

OBSTACLE HELL Not a Scouting Event



A team of Scouting Members
at Obstacle Hell at Rowallan
Park

DATES TO REMEMBER

ANZAC DAY 25th April 2018



Another Obstacle Hell Photo

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Central Coast Region Newsletter

MAR EDITION 2018

EDITOR MARY WALLACE

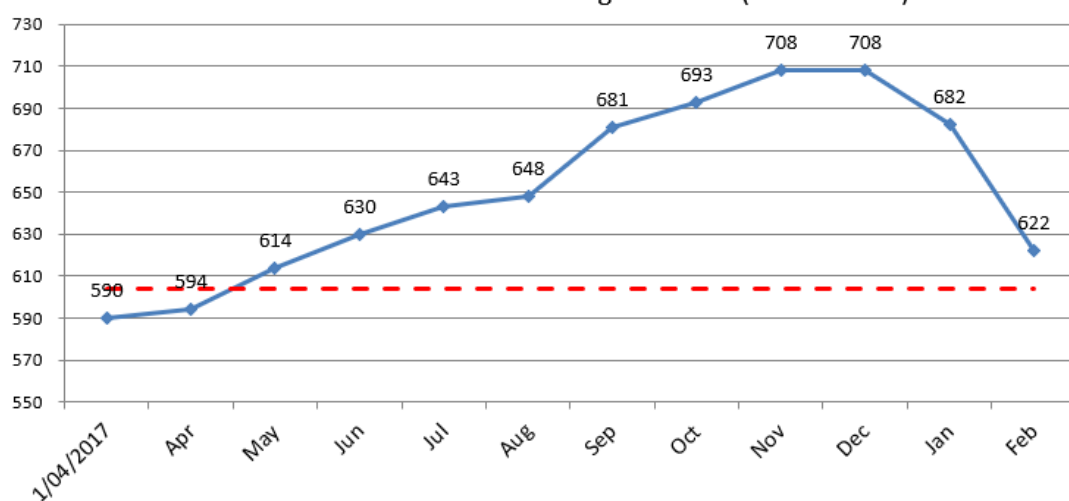
Region Commissioner's Report

Happy New Year to everyone.

Youth Membership

Youth membership growth in the region grew quite nicely from August to November but the end of year cleanout obviously started in January and we lost the ground made in the previous months. In November 2017, the region reached a peak of 708 youth members and the three areas have had mixed growth (North – 12.7%, Central – 2.4%, South – 1.1%). The total number of youth members in the region as at the middle of March was 622 comprising of 61 Joey Scouts, 242 Cub Scouts, 227 Scouts, 69 Venturer Scouts and 23 Rover Scouts. This count is up 5% since 01 April 2017.

Central Coast Region Totals (2017 - 2018)



Leader numbers have also fluctuated. At present we have 109 Leaders (section/group), 48 Support Members (Adult Members & Helpers), 12 Region Leaders and 29 Fellowship members.

Region Restructure

Well the next incantation of the region is almost upon us! The Districts are moving forward. We now have the three District Commissioners appointed, the three districts named and in the next week or so, all the transfers will occur and the Districts will become officially started on 01 April 2018.

Hibiscus Coast District (Current Northern Area)

DC is Katrina Hoare – Formally the GL for Banksia Scout Group

Capricorn District (Current Central Area)

DC is Scott Neill – Formally the GL for Gracemere Scout Group

Port Curtis District (Current Southern Area)

DC is Jeff Wilkinson – Formally the GL for Calliope Scout Group

Exciting times are ahead with some challenges still but look forward to working with everyone to build the Districts and to have the best region in QLD!

Yours in Scouting

Kingfisher

Dougal McWhinney

Region Commissioner (Central Coast Region)

Dougal McWhinney presenting
Hibiscus Coast District
Commissioner Katrina Hoare with
her shoulder colour badge.



Banksia Scout Group

What a busy and exciting Term for one and all!

