



Winter - 2003

SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

SAHQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Winter has not slowed down developments within the Association. At the National Scout Council held in May, Nkwenkwe Nkomo was unanimously re-elected as the Chief Scout of South African for his last term of two years. Nominations for the next Chief Scout to be inaugurated in 2005 are welcomed and should be submitted to the National Headquarters.



The signing of the agreement between South African Scouting & Guiding with the representative of Scouting Netherlands

At a recent function held in the Netherlands, the Association, together with the Girl Guides of South Africa, renewed their 5-year partnership agreement with Scouting Nederland. The Chief Scout and Chief Scout's Commissioner represented the Association.

Extensive training in the Child Protection and "how" of the Scouting and Aids programmes are complete. Also completed is the Code of Conduct Training for all the Area's leadership. Various workshops have also been held in the development of the Agricultural Skills programme that is currently being developed to primarily assist members and their communities in achieving food security. Further training in peer education in terms of the HIV/AIDS Programme will be conducted this year by specialists in this field.

We warmly welcome Mr. Mike Scott and Mr. George Marsh as the newly appointed Area

Commissioner and Area Chairperson of the new Gauteng Area. They have already shown that the Gauteng Area is committed to playing a major role in the future of Scouting in South Africa. The maturity displayed by all those involved in the amalgamation of the two former Gauteng Areas is to be commended.

Another reminder is extended to all members of the fantastic opportunity presented to our members to participate in the 5th Africa Jamboree to be held in Mozambique at the end of 2004. Arrangements currently underway indicate that the event will be world class. South African Scouts are able to participate in the event at a very low cost. All Areas are challenged to have at least 100 participants attending.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following Springbok/Top Award Scouts who were presented with their hard-earned awards between April/June 2003.

Christian Cornelius, Creston Greenburg, Alistair Ridden, Cameron Lowry, Kenneth Roets – of Tshwane. Wesley Martin, Kathryn Lombard, Martin Alexander Pace, Catherine Kloppenborg, Kevin Levey, Daniel Read, Steven Hanauer, Ryan Hare of KwaZulu Natal. Sarah-Leigh Enticott, David Simpson, Mark de Wet, Peter Meyer, Jean Etienne du Preez, Aiden Biccarrd, Devin Jones of Cape Western. Stephanie Crone, Jolene Letley, Christopher Jones, John McGilveray, Matthew Jones, Patric Horne, Dimitri Clayton, Sheldon van Niekerk of Gauteng. Kim Lyle of Central Area. Jean Pierre La Hasse de la Lauviere of Cape Eastern.



DUTY TO GOD

SERVICE IS WORSHIP!

The more one observes the serious problems confronting millions in Africa and elsewhere, the more it becomes clear that we in Scouting need, more than ever before, to live up to our promise to help other people at all times.

Very often the best way to help, lies not simply in material handouts, though these too are sometimes necessary, but in assistance that generates self-help, such as by working with people to help solve their problems.

In the teachings of all the great religions there is much guidance relating to service to others. As Jesus stressed, the first of all commandments is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and the second commandment is like unto it, to love thy neighbour as thyself.

Muhammed expressed duty to God and neighbour in the Five Pillars of Islam, in which the third duty is Almsgiving – which Muhammed himself interpreted in the wide sense of service to others when he said: "A camel lent out for milk is alms, good words are alms, and smiling in your brother's face is alms."

Buddha said: "Ill is easy to do, it is easy to do harm: hard indeed is it to do helpful and good deeds."

The great Chinese sage Lao Tse, founder of Taoism, urged: "Repay injury with kindness. To those who are good to me I am good. And to those who are not good to me I am also good. Thus goodness is increased."

Swami Sivananda, founder of the Divine Life Society, put it in a nutshell when he stated quite simply: "Service is worship."

Vic Clapham – 1984



THE LATE MR SISULU – SUPPORTER OF SCOUTING!

Looking through previous editions of Scout Magazines from all over the Country and the World, we come across the World Scouting News of April 1992, with the lead heading "Scouts acclaimed as models for tomorrow's South Africa". Mentioned in this article are meetings between World and National Scout Staff and 3 prominent South African leaders, one of whom was Vice President of the African National Congress, the late Mr Walter Sisulu. The purpose of the meetings was to summon support for all components of the South African community for the growth plan of the Boy

Scouts of South Africa, as a fully integrated brotherhood at the service of ALL South African Youth. Mr Walter Sisulu expressed the belief that scouting in South Africa could constitute an important and positive factor in bringing South Africans together.

