



FIRST CLAREMONT SCOUT GROUP

*THE OLDEST SCOUT GROUP IN SOUTH AFRICA
ESTABLISHED 3 MARCH 1908*



PO Box 44277 Claremont 7735
17 Bowwood Road

28 January 2008

1st Claremont Centenary 2008

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that 2008 is 1st Claremont's 100th birthday – and it's a particularly special centenary, because we're the oldest Scout Group in South Africa.

The purpose of this letter is to get in contact with our hundreds of former members, so that you can be involved our centenary celebrations. In outline our plans for the centenary are as follows:

- On Saturday the 1st of March 2008, we will hold a celebration for present and former Scouts and families, at the 1st Claremont Scout Hall in Bowwood Road.
- The Scouts themselves will have an expedition to the Orange River and Northern Cape from 21 to 30 March 2008.
- We are putting together a centenary publication with photos and stories from the last century of Scouting at 1st Claremont.
- We are renovating the stage as a "Centenary Room" and also looking at several other repairs and improvements around the hall.

Attend our Centenary celebrations

First and foremost, we would love to see you at the 100th birthday celebration!

The celebrations will take place on the afternoon and evening of Saturday 1 March 2008 at the 1st Claremont Scout Hall, 17 Bowwood Road, Claremont. The Scouts will be camping in the grounds on Saturday, and there will be displays of photos, logbooks etc, so this part will be an "open day". There will be a formal get-together in the early evening, most likely followed by a campfire. Former Scouts are invited to stay on to join us around the campfire, if you would like to join the Scouts singing loudly and not necessarily tunefully.

This is also a great opportunity to arrange a reunion for a smaller group of former Scouts. If you would like to do this, let us know.

Help us reach our former Scouts

Please help expand our list of former members by adding names we have missed, your own contact information, and contact information for anyone else on our list. The attached form can be used for this. Please also pass this message on to any friends and family members who may be interested.

Send your photos, stories, memorabilia

After 100 years we have some excellent Troop archives, including hundreds of photographs, logbooks and other items. These will be on display at the centenary celebration. We will be producing a centenary publication and we would welcome your input about your time at 1st Claremont. Smoke Signals magazine has appeared on and off over the past 50 years, and we have now scanned in all the past editions we could get hold of. These will be available on a CD-ROM together with photos of the Scouts in action over the years.

If you have Scout stories you would like to tell, or memorabilia or photographs to donate or lend us for inclusion in our centenary publication or display at the centenary event, please let us know.

Contribute to our centenary fund

We believe that a number of former 1st Claremont Scouts would like to mark the occasion by assisting financially – putting something back – and we have therefore started a centenary fund. If you would like to donate, please do so using the donation form.

The aims of the fund are as follows:

- We want to ensure that no Scout misses a camp or other Scout event for financial reasons, and the Scouts' centenary trip to the Orange River and Northern Cape in March is no exception.
- The stage is being renovated as a Centenary Room, with structural repairs to the roof, installation of a ceiling, improved lighting, painting, and so on.
- Equipment is always in need of replacing – for instance, several of our current tents have done 20 years of service and need to be replaced at a cost of around R5000 each.
- We are very fortunate to have our own hall filled with Scouting tradition, but old buildings are expensive to maintain. Whether it is the roof, the electrics, the plumbing, the fences, painting, or simply maintaining the grounds, there is always more work to do than our bank account will allow. We would like the hall and grounds to be in good shape for our centenary.

For more information

- Visit the 1st Claremont website at www.scouting.org.za/groups/1stclaremont
- Contact us at firstclaremont@scouting.org.za
- Join the group “1st Claremont Scout Centenary” on Facebook
- Phone Ian at 078 2551122 after hours

We will send you further information as soon as the plans are complete. In the mean time, please look through the attached list of former Scouts and help us to expand our contact list.

The Scouts, adult leaders and parents at 1st Claremont look forward to your participation in our centenary!

Yours in Scouting



Ian Webb
Group Scouter