Australia Day was our first big event of 2018 with the Open Day at the den. What a turn out! The weather was perfect (except for the downpour during setup) and everyone had a great time with damper making, science experiments, chariot races, low rope course and rope bridge.

Our parent volunteers cooked up a storm with a sausage sizzle and slushie machine.



Banksia Joey Scouts – Care & Share

It has been a very busy start to our new year our Joey Scouts have begun with their Care & Share Badge for this term. With guests visiting us from Australia Wildlife Animal Rescue, they brought along the Joeys they are caring for. We had a visit from the Northern Beaches Vet Surgery to talk to us about care for our pets, this gave a chance for our Joey Scouts to bring along their pets to visit the den. There has been lots of fun and games along the way welcoming in some new Joey Scouts and seeing off some of our ones into Cub Scouts.

Some of our biggest highlights this term includes visiting the residents of Carlyle Gardens Retirement Village. The Joey Scouts had a ball playing board games with some of the residents and it was so much fun, the parents joined in as well. Another was our ceremony acknowledging some of the hard work done by our Joey Scouts and other Scouts & Leaders too. Our Joey Scouts celebrated Chloe Kentwell receiving her Promise Challenge Badge, the linking of 3 Joey Scouts - Chloe, Lachlan & Ryan to Cub Scouts as well 2 investitures Cooper & Dwayne. Now to step forward to our next term with some Adventure in the planning.



Banksia Scout Group Cont

Banksia Cooinda Cub Pack

Cooinda Cub Pack has had a great start to 2018. We have made welcome to five new Cub Scouts, mainly wanting to join from participating in our open day held earlier this year. Also, we had a presentation of a Grey Wolf Award to Liam Broadbent. Congratulations Liam and good luck on your future scouting adventures.

Cooinda Cub Scouts have been busy working on boomerang activities. Most popular so far is our self expression program, which saw the Cub Scouts writing poems, preparing skits/plays and making clay figurines.



Banksia Venturer Scouts

On the 2nd of February, Venturer Scouts from across the region flocked to Yeppoon for the Annual Region Venturer Scout Camp. Despite the rather damp forecast, youth members took part in a gruelling Amazing Race, which put problem solving and physical stamina to the test.

After trekking halfway across town, the first Region Venturer Council for 2018 was held, in which new executive council members were elected. These elected members are Angus Nicol (Chairman), Kaylah Pattel (Vice Chairman), Claire Richter (Secretary) and Jarod Roberts (Vice Secretary).

The weekend concluded with a scavenger hunt through the local shopping centre, which left us with an array of photos that are sure to resurface at some Queen Scout presentations.

Overall, despite the dreadful weather, the camp was a success and left everyone with high hopes for the next region camp, the Survivor Camp on the May Day long weekend.

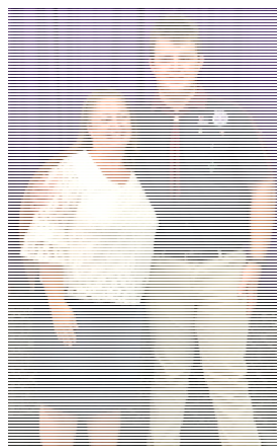


Queen Scout Presentation

It was a pleasure to present Tristan Gardner with his Queens Scout award at Banksia Scout Den on the 24th of February. In attendance were Jason Costigan MP, Julieanne Gilbert MP, and Councillor Justin Englert along with Region Commissioner Dougal McWhinney. It was a lovely afternoon hosted by our Venturer Scouts and we were regaled with stories of the activities that Tristan completed to obtain his Award.

Tristan undertook a wide and varied list of endeavours to achieve his award including Open water Dive qualifications, Canoeing, Service to the Community and to Scouting, Hiking in the Credition State Forest, Caving, Abseiling, Kayaking along with attending Queensland Venture and Australian Venture.