Again on 11th June 1995, when our present Chief Scout, Mr Nkwenke Nkomo, was inaugurated in St Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg, there was Mr Walter Sisulu amongst all those in support of Scouting.

At the National Meetings I attended recently, our Chief Scout, himself, spoke of

the inspiration and help that Walter had been to him in his decision to accept the position of Chief Scout. There is no doubt that he has left his mark as a real gentleman who saw the benefits and potential of Scouting.

Let us who remain continue to make these benefits available, and may we all reflect the potential of Scouting and Guiding.

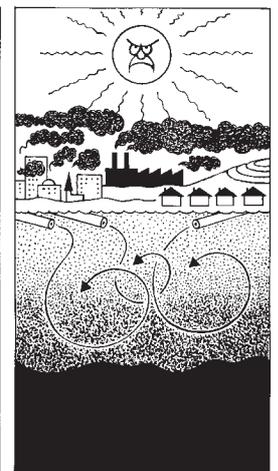
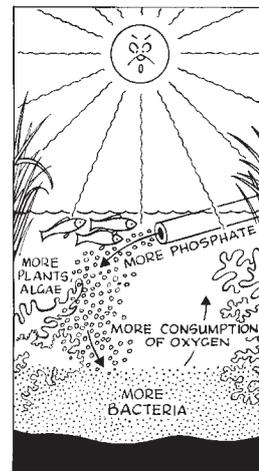
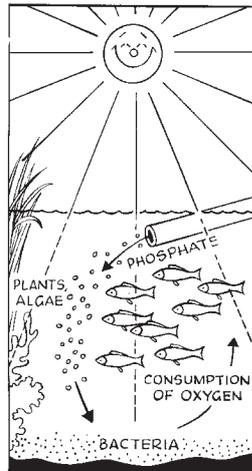
Elvis Mdaka – Area Commissioner – Mpumalanga Area.

JUNE – ENVIRONMENT MONTH



World Environment Day 5th June – The theme – WATER! How, most of us, take water for granted. We turn on a tap and there it is – hot or cold – day or night. The municipality turns off the supply to do a repair or something and we think it's a big catastrophe! How am I going to cook my meal; wash my hands, take a shower?

Think of the many thousands of South Africans who have no tap to turn on; in fact have to walk kilometres to fill a bucket at a suspect source and then walk the distance back home carrying it on their head. Maybe these people are luckier than the two billion people worldwide who are dying for having no water at all. Our department of water affairs is doing their utmost to give every South African a tap where they can get safe water, close to home.



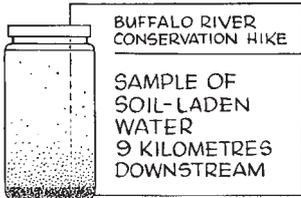
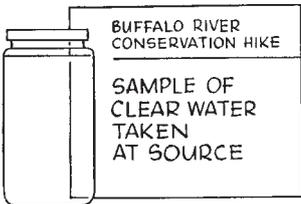
CLEAN WATER

CHART 14

Project 23 ORGANISE A WATER EXPLORATION HIKE

On a Patrol or Troop hike along a river — or around a lake — there are many things you can observe and record about water. Here are some ideas, and you can add others:

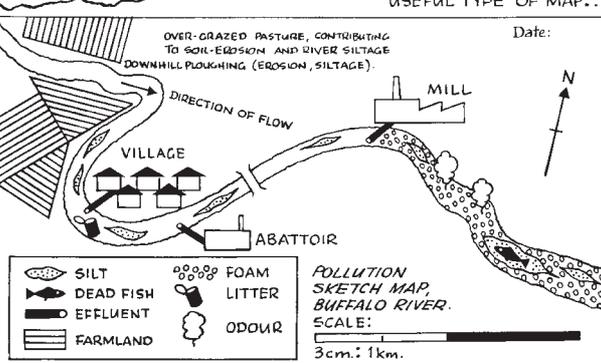
- Following a small stream to its source, you can take a sample jar of water well downstream, and another at the source. Let the samples stand for a day or two. See how many solid particles of soil the downstream water contains - evidence of soil erosion.



