



Nikki McWhinney— 5yr Badge  
Suzanne Jensen —10 year Badge  
Brendan Ross —Wood Badge  
Greg Milne—Cert of Adult Leadership

## DATES TO REMEMBER

ANZAC DISPLAY AT SHOWGROUND

25 TH APRIL ANZAC PARADES

VARIOUS LOCATIONS



## Display at Sports Expo

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# Central and Coastal Region Newsletter

APRIL EDITION 2015

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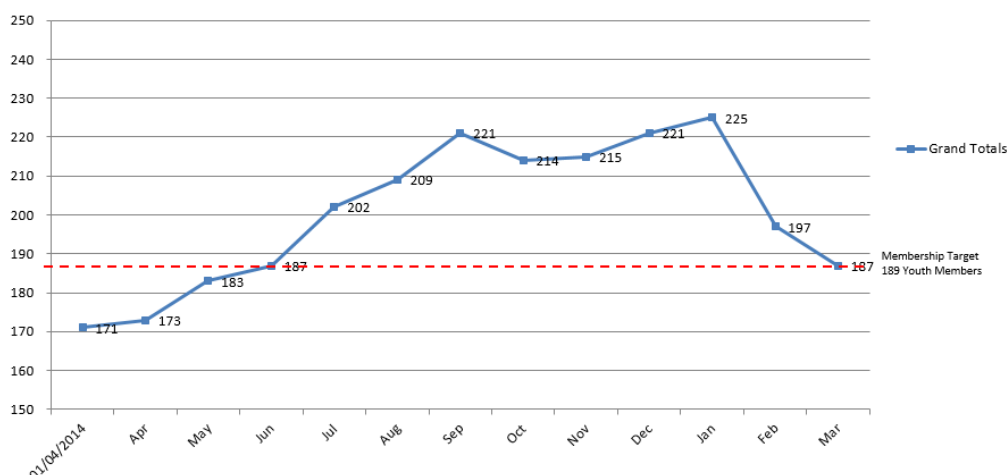
## Region Commissioner's Report

*Here we are at the beginning of another Scout year.*

### Membership

*Youth membership count in the region took a dive towards the end of March and again unfortunately we slipped below the 10% growth target I set in April last year. In January 2015 the region reached a peak of 225 youth members. The total number of youth members in the region as at the end of March was 187 comprising of 12 Joey Scouts, 68 Cub Scouts, 70 Scouts, 26 Venturer Scouts and 11 Rover Scouts. This count is up just over 9% since 01 April 2014. Leaders is definitely an issue but as discussed during the YPR session, we can attract members but we are still struggling to maintain the growth in numbers and don't believe it is just because of the lack of leaders. Over the last 7 years we have had an average drop of around 15% in youth numbers during the last quarter.*

Region Youth Membership - 2014-15



*Leader numbers have fluctuated. At present we have 31 Leaders (section/group), 34 Support Members (Adult Members & Helpers), 15 Region Leaders and 10 Fellowship members.*

*Nikki McWhinney (ARC Membership Support & Development) arranged for Scouts to be represented at the recent Mackay Regional Council's Sports Expo. It was an excellent event and we had very good interest from members (both youth and adult) wanting to possibly join. Not certain if all the interest turned into hard numbers but it was a good start to the year.*

*At the recent Region Training Meeting I had the pleasure of welcoming our newest Region Leader Rowan Cahill, who has taken on the role of Group Support. I also had the pleasure of presenting Brendan Ross' Wood Badge. His was the first of six I will be presenting over the coming months and hopefully plenty more when the Wood Badge bridging course is run in the region.*

*The year has started well and I am looking forward to working with everyone throughout the year in this great game we call Scouting.*