It was mentioned that Tristan has become a valued member of the Unit and is always willing to assist where ever needed and is deserving of the award. Tristan thanked everyone who assisted him to achieve his award, his mother Sandy presented him with his cloth Badge. Tristan is looking forward to progressing to Rovers later in the Year.



BANKSIA SCOUT GROUP

Banksia Scout Group Celebration

What a day! Six years ago, when I joined this group as Group Leader, Banksia Scout Group had 32 youth members and 6 leaders. After our Celebration I am proud to report that we now have 124 youth members and 12 leaders.



Banksia Scout Group is the largest group in not just our district, but also our region, something that I hope you are all as proud of as I am. With a group of this size, we thought it important to share our celebration with the whole group.

It was a full schedule with the presentation of some youth and leader awards, before linking some Joey Scouts to Cub Scouts, investing some new Cub Scouts, linking some Cub Scouts to Scouts and also investing some new scouts.

To start, Hanna "Echidna" presented Chloe Kentwell with her Promise Challenge Badge. The Promise Challenge is an individual badge designed for our older Joey Scouts. It is the major Challenge for the Joey Scout Section and has individual elements as well as activities to do with the Mob.

Next, Jolene "Hathi" introduced Liam Broadbent and outlined the work involved in achieving the Grey Wolf Award. Jolene presented Liam with his Cub Scout Record Book and Jodie (Mum) presented Liam with his Grey Wolf Award in recognition of the support given by her to Liam in helping him achieve this award.

For the last of our youth member awards, Joanne "Rikki" introduced Markus Ackerman and Will McVeigh for their Australian Scout Medallions.

Each youth member was asked who they wanted to present their awards. They chose people who were significant within their lives and who have helped them on their journeys through Scouting and more

importantly in achieving their Australian Scout Medallion.

Rikki presented Markus with his badge and Jaco (Dad) presented his Medallion

Wantibirri presented Will with his badge and Terence (Dad) presented his Medallion

It was then the Leaders' turn. I had the honour of investing Leaders Jolene Mackle and Geoff Kitchin into the 1st Gilwell Troop with their Gilwell Scarves. Jolene's husband Graeme and Geoff's wife Joanne presented their Woodbeads.

And finally, I presented Rowan "Kipara" with his Personal Leader Adviser badge and Joanne "Rikki" with her Guide badge for both canoeing and kayaking.

With these leader awards we have a greater ability to offer activities to our youth members.

Each of these awards represent the pinnacle of achievement in the respective sections, they represent a significant effort made by the individual youth member. Not everyone achieves these awards which go to show how hard each of these youth members and Leaders have worked to achieve their awards.

We finished the day off with linking and investing new youth members, a wonderful BBQ thanks to Peter & Raquel Kentwell and cake (got to love anything that ends with cake).



Banksia Scout Group—Cont. & Bowen Scout Group



The last bit of news to share is the near completion of our new shed. There were a few delays with the weather but it should be finished this week (fingers crossed). We will then move onto installing the new stove, hot water system and solar panels. A long time coming and I owe a huge thank you to David McKendry for putting up with me and my big ideas lol.

Term 1 has started the year off with a bang! Enjoy your Easter break and we will see you all in Term 2.

Katrina "Jacala"
Leader in Charge



Bowen Venturer Scouts had a great start to 2018 with 3 members attending AV. Unit numbers dropped at the end of 2017 with some reaching the age barrier or leaving town to pursue university elsewhere, but so far this year it looks like their numbers will double before the end of 1st term. These new recruits are all from word of mouth by the Venturer Scouts themselves. A very positive sign. Congratulations are due to Kiana who finished her QS prior to moving to Brisbane for Uni and to Emma who recently received the Bowen Australia Day Youth of the Year Award.

Our Cub Scout and Scout sections have had a late start this term - not reopening until late February. Scout section had been closed since March 2017 but with new faces in leader roles, it looks like a troop of 12 scouts by Term 2.



