

Central & Coastal Region Newsletter

MARCH EDITION 2013

EDITOR MARY WALLACE



DATES TO

REMEMBER

- 20 April Joey Scout Cub Scout Activity
- 27 April Fellowship Meeting Rowallan Park
- 3-4-5 May Level I Abseiling Course
- 18 May Region Meeting Bowen
- 7-10 June Region Scout Camp
- 9 June Region Newsletter Deadline

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Region Commissioner's Report

Welcome to Scouting for 2013 and those that attended AJ2013 in January it certainly started with a BANG!

Youth membership in the region is slowly growing after the flat period around October to December. The total number of youth members in the region is 165 comprising of 17 Joey Scouts, 65 Cub Scouts, 62 Scouts, 11 Venturer Scouts and 10 Rover Scouts. This count is up 27% since 01 April 2012. Leader numbers have grown a little but are still a major issue in a couple of areas. At present we have 29 Leaders (section/group), 22 Support Members (Adult Members & Helpers), 18 Region Leaders and 6 Fellowship members.

Banksia Scout Group held a successful sign-on day a few weekends ago and signed up a handful of new youth members as well as a new Joey Scout leader. We still need leaders for the Whitsunday Scout Group and I am endeavouring to assist Kathy Ball in finding new leaders. Bowen Scout Group is thriving and is fast becoming the most active Group in the Region.

In January, 31 Scouts and 13 Leaders/Adult Helpers (including myself) from this region attended AJ2013 which was held at Maryborough. They were part of the nearly 11 500 youth members, leaders and volunteers that made the jamboree a wonderful and successful event. I am sure the attendees have many stories and all will agree that a good time was had by all that attended.

I attended a Queen Scout award on Saturday 16 Feb at Banksia Scout Group. Matthew Timms completed all the required work prior to Christmas and was presented with the badge on Saturday. He is moving to Townsville for studies but is hoping to continue in the movement.

Last weekend I held a small conference with all the leaders from the region to download information I had from the recent Region Commissioner Conference. There was a large amount of information discussed and if anyone still has questions on anything to contact me. It was well attended and I hope the next one in Bowen is equally well attended.

***Dougal McWhinney Kingfisher
Region Commissioner (Central and Coastal Region)***

Abseiling Course for Central and Coastal Region.

ATTENTION—Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts and Leaders this is your opportunity to do a Level 1 Abseiling Course locally, on 3-4-5 May 2013. Nominations close 3 weeks prior to the Course on 12 April. For further particulars check out the Branch Training Calendar.

Brendan Ross, Adventurous Activities.

Queens Scout Award—Matthew Timms



The Queen's Scout Award is the highest Award you can achieve in the Venturer Scout Section.



Matthew Timms joined scouting as a six year old Joey Scout and on Saturday 16th February 2013, eleven years later was presented with his Queen's Scout Award. **Along this journey Matthew has achieved the highest award that he was able in each section of the scouting movement.**

Member for Mackay Mr Tim Mulherin, Region Commissioner Dougal McWhinney, Scouting Leaders, youth members, family and friends were there to help celebrate his worthy achievements.

Venturer Scouts Daniel O'Neill and Tyla Fleay chaired the proceedings. Rover Scout Josh Brzozowski informed the audience about the significance of the Queens Scout Award. Mr Dougal McWhinney congratulated Matthew on his achievements and commented that when he interviewed him for his Queen's Scout Award he was only too pleased to sign the recommendation. Mr Tim Mulherin congratulated him on achieving his personal goals within scouting and his education. Matthew's Venturer Scout Leader Mrs Joann Brzozowski spoke about his achievements and how as an experienced scout he much prefers to use his brain over his muscles, which has lead him to some interesting choices for his Award. His outdoor activity he chose geo-caching and his pursuit he chose origami which produced some amazing creations. Matthew does actually use his muscles and is very fond of abseiling, hiking and his navigation skills are of a very high standard. He likes to teach and encourage the younger members these skills. Mrs Brzozowski said "That it was a pleasure to

have Matthew in the Banksia Venturer Scout Unit, he is a quiet achiever, who took his responsibilities seriously and he listened to other peoples suggestions." Region Venturer Scout Leader Mrs Judy Johnson also congratulated Matthew on achieving the Queen's Scout Award. Matthew responded and thanked his section leaders, his family, and his Unit. Special thanks to his Venturer Scout Leader who has helped him on his Queen's Scout journey to success.

