



Hunter & Coastal Region Bulletin

October 2004



E-mail: hc.region@nsw.scouts.com.au
Web Site: www.scoutreach.com.au

The Regional Commissioner's Message



You Would Have to Both Deaf & Blind to Have Missed It!

You are, I hope, very well aware that I have been "hammering" overtime this year on the urgent necessity for our Region to grow our numbers. Every month the Chief Commissioner, Graeme Fordham has (and rightly so) as a standing item on his Regional Commissioners' Forum Agenda discussion on the current membership. These Forums are where all the Regional Commissioners attempt to share pearls of wisdom to what is working and not working to improve our overall membership result. You will recall some months ago due to a dramatic decrease in numbers in this Region I wrote that I felt as though I had been tackled by the "raging bull" Gordon Tallis, Broncos tough-man, and sat three rows back in the grandstand! Well I'm delighted to report like most footballers (incidentally if you haven't yet worked it out I did play a lot of rugby league), I've recovered and back on the park because our Region has shown significant improvement and as of 1st September our total numbers are back over 2,900 and climbing. I think and in fact I'm sure that we can reach 3,000 plus by this Christmas and wouldn't that be terrific! Well done to all. This is the best news I've had for a while. Obviously we have a long way to go but the trend is heading in the right direction.

Very shortly various members of my Team will have the pleasure of presenting badges and footballs autographed by every Newcastle Knights player to a number Groups and their youth members for showing a growth within their Group. Congratulations again to all the successful Groups.

Stop the Summer Drop!

However the biggest challenge lies in front of us is how do we retain our number over the Christmas period for the commencement of 2005? Ok, I concede, this period of time is notorious for membership decline but let's take up the challenge and try in earnest not to have a catastrophic decline as we had earlier this year. Let's try not to play the game of snakes and ladders. In our game we don't want snakes only ladders to climb. I challenge you to put infrastructure in place now (and not wait until December) so to provide every incentive for your members to return next year. An example might be to have a Group Family Camp to start the year. I know you have plenty of better ideas.

It's To Help You!

Speaking of retention, one initiative we are implementing at Region is that Adam Ferguson (who was previously District Commissioner of Central Coast Lakes District) is now assisting Kevin Allen our Regional Commissioner (Scouts). One of Adam's important responsibilities will be to put infrastructure in place to assist with the transfer of Scouts to Venturers. This is one area in which we generally perform badly. Generally speaking, Groups that have their own Venturer Units are ok but in Groups that do not, invariably their youth members are given very little or no direction in terms of promoting them to join the Venturer Section. As a reality only 1/3 of the Region have Units so the problem is obvious isn't it? The solution is not so simple but with Adam's experience and ability I am confident we will see a significant improvement in the situation. More about the strategies next Bulletin.

Who's in Charge Here?

One disturbing trend of recent times is the failure of a lot of leader's to accept that, at the end of the day, they are a member of a Team. I'm very mindful and appreciative of the effort and commitment of all Leaders also I know I'm talking to volunteers and I know also that the number of our Leaders are declining so I am reluctant to criticise, so I won't. Let's just say by the way of observation, what I am talking about is simple. The Group Leader / Leader-in-Charge is in charge. The District Commissioner is also in charge of the Group Leaders and so on. When these people make a decision it is expected that the people responsible to them fall into suit. Sure, it should be a request and not a demand but at the end of the day these people have the

delegation and authority to make the decisions, sometimes unpopular but necessary. There are ample forums available however for you to express your opinion and indeed maybe your input might dramatically affect the outcome of the decision made. My observations are (and somewhat more frequently in some Districts) that there is an increasing attitude that "I'm a volunteer and nobody is going to tell me when and what to do!" Scouting cannot and won't survive with this attitude. They are, if you like, the captain of the team. If Ricky Pointing, the Australian Cricket Captain wins the toss and decides to bowl not bat, probably all members on his team won't agree with him but they all will accept the decision in the spirit of good cricket and support their captain. They do not spit the dummy, go home and not play at all. Scouting, my friends, is no different. Like you I have a person I'm responsible to and this is the Chief Commissioner, Graeme Fordham. I might not always agree with him and I don't but I have plenty of opportunity to have input to decisions he has made but in the end what call he makes, I'll accept and to the best of my ability, I'll support him. There is no "I" in "Team". Can I respectfully suggest to all that we each get behind our captain and play the game of Scouting?

