



KwaZulu-Natal Scout Trail



REPORTING SCOUTING VIEWS AND NEWS IN KWAZULU-NATAL FOR OVER 60 YEARS

Mugs of Christmas cheer



1st Richards Bay Sea Scouts walking off the gangway after delivering their Christmas mugs to seafarers on Christmas Eve in 2010

It is that time of the year again when everyone young and old is starting to think CHRISTMAS. This is a special time of the year for giving and receiving. What though of the seafarers on the ships within our ports around South Africa and those swinging around at anchor off shore?

These are the men who will wake up on Christmas morning with no families, no loved ones, no gifts, and thousands of miles away from home. Enter 1st Richards Bay Sea Scouts, Group Scouter, Liz Scates-

Wood. Liz happens to work on the ships docked in Richards Bay in the Port Vaccinations Services, doing on board vaccinations and medical locker inspections. Liz, having sailed on ships for many years, knows the loneliness of being at sea and away from home for many months at a time.

It was in 2004 while Liz was giving a talk to the 1st Richards Bay Cubs about all the sailors away from home at Christmas time that the idea of the CHRISTMAS MUG PROJECT was born. Through the Christmas Mug Project every person will receive a coffee mug filled with sweets, biscuits, and a handmade greeting card all nicely wrapped and personally delivered to the ships on Christmas Eve afternoon when the port is closed for the festivities. Cubs and Scouts will go from ship to ship hopefully on the local fire engine and do their good turn as per their Scout Promise. It is hoped that the port helicopter will also do their good turn and drop off the boxes to the anchorage (ships off shore waiting to come into the harbour) as they have done in the past.

Now an annual event for the 1st Richards Bay Sea Scout Group, they work with the Richard's Bay community to fund raise for this worthy cause. Members of the public are requested to sponsor ten mugs @ R5 and ten fillings @ R10 which costs R150. Closer to the time, Liz personally contacts the shipping agents for the exact numbers of ships in the port and sailors aboard. "This year we are aiming for a minimum of 25 ships with an average of 23 crew members so the need is great," said Liz. "Our Cubs and Scouts are already bringing in their pocket money mugs so the Christmas mug project has kicked off and the excitement is starting to grow."

Congratulations to Liz and the team at 1st Richards Bay Sea Scouts for an excellent project that brings some Christmas cheer to each of those sailors on Christmas morning.

Those who would like to sponsor ten mugs can give Liz Scates-Wood a call on 083 441 3666.

Note from the editor

How about Sea Scout groups from around the country taking up the challenge to do something similar in your nearest port?

Cubs support orphanage with Christmas party

For the second year running, the 1st Hillcrest Cubs from Waingunga Pack have gone all out to make a difference for orphans at the Ethelbert Children's Home in Pinetown.

These Cubs have spent over two months making up a Christmas box of presents for 17 orphans. Collecting toys and other much needed items such as tooth paste and stationery, they are all carefully wrapped in shoe boxes and with each orphan's name on a box and handed out at a Christmas party held at their home. "It's important that our Cubs not only realise how privileged they are, but that they make a difference in someone's life less fortunate than theirs," said Kerry-Ann Dolloway, Pack Scouter. The Cubs each looked after a new "friend" and made sure they had as much fun as possible in team games. This was followed by a wonderful party of treats and then the excitement of opening up their gifts. Many of these orphans are also Cubs belonging to the recently formed 1st Ethelbert Scout Group in April 2011. "We learnt a lot," said 1st Hillcrest Cub Tyron Dolloway. "I hope we can do this again next year."



Smiles of anticipation ahead of fun, games and a Christmas party.

1st Hillcrest Cubs with their guests from the Ethelbert Children's Home. In the photo are adult leaders Kerry-Ann Dolloway, 1st Hillcrest Scout Group and Phakamile Ntuli, 1st Ethelbert Scout Group

Rover Crews learn more about Rovering

For the first time since 1998, KZN had a Rover Chairman's Course which was held on the 5-6 November at the WP Bawden Scout Hall, located on Maydon Wharf. The National Rover Commissioner, Gerard Evans, travelled down from Johannesburg to meet and greet the local Rovers and to ensure the course was up to standard. The organizer behind this successful Scouting initiative was Sigma Crew leader, Cameron Belling. "The Rover Programme has gone through quite a radical change making it more effective to grow Rovers and turning them into better citizens, so it was important for all our KZN Rovers to attend this course," said Cameron.

