to sleep in the activities shed as their tents appeared to be mini dams after the rain (maybe we will bring the tent fly next time??).

Sunday morning saw the Patrols rise and shine and prepare breakfast (the second judged meal). After breakfast all the patrols gathered at the activities shed for continuation of the bases. While the patrols were at the bases a few leaders completed the final inspections of camp and handed in the final score sheets.

Final parade was held and certificates of participation were handed out to all the patrols that attended. The scores were close and the winners of the various sections were as follows:

Campsite: Kangaroo Patrol (Mackay City Central)

Cooking: Redback Patrol (Banksia)

Gadgets: Kangaroo Patrol (Mackay City Central)

The overall runners up were Redback Patrol (Banksia) with Kangaroo Patrol (Mackay City Central) being the overall winners. Moranbah (last year's winner) brought out the shield and the PL from Kangaroo Patrol accepted it from Brolga.

Well done to Kangaroo Patrol and all those that attended. Hope to see you all next year.



**Camp Leader
Kingfisher**

Mackay Rovers

The rovers have finally recovered from their annual June moot weekend, it was Mackay's turn to host the event, with 40 rovers in attendance it was a weekend to remember. June Moot is traditionally a competition camp and this year was no different with the first day being filled with onsite activities including building creek crossings, catapult construction and a very challenging Iron Gut Competition. On the second day the rovers were transported around on the Mackay explorer bus to see the sights and to get to their challenges including; Replicating a piece of Art at the Art Space and Finding some Key Elements to the Botanical Gardens. When Lunch time came around the rovers were at the Mackay Harbour and they had to create their Lunch "Master Chef Style" which included being judged by the fine culinary experts of the Mackay Rover Crew. I can safely say I will look forward to being served up food like that again as it was great. The evenings were filled with entertainment including a session of bush dancing with Hullabaloo and Latin dance lessons by Splinter one of the newer Mackay rovers. It was a fantastic weekend with all who attended needing to head home to catch up on missed sleep.

The crew is now working on doing some fundraising with two members attending OZ Moot at Woodhouse in Adelaide at the end of the year. The crew is also heading north to hang out at the Cannonvale den for

Craig's squire Camp. It should be a fun and relaxing weekend for all.

All in all the rovers are busy having a good time and are continuing to help their young members grow into strong young adults with integrity and a sense of community.

Brendan Ross
Rover Scout

Queen's Scout Award
Joshua Brzozowski



On Saturday 5th June 2010 Joshua Brzozowski was presented with his Queen's Scout Award at a special ceremony to mark the occasion at the Banksia Scout Den Fernleigh Avenue, Andergrove. Mr James Bidgood member for Dawson, Deputy Mayor Mr Darryl Camilleri, along with Region Commissioner Scouts Australia Central and Region Mr Lance Hodda, Assistant Region Commissioner Mr Brian Harvey, leaders, youth members, family and friends were present to witness the presentation of the significant award.

At a very early age Joshua set his sights high and stated that one day he was going to earn the Queen's Scout Award when he saw a Queen's Scout presentation on the local TV News. Joshua 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, the highest award in the Cub Scout Section before progressing to the Scout Section. He was presented with the Australian Scout Medallion the highest award in the scout section in November 2007.

The following award scheme requirements are those that Joshua completed in order to achieve his Queen's Scout Award

Community Involvement -

Joshua became involved with a practical environmental project at the Botanical Gardens and planting seedlings and learning about sustainable gardening and community requirements at the Mackay Community Gardens.

He completed a first aid course and updated the CPR requirements.

He was required to do 30 hours of service to the community and scouting. Joshua aided leaders at many scouting events as well as spending more than 10 hours organising and producing homemade Easter treats for over 250 clients of the Mackay Meals on Wheels.

Adventurous Activities

The outdoor activities that Joshua took part in were, canoeing by gaining his Anchor Badge and he also played hockey for a season.

Joshua participated in an overnight initiative activity with other Venturer Scouts where he took part in cooking, compass, rescue scenarios, as well as fun type activities, of preparing a meal whilst being tied to another person, and packing up while blindfolded. He also took part in a two day hike in unfamiliar terrain where he and other Venturer Scouts hiked from Broken River at Eungella to the Denman Range camping overnight at the Crediton Hall Campsite.

Personal Growth -

Joshua attended a Public Speaking Course, he has also taken part in debates and has planned and delivered a Scout Own Services. He has attended religious services different to his own church. He also made contact with Rotary to find out what they offer to the community.

