

# Central Coast Region Newsletter

JULY EDITION 2017

EDITOR MARY WALLACE

## Region Commissioner's Report

*Hi everyone, the year is now half way through and hasn't it flown!*

### Membership

*The total number of youth members in the region as at the end of June was 631 comprising of 69 Joey Scouts, 237 Cub Scouts, 221 Scouts, 72 Venturer Scouts and 23 Rover Scouts. This count is up 7% since 01 April 2017. The overall target for this year is 604 Youth members (each group to grow by at least 1 youth member).*

*At present, we have a total of 189 Adult Members comprising of 10 Region Leaders, 105 group/section Leaders, 52 Support Members (Adult Members & Adult Helpers), and 29 Fellowship members.*

### Rowallan Park Abseiling Tower

*On June 17, the Rowallan Park Abseiling Tower was officially opened by the Mackay Regional Council Mayor. After the opening, I was joined by the Mayor and our Patron in abseiling down the large face. A great morning was had by all and I thank the Rowallan Park Fellowship in arranging the morning tea for the event.*

### Training

*Recently we held an Advanced Practical Course and a Basic Outdoor Skills course and hope to hold a Basic Practical at Rowallan Park in September.*

### ScoutFest

*As you all know ScoutFest is on at the end of July at Rowallan Park and the event is in its final stages of preparation.*

*The committee have been very busy getting the activities organised and it looks like it will be another great event. I look forward to your support and suggest you contact Katrina Hoare if you or someone you know can assist with anything.*

*Yours in Scouting*

*Kingfisher*

*Dougal McWhinney  
Region Commissioner*

*(Central Coast Region)*



BC CS Tim Gibbins survived  
abseiling at Rowallan Park

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

29-30 July Scoutfest,  
Rowallan Park

19-20 August Annual Region  
Management Seminar



Drop Bear makes it look so  
easy (Nerves of steel)

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Cutting the Ribbon at Opening of  
Abseiling Tower





# Official Open of Abseil Tower at Rowallan Park

*The Abseil Tower at Rowallan Park was official opened on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This was a long awaited dream of the scouting community of Mackay and District, which is the Northern section of the Central Coast Region.*

*In 2015 the then Mayor Mrs Deidre Comerford made us aware that we would be eligible for Mackay Regional Council's Better Community Building Fund. The application was made and building plans approved and in July 2016 the present Mayor Mr Greg Williamson turned the sod at the site where the tower now stands. The tower is 12 metres tall and has platforms at 5 and 10 metres.*

*At the official opening the Mayor Mr Greg Williamson, Mr Dougal McWhinney Region Commissioner Central Coast Region and two Banksia Scouts cut the ribbon, this was followed by Mr Williamson, Mrs Julieanne Gilbert Member for Mackay and Patron of Scouting and Mr Dougal McWhinney abseiling from the 10 metre platform. Other members of scouting and community members were then invited to abseil.*

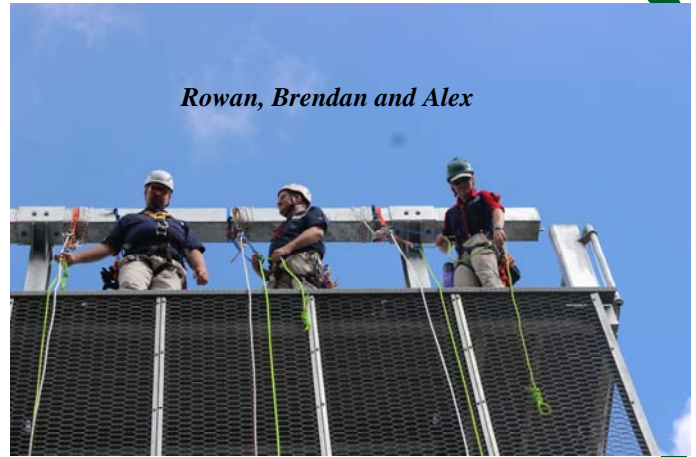
*Mr Tim Gibbins Branch Commissioner for Cub Scout represented the Chief Commissioner of Queensland and he also took part in the abseiling.*

*A Bravo to Region Commissioner Dougal McWhinney, and his Dad, Bill McWhinney for the endless hours spent on the plans to have this wonderful tower constructed.*

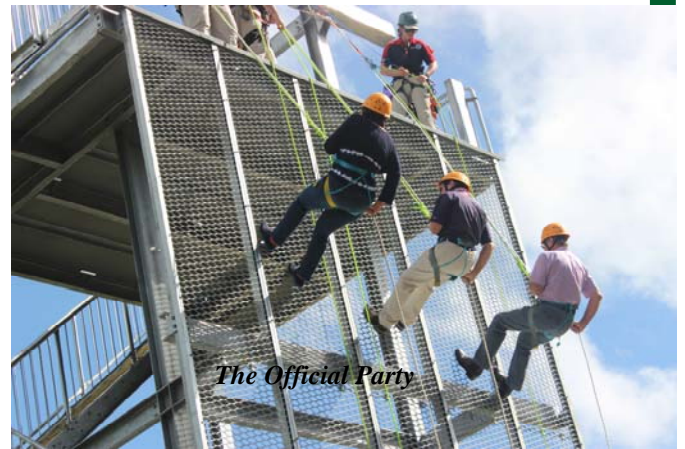
*Now that the tower is in use thanks goes to Brendan Ross, Alex Cinelli, Rowan Cahill and Joanne Hamilton for capably managing the abseiling activities. Thanks to visiting VL Peter Rasmussen and Mackay Venturer Scouts who helped with the donning of the harnesses and helmets at the opening.*

*There is no doubt that this facility will be an asset not only to scouting but other community groups, and training organisations.*

*Mary Wallace (Baloo)  
Region Leader Community Relations*



*Rowan, Brendan and Alex*



*The Official Party*



*Baloo*



*The over 65's or plus 10 for one showing that they aren't too old to abseil.*



# Banksia Scout Group—By GL Katrina Hoare

2017 has been a very busy year so far for all sections of Banksia SG.

