



Hunter & Coastal Region

Bulletin

February 2006



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

The Regional Commissioner's Message



Picking up your pack and striding on!

I hope that those who had the opportunity enjoyed the Christmas New Year break and are ready and raring to go in 2006 with fully charged batteries. As I write (in early January), I look forward to visiting the 2006 Region Corroboree at Paterson and I know that our RC Scouts, Kevin and his Team have worked tirelessly to put on what should be a great event. I have no feedback yet about the National Venture just winding down as I write but I'm sure that our RC Venturers, Robyne will report next issue and tell us how things went.

In the Regional Office

Our Office Assistant, Tiffany delivered a baby boy, Kynan on 20 December and they are reported as both doing well. Congratulations to Tiffany and Anthony, we all wish you well with the joys and the challenges that no doubt will lie ahead.

I'm sure that you will join with me in welcoming our temporary Office Assistant, Kathy Killen to the Office during Tiffany's leave. We interviewed six of the many applicants and there were some outstanding ones who unfortunately did not get an interview and so competition was indeed fierce.

"I'm looking through you, where did you go?"

By necessity people refer to a product by its brand name and it is marketed as such. I honestly still believe that we struggle in terms of public recognition and knowledge of our product. These include what we represent, what we do and what we do for the community. I'm not talking about you people, the ones (hopefully) reading this article, but if you like, the "unconverted" market. How often do we hear

us still referred to as "Boy Scouts" and the term "Scout Master" being used (which by the way haven't been in actual use since 1971)? I was in a shopping centre recently where a lady enquired of me whether Scouting still existed and referred to the local Group Hall as "that derelict Hall in xyz Street"! (I deliberately won't name the Group because it is generally not their fault that this happened.) My friends, we must accept the reality that we are still "invisible" in too many communities. A good local example of altering people's recognition of a brand is my local RSL Club in Wallsend (of course). For donkey's years it had been known as Wallsend RSL (naturally enough) and then for a time as Ace of Clubs. A new management team decided to rename the Club as "Wallsend Diggers". They embarked upon an extensive advertising campaign and sold this new "brand" magnificently and effectively. I can't speak for you but clearly there is a lesson for us here, we must do all we can individually to get our (current) brand before the public as often as we can. As one means of doing this, you will I hope, be aware that we at Region have professionally made "Scout" signs to be put up on fences, shop walls, Scout Hall walls or indeed wherever. Our brand, our product can be easily promoted at the measly cost of \$35 each, all it requires is that your Group makes arrangements to get permission (where necessary) and to then get them and put them up (it's a two minute process). Do you believe that most people in your local community know about us? I'm not suggesting that this is the sole solution to that problem, but just imagine if every suburb across our vast Region had one of these signs up in a conspicuous location. So please, if you have not already done so, early this year resolve to buy (even just) one sign. The price is a bargain. Feedback is also welcomed on this subject generally too.

Still "on" about it

Our population numbers are still looking pretty good and further our retention prizes to youth members and their Leaders in Groups who all have whom have been asked to stop the summer drop are well in place and firm decisions have been made regarding recruitment incentives during this calendar year.

We all as a Region Team will continue to monitor these numbers very closely. In fact I read Group numbers every day and Region is ready to provide assistance and support to Groups as need be. The ultimate goal of course, which I

genuinely believe is well achievable, is for all Groups in our Region to be healthy in terms of numbers. Last year the number increase was fantastic. What is your plan of attack? A suggestion, by the way of starters, is that there is no reason why every Group in the Region should not have a Joey Mob. If you have one, then that's great! If you haven't, then why not? Why struggle? Get with the strength so that your Group numbers will improve dramatically overnight. Well done to Thornton Group who recently registered their 12 Joeys in one hit. This is only one of many success stories. Next time that I see you, if you haven't a Mob, then chances are I'll be asking you "why not?" This is clearly the best and most effective way to grow your Group. More importantly Marilyn, our RC Joey Scouts and her Team are only too happy to assist you. As my colleague, Ron Critcher (RC South Coast and Tablelands Region) says "hope is not a strategy". What's your growth plan? Let's go for it!