Cub Scouts have lost Rama to the Scout section but have gained Hathi (Emma from Venturer Scouts) and Blake. We also have Beau filling the ASL role. Both Beau and Blake are keen bushwalkers – a good sign for our Group.

With much sadness, this term our Group says 'Goodbye and thank you' to David and Sharon Higgins following 6 years of service to Scouting in Bowen. David started as our Group Leader in late 2011 with Sharon signing up as our Treasurer shortly after. Over the years they have each changed roles several times assisting wherever they were needed. There is no question our youth have benefited from their involvement – be it activities and camps organised, kilometres travelled taking youth to and from or sausages that got sizzled -they have been people we could count on and will be missed.

Lesley Bullemor
GL Bowen Scout Group

MACKAY CITY CENTRAL SCOUT GROUP

Mackay City Central Cub Scouts are off to a great start this year with the presentation of Grey Wolf Award to Shannon Bear who then advanced to the Scout Troop with Cameron Barnard. Congratulations Shannon on receiving your award and we wish you and Cameron every success as you continue on your Scouting adventures.

Congratulations must also go to Chris Bower (Bagheera) who has taken up the appointment of District Cub Scout Leader. Chris and I have worked closely over the last five years or so and her presence at weekly Cub Scout meetings is missed by all.

Welcome to several new families who have joined us so far this year. We are currently undertaking pre-investiture training and look forward to presenting our newest members with their membership badges at their Investiture Ceremony in the near future. Welcome, too, to Mel Patterson (Raksha) to the Cub Section. Mel is currently undertaking her Rover service with us.

The section continues to strive for greatness with Toby Rule leading his Grey Wolf Award ramble on a geocaching activity through the Botanic Gardens recently. What a great way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon. Keep up the consistent effort, Toby – you'll have your Grey Wolf Award in no time.

Our overall theme for this year is "Rainbow Connections" with a four-week block of fun craft, activities and games, being assigned to each colour. So far we have had red themed meetings incorporating safety aspects of the Boomerang challenges and Chinese New Year and are now venturing into our orange phase. In keeping with our current colour, our recent program of Harmony Day activities saw Cub Scouts learning the value of teamwork, multi-culturalism and learning how to say 'hello' and 'goodbye' in several languages. Raven ran this activity and challenged each Cub Scout to say goodbye to the Leaders at the end of the night in one of the languages they had learned.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to a well-earned break, ready to tackle a new term of exciting activities.

Debra Rutherford
Cub Scout Leader

SHANNON BEAR GREY WOLF AWARD

Mackay City Central Cub Scout Shannon Bear was presented with her Grey Wolf Award recently at a special meeting to celebrate the occasion. The Grey Wolf Award is the highest award in the Cub Scout Section and only some members achieve this award.

Shannon joined the scouting in February 2015 and demonstrated leadership and after 12 months was appointed a second and the following year the sixer.

Shannon steadily progressed through the award scheme to complete the requirements of the Grey Wolf Award. She enjoys music and was only too happy to share her talents with her Cub Scout Pack. She also has a passion for Local History and she did a project on the History of the school that she attends which she also presented to her fellow Cub Scouts.

Shannon completed the Boomerang challenge levels, and she led a ramble along the Blue Water Trail between the Den at Lagoon Street to Canelands, ending at Hungry Jacks for a well earned cold drink. She also completed a Cub Scout Leadership Course.

Mackay City Central Cub Scout Leader Debra Rutherford said, "It had been an honour and privilege to guide Shannon through Cub Scouts and the pack wishes her every success as she continues her scouting adventures with the Scout Troop."

A special cake was shared with her family, grandparents, and scouting members of the Group.



ASM ALEXANDER MCWHINNEY—ROVER BOOT CEREMONY ALEX CINELLI



Banksia Scout Alexander McWhinney was presented with an Australian Scout Medallion, which is the highest award in the Scout Section which is the 11 to 15 year age group. He joined Pioneer Valley Scouts in 2014 and transferred to Banksia Scout Group in 2017.