For his lifestyle skills he gained a Recreational Marine Licence and he learned how to sail. He also went 10 pin bowling every Sunday night for six months where he showed a remarkable improvement in his bowling skills. For his pursuit he learned about fish breeding habits and the tides.

Leadership Development

Joshua participated in a Unit Management Course as well as doing a minimum of four hours research and application. He was the Treasurer of the Banksia Venturer Scout Unit for a period of six months and is now the Unit Chairman and the Region representative to the State Venturer Council. He prepared his Resume and presented it to two employers and took part in job interviews. He investigated what was available to him in the financial sector relating to banking and finance.

Joshua is registered through scouting and taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme where he was recently presented with his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Achieving an award such as the Queen's Scout award has strengthened Joshua's character and will stand him in good stead for any job prospect he will have when finishing his schooling.

At the presentation ceremony Mr Brian O'Neill presented to the audience a speech titled "Lead by Example" informing of Joshua's scouting history on how he was lead by the example of youth member before him in achieving the Queens Scout Award and now there are other youth members of Banksia Scout Group following the example lead by Joshua.

Joshua cut a cake especially made for the occasion and a sausage sizzle was held to celebrate the achievement.

M Wallace
Region Leader Community Relations

Memories of Rowallan Park

Written by Otter

To begin my stories about Rowallan Park from the time it became a major part in the Mackay District Scout Association in the year of 1949, I take my memories back to when I was a young lad who loved the bush and nature at its best. This background has the key to my introduction into the Scout Movement and my involvement with Rowallan Park for more than half a century.

I believe that every youth member of this world has a great imagination and builds dreams of their future. Some of the imagination and dreams are short term and some become long term. Dreams have no boundaries and the imagination can be endless. Imagination extended to live the dream had me enjoy the bush and nature, building fond memories forever.

I probably focus these words more to the young people and the young at heart adults who are so much needed today to help our young people create their dreams and to live them.

I still love the bush and all that nature has to offer whilst the “aging process” has now taken my wife and I from my boyhood background that I need to tell you about as an introduction to the history and adventures of Rowallan Park as we trudge along memory lane to the “grey nomad” lifestyle we now enjoy travelling the bush with a four wheel drive and a luxury style caravan set up with all the modern conveniences to cater for our current dreams of camping and adventure.

Mind you, some of the best caravan camping we have enjoyed has been at Rowallan Park with our open fire place and campsite set up outside our roll out awning and annex of the caravan. We have had some wonderful family camps where the whole family including all the grand children from an early age jockeyed for position to cook their “cake” over the open coals or toast their marshmallows before going off to bed.

We use camping spots all around Australia and have done this for many years but Rowallan Park will always be my number one spot! You should all take time out to enjoy this relaxing lifestyle and there is no better place to settle into this way of life than practicing at our own Rowallan Park.

We will now just drift back in time to look at the dreams of the Scouting Movement in Mackay and the founder of Rowallan Park, Noel Weder, an outstanding Leader with whom I became a very good friend and associate as I ventured into adulthood.

There was bushland everywhere and for us young fellows there was a world of adventure and exploration laying ahead with no boundaries. I lived with my parents on a cane farm down toward Sarina and enjoyed the country life with my pony and my dog who became my constant companions. The horse was the early transportation to school.

After school each day it was home for my younger brother and I, onto the horses and off to round up the milking cattle with the help of our dogs, herding them into the home paddock for milking and feeding.

Well this is where the adventure and exploration started and expanded with time. We ventured further and further as we “searched for the cattle”. We were sometimes scolded for coming in late with the cattle but it did little to deter the fun we were having exploring the unknown territory of our parents farm.

We built “cubby houses” in the bush and our parents taught us to cook some meals over outdoor fires as well as in the home. We slept out sometimes but the dingos howling “just outside the door” discouraged us and we scampered off to our safe beds at home with Mum and Dad.

Unfortunately, due to my father suffering permanent injuries in an accident we were forced to leave the farm and moved to Mackay to live. This was not an easy task for me to leave my pony, dog and the bush adventures behind for a boring city life at age eleven.

However, as one door closes another opens and I was most fortunate in joining the Seventh Mackay Scout Group, which was located on the corner of Macalister and Gordon Streets. Time and Scouting healed the gaping wound of leaving our wonderful bush farm and all its potential adventure. I created new dreams which included new friends and I set about living these dreams using my imagination and the natural resources which I found in abundance surrounding Mackay.