Steve Fernie
Regional Commissioner



It been nice to catch up with old leaders and meet new leaders in the various District visits recently undertaken.

Leaders Resource Web Site

We now have had over 500 visits to the web site, and many downloading resources. For these who have not had time have a look, its at <http://www.info.scoutreach.com.au>

Computers

We have approx 120 computers at this time, which have been donated to the Region, with approximately 75 more to come, making over 180 computers in total. Thanks to Graham Pricter, Eric Dowling, Anthony Butler, Glenn Brown and Phil for their help in picking them up from Sydney. Keep an eye out on what will happen to these over the next few months.

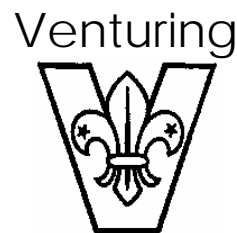
Program Support on Tap

We are now adding programs to the web site, to help newer leader, and the leader caught short. So if you have great programs then please share them with us all.

Region Website Layout

If you have any positive feedback or suggestions then please let me know.

Greg Allen
Regional Commissioner (Resources)
E-mail: resources@scoutreach.com.au



The Drowned Rat Region Venture 2004 3rd - 5th December

Location – "The Steps" at Barrington River

Come to the Camp and have **FUN** with fellow Venturer Scouts!

Take part in activities, competitions and have **FUN**.

More information will be coming out to you in the mail in the next week to all Units. If you don't receive it, then give me a ring on 0411 267-593.

Robyne Plant
Regional Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)
Email: robyneplant@hotmail.com

Rovers



This month has been a busy one for the Rover Section. Gosford and East Maitland Crew assisted with the NSW Premier Car Rally that was recently held in the Watagan Mountains. There have been several Crews attending Region Rover events such as Tim Chapman Booting and also the Normanhurst Rovers Magical Mystery Tour which this year finished in our Region in the township of Lochinvar. Coming up in the month is Bush Dance and also Viking Moot which is going to be run by our on Wyoming Crew at Lostock Dam.

Can You Spare a Bit?

We are still collecting non-perishable food items for the Hike for Hunger later in the year please give your donations to your local Crew to assist us in helping lose less fortunate then ourselves.

Ro-Venture 2005 Soon!

The "Revenge of the Comics" Ro-Venture is going ahead at full steam and notes will be sent out in the next few weeks if you have not already received them. All information about

the Ro-Venture will be on the notes so excite your Venturers to attend this event.

What's it About?

Again I repeat my offer of any Crew visiting your Venturer Unit to tell them about us and what you can do as a Rover. Please contact me if you have Venturers that are looking at becoming Rovers or are near Rover age we will visit your unit and give them options.

Jannett Brown

PR Officer - Region Rover Council

Email: jannett1981@yahoo.com.au

Happy Hopping



Joey Scout Fun Day- 24th October – Speers Point Park

Just a quick reminder that our Joey Scout Fun Day commences at 9.00 am and should conclude around 3.30 pm. Thank you to all Mobs who sent in their badge designs. The decision to choose just one design was very difficult, as the entries were all just so wonderful. Please pass on to your Joey Scouts our gratitude and a hop, hop, hop for a job done well!

Regional Web Site

Most of you have probably heard Region has a Leader's Resource Web Site. Our Section is working with Greg Allen on creating an interesting and informative area for our Joey Scout Leaders. Some Resources have already been posted on the site, there are more to come! Use this site to your advantage, share ideas, talk to each other and utilize as many program ideas as possible. **SHARE YOUR IDEAS OR GET NEW ONES!** We have set up a format, which enables you to post messages for other Joey Scout Leaders to read and reply. (Joey Scout Mailing list) what a great opportunity for our Joey Scout Leaders share ideas. So if you are looking for a particular resource just get on line and ask. You will just need to subscribe (FREE OF CHARGE) to our list and way you go! **TALK TO US!** The other thing that we have decided to do at the site is to have either myself and/or the District Leaders available in chat room 1, every Monday night between 8.30 pm and 9.30 pm from 1st October. So if you wish to talk to us, other Leaders or need help of any kind, chat on Mondays. To go to the Site log on at: <http://www.info.scoutreach.com.au>

From The Pouch Magazine

Our "From The Pouch Magazine" is a little behind schedule. The new edition will be out within the next few weeks. This edition will be for term 4. Lots of Christmas ideas.

