



Summer - 2003

SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

2003 is indeed upon us with many challenges lying ahead – not least of which is the International Scout Adventure Challenge to be held in Cape Town in September. Not only will it be the toughest challenge for the youth worldwide but it also underscores B P's belief in the ability of the youth to rise up to challenges if they are entrusted to accomplish them. This is often forgotten by adult leaders in Scouting today!!

See www.scouting.org.za/adventurechallenge for more details.

We congratulate Mr. Andre Bredenkamp as the newly appointed Chief Scout's Commissioner. Andre is the former Area Commissioner of the Cape Western Area, has an extensive Scouting background and is a Springbok Scout. Among his diverse interests is mountain climbing and he has various accomplishments in this regard across three continents.

We also see in the New Year, with the roll out of the Child Protection Policy, Volunteer Code of Conduct, Gender Policy and the Association's new forms. It is a pleasure to report that these have all been produced and distributed to the Areas at no cost. The AIDS program and package distribution is in full swing with 100000 being distributed already. Also, hot off the press is the new Troop Scouter's Handbook, the cost of which will also be subsidised by National Headquarters.

We welcome back Miss A Booth from the 13th International Youth Forum in Korea and our Jamboree contingent from Thailand who by all accounts were tremendous ambassadors. There is a noteworthy increase in interest in Scouting in South Africa by civil society, government and the private sector alike. The Association's commitment to providing Scouting to all, transforming in line with the National agenda and the commitment of all it's leaders are to be commended. I am sure 2003 will attest to that.

Luke van der Laan

15TH NATIONAL SENIOR SCOUT ADVENTURE - CEDERBERG

This National event attracted 400 participants between the ages of 15 to 18 from Scout Troops all around the country and Namibia. The Activity lasted 12 days and offered bases on water at the Clanwilliam Dam, as well as amongst the magnificent Cederberg mountains. All reports indicate a fantastic experience.

UPDATED SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME!

The updated Scout Advancement Programme is complete and is available on the South African Scout Association web page at www.scouting.org.za. A great deal of thought has gone into this programme to make it relevant to Scouts in 2003. The programme also ensures that scouts of all ages are required to obtain their advancement within the Patrol System, which is what B-P envisaged from the beginning.

SAHQ is very aware that the majority of our scout troops have no access to the web, and are asking Areas to make some form of printed copy available to their troops until such time as Headquarters are able to produce a printed version.



DUTY TO GOD:

When we first put on that uniform and promised "to do my best to do my duty to God", it meant that we have a belief in God and that we would faithfully carry out what He has asked us to do. Promises need some thought beforehand, and then are a tough undertaking to carry out thereafter. I can't be a scout until I make that promise:- Have I given it that thought before I go ahead and make that undertaking, or do I go through life "pretending"? - Quite tough that one!

Not all South African scouts, cubs or Leaders are Christian; more and more of our Groups are "mixed" as far as faiths are concerned. We must remember that every scout makes the same promise whether his "God" is Allah or another Deity, we must all respect that, as we are all members of this wonderful Worldwide Movement.

I have a very special memory of a day in my scouting life. I was a Scouter with the South African Contingent to the world Jamboree in Japan. After camping through a sideswipe of an Oriental Typhoon, Sunday dawned clear and sunny. Each of us in that contingent made our way to take part in a Scouts Own or service of our faith. I recall that the main arena was divided down the middle, about 5000 Protestants on one end and about the same number of Catholics at the other end. Here and there, elsewhere in the Jamboree site, seventeen other faiths (Jewish, Buddhists, Shinto, Islam etc) were holding their services, all at the same time and at the same proximity. To me, that summed up the World Scout Movement.

Colin Stretton



JAN GROOTBOOM - SCOUT

Amongst the many names mentioned in the account of the Matabele Campaign of 1896 is that of Jan Grootboom, a Xhosa from the Eastern Cape (although B-P refers to him as a Zulu) Grootboom had come to Matabeleland as a wagon driver for the missionary Helm and eventually worked with Colenbrander, one of the main figures in Rhodes' drive northwards. At the height of the Campaign Grootboom distinguished himself as a courageous and exceptional man especially when it came to scouting around the Matabele camps and outposts. For Baden Powell he had great respect and admiration as we shall see below, the feeling was mutual.



B-P writes; He had the guts of the best of men" Though I knew Zululand, I was new to Rhodesia and its people and I needed therefore a really reliable guide and Scouting comrade.

To do our job he and I used to ride out from our outpost as soon as night had set in. This enabled us to get through the intervening 25 miles of country in good time to conceal ourselves near the enemy position at dawn, then to ascertain his exact whereabouts by observing his camp-fires as they lit up for cooking the morning meal. Our work lay among rocky kopjes. I found with my rubber-soled shoes I was able to get about more rapidly than Jan and in fact the enemy. In this way the enemy got to know me fairly well; they gave me the name of "Impeesa" - the beast that creeps about at night.

One night we had crept down to near the enemy stronghold and were waiting there to see his morning fires so as to ascertain his position. Presently the first fire was lit and then another and yet another.