RC Dougal McWhinney presented Matthew with his achievement record book, VSL Joann Brzozowski presented him with the QS badge, and Cub Scout Leader Jo Hamilton presented him with his Queens Scout shield.

A celebratory cake was cut for the occasion and a few pizzas were consumed to finish off the celebrations for the afternoon.

Matthew said that the highlights of his scouting career had been abseiling, hiking, making friends and attending the 2010 Australian Jamboree at Cataract Park in Sydney."

Following the ceremony Matthew set off for Townsville where he will be attending JCU studying a language course.

Mary Wallace
Region Leader Community Relations

Venturer Scouts, Tyla Fleay, Daniel O'Neill, At Front Melanie Edmonds, Venturer Scout Leader Joann Brzozowski and Queens Scout recipient Matthew Timms.



Scout Sign On Day—Banksia Scout Group—9th February 2013

Banksia Scouts held a successful Open Day at their den at Fernleigh Avenue, Andergrove on Saturday 9th February 2013. A variety of activities were on offer for the future members to try out.

Thanks to the Rover Scouts and Venturer Scouts a rope bridge, and a ropes course was constructed for a number of enthusiastic youth members and visitors to use.

Inside the den there was a display of uniforms and a power point display was shown on the recent Australian Jamboree held at

Maryborough from 2nd to 12th January. Banksia Group will be having Join-In-Jamboree activities for a few weeks to promote the fun that can be had at Jamboree and give the present Cub Scouts something to aim to work for in the next three years. The next Jamboree in Sydney in 2016.

Banksia Scout Group Committee had a sausage sizzle to feed the hungry workers and youth members and visitors.

The same weekend

Prospective Scout trying out the ropes course.



Venturer Scouts from Bowen travelled to meet with the Venturer Scouts in Mackay to have a meeting and discussion with the leaders on programming and their progress towards achieving their Queens Scout Awards.

Thanks to the Rover Scouts and Venturer Scouts for constructing the Rope Bridge and Ropes

Founders Campfire—22nd February 2013

Each year on the 22nd February scouting celebrates Founders Day. It is the anniversary of the birth of Sir Robert Baden-Powell and also his wife Olave. In Central and Coastal Region many members of scouting who live in Mackay took part in a campfire in the grounds of Banksia Scout Den, Fernleigh Avenue Andergrove.

The weather on Friday was perfect for the activities planned. The evening's festivities started with a sausage sizzle held by Banksia Scout Group Committee. It was then followed by prayers to the founder of scouting, songs,

rounds, action songs, skits and yells. The ceremony was wound down with a yarn about Sir Robert Baden-Powell with a message of how observant he was and how he was able to outwit the enemy during his life in the army and how as scouts they too can use these skills in tracking and navigation. The campfire concluded with the Scout Hymn and vespers.

Scouting leaders in charge of memorabilia set up a display of scouting hats for youth member to see and leaders and former scouts to reminisce.

The number of attendees and the enthusiasm of the audience were very pleasing to the organisers.

Honey, I really do want those two oak tables.



"Just a singing in the rain."