Marilyn Hocking

Regional Commissioner (Joey Scouts)

Phone: 4981-1828

Email: moani@bigpond.com

Cub Scout Capers



Cub Review Information Day

A presentation by Jan Goodall (our State Commissioner for Cub Scouts) will be conducted at Swansea Scout Hall on the 16th October starting at 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. It is vital that as many Cub section leaders attend and any other interested Leaders will be most welcome. The session will be credited to your Training record, so all attending will need to lodge a Training Course Application (L1) Form with the Regional Office by the 8th October; the cost is \$10 each. You will need to bring a chair and afternoon tea will be supplied

Regional Cuboree 2004

By the time you read this, the 2004 Region Cuboree will be a memory. I would like you to think of the persons that have been working behind the scenes to make this a successful camp for our Cubs and leaders. Yes, we have done some thing a little differently this time, different form, some leaders doing part of their DCSL roles and defined roles.

To the DCSL, camp/activities coordinators, Kevin Allen and his team, the Fellowship and last but not least Tiffany for her diligence in the checking and processing of all our applications. We have included other Cub Leaders into roles previously undertaken by your DCSL, this has given those Leaders new experiences and challenges in performing their duties, thus allowing their DCSL the opportunity to perform other roles.

Thankyou to all the leaders that have stepped up into roles and those have worked hard to make the Cuboree a great time for our Cubs.

David Main

Regional Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

Phone: 4990-5580

Email: maind@netcentral.com.au

Yellow Cords



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Chris Chaplin	1 st Nelson Bay
Elyse Hudson	Charlestown
Elizabeth Haddow	1 st Swansea
Brodie Williams	1 st Swansea
Larnie Conley	1 st Swansea
Matt Evans	1 st Tumbi
Matt Chick	1 st Terrigal
William Towns	1 st Branxton/Greta

Scouting Around



State Rally 2004

I would like to thank all the Leaders who gave their time to make the Rally the success that it was. All the comments, which have been made, have been positive. The results of the weekend show that our Youth Members had a good weekend and that they had attempted on average 15 to 16 activities each. Well done!

Leaders “Back to Basics” Weekend

At our last Regional Mindari a request was made that the Mindari run in 2005 a Leaders “Back to Basics” Weekend. The Mindari is willing to run this weekend if you the Leaders would like us to do so. I need from you via your District Scout Leaders some indication of how interested you are. I will be sending out through your DSL an Expression of Interest Form, which I would like you to fill in and return to them.

Based on your replies we will determine weather the activity will go on or not.

UP COMING EVENTS:

Regional Scout Water Activities Weekend

This activity will take place at Camp Kanangra, Nords Wharf on the weekend 13th/14th November. Planning for this activity is well underway. Applications are now OVERDUE at the Region Office.

Corroboree 2005

As I mentioned before the 2005 Corroboree will be held at Lostock Scout Camp from Wednesday 19th to Sunday 23rd January. The cost for this activity will be \$100 per person. Application Forms will be sent out soon to all Troops.

Kevin Allen

Regional Commissioner (Scouts)

Email: kevinallen@koee.com.au

Where Do You Get It From?

(Who sells what.)

For Uniforms, (most) Badges, Books etc contact:

- Phil’s Trophies 4943-0631or
- Scout Shop (Port Kembla) 4274-1193 or
- Snowgum 1800 811-312

For Region Badges, Youth Leadership Badges, Green Cords, Yellow Cord Kits, Leader Introductory (Training) Kits contact:

- Region Office 4929-1760

Position Vacant

District Scout Leader – Newcastle District

Expressions of Interest are being sought from persons who are interested in the above position.