Jan suddenly growled: "The brutes are laying a trap for us." He slipped off all his clothing and left it lying in a heap and stole off into the darkness practically naked.

The worst of spying is that it makes you suspicious, even of your best friends; so as soon as Jan was gone I crept away in another direction, taking the horses with me, and got among some rocks where I would have some chance if he had any intention of betraying me. For an hour or more I lay there while the sun rose until, at last, I saw Jan crawling back through the grass - alone. Ashamed of my doubts, I crept to him and found him grinning all over with satisfaction while he was putting on his clothes again.

He said that he had found, as he had expected, an ambush laid for us. The thing that made him suspicious was that the fires, instead of flaring up at different points all over the hillside simultaneously, had been lighted in steady succession, one after the other, apparently by one man going around to light them. He himself had pressed in towards them by a route from which he was able to perceive a party of them lying out in the grass close to the track which we should probably have used had we gone on.

With thanks - Cape Western Scouter

1st Msogwaka's Scout & Guide Good Turn

The Scouts & Guides of 1st Msogwaba - Mpumalanga Area set a good example in their community by regularly cleaning up around the local bus terminus. At pension time, after the Old Age pensioners have collected their pensions, 1st Msogwaba's scouts and guides are joined by 1st Mbokodo and 1st Sindzawonye cubs, scouts and guides to tidy up after the elderly folk. This is not only a GOOD TURN, but a great EXAMPLE to the Community.



1st Msogwaba Scouts & Guides are faced with the mess at the bus stand.

BEWARE PLASTIC DRUMS & CONTAINERS

Scouts use plastic and metal drums often in pioneering rafts, landing stages and also to carry water in

camp. Leaders are asked to be very careful, by inspecting these containers



before they are used. To a young, keen scout a drum is a drum and that it still

contains the dregs of some poisonous chemical or acid is the last thought that comes into his head. There are now commercial drum cleaning firms who sell their finished, safe product. Maybe that is where we should source our requirements. Leaders, do check that pile of old, rusty, drums you have been using on your Kontiki raft - you never know.

HERE IS A PROJECT FOR OUR RURAL TROOPS - Teach your scouts to recognise the hazardous labels that appear on drums and smaller containers. These labels inform you what has been inside the drum.

Unfortunately sometimes these labels have been removed, which makes the container doubly dangerous. Make them aware of the dangers in using these vessels without thorough cleaning. Rural communities, without running water, are the most in danger - according to our health authorities, deaths are caused in this way. Let our scouts be in the forefront of alerting their communities to this danger.



FANTASY CRICKET!!!

What is Fantasy Cricket? Well to find out you will have to join the Cubs of Gauteng. In a report of the 2002 event, Akela Sherley Southwell contacted "Scouting About" in her enthusiastic way and said that on the day, the sun was shining and under a blue Highveld sky a long balloon rose ever higher. Shuttleworth cricket had lost another helium filled "cricket bat", while 360 Cubs were playing fantasy cricket at Nicky Oppenheimer's exquisite cricket ground in Randjiesfontain. Teams of small khaki clad figures moved from hospital cricket, where the balls were bandages and the bats were bedpans, to jungle cricket where rubber snakes were climbing up vine covered wickets. On to medieval cricket where they stood in front of the sword in the stone, wearing handsome knights helmets as they took guard and a spiky mace-like ball was bowled. (Daryll Cullinan's small son recognised it was a "wedgehog"). Wickets took the shape of peg legs (pirate cricket)

toilet bowls (plumbers cricket) broomsticks (quidditch cricket), helium filled balloons (Shuttleworth cricket), tombstones (graveyard cricket) and the bats and balls were just as fanciful.

Prime mover in getting the event off the ground is Fanie de Villiers, former national fast bowler, invested as a scout two years ago. Present were well known cricketers, Daryll Cullinan, Clive Exteen and John Myburgh who talked to the Cubs and signed autographs. Nicky Oppenheimer came to visit (and was charged R5.00 entrance by an over enthusiastic gatekeeper who didn't recognise him), Nicky was thrilled by what he saw and intends to make the event an annual one.

The charity to benefit by R50 000, the amount raised on the day, was HEAR, a charity which helps to provide cochlea implants for profoundly deaf children. Well done to the Cubs of Gauteng!



Scouter Fanie de Villiers prime mover in organising Fantasy Cricket

SA SCOUT ASSOCIATION'S AIDS PROGRAM

The current effects of HIV/AIDS on the African sub-continent have been widely communicated. The real life stories at grass roots perhaps have not been communicated widely enough. The impact this pandemic has to economies, communities and families cannot be understated.

The South African Scout Association recognised it's moral responsibility and role in addressing this issue and has responded by rolling out it's AIDS program. This with the financial assistance of NOVIB (OXFAM Netherlands). While the Association is by no means a specialised AIDS intervention agency, the program, which is based on peer education, sets it apart from most other programs. Together with asserting the right of our youth to say "no", the program focuses on providing youth forums that are integrated into the Scout program whereby peers amongst themselves only, discuss and determine behavioural "best practices". It is, ultimately behavioural change that can curb the rapid spread of the pandemic.