Steve Fernie
Regional Commissioner

BP'S BIRTHDAY BASH SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

RICHLEY RESERVE – BLACKBUTT

Start your Scouting Year off with a great Family Day where you can do as much (or as little) as you like in the friendly atmosphere of Newcastle's most popular Wildlife Reserve.

The Day will commence at 10am with an Opening Parade and Scout's Own, after which there will be lots of activities. Flying Fox; Rope Bridge; Horizontal Bungee Jumping; Water Slides; Canoeing; Mini Wall Climbing; Bubble and Candle Making; Tattoos; Brownsea Island Demonstration Camp and still leave plenty of time to explore Blackbutt's many walking trails.

Tummies are also catered for as The Friends of Blackbutt serve up delicious Sausage Sangers (\$2 each...and well worth it) and our own Westlakes BP Guild will provide Ice Creams, Drinks and Tea or Coffee. Please support both these groups as the proceeds are for very good causes.

Our exceptional (and irreplaceable) Rovers will be in charge of the parking so please follow their instructions.

This year we tried to do away with the "Find the Activity" Activity but just in case we fail yet again we intend to have the majority of activities in central areas.

We all know it NEVER rains on a Scouting Activity...but if it should, the decision to postpone will be made no later than 1pm on Saturday 18th and we will advise the Radio Stations so that announcements can be made on Saturday night and Sunday morning.

All personnel providing services/equipment/activities/facilities etc required for the day will be advised by telephone at the same time. Many thanks to all those who have helped to make this day possible.

Jean Hattander (Spock)
4921-7308 (work)
4956-6788 (home)
0417 439-928 (24x7)
jhattand@bigpond.net.au

Cub Scout Capers



We're back - bigger and stronger too. As at the last Census our Region was not only the second largest in the State, but growing the fastest too. It is achievable for us to have the greatest number of Cub Scouts in a Region in NSW; you are well on the way to doing that. Great work!

The successes of good Pack Programs and Regional and District events have helped Packs to widen the activities for their youth members. Remember these activities are for your benefit as they help take some of the pressure of leaders who are trying to find time to organize activities. It is done for you; all you have to do is turn up with your Pack and have fun.

What's On This Year?

Cub Scout happenings this year will include: Cub Scout Leadership Courses, RAMBO (in place of Region Cub Fun Day), Grey Wolf Presentations, Cuboree "Roman Boot Camp" and Palava "circus" (for our Leaders).

The Cub Scout (section) Leader Challenge Bar criteria should be out soon. If the final list is the same as the draft then most leaders will gain the award. You already do them as part of your normal duties / requirements in your Pack.

The Cub Section information in the (NSW) "Organization Handbook" will be finished soon. Items under review include tentage, sleep overs, award scheme (inserting new items, Pack Holidays and so forth).

As per requests received, yes we will organize some short-term programs. The duration of the programs will run for around four-weeks. When complete the programs will be compiled on a CD and distributed via your Seonee so keep an eye out for it.

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Regional Events

BP's Birthday Bash - 19th February, Blackbutt
RAMBO – 6 and 7th May, Glenrock
Region WSD Event – 6th August, Camp Kanangra
For information on these Regional events please read the relevant article in the Bulletin

David Main
Regional Commissioner (Cub Scouts)
Phone: 4990-5580
Email: maind@westnet.com.au

H&C Activities Scout Fellowship

What is a Scout Fellowship?

The Fellowship section of Scouting is open to people who have reached the ripe old age of 26 years and wish to remain a uniform member of the Movement, (or become a uniform member of the Movement).

1. Leaders, who would otherwise leave Scouting, may remain as a uniform member of Scouting and not be lost to the Movement.
2. A section where Rovers can move to when they are of an age where they have to leave Rovers.
3. Layside or everyday citizens who would like to be a member of the Movement.
4. Uniform members of Scouting, with an existing Certificate of Adult Leadership, can also (in addition to other position in Scouting) become a member and meet as a group with other Leaders from all sections.

