

# Central Coast Region Newsletter

DECEMBER EDITION 2016

EDITOR MARY WALLACE



Memorabilia Display at Bunnings

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Bunnings Christmas Craft

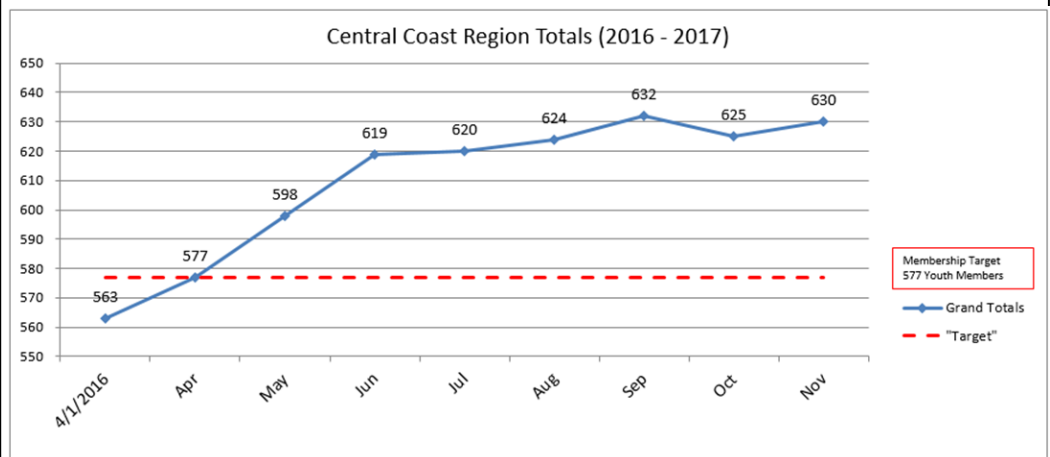
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## Region Commissioner's Report

Once again, we are approaching the end of another calendar year and in no time we will be at the end of the Scouting year and what a year it has been! In May, "Central & Coastal Region" and "Capricorn Region" were merged into one region and eventually named "Central Coast Region". This was a major change for everyone but believe we are moving forward and look forward to continuing to work with everyone to grow the new region and keeping it the best in QLD (my belief anyway)!

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 630 comprising of 68 Joey Scouts, 246 Cub Scouts, 223 Scouts, 67 Venturer Scouts and 26 Rover Scouts. This count is up 12% since 01 April 2016 and is above the growth target (10%) I set at the beginning of the Scouting year.



At present, we have 113 Leaders (section/group), 66 Support Members (Adult Members & Adult Helpers), 9 Region Leaders and 19 Fellowship members. During November, a selection of leaders from the Branch training team went on a road trip and held various training sessions in Gladstone, Rockhampton and Emerald. During this time, they were able to train up some new PLA's (just waiting on applications from the leaders), train some Group Support Committee members, run a couple of Basic Practical weekends as well as an Advanced Practical Weekend. The team did this all on their own time and were away from home for around 4 weeks! I appreciate the support given by everyone in the region in attending the sessions where possible. Because the road trip was so successful, they are looking at repeating the process again next year.

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 2017.

Yours in Scouting

*Kingfisher.* Dougal McWhinney

Region Commissioner (Central Coast Region)

# ROWALLAN PARK—ABSEIL TOWER UPDATE



Well as this goes to print, the Abseil Tower being built at Rowallan Park will be approaching the final stages of building. The manufacturer is hoping to complete the tower by Friday the 09 Dec and then we will need to submit the final inspection report to the building certifier and await confirmation. I am also in the process of finalising what is required from Scouts Queensland for the operation of the tower.

Unfortunately, due to various delays we won't be holding an opening ceremony until Jan 2017 but I am hoping to have the tower available for general access in the coming weeks. The view from the top is spectacular!