A simple hard-hitting package has been developed and distributed to all Areas. This includes adult leader guidelines, introductory pamphlets and badges. Initial reports indicate that the program is being rolled out successfully throughout the country. For those Groups that have not yet received your materials or require guidance, please contact the Area offices. It is fundamental that every member (and hopefully his/ her friends outside Scouting) is exposed to the program as a matter of urgency.



Mr Nickey Oppenheimer holding the teddy presented to him on the occasion. "Teddy" was dressed as a cub and holding a cricket bat, will be displayed in the club room at the grounds. The cubs, wearing the cricket day scarf, were the top fundraisers in a competition leading up to the fantasy cricket day. Darren Cook (1st Randburg - Brinkpark) raised R2800 - Nicholas Wingfield (1st Bedfordview) R2600 - Robyn Dugmore (1st Randberg-Ferndale) - Matthew Hutchinson (9th Benoni) - Gareth Ilesley (1st Blairgowrie) - Grant Laubscher (1st Parkmore) - Marcus Warriner (1st Parkmore) all raised substantial amounts.

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE!

Here is a unique opportunity to visit Iceland - NORDJAMB 2003 - will be held in exotic Iceland from 5 / 11 August 2003. This jamboree is for girl and boy scouts 15 to 30 years old. The Opening will be in Reykjavik and the closing Thingvellir - halfway between Europe and America.

NORDJAMB 2003 - website www.scout.is/nordjamb

GEOCACHING

What is Geocaching? Geocaching is an adventure game for Global Positioning System (gps) users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a gps unit.

The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. The cache consists of a watertight plastic bucket containing various small rewards, such as a CD, programme disc, trinkets and in our case Scout badges etc., together with a log book and a ball point pen. The finder takes one reward and replaces it with his gift to the cache, records his visit in the log book and comments. He then replace the cache carefully, for the next party to discover.

So what's the big deal? You have the coordinates so you know where the cache is. It's deceptively easy. It's one thing to know

where the cache is, it's a totally different story to actually get there. Where you place your cache is up to you. The location of the cache can be very entertaining indeed and can demonstrate the founder's skill and possibly even daring. Up a cliff face, accessible only by rock climbing equipment. Hidden in a cave on a mountain top. Under water where scuba gear is required. If scouts undertake this activity we must be aware of our scouting rules as to rock climbing, water activities etc.

As I write I think "What a wonderful activity to include in a future Cederberg Adventures, scaled down to fit the terrain and the occasion! Maybe in the form of Orienteering." You can find out more about it from <http://www.geocaching.com/>

Thanks SSN 16 Scottish Scout News.

BSA'S JESSE POSTAK - EAGLE PROJECT 'FLIES' TO SWAZILAND

A member of the Boy Scouts of America has stretched the wings of his 'Eagle Project' miles away from his country. Jesse Postak (14) initiated a project where he prepared 1000 educational kits. The kits contain, among other things a pencil, chalkboard, eraser and a nice bag. IYV will ship the consignment to the kingdom of Swaziland. Swaziland Scout Association will distribute or will take part in the distribution of the kits to various orphans. Postak further donated a sum of US\$800.00 towards an orphanage project.

LIVULANDLELA - Swaziland Scout Assn. Newsletter

MPUMALANGA SCOUTING UP AND RUNNING!

A new batch of Leaders attend a Introduction to Adult Leadership Course under Course Director; Michael Nsimba, in the Mpumelanga Area. The participants were fortunate to have the services of the combined Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg and Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder Workshop Tour Teams, who were still in the area.



Seated: Thomas Hofler and Christian Keller of the German organisations, Anthony Sandleni, Solitha Themba, Michael Nsimba (Course Director), Nomathemba Maphanga, Elvis Mdaka & Rebecca Mngomezulu, with the enthusiastic participants standing behind.

SCOUTING AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Lamine Diawara: Director, Dakar Operations Centre of the World Scout Bureau, Africa Regional Office, reports that Scouting in West Africa is working with UNAIDS to introduce Aids awareness into the progressive scheme of Scouting in six West African Countries. He quotes from "Wonder News" Issue 9, "In 'The State of the World's Children - 2002' UNICEF reports that: half of all new cases of HIV occur in young people 15-24 years old. Scouting can do so much to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among young people all over the world. "Don't forget World AIDS day on 1 December."

Uganda Scouts Association reports that the **SCOUTS SUNRISE CENTRE** is one of their prime objectives for Uganda Sunrise and, once established will form a model on which similar centres will be built. The Centre will cater for the rehabilitation of Street Children.

Children learn well when:
they feel secure;
they are interested in what they are doing;
they engage in practical activity, enquiry and purposeful play;
they are able to consolidate their learning through practice, talk and reflection.

**"When planning for a year - plant corn.
When planning for a decade - plant trees.
When planning for life - train and educate children."**

Chinese proverb

Contributions can be:

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