

# Central and Coastal Region Newsletter

DECEMBER EDITION 2015

EDITOR MARY WALLACE

## News from the Region Commissioner

Once again we are approaching the end of another calendar year. Youth membership in the region has levelled out over the last couple of months (which is normal for this time of the year). The total number of youth members in the region is 207 comprising of 17 Joey Scouts, 80 Cub Scouts, 71 Scouts, 28 Venturer Scouts and 11 Rover Scouts. This count is up 10% since 01 April 2015 and is right on the growth target set by the Chief at the beginning of the Scouting year. At present, we have 32 Leaders (section/group), 36 Support Members (Adult Members & Supporters), 16 Region Leaders and 9 Fellowship members. During October we held another successful JOTA-JOTI. 120 youth members attended and a great time was had by all. I would like to thank Lance, Brendan, Rowan, 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. On the Saturday evening we presented an Adult Special Service Award to Katrina Hoare (GL Banksia Scout Group) and a Distinguished Service Award to Brian Harvey (Rowallan Park Fellowship). The other Adult Award recipients were Ron Laffin (Rowallan Park Fellowship) – Outstanding Service Award, Joe Kearns (Rowallan Park Fellowship) – Silver Koala and Heather Tuckerman (Rowallan Park Fellowship) – Silver Emu. These three will have their awards presented in the coming week at the Rowallan Park Fellowship Annual General Meeting.

During the weekend of 27-29 November the region held a Section Basic Practical Course for a Cub Scout Leader, 3 Scout Leaders and 4 Leader of Adults. All the participants had a great time.

Some exciting news for those who haven't heard! For the last 15 years the region has been attempting to get an abseiling tower built at Rowallan Park. At the recent Region ARP, the Mayor strongly suggested we put in an expression of interest for the Better Communities Building Fund. We did and were then invited to submit a full proposal with quotes for the next round. The council met on Wednesday 02 Dec and decided on the winners and we were successful. The grant is for \$154,000 which will consist of a 2 storey 12m tower and landscaping. At present I am going through the paperwork with both the council and Branch but am hopeful to get things moving before Christmas. All things going well we should have the tower completed for an opening ceremony sometime in April 2016. At some stage next year I will be calling for volunteers to assist with the erection of a garden shed and landscaping around the area. It will be exciting to have the facility to use at our camping ground.

In late October, we said goodbye to Lance Hodda (ARC Campsites & Community Development) as he had decided he needed a change and wanted to pursue some other challenging things outside of Scouts. He will be missed and I wish him all the best in his new adventures. With the departure of Lance, the role of managing the day to day activities at Rowallan Park will be managed by me until we implement a plan early in the New Year. If you have any issues or would like to volunteer for various activities at the park feel free to contact me.

If you have been out to Rowallan Park in the last few weeks you would have notice a bit of activity around Johnston Lodge and the Training Room. A group of people from Skilled Training Mackay have been on site with whipper snippers mowers and paint brushes cleaning up and giving some of the buildings



Who is this crazy bunch seen having fun in the streets of Mackay

### DATES TO REMEMBER

21ST FEB 2016 FOUNDERS DAY ACTIVITY CANELANDS PARK



Bruce Lenahan receiving a Certificate of Thanks as he is retiring and moving from Mackay. He has volunteered at JOTA for over 20 years.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Region News Jota Joti	2
Pioneer Valley SC News	3
Bowen SG News	4
GWA Mky City Cent & ASM Banksia	5
Queen's Scout Award	6
Adult Recognition Awards	7

# Region News—Continued—JOTA JOTI

*a coat of paint. I would like to thank Skills Training Mackay for making available people to carry out the maintenance work as well as the participants themselves for diving in and getting the work completed. I would also like to thank John Taylor (Central and Coastal Region Executive Chairman) for arranging for the paint through his Rotary Club. In January, AJ2016 will be held at Cataract Park (outside Sydney) and there are 29 Scouts and 10 Leaders/Adult Helpers attending. Everyone will leave on the morning of 02 January and should arrive home again around the 14 January. I hope all that are attending have an excellent time and look forward to possibly seeing you at the event. I am part of the camping team at campsite 3 so come and see me (might even have something for you). One again I would like to thank all the leaders and adult supporters 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 2016.*

