



Autumn - 2004

# SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

In the last edition of Scouting About we touched on the importance of acknowledging the need to change as a "Move"ment in keeping track with the changing needs of the youth and society. The Association has, over the last three years and in accordance with the Transformation Strategy adopted by the National Scout Council, embraced this philosophy. It has not been easy and not without it's frustrations but the Association has unquestionably responded to the need to change and now ranks (as confirmed by various sectors) as one of the most relevant and effective Non Governmental Organisations in South Africa. The process is by no means over – it never will be. The Transformation Plan is nearing completion though, which requires the Association to look at the next strategic planning period.

Included in the National Scout Council's considerations, when it adopted the Transformation Strategy, was an unequivocal commitment to sticking to the Law and Promise, the patrol system and Scout method as described in the Association's Constitution. This secret of success attributes to the ongoing success in developing the youth in becoming well balanced, contributing citizens of our Nation for almost 100 years now. The Centenary celebrations are on our doorstep and promises to be a celebration of note in South Africa.

The success or demise of Scouting not only depends on change but, within the Scout method, depends on providing our youth with fun and adventure. It is plain to see that where an adult leader ensures that the programme is a lot of fun and provides an opportunity to be adventurous, Scouting is a resounding success. After all it is all

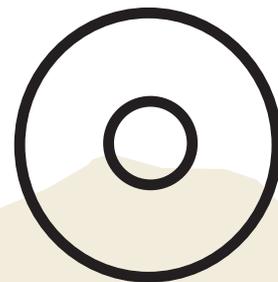
about "fun with a purpose".

The Chief Scout's Commissioner, Andre Bredenkamp, who left early in April to climb Mount Everest, epitomizes the adventure of Scouting. He is part of a three man South African team amongst a larger international team led by Dan Mazur. As Andre writes: "We have finally met Dan Mazur, our leader. He didn't look anything like the athletic/ mad mountain/ bearded type we had imagined. Chris aptly describes him as a "balding, slightly messy, typical history school teacher caricature". Dan first burst onto the alpine scene about 15 years ago, when in his early twenty's he arrived in Katmandu and talked his way onto a Russian expedition, heading for Everest. Four weeks later he was on the summit! Since then he has climbed nine of the 14 peaks that are over 8000meters in the world, including K2, which is perhaps the most difficult." So it seems that Andre is in a team that is sure to succeed. He was presented with the Association's flag and our well wishes upon his departure. We also congratulate Mr. C Reddy, the KwaZulu Natal Area Finance Chairperson, on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Our sincerest appreciation, again, is extended to all the adult volunteers in the Movement whose enthusiasm and commitment makes the difference between it being a mediocre or an exceptional Movement.



**The Chief Scout's Commissioner, Andre Bredenkamp (right), receiving the Associations flag from CEO Luke van der Laan (left), for placing on the top of Mount Everest. Chris Drummond (centre), is a member of the expedition.**



## BETTY CLAY

16th April 1917 - 24th April 2004

It is with deep regret that I announce the death of our Vice President, the Hon Mrs Betty Clay, CBE, and youngest daughter of our Founder.

She died peacefully in her sleep in a nursing home alongside her home in Somerset, on Saturday morning 24th April 2004, just a few days after she and Gervas had celebrated their joint birthday - her 87th and his 97th.

In mourning her passing we give thanks for a life lived to the full, committed to the ideals of Scouting and Guiding and the vision of her parents.

She was and remains an inspiration to the youth and Leaders of today's Movements.

At the moment we await further information from the family but in the mean time the Association's Flag at HQ buildings and campsites will remain at half-mast until after the funeral.

*Derek Twine  
Chief Executive - UK Scouting*

## ALAN RITCHIE ZS5XK

We learn that Alan, a scouting friend of so many of our older Scouters, involved in JOTA from its inception in the 1950s, has Gone Home – 26th March 2004. We remember Alan for his enthusiasm for Radio Scouting and his National organisation of JOTA for many years. Our sincerest condolences to Shelia, his wife, and children.