The course was attended by two KZN Crews, The SIGMA Rover Crew and the 1st Hillcrest Highway District Crew, of which all the participants gained valuable knowledge of Rovering and the processes involved in running a successful Crew.



The National Rover Commissioner, Gerard Evans, back right, with local KZN Rovers and Paul Brock, course director and Lynton Cloete, Greater Durban District Commissioner

Attendance for this course was not limited to Crew Chairmen, but to all Group Scouters and District Commissioners as well as all Rovers that are associated with a Crew. It was beneficial that more than one Rover from each Crew attend the course, as this would ensure a greater succession plan for new chairman of the Crew Councils.

The Rover Chairman's Course is the first Rover Course that allows for all aspects of Rovering to be explained to participants. The importance of ceremonies, crew constitutions and the new Rover programme were just a few of the sessions covered.

A special guest on the first day was Dr Dudley Forde. He met with the National

Rover Commissioner and gained more insight into the value that Rover Crews bring to the movement.

Mention must be made of Cameron Belling who has authored a fantastic handbook for Rovers titled "Rover Crew in a Box". This is being used as a national resource.

Next year, the 1st Hillcrest Highway District Crew and SIGMA Rover Crew will be setting up Rover Advisory Council, who in association with the KZN Training Team will be running the next Rover Chairmen's Course. Details will be advertised through the normal channels.

Should you wish to discuss more about what Rovers has to offer then give Cameron a call on 072 204 2477.

Commissioners' Skills upgraded

Participants from all over KwaZulu-Natal attended an informative Commissioners' Warrant Course, designed to equip our adult leaders better with the necessary skills to become more effective Commissioners.

Held at Lexden Scout Camp, Pietermaritzburg from 28th-30th October, the course covered subjects that a

Commissioner would need to assist in his or her respective District. This included topics such as supporting leaders, leadership, counselling, campfires and Scouts Own, ceremonies, resources, management of risk and problem solving.

Much was learnt and each adult leader left satisfied that they would make every effort to look for ways they could improve as



Happy faces after a successful Commissioners' course

District Commissioners and successfully implement the knowledge gained over the weekend.

Thanks to the following members of the KwaZulu-Natal Training Team whose presentations made the course a great success: Tutors - Mondli Dlamini, Sizakele Masondo and Grace Sibisi; Session Leaders - Paul Brock,

Goodenough Dlamini, Dudley Forde, Jubilant Mchunu, Nosisa Ntuli and Beth Barkus; and to the team of Quartermasters - Siphesihle Ngidi, Ntuthuko Gwala, Sphamandla Zuma, Siyabonga Mtolo and Lindokuhle Buthelezi for all their hard work. There is a saying that an army marches on its stomach and here a big thanks to the catering team of Peter Green, Monty and Maggi for the delicious meals.

Course leader, Beth Barkus commented: "I was very pleased at the positive way that each adult leader contributed to ensure they gained new skills and looked for ways to develop for the betterment of the Movement. A big congratulations for a job well done to all the participants!"

Walking for Gandhi



On your marks, get set, GO! Surat Hindoo Cubs on the start line

Durban based Surat Hindoo Scout Group held their 15th annual Gandhi Walk at the Kings Park Athletic Stadium on Sunday 9th October 2011.

This much anticipated annual Surat Hindoo fund raising event provides the Movement with a wonderful platform to showcase

and raise awareness for Scouting. The Gandhi has helped to generate a strong interest amongst the participants and attract youngsters into the Movement. This high profile event's media partners, Lotus FM and SAFM, provided the KZN Provincial Commissioner, Garth Kloppenborg and Surat Hindoo Group

Scouter, Madan Nathoo, with a wonderful opportunity to promote Scouting by being interviewed live on national radio for over an hour.

