



# REX KONING

## SCOUTING CAREER

1944 to 2000

Rex became a Wolf Cub in Johannesburg at the age of 7 and in 1949 became a Boy Scout at 1<sup>st</sup> Parow, with Ernie Palmer as his Scoutmaster. They built the original Scout Hall in Weimer Street, Parow, later moving to new premises near the Golf Club. The highest Scout achievement obtained was the 1st Class Badge.

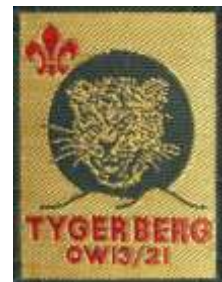
In 1955 Rex was warranted as an Assistant Cubmaster at 1<sup>st</sup> Parow Group. 1957 saw him as an Assistant Scoutmaster at 1st Bellville with Teddy Schurr as the Scoutmaster until 1960 when Rex became Scoutmaster. In 1964 he went to Pietermaritzburg for a fun filled National Jamboree as an assistant to Oscar de Vries the Cape Western Contingency Leader. Rex recalls that it was a rain washed event most of the time, but above all, a great experience.

He was one of the first to obtain his Scout Wood Badge, as in those days it was not compulsory to earn it. Later he went on to earned the Cub Wood Badge and GSM/Commissioners Wood Badge as well. He also achieved the Cub Camping and Pack Holiday Certificate.

Some of his Patrol Leaders went on to achieved important positions in society. The late Albert Snyman was being groomed to become the next Area Commissioner. Paul Salkinder became a Medical Doctor, Robert West became Head of Education in Namibia, Richard Wiehahn a Chartered Accountant and Andre du Toit a successful lawyer in Cape Town.

In 1972 he became the Group Scoutmaster of 2<sup>nd</sup> Parow Group with Albert Snyman as the Scoutmaster. The Edward Shield was won by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Parow Pack in 1978 and it was the first time that this trophy was brought to the Northern Area.

In 1977 he was appointed Assistant District Commissioner of the Tygerberg District which now consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Parow, 1<sup>st</sup> Vrijzee, 1<sup>st</sup> Goodwood, 1<sup>st</sup> Edgemoed and 1<sup>st</sup> Monte Vista Groups. Later 1<sup>st</sup> Thornton also joined the District. This District was the first to wear District Badges on their shoulders, contrary to Head Quarters instructions.



*Original Badge & Later Version*

In 1980 Rex became the District Commissioner of the Tygerberg District when John McEwan resigned. His Assistant District Commissioners were Donald Alexander and a long faithful friend, Denzil Roberts.

The following Area Trophies were won by the Tygerberg District while Rex was the District Commissioner:

- Cub Edward Shield - 2<sup>nd</sup> Parow
- Scout Gordon Shield - 1<sup>st</sup> Monte Vista
- Tonkin Trophy - 1<sup>st</sup> Monte Vista
- Quinn Trophy - 2<sup>nd</sup> Parow

In 1989 he was warranted as an Assistant Area Commissioner (with the portfolio of Regional Commissioner) with the following Districts under his supervision:

- Tygerberg with Johan Weber as District Commissioner.
- Kanonkop with Andre Foot as District Commissioner.
- Helderberg with Margaret De La Rosa as District Commissioner.
- Table Bay with Alister Brickhill as the District Commissioner.
- CW 34 with Desmond Sam as the District Commissioner.

His final warrant was as Assistant Area Commissioner (Districts) when all District in the Cape Western Area were now under his control, including George and Wilderness. Due to an unfortunate turn of unpleasant events and policies implemented in 2000, Rex terminated his Scouting membership with immediate effect, an enormous loss to Scouting.

As far as Awards, Rex was awarded the Long Service Medal in 1965, with the 30 year Bar



following in 1977, 40 in 1987 and in 1994 the 50 year Bar. This award was presented to him by the Chief Scout of South Africa, Garnet de la Hunt at a special meeting hosted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Parow at St. Margarets Church in Parow. The Mayor and the former Mayor of Parow, our Area Commissioner, Brian Figaji and many other important Commissioners and Scouters attended. The Scout Band led by Alan Shinton marched from Voortrekker Road to the Church Hall together with Girl Guides and Brownies.



Chief Scout of SA Garnet de la Hunt, Assistant Area Commissioner Rex Koning, former and past Mayors of Parow and Area Commissioner Brian Figaji at Rex's 50 year presentation.

He was honoured to receive the Medal of Merit in 1980 and 11 years later in 1991, the Bar to the Medal of Merit. He states that the highlight of his Scouting career was when the Order of the Silver Protea was presented to him in 1995 for distinguished service to the Movement.

## Top award for Tygerberg Scout leader

Tygerburger 22/3/1995



ONE of South Africa's highest Scouting awards, The Order of the Silver Protea, was recently presented to Assistant Area Commissioner Rex Koning of Parow by the Chief Scout of South Africa Garnet de la Hunt.

This award is only presented to Scout Leaders who have achieved specially distinguished services over a period of many years.

Rex Koning joined the Scout Movement in 1944, at the age of seven. For the past six years Rex has held the position of Assistant Area Commissioner with a huge area under his control from Maitland to Saldanha Bay towards the north, and Maitland to Hermanus towards the east.

Rex has achieved many awards including the Medal of Merit and the Bar to the Medal of Merit.

What does Rex have to say about this? "The medals and awards are wonderful achievements and I am proud of them, but the achievement that gives me the greatest joy is when I see boys grow into successful and well adjusted adults."

He contributes his success in life to his adherence to the Scout Laws and Promise. He has always tried to live up to our Founders last message: "Try to make this world a little better than when you found it."

In closing, he leaves a final message to (Brother & Sister) Scouts, in that he salutes you and challenges you all to live by your Scout Laws and Promise.