The District Scout Leader is a member of the District Executive and is responsible to the District Commissioner.

Responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- * Co-ordinate Scout Section activities within the District
- * Co-ordinate Scout Section Activities on behalf of the District within Hunter and Coastal Region
- * Liaise with Regional Commissioner Scouts
- * Liaise with District Leaders of other District Scouting Family Sections
- * Organise and facilitate District Scout Section meetings (Mindari’s)
- * Promotion of the Scout Section within the District

Expressions of interest may be lodged at the Region Office and will be accepted up to close of business on Friday 22nd October.

For further information, please contact the District Commissioner, David Law on (0416) 250-106 or the Region Office on 4929-1760.

Founder’s Day 2005

As you should now be aware, the 2005 Region Founder's Day Celebrations will be held on Sunday 20th February 2005.

The venue will again be at beautiful Blackbutt Reserve from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm

The Committee consists of four hardy souls whose agenda is to coordinate the many and varied parts that make this Day a success but as we all know it will not work unless we have your support and attendance on the Day.

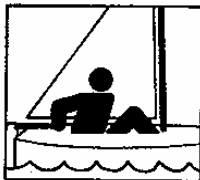
It will be as much a fun day for you leaders (of all ranks and sections) as it is for our youth members, their parents and siblings.

Please note the date in your Calendars (Regional / Sectional / Personal) and ensure that those people under your care are kept in the loop. More information will be in the next Bulletin. Watch out for it!

Jean (Spock) Hattander

For Region Founder's Day Organising Committee

Adventurous Activities



As the weather starts to warm our activities move away from the winter pursuits. The last Alpine on Snow for the year was well attended with Groups from across the Region heading down to Guthega for some of the best snow conditions this winter. They were so good some of the groups stayed on for a few extra days skiing. I am told they are already looking forward to next years season. The water team has started there summer season with the Sailing Course being run at Rathmines. Thirty-five students attended the two-weekend Course with a mix of weather and wind being thrown at them. The Course structure had to be rearranged due to the gale wind warning and actual high winds present on the first weekend. The second weekend was calmer and the students spent the two days on the water. Lindsay Wilson took time out from Sailing Course to oversee the Level 2 Flat Water run in the Central Coast Lakes District. Thank you Lindsay!

Spring Now? Craft Rego NOW!

Yes, it's that time of year again, Water Craft are due for Registration. Please contact Karen or myself if you have any questions. Lets get 100% of the craft registered this year as it really is for your Scouts and Groups benefit. The stickers are available (free) from the Region Office when you send in a copy of a current boat registration form. The boats need to be inspected and form signed by an Instructor in the relevant craft. This can be done either by fax (with return address), mail or in person at the Region Office.

Rock Rools

Ken Bayliss has agreed to take on the role of Rock Co-ordinator and he takes over from Noel Flett. Thanks Noel for your efforts in the role and I look forward to your continued support. The Rock Team has been doing what they do best with District Days and Caving Courses being well attended.

In case you are wondering?

The Activities Calendar for 2005 is now finalised and is in this issue. Keep at look out on the website in the next few weeks for it. Please use the Calendar to plan your activities for next year so you do not miss a closing date.

The 13th/14th November Canyoning Course will be based at Blackheath Scout Hall. Cost will be \$20 plus \$6 per night hall fee. Canyons for this Course will include: Fortress, Valley of Waters, Mt Hay, Dalpura and Koombanda. Access to these Canyons will be governed by the current and forecasted weather conditions.

Glenn Brown

Regional Commissioner (Activities)

Home: 4976-1064

Mobile: (0413) 019-623

E-mail: yowie57@optusnet.com.au

Drivetime

Apology

Apparently some members of the team and myself have managed to offend and upset a number of people in the past few months. On behalf of the team and myself I can honestly say that I am sorry as insult, slight or offence was not meant to occur. I cannot give specifics as my information has been extracted from the rumour mill. Whilst I don't necessarily listen to the mill often, there is an element of truth behind some of the stories. It concerns me if what I am hearing on the rumour mill is true that people don't respect the position as RC (ATD) enough to communicate honestly for the good of all. My only hope is the damage that is currently being caused can be turned around. Remember it always takes two to tango and that there is always more than one side to a story.