For the young, old or those in between, the fun walk was well received by all as it also brought together sporting, social, and various religious and youth organisations to meet, greet and participate.

After the walk the participants were served a hot lunch and treated to a live entertainment programme of song and dance. In between this fantastic entertainment, lucky ticket prizes were drawn with prizes for around the home, while the main prize was a trip for two lucky persons on board the MSC Simfonia.

Those that haven't taken part in this event, book now in your 2012 calendar, as it's a great days outing for family and friends.... and of course, all for a good cause.

Profile of a Springbok Scout: Dirk Swart of Amanzimtoti

Dirk Swart alongside the Emzemvelo KZN Wildlife microlight he helped fundraise for, to assist with Rhino anti-poaching in the Hluhluwe Imfolozi Game Reserves

We have many examples of past Springbok Scouts around KZN playing meaningful roles in our communities.

Earlier this year the press featured the acquisition of a spotter plane at Hluhluwe Imfolozi Game Reserve for the fight against rhino poaching. The two game rangers, Lawrence Munro and Dirk Swart, made this happen through overseas donations, which also covered the expense of their training as pilots.

Dirk Swart is one such Springbok Scout.

He joined the Movement in 1986 as a Cub in the Coastal District and achieved all the Cub interest badges, the Leaping Wolf Badge and "Cub of the Year" awards before moving up to Scouts. A keen nature lover he had already decided at the tender age of four to be a game ranger when he grew up. He enjoyed and learnt much from the outdoor Scouting activities, PLTU, being a Patrol Leader and, eventually, Troop Leader at 1st Amanzimtoti Scout

Troop, which helped him in his later career. Dirk achieved his Bushman's Thong and became a Springbok Scout in 1996.

After school Dirk obtained his Diploma in Nature Conservation at Mangosuthu Technikon (now Mangosuthu University of Technology). During his practical year with Natal Parks Board his Scouting skills came into play, first at St Lucia then at Weenen Game Reserve and then finally at Royal Natal National Park. Together with Field Rangers he had to do extended foot patrols (hiking), often up to 20 km per day. He also had to construct a bus stop (which, incidentally, featured in a short TV film "Buffalo Thorn") at Mfabeni, St. Lucia on the way to Mission Rocks, where his pioneering skills were used. Whilst still a Cadet, he applied for a position as Anti-Poaching Officer at Mkuzi Game Reserve – here he found that he had to build a new team as the Anti-Poaching Unit needed a complete overhaul. Once again he could build on



some of the Scouting skills, particularly PLTU.

As Anti-Poaching Officer, Dirk's unit often spent several days in the bush setting up observation posts or ambushes and had to be self-contained – providing their own rations. Later Dirk was at Kozi Bay for a few years where he was Second-in-Command, before moving to Hluhluwe Game Reserve as Section Ranger Northern Section where he presently lives with his young family. He furthered his studies and is also a qualified Green Scorpion and attained his private pilot's licence – perhaps stimulated by flying in a microlight with the Air Scouts at SANJAMB and handling the controls of a light plane in flight at the Cedarburg Adventure?

Keep up the good work Dirk!

Richards Bay camp out attracts new Scouts

Owing to the declining numbers of Cubs and Scouts in Richards Bay, the 1st Richards Bay Sea Scout group decided to hold a busy bee combined camp in an effort to attract new members and swell their numbers. They invited 1st Eshowe, their nearest friends who are always up for a good camp. With kind weather, lots of projects and badge work, loads of fun was had by all. Magda Nel, 1st Richards Bay Pack Scouter drew up the programme while Louie Nel, 1st Richards Bay Troop Leader took care of the camp cooking for all the Scouts. It looks like the fun time paid off as 1st Richards Bay now have a number of new aspiring Scouts who enjoyed



Now THAT was a fun camp! 1st Richards Bay Sea Scouts and 1st Eshowe join for a weekend camp

themselves so much they have expressed interest to get more involved. Camp fire skits and songs were a roaring success as was the fire, which was duly lifted to the braai area afterwards for the cooking of the marshmallows. 1st Richards Bay Sea

Scout Group Scouter, Liz Scates-Wood thanked everyone afterwards including the Eshowe Scouters for the great effort in keeping 30 youngsters busy at all times. This is a good example to other groups as a way to grow your numbers.

