

Central Coast Region Newsletter

APRIL EDITION 2017

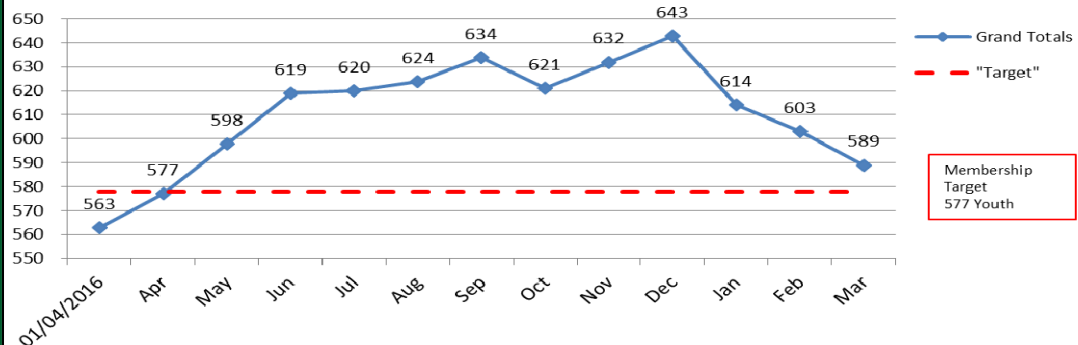
EDITOR MARY WALLACE

Region Commissioner's Report

Welcome everyone to a new Scouting year.

Youth membership count for the region took a dive towards the end of March but we achieved greater than 10% growth (target I set in April last year). In December 2016, the region reached a peak of 643 youth members. The total number of youth members in the region as at the end of March was 589 comprising of 55 Joey Scouts, 227 Cub Scouts, 218 Scouts, 67 Venturer Scouts

Central Coast Region (2016 - 2017)



and 22 Rover Scouts. This count is up 4.6% since 01 April 2016.

Leader numbers have fluctuated. At present we have 105 Leaders (section/group), 52 Support Members (Adult Members & Helpers), 10 Region Leaders and 29 Fellowship members.

Nikki McWhinney (ARC Group Support - North) once again arranged for Scouts to be represented at the recent Mackay Regional Council's Sports Expo. It was another good event and we had very good interest from members (both youth and adult) wanting to possibly join. Dwayne Kersey (ARC Group Support - Central) arranged to attend a similar event in Rockhampton on the same day. There was interest shown at the event. Not certain if all the interest at both events turned into hard numbers but it was a good start to the year. Towards the end of last year we announced the winning design for the region badge. Unfortunately it took a bit of time to get the badge produced but should now be available fairly quickly. I distributed the new badges to all the groups and look forward to seeing them on uniforms in the coming term. 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 Coast Region)



Calliope ANZAC PARADE

ANZAC Photos copied from Facebook.

DATES TO REMEMBER

29-30 July Scoutfest,
Rowallan Park



Mackay ANZAC Parade

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Rockhampton ANZAC Parade

Region News—YPR & Rowallan Park Scout Fellowship



Above—Photo from Youth Program Review session at Rowallan Park with the youth members who attended.

Below—Photo of some of the attendees at Seeonee Park.



A huge BRAVO to Mackay Regional Council for continuing to support community organisations. This week we received money as a part of the Better Community Building Fund to assist with the building of a new machinery workshop at Rowallan Park.



Scout Fellowship held its first meeting for 2017 with a social gathering and lunch, in the casual atmosphere in the shade of the trees at The Old Station Tea House on Cape Hillsborough Road. The main activities of the committee that were discussed was their involvement in Driver Reviver Stop at Waverley Creek from Boxing Day to New Year's Day.

The abseiling tower at Rowallan Park, which will be a great asset to Scouting and the Community, is awaiting the final approval from Branch HQ before it is put to good use. Thank you to Mackay Rotary Club, they are involved with the landscaping in the vicinity of the tower. Solar Panels have been installed at the activities shed at Rowallan Park and early March has been set for the connection to the grid. A new tractor shed at Rowallan Park is also planned.