***Yours in Scouting***

***Kingfisher***

***Dougal McWhinney***

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

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*Australian Scout Medallion Certificate  
Presentation*



# Pioneer Valley Scout Group— by GL Sue Jensen

*Pioneer Valley Scout Group has had another busy term.*

*We started the term with the investiture of new Cub Scout, James. He is busy working on his Gold Boomerang and Grey Wolf Award, with his goal being to be the first Pioneer Valley Cub Scout to achieve a Grey Wolf Award. James is well on his way to that goal.*

*Most of the group joined in with Banksia Group to camp for the JOTA/JOTI weekend and some who didn't want to camp, came along on the Saturday of JOTA/JOTI to enjoy the activities.*

*Some of the Cub Scouts had never camped with Scouts before or at all. We had a great time doing some badgework, hiking, canoeing, JOTA/JOTI activities and enjoying the outdoor part of Scouting.*

*We invested our new Scout Leader, Smokey, at the end of October and also enjoyed some Halloween activities as a group.*

*Our Federal Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, has provided us with a flag.*



*Some of our Scouts are gearing up for Jamboree in January and are bound to have the time of their lives.*

*Our Cub Scouts attended a hike on 21 November 2014 for a Grey Wolf Award. They hiked at Finch Hatton Gorge up to the Wheel of Fire and also to the Araluen Cascades. It's about 5 kilometres and was about 2.5 hours, with plenty of rest stops for Rikki!*



*Hiking to  
Araluen  
Cascades*



**Halloween  
Activities**





# BOWEN SCOUT GROUP NEWS

*Over the weekend of the 17-18th of October 5 leaders, 4 venturer scouts, 11 scouts, 3 cubs scouts attended the JOTA/JOTI region camp at Rowallan Park near Mackay.*

*We came home exhausted, but with fun electronic gadgets, full bellies and happy memories – and lots of smelly clothes! Thank you to the leaders who gave up their weekend to look after our scouts. Thanks also to everyone who stayed and helped unpack when we arrived back at the den, it is such a huge help when we are all exhausted to have fresh faces to lend a hand. We have a very good excuse for being late – when we were packing we were invited by the Regional Venturers to an impromptu parade – we were lucky enough to witness Jack Gallagher, Shaunie Higgins, Kiana Higgins and Emma Nebauer receive their Venture Skills awards! Congratulations to our Venturer Scouts, a lot of hard work has gone into those badges.*

*Having fun & working together at JOTA/JOTI*



*Cubs - Bethany, Kiya and Brody*



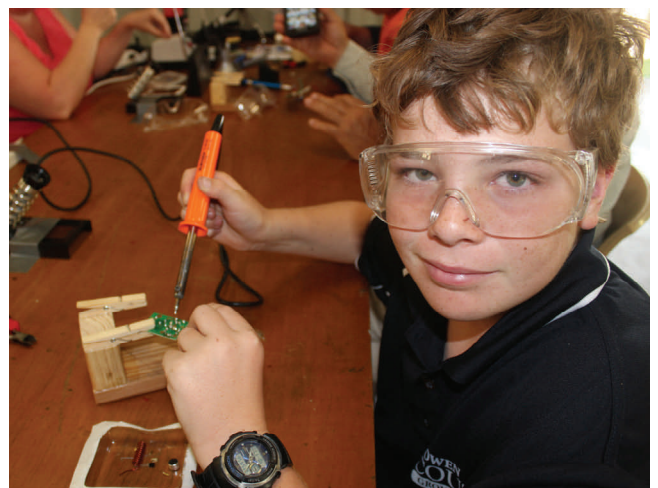
*Venturer Scouts looking fab at the 'gender bender' dinner at JOTA/JOTI*



*Lyrebirds - Cameron and Zac & Kookaburras - Mahi and Keely*



*Trying out the electronics*





## GREY WOLF AWARD—AUSTRALIAN SCOUT MEDALLIONS

*Unwavering enthusiasm and motivation for earning badges is what played a big part in Oliver Rule earning his Grey Wolf Award the highest award in the Cub Scout Section.*