To earn the award the scout must participate in a scout leadership course, achieve the Adventurer Level Cord, and Journey, and demonstrate an active leadership role in scouting through a Leadership Activity. For his Adventurer Target Badge, Alexander completed both the Citizenship and Campcraft targets as the compulsory badges and completed emergencies as his elective.

The journey Alexander completed, took him on a walking hike through the Kroombit Tops National Park, south-west of Gladstone.

During his time as a Scout, Alexander also achieved a total of eight proficiency badges, abseiling, animal keeper, astronomer, communication, craft, fire awareness, individual sportsman and information technology. In addition, Alexander also completed the Scout Leadership Course and Their Service, Our Heritage badges.

Alexander has been the Region Representative to Queensland Branch Youth Council since 2016 and has enjoyed his time with them.

The recipient invites someone who has played a significant role in their life to present the Australian Scout Medallion and Alexander chose his dad, Region Commissioner Dougal McWhinney and his mum, Nikki McWhinney, Assistant Region Commissioner Group Support,

to present the Badge.

Alexander's highlights in scouts have been AJ2016, his Explorer Hike (Eungella National Park) and his Adventurer Level Hike (Kroombit Tops National Park).

A Special cake was cut to celebrate the occasion.

ROVER BOOT CEREMONY—Alex Cinelli
Rover Scout Alex Cinelli was recently booted from



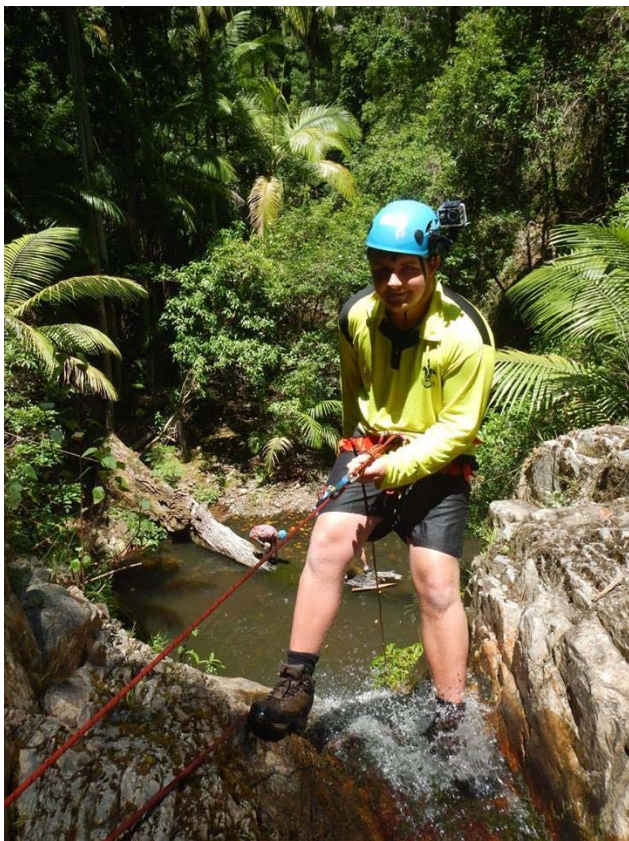
Rovers. She chose some of her favourite places to visit for the weekend of activities, Smalley's Beach near Cape Hillsborough, The St Andrew's Point walking trails at Cape Hillsborough and the Boot Ceremony was held at sundown at Kinchant Dam. Alex is a Teacher Aide at the Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre so it was very fitting for her to have the ceremony at the dam. Alex is a very popular member of scouting and she enjoys the adventurous activities. When there is abseiling, canoeing or electronics you can usually find Alex hard at work. After the ceremony Alex and the Rover Scouts and invited guests celebrated at the Marian Railway Hotel for Dinner.