*Yours in Scouting*

*Kingfisher*

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

*Venturer Scouts got off to an active start with three abseiling days, with Branch Commissioner Mark Cane and Region Leader Brendan Ross and Rover Alex Cinelli joining them for the final day. The Mackay Venturer Scouts had a fantastic time at Dumbleton Crag and all were eager for more. This was quickly followed with a standing camp at Eungella Dam as a get to know you welcome back for the year. Get to know you I hear you ask, don't they know each other? The answer is yes they do but with welcoming six new members in the last couple of months meant that a standing camp was a great start to the year even if they did get geographically challenged on the morning's walk. They then participated in Founders day at Calen and were joined by the Rover Crew for a city wide amazing race and Pistol Shooting with the Mackay Pistol Club some of these guys are pretty good at hitting the target. They also joined the rovers for Roventure held in Mackay this year which was very pleasing to see the Mackay Crew did an excellent job running it. Bowen Venturer Scouts held a Fundraising dinner and from all reports the meal was excellent and everyone enjoyed themselves.*

*It is good to see the Venturer Scouts taking up the opportunities offered when skilled leaders visit our region.*

*Look Wide*

**Judy Johnson. RVL**

## **Venturer Scout Edition of Roventure**

*Friday night or afternoon, depending on how lost you were, was time for setting up tents for the Mackay Venturer Scouts. There was some time to chat with leaders and Rovers while waiting for the Yeppoon, Rockhampton and Dolphin, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts to arrive at Rowallan Park for a jam packed weekend of scouting.*

*Cricket! Who doesn't love getting all hot and sweaty playing a good game of cricket of a night time before going to bed? Everyone who played had a great time yelling and screaming and just having fun before it was time to wind down.*

*A somewhat nutritious breakfast thanks to Harry our lovely cook. On the menu was bacon, eggs, toast and*

*maple syrup and juice. Time to pack our day packs, not forgetting the water bottle, hat and sunsafe items, and a few comforts foods to snack on, and put in dibs for car rides. Most of the new Venturer Scouts are finding out, if you don't dibs are ride you won't get to ride with the cool kids.*

*The drive up to cape Hillsborough was great. We parked up near the playground and broke off into our three chosen groups and started activities for the day which included making fishing lures with Josh, hiking a walking trail finding LEGO parts with Alex and some of the Yeppoon Rover Scouts, and racing to the other teams times setting up a Queenslander tent.*

*After lunch we raced our LEGO cars within our teams around a sand made track with obstacles such as bridges made from sticks found on the beach. Lego racing was won by Team 2 and it was off to play another game of cricket in the sun, play on the playground or have a nice sit down in the shade at the tables with Pera.*

*On the drive back to camp at Rowallan Park a few very tired and smelly Venturer Scouts managed to get a short nap. Once settled into camp, Alex declared a game of Watermelon football, played by all those who loved watermelon, and still had a ton of energy left to burn off before the mud pit. At 4:30pm it was time to grab those mud clothes and run to the pit. Josh gave out rules, turned on the hose and the mud pit and slide were away before showers a lovely dinner and dessert while watching the LEGO Movie before heading to sleep before the big pack up day and drive home.*

*Jo Brzozowski*

*Venturer Scout Leader, Banksia*

# Banksia Scout Group

*Term 1 said "Hello" and "Goodbye" too quickly!*

*Our youth members has been busy little beavers this term with all sorts of activities from recycling, ant-bullying, roller skating, ten-pin bowling, driving range, abseiling, caving and canoeing just to name one or two things.*

*Thank goodness for holidays so leaders can collapse on the ground and take a break – unless of course you are Koala, who has booked back to back activities in and out of the den over the holidays! To have 1/10th of that woman's energy would be a bonus!*

*Joey Scouts have been HOPping right along with games, activities and good turns. This term our youth members completed their environmental badge and these will be presented early Term 2. We have implemented a Parent Roster and, from what I understand, it has gone very well and really helps out Bilby. Thanks so much for your continuing support.*