Central Queensland Roventure—by Rover Alex Cinelli



On the 1st of March 2013 the Mackay Region Venturer Scouts and Rovers Scouts embarked on a very wet journey to Rockhampton for a weekend of fun at the Annual Central Queensland Ro-Venture camp. After an extra long and tedious drive our first thought on arrival was, what had we got ourselves into? The camp ground, Seeonee Park along with the whole of Rockhampton was totally inundated with water. It was surprising to see such a keen turn out for the event considering with fellow Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts from Gladstone, Rockhampton and Bowen joining us. By Saturday morning to our delight the weather had cleared a little and like true scouts there was no way we were giving up and going home. The day was filled with Pirate themed fun scavenger hunts



for treasure and battles and warfare, with the highlight for most being the commando mud course. Where we made use of the heavy saturated surrounding environment. Lucky the flooded creek through the park dropped to a safe swimming level, so we could wash off all the mud after the notorious mud crawl at the end of the course. The nights activities consisted of breaking the ice with numerous party games followed by the Venturer Scouts battling it out to see who could eat in the quickest time and hold down the horrible concoctions the Rover Scouts cooked up.

It was sad to see the fun come to an end on Sunday morning. The camp was cleaned up after breakfast before people said their goodbyes and began to head their separate ways home. It was a wonderful “mud-tacular” weekend enjoyed by all and I can't wait until we all meet again next year.

Left
Venturer Scouts
with their Senior
First Aid
Certificates



Right
Bowen Venturer
Scout Unit



Bowen Venturer Scout Unit

Region Venturer Scout Report—by Judy Johnson

It is hard to believe that Easter is just a few days away, There are five new Venturer Scouts and one Unit reopened in the Region which is good news for the future, The first meeting of the region Venturer Scouts took place in February to plan the next few months and to get the ball rolling, so to speak. It has picked up some momentum since with the Bowen and Mackay Venturer Scouts travelling to Rockhampton to participate in the CQ RoVenture where they made up half of the

Venturer Scout participants a really good effort on their part. There has been lots of emails phone calls and face booking between the two units organizing training and future camps and activities. At the Region Venture Council held in St Helens Beach the new Chairman and Vice Chairman were elected. Congratulations Tyla and Maddi. Several items were discussed and the rest of the year should show some interesting activities for the Venturer Scouts in the Region.



Saturday 20th April, 2013 is the date booked for a combined Cub Scout/Joey Scout activity with the theme "Fun at the Fair"

Banksia Scout Group Report—by Group Leader Katrina Hoare

As Term 1 comes to a crashing end it has been a very busy time for one and all. Starting with the fabulous time our scouts and leader had at Jamboree, rave reviews from all who attended. Comments and exclamations of "Feral" and "Disgusting" were heard from parents far and wide who had to unpack after the Youth Members returned exhausted and talking a mile a minute. More than one bonfire was lit to burn clothes. The clothes may be gone but the excellent experience will be with attendees for years to come.

The usual drop off of numbers was expected when sections started up but this was soon sorted by our participation of the State Sign On day. A good attendance by the public has seen our numbers back up to full.

New and old members enjoyed the Founders Day celebrations held at Banksia Scout Den. Fun, songs, stories and skits entertained young and old for hours.

After a change of leaders with our Joey Scouts this section is starting to grow in leaps and bounds with new ideas being bandied about to make it more enjoyable for our newest members.

Our Cub Scouts have been experiencing Jamboree-like activities. It has been a very exciting program

and quite a laugh. Nerf gun wars, "bathtub" battles and 4 way tug-a-war are just some of the activities I have observed the Cub Scouts enjoying.

Scouts have been busy with badge work and I have received great reports from parents about the great work the leaders have done on the Water Safety and Fire Safety activities. Youth members visited

Dumbleton Rural Fire and shown how to use fire blankets, extinguishers and how to prevent bush fires. We also had 7 Scouts finalise their leadership program.

With great pride we saw another one of our Venturer Scouts achieve the Queens Scout Award. Matthew Timms has been part of the Banksia Scout Group family for all of his scouting experiences and worked hard to achieve the Award. We wished him well as he took his new steps into University life and hope that the things that he learnt with scouting stands him in good stead.

Our Venturer Scouts also enjoyed themselves at Roventure recently and look forward to attending the next one.

Looking back over the term that has been so much going on, it is invigorating to look forward to the next term and what is being planned with camps and activities.

