

BELGIAN GARDENS SCOUT GROUP

Currently, Belgian Gardens runs a Joey Mob/Cub Pack (6-11 year olds), and a Scout Troop (10-15yo). All Sections have their own leaders, and follow a schedule of incremental, age-appropriate skills and activities. All sections welcome both boys and girls. Section Leaders undertake regular professional development (paid for by the Den) and network with the other Scout leaders in our Region. Any questions or suggestions about activities or badge work should be directed to the respective Leaders. Contact details can be found on the regular meeting schedules distributed to each Section member.

The overall head at Belgian Gardens is the Group Leader. S/He is the liaison between the Kennedy Area Region Command, the Belgian Gardens Section leaders and the BG Management Committee.

FINANCIAL

A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. The expenses of a Scout Group are met by the Parent Assistant Group. They take responsibility for the cost of running the Den and surrounds, raise funds, organise social events, and attend scout activities including camps and excursions. Meetings are held regularly at the Den on either the Cub or Scout meeting night for convenience.

Expenses are various. purchasing of badges, certificates etc., (badges are purchased by the Group and presented as they are earned).

The Committee must also meet the cost of maintaining camping and water equipment in first class, safe condition as well as paying for and maintaining the Scout Hall itself. There is the cost of providing new equipment and resources such as tents, ropes, cooking gear, games equipment etc.

Naturally we have electricity, insurance and the like to pay and there are Leader training costs to be met by the Group to ensure that Leaders are fully trained to deliver the best programs they can to your child.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR GROUP

Scouting began in Australia in 1908 and the 2nd Townsville Boy Scout Troop, as it was then known, began in 1925 at the Cook St home of its first Leader, Mr Dixon Ryder. After approximately 18 months in Cook St, a Scout Hall was built in Warburton St (purportedly the current Meals on Wheels Centre). When the Hall became monopolized by fundraising and social functions, the Scouts built a new Den using flattened out kerosene tins and corrugated iron, and the back fence behind the Hall.

In 1931-32 the Presbyterian Church bought the hall after using it for Sunday School classes from 1929. The Church paid £1,400. The Scouts still used the 'Back Fence Den' and the Cubs built their own Den alongside.

The next den was established in 1945 using a huge ex-American Army building bought for £200 and transported to the old Quarry site on Bundock St. It had 200 stumps requiring 200 post holes, each of which took one whole day to dig and cost £1 each. In 1961 the Troop cut the Den in two and relocated it to the current Evans St site. The annual lease for the block was then £1. In 1963 the Troop became known as the Belgian Gardens Boy Scout Group and subsequently the Belgian Gardens Sea Scouts. It is currently not registered as a Sea Scout Group which requires specialist training, equipment and programs. There are plans however, to once again become the only sea scout troop in the Region.

Cyclone Althea in 1971 thoroughly demolished the Evans St Den. For the next 18 months the Cubs met at the home on their Leader in Ryan St, and the Scouts met in the open at Evans St. The current building was officially opened on 30 July 1977 by Dr

Norm Scott-Young (MP) and Mr Perc Tucker (the then Mayor of Townsville). The murals on the front wall were painted by the Venturers in 1979. The Flagpole was commissioned in 1979 as a gift from the Townsville Cemetery Trust and the American Embassy. In June 1980 staff at the Embassy took up a collection and presented the Troop with the Eagle and Globe which sits atop the pole. The Group also possesses an American Flag should the need arise for one.

Beginning in 1925 Belgian Gardens more than 85 years old and possibly the longest continuously operating troop in Townsville.

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FAMILIES IN SCOUTING

When your child enrolls at BG Scouts, the whole family is embarking on an exciting journey of discovery and learning in the largest organisation of young people in the world.

Families are encouraged to join in camps, excursions and events such as tree plantings, the swimming carnival, and annual Regatta. Adults are also requested to assist the Section Leaders at Meetings and are scheduled on a roster each term.

The most important aspect of parent involvement is the encouragement you give to your child. The boys and girls who get the most out of Scouting are those who put the most into it.

Scouting is a voluntary organization.

To Survive we rely heavily on parent support.



Building a raft at the 07 Regatta at Loam Island.



SCOUTING has spread right around the world and is currently active in over 220 countries with more than 26,000,000 members. Through our programs, we seek to encourage in young people attitudes which will stand them in good stead throughout the rest of their lives, such as initiative, self-reliance, responsibility, respect and consideration for others, while taking into consideration the level of development of the age group and of individuals.

JOINING

Before your child can participate in any Scout meetings you will need to complete an "Application for Youth Membership" form (Y1). This will give automatic insurance cover for your child whilst they are a New Chum. There is a Free Trial period of three weeks, before paying the membership fees.

After the initial three weeks, the Group Leader and Section Leaders discuss a date for Investiture. On Investiture the Joining Fee and Registration Fee would be paid and sent together with the Y1 to State Office, thereby registering your child as a member of the Scout Association.

UNIFORM

From the night he or she is invested, your child will be expected to wear the Scout uniform of a Scout section shirt, scarf and woggle. Closed in shoes must be worn at all times. Shorts or pants are blue, preferably with belt keepers so the scout can wear a custom-made belt. Shorts/trousers can be purchased at any clothing store.

Uniforms are available from the Kennedy Region Outdoor Centre, 387 Charles St, Kirwan, phone 47734274. We may have second hand uniforms available, so please ask a Committee member regarding this.

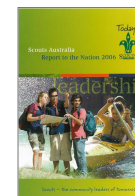
A MEMBERSHIP FEE is payable to Scouts Australia, QLD Branch each year. This covers administration, some costs, and insurance for members.

DEN FEES are paid per term and are on a sliding scale for 2 or more children from the one family. Den fees are payable to Belgian Gardens Scout Group. This covers the cost of rates, electricity, Den insurance, equipment maintenance, etc.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES may include Founder's Day Swimming Carnival; Clean up Australia Day, Anzac Day; World Scout Day; Annual Regional Camp; Section Camps each term; annual BG Family Camp; Jamboree of the Internet (JOTI) and the Air (JOTA); Mother's and Father's Days; excursions, visitors to the Den and Regional Regatta at Loam Island.

Scouting activities include:

- 👍 *Camping/Sleepovers*
- 👍 *Hiking*
- 👍 *Team Challenges*
- 👍 *Abseiling*
- 👍 *Canoes and Kayaks*
- 👍 *Camp craft*
- 👍 *Water Skills*
- 👍 *Team Games*
- 👍 *Navigation skills*
- 👍 *Community Service*
- 👍 *Environmental activities*



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Group Leader, Justine Wilkinson:
0457 046 010
E: Justine.wilkinson123@gmail.com

QLD BRANCH HEAD OFFICE:
Freecall 1800SCOUT (1800 72 688)

**KENNEDY REGION
SCOUT OUTDOOR CENTRE**
(co-located with Region Headquarters)
"Nyeri"

387 Charles Street, Kirwan.

Nyeri is staffed wholly by the generosity of volunteers. Please ring before visiting to check it is open.

Hours of Operation:
Thursday: 6:00 pm—7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am - 11.30 am
Closed School and Public Holidays

POSTAL ADDRESS:

Belgian Gardens Sea Scouts
PO Box 402
Belgian Gardens QLD 4810

STREET ADDRESS:

46 Evans St
Belgian Gardens

Welcome to Belgian Gardens Sea Scouts

A guide for
families
to our Den



**2008 THE YEAR OF THE
SCOUT**