**PS. Update from RC 8-12-16**

***Just a heads up that our tower is going to be lead story for Council Connect in the Daily Mercury on 21 Dec! The Council is impressed.***



## BOWEN SCOUT GROUP

*Bowen Group has had a busy term and we are yet to start winding down for Xmas though we can see it on the horizon.*

*Our Cub Scouts held a Sleepover for the Homeless during September as a contribution to the Salvation Army's Couch Project. Cub Scouts visited our local Neighbourhood Centre Community Kitchen and were given information about what the Neighbourhood Centre does. Cub Scouts also undertook activities to help them understand the plight of homeless folk. Each Cub Scout sought sponsorship for participating in the Homeless Sleepover from which they raised almost \$700, since used to provide camping equipment for homeless people, distribution being coordinated by our local Neighbourhood Centre.*

*Cub Scouts have also coordinated the Christmas Giving Tree for our Group - a beautiful tree stands proudly in our Den as gifts and non-perishable foods are collected under its branches. All donations to the Giving Tree will be passed on to the Neighbourhood Centre in time for Christmas.*

*Our Scout and Venturer sections were able to participate in Jota/Joti at Rowallan Park. A big thank you must be sent to Region for making this event possible for yet another year.*

*Scouts recently spent a night learning of the involvement of Bowen Scouts in WW2. We have 2 Troop trophies – the Keith Millar trophy and*



# BOWEN SCOUT GROUP—By Lesley Bullemor

*the Bill Honey Trophy made from WWII shell casings. Both men were Bowen Scouts who went to war but never came home. They also learned of the role our Scouts played as plane spotters. In the November 1939 Annual Report, Bowen Group Scoutmaster Wegert has written "Since the outbreak of war seven Scouts have been accepted for National Service..." We are reminded of the sacrifices these men made which have resulted in our leading a very fortunate life today. Scouts placed a wreath at the Cenotaph in remembrance of these men and others.*



*Scouts have two more activities planned to see the year out. The first is a day trip to Farleigh Mill – we want to learn more about an industry we don't see much of in Bowen. Our neighbours north and south of us grow cane but our dry tropics climate around Bowen is not suited. Scouts will find out more about the production of sugar and see the workings of a mill.*

*A breakup camp is planned for Scout Section at term end. It will be no ordinary camp – Lasertag, Tenpin bowling, trampolining with style at Launchzone, maybe some swimming... those things you cant do easily when you live in a small town like ours. Scouts are fundraising to subsidise costs by providing a presence at the Reef to Ranges Primary Industry weekend held at our showgrounds. They need to stay awake all night, two nights in a row, to get the job done – will be the first time no one is told off for still being awake at 3am on a Scout Camp!*

*Venturer Scouts held a very enjoyable International Food Night where they invited parents to join them for a meal at our Den. Meals were cooked at home by the youth and brought along to share. Food was great, company was great – a wonderful night had by parents and Brolga, which we hope is repeated again next year. Food is a great way to bring*

*people together.*

*A Chill Camp was held at Gumlu where it has been reported that Venturer Scouts did exactly that – chilled..... Nothing too energetic happened and they did not set fire to the paddock they were camped in so all leaders and property owners were happy.*

*During 2016, Venturers have been refining the art of the Paint Fight. They realise you can get mediocre results or with a bit more effort, you can get great results – it is all to do with the paint and how it is delivered... We expect experiments and trial runs to continue in 2017. I have faith the "Venturer Scout Definitive Guide to Paint Fights" will be on the shelf by mid-year!*



*Venturers also coordinated the running of a First Aid course for interested youth, Leaders and parents. Three more youth have gained their First Aid tapes and First Aid Badges. Congratulations.*

*Our Group will see David (Currawong) switch to the VSL role while Crystal (Walara) will swap to AVSL in 2017. Justine (Bagheera) has been working on her Wood Badge Project while Trish (Jaru) and Craig (Kaa) have both completed Basic Scout training and Bushwalking. Daniel (Rama) has been tied up with work and illness but he is eager to complete his basic Cub Scout training early in 2017.*

*In closing, Bowen Leaders would like to thank Region personnel in all roles for what they do which allows Bowen Scouts to be a part of something bigger than Bowen. A training course recently attended outside of Region, prompted one leader to comment on how fortunate we are to have Rowallan Park kept in such good condition – an example of how we can take things for granted. Our Venturer Scouts benefit*

# BOWEN SCOUT GROUP NEWS— By Lesley Bullemor

from the efforts of Leaders in our Region, Kennedy and Branch who put the time into planning and running courses and ventures which our youth are so keen to participate in. There is no doubt all our youth programs would be less diverse without Region so again, thanks Region for your efforts and support during 2016.