Banksia Scout Group is growing. Sonia Andrews, Scout Leader, gave birth to her daughter Heidi and Chris Allen, Asst Scout Leader, became a very proud daddy of little Sophie.

Mackay City Central Group

Three scouts from Mackay City Central Group visited the Mackay SES Training Shed recently to present the SES members with a Certificate of Appreciation for making their den safe for the storm and cyclone season.

The SES was called upon as the group didn't have the equipment or the skills required to remove a large tree from the den grounds which if left there, would have become hazardous to the buildings during the storm season.

Adult Support Member Mr Brett Brown expressed his appreciation to the members of the SES for the service they provided to the Mackay City Central Group and the three scouts presented the certificate of appreciation.

Thanks also goes to Subways at the Fourways for providing lunch for the workers at the working bee.

After the presentation the scouts were made feel welcome at the SES Meeting and joined in the fun of the knot tying and watching the demonstration of safely tying a patient to a stretcher for vertical rescue.



I have been to a Jamboree before as a leader and the experience was fantastic. So Jamboree 2013 presents it self in Maryborough I thought why not, I encouraged nearly half the Troop to go and with that the rest is history. We boarded the bus New Years at 1 am and you felt the anticipation of excitement for all these scouts. Even though they have been on lots of camps before this was going to be different. Ten days of adrenalin packed fun and activities. Ten days of approximately 12,000-13,000 Scouts and support staff crammed in one area roughly the size of 40 football fields. Tent city it is known, a child fantasy dream site.

Arriving around noon we were directed off the buses and shown to our accommodation aka, campsite in the Highlands camping area. Sandra Wright and I were greeted by John D'Archambaud (out Troop Leader) and Linda Hodal. Once formalities were dealt with the Troop went about dealing with the formation of the campsite. Arrh.... Home sweet home for the next ten plus days, two tents for the girls, four for the boys and one each shared for the male and female leaders. Up went our one area for dining, one for washing and one for the cooking and storage area. Now the trick is to make it work and be comfortable for this time period. This is where good management and making the patrol system work, yes it did, with no major concerns and we as leader were happy with the out come. So started the life of Troop H24 consisting of the six patrols, Stingrays, Whales, Jellyfish, Crocodiles, Eagles and Turtles. (The furtherest campsite from every thing, and not easy to find I believe by many who tried to visit us). A typical day was rise early wake up the duty patrol and get them motivated so they could organise breakfast and lunches for everyone then go off to their onsite activities come back for their lunch, off again and back to organise dinner for everyone at night then off again to pursue the night time activities. I believe that once everyone was back in camp by curfew time (around 10:00pm) there was no arguments about going to bed, the odd murmur in bed but silent after 11pm.

So what did the scouts do away from camp on these activities? On a rostered system of course! You had four off site activities, Explore it, Splash it, Love it and Endure it.

Explore it was a good part of the day in the city of Maryborough, (a ten minute bus ride.) looking for clues all over the city and shopping centres to trying and find "Wally and friends"

Splash it was a day at Hervey Bay on the beach with many water activities, too many to mention.

Love it was a big day bus ride to the Australian Zoo.....Loved the crocodile show, then down to one of the beaches for a quick swim and a BBQ dinner before heading back to the Jamboree site.

Endure it was a short day off site but across the road to a site where the Venturers and some Rovers put the Scouts through umm what you would call "boot camp"(Smile) a scout version of course!

On site activities there were seven activities consisting of Climb it, Tag it, Challenge it, Smash it, Clown it, Make it and Do it. Climb it, was all the abseiling, rock climbing, flying Fox races and crate stacking. Tag it, was Patrol vs. Patrol in laser tag and

Nerf Wars through the camping grounds.

Challenge it, was how to get wet and muddy through trenches and every possible game that involved MUD!

Smash it was very popular, as cars were pounded to a pulp with a touch of spray paint for good measure.

Clown it, as you could guess was all the circus and carnival tricks as one could possibly think of, with lots of balancing.

Make it, was truly for the tradesman hands on Scout that

love to create his future dream.