Training

We have had some great courses in the last month. What was refreshing was that a number of very talented young people are becoming Leaders. This is not to discount all others but to point out that we still have something to offer these young people many who do not yet have families. However on a sadder note it was disappointing that the training team again did the catering. It is starting to become embarrassing but it is something I will have to cope with and my family will have to tolerate. Remember members of the team and course assistants also are volunteers just like you. One of the requirements for appointment to the Training Team is that they must have a primary appointment ie more than one scouting role. So a special thankyou to the Team this month. God bless you, I am particularly thankful of your valuable time.

Courses

Not many to go at Glenrock this year. A Basic Core Module at the end of October and a Joey Advanced Outdoor Skills Courses and a Scout Advanced Sectional Skills Course Mid October.

This weekend the State Training Council meets hopefully followed by Training Team Conference a couple of weeks later. Hopefully I will be able to further brief you on the changes to training a little more as they take effect next year.

Till next month happy Driving.

David Downie

Regional Commissioner (Adult Training & Development)

Phone 4959-5580 (Home)

Email: doona@tsn.cc

"We are what we believe we are."
(Benjamin Nathan Cardozo)

Appointments List

BEC – 13th September 2004

APPOINTMENTS

BERRY, Susan – Grp Adv – Maryland/Shortland
WRIGHT, Ada – JSL – Maryland/Shortland
BOWDEN, Jane – ACSL – 1st Avoca Beach
GREEN, Gai – CSL – 1st East Gosford
LAWRENCE, Guy – ACSL – 1st Wangi
RICHARDS, Mathew – ACSL – 1st Wyong
EDMAN, Graeme – ASL – 1st Medowie
FORD, Geoffery – ASL – Singleton
HARDY, Benjamin – SL – 1st Toronto
KINGDON, Lorn – SL – 1st Byattunga
TOWNEND, Stephen – SL – 1st Medowie
WELCH, Fran – ASL – 1st Medowie
LINDUS, Neil – AVSL – Maryland/Shortland

TRANSFERS

ALLEN, Greg
From DC Lower Hunter
To RC (Resources) Region

BURROWS, Leanne
From DJSL Lower Hunter
To DC Lower Hunter

DINGLE, Geoffrey
From GL 1st Medowie
To ASL 1st Medowie

FERGUSON, Adam
From DC Central Coast Lakes
To ARC (Scouts) Region

HOLDEN, Christopher
From SL Cessnock City
To DSL Lower Hunter

LIVERMORE, Wayne
From SL 1st Medowie
To VSL 1st Medowie

McGOWAN, Robert
From AVSL 1st Medowie
To ASL 1st Medowie

PARKER-MANDERSON, Lloyd
From DSL Lower Hunter
To DL (Admin) Lower Hunter

POWER, Anthony
From ASL Kotara
To SL Kotara

SCOTT, Stewart
From GL 2nd Muswellbrook
To ACSL 2nd Muswellbrook

ZEIBOTS, Mark

From Region Adviser Region
To DC Central Coast Lakes

RESIGNATIONS

BLIIM, Anthony – VSL – 1st Mannering Park
BOORER, Christian – ASL – 1st Narara
COCKS, Janette – JSL – 1st Mount Sugarloaf
ESLICK, Barry – ASL – 2nd Tuggerah Lakes
FARTHING, Donald – ASL – 1st Toronto
RUSSELL, Mark – AL – 1st Toronto

TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

LOWREY, Tracey – TL (CS) – Dungog
PRATT, Kevin – Trainee AL – 1st Byattunga
SAMSEL, Eva – TL (CS) – Umina
TYLER, Shad – Trainee AL – 1st Byattunga

Scouting History for Glenrock

It is proposed to write the Scouting History of Glenrock. Our ex Regional Commissioner John Grothen did write a "History in and about Glenrock Lagoon" some years ago but this text has only a small section on the Scouting history. The plan is to expand this work and bring it up to date.