**Happy Christmas to you all,  
From Rama, Bagheera, Kaa, Jaru, Walara,  
Currawong and Brolga in Bowen.**



**GL Lesley had her news item before the deadline, Thank You Lesley. This photo from the Farleigh Mill Tour was copied from their Facebook Site. (Editor)**

## Another side of JOTA/JOTI By Lesley Bullemor

For this year's Joti I decided to try something different – late in the first week of October I had seen an advertisement on ScoutLink calling for volunteer Operators for JOTI chatrooms. Hmmm.... Maybe I could do that? I knew I'd have some time spare over the JOTA weekend as I wasn't camping with our Group. I filled out the application, completed the online course, sat the practical test and was accepted. I was lined up ready to go – keen as... I was assigned the task of Channel Operator. This role moderates specific channels, maintains a friendly atmosphere, engages users in conversation, ensures people follow the rules and helps users who have problems..

I signed in on Friday night ready to go and already the channels were humming. I was suddenly terrified! Lines of text were reeling up the screen in front of me and I was required to keep it in some sort of order – what have I gotten myself into? There isn't a handy pause button you can press to slow it all down – it just keeps coming and coming! Ideally there are multiple operators working a channel together – one will try to make conversations with Scouts and Guides while another will be manning the warning messages and kicking users who break Scoutlink rules. Behind those operators in channel are others who are supporting/

supervising the channel operators and the channels with greater powers – they are the ones who can ban people, change user nicknames and passwords etc. Even more are there managing the infrastructure and handling technical glitches.

Channel operators are located in different parts of the world. As I only speak English I learned only about those working in the English channels. I met one other Australian operator from Sydney but there could have been more – there was not much time to be making idle conversation. Being a channel operator can be attempted from anywhere as long as you have the internet connection – you use the same software that we get our youth to use – either Scoutlink webchat or mIRC.

I was free to give as much or as little time as I chose to the event. Once the adrenalin kicked in I worked out how to be more speedy in my response times. I learned that a large monitor makes it easier to read multiple channels at once, in a larger type size so I did not need to squint so much. I learned to take the Panadol before I started my shift. I learned that I really enjoyed being a channel operator!

In the many prior years of JOTI where I was on the other side of the chat channel, I never got to talk to so many people. It was great contributing to efforts to get Cub Scouts from Indonesia to have conversations with others in the Denmark, or to learn about the badgework of Mauritian Scouts or the camp that the Guides were on. With a little help most youth could make meaningful conversation – and it does not have to be in a private message window.

I am in awe of the way the Scoutlink team manage the whole Scoutlink side of the JOTI experience. At times there were fewer operators than channels – many were multitasking and many got little sleep that weekend. 2016 JOTI saw the greatest number of users online simultaneously to date – I understand the peak saw 7000 simultaneous users up from 6000 in 2015.

When I signed off on Sunday night – when it was all said and done, I considered how I felt about the experience. From being a complete novice 2 weeks earlier, I went through phases of being terrified, intimidated and feeling that I may never be able to bring the channel to some sort of order yet when I finished the event I was feeling as if I had run with the bulls and survived! The experience of working as a channel operator over JOTI is one that will stay with me for a long time. Without doubt, one of the most positive experiences in my Scouting career made possible by the supportive team from Scoutlink. Why not consider whether you'd like to try your hand next year? I can recommend it.