Do it, was a challenge in its self as the patrol pursued the giant water slide, had a go at amateur radio, visited all the contingent sites, (All states in Australia and NZ headquarter hubs) have a go at the disability challenge, tried fun on wheels track, geocaching- technology meets treasure hunting, heritage to learn of scouting in days gone by, visit the Multi-Media (our Jamboree Daily Paper) or have time for some ROC (Religious Observance Centre) or you could go to the Yakkery and have your say about the future in scouting. If this was not enough on its own you could talk to the friendly services of the Police force, Fire or Country Fire Volunteer Services. Visit the Scout Trading Post, visit and listen to Jam Radio. Of course the ever popular badge swapping.... Yes I bet there were some bargains.

To throw a little bit of interest in the mix at the midway mark of the time frame at the Jamboree was a market day. This is where parents future Scouts (Cub Scouts) and any relative who was curious to venture in to see the Scouts skilfully show their showmanship at what ever they could ploy to sell for money (no real money, Jambucks). The Troop with the most money at the end of the day won the Jamboree prize!

There was also the evening entertainment with variety, most of it at the Main Arena, something happening every night popular with most of the Scouts too much to mention. The Opening Ceremony is worth a mention with the brilliant stage lights and entertainment and the spectacular fireworks which seem to go on forever. The closing Ceremony was more for the Scouts with popular bands strutting well known tunes know to the youth of today.

Like all good things there has to be an ending as the Jamboree 2013 comes to a close. We have experience some wonderful activities made new friends, see new things and taken home fond memories. Some of the Scouts will weep with the departing of new found friendships, some will part with smiles of their resent adventure but as you see them leave you know they have had a time that will be remembered for the rest of their lives.

I know this as a leader as you look at their faces they all have that glow of satisfaction. Oh!! and the long bus trip home with lots of zzzzzzz



Well where do I start...jamboree this sounds exciting, heaps of people, new friends, mad sounding activities, like c'mon crawling in mud, climbing towers, splash at the beach OMG this sounds amazing. From what I have heard, this is like an adventure not to miss.

After just watching the fireworks at New Year in Mackay it was time to load the bus and say our final goodbyes to our parents then it was time to hit the road. Once everybody had chosen their bus buddy and was comfy it was time for a quick brief from the leaders then off to sleep for me.

After 10 long hours we have finally made it to the Maryborough showgrounds also known as our home for the next 13 days. After having a good look out the window, waking everybody, gathering up all the pillows and backpacks it is time to walk on land again and reach for our suitcases and find your friends. So now that everybody is accounted for, we put our suitcases on the truck and started the long walk to the very back corner of the showgrounds soon to be known as Troop H24. There were quick introductions all round as we met the rest of our troop, then it was a mad rush to put up these massive 10man tents.

After the first day of Activities we were all relatively familiar with our patrol, tent buddies, leaders and the mad rush to get food at meal times. Boy wasn't that exciting! Being a patrol leader on Jamboree is not as easy as it sounds. There is an enormous amount of responsibility involved. Let's just start with cooking the food for the whole troop. All of a sudden you become responsible for how well the food is cooked, if it's not right you are risking being quarantined for a week, let's face it who has time for that? Then there was looking after your patrol which at times was not easy.

One of the best parts of jamboree is meeting new friends and experiencing night activities. Most of the friends I made were within my troop. The girls that were in my tent were really good. Most of us were always in bed by curfew, respected when others wanted to sleep longer than the rest, and when it came to duty patrol or special meeting that the patrol leaders had to go to, that was all organised well with our tent. The night activities were great, the ones I went to. I think my favourite one was the closing ceremony when Justice Crew played. All up the performances were great it was an experience never to forget.

The campsite was Hot, Dusty, Loud, and very

different to home life. But don't get me wrong it was really fun having experienced jamboree the way I did. It's not every day you get to spend 13 days away from your normal friends and family and go on a jamboree.

