



CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION

NEWSLETTER

*Editor Mary Wallace
Nov Edition 4/2011*

Calendar of Events

3Dec Christmas Party Eungella Chalet

Region Commissioner's Report

Central and Coastal Region currently has 299 members, an increase of 4 members since last month. The number consists of: Jove Scouts 24, Cub Scouts 78, Scouts 72, Venturer Scouts 13, Rovers 12, Fellowship 20, Support NU 19, Leaders 40, Region 21.

Since our last newsletter there has been a successful Scout Leadership course held at Rowallan Park. Although numbers were down, those who participated learnt a lot and all enjoyed the weekend. Thanks to ARC Lance Hodda, ARC Dougal McWhinney, Region Leader Tim Johnston and Scout Leader Allan Salty for their efforts in making this course so enjoyable for the Scouts.

The annual Region Cub Scout Leadership course was held at Mackay City Central Scout den recently. Thanks to Region Leader Julie and her helpers for an enjoyable day.

I have attended a presentation of the Grey Wolf award for 3 Cub Scouts at Banksia Den and another Grey Wolf presentation at Mackay City Central Den. Congratulations to the participants and Leaders. A lot of time and effort goes into achieving this prestigious award.

I contacted Mackay Regional Council regarding the surrender of lease of Bucasia Scout Den. I have not heard back from them yet.

A 2 hour teleconference for Region Commissioners and the Chief was held on 15 November and many matters were discussed. No doubt you will hear about these in due course.

The Chief Commissioner, Mr Maurice Law AM has resigned his position, which will be effective as from 31" March next year. Nominations for the

position are presently being called, and interviews will take place in the near future.

It was very unfortunate that Aquatastic had to be cancelled this year through apparent lack of interest by some leaders. The Youth members who have attended in the past have always enjoyed this Region activity, as have the Leaders who attended. I really hope we get a better response next year. A lot of time and effort goes into arranging Region activities, and it is very disappointing when they don't go ahead.

Scouts have been asked to help at Greenmount's 150 year fair and display, to be held on Sunday 27May next year. The committee would like us to organize and run some old style races, such as sack races, 3 legged races etc. I will give you more information as it comes to hand.

Driver Reviver will be run by Region, at Waverley Creek again this year, and we are asking for a few volunteers to assist. It will be held from 10am 26 December until 10am31 December. For further information or to put your name down, please contact RL Judy Johnson.

One of our Rovers, Brendan Ross, will be booted on 3 December at Eungella at 6.30pm. Following this ceremony the Rovers will return to their campsite, and all Leaders in the Region are invited to go to the Chalet for a Christmas break-up dinner. RL Jane Mumford has made a booking for us., and if you would like to attend, would you please contact her, as she needs final numbers as soon as possible.

Those attending the Boot are asked to wear uniform, as this is an official Scouting ceremony. Those just going for dinner can please themselves, regarding the wearing of uniform.

For those of you I don't see before Christmas, I wish you a very Happy Festive Season and if you are on our busy roads, please take extra care, and I will see you all again in the New Year.

Best Wishes,

Brian Harvey, Region Commissioner

Jota/Joti 2011

The 54th Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) and the 15th Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI) was held on the 15-16 October. The region event (held at Rowallan Park) had around 90 youth members and leaders in attendance.

JOTA had an HF radio in operation as well as Echolink. JOTA was only operating on Saturday. Due to very noisy conditions on the day (lots of storms around) we only had a few contacts (mostly in Australia).

JOTI had around 11 PCs in operation using Internet Chat Relay (IRC) to communicate to other Scouts/Guides/Leaders. It started slowly on Saturday and we were only getting a few contacts in Australia. However by Saturday afternoon, JOTI was starting to liven up and was on fire late Saturday evening early Sunday.

Overall we made around 177 contacts across 43 countries (want to improve on this next year). The table below shows the top 5 countries we contacted.

Country	Contacts
Australia	38
Philippines	15
New Zealand	13
England	12
Netherlands	8

This year we also had an electronics station where the participants could make a small 2 light flasher. There were some really excited youth members really looking forward to completing the kit and we didn't end up with too many singed fingers. Everyone that participated was able to take away a working flasher.

A special thanks to the Rovers who assisted with the set, running and deconstruction of the JOTI and electronic bases. Without them I am sure I would have struggled to get everything completed on time. Also thanks to the other leaders and parent helpers that provided assistance when their group was in attendance. I encourage you to have a look at the photos on the region website and I look forward to JOTA/JOTI next year.

As always, 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 "contact us" on the regional website).

Dougal McWhinney
Assistant Region Commissioner



Alexander at JOTA

Training.....