Jason Hazell, ARC Campsites, outlined what Major Events will be held in 2017 at Rowallan Park.

The most exciting news for the Scout Fellowship is a Major Fundraising Event that will be held at Rowallan Park on 23rd September 2017.

James and April Rogers and a small band of volunteers are in the process of securing artists for a Music Festival. Support of this event will benefit not only scouting but the many organisations that use Rowallan Park for camps or training weekends.

Please contact Jason Hazell at 0409517877 if you would like to be involved with Scout Fellowship and volunteering your time to help with improvements at Rowallan Park. There are two types of membership, a working membership for those who are willing to volunteer and help with the work and a social



Banksia Scout Group—Australian Scout Medallions



Banksia Scout Matthew Vella has earned the Australian Scout Medallion the highest award in the scout section and was recently presented with this award at a special ceremony at the Banksia Scout Den, at Fernleigh Avenue, Andergrove.

Matthew has been a scout at Banksia Scout Group for 4 years. During this time he attended all section nights at the den, visited the local emergencies services including SES, Rural Fire Bridge, RACQ helicopter and 4CRM radio. He especially enjoyed caving and on two occasions he attended camps near Rockhampton to take part in this activity.

To achieve the Australian Scout medallion Matthew completed badge work in campcraft, citizenship, emergencies, water safety and water activities. To finalise this award Matthew organised and attended a two night hike in Eungella for a 30 km journey where youth members were required to carry everything needed for the camp.

Being a member of scouting, Matthew experienced two main highlights on his scouting journey, one was attending the 24th Australian Scout Jamboree in Sydney, where he took part in activities with scouts from all over Australia as well as some overseas contingents. His second highlight was that he had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister Mr Malcolm Turnbull when he visited Mackay.

Scout Leader, Sonia Andrews said that Matthew is a well mannered young man, and has been an absolute pleasure to work with over the past four years and on behalf of the Banksia Scout Group she wished him all the best as he continues his scouting life with the Venturer Scout Unit.



Banksia Scout Lachlan McKendry was presented with his Australian Scout Medallion (ASM) at a Special Ceremony at Banksia Scout Group, Fernleigh Avenue, Andergrove, on Friday 17th March, 2017.

Lachlan proved that he was a worthy recipient of the ASM by achieving the goals required when advancing through the three levels of the scout section.

Lachlan advanced from Cub Scouts to Scouts at Banksia Scout Group about 5 years ago. His leaders have seen Lachlan develop into a fine young adult and have observed his skill level improve with each level he advanced through. In each of these levels the scout must participate in and plan a journey for explorer and adventurer levels. For his explorer badge, Lachlan did a 60 kilometre bike hike and helped plan and organise it with another Adventurer level scout, who had to plan for a 120 km bike hike. Lachlan also participated in a hike from the diggings to Crediton in the Eungella National Park.

The highlights of Lachlan's time in the scout section was doing caving, rock climbing and abseiling activities as well as attending the Jamboree near Sydney in 2016.

Lachlan's parents David and Marina presented his Australian Scout Medallion and Ken Trinder, Jason Hazell and Sonia Andrews presented his badge and gift.

The Leaders wished Lachlan all the best as he continues his scouting life with the Venturer Unit.

Pioneer Valley Scout Group—by GL Sue Jensen

The year started with an investiture which was carried over from the end of last year and a hike for the Youth members from the hall to the Marian Town Centre. The Youth members really enjoyed the night hike and activities they engaged in at the town centre, which included a mapping activity.



On Saturday 4 February we had a sausage sizzle and sign on day at the Marian Town Centre Woolworths and there was some interest from the community.

On 10th February we had our “Come and try Scouting” night and encouraged existing Youth members to bring along a friend. We had five different bases set up with various activities – construction, codes, Kim’s game (both a sight base and a feel base) and Goo making. There was plenty of interest.

