

Central and Coastal Region Newsletter

JUNE EDITION 2014

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Region Scout Camp Bowen

DATES TO

REMEMBER

1 August World Scout Day

2&3 August Scoutfest



Cub Scout Leadership Course

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Region Commissioner's Report

Hi everyone, the year is moving fast again and we are already into the middle of the calendar year.

Membership

The total number of youth members in the region as at 20 June was 185 comprising of 25 Joey Scouts, 59 Cub Scouts, 72 Scouts, 19 Venturer Scouts and 10 Rover Scouts. This count is up 7.6% since 01 April 2014. The overall target for this year is 189 Youth members.

At the beginning of June a new group was registered in the region – Pioneer Valley Scout Group. They held their first meeting on 13 June and had a very large number of youth members turn up (around 44). From the 44 youth members they had around 17 members join which is a great effort. Congratulations to Nikki McWhinney (RL – Membership Support & Development) for getting the group off the ground and to Sue Jensen for taking on the role of Group Leader. I wish them great success and look forward to the group interacting with others in the region.

Leader Training

May was a busy month for training. We held LT3/Skills 1 training on 10-11 May and David Thomas and Christine Long came up to lead the course. We had 1 Joey Scout Leader, 2 Cub Scout Leaders, 2 Scout Leaders, 1 Venturer Scout Leader and 1 Group Leader. It was an interesting course and appreciated David and Christine make the long travel up from Brisbane. I am still working on trying to have a couple of trainers appointed in the region to make training a little easier.

We also held Bushwalking Level 1 course at Rowallan Park during May. The weather for the course was not particularly kind but it made for an interesting weekend. We had 16 registered to attend and it was a little disappointing to only see 12 out of the 19 that registered actually show up. We did have a couple of late cancellations due to work but the other 5 didn't show and haven't passed on a reason for not attending.

Congratulations to those that attended and it now means we have a few more leaders qualified in areas outside their base role.

At the end of May we held a Group Support Committee training day. It was attended by Banksia (who had their full committee attend) and Bowen. There were some interesting discussions and will look at running it again next year.

Region Training Meeting

Unfortunately due to work and family commitments I was unable to hold the RTM in June as scheduled. The next meeting will be ARMS (August 23) and I look forward to everyone attending.

ScoutFest

As you all know Scoutfest is on again this year at the beginning of August and the planning is progressing well. The committee have been very busy getting the activities organised and it looks like it will be a great event. Please promote this in your groups as this is a great opportunity for the region to come together and celebrate Scouting. Without your support the event will struggle to get off the ground. Contact Katrina Hoare if you or someone you know is able to assist with anything. Without your support the event will struggle to get off the ground. Contact Katrina Hoare if you or someone you know is able to assist with anything.

Dougal McWhinney

Region Commissioner (Central and Coastal Region)

ANNUAL CQ ROVER MOOT

Mackay Rover Scouts were the host of this year's Annual CQ Rover Moot held at Rowallan Park over the Queen's Birthday weekend. 45 Rover Scouts 18 to 26 year olds attended from as far away as the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Gladstone and Rockhampton. The Rover Crews formed five teams to compete for the CQ June Moot Cup. How do you entertain 45 Rover Scouts on a damp cold weekend? A series of challenges were completed and they were based on the elements of Rover Scouting.

PHYSICAL:- The hill at Rowallan Park was an awesome site for a giant waterslide and for billy cart racing. An offsite activity was roller skating/blading.

EMOTIONAL and SPIRITUAL:- was fulfilled by participating in a Scout Own Service which is a Thanks Giving Service.

INTELLECTUAL:- a trivia night to test the knowledge of the crews.

DEVELOPMENT:- the rovers were challenged to construct and decorate their billy carts, and each team made a mascot to represent their team. Another challenge was a scavenger hunt and the teams had to take a photo of objects for each letter of the alphabet. Offsite – in keeping with modern times the Rovers had to get selfies with an employee of a shopping centre.

SOCIAL:- a table tennis table and a pool table were set up at Rowallan Park for chill out times and they were well used and there was plenty of social interaction. Offsite, teams played tenpin bowling.