Following the completion of my “Tenderfoot Tests” and being “Invested into The Great Brotherhood of Scouts” I was pleasantly surprised to be invited to my first Scout camp in the year 1951. This became my introduction to the Mackay Scouts Camping Ground that was called “Glendaragh”.

With all our camping gear loaded onto bicycles and one pulling a cart attached to it we made our way to “Glendaragh” down dirt tracks and through long grass, lantana, beautiful yellow flowers that towered way over our heads and “plugger bushes” to a spot in the scrub where we set up camp. For most of the way to “Glendaragh” we had to walk and push our bikes as the road to the camp site was a rough dirt track consisting mainly of one lane.

On arriving at the site we set up our camp on the creek at the eastern side of the property, building our fire places, table, camp oven, shelters etc.

Life for me was just great in this environment and with these other Troop members who had a lot more knowledge and skills for living and survival in the bush showing me the way to fulfil the dreams that I originally created with my early imagination on the family farm. I learned from this camp that “activity drives the dream” and I have used this along with another motto I developed from similar camps and adventures when remarks were passed regarding “you are lucky to be able to do something or you are a lucky fellow!” My standard reply was, and is “The harder you work or play at what you want and need the luckier you get!”

I continued my Scouting as a youth member from Seventh Mackay Group to the Fourth Mackay Group achieving the Queens’ Scout Award whilst increasing my interests in “Glendaragh”, or Rowallan Park as it was officially renamed, as an environmental haven in which we could get away from the city life and live a backwoodsman style life for a weekend or a week to our hearts desire.

Along the way Noel Weder, who was the Camp Warden (and everything else for Rowallan Park) had taken note of the young people interested in the property and in 1956, as a young apprentice motor mechanic he approached me about becoming a member of the Rowallan Park Works Committee.

He advised that he had a three year plan and he needed a young energetic person to help with this plan. He told stories of his dreams for the future of the property and how we needed a tractor and slasher to carry out the massive job of making a youth camping and leader training ground from this wild and broken land. I did not know the actual size of the property in those days, except that it was huge and appeared to have no boundaries.

Our hikes and adventures used to take us from Rowallan Park across the Dome at the north of the property down the Barcoo to Habana Road and Habana Wharf and back and we really had no idea of where the property boundary was or even if a boundary actually existed. We always sought the neighbours permission to traverse their farms during our expeditions and we were always welcome.

I accepted Noel’s invitation to join the Works Committee and soon became involved in the planning process which included raising funds to purchase a tractor and slasher to replace the hand operated Allen Scythe style mowers which were really much too small for the job and very heavy and difficult to operate.

Noel had many business contacts and friends who were always willing to help Rowallan Park and the Scout Movement in Mackay.

We soon had one hundred and twenty five pounds (\$250.00 in today’s money) with which to negotiate the purchase of a tractor and slasher. I was currently employed by Eager’s Holden at the northern end of Milton Street whose building backed onto Fields Pty Ltd who were the local Ferguson Tractor Dealers.

I spent my spare time during smoko and lunch breaks etc in Field’s tractor yard examining the second hand range of tractors and slasher attachments that could serve our purpose at Rowallan Park for the amount of money we had allocated for the project.

The best we could get after all discounts and goodwill’s had been exhausted with the sales staff and the owner, Mr Fred Field we purchased the second hand petrol model grey Ferguson tractor with an open slasher for the one hundred and twenty five pounds subject to the rear tyres being swapped for two that were showing much more wear from another machine.

So the first tractor joined Rowallan Park shortly after I had joined the Works Committee.

There are many and varied stories, happenings, fun times, work, fundraising, frustrations and negotiations that I hope to eventually relate but at this time of writing I propose to go back prior to my time now and relate to you what I have discovered about how Rowallan Park (Glendaragh) was acquired. I will try to recall and record the history which has been handed down to me from people who had dealings and information with the property in the past followed by the time span of my involvement in response to the request from Mr Ray Braithwaite who has generously volunteered to write the history of Rowallan Park provided he receives the required material content.

So in the next episode of these words down memory lane for Rowallan Park I will commence with the information as has been told to me commencing from the year of 1948 and the lead up to the purchase of the 42.5 hectare piece of freehold paradise just thirteen kilometres from the Mackay City Post Office.

Should others have historical contributions that they would like to submit for consideration to the publication, please send it to Rowallan Park Memory Bank, P O Box 56 Bucasia Qld 4750.

Otter