What is the H&CASF?

This is a group within Scouting whose aim is to promote, assist and support, all sections of Scouting in Activities, not just Adventurous Activities as the name may indicate.

- A section set up to stop the brain drain from Scouting, initially Adventurous Activity people, but was very soon realised all leaders in Scouting. The asset to the Movement is the skills and knowledge of the Leaders and they cannot afford to be lost.
- A place these people can feel comfortable, do things at their own pace and still give of their time when and where their valuable assistance is needed.
- The Group has a social side to it, which involves visits to places of interest and the occasional BBQ.
- Any member/non member of Scouting can be a member of a Fellowship (provided all the normal checks to join the Association are fulfilled) and any enquiries are welcome.
- Our hope is for H&CASF to be the biggest Fellowship in the State. All enquiries are most welcome.

The Executive of H&CASF is listed below as contacts for enquiries regarding joining this great band of Leaders.

President - Jeff Newman
(0407) 251-615
mnew1989@bigpond.net.au

Secretary - Sonia Taylor-Smith
soniataylor@idl.com.au

Treasurer - Phillip Gardner
permo1@bigpond.net.au

Vice President - Dallas Blatchford
dablatch@dodo.com.au

Venturing



Welcome back (to 2006)!

To start the year off we would like to say Thank You to all those who attended the **Region Oasis Venture** in December and we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did

AV 2006 started the year off well with over 900 Venturers getting together and experiencing a wonderful variety of Venturer Activities.

Coming up in the next few months:

H&C Roventure - 10/11 / 12 February.
BP's Birthday Bash – 19 February
Unit Management Course – 2 April

Details on the first two elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Robyne Plant
Regional Commissioner (Venturer Scouts)
Email: robyneplant@hotmail.com
Phone: 4392-7812

Rovers



At the time of writing Roventure 2006 is fast approaching. We have finalised many of the fine details and it will prove to be a great weekend. Please keep the date of the 10/11/12 February free for this event. Roventure starts from 6pm on Friday 10th and finishes at 3pm Sunday 12th. Anyone who cannot make it to Glenrock on the Friday night is more than welcome to arrive Saturday morning.

The cost is \$25 per person if paid by the 4th February and \$30 per person if paid between the 5th February and the start of the weekend. (The \$5 discount in price is to encourage people to book early to assist in planning and catering.)

Over the course of the weekend, the Venturers will be entertained by a disco and movies on both Friday and Saturday nights, they will be able to participate in activities such as the flying fox, canoeing, canyoning (at a beginners level), a giant waterslide, jelly wrestling and many more. We will also be supplying a roast dinner for all participants on the Saturday night as a part of the event fee. All equipment necessary for the activities will be provided, however Venturers are required to bring all of their own personal gear including mess kits, tent, sleeping bag, water shoes and old clothes for some of the activities.

Fixed shower and toilet facilities are available at Glenrock Scout Centre for all participants.

With the exception of many different Christmas parties, the Rovers have been very quiet, with everyone winding down for the year. We are looking to get back into everything fairly shortly and hopefully there will be more to report on for the next Bulletin.

Ian Cosgrove

PR Officer - Region Rover Council

Email: cozzy_1@yahoo.com

Smoke Signals



Growth Ideas for Your Group

Does your Group now serve all the Primary Schools in your area, from Year One (Joey Scouts) through Year Six (Scouts)? You should make sure that all boys and girls in these schools have an opportunity to join us.

Coordinate recruiting plans within your Group and District, including open night in your Mob, Pack and Troop and School Night for Scouting.

Review to determine if your recruiting plans are working. Make sure that at the time of recruitment, your Group Leader / Leader in Charge has New Leader Kits (purchased from the Region Office) for new adult leaders so that they are informed of and committed to receiving basic training.

Estimate the approximate number of new Joeys, Cub Scouts and Scouts that will be added to each section. If your Group needs help on the night, then talk to your District Commissioner and District Leaders but please

allow them plenty of time for them to organise other leaders.

For best results, school recruiting visitations should take place only a few days before your Open Night.

