



CHECK IT OUT: George French and the 1st Claremont Scouts in 1908, examining a large tortoise.

Photos: Supplied

Scouts celebrate 100 years

SOUTH AFRICA'S oldest scout group, 1st Claremont, will celebrate 100 years of existence on Saturday, 1 March.

Former Scouts are invited to join the group at a reunion at the 1st Claremont Scout Hall in Bowwood Road, Claremont.

The Claremont Scouts was established in March 1908, after two boys, Fred and Charles Stern, of the Claremont Public School read about scouting, which had started in England in 1907. They approached their principal, George French, to start a group. French was the first Scoutmaster in South Africa.

The Scouts will be camping at the hall and families and former Scouts will join in at 18:00 for a celebration of 100 years of scouting.

There will be presentations of scouting history and old photo albums and memorabilia will be on display. The event will end with a campfire.

For this event, the group has a list of over 400 former members they are trying to contact. Later in March, the Scouts will celebrate once more with a 10 day camping trip to the Northern Cape, where they will visit the Roodebergskloof Conservancy – a new community-driven conservation project. They will then camp at Augrabies Falls and



NUMBER ONES: 1st Claremont Scouts at the annual Kon Tiki raft building competition at Sandvlei.

finally canoe on the Orange River.

The Scouts at 1st Claremont come from a wide range of backgrounds, but they are determined that all their members should take part in this centenary trip, so they will be sponsoring several who cannot afford the cost of the trip.

Anyone interested in the reunion or in joining the group can phone Ian Webb at 078 255 1122 or (021) 683-1567 a/h, or e-mail firstclaremont@scouting.org.za. Details are also available at www.scouting.org.za/groups/1stclaremont.