**Lesley Bullemor  
GL Bowen**



# GRACEMERE SCOUT GROUP—JOTA JOTI By Scott Neill

## CENTRAL ZONE - JOTA JOTI



*JOTA this year was a huge success. There were approximately 150 Youth members between the Girl Guides and the Scouts. In addition to that there was about 30 adults keeping things sane! There were very little if any discipline issues given the number of youth members.*

*We had 2 sets of duplicated bases so that given the numbers everyone got to have a go at everything. We had a JOTI base, a JOTA base, a games base, signals and codebreaking base and GPS Orienteering.*

*There was a CFA Fire truck and its Emergency Communications base truck there as well assisting with the JOTA base. We even managed to Skype the Gladstone group at lunch time!*

*The Scouts camped from Friday night, Cub Scouts and Guides camped Saturday night only. The Joey Scouts and Junior Guides stayed for the day's activity rotations.*

*After the younger members left for the day we had an afternoon of water activities and water slides. Following dinner, we had a group campfire. Still buzzing with energy, we had a wide game that put them all to sleep!*

*Scouts own and a hike was held on Sunday morning. Everyone received the JOTA badges and had a great weekend from all reports.*

*I will run this camp as a Central Zone again to all the Scouts and Guides.*

**Scott Neill, Group Leader, Gracemere Scout Group**

### JOTA—JOTI ROWALLAN PARK

*Communication is an integral part of the Scouting educational program. Worldwide on the third weekend of October every year members of scouting and guiding take part in JOTA and JOTI.*



*Each year the Mackay Amateur Radio Club sets up and man's a base at Rowallan Park for the youth members to talk to other scouts and guides throughout Australia and Asia. This year we had a couple of radios running and a particularly good contact was from South Korea.*

*Jamboree of the Internet is very popular as today's youth find it easy to use digital communication and to chat online to other scouting members all over the world. This year they made many contact with scouting members from over 33 countries with interesting discussions with Scouts from the Philippines, Indonesia, England, Canada, Turkey and many other countries.*

*An electronics base was also set up for the cubs and scouts to try as well. The Scouts made a flashing LED kit and the cubs made a Morse code device. Around 100 Scouting members from Bowen, Sarina, Pioneer Valley, Banksia, and Mackay City Central camped at Rowallan Park to take the opportunity to make the most of this worthwhile experience.*





# Mackay City Central & Sarina Scout Group

Mackay City Central Cub Scouts took to the streets of Mackay for a Heritage Walk, and were given a history lesson about the settlement of Mackay, places of interest and significant buildings. These activities meets part of the requirements of the Local History Badge.

This activity provided Leaders with an opportunity to share their memories of things in the past and reflect on the changing streetscape of Mackay, the buildings that no longer exist and the changing use of venues and facilities along the way.

On the weekend of 20 November, the Cub Scout and Leaders participated in an organised tour of the Sarina Sugar Shed. The group watched a video, saw some early farm machinery and learned about sugar milling and the many uses of the variety of by-products resulting at each step in the milling process. They had the opportunity to taste some sweet treats at the mini mill. The tour guide took them back into the auditorium where the Cub Scouts lined up for freshly made fairy floss and tasted a range of condiments produced on site. At the end of the 90 minute tour, they then enjoyed a picnic lunch at the near-by playground.

The Mackay City Central Cub Scouts still have plenty of activities and celebrations on their program before the end of the scouting year, such as a talent night, a camp, Awards presentation, an Advancement Ceremony and a Christmas party. These activities will finish off another exciting year for the Cub Scout and we will look forward to having them return for another exciting year in 2017.

**Debra Rutherford, Cub Scout Leader, MCC Group**



## GREY WOLF AWARD—EMILY WRIGHT

Sarina Cub Scout Emily Wright has achieved the highest award in the Cub Scout Section the Grey Wolf Award. Hard work and lots of effort is needed to complete all the requirements of this award.

To be a Grey Wolf recipient Emily was required to complete a multitude of badges

independently as well as be an active member of her Six. Throughout the journey Emily has found herself challenged physically, mentally and spiritually.

Emily helped plan and took part in a hike along Salonika Beach where they discussed the natural and manmade things they encountered along the way. She also made a Board Game in the Jungle Book theme to present to the pack.

Region Commissioner Mr Dougal McWhinney presented Emily with her Grey Wolf Award at a special ceremony held at the Sarina Scout Den. To complete the ceremonies for the day Emily had her advancement ceremony to the Scout Section.

It was a proud moment for Emily, her very supportive family and fellow members of the Sarina Scout Group. We wish Emily all the best as she embarks on a new set of Scouting challenges.