Des Hocking (our Regional Commissioner for School Promotions) can by prior arrangement visit Primary Schools for classroom pep talks, inviting potential Joeys, Cubs, and Scouts to those Open Nights. Des has had very good results through out the Region and will be happy to visit the School and help recruit new members for you.

Review the recruiting materials in the Group (recruitment material is freely available to Group Leaders/Leaders in Charge from the Region Office but please phone first).

Remember that the recruiting messages to boys/girls and parents are different. The message to boys/girls should be based on fun activities, outdoor activities, camps, games, building things, etc. The message to parents, however, must be based upon how Scouting develops lifelong values for their son or daughter.

Two Reminders

Just a reminder that the B.P. Birthday Bash will be on 19th February, make sure your Group knows about this. This and also Rambo 06 on the 6 & 7 May can be seen on our web site, go to <http://www.scoutreach.com.au> and then press resources button in the bottom right hand corner.

Games

Australian Circle Game

Equipment: 2 Tennis balls

Description: A player stands in the centre of a circle, holding a tennis ball. They try to throw this ball to someone in the circle who will drop it. Another ball is also being passed around the circle from one person to another. The player in the centre may throw their ball to anyone, but they usually throw it to the person about to receive the ball being passed around the circle. If either ball is dropped, the one who dropped it changes places with the person in the centre.

Bucket Relay

Equipment: Two buckets per team, Water

Description: Fill one of the buckets half-full with water, and leave the other empty. On 'Go', the first player runs to the other end of the playing area where the buckets have been placed, pours the water into the other bucket, leaves the empty bucket there, and carries the full bucket to the next player in line.

The second player takes the bucket with water down to the other end of the playing area and empties it into the empty bucket. He then picks up the full bucket and carries it back.

The relay is finished when all have had a turn. The winner is the team with their water intact. (Good for outdoors!)

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Genius Test

Have a copy of this test to hand out to each member. Tell them that they must follow the directions closely. Tell them to concentrate, but they have only two minutes to complete it.

1. Read everything before doing anything.
2. Put your name in the upper right hand corner of this paper.
3. Circle the word "name" in sentence number 2.
4. Draw five small squares in the upper left hand corner of this paper.
5. Put an X in each square.
6. Put a circle around each square.
7. Put a circle around each word in sentence number 5.
8. Put an X in the lower left hand corner of this paper.
9. Draw a triangle around the X you just put down.
10. On the reverse side of this paper add 25, 30, and 37.
11. Now that you have finished reading carefully, do only number 1 and 2.
12. You have finished. How did you do?

Greg Allen

Regional Commissioner (Resources)

Email: resources@scoutreach.com.au

RAMBO-6

“What’s The Go” with RAMBO?

Plenty is happening with the RAMBO-6 Team having met and organisation is proceeding. I have had a number of requests from line leaders for information and forms for this activity. The information package, which included a poster, explanation letter and Group Summary Application, was sent to all Group Leaders or Leaders in Charge and District Commissioners. I would suggest that if any line leader has not received the information then you firstly contact your GL / LiC or secondly your DC.

The Management Committee at Glenrock have assured me that the site will be ready and better even than last year. Thanks to Jim, Keith, Darryl and the team.

Remember this is an activity for the whole Group including parents and brothers and sisters. The cut off point for week-end campers is the first 1000 or the closing date. This does not stop day visitors from attending on Saturday or Sunday.

Activities will be bigger and better than last year. The activities team under the leadership of Anthony Butler are looking at the possibility of FOUR Flying Foxes.

It is great to welcome on board the team Neil Gleghorn and his team who will be looking after camp hygiene and safety. Also to Colin Paulson who will be co-ordinating

and catering arrangements. Thanks to all who have volunteered to assist with this important Region Activity.

Keep your eyes posted for further information in the next Bulletin.

If you have any enquiries, then please contact me.