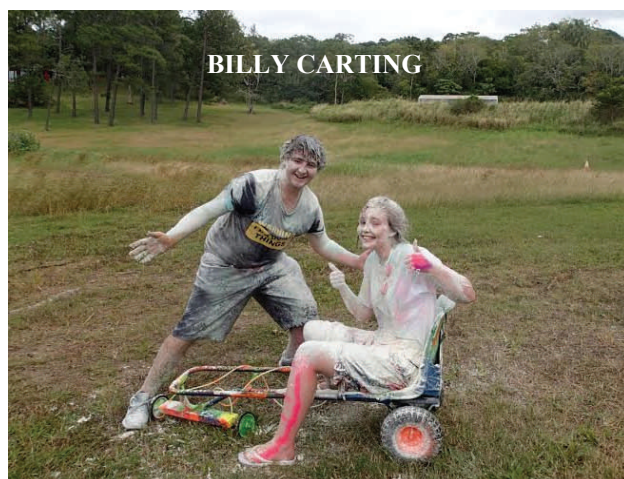
SERVICE & ENVIRONMENTAL:- At Rowallan Park there is an open air chapel in a secluded area where you can sit quietly and reflect. The rover scouts did general maintenance of the area and replaced the log seating.

What do Rover Scouts do when they want a snack in the early hours of Saturday morning as some Rovers had travelled a long distance? They go to a fast food outlet and order 60 chicken and cheese burgers and 100 chicken nuggets. The order may have taken awhile to fulfil but "Thank You" it was.

On Sunday night they held their Sergeant's ceremony where they conducted their fines with the money collected going to charity.

Despite the damp cool weather on Sunday the rover scouts had a "FUNtastic" weekend and they were

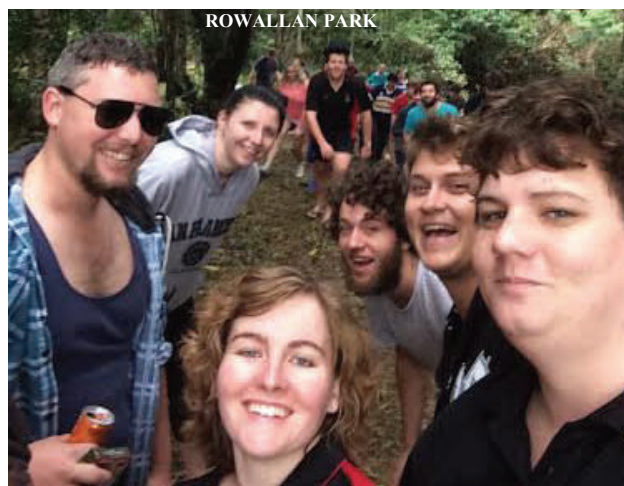
very tired but still enjoying the activities. On Monday morning tallies were counted and Rover Crew from Rockhampton was announced as the winner of the CQ June Moot Cup. Some rover scouts had to leave early on Monday morning to return home as they had quite a distance to travel home.



BILLY CARTING



10 PIN BOWLING



ROWALLAN PARK

Easter Hike Camp—By Venturer Scout Tristan Archibald

Over the Easter weekend the Mackay Venturer Scouts went on a multi-day hike up at Eungella, this was to assist us in getting our expedition Level 1 as well as preparing us for our Hinchinbrook hike later this year. We headed up to Eungella on the Wednesday before the Easter weekend so that we would be able to start early the next morning without the need for a really early wake up to make our way up to Eungella. The first night was mostly spent just having fun and relaxing, as we knew what was to come the next day. The next morning most of us were up by about 6:00am and we were mostly packed up by about 6:30 and ready to go, sadly though due to some technical difficulties we didn't start till about 8:30. We started in a car park but we were soon following one of the walking tracks that travelled alongside the river. It was great fun following the track as there were a few water crossings and some marvellous views. Each of us in the group took turns at taking bearings and reading the map, but annoyingly the walking track we were on wasn't actually marked on the map so we were making estimates how far we had left to the road where the planned lunch stop was. It was somewhat funny, as someone would say, "an hour left". Then an hour later it was still, "ahhhhhh... an hour left". This section of the day took a while longer than expected as they were a large amount of branches on the tracks etc. which caused us to go a bit slower as well as we were constantly stopping and starting. We eventually made it to the road where we stopped for lunch. We had some wraps with canned chicken and cheese. After a fair break we proceeded to follow the road till we got to our campsite. Once there we did an interesting activity to do with what we think a good member going hiking with would have. There were some interesting examples. After the activities we set up our camp, and then that nights cooking team got to work, while the group that weren't cooking relaxed. After dinner, we had fun for awhile but went to bed earlier than the night before as we were pretty tired. The next morning we started hiking a little bit earlier which was great, as it was the longest day. It started off fairly easy just following the road with some minor hills, we where soon at where we wanted to be for morning tea, ahead of time, which was a surprise. We then started our next part which was interesting, slight walk through a muddy area and then using a tree as a bridge to cross a river which was fun, then we proceeded to follow a road again for a bit till we reached the hard section... the next section was a long walk through a very hilly rainforest, it was humid and there was leeches everywhere, we were constantly stopping to cross fallen branches and other objects etc. at one point I decided to try limbo under one of the branches... not the smartest move. I felt like a turtle stuck on its back. We continued walking through the forest, taking short

