



Camp Blanket AJ2013

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

- State Schools finish 13 Dec**
- Christmas Day 25 December**
- School Resumes 28 January 2014**



Market Day AJ2013

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Aboriginal Art AJ2013

Central & Coastal Region Newsletter

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EDITOR MARY WALLACE

Region Commissioner's Report

Well, another year is coming to a close and Christmas is nearly here. The region has had some interesting activities being held at either Rowallan Park or at the various groups around the region.

In January, we started the year with a small scout camp called AJ2013. This small camp had nearly 11 500 youth members, leaders and volunteers who made the jamboree a wonderful and successful event. Somewhere amongst the 11 500 people were 31 Scouts and 13 Leaders/Adult Helpers from this region.

During February groups held sign-on activities that put Scouting on display. Some new youth members were signed up and possible leaders and committee members were also found. Youth membership numbers started to pick up in June and have continued to grow through the second half of the year. Unfortunately the growth has slowed considerably as we approach the Christmas holiday period but this is normal. Currently the region has 186 youth members comprising of 27 Joey Scouts, 59 Cub Scouts, 69 Scouts, 22 Venturer Scouts and 9 Rover Scouts. This is an overall growth of 14% since 01 April 2013 and hopefully all will return after the Christmas break. One thing that is noteworthy is the region is starting to see a good increase in Venturer Scout numbers. The current number of 22 youth members is the highest it has been in the region in the last 5 years and is a 50% increase since 01 April 2013. Most of the increase has come from Scouts progressing into Venturer Scouts which is a good sign of successful interactive activities between the Scout and Venturer Scout sections.

In April, Rikki (Jo Hamilton) and I attended Train the Trainer at BP Park and are now qualified trainers and assessors. We have assisted the training team on several of the training sessions that were held at Rowallan Park. It was certainly enjoyable to train new leaders and watch them progress through the various stages of becoming a qualified leader. Hopefully by the end of next year we will have most of the leaders in the region with their wood badge or certainly on their way to obtaining it.

I visited the Scouts at their annual Region Scout Camp in June and it was a little damp but it was certainly enjoyed by those who attended. The camp next year will be in Bowen so that will certainly make it interesting (hopefully it won't be as wet because we all know it doesn't rain in Bowen.....).

During October we held another successful JOTA-JOTI. 126 youth members attended and a great time was had by all. I would like to thank Lance, Brendan, the Mackay Amateur Radio Club and especially the Rovers for assisting with the various activities across the weekend. Without these people the event would not have happened.

One again I would like to thank all the leaders and helpers in the region for their time and effort put in to Scouting. Without your involvement there wouldn't be Scouts in the region. I would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to catching up with everyone in February 2014.

*Yours in Scouting
Kingfisher
Dougal McWhinney
Region Commissioner (Central and Coastal Region)*



JOTA / JOTI—by Dougal McWhinney

JOTA/JOTI

The 56th Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) and the 17th Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI) was held on the 19-20 October. The region event (held at Rowallan Park) had around 126 youth members and leaders in attendance.

JOTA had an HF radio in operation as well as Echolink. JOTA was only operating on Saturday. We had a few contacts via the HF radio and some good discussion occurred on the Echolink system as well.

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 morning.

Overall we made around 195 contacts across 34 countries. The table below shows the top 5 countries we contacted.

Country	Contacts
Australia	72
New Zealand	20
USA	18
England	16
Philippines	13

At the electronics station this year the participants could make a small 3 LED 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-up, running and deconstruction of the JOTI and electronic bases. The Rovers also organised the activity on Saturday night (disco) which everyone enjoyed. 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.

Dougal McWhinney
JOTA-JOTI Coordinator
Central & Coastal Region



VENTURER SCOUTS—By Region Venturer Scout Leader—Judy Johnson

Wow! what a fantastic weekend was had by the Venturers Scouts and older scouts. There were 33 Venturer Scouts and Scouts who braved the weather and had a ball on Kinchant Dam.

The Last weekend in November is fast becoming the place to be with Venturer Scouts travelling from Gladstone, Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Bowen and Mackay to participate in a weekend of water based activities, tubing, skiing, knee boarding and canoeing along with cricket and other dam side activities. All of this is only possible with the support of the wonderful Mackay Rovers, ex rovers and families.

Although it seems all the Venturer Scouts do is have fun they are also working hard towards their goals within scouting and on the academic front. Over the year the Region Venturer Scouts have taken part in four training courses, a state camp and several service activities. They are actively planning for next year with plans well in hand for hikes camps and a myriad of other activities enough to keep their leaders on their toes.

On that note I would like to thank all of the leaders , rovers and parents that assist in the activities that makes Venturer Scouting in the region such a success . So until next year Look Wide.

Judy Johnson Region Venturer Scout Leader



Who's for Volleyball who's for cricket?



Just floating around.

Environment News— By Joann Brozozowski

Although we have not run a region environment activity this year there have been several activities around the area which have included scouts in different capacities. Next year we will be running two region activity days one in the north of the region and one in the south so everyone will have the opportunity to attend. The dates will be publicised in the newsletter early in the New Year. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Regards
Jo Brzozowski*

"Leave this world a little better than you found it " Sir Robert Baden Powell"

Special Children's Christmas Party

For the past 20 years leaders and scouts in Mackay have done a good turn and participated in the running of the Special Children's Christmas Party. This year once again there was an excellent role up of scouting members participating in this worthwhile activity. It is great to see the youth members helping the children who are less fortunate than us or have major health problems. It is a very humbling experience.

Mary Wallace
Region Leader
Community Relations
Central and Coastal Region.



Some members of Banksia Group volunteering at the Special Children's

*Grey Wolf Presentations to Cub Scouts Markus Ackerman, Gabe Harland and John Dimond will be held on Thursday 5th December at Banksia Scout Den.
Congratulations to these Cub Scout, hoping to have a story and photos for the first newsletter in 2014.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2014