KZN Scouts and COP 17

Thanks to Funding from Germany over 1 000 Scouts from KZN have been able to experience the excitement surrounding COP 17 in Durban. Over the first weekend of COP 17, 3-4 December, 800 Scouts were transported from their schools to the COP 17 public displays, allowing them to see the latest technology that is being developed from around the world to address climate change.

It was also an opportunity to walk along the beach front and to meet and greet international COP 17 delegates who have traveled from all corners of the world to attend this important international event being hosted on the African continent for the very first time.

During the week 29-30 November and 1-8 December, daily groups of around 80 Scouts were bussed to the KZN Scout HQ where they were introduced to the concept of COP and the challenges faced with global warming. In total this amounted to

560 Scouts who attended three courses, on climate change, food for life and solar energy which was run by Green Peace, who had set up a solar energy display station at BP Camp.

Each Scout was presented with a South African Scout Association T-shirt and provided with a meal.

On the Wednesday 7 December while the head of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon was addressing a high profile delegation at the Elangeni Hotel on the North Beach, Cubs from 4th Durban were taking part in an international event at Addington Beach. Organised by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, a huge globe made from wire and beadwork was handed over to the Cubs in a symbolic gesture to remind the international delegates that the future belongs to the children, so protect and look after our planet. The globe will in time to come be auctioned off to raise funds to tackle climate change.

The logistics behind the scenes was quite an undertaking made all the more challenging as the funding for these Scouts to attend was only made available a few days before the COP 17 got underway. A special thanks to Lorna Newman for making all the transport arrangements. The catering was taken on by 4th Durban who assembled a team of five volunteers. Under the leadership of Judy Elderton they made 560 egg and mayonnaise sandwiches throughout the week for the Scouts, all carefully packed and delivered to HQ! The South African Scout Association branded T-shirts, which were handed out to each Scout, were individually screen printed by 1st Chatsworth Troop Scouter, Previn Vedan. Previn worked tirelessly the entire weekend with the help of his family to have over 560 T-shirts ready to hand out when the first Scouts arrived at HQ!

Indeed a sterling and much appreciated all round Scouting effort. BRAVO!!



4th Durban (St. Thomas) Cub, Rynne Noel (10) being interviewed on a Durban beach for a world-wide programme about the youth and COP 17



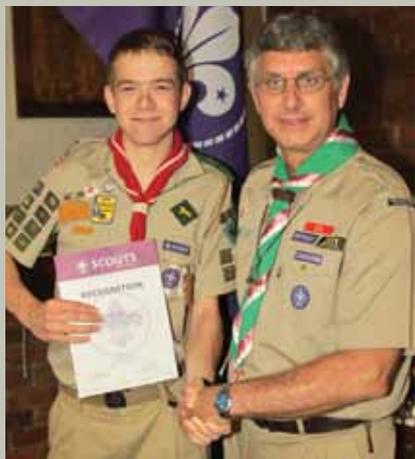
Cubs from 4th Durban (St. Thomas) Pack (green and karkhi scarves) Emma Aniruth, Rynne Noel, Reggie Davidson, Joel van Rooyen with the huge World Wildlife Fund sponsored bead and wire globe



One of the many scout groups arrive at the KZN Scout HQ for training on climate change and solar energy

Springbok awards for head boy and girl

It must surely be a reflection on the calibre of those who go on to achieve the highest award in



Highway District Commissioner, Steve Thorne presents a certificate of meritorious achievement to Waldo Staude, the current headboy at Gelofo Hoer Skool

Scouting - a Springbok - that these people are dedicated, determined and good leaders.

1st Hillcrest Scout, Waldo Staude was presented with his Springbok Scout award towards the end of 2010, the same time it was announced by his headmaster that he would be the 2011 head boy at his school, Gelofo Hoer Skool in Pinetown.

Girls always have to be different.

