



CENTRAL AND COASTAL REGION NEWSLETTER

Editor Mary Wallace
Sept Edition 3/2012

Calendar of Events

- 20-21 Oct JOTA JOTI
- 30 Nov-2nd Dec Central and Coastal Venture 2012
- 3rd November Special Children's Christmas Party

Central and Coastal Venture 2012

Kinchant Dam Nth Eton

A Weekend of water sun and fun tubing, knee boarding, canoeing raft building. Rover-Venturer Challenge November 30 to December 2
Cost \$80 open to Scouts 13.5 and over Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts.

All applications must be in by Nov 16 2012.
Flyer and permission forms will be emailed to Group Leaders in October.

Region Commissioner's Report

I would like to say that I am honoured to be accepted as the Region Commissioner for Central & Coastal Region and look forward to working with everyone in continuing to grow the region.

I would also like to congratulate all recipients of the Adult Recognition Awards for 2012. These awards are granted for good service beyond the level of service normally expected of a person in carrying out the responsibilities of their appointment or position held as well as carrying out those duties to a high standard.

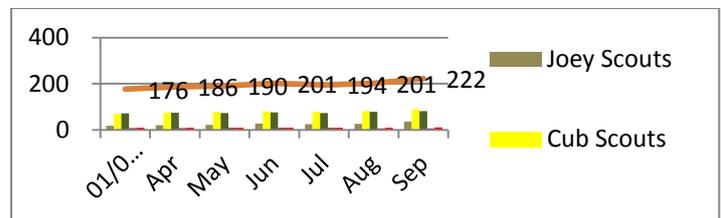
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT – The Certificate of Merit is awarded for good service to the Association for a period of at least three years.
Wendy Trott – Adult Support Member Non Uniform (Chairman) – Bowen Scout Group

SILVER ARROWHEAD – The Silver Arrowhead is awarded for excellent service to the Association after a period of at least seven to eight years.
Deborah Rutherford – Cub Scout Leader – Mackay City Central Scout Group

SILVER WATTLE – The Silver Wattle is awarded for outstanding service to the Association for a period of at least twelve years.
Allan Salty – Scout Leader – Mackay City Central Scout Group

Youth membership has continued to climb with an additional 46 youth members joining Scouts in Central and Coastal Region since 1 April, bringing the total to 222 (20% increase).

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 August the Annual Region Management Seminar was held at Rowallan Park and was very well attended. We discussed many items and I believe all that attended took something away for use in their area. A draft of the region calendar was also developed and now the Branch calendar has been released I will complete the region calendar and release it to the web shortly.

At the Region Commissioner conference in September, we were given a demonstration of "EurekIT". It is a program builder that was developed by QLD Branch and is similar to Scout Central except EurekaIT allows you to design programs very easily, print them out or save them in your area online. I encourage everyone to have a look and test some of the functions (log in using the username and password you use to log in into QLD Branch site).

Again look forward to working with everyone and I am planning on trying to catch up with all the groups in the coming months.

Dougal McWhinney
Region Commissioner



Des Allen and Dougal McWhinney at ARMS

Banksia Scout Group

It's been an exciting year and there is still more to come!

We can finally see light at the end of the tunnel with great leaders, a fantastic committee and wonderful youth members!

She's been hitting the happy juice I hear you say, but realistically things have improved 100% from the beginning of the year.

The Joey Scouts are hopping and participating in lots of fun activities including Scoutfest and Environmental fun day.

Cub Scouts are out camping up a storm with camps at Action Challenge and Rowallan Park for Scoutfest and the Environmental Fun day. The highlight of the year was the strong presence and participation of our Cub Scouts at Cuboree.

Rainbow Bird just added to the other outdoor camps that have been held over the last few months for our Scouts. Several scouts are starting to aim

high in the badges and looking for more opportunities to further their experiences.

What about the Venturer Scouts I hear you ask, of course, they were not slow at getting out and about. They have been hanging around on some ropes in interesting places with the abseiling team in Rockhampton and Mackay. Joining the Rover Scouts for other initiative activities and hiking the Whitsunday great walk.

Behind the scenes, the committee and our awesome Parents have been busy raising funds to support the group and purchase equipment.

We are definitely all looking forward to the next few months.

Yours in scouting
Katrina (Jacala) Hoare
Group Leader Banksia Scout Group

Regional Environmental Fun Day

The fun day was run on the 8th of September at Rowallan Park, as a added bonus Brendan Ross assisted by Alex Cinelli, Matthew Hodda and Josh Brzozowski constructed a low ropes course for the participants in the trees across from the activity shed 40 Cub Scouts, Scouts and Joey Scouts all enjoyed the fruits of their labour. They also planted trees, walked the trails removed some very scratchy weeds listened to a river story and played with some very cold snow.