*Oliver was invested into the Mackay City Central Cub Scout Pack March 2013 after completing his linking visits from the Joey Scout Mob. As Sixer of Tawny Six, Oliver, quiet and unassuming, has fulfilled his role as a youth leader to a very high standard, setting a positive example for others to follow.*

*He has completed all three Boomerang Challenge levels, a plethora of Achievement Awards across all categories and a Cub Scout Leadership Course. He has been a regular attendee of Pack Councils, ANZAC Day Parades and actively participated in all Pack, Group and Regional Cub Scout activities. He even had the good fortune to attend Cuboree 2014. His enthusiasm to learn new skills, coupled with his willingness to pass them onto others has earned him the respect of his peers and Leaders.*

*Oliver has proven himself to be a very thoughtful and well organized individual and this was made evident throughout his journey in Cub Scouts and in the course of completing the requirements of the Grey Wolf Award.*

*During his time in the Cub Scout Pack, Oliver has demonstrated an understanding of the Cub Scout Promise and Law and does his very best to live by them every day.*

**Compiled by M Wallace from information supplied by CSL Debbie Rutherford**

*Fun, adventurous activities along with determination to achieve, and dedication to attending weekly scouting meeting and numerous outdoor activities resulted in three scout from Banksia Scout Group to achieve their Australian Scout Medallions at a special ceremony on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate the occasion.*



*Sean Brears, Nicholas Hazell and Angus Nicol all worked to the best of their abilities to earn the Award. To achieve the Australian Scout Medallion the scouts had to do Patrol Activities for each of the three levels, Pioneer, Explorer and Adventurer levels which is eight hours service for each level along with achieving the Adventurer Level cord. They had to attend a leadership course and complete a follow up leadership activity. They also had to plan and lead their patrol on an adventurer level journey. Their journeys were 120km bike hikes.*

*Angus Nicol has a very easy going attitude and copes well under pressure. During his time in the scout section he attended the 2013 Australian Jamboree, and many Region activities. One of the highlights was participating in a caving activity in the Capricorn Region.*

*The quiet natured Sean Brears also said the 2013 Australian Jamboree was one of his highlights, however he said having to plan and carry out the 120 bike hike was a fantastic experience. He was an excellent Patrol Leader. Sean also commented that he enjoyed meeting other scouts and has made some good friends through scouting.*

*The forever smiling Nicholas Hazell has attended all Region and Group activities whilst he was in the scouts section. He enjoyed planning the visit to the Rural Fire Brigade for his patrol activity.*

*Family member and scouting friends were on hand to present each of the scouts with their Australian Scout Badge and Medallion. The three recipients all thanked their parents, leaders and fellow scouts who helped them along the way to achieving their Australian Scout Medallions.*

# QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD—Lisa & Bethany

*Enthusiasm, sheer determination and resilience is what paid off for two Mackay Venturer Scouts, Lisa Connell and Bethany Pinkard who were presented with their Queen's Scout Award at a Special Ceremony at Banksia Scout Group on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015. They both achieved above and beyond what they were required to do to earn this prestigious Award.*

*Venturer Scout Leader Mrs Jo Brzozowski said "Lisa advanced from the Scout Section of Mackay City Central Group, she was full of energy and was ready to tackle any task, participating whole heartedly and with enthusiasm. She soon proved that she was an accomplished hiker, she took part in abseiling activities at various locations, has served coffee to strangers at Driver Reviver and Meals to Leaders. Lisa has attended events from Townsville to Gladstone and many places in-between. Lisa has been a great role model for the younger members and is always ready to assist them with their own goals."*

*Rover Scout Alex Cinelli who assists the Venturer Scout Leader in running the Mackay Venturer Scout unit said it was an absolute honour for her to speak about Bethany and her achievement of the Queens Scout Award. Bethany joined the Venturer Scout Unit four years ago and had no other scouting experience. I remember thinking quite early on in the piece, this young lady is a true scout and already possess all the morals and attributes of someone who has been in the scouting movement for some length of time.*

*Bethany displayed sheer determination and resilience during a 4 day expedition on Hinchinbrook Island last year when she sustained a knee injury on the third day and despite the discomfort she completed the rest of the journey which consisted of a long and challenging boulder hop section that showed no mercy.*