Doing this the other way round, 4th Pietermaritzburg Scout, Alice O'Neill was the head girl at St John's D.S.G girls school in Pietermaritzburg during 2010. This year in October Alice was presented with her Springbok Scout award, becoming the first Scout in her district to have received the Springbok award in five years – well done Alice!

Oldest Highway troop now on line

Formed in 1913 in the small village of Pinetown with some 23 boys and the then Scout master Mr G.H. Mathieson, 1st Pinetown is the oldest Scout troop in the Highway District. They have a proud history and over the years have produced 13 King Scouts, 3 Queen Scouts and more than 16 Springbok Scouts.

The group has a new crop of dedicated leaders and under their leadership together with the newly elected parent committee, the group numbers have grown dramatically in the last three years.

1st Pinetown has also realised the importance of having a presence

on the World Wide Web. They have recently designed and launched their own fully functional website, www.1stpinetown.org. Which was launched in November. 1st Pinetown Troop Scouter, Robin Ezra, who designed the website, said: "It's a basic site and we plan to have more photos up-loaded next year with each Scout activity we take part in. It was important for us that parents in our area could easily locate our contact details by googling 1st Pinetown, as our Scout group telephone numbers are not in the telephone directory."

Websites are useful and all Scout groups are encouraged to have one.

Gone Home

Thuli Dlamini – Troop Scouter at Silwanetshe School in Willowfontain.

PI Devan was involved in Scouting in KZN for many, many years and served as an elected member of the National Scout Council for many years as well. He passed away aged 91.



Scouting the air waves

The Northern Natal district celebrated their eleventh consecutive Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) by camping at the Tom Worthing Dam at Hattingspruit from the 14-16 October. The 1st Ladysmith and 3rd Newcastle Scouts and Cubs get together annually to communicate with Scouts all over the world using short wave radio and the internet based EcoLink network.

Contact was made with a variety of groups throughout the world, from Australia (no reference to rugby) Philippines and England, as well as some of the few South African bases taking part in JOTA.

It was a great experience for Scouts to enter into discussions with their international counterparts, with discussion on Scouting in the various countries, the life style in South Africa, pets, friends and schools. All involved in the process experienced the wide brotherhood of Scouting, and contacts were made that will possibly be kept for years to come.

Not everyone could be on the radios all the time: a variety of bases were held, themed around the COP 17 held in Durban. Scouts learnt about sources of carbon dioxide and how they can make a difference. Calculations were made to measure our carbon footprint, the carbon content of various fuels, the origin of rain and the effects of a sea level rise. Cubs were kept busy with various creative bases, and everyone had the obligatory swim in the dam.

Some of the Scouts showed an interest in further training as radio operators, and will be trained as junior operators. Big thanks to Johan and Andre De Wit who brought their radio and computer equipment to the camp to allow the Scouts to experience international communication.



The scout band entertains the rally with some popular tunes

Scouts rally success

Organised by Goodenough Dlamini and his team, this successful rally was held on 15 October at Linpark High School in Pietermaritzburg. The Chief Scout, the Chief Scouts Commissioner, National Chairman and the CEO of SASA attended this event and were very complimentary about the programme that had been organised. Close on 600 Cubs, Scouts and adults attended the rally, testing skills which they had learnt over the past few months. The Chief Scout expressed his wish that this annual rally be an even better supported event next year with all the other KZN Scout groups attending.



The Rally closes with the lowering of the flags



Rally participants gather to hear a message from the Chief Scout

2011

Diary Dates

December 2011

10	Group Management Workshop - 17 participants
10	Permit Phase Training - 23 Participants
15	KZN HQ closes

27 December to 7 January

108th PLTU, Lexden - Zulu Medium

January 2012

9	KZN HQ opens
11	School Term 1 begins
14	Development Meeting, KZN HQ
27	Principals Orientation meeting
28-19	Pack & Troop Campers Licence Course at BP Camp

February 2012

2	World Wetlands Day
4	Provincial Commissioner's Management Meeting at KZN HQ
10-12	Adventurer Advancement Level Camp at BP Camp
11	Exco Meeting at KZN HQ
14	Valentine's Day
19	BP Sunday
25-26	Midmar Raft Race
25	Water Awareness Course, Midmar

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