

GIRLS' BRIGADE

95 young women plus 50 staff gathered at Glengarry Education Centre, Atkinson's Dam for the annual Leadership Development Course during the This was the 21st year of running this course which is divided into 3 one week stages – each one building on the previous course. During the week all Stages have off-site times varying in the length.



Some of the challenges are purely physical but particularly for Stage 1 they all work on team building. A challenge for the staff was the largest Stage 1 ever with girls from USA, the Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Victoria, ACT as well as Queensland.



GIRL GUIDES

In the September school holidays over 1,400 Girl Guides from all States of Australia and from across the globe, converged on Queensland's Lake Somerset for seven huge days of challenging outdoor activities as part of **The Great Bunya Gathering** (GBG) - Girl Guides Australia's international Jamboree.

Mrs Velia Nicholls, State Commissioner for Girl Guides Queensland described attendance at the GBG as "a life changing experience. The benefits are enormous. They camped in tents under the stars; gained friends from far off places; they challenged themselves in a variety of activities and they had FUN!"



BOY'S BRIGADE

Boys' Brigade Development Course – Leadership (4-12 July, 2015)

This year's course maintained the high standard of the training provided to young men aged 15+. A total of 85 participants (30 in Stage 1; 32 in Stage 2; 23 in Stage 3) and 48 staff made up a course community of 133. We are grateful to God for his obvious presence and work in the lives of many participants. The course has developed into a National / International event. As well as local (Queensland) participants and staff, participants came from Boy's Brigade groups in ACT, Tasmania, Solomon Islands and non-BB high school students including from Queensland, New Zealand and USA. Likewise, staff were drawn from Queensland, ACT, Victoria, New Zealand and USA. Just three weeks later, 13 of the staff were involved in many roles in the delivery of Leadership USA in California.



State Soapbox Derby

In August, the Anchors and Juniors sections (primary school age) of the Brigade groups in south-east Queensland again converged at Mt Coo-tha for an afternoon of competition in the annual State Soapbox Derby to see who had the fastest soap box in the various age groups on the day.

It was great to see 70 Boys from 15 Companies (that's half the State) in attendance and all the parents who came and enjoyed the fellowship – and picnics – that is associated with this event. Although we were down on numbers from 2014, due to the bad viruses going around at the time, the Boys all went away with a smile after what proved to be a great day out. Some even went away with a prized medallion. Thanks again to the team of leaders who give so generously of their time to make memories for the Boys that will last a lifetime.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS





SURF LIFESAVING

Surf lifesavers go from Beach to Bush to spread water safety messages

Surf Life Saving Queensland's (SLSQ) annual Breaka Beach to Bush program kicks off next week (October 12-16), with volunteer lifesavers trading the surf for some of the state's most remote and regional communities in a bid to spread water safety messages.

The educational program has been operating in Queensland since 1998 and remains one of the largest and most innovative community awareness initiatives in Australia, having directly reached more than 275,000 school children since its inception.

Some 15,000 students from 65 primary schools across the state will be receiving vital surf and water safety education as part of this year's program, with communities as diverse as Atherton, Longreach, Emerald, Mt Morgan and St George all set to welcome the unique sight of surf lifesavers.

While primarily focusing on surf and beach safety, the skills and information taught to the children can also be applied to any type of water situation including rivers, dams, creeks, pools or waterways.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE CADETS

The St John Ambulance Event Health Services volunteer program is a not-for-profit organisation that offers membership to those aged from 8 years of age. The St John Ambulance Youth flagship program is aimed at those members aged between 8 and 25 years who complete first aid training and other life skills.

In recent weeks, the Annual State Cadet Camp was held with 60 campers in conjunction with the Junior and Cadet First Aid Championships hosting 40 competitors. The Junior and Cadet First Aid Championships provides an opportunity for youth members to apply their skills and knowledge in mock scenarios. This builds confidence, team work, communication and liaising skills as well as developing the very important skills of first aid which one day may save a life.

SCOUTS

Kay McGrath visits Agoonoree Camp for Kids with Disabilities

The last week in September saw some amazing highlights for the Scout campo "Agoonoree" held at Baden-Powell Park, Samford. Queensland's Agoonoree originated in 1979 when ideas from a Japanese Agoonoree were adopted.

The camp is significant as each year it allows children with varying degrees of disability, or those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to partake in a week long camp with carers from Scouts Queensland and Girl Guides Queensland.

This year almost 70 young people enjoyed fire building, damper cooking, flour-bombing using a catapult, prussiking on an abseiling tower and climbing to great heights on a crate staking activity. These young people were supported by over 300 volunteers. Being away from home sleeping in a tent, using their own money from the "bank" to shop at the canteen and take risks are just some of the joys the young people experienced, often for the first time.

Kay McGrath from Channel 7 came out to meet the fabulous young people and the amazingly dedicated Leaders and carers, some who'd been volunteering since the very first camp 35 years ago. Kay was inspiring on the crate stacking activity and enjoyed the freshly cooked damper on the fire.

The camp is most appreciative of all kinds of sponsors and could not operate without them.

Everyone who attends the camp says it is an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives and often came back year after year. Scouting is for everyone and Agoonoree is about ability not disability.