breaks every so often, after a while we realised some of those leeches where easier to get off with a multi-tool then with fingers or anything else. The track got harder as it got less obvious, the only markers we could see was the odd red triangle or piece of ribbon tied to a tree, annoyingly ribbon colours where constantly changing so there were more than a few stages where we thought we were lost. We eventually made it out, much behind schedule, but we still had to stop for lunch, when we started getting the food out we were greeted by the dreadful site of our pocket bread, which had gone mouldy in the humidity. After lunch we continued on. One of the venturers had injured his leg and needed to be picked up, but we had to continue a little further for that to happen. After that the remainder of us continued to walk, until we came to a large creek where we went for a quick swim. When we got into camp that night we were all pretty exhausted and went to bed earlyish.

The next day was our final full day of hiking and we were all pretty keen to finish, to make it even better it was just a flat simple track where we followed the road. There was one downside to this however... due to the road being dirt, and cars constantly driving down it there was a large amount of dust which caused us to drink a lot of water. We traversed the path fairly quickly, actually walking faster than initially expected, we where soon half way up the biggest hill we had to go up that day (which was also about the half way point) when we decided to stop for lunch... probably not the best move as it took us a bit of work to get the motivation needed to continue again. Once we started up again (after spending a while trying to figure out where the last half of the salami had gone) we where again going at a fair speed and would probably be at camp before three.

We were going well till about five minutes from the entrance of camp but we didn't know that. We had all ran out of water and where extremely thirsty. We were lucky though that Brendan was nice and gave us all some water. After that we soon made it into camp, which was at the Eungella dam so we all relaxed and enjoyed swimming etc. for the rest of the afternoon before going and preparing for dinner.

The next day we got up and had to do a quick one hour hike as a warm down for us. We were lucky enough that the support crew, were cooking bacon and pancakes for us while we hiked so that when we returned we could have breakfast, pack up and leave. After packing up we all quickly jumped in the cars to leave. On the trip back in the car I was in, had a lot of music and singing to say the least.

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REGION SCOUT CAMP AT BOWEN— by Dougal McWhinney

The Region Scout Camp for 2014 was held at the Bowen Showgrounds from 07 to 09 June.

There were 37 Scouts (6 Patrols) in attendance this year. Bowen Scout Group had 3 Patrols; Banksia Scout Group had 2 patrols and Mackay City Central had 1 Patrols. There were also 8 Scout leaders attending the camp. Banksia and Mackay arrived on Friday night with Bowen arriving on Saturday.

The weather started out as just being a little breezy on Saturday but by Saturday afternoon we had already had a few showers and it was predicted to be showers during the evening. We were informed by the Bowen GL on several occasions that this was unusual and that “it never rains in Bowen”. Unfortunately we proved him wrong on a quite a few occasions.

Most of Saturday consisted of construction of the patrol camps, gadgets, etc. During Saturday afternoon the leaders erected a Queenslander tent as part of their camp. It was a good training session for the new leaders (and some of the old leaders). After the leaders erected their campsite they preceded to chop up the firewood that Mackay City Central hauled to site. Some of the logs were very hard which made for excellent coals.

Saturday afternoon also saw the patrols prepared for the evening meal (which was being judged). All the patrols had to prepare a 3 course meal. Entree was of their choice (mostly soup), a roast (beef or pork) for the main course and a self saucing pudding for dessert. After some difficulties in getting coals for cooking the patrols all succeeded in producing excellent meals under the conditions and all the leaders were fed.

Overnight we had a few heavy showers but there wasn't anything that was a show stopper. On Sunday morning all the patrols prepared breakfast and chased up the leader they had invited to judge their meal. The weather on Sunday started to turn bleak but everyone was still enjoying the camp. Once breakfast was complete all patrols spent the morning fixing up the campsites after the strong breeze overnight.

After lunch we all headed for a building in the showgrounds to break up into patrols to complete activities. The Scouts were separated into 5 Patrols

and sent off to the 5 bases (Tracking, Ropeless Bridge, Balistas, Emergency and Orienteering). All the scouts rotated through the bases and then returned to their camps in the afternoon to prepare for dinner.