Written By Amy Brown

AJ2013 – Monawee and Hathi

This Jamboree we were asked to work on the Disability Challenge Base. Monawee had the Disabled Base – getting dressed in clothing without arms also doing a reef knot with ones toes. It can be done and was proven. Just think how it is done with fingers.

Hathi was the stamper of the books, for the disability challenge also multimedia.

The multimedia challenge the youth members armed with a video cameras, had a film subject for the day, which they took footage of and edited it into a few minutes of film, and returned the camera for their book.

I (Hathi) enjoyed this jamboree as I did things I had never done before, like going down the giant water slide twice and so did Monawee. I also went on the flying fox and that was a challenge as I am afraid of heights. I also played wheelchair basketball, males versus females and of course the girls won.

We made some new friends at this jamboree and were reacquainted with friends from previous jamborees.

Roger, from Belgium who travelled to Maryborough on the bus with the Central and Coastal Region Scouts, sends a big HALLO (Dutch spelling). He returned home to snow. Three degrees below zero. He enjoyed the camp, and has been invited back to the next jamboree in Sydney. The weather didn't bother him.

Hathi, Heather Tuckerman,

Monawee, Dennis Tuckerman Dagmar from SA



Baloo,

Mary Wallace &

Hathi,

Heather Tuckerman

After we had been on the flying fox.

“ I have been involved with scouting since 1982 and this was the first Jamboree I have attended. I guess I didn't know what I had been missing out on until now.”

AJ2013—by Mary Wallace

Thank you Allan you gave a comprehensive report on Jamboree, and thanks to Amy Brown she has given a report on a youth member's point of view, that leaves my report a much shorter one.

I was accepted on to the Jam Daily Team and was a scribbler for the daily newspaper. In other words I worked as a reporter. The highlight was reporting on two of the concerts at night. I was able to meet the stars and ask them questions. I reported on the Comedy Show and tribute band ACCA/DACCA.

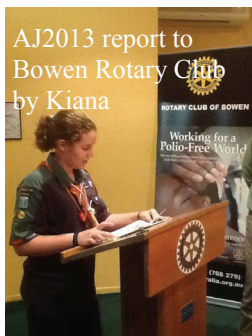
Every night at the Ergon Energy Arena, there was top class entertainment, such as, Aussie Rock star Reece Mastin, a Comedy Night, hosted by Josh Thomas, with Ventriloquist Dean Atkinson, The Crack-Up Sisters, Space Cowboy and his dying art of sword swallowing, and amazing juggling act, Carpe and Idiotus contortionist, Singers, Jessica Mauboy, tribute band ACCA/DACCA and their spectacular lighting and sound display, Consentino the Magician, Illusionist and Escape Artist. There was an Australian Night and an International night and every night there were circus acts at the Big Top.

I too, like Heather and Dennis tackled the Giant Water Slide, Adrenalin Junkie I couldn't wait to have a second go and after that the queue was too long and the night was cool, so that was it for us. Heather and I also tried out the Flying Fox.

Quite frankly I didn't know how I would handle sleeping in a tent for twelve nights on an airbed but after three nights I became accustomed to it.

Meeting and working with lots of people with the same interests was an amazing experience. I am glad that I have crossed one more thing of my Bucket List.

To leaders contemplating going to a Jamboree DO IT! and “Live Your Dream.” You won't regret it.



AJ2013 report to Bowen Rotary Club by Kiana



AJ2013-by Julie Thompson

I arrived at the jamboree and a kind gentleman drove me to the medical centre where I would be working for the next ten days. I was greeted by professor John Hutton with a big hug he is an old friend with whom I have worked with on a few jamborees! It was great to see more familiar faces whom I hadn't seen in 3 years.

I enjoyed the time away in my 5 star tent with an old friend.

I had the pleasure of meeting leaders from Indonesia and had some lovely photos taken with them. It was great to experience the live shows every night on the fabulous stage whether one was working or not because the hospital/ medical centre was so close to the arena..

It's always a wonderful time seeing the scouts and adults having an enjoyable time. I had fun getting around the site for my contingent badges and going off site to a few