**By Jodie Parchert, Sarina Scout Group Comm.**



**Sarina Cuboree Participants**



# BANKSIA SCOUT GROUP

## QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD —MADDISON HAZELL

*Banksia Venturer Scout Maddison Hazell achieved the requirements of the Queen's Scout Award (QSA) and was presented with her badge at a Special ceremony to celebrate this significant achievement on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The QSA is the highest award in the Venturer Scout Section.*

*Maddison joined the Banksia Venturer Scouts after some encouragement from her parents as she was the only one in the family that was missing out in the fun of scouting. Her brother Nicholas was advancing through the younger sections of scouting, her dad, Jason was a Scout Leader, and her mum Robyn was a committee member of Banksia Scout Group. Maddison was old enough to join Venturer Scouts so that is where her journey in scouting began.*



*Member for Mackay, Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Mayor of Mackay Mr Greg Williamson and Region Commissioner Mr Dougal McWhinney were special guests at the ceremony.*

*To achieve the Queen's Scout Award the Venturer Scout firstly completes the requirements of the Venturer Scout Award and then completes a minimum of 30 hours each in four areas to complete it. In the Outdoor Activities, Maddison chose the Expedition and helped organise and took part in a four day Hinchinbrook Island Hike Camp. For Community Involvement, she took part in the Driver Reviver activities as a part of her*

*community service. In Leadership Development attended at Leadership Course and was then required to take a position on the Unit Council for at least a period of six months. For the Personal Growth section she completed a Level 1 and Level 2 Kayaking Course that has VET qualifications. Maddison has not progressed to the Rover Scout Section at this stage but has not ruled out that she may do so at some time in the future. Maddison's celebration concluded with the cutting of a celebration cake.*

*By M Wallace, RL Community Relations*

## GREY WOLF AWARD—

### ETHAN WARD & SEAN McKENZIE



*Cub Scouts Ethan Ward and Sean McKenzie were recently presented with their Grey Wolf Awards at a special ceremony to mark the occasion.*

*To complete the outdoor activities section of this award, many camps and activities were attended by the youth members including Banksia Cub Pack camps, Scoutfest & Scoutcare and JOTA JOTI all Region camps.*

*The hikes completed saw a challenging hike from the den to Lamberts Beach for Ethan and from Lagoons Café to Bluewater Quay for Sean. The Pack Council's attended by the Cub Scouts, helped to shape the program for the entire Pack as well as making important decisions, such as the menu on camps.*

*Ethan joined Banksia Cub Scouts in 2013. He successfully completed all levels of Boomerang. The Level 2 badges which Ethan chose to complete were the Musician, Information Technology, Pets & International Culture. He has also completed his Waterwise badge.*



# AQUATASTICS—SHAVE FOR A CURE

## ***Banksia Grey Wolf Award Continued***

*For the Jungle Book resource, both Ethan and Sean presented a game to the Pack. As you can see, this represents a significant effort by the Cub Scouts to finish this award.*

***By Joanne Hamilton, Banksia Cub Scout Leader.***

## **AQUATASTICS**

*Around 60 youth members of scouting and their leaders agreed that the best place to be on a hot day was enjoying the outdoors at the Annual Aquatastics Carnival which was held at Victoria Park School Pool, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.*

*The focus of the activity was for the youth members to have fun rather than being competitive, even though a “Team Spirit Award Trophy” the “Golden Snorkel” was awarded. This year’s winner was the Joey Scout Section who were very vocal in encouraging and supporting their team members.*

*There were plenty of fun activities for all sections of scouting, including: sponge pass, water balloon toss, freestyle races, ping pong challenge, ring relay, air mattress race, dolphin race, lolly frog relay, team challenge, and rescue relay.*

*By the end of the afternoon’s activities there were many very excited but tired scouting youth members, who I am sure will want to come back next year to challenge for the Golden Snorkel Award.*



## **TAPE A LEADER TO A WALL**



*The very brave Banksia Venturer Scout Leader Joann Brzozowski (Pera) agreed to take part in the Leukemia Foundation 2017 Shave for a Cure. The Venturer Scouts are now conjuring up novel ways to raise money for the event.*