The leaders had to also prepare for a major dinner as they were hosting the PL's for a meal. We had pumpkin soup for entrée, roast pork (with gravy and apple sauce), roast vegetables and peas for main and a self saucing pudding for dessert. I believe the PL's enjoyed the meal and we will plan to do it again for the next one.

Monday morning brought an overcast and windy day. The patrols had their breakfast and then packed up camp in preparation for departure. Final parade was held and certificates were handed out to the winning patrols.

The following were the winners of the various sections of the camp:

Campsite – KangPanS Patrol (Mackay City Central Scout Group)

Cooking – Kookaburra Patrol (Bowen Scout Group)

Gadgets – KangPanS Patrol (Mackay City Central Scout Group)

The overall runners up were Kookaburra Patrol (Bowen Scout Group) with KangPanS Patrol (Mackay City Central Scout Group) being the overall winners.

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

Camp Leader

Kingfisher

Overall Winners MCC



Iron Gut Award



Cooking Award—Bowen

Mackay City Central & Banksia Scout Group News



On the eve of Anzac Day Mackay City Central Cub Scouts along with Banksia Cub Scout and Scouts and their leaders were treated with an impressive display of Military Memorabilia set up by Phil Rutherford at the Air Cadet Unit HQ. The youth member, leaders, and parents were firstly treated to a DVD about the ANZAC's and that was followed by an brief outline of the contents of the display and then a demonstration on what a soldier in battle would be wearing and carrying. Numerous badges, weapons, ammunition (not live), and uniforms through the ages were some of the items on display. It was very educational and interesting.



Banksia Scout Group started out the term by accepting an invitation to visit a display of War Memorabilia organised by Phil Rutherford which by all accounts was really great. The rest of our term the Cub Scout Section have been focusing on our Boomerang work, from Fitness to Compass, Symbols to Science, although in the middle we also had a visit from some Martians where we had to setup a campsite for them and make some space crafts.

Banksia Cub Scouts joined with MCC & Bowen at the start of May for a Leadership Camp which was really well attended – we had 25 Cub Scouts in total with 8 from Banksia. Followed this up with a camp at the end of May where some of the Cub Scouts earned their Level 1 Naturalist badge, although quite a few elected to have just a relax camp and ended up playing games for the majority of Saturday. Photo is from our Naturalist camp.

We have earned a lot of badges this term with a total of 30 Level 1, 12 Level 2 & 16 Special Interest badges handed out.

Regards

*Joanne, Cub Scout Leader
Banksia Group*



Pioneer Valley Scout Group News

The decision to open a Scout Group for the Pioneer Valley has certainly paid off. After advertising in the local school newsletters and targeting all the Facebook pages dealing with areas in the Pioneer Valley we had 44 children between 6 and 14 attend the first meeting. This dropped to 27 for the second meeting but this may have been due to school sports carnivals being held that day. To date we have received 17 youth membership forms with payment that have been posted to Brisbane.

It has been wonderful to see the level of parent involvement that we have been getting. So far we have a full committee and two parents/guardians who have signed up to become leaders and another community member who wishes to be a leader.

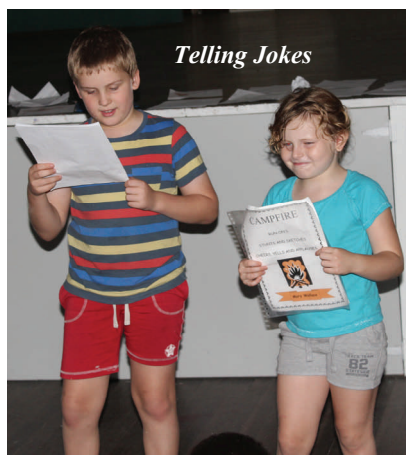
Sue Jensen (nee Wallace) has signed up to pull on the uniform again as Group Leader after a 10 year break to raise a family. Currently Sue is Assistant Group Leader until the completion of a few e-Learning modules. Then she will be able to take control of the group and work with the community to make it flourish.

Thanks to Mary Wallace (Baloo), Chris Allen (Bunda) and Dougal McWhinney (Kingfisher) for your assistance as trained leaders in getting the group off the ground.

The group meets on Friday nights from 6.00pm – 8.00pm at the Marian Community Hall in Daly Street. (Across from the Post Office)

We are looking forward to coming along to ScoutFest to meet other groups/youth members/leaders/supporters and to have a great time.

*Yours in Scouting
Nikki McWhinney
(Jabiru)
Leader in Charge*



Telling Jokes



Pioneer Valley Scout Group First Nighters



Cub Scouts/Joey Scouts doing Skits



Scouts in Action



Hello from Vanuatu

"Hello" from our Scout friends in Vanuatu. – John, Willie, Glarinda, Mathen, Tony, Timothy – to their Scout friends in Central and Coastal Region.