Grahame Pricter

RAMBO-6 Co-ordinator

Phone: 4943-5849

E-mail: g.pricter@hotmail.net.au

Drivetime



G'day to all my friends in Scouting

Welcome to another year of what we hope is a challenging year. Without a challenge we stand still. One of the strengths of Scouting is that we meet challenges front on and look for the best way to meet them. In fact our award schemes and training schemes are built on challenges, as are all good education schemes.

Now as we move into a new training year some changes to assessment tasks have been made, they are not radical but hopefully simpler. We hope these changes will make meeting the challenges created by accreditation easier. As with any training scheme we will continue to assess what we are doing and look for opportunities to improve our training package.

I would also like to welcome Kathy to our Regional Office team. She will be assisting Craig while Tiffany is on Maternity Leave. Please be patient as she learns all about this training scheme and the administration that goes with it.

On a Personal Note

My family would like to thank everybody who has been with us through my wife Maria's illness. Living with cancer is never easy but it is often easier to deal with when you have great support from friends & family. Your thoughts, good wishes and most of all prayers are a great comfort to Maria, Janine, Matt, Belinda, Amanda and myself.

Till next month happy driving along the training track.

David "Doona" Downie

Regional Commissioner (Adult Training & Development)

Email therealdoona@westnet.com.au

Regional Calendar

March

(Apply to Region Office unless otherwise shown)

Training

Joey Scout Basic Leadership 3
24/26 March
Closes 6 March
Costs \$95

Venturer Scout Basic Leadership 3
24/26 March
Closes 6 March
Costs \$95

Cub Scout Basic Leadership 3
31 March/2 April
Closes 10 March
Costs \$95

Scout Basic Leadership 3
31 March/2 April
Closes 10 March
Costs \$95

Activities

Abseil Basic/Intermediate - 0606
4/5 March
Closes 10 February
Costs \$25

Bushwalking Preparation - 0607
11/12 March
Closes 17 February
Costs \$15

Canyoning Advanced - 0608
18/19 March
Closes 24 February
Costs \$25

White Water Grade 1 - 0609
25/26 March
Closes 6 March
Costs \$25

Bushwalking Practical (Manning) - 0610
25/26 March
Closes 6 March
Costs \$25

April

(Apply to Region Office unless otherwise shown)

Training

Basic Leadership 1
7-9 April
Closes 17 March
Costs \$95

Activities

Canyoning Introductory - 0611
1/2 April
Closes 10 March
Costs \$25

Bushwalking Practical (Upper Hunter) - 0612
8/9 April
Closes 17 March
Costs \$25

Caving Introductory/ Intermediate - 0613
8/9 April
Closes 17 March
Costs \$25

Sailing Beginners - 0614
22/23 April & 6/7 May
Closes 31 March
Costs \$30 (with Craft) - \$75 (without Craft)

Sailing Advanced - 0615
22/23 April & 6/7 May
Closes 31 March
Costs \$30 (with Craft) - \$75 (without Craft)

Bushwalking Practical (Central Coast) - 0616
29/30 April
Closes 7 April
Costs \$25

Region Activity Notification Procedure -2006

H&C Region is divided into four activity zones. These are shown on the map on the other side of this sheet but may be internally described as being centred about two different points:

- at Doyalson traffic lights (where the Pacific Highway intersects with Norah Road – Wyee Road).
- at Hexham (where the bridge crosses the Hunter River).

	Rough Internal Boundary Description	Zone Activity Coordinator (ZAC)
East	Doyalson - North from Norah Road – Wyee Road and East of the F3 Freeway and then (north of Hexham) the Pacific Highway	Phillip Sparkes PO Box 160 Wallsend 2287 mobile: 0414 223-654 fax: 4946 – 5589 e-mail: sparx@idl.com.au
North	Hexham – North from the New England Highway and West of the Pacific Highway.	Geoff James 114 Victoria Street East Maitland 2323 phone: 4933 – 7082 fax: 4934-1627 (no e-mail)
South	Doyalson – South from Norah Road – Wyee Road and East of the F3 Freeway.	Rob Mawson 1003 Alison Road Wyong 2259 phone: 4352 – 1475 mobile: 0404 004-357 e-mail: rmawson@dodo.com.au
West	Hexham – South from the New England Highway and West of the F3 Freeway.	Dallas Blatchford 40 Reserve Road Wangi Wangi 2267 phone: 4975 – 2709 e-mail: dablatch@dodo.com.au