## GROUP CAMP

Term two started off with a Group camp, a very wet and nasty weekend, however the youth members still had a great time. Chariots and giant games; damper and canoeing as well as exploring the park on Saturday. Even the Group Leader got involved.

With the rain setting in, there was an early pack up which saw the Activity Shed full of tents to dry out. Despite the weather none of the youth complained and a great time was still had by all.



## BANKSIA JOEY SCOUTS

Joey Scouts have been on an Adventure Camp: Train trip from Mackay to Sarina.

Nine very excited Joey Scouts boarded the Spirit of Queensland train on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 as part of their final program to complete their Adventure Badge. The trip was from the Mackay Station to Sarina Station where the Joey Scouts had an overnight camp at the Sarina Scout Den. On the train, Joey Scouts had a snack pack while watching movies. On Saturday, the Joey Scouts visited the Sarina Sugar Shed where they learned all about the sugar industry. Three very proud leaders as both

Queensland Rail and Sarina Sugar Shed complimented the Joey Scouts on their fine behaviour.



The activities continued with the presentation of 4 Promise Badges which is the highest achievable badge in Joey Scouts. The Joey Scout must complete set tasks to a very high standard and present their project to their mob before they can receive their badge. Banksia Joey Scout Leaders were very proud to present the Promise Badge to Jacob, Zac, Catelyn and William (William is absent from the photo)



## BANKSIA CUB SCOUTS

Cooinda & Banyula Packs also participated in the annual City ANZAC Day March with a massive turnout of Cub Scouts from both Packs. Normal pack nights through the rest of the term with compass work and first aid.

Cooinda Pack had a Grey Wolf hike, led by Timothy which saw four Cub Scouts traversing the Bluewater Trail.



# Banksia Scout Group - Continued

The start of June saw another camp, this one with much better weather and a Bushcraft theme. The Cub Scouts learnt about bush shelters, compass work, trail signs and home made stretchers. We also were lucky enough to have Otter come and give us a history talk about Rowallan Park to help achieve the Local History Badge this year.



## BANKSIA SCOUTS

Our Scouts have been very busy after the Group camp starting with the annual Anzac march with 24 youth members attending this year

There was an international cooking night with the scouts cooking fried rice, spaghetti bolognese, and camp oven stew. The best part of the night was sitting at the table and each youth member spoke a sentence in another language, everybody repeated it and then the English version. There was a lot of laughs and fun as well as being educational.

A new patrol has been formed and their first patrol activity was to make a "Panther" sign and picture of a panther to go on the den wall.

Drop Bear visited the Troop one night and instructed CPR with the green level scouts for their Emergencies badge "Thank you Drop Bear."

During Section nights Scouts had a night of Fire where youth members had a blast making damper. Our youth were also treated to a performance by one of their fellow Scouts, Issac Russel and his band NO JUNK MAIL. The band played four songs.

The highlight of the term was the caving adventure for 12 very lucky Scouts, 3 insane Leaders and 1 shell-shocked Parent at Rockhampton Caves. It was a great experience and Scouts are definitely looking forward to going again next year.





# Banksia Scout Group—By Katrina Hoare

## **BANKSIA VENTURER SCOUTS**

Venturer Scouts started the term with a joint camp with the Joey Scout section at Calen and members attended the ANZAC Day Dawn service at Hampden, marching with either their schools or the main march in town.

Several Venturer Scouts participated in the region Survivor Camp at Kinchant Dam. We also had Venturer Scouts attend the Basic outdoor skills course in Townsville and Unit Management Course in Rockhampton.

This term we also had the Inaugural Parent & Venturer hike at Eungella and all the participants had a great time despite the very cold temperatures. A delayed abseiling course saw several Venturer Scouts complete the course attaining Level 1 Scout Abseiling qualifications. The term finished with a Venturer Level Hike. It looks like the Venturer Scouts have really been out and about this term, and they have, but along the way they have also completed a Public speaking course aimed at developing the abilities of all the Venturer Scouts which will help them in many ways.

**BANKSIA SCOUT GROUP**



Celebrations all round with the fantastic news that we were finally successful in our Grant applications for a much need shed extension, solar panels and electrical work. Now the hard work begins the realisation of trying to achieve the above on time and within budget.

There was a good turn out of Banksia members present at the opening of the new abseiling tower at Rowallan Park. A big thank you to Drop Bear, Kipara and Alpaca for a safe and amazing experience, I for one really appreciated not being dropped.

Our monthly fundraiser at Palmyra Drags was huge this month with breakfast for the Drivers on Sunday morning. After a very early and cold start at 5.15am the bacon and eggs were a hit and our hard-working youth members were treated to time in the cars.



Thank you for my invaluable Leaders for all the time and energy you have put into this Term, it has been amazing and really looking forward to Term 3.

Yours in Scouting  
Katrina Hoare  
"Jacala"  
Group Leader





# CAVING IN THE CENTRAL ZONE

*Caving has become a popular activity in scouting.*

*Dwayne Kersey has an interesting article in ISSUE 3 of Scout's Life outlining the caving activities that he conducts around the Rockhampton area.*

*Banksia Scout Group took part in a caving experience recently, pictures below: and more recently Mackay Venturer Scouts bottom right.*



*An Investiture in a cave*



*Photos of Banksia Scouts courtesy of Dwayne Kersey*