It is proposed to interview as many of the "Old Timers" as possible to get their thoughts on Scouting at Glenrock and to collect any photos and memorabilia that people may have and then pull it all together. The result, hopefully, will be a permanent display in the "Togo McCrum" Room at Glenrock and a publication which we can all read.

If anyone has any knowledge which they believe is relevant, know of anyone who may have relevant knowledge, has any photos or memorabilia or can help in any way then please contact: Barry Ableson 5 Merlin Close Valentine 2280 or phone 4946-8606 (Home)

Please remember that yesterday is history.

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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the policies of the Region.

Regional Calendar

October

(Apply to Region Office unless otherwise shown)

Training

Basic Core Module
30th & 31st October
Closes 8th October
Costs \$70

November

Activities

Abseiling Advanced (Part 1) – 0457
30th-31st October
Closes 8th October
Costs \$20

Topic 9 Bushwalking (Practical) – 0458
6th-7th November
Closes 15th October
Costs \$20

Flat Water 2 – 0459
13th-14th November
Closes 22nd October
Costs \$20

Rockclimbing Advanced Leading (Weekend 1) – 0460
13th-14th November
Closes 22nd October
Costs \$20

Canyoning Basic - 0461
13th-14th November
Closes 22nd October
Costs \$20

BRAF Abseil (Manning & Upper Hunter Districts) – 0462
20th-21st November
Closes 29th October
Costs \$10

Rockclimbing Advanced Leading (Weekend 2) – 0463
27th-28th November
Closes 5th November
Costs \$20

White Water Grade 2 – 0464
27th-28th November
Closes 5th November
Costs \$20

December

Activities

Abseiling Advanced (Part 2) – 0465
4th-5th December
Closes 12th November
Costs \$20

Canyoning Intermediate – 0466
4th-5th December
Closes 12th November
Costs \$20

Lake Macquarie Duty to God Service

The Lake Macquarie District “Duty to God Service” was held recently at Garden Suburb Uniting Church. The church was packed to overflowing with Scouts and Leaders from every Section plus parents and supporters from all over Lake Macquarie.

The service was conducted by RC International, Grahame Pricter with dozens of youth members from 1st Belmont, 1st Warners Bay, Cardiff, Charlestown & 2nd Belmont Groups all taking part. More than 20 members of the Glenrock Baden Powell Guild were present at the service, along with representative Commissioners, Allan Currie and Neville Robin. The service started with a parade of flags, and a stirring rendition of the national anthem.

Allan Currie Deputy RC, then led Scouts and Leaders through the Scout Promise followed by Vic Sparkes from the Baden Powell Guild speaking on Scouting beatitudes. Venturers from attending Units led by Derek Whitford read through the Scout Laws, followed by Sean Cleary leading the Scouts in reciting the Scout Prayer.

With the help of many Cubs holding giant cards, Skip Grahame delivered the message based on the theme of “the deck of cards”.

Another feature of the service was the hymn “Kum Ba Yah” sung to the scout law version. The service concluded with a beautiful morning tea supplied by the church elders.

A big thanks to all the scouts and leaders who attended, Garden Suburb Uniting Church, the Baden Powell Guild and Skip Grahame Pricter for conducting the service.

Bruce Levertton
Acting District Scout Leader - Lake Macquarie District

Party Plan Fundraiser & Promotion Night

TO: All Scouters, Supporters & Friends

WHEN: Monday 18th October at 7.00 pm

WHERE: Telarah Scout Hall
Russell Street, Telarah (Maitland)

COST: Gold Coin Donation

WHO: Emma Page Jewellery, Lorraine Lean Linen, Nutri Metics, Outdoor Furniture, Neways Personal Care Products & Entertainment.

LOOK, TRY AND IF YOU LIKE BUY ANY OF THE PRODUCTS

CONTACT: Deirdrie Redpath 4932-4203 (Home)

SAUSAGE SANDWICHES, TEA/COFFEE & CANS OF DRINK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



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Bulletin

October 2004



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