Activity Notification Forms MUST be forwarded to the relevant ZAC direct. Please DO NOT send forms to the Region Office.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET
& throw out any previous versions held.**

Appointments List

BEC 12 December 2005

APPOINTMENTS

DALZELL, Evelyn AL 1st Paterson/Bolwarra Group
HARRIS, Andrew GL 1st East Gosford Group
PERREM, Brian GL 1st Berkeley Vale Group
ROBIN, Paul Group Adviser 3rd Mayfield Group
TAYLOR, Sharon AJSL 1st Belmont Mob
HAEBICH, Brian SL 1st Denman Troop
WILSON, Ian ASL 1st Merewether Troop
McHUGH, Christopher AVSL 1st Medowie Unit
MITCHELL, Karen VSL 1st Wyoming Unit
MITCHELL, Karen Member Central Coast Gang Show Fellowship

TRANSFERS

BROWN, Glenn
From RC (Activ) Region
To RL (Activ) Region

BUTLER, Anthony
From DC Lake Macquarie District
To RC (Activ) Region

CHRISTOPHERSON, Jim

From GL 1st Kanwal Group
To DCSL Central Coast Lakes District

CLARK, Brett

From ACSL 1st Erina Heights Pack
"Bellbird"
To CSL 1st Erina Heights Pack
"Bellbird"

CLIFTON-SMITH, Kerry

From VSL Kotara Unit
To RL (VS) Region

CLUNES, Robert

From ASL 1st Erina Heights Troop
To SL 1st Erina Heights Troop

DEBENHAM, Judi

From CSL 1st Kanwal Pack
To ASL 1st Kanwal Troop

DOYLE, Lee

From DC Port Stephens District
To GL 1st Raymond Terrace Group

DOYLE, John

From DSL Port Stephens District
To ASL 1st Raymond Terrace Troop

PROSSER, Natalie

From CSL 1st Tilligerry Pack
To DC Port Stephens District

RIMMER, Kerrilyn

From ACSL 1st Kanwal Pack
To CSL 1st Kanwal Pack

RESIGNATIONS

CLANCY, John ASL 1st Kanwal Troop 17/12/2005
GUTHRIE, Leanne ASL 1st Nelson Bay Troop
WELSH, Krystal ASL 1st Wangi Troop

TRAINEE LEADERS NOT PROCEEDING

HANCOCK, Tania Trainee Ldr (JS) 1st South Wallsend Mob "Red Gum"
MURRAY, Colin Trainee Adv (G) 1st Wingham Group
PREDEBON, Jessika Trainee Ldr (CS) 1st Kanwal Pack
SHEATHER, Shawn Trainee Ldr (JS) 1st Nelson Bay Mob
WAGNER, Matthew Trainee Ldr (S) 1st Forster-Tuncurry Troop
WRIGHT, Alison Trainee Ldr (S) 1st Scone Troop

CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

JACKSON, Robert DL (Admin) Watagan District
04/12/2005

OUT OF RECESS

1st Denman Troop

"Discovery consists of seeing what everyone has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."
(Albert Szent-Gyorgyi)

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

The 56th Sirius Cup Regatta

- the Sirius Cup Regatta is the premier Scout sailing regatta on the State calendar and it is held annually
- a chance for Scouts, Venturers and Leaders to get together at a camp based around water activities
- the Scout Groups camp on Balmoral Oval, just a hop, skip and a jump from the waters of Middle Harbour, as a tent city comes to life from Friday afternoon
- there are 5 divisions of sailing races
- canoeing races for Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders
- rowing events
- iron man events for all-comers
- activities for the land lubbers
- evening entertainment

10 to 12 March 2006

Balmoral Oval/Balmoral Beach, Sydney



For more details, please visit
<http://au.geocities.com/siriuscup> or email siriuscup@yahoo.com.au



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