- If the lake or river is heavily polluted, report on the conditions, using a Report Card you can make; as shown in the sketch. You can observe and record information such as the colour of the water; light penetration (see lower paragraph); odour; litter; silt; oil or chemical foam; water temperature at various depths (see item on this); dead fish; pollution sources, such as community sewage, effluent from factories; etc; evidence of soil being washed in from adjoining cultivated lands. (Note: In countries where Bilharzia is rife, avoid all contact with the water — even

POLLUTION REPORT — BUFFALO RIVER CONSERVATION HIKE

COLOUR	MUDDY IN LOWER REACHES. FOAMY BELOW MILL.		
LIGHT PENETRATION	55 cm ABOVE FARMS	30 cm BELOW FARMS	15 cm BELOW MILL
ODOUR	ACRID BELOW MILL		
SILT	HEAVILY SILTED BELOW FARMLANDS		
EFFLUENT SOURCES	MILL / ABATTOIR / VILLAGE		
FISH	DEAD BREEM ON SILT BANKS BELOW MILL		
LITTER	VILLAGE AREA AND BELOW: OLD IRON, DRUMS, BOTTLES, PLASTIC CONTAINERS, ETC		
TEMPERATURES			



- with your hands. However, where Bilharzia does occur, you can seek expert local advice on how to identify the Bilharzia snails — and how Bilharzia advances rapidly when the balance of Nature is upset with the disappearance of predators that prey on the snails.
- Take photographs, colour slides, and make maps and sketches, to illustrate your findings.

FOR PUBLIC SHOW-AND-DO PURPOSES exhibit map(s), photos, sketches, samples and specimens, and all other data supporting your findings. You can also give a slide show. If you organise one or more hikes of this type on a very thorough basis, get the guidance and cooperation of local Conservation organisations, etc. Example: Local wildlife and botanical specialists will be able to tell you what fauna and flora existed in the vicinity of the lake/river years ago; through observation, you will be able to record evidence as to whether these animals and plants and fish, etc., are still in the area.

Use this theme – WATER, to teach our cubs and scouts the importance of this God-given resource. Without water no living thing can exist on the entire earth, not even them, themselves! Over many years Vic Clapham in "Veld Lore" and other publications stressed this aspect and produced many illustrations and ideas to put this theme across. Dig up those old copies – enlarge them and put them up around the scout den, so that today's cubs and scouts can grow up influenced as generations of cubs and scouts before them have been.

Scout Leaders need no special occasion to bring Ecology into their programme – it is one of the activities that should always appear, especially at camp and other outdoor activities.

Some examples from an International "Show-and-do" Conservation Project Kit, put out by Bata and SA Scouting in the past.



INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING IN ACTION!

German Scouts from Passau, got together with scouts from 2nd Coalfields, 1st Sibukosethu and 1st Sonqoba Troops in Kwa Guqa Ext. 14 in a community centre project. The Germans had raised funds to fence the property, pave an area and erect a timber home for the security guard. The photograph shows the Kwa Gupa scouts erecting a marquee for a function over a long weekend. They also assisted in paving the area under the marquee.

This Community Centre will be under the care of Impelo Community Services and will offer Adult Literacy classes, a Feeding Scheme, Health Facilities for the aged, HIV/Aids Awareness campaigns and at a later stage a creche.



Local and International Scouts do a project together in Kwa Guqa Ext. 14

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE

Some time ago Dr. Frank W.J. Opie produced a series of scout booklets, in kit form, on how to Be Prepared For Life. The three Kits were No 1 – There's no Place Like Home. No 2 – At Home in the City. No. 3 – Food for Life. These Kits were for "the Scout Leader's recognition of the key role he/she plays and the opportunity he/she has, to encourage a greater sense of self worth and earth caring through the patrol or group and as an ambassador of better scouting and earth caring in our community."

Some of these kits are still available at SAHQ and are a valuable resource for the use of all scouters, particularly in helping scouts acquire life skills.



MESSAGE FROM BETTY CLAY TO SA SCOUTERS

The Honourable Mrs Betty Clay C.B.E., daughter of B-P, wrote to me in response to some information I sent her on the state of South African Scouting. She said how pleased she was that "My father's idea of scouting was going so well in South Africa". Also how pleased she was that we had, all along, retained the "Scout Promise" just as B-P had envisaged it, in this country. She sends her best wishes to "all those smart looking scouters" she knows are maintaining the movement in this land and have FUN! FUN! FUN!

This grand lady is now 86 years of age and lives in retirement with her beloved husband, Gervas (96 years old). If I know this lady, she still keeps her finger on the pulse of World Scouting.