AV2018—BY TRISTAN GARDNER—WORKSHOP OFFICIAL OPENING

AV2018 - Get a Grip Expedition – By Venturer Scout Tristan Gardner.

From Jan 2 -13, 2018 I participated in the Australian Venture in Brisbane. As part of the Qld Contingent I got to make many new friendships and reunite with some older ones. I chose to participate in the abseiling and hiking expedition which took us into the Gold Coast Hinterland. During the first five days we climbed over large rock faces, walked for kilometres through tropical surroundings, trekked through water holding our packs over our heads and best of all abseiled down waterfalls. This was a once in a lifetime experience that left me both tired and exhilarated at the same time. The remainder of the venture was spent relaxing with friends and doing some activities just for fun. Some of the activities I participated in were trampolines, ice skating, archery tag, playing pool, swimming and geocaching. There were many more activities on offer, but these were the ones I chose. We partied each night with bands and DJs in different themes like 'Beach Party', 'All White' and 'Glow Rave'. Overall, it was an action packed and fun filled ten days that has left me with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.



The official opening of the new workshop at Rowallan Park Scout Camping Grounds by the Mayor of the Mackay Regional Council, Mr Greg Williamson, was recently held. The new workshop was built with the assistance of funding from the Mackay Regional Council's Better Communities Building Fund. Mr Jason Costigan the Member for Whitsunday was also present along with Region Commissioner Mr Dougal McWhinney and members of the Rowallan Park Fellowship.



Happy Easter to All in the Central Coast Region. This is the last Newsletter by me (Mary) for the Region as I will be back doing the District Role. Thank You to all that have contributed, it is much appreciated. Keep up your great work in Scouting

*Mary Wallace, Region
Leader,*

Communitiy Relations



QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD—RILEY SIMPSON

Mackay Venturer Scout Riley Simpson has earned the Queen's Scout Award and was presented with his badge at a special ceremony at Rowallan Park on Saturday 2 December 2017. Region Commissioner Mr Dougal McWhinney along with family, friends and scouting members were present to witness the presentation of this prestigious award.

To achieve that Queen's Scout Award, you must be willing to put in an enormous amount of time to achieve the requirements. Firstly, you must be a Venturer Scout, and then gain the Venturer Skills Award. You must then complete the 4 Awards areas which requires not less than 30 hours each, Community Involvement, Outdoor activities, Personal Growth and Leadership Development. Once completed the processes of approving the award from Group Level, Region Level with a personal interview with the Region Commissioner, and then to Queensland Branch for final approval. Riley began his scouting journey as a Cub Scout, where he earned the Grey Wolf Award, advanced to Scouts where he earned the Australian Scout Medallion and in May 2015 he advanced to Venturer Scouts where he has now achieved the highest award in this section as well, the Queen's Scout Award. Riley's Venturer Scout Leader Joann Brzozowski said she was privileged to witness his drive and determination. As a part of his Queen's Scout Award, Riley achieved Certificate 2 in Business as well as Outdoor Recreation.

At the New Zealand Venture "Inferno" Riley was introduced to caving, he enjoyed the experience so much that he was quick to partake in Caving again at the Queensland Venture. Bat "Dwayne Kersey" who is the caving expert in the Central Coast Region invited him to another caving adventure and he has now completed his Vet Level 1 Qualifications for Caving. He has also been hiking in North Queensland and to Blackdown Tableland in Central Queensland, and to Sapphire for gem fossicking.

At the ceremony Riley thanked all that were present as everyone played some part in his Queen's Scout achievement. He made special mention of his Grandparents, his parents and his Leader Joann Brzozowski and her husband Peter, Brendan Ross Adventurous Activities Leader and Dwayne Kersey for Caving.

At the presentation Riley was also presented with the Endeavour Award. He was a part of the Bell Ringing Group where he achieved a further 50 hours in addition to the 30 hours that he was required to do.

The afternoon concluded with a selection to tasty treats and a special cake to celebrate his achievement.