We have three new Scouts from the interest gathered by promotion on our Facebook page, from the sign on day and the come and try night. One new member was invested prior to the Easter break.

On 24th February Pera and some Venturer Scouts came to do some environmental activities with our whole group. The Youth members learnt heaps about the environment. We are very grateful for Pera coming out to teach us something different.

We had an excursion to 4CRM on 3rd March and all Youth members, as well as Smokey and Baloo (who came along to document the event) had a turn at announcing a song each. The

group created a “tag” as well and we heard in on the radio as we were driving home. Everyone who attended was given a copy of the recording for the show that evening as their own keepsake. We had planned on going to the RACQ CQ Rescue hangar for an end of term activity, but TC



**3 Generations Region Leader Mary Wallace
Scout Damon Jensen, GL Sue Jensen**



Bring a Friend Activity



Debbie put an end to that. Most of the families were still without power by the Friday evening and the rescue service had been busy all week. Everyone managed to come through TC Debbie with little to no damage.

This coming term we have the ANZAC day service to attend and more fun planned for our little group.



Environmental Activities— MCC & Venturer Scouts

The Cub Scouts at Mackay City Central Scout Group were recently visited by Fiona Paterson (Environmental Education Officer, Waste Services, Mackay Regional Council) to talk to the Pack about worms.

Fiona brought a plastic cut away model of a worm farm and gave a very informative talk about the fascinating facts of a worm's life. The Cub Scouts learned about the importance of using the right materials to properly set up a worm farm, the food (scraps) and organic material they particularly like, the things they don't like (citrus fruit and too much water) and the benefits of having a worm farm and the use for their waste (castings and worm juice).

Cub Scouts were able to take a close look (under a magnifying glass) at some worms and Fiona showed us a working worm farm – complete with food scraps, worms and castings. She demonstrated and explained why worms don't like light.

The Cub Scouts enjoyed learning about worms so much, that they want to start their own worm farm. Fiona's visit formed part of the Cub Scout award scheme (The Natural Environment – Recycling) and it complemented the recycling tour the Cub Scouts undertook last year at Cape Hillsborough Nature Resort where the Pack learned about the various ways the Park staff recycle waste (including water recycling).

By CSL Debbie Rutherford.



On the weekend of the 8-9th of April nine Venturer Scouts from Banksia Scout Group and three from Calliope Scout Group attended an Environmental Course at Banksia Scout Den. After the learning about clean air and clean water and minimal impact, the Venturer Scouts took part in a clean-up as a part of the environment course preparing/recovery from a natural disaster. Tropical Cyclone Debbie provided them with a suitable project so the Venturer Scouts donned some protective clothing and with nothing more than some pruning saws, rakes and a wheel barrow, they removed debris from local parks in the Andergrove, Beaconsfield area. Each Venturer Scout picked up dragged wheeled or carried the debris that was scattered all over the parks to kerbside piles ready for collection by the Mackay Regional Council. The Venturer scouts assisted to remove several tonnes of branches and leaves from three separate parks, Jaycee Park, Mansfield Drive Park, and the large open area from Oak St through to Tanglewood Park on Dapplewood Cl. Not satisfied with their contribution they then walked through Morag McNichol Reserve collecting several bags of Rubbish moving any branches off the walking trails.

By Venturer Scout Leader Jo Brzozowski



Central Queensland Rover Service Moot



A Scout takes care of the environment, is one of the scout laws that a scout abides by when making their Promise and Law when invested. This law is something that a scout carries on through the rest of their lives.

On Saturday 18th February the Central Queensland Rover Service Moot was held at Newry Island, near Seaforth. Two rangers from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service 16 scouting members, and two guests took part in weed management, removing rubbish from the beach, and maintaining the walking tracks.