SCOUTING IRELAND

Ireland's two main scouting organisations voted on Sunday to unite under a single banner and end an almost century-long religious split. Talks had been under way since 1998 to bury the hatchet and bring together the CSI, formerly the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland, and the SAI the once almost exclusively Protestant Scouting Association of Ireland. Delegates of the associations voted at separate closed meetings in Dublin to unite and create a new joint body, called Scouting Ireland, with more than 30 000 boys and girls as members.



GONE HOME

Sifiso Sengane (11 Years) – Scout, KwaZulu Natal Area – tragically drowned at a Scout Camp in KwaZulu Natal. Sincerest condolences on behalf of the Association was offered by the Chief Scout who attended the funeral.

REACHING ACROSS CONTINENTS

In a recent copy of the British Scouting magazine, it became clear that young people don't stick to borders between countries these days but eagerly cross over to other continents.

These expeditions take young people around the world for research and adventure. They travel in whatever means are available in their host countries and they learn about the people and it's culture, of the countries through which they pass. It is a great way for hands-on observation. Working on local projects with local Scouts gives these youngsters an experience of a lifetime, learning what life really is like in a developing country where the basic services which they take for granted in their first-world country, often fail or simply do not exist.

Several of these Expeditions come to the African continent. In July/August, an expedition is scheduled to come down to Uganda. And another Expedition organisation is arranging 4-6 weeks' expeditions to Lesotho. Many first-world countries are stretching a helping hand towards our African continent where in many places people know real hardship. It is a good feeling that young people across the globe are willing to reach out.

SCOUTING ABOUT - MAFIKENG!

MAFIKENG – The launch of the South African Scout Association's Environment Educational Programme in the Northern Cape has highlighted the extraordinary impact youth-oriented programmes could have.

This became evident during SASA's acclaimed environmental project that was recently launched at the Garden View Guest Lodge.

Those present included the MEC for education in the province, Mr Pitsso Tolo and the Scout's CEO Mr Luke van der Laan. In his speech Mr Tolo assured the SASA of assistance in regard to youth development. He credited the association for its expertise in training 2029 young people around the province. SASA is currently training 3600 young people in the 2003/4 Scout year. Luke spoke of the passion the Association had in reaching into the lives of youth as individuals, their family and the community.



INSURING YOUR GROUP PROPERTY & POSSESSIONS

What? A fire in our Scout hall? That would appear to be the attitude of so many of our Scout Groups. We must remember that the monies spent over the years on providing a scout property and equipping it with furniture, scouting equipment (tents, camping gear and boats/canoes in the case of Sea Scouts) etc has been raised from the public, whether they were scout parents or the general public and must be protected by proper and careful use and insurance. All scout halls, boatsheds and equipment are vested in the Chief Scout, through your Area Commissioner and are required to be adequately insured against all perils and theft. To not insure or under insure, is like a "Lotto", you save a bit of money now, but what happens if the tragedy strikes?



We learn that the Third Kensington Scout Group, Gauteng, has lost their boatshed

and all their equipment and boats, a fleet of 50 canoes and 11 sail boats to fire. The group has been in existence for 75 years and according to Mish Middelmann, a scout parent, this group is one of the strongest in Johannesburg. The quotation received to rebuild the boatshed alone, is double the amount recovered from insurance.

Unfortunately this is a perfect example of not planning ahead and the impact that it can have on your Group. The National Finance Policy, as well as PO&R require that all assets of the Association, must be insured.

We are sure that the Third Kensington Group will recover and we wish them well in their efforts.



SCOUTING TOUR OF BRITAIN – 2007

As Scouting's Centenary approaches in the year 2007, many, if not all our Leaders, would like to participate in the celebrations in and around Britain at that time. The South African Contingent to the World Jamboree 2007 can only accommodate so many leaders and preference will be given to the young and active members to lead that contingent. What about us older "has been" scouters or even ex-scouters that may have been part of past SA Contingents in all corners of the world. I am aware of "young at heart" scouters who were part of the "50th Year Jamboree in Sutton Colefield – 1957" who are planning to get over there.

The Tour would take in all the well known Scouting landmarks in Britain, Gilwell Park, Brownsea Island, a stay at B-P House, a visit to the Jamboree itself etc. With sufficient interest, SAHQ would sanction such a Tour. Let me know of your interest – e-mail or write me at the editorial addresses at the end of this publication.



Phindile Sibiya and Khensani Mahlabane receive instructions from Scouter Rob Buchanan at Da Gama Dam, Mpumalanga.

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