I have been informed that e-learning was due to be implemented on 15th November 2011. Details of how we are to access this method of training have not been forthcoming as yet but I expect the information will be communicated from Branch Headquarters to the Regions in due course. Leaders about to commence their training will no doubt have a straight forward approach to the new Adult Leader Wood Badge Training Program. Those who are unable to or do not wish to access the computer based or e-learning method will still be catered for as will those who are part way through the Training Program as we currently know it. As the relative information comes to hand it will be distributed throughout the Region. Page 17 of the October 2011 edition of Encompass provides some insight into how training will be provided in the future. The good news for those choosing the e-learning method is that their hands on residential course contact time is reduced by one and a half days.

Dates for training courses in 2012 are not yet available and I am told have been delayed due to the necessary restructuring of courses to accommodate e-learning. Should the Region Commissioner or myself receive these dates they will be communicated to all Groups in the Region. Another option is to watch the Training page in future issues of Encompass.

It feels much too early to be saying this, but with Santa's visit not far away, on behalf of Bob and myself I wish everyone a happy and peace-filled Christmas and with batteries recharged, a safe and purpose filled year in 2012.

Keep up the good work you are doing with the young people in our communities and good Scouting.

Margaret Hodda
*Assistant Region Commissioner
Training Development*

Region Cub Scout Report

The Cub Scout Leadership course was held on Saturday 29th October, with a good attendance from Cub Scouts in the region.

The day went well with many activities in which Cub Scouts learn by doing. This also included a tracking activity held in the Botanical Gardens which was good for all of us, to keep fit. Also a Scouts Own was held in the Botanical gardens.

It is good to see the Grey Wolf achievements by Cub Scouts in the Region, unfortunately due to work commitments I was unable to attend the presentations.

I look forward to working with all leaders in the region in 2012 and the activities we will have on the region calendar.

I am looking forward to attending and working at the Cuboree next year, which is a fantastic event for any Cub Scout to experience.

Julie Thompson
Region Leader Cub Scouts

Region Venturer Scouts Report

Mackay Venturer Scouts have been busy in the last few months, starting with some service to the Mt Archer Joey Scouts, followed by a Dinner with Rovers and a Chilax camp at Calen where the venturers enjoyed the day lazing in the pool. We are currently preparing for the Venture at the end of November where participants will enjoy several activities in and on the water and other activities above the ground. This is the 5th year that the camp has been held on the last weekend of November.

Several Venturers will be undertaking a Dive Course over the school holidays. Thanks to the organization by Rover Sarah Blakey this should be a great experience for those who participate.

Judy Johnson
Region Venturer Scout Leader



A photo from 2010 Venture

Banksia Scout Group

Banksia Scout Group has a new direction, with the Appointment of a New Group Leader and New Committee, things are looking u., Sadly over the past 18 months Banksia has struggled, but the level of commitment of the leaders has not diminished as evidenced by the completion of various levels of awards for the youth members. The outgoing committee has shown admirable efforts to keep the Group operating and have our thanks for all of their efforts. Sadly Jo Timms has decided to concentrate on other aspects and leaves us at the end of December. The group as a whole would like to thank Jo Timms for all of her efforts, and we wish her well with the next stage.

Planning is underway for the New Year with working bees and other activities already in the calendar.

More news next time

Katrina Hoare
Group Leader

Whitsunday Scout Group

This term the Whitsunday Coast Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts have had an active time. We started the term with a bush walk. We were going to hike Mt Roper and Swamp Bay but the weather turned on us and we decided it would be better to do Coral Beach, as it was shorter and maybe more protected. The youth learnt bush safety and studied the plants on the way. When we arrived at the beach the weather cleared up, and they played games and ate their lunches. I checked their bags and first aid kits for their boomerang work.

We were involved in the Reef festival by participating in the parade. The theme was Mardi Gras, so we all had home made masks and lots of colour with flags and balloons, the youth had a great time, but were a bit tired of waving by the end of it. We also visited the Whitsunday fire station and the youth had a great hands on afternoon with touring the station, watching a powerpoint presentation on the safety of camp fires, a demonstration on all the parts of the truck, and then they got to use the hoses, lots of excitement from them all. At the end of the day the head office made an announcement over the PA system welcoming the Whitsunday Coast Group to the station.