*Cub Scouts have had a jam packed term with Local History Walk, Health & First Aid, Fitness, Cooking, Senior Citizen visit, Bike Hike & Gold Boomerang Sleepover and a fantastic visit to Queensland Fire & Rescue Service.*

*Our numbers are at the limit in this section without another leader so if you want to join in the fun and would be willing to be trained as a Leader please contact me.*

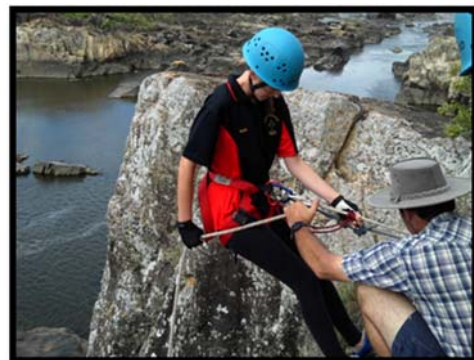


*Scouts have been scouting here, there and everywhere from Kinchant Dam to Rockhampton! To start with the youth members were monkeys at their Top Rope Badge & Abseiling Camp.*



*Then they were off to Rockhampton to go caving. The Rocky crew were brilliant and the kids had a fabulous time. With several journeys booked for Easter break and into Term 2 it is shaping up to be a very busy time.*

*Venturers did a bit of chillin' this term with 2 chill out camps – one at Eungella Dam and another up at Airlie Beach. It was such a chilled term they decided to spice things up with some fantastic abseiling.*



*I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bethany on being elected new Unit Chair and thank Tristan for all his hard work during his tenure.*

*Our fundraising committee have been busy this term with Masters sausage sizzle and pie drive. Next term is going to be fantastic after we picked up the opportunity to raise some much needed funds at the Palmyra Drag Races on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and for a bit of fun please join us on 13<sup>th</sup> June for a Trivia night at Northern Beaches Bowls Club.*



*A lot of work is going to be happening down at the*



# Banksia Scout Group— Pioneer Valley Scout Group—MCCG

den with the successful application of a grant from Queensland Country Credit Union to update our wiring and lighting.

Thanks also go to National Australia Bank on the successful grant application for the purchase of some canoes. Now I just need to find somewhere to fit the equipment & trailer and I will be a happy Group Leader.

Jacala  
Katrina Hoare  
Group Leader Banksia Scout Group

## Pioneer Valley Scout Group

The Cub Scouts have been busy learning about and reviewing our knots that we have learnt previously, reviewing health and hygiene and undertaking some craft for Easter. We made little bunnies with the Cub Scouts' faces on them. See picture attached.



The Scouts have been super busy completing their Emergencies Red Level Target, visiting the Fire Station at Walkerston, learning some cooking, water safety and a light weight overnight hike up at Eungella. The Group is looking forward to being involved in the Centenary Anzac Day Service at Marian on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Suzanne Jensen,  
Group Leader,  
Pioneer Valley  
Scout Group.



## Mackay City Central Scout Group

Well we're usually a quiet bunch who don't like to blow their own horn too much but given the absolute hive of activity that has been going on lately – the normally slack Group Leader thought she'd better sing the praises of a rather magnificent lot. While we might be only a small group the breadth of activities and enthusiasm from those within well and truly makes up for our lack of numbers.

So here is a small taste of what has gone on since the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

For Baden Powell's birthday the Cub Scouts decided to have a B and P dress up meeting.

Who picked on Baloo (aka Deb Rutherford)? She is the rather bruised and battered individual at the rear!



From there we went from the youngsters and relative newbies to a rather outstanding stayer. Congratulations Henricus Roestenburg (aka Harry) for 40 years within the Scout movement. Although Harry disputed the period involved the records indicate it is an immense achievement regardless. Appropriately, considering the stories I've heard about Harry, the award was presented at Roventure where some of the activities included: mud runs, watermelon rugby and zorbing. In true crazy Rover style Harry was given a ceremonial dousing – hope the certificate dried Harry!