Everyone enjoyed the day and hopefully learned a little about our environment. Thank you Brendan Ross, Matt Timms, Josh Brzozowski and Matthew Hodda for all of your assistance in running of the days program along with the Leaders from the Banksia and City Central Cub Scouts and Scouts.

Jo Brzozowski

Region Cub Scout News

The only event on the calendar for Cub Scouts is the Cub Scout leadership course at the end of November with activities.

I was considering going to Moranbah, but they have no cub scouts to do the course, Moranbah are moving out of our region.

I am hoping the last event on the calendar will go off well!!

I am thankful for the support the leaders give throughout the region.

Yours in Scouting

Julie Thompson

Regional Cub Scout Leader

Region Scout Section News

15 Scouts with four leaders and two parents took part in Operation Rainbow Bird Hike Camp on 15th and 16th September 2012.

They all met up at the Blue Mountain road turn-off from the Peak Downs Highway. From there they hiked on foot 12 kilometres to the Ross and Gail Head's Property and a further 3 kilometres to a peaceful camping spot on the banks of Prospect Creek where they camped overnight.

On Sunday they began their bike hike at total of 43 kilometres to Koumala along the Bolingbroke Road.

This camp gave the Scouts the experience of two forms of hiking, and carrying their own packs, both on foot and on their bikes. It was a challenge of endurance and fitness.

They enjoyed the experience and all had fun in doing so.

Composed by M Wallace from information supplied by Allan Salty and Sandra Wright.



Region Venturer Scout News

The second half of the year seems to signal to the Venturer Scouts that they need to be out and about more than usual. I am not sure where they get the energy. In the past few months they have travelled

to Rockhampton to abseil and Calen to take part in Echidna all in aid of having fun. They assisted at scout fest and at Scouts and Joey Scouts, they have planted trees on the Regional environmental fun day, assisted the curator at the Botanical Gardens and performed at the MECC. For a small group they are certainly active. Not surprisingly they have a lot planned for the rest of the year with some Outside the Box thinking. We will have to wait to see the results.

Yours in scouting

Judy Johnston

Regional Venturer Leader

Echidna

Echidna was a great experience that we, the combined Banksia and Mackay City Central Venturer Scout Units really enjoyed. We started at a local strawberry farm in Cameron's Pocket. We had to collect 700 grams of strawberries and we were only allowed to have one weigh-in, then we walked 3km to a Creek, where we could only cross using bamboo sticks and rope. After that interesting experience we cooked lunch, without using any utensils. After lunch we again walked until we reached a spider web made of rope. This was a tricky task that took many trial tests, but we finally got it right and went on to our next task.

Eventually we reached our campsite, Boulder Creek, where we prepared dessert this is why we had to pick and carry the strawberries (without eating any) who knew that you could make strawberry cheesecake and ice cream in the middle of a campsite kilometres from a kitchen and no refrigerator, it was one of the nicest cheesecakes that I have ever tasted although I may be extremely biased. Once we had finished making the cheesecake, we went down to the creek where we had to participate in a small task. The task was a basic one; we had to make a 44 gallon drum overflow with water, and however it had thousands of holes in it. And we only had some very small buckets but it was an initiative course after all so we used our initiative and finally filled the drum.

The weekend featured lots of other tasks including making a fire a metre above the ground and, preparing and eating lunch one-handed.

I really enjoyed the Echidna, it was one of the greatest experience I have done while in Venturer Scouts.

Daniel O'Neill, Venturer Scout Banksia Group

Central Queensland Rover Service Moot

Rover Scouts from Mackay Rover Crew, Fitzroy Rover Crew and Fraser Coast Rover Crew descended on Rowallan Park for the weekend of 28th Sept to 1st October.

Friday night was their meet and greet and Saturday morning 12 rover scouts went to Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre to do a Service project.

It was a hot day and it was great to see the positive way they banded together to get their jobs done. The yellow safety lines had to be touched up with a little paint to make them more visible, a clothes line had to be constructed, the sand in the double volleyball courts had to be dug up and loosened, and some garden beds were also dug up. The grounds person drove his little tractor with the scoop while rocks were picked up so it didn't take long to fill the scoop, as there were many willing hands to do the job.

Even though it was hot and the physical work that some had to perform in the middle of the day, work was completed earlier than they thought.

I had the privilege to work alongside these young adults and saw how they could make fun of arduous tasks. That's not all they invited me and my husband to their dinner at Rowallan Park on Saturday night. Once again I enjoyed their company and compliments to the chefs, Peter, Andrew and Joann.

The hills echoed with the sounds of music.

Before I left I was asked to join them on Sunday at Kinchant Dam for their day of fun on the Water. They were going biscuiting. No way! Was my reply, I do like to have some fun but I was truly thinking about how I would feel afterwards and the pain would be too great.