The weed management included hand removal of Mossman Burr, Snakeweed, Guinea Grass, Giant sticky weed and Mother-or-millions. The members who worked with the tools, undertook track work clearing vegetation and fallen trees/branches and reinstating old drains. There was also a thorough clean-up of the beach area and camping/day use area.

Rover Scouts from Mackay Rovers, Fitzroy Rovers, Hinkler Rovers, and Dolphin Rover Crew were in attendance. Each year one of the four areas hosts the service moot in their area.

As a guest, I was very impressed with the conduct of these young people and their willingness to take part in the activities. I am pleased to report that there were many bags of weeds for the Rangers to destroy. Most of all what a beautiful place to visit and be kept clean and tidy for others to enjoy.

M Wallace, Region Leader.



Gracemere Scout Group



***First night back Pool night**
Gracemere started the year off with a massive pool night! Was a heap of fun and a great start to a fun term!*

***CQ Sports Expo**
Gracemere along with other Central Area Scouts had a stall at the Expo, it was a very worthwhile experience with many enquiries.*

***Leaders in Mexico**
Gracemere Scouts had 2 leaders (Ko and Quokka) take a vacation and during their travels they came across 2 Mexican Scout youth! The Scout symbol is universal*



***26/02 Founders Day**
Gracemere Scouts had a fair bit of publicity over the last couple of weeks, we had a stint on the local radio station 4RO with our kids talking about Founders day. Gracemere Scouts and Gracemere Girl Guides organized the Central Areas Founders Day. We had a huge turn out with games, cake and group photo!*

***5/03 Clean up Australia Day**
Gracemere Scouts participated in Clean Up Australia day this year. We had around 60 youth members and parents attend. We managed to get 2 trailer loads of rubbish and finished off with a BBQ at Springers Lagoon Gracemere. We were in the paper and the Morning Bulletins websites.
<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/videos/scouts-help-clean-australia/46952/>*

***General Camps**
This term has been incredibly busy, we have had the Joey Scout Pirate Camp at Yeppoon, Cub Leadership Camp and a patrol camp*

***18/03 Hopalong**
Gracemere Scouts sent our 2 Joey Scout Leaders to Hopalong in Brisbane for the weekend. Quokka and Gecko learnt a lot and are planning an information share next Group Council.*

***Scott Neill,
Gracemere Scout Group.***



Biloela Scout Group

The Open Day kicked off with the investiture of our group's leaders. The Ceremony was so moving that we almost opened the skies with some much needed rain for Biloela. It was great to see the leaders get their families involved during the investiture with parents and children of our leaders presenting their Scarves. It was also great to see the support of the other groups from the region come along to support our event. Leaders and youth members travelled from Mackay, Yeppoon, Gracemere, Gladstone, Calliope and even Brisbane to our event. The support we received has been completely overwhelming.

During the reopening of the Scout Group we had some History come out, with Diver (Gordon Frewen - Lloyd) participating in the cutting of the ribbon. Diver helped build the original section of the hall back in app. 1952, Diver was very proud, to be a part of this ceremony, he also brought along some invaluable written material which describes the early beginning of Biloela Scout Group From June 1952, it also went on to finish with these words which still ring true today "for a Scout Group to carry on successfully three very important things are required (i) boys (2) Scouters (3) Parents and Friends to help on the committee". It was with great pride to sit their reading this document to feel that in Biloela we have re-established this opportunity for our children, now it is up to us as a community to keep it alive.

The Children turned out for the day and had an absolute blast, parents were finding it hard to drag them away from the activities despite the heat and humidity, due to the open day the number of interested children has reached 66, and still growing due to word being spread around town. The bush telegraph is an amazing thing. With another Scout leader added to the mix and our Secretary's position being filled and plenty of other opportunities presenting themselves to us from the community, the Open Day was a huge success.

Once again I thank everyone from the scouting community for their assistance, now we just need to **"BE PREPARED FOR NEW ADVENTURE"**.



I am hoping that all Scouting families and friends have recovered from Cyclone Debbie's fury or the following flood.

M Wallace, Editor