A few days ago Bob and I returned from a wonderful holiday in Vanuatu. Whilst there we went on a buggy jungle safari, horse riding, sightseeing, shopping, mingling with the locals and learning about their culture. However, our main objective was to try to catch up with the six Leaders from the First Tagabe Scout Group who came to Mackay on a trip hosted by Central and Coastal Region in June 2007.

Prior to going to Port Vila, Vanuatu, we endeavoured to contact these people using the contact details they left with us when they were here. This proved unsuccessful and we were told the grape vine was probably the best method of getting in touch with them. This proved to be sound advice. Armed with the names of the people and contact details we had at the time, we approached Anna at the tourism desk at the Resort where we stayed to see if the local phone book might be of assistance and so the story unfolds. Anna left no stone unturned and after many phone calls found that Timothy's mum worked at the markets in Port Vila. Anna took us to the markets and spoke to a lady she knew, only to find that Timothy's mum didn't come to work that day. Thus the grape vine swings into operating mode and it was arranged for a message to be delivered to Timothy's mum. Who needs email!

We also asked Presley, a security guard at the Resort, if he might know anyone on our list of people. Presley knew a young lady who knew where John Row Thomas lived. So, when he finished work at 3.00pm he took us to Mele Village to pick up the lady who then escorted us to John Row Thomas's place. We met his lovely wife who told us John was in New Zealand picking apples. We exchanged family contacts and on our return journey Presley said he knew where Willie lived so called in and we found that Willie and Glarinda are partners and have three children. They were just as surprised and excited as we were to see one another.

Timothy surprised us with a visit to the Resort on Sunday morning and stayed with us for a few hours. The message had reached him through his mum and Glarinda had been in touch also. Glarinda had arranged to pick us up that afternoon. When she and Willie and daughter Irene arrived in a bus, they had

Mathen, Timothy, Tony and his son John and John's friend Junior on board also. Another surprise! Warm greetings were shared all around and we had a wonderful time together visiting places of interest and reminiscing, enjoying wood fired pizzas at Mele Beach and reminiscing, watching the local circus performance on the beach and reminiscing. They all have very fond memories of their trip to Mackay and their stay at Rowallan Park and wish to be remembered to all the Scout people who made their stay such a memorable occasion. Timothy and his wife Honey came to the airport bearing gifts and to say goodbye on the day we left Vanuatu. We felt very humbled. They are all truly beautiful people. The Leaders say the Tagabe Scout Group is not doing so well at present. They are under the control of a different Scout administration and new people have been brought in to do things 'their way'. Membership has dropped and our Scout friends are not actively involved but sitting on the sideline waiting to see what occurs with the new hierarchy.

We are indebted to the generosity and kindness extended to us by Anna and Presley along with their amazing detective work which culminated in our dream of being acquainted with our Vanuatu Scout friends once again, becoming a reality. Willie, Glarinda, Mathen, Tony and Timothy would very much like to visit Australia again one day but certainly welcome any of their Scout friends from Central and Coastal Region who may visit Port Vila in the future. Should anyone require contact details we are happy to share with you.

Bob and Margaret Hodda

ROVER SCOUTS—ST GEORGE'S BALL

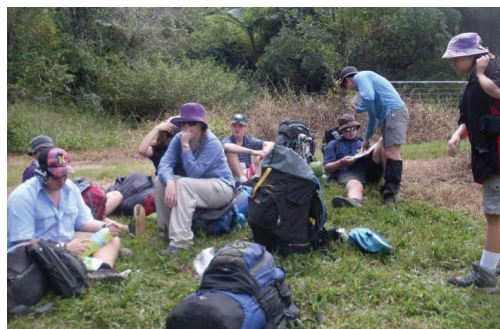
Mackay Rovers
In Brisbane at the St
George's Ball. Don't
they look very
smart?



St Georges ball this year was held at 'The Royal on the Parks' Hotel in Brisbane on the 5th April. Six of us from Mackay went down. The formal event is held every year with Rover Scouts from all over the state attending. The night consisted of a formal dinner followed by an award presentation, mingling and an after party. The award we received was a service awarded to the Central Qld Region for our efforts at last years service moot held in Gladstone in September. Where we remarked and did track maintenance to the local Mt Larcom bushwalking track. The Mackay crew also received an 'I want to be a South East Qld Rover award' due to our high attendance to their events.

Alex Cinelli

Venturer Scouts
Easter Hike Camp



Campsite & relaxing after a long hike.