We also participated in the heart foundation door knock, and dress up for Halloween. Gecko has had a couple of weekly programs including recycling for recycling week, and finishing off some badge work. The Joey Scouts have got their adventure badges and their caring & sharing, while the Cub Scouts have been working through their bronze boomerangs. Last night we met at the Lagoon, and the Cub Scouts worked on their swimming level 1 badges while the Joey Scouts had fun being Joey Scouts. Next week is movie night with the Jungle book and then the following week is our breakup. Unfortunately it could be the break-up of the group as Simon – Gecko is leaving for the Sunshine Coast and taking 2 of our 5 youth with him. Our numbers are way down and with no luck getting new leaders throughout the year I am very worried about the future for our Group next year. We have the carols on the beach coming up, where we do our annual fundraiser of selling the candles, so we will have signs up for new leaders etc to try and see if we can get some interest.

Finally I would like to thank Region for their organizing of activities for our sections to participate in. We had one Cub Scout go to the leadership course, and he is just finishing off his good deed book to get his certificate and badge. We would have loved to have attended the Aquatastic, but I only had two Joey Scouts available to attend.

Kathy Ball
Group Leader Whitsunday Coast Scout Group

Grey Wolf Awards – Banksia Group

Banksia Scout Group, at Fernleigh Avenue, Andergrove held an award presentation for three cub scouts, Riley Simpson, Sean Brears and Madison Hamilton were presented with their Grey Wolf Awards at a special ceremony to mark the occasion. Central and Coastal Region Commissioner Mr Brian Harvey was a special guests at the ceremony along with family, friends, cub scouts and leaders.

Mr Harvey outlined what each recipient did to achieve their Grey Wolf Award, the highest achievement in the Cub Scout section. Riley's father, Sean's mother and Madison's mother, Cub Scout Leader Joanne Hamilton presented their Cub Scouts with their Grey Wolf Badges. Ms Hamilton presented all the Cub Scouts with their certificates from the Branch Commissioner for Cub Scouts.

Riley Simpson joined the Banksia Scout Group as a Cub Scout in 2009 and is a sixer in his pack. Sean Brears joined Cub Scouts in 2010 and he is also sixer in his pack. Madison first joined scouting in 2007 as a Joey Scout and progressed to Cub Scouts in 2009, she is a second in her pack.

The cub scouts worked at a high standard to meet the requirements of the Grey Wolf Award. To achieve the award, they must possess leadership skills, determination and prove to be a valuable member of the Cub Scout Pack. They were required to earn the Gold Boomerang Award, attend four outdoor activities, attend Pack Council Meetings, to plan and carry out a two hour hike, earn four Level 2 Achievement Badges and a Special Interest Badge and to present a resource to the Cub Scout Pack. Riley presented the pack with a laminated poster with a Jungle theme and pictures of all the Jungle Book characters. Sean and Madison did a painting of a Jungle Book Character.

The Cub Scouts and guests celebrated with a special cake made for the occasion.

All three Cub Scout will link to the scout section in the near future.



Riley Sean and Madison with CSL Jo Hamilton

*Grey Wolf Award- Mackay
City Central*

Cub Scout Douglas Pridmore from Mackay City Central Scout Group was presented with his Grey Wolf award, the highest award in the Cub Scout section, at a special meeting held at the scout den in Lagoon Street on Thursday 17th November 2011. Region Commissioner Mr Brian Harvey presented Douglas with his certificate and Cub Scout Leader Mrs Debbie Rutherford his Grey Wolf badge.

Douglas's journey in scouting began in 2008 when he was invested as a Cub Scout. It was soon evident that he had leadership ability and was soon made a second in his pack and then a sixer. He fulfilled the role as a youth leader to a very high standard and set a positive example to follow.

Douglas was highly motivated and he completed all three Boomerang Challenge levels and gained numerous achievement badges. He was also a regular attendee of Pack Councils, ANZAC Day parades and group and region activities.

Using a map, he planned and lead a ramble of at least two hours duration with his Leader and a group of cub scouts. Part of this planning included ensuring everyone was aware of safety issues – appropriate clothing, food, and equipment requirements. The program of activities he put forward for inclusion during his Ramble along part of the Bluewater Walk was very impressive and included a compass trail with participants having to collect clues at each checkpoint and a very informative instruction on the importance of and

manner in which to sterilize water from a stream or creek.

To complete the Grey Wolf Award Douglas also had to attend a leadership course and he present the pack with a resource based on the Jungle Book.

Douglas said his highlights in the Cub Scout Section were the camps, pack holidays and canoeing.

The guests at the Grey Wolf award presentation were treated to a barbeque tea, and a special cake for the occasion.



Douglas cutting his cake, Leader Debbie Rutherford looking on.

*Mary Wallace
Region Leader - Community Relations*

Special Children's Christmas Party

4 Region Leaders once again offered their services to help out at the Christmas Party at the Mackay Show grounds on Saturday 19th November. Thank You.