*Pera has agreed to allow the Venturer Scouts to colour her hair if they raise \$500, bleach and colour her hair if they raise \$750, or shave her head if they raise \$5000.*

*The scouting spirit has come to the fore, the venturer scouts are adamant that Pera will have a shaved head. Even other leaders in the group have joined in to assist the Venturer Scouts with their fundraising endeavours for this worthwhile cause. On the weekend of JOTA JOTI when scouting groups were camping at Rowallan Park, scouting members could buy two pieces of duct tape for a gold coin donation so they could tape leaders Geoff Kitchin and Jason Hazell to a wall. This was a very successful fundraising activity.*

*Since then the Venturer Scouts have raised more money by face painting and hair colouring at a Banksia Group Halloween Disco at their Scout Den.*

*Future fundraising activities for Shave for a Cure for early in the New Year there will be Trivia nights but in the meantime during the summer holidays the Venturer Scouts are hoping to raise money by mowing lawns, washing cars and weeding gardens.*

***M Wallace, Editor***



# ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARDS + Misc Photos

Adult Leadership Awards were announced on World Scout Day 1st August, they are listed below. Congratulations for your continued support to scouting. Without the dedication of the leaders and the volunteering of many hours, scouting wouldn't happen.

Special Service Award	- DEBORAH SIMPSON - Adult Member (Treasurer) (Banksia Scout Group)
Meritorious Service Award	- KEA MCNEILL - Joey Scout Leader (Banksia Scout Group)
Meritorious Service Award	- VICKI RASMUSSEN - Assistant Group Leader (Kareeba Scout Group)
Meritorious Service Award	- QUENTIN REDSHAW - Group Leader (Dolphin Sea Scout Scout Group)
Meritorious Service Award	- KATHRYN ROBERTS - Adult Member (Dolphin Sea Scout Scout Group)
Meritorious Service Award	- WILLIAM VAN DUIN - Scout Leader (Kareeba Scout Group)
Silver Wattle	- Dougal McWhinney, Region Commissioner, Central Coast Region
Silver Koala	- PETER RASMUSSEN - Venturer Scout Leader (Kareeba Scout Group)
Silver Koala	- JEFFREY RODER - Cub Scout Leader (Warripari Scout Group)
Silver Emu	- GARY MURRAY - Group Leader (Warripari Scout Group)



RC Dougal McWhinney presenting Deborah Simpson with her Special Service Award



RC Dougal McWhinney thanking Mackay Amateur Radio Club at JOTA



BANKSIA CUBOREE PARTICIPANTS



MT ARCHER GROUP AT ANACONDA



# CENTRAL COAST VENTURE

*Kinchant Dam was the place to be for fun activities and chilling out after school exams, for 48 youth members of scouting to relieve the pressure and to wind down from another exciting year. Visiting Venturer Scouts and older Scouts from Townsville, Bowen, Moranbah and Rockhampton joined with members from Mackay City Central, Banksia, Sarina and Pioneer Valley so they could try what the Venturer Scouts do. 7 Rovers Scout and 6 leaders and some adult helpers were there to guide, and attend to their welfare.*

*The Dam was a hive of activity with two speed boats taking the Venturer Scouts tubing. There was Canoeing, raft building, and an Epic Water Weed Challenge to remove water weeds from the shallow edge of the dam. In the Chill Out Zone there was a game of Yatzehe which was super- sized and Ker-Plunk, and a giant sized Jengo to choose from. On Sunday morning they held their annual t-shirt painting activity.*

*This was the last of the major activities for the Venturer Scout Section for 2016 and the youth members are now busy planning for an even more exciting 2017 Scouting Year.*



## THANK YOU

*Thanks to the Group Leaders, Region Leaders, and leaders who regular send me items for the Region Newsletter, and Encompass, it is a great team effort and I would not be able to do my job without your contributions. Also thanks to the leaders in the groups around Mackay for the contributions for the weekly Midweek column, it is a great way to let people know what is happening in scouting. Merry Christmas to you all, and your families, hoping you have a good health and happiness in 2017.*

*Cheers Mary Wallace, Editor.*

*Merry Christmas*