## Mackay City Central—by Group Leader Andrea McPherson

*After presenting Harry with his certificate I was privy to some of the zany goings on that apparently accompany every Roventure. Thanks to one of the enterprising Rovers the crew now has a soccer team worth of Zorb Balls which were taken through their paces by the Venturers....from the smell and sound everyone had a great time, it definitely made for a fantastic spectator sport!*



*As with all levels of scouting the activities must be interspersed with the fair share of chilling in between, and Roventure was no exception. A well deserved break though from the sound of things as the weekends itinerary was fairly well packed, and from those that attended from Bowen, Gladstone, Sarina, Yeppoon, Rockhampton and our locals - it was great! Well done to all those involved in the organisation of the event! Dinner was tasty too!*



*Interspersed with the fun stuff is of course the badge earning, the ceremonies and the going up ceremonies of which we've had some of those too! Congratulations to Rohan Hopewell who earned his Grey Wolf Award and was then unceremoniously dumped into scouts – the stretcher bearers did a good job of that. (Rohan is the one with the terrified look on his face!)*



*The night of Rohan's advancement ceremony was also the presentation of Brittany Pattemore's Scout Medallion. Brittany achieved her ASM last year but it was agreed that the presentation should be held over to the new year so that the importance of the achievement was not overshadowed by Christmas and holidays. Brittany has earned just about every badge in the book and thanked leaders Quoll(aka Allan Salty) and Warra (Sandra Wright) for all their support and help. Off course everyone on the night enjoyed the traditional sausages, icecream and cake – well it's a tradition now!*

*That's all for now folks!*



*Well in addition to the ceremony and the Roventure the cub scouts were also camping at Rowallan Park. As can be seen by the picture they too were enjoying indulging in the usual activities of eating, mucking about and the joy of fires... all scouting activities that never change no matter how old you get!*





# Environmental News—Founders Day—Aquatastics

## Environment News—Jo Brzozowski

*The Environment training team are coming to Mackay to run a training at Rowallan Park, this should be a fun hands on weekend with access to members of the team from Brisbane. On the weekend you will learn lots of ways to include the environment into your normal weekly program and also some activities to add to your camps. Please get your applications in so that catering can be arranged.*



### ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD WEEKEND

When: July 10th, 2015  
Friday 7.30pm  
Sunday 12th (3.30pm)

Where: Rowallan Park, Mackay

Experience practical activities in a unique bush setting. The course, open to all Leaders, Rovers and Badge Examiners, will give you an understanding of the environment content of the youth award scheme. Knowledge gained will assist leaders in programming and in helping youth members with badge work and service projects. The course will also help Leaders with elective training requirements. Fee includes catering and handouts.

Cost: \$90

Applications: On A15 (Adult Leader Training application form) to Branch Headquarters (PO Box 520 Toowong 4066 or Fax 3870 4960)

Close: 18th June 2015

For further information contact Branch Commissioner Judy Seymour

3203 4193



*Who said  
leaders don't  
know their  
Promise and  
Law?*

## Founders Day—Aquatastics

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Youth Members and Leaders from Bowen to Sarina and Groups in Mackay travelled to Calen District State College to attend the Founders Day Scouts Own service, which was followed by the Annual Aquatastic Carnival.

We may have escaped the destruction of Tropical Cyclone Marcia but Sunday was a stifling hot day, so the youth members and leaders were quick to head for the pool after the Founders Day Service. Much to the disappointment of all the scouting members the Aquatastics Carnival had to be terminated an hour into the events when a storm brewed and severe lightning was experienced.

Leaders joined in with the youth members and played some games in the under play area while a decision was made in regard to the continuance of the Carnival.



## VENTURER SCOUT COOKBOOK

*Please contact Jo Brzozowski if you wish to purchase the Venturer Scout cook book. The index that was forwarded to me is too large to include in the newsletter, however there are a variety of inviting recipes for you to try.*