*This year Bethany has taken on the position of unit*



*chairman. In this role she has shown outstanding leadership skills. The unit has grown substantially throughout the year, resulting in the majority of the group being young venturer scouts. She has been a fantastic role model to our young intake, and has lead them effortlessly with good morals and fairness. She has been part of the Annual Central Coastal Region Venture organising committee for the last three years. She always brings enthusiasm to every event whether it be a fun or monotonous task. Her passion and motivation inspires not only myself but that of her fellow venturers around her.*

*Both Award recipients said that the four day Hinchinbrook Camp was the highlight of their time in the Venturer Scout section.*

*Region Commissioner Mr Dougal McWhinney returned their record books to them, Rover Scout Blake Bath presented Lisa with her Queen's Scout Badge, and Mirani High School Teacher Matthew Munchow presented Bethany with her badge, Group Leader Katrina Hoare presented their Queen's Scout plaque, and Region Venturer Scout Leader, Mrs Judy Johnson a gift.*

*The presentation was attended by the Member for Mackay Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Region Commissioner Mr Dougal McWhinney, family members of the recipients and fellow Venturer Scouts, and Rover Scouts and Leaders.*

*The Rover Scout Section will gain two valuable members when Lisa and Bethany advance to Rovers.*





# 2015 ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS by M Wallace

On World Scout Day the Adult Recognition Awards were announced. Katrina Hoare, Group Leader Banksia Group received a Special Service Award, Ron Laffin, Adult Helper, Rowallan Park Fellowship, Outstanding Service Award, Brian Harvey, Secretary, Rowallan Park Fellowship, Distinguished Service Award, Joe Kearns, Rowallan Park Fellowship, Silver Koala and Heather Tuckerman, Rowallan Park Fellowship, Memorabilia, Silver Emu Award.

Katrina and Brian received their awards at Rowallan Park on JOTA JOTI weekend. I was able to take a photo of Katrina however Brian escaped before I was able to do so.

I haven't the official citations of their service but I do know that some of these recipients have been a part of scouting for many years. I am only doing this from my memory so it may not be accurate.

I have been involved with scouting continuously since 1982 and when I was first involved both Ron Laffin and Joe Kearns were scout leaders and Heather Tuckerman became a leader shortly after.

Ron may not have been involved all those years however his wife being a leader in the Guiding Movement he has certainly done his fair share of voluntary work for scouting and guiding. Ron has been a member of the Rowallan Park Fellowship for many years.

Brian Harvey, was the Group Leader of 3rd Mackay, which renamed to Mackay City Central Group, was the Regional Commissioner for a number of years, and resigned because of ill health. It was great to see him well and back involved with scouting as secretary of the Rowallan Park Fellowship.

Joe Kearns, was a leader in the scout section for a many years, being an ex school teacher he also loved helping with the training of new leaders. He assisted the Region Scout Leader with the organisation of

Region Scout events. Joe eventually reassigned to Rowallan Park Fellowship.

I had a chat to Heather recently and asked her about her scouting involvement.

Mrs Heather Tuckerman, known as Hathi from the Jungle Book, has been awarded the Silver Emu Award for distinguished service to scouting. Heather's parents were involved in Scouting in Bermuda as leaders so she followed in their footsteps and became a leader in 1983 when her eldest son joined Cub Scouts at North Mackay, Holack Street Den.

Over the 30+ years Heather has been involved as a leader she has assisted in the Cub Scout Packs at many groups in Mackay. Willing to help out where she is needed.

Heather is proficient at Sign Language and takes pride in teaching youth members how to sign and it gives her great pride in seeing them gain their Sign Language proficiency badge.

Over the many years Heather has been involved in scouting she has attended 10 Australian Jamborees and will be attending the 24<sup>th</sup> Australian Jamboree in Sydney in January 2016.

Heather along with her husband Dennis are now members of Rowallan Park Fellowship and take care of the Memorabilia. They enjoy setting up displays for the young to see and the older generation to reminisce.

On Thursday evenings Heather can be found helping out with the Cub Scouts at Mackay City Central Group.



Judy Johnson was presented with her 20 year badge at the Rowallan Park Fellowship Christmas Party last week.

