



EDITION 1
FEBRUARY 2010

Coming Events:

The Parent Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM) Scout Hall at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 31st March 2010.

All parents/carers are encouraged to attend.

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Next edition:

Joey and Cub news...

1st Ballina Scouts Times

From the Group Leader

Welcome back to scouting for the new year. I hope to see all of you on activities throughout the year.

Over the Christmas break 12 scouts and Debbie McGregor attended the 22nd Australian Scout Jamboree, at Cataract, near Sydney and they had the most wonderful time. Our scouts were in a troop made up of Byron Bay, Woolgoolga and Kempsey scouts, with four leaders from Byron Bay and one from Ballina.

Janet Hale, Ian Hale and Evan Elford spent the 11 days of the Jamboree running the water activities centre on Sydney Harbour. I would like to thank all the leaders and parents from Ballina and Byron Bay Scout groups, whose efforts made the Jamboree such an amazing experience for our children.

After the Jamboree our group purchased three of the Jamboree Canadian canoes complete with paddles and life jackets which brings our total now to 6 canoes.

The Venturer Unit is one year old and has 11 invested members and 3 leaders.

Last weekend the Venturers did their first 15 kilometre canoe expedition in the new canoes. I believe there were a few sore arms and tired Venturers and Leaders.

Our Scout Troop currently has approximately 18 invested scouts, but only 1 assistant scout leader, Carmen Fleming. Rod Balkin and Scott Davis, our former scout leaders have unfortunately moved on. Scott and Rod have been involved as leaders for many years and excelled in providing exciting programs, activities and adventures for our children. Scott and Rod, have enriched the lives of many scouts over the years, and a huge thank you is extended to them both.

We are lucky still to have 3 associate leaders that help out the troop. I am keen to encourage parents or friends who are interested in becoming a scout leader to talk to me.

Our Cub Pack currently has approximately 18 invested cubs with 1 cub leader (Akela) and 2 assistant cub leaders. The cubs have a very exciting program planned for term one.

The Joey Mob currently have approximately 13 invested joeys. Debbie McGregor is still the only Joey Leader and we are still looking for an assistant Joey Leader. If you know of anyone who may like some information about this position please contact me.

The 1st Ballina Scout Group webpage has recently undergone a face lift and is worthwhile having a look at. The address of the web site is: www.ballinascouts.com

All four sections of the group have lots of exciting activities planned for the year and I hope that you can all get to as many of them as possible.

Yours in Scouting,
Ian McCotter
Group Leader
Ph 0418 415 140

22nd Australian Scout Jamboree

On the 1st of January at the Big Prawn in Ballina, we said good bye to our families and jumped on the bus bracing ourselves for our 10 hour trip to Sydney.

Struggling off to get to our campsite with our big bags we began to put our tents up in the rain. The next 10 days were filled with joyful, happy, scary and embarrassing moments for all of Troop 117.



Looking at seahorses—one of the many water activities.



The Ballina Group before departing for Jamboree.

We went to Jambaroo, the scout water activities centre on Sydney Harbour and the Sydney CBD. At the Jamboree site we went caving, BMX bike riding, swung on the giant swing, high ropes, abseiling, rock climbing.

We participated in a rock concert, Jamboree Idol, circus activities and a comedy night as well as many other things.

We met thousands of people and made lots of new friends. We swapped lots of badges for our camp blankets and would love to go to another Jamboree in the future.

By the end of the Jamboree we were tired, dirty and sore. We would have loved to have stayed at the Jamboree for longer but unfortunately we couldn't. A huge thank you to all the leaders and parents who made it possible for us to attend the Jamboree.

***1st Ballina Scout Group
AJ 2010 Participants***



Kate & Jane at the Gateway.

Venturer Canoeing Day 13th February 2010

Three leaders, five canoes, seven venturers and a warm day. Throw them all together and, volia! The first venturing event for 2010 is off to an amazing start.

Although early (for some) the scout hall was buzzing on Saturday morning, as the venturers gathered for the first adventure of the year. A quick parade to welcome our new 'family member' Riley Gollan and we were in the water and racing!

We fought the current all the way from the hall to the double bridges on Teven Road. It was a hot day and didn't take long for us to burn (sorry to all parents that had children attending). We canoed all morning and stopped for lunch underneath the "double bridges." Most of the boys had a swim and enjoyed fighting the current that seemed to drag them halfway down the river. The venturers and leaders fought a spectacular headwind on the way back to the hall. They ran the canoes aground on sandbanks and nearly lost Riley and Amanda when the wind nearly blew them out of their canoe!

We arrived back at the hall at 4 pm and all literally collapsed on the ground, not very motivated and too sore to do much at all. The day was an excellent success with 15 km being paddled and fantastic team building and support being shown by all venturers and leaders involved.

A big thank you on behalf of the venturers to Joe Sparks, Ian Hale and Rodney Bray for being brave enough to take us on the journey, for providing motivation and for pushing us when we refused to do any-more paddling.



Riley Gollan is invested into the Venturer Unit



ALERT!

Don't forget to communicate any special health, food or allergy issues to your child's Leader.

This is especially important if your child is attending camps or activities away from the Scout Hall.

1st Ballina Scout Group
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The Parent
Committee Annual
General Meeting
(AGM) will be held
at the Scout Hall
at **6.30 pm** on
Wednesday 31st
March 2010.

If you would like to
play an active role
in running your
children's scout
group, please come
along and provide
your input.

**All parents/carers
welcome to
attend.**

Fees for 2010 are now due

The fees for 2010 are due by the end of February.

The fees are made up as follows:

Existing Group Members:

Scouts NSW Membership fee	\$ 90
Ballina Scout Group Fee for existing members (includes hat)	\$ 10
Total:	\$100

New Group Members:

Scouts NSW Membership fee	\$ 90
Scout NSW Joining Fee (new members only)	\$ 20
Ballina Scout Group Fee for new members (includes hat, badges, scarf)	\$ 30
Total:	\$140

New members will need to purchase a shirt (uniform) if they elect to continue on with the Group after their initial 4 week period— cost ranges from \$30— \$40, depending on the section you join.

Term Subscriptions (irrespective of the number of weeks in a term)

First Child	\$65
Second Child	\$55
Third Child	\$45

There is a 10% discount available to anyone who pays the full years fees in advance. There is also a discount for leaders and parent committee executive members.



Snorkeling and canoeing at Chowder Bay—
Jamboree 2010