I am sure they would have had a great day. All returning home on Monday 1st October.

Thanks again to the Rover Scouts for the invitation to attend their camp. I seized the opportunity as I thought it would be the best way to get them publicity, was to experience what they are doing. The Rover Scouts truly did live by their Motto "Service."

Mary Wallace, Region Leader, Community Relations



Kristine, Blake and Brogan the clothes line constructors.



The chain gang busting up the old garden beds, believe me the ground was rock hard. Michael, Josh and Matthew.



Alex on the shovel.

Scoutfest 2012

The hills at Rowallan Park near Farleigh were alive with fun, friendship and laughter on the 4th and 5th August for the Central and Coastal Region all sections Scoutfest Family Camp. Approximately 80 youth members 25 leaders and some families groups enjoyed the activities that were on offer for all to enjoy.

Mrs Jane Mumford Region Leader Region Events Coordinator, co-ordinated the team to plan suitable activities for the youth members in all five sections from Joey Scouts to Rover-Scouts. The activities were in three zones:-

Aqua Zone – Canoeing, waterslide and swimming in the dam

Adventure Zone – Abseiling, Rope Bridge and Merry-go-Round

Discovery Zone – Ice cream making, lava lamps, colouring flowers, kite making and flying, Wii Games and Board Games

Sensory Circus conducted activities for the youth members to try out on Saturday and Mountain Biking was another activity that was very popular to use up plenty of energy.

A carnival atmosphere on Saturday evening with music and “Fun of the Fair” were on offer for the attendees to try their luck at, coin toss, lucky ducks, buried treasure, burst the balloon and golf. Great fun and amusement was had on the Jumping Castle and the Sticky Wall hired from Bounce Now Entertainment.

The main purpose of holding the all section camp is to provide activities not normally held at a group or section camps and it gives the youth members an opportunity to interact with members from other groups and sections.

Acting Region Commissioner Central and Coastal Region, Mr Dougal McWhinney attended the camp and congratulated the organising committee, leaders and parents for their commitment that resulted in a camp for all to enjoy.

Mary Wallace
Region Leader
Community Relations
Scouts Australia
Central and Coastal Region



Abseiling



Stick Wall



Billy Carts



Banksia Scout Group marching in for opening parade.



Fun in the Canoes



Leader Profiles

I asked the two leaders who received Adult Recognition Awards this year for some information about their time in scouting and the following are their replies.

Allan Salty

What made me join Scouts as a leader in the first place?

Reason one. I was a Scout in my youth. A friend asked me to come along and I fell intrigued. I loved the style of camping, the friendship, the sense of adventure and achievement, all the type of activities, learning was different from school and the diversity.

Reason two was when my son Dean, joined Cub Scouts in 1996 I as a parent became involved as a helper, Brian Harvey was the Group Leader (GL) at the time and saw a opportunity to volunteer me as a leader. I chose the Scout section and became an Assistant Scout Leader (ASL) to Ron Horton, the Scout Leader (SL) at that time. Mind you, I had not discussed with my wife Judy at the time came home and told her I joined up. The up shot was in the end I had her involved as a committee member. I could be involved with my son's progress in the section below me and then as he advanced to Scouts we could have that father son bond with the style of camping I loved. I became the SL just before Dean progressed to the next section to which his twin sister, Tash, came across from Guides and join him. I decided to stay in the Scout section as I felt, one my son needed to have other leaders' ideas and influences and two, and I felt I could give more to this section.

This is now my sixteenth year and see a lot of youth members come and go and enjoyed lots of moments. I have made a lot of friends in the Scouting movement and seen a few changes. Scouting seems to keep you young and young at

heart. I hope I have made a difference with a lot of youth members and look towards the future to continue on what I love doing.

Yours in Scouting

SL Allan Salty.

Debbie Rutherford

My life in scouting began when our son, Philip, started Cub Scouts in 2001. I was one of Brian's regular parent helpers that year. He obviously noticed the "Sucker" tattoo on my forehead and he soon had me signed up as an Adult Member on 19 January 2002.

I've enjoyed several training courses and met the challenges that Scouting has presented over the years. I enjoy the interaction with the youth members (from all sections and other Groups) and their parents and have formed great friendships with other Scouting Leaders.

It was a surprise and a great honour to be awarded the Silver Arrowhead in this year's Adult Recognition Awards, but we don't do this 'job' for the accolades. Knowing that we've had a positive impact so many (young) people is reward enough. I couldn't have achieved what I have without the support of my family. Now that the compulsory retirement age has been revoked, I guess I'm in for the long haul.

Yours in Scouting

Deb

Congratulations Allan and Debbie on your awards.

What's Bob and Margaret Hodda been up to latterly?

The photo below tells all.



I've never seen Bob with such a big smile.