## DUTY TO GOD

### In his last message, B-P ended off saying:

*"Be Prepared", in this way to live happy and to die happy. Stick to your Scout Promise always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you do it."*

Wonderful words of our founder, written all those many years ago, but still an inspiration to the youth of today. When I was a young Troop Scouter, discussing the "Scout Motto" with those many youngsters who came eagerly to "join" the scouts and have all the fun that was promised, I explained it as to acquire all the skills scouting had to offer, to become able to face every situation life could throw at you and be able to cope. Well there is nothing wrong with that!

As time went on and I became a "know it all" scouter, questioning decisions of my superiors in the movement and in fact questioning the restrictions placed on me by P.O. & R. - restricting the "fun" we were having in our Troop. Being at loggerheads with my D.C. about permits etc. - wasn't I a "better" scouter than he, having run a first class troop for years while he had only been on the job a short while - his experience, having only earned "Second Class" as a boy, many years before?

Well at about that time, with the help of God, as B-P had suggested, I reread the above message and saw it in a much wider aspect. "Be prepared to stick to my Scout Promise always!" Be prepared, in spite of my own ego, to accept the authority of those placed in positions in scouting to protect not only me, but the WHOLE movement from anarchy and chaos. In fact to protect me from myself.

Part of the Scout Law I had been flirting with was Loyalty, and of course the seventh law - I asked myself, had I, the "perfect" scouter, been disloyal and not obeyed orders? If I had, then I had also been dishonourable, because, as I see it, breaking any of the other laws impinges on the first law.

*"Lord God, help me in my imperfection to overcome my human weaknesses - to accept that what my inclinations are, may not be what is in the best interest of the youth in my care and the Scout Movement as a whole. Help me in my enthusiasm to render to those who are answerable to me, the best Scouting that I am able, so that they may reach the high ideals as envisaged by our founder."*

## DINIZULU'S NECKLACE

### Origin of the Wood Badge

In 1888 Baden-Powell acquired a necklace from Dinizulu, King of the Zulus. With a thousand or more wood beads, it was about 3 metres long, and was conferred on Royalty and on outstanding warriors.

In 1919, seeking a badge for Scouters who had successfully undertaken training, B-P took two beads from the necklace, knotted them on a leather boot lace . . . and the Wood Badge was born. Today the Wood Badge beads are worn by thousands of trained Scouters worldwide.



## NATIONAL POW-WOW - 2004

The Pow-Wow Held at Heronbridge, Gauteng from 24/26 April 2004, was attended by 188 Pack Scouters representing Gauteng, Cape Western, Cape Eastern, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Central Areas, where all took part in the discussions aimed at ensuring that the youth programme for Cubs meets the needs of today's youth. The Pow-Wow played a major role in advising the National Commissioner for Cub Programme on policies and programmes that constantly need adapting to the needs of our youth changes.

As part of the gathering, the Scouters participated in skills training activities to provide new ideas and skills, which can assist them in training their youth. The Pack Scouters visited places of interest in the vicinity of Heronbridge.

The gathering explored whether the current entry age of seven and a half years was ideal, or whether this should be amended. In addition to the normal scout activities, the programme provides youth with numerous

life skills and is active in Aids Awareness education and training in agricultural skills, enabling them to assist in their communities to be more self-sufficient.

Jeanette Angus, National Commissioner for Cub Programme, summed up by saying "The Pow-Wow has been a wonderful opportunity to get adults in the Scout Movement to meet one another and explore how Scouting could be better implemented throughout the country, particularly in rural areas where the need to develop life skills amongst the youth is so important. In this way we are able to uplift the living standards of all communities. Freedom can only reach all our citizens if we all have a common purpose to work towards. We must take an active role in assisting those most in need. We have learned from each other, and now have a better understanding of the problems facing those of our members in the more remote areas"

**Contact : Jeanette Angus -  
Tel: (011) 082 438 2510**



**Girl Scouts of the Macibe Troop - Kentani in Cape Eastern Area dancing in Traditional Dress at a Cultural Day in their Region. Macibe Troop consists of three girl patrols and five boy patrols totaling 54 scouts. Other activities included a litter clean up around the town, fundraising concerts and a Star Patrol Camp where Dove Patrol came out on top.**

## SCOUTING CAME TO THE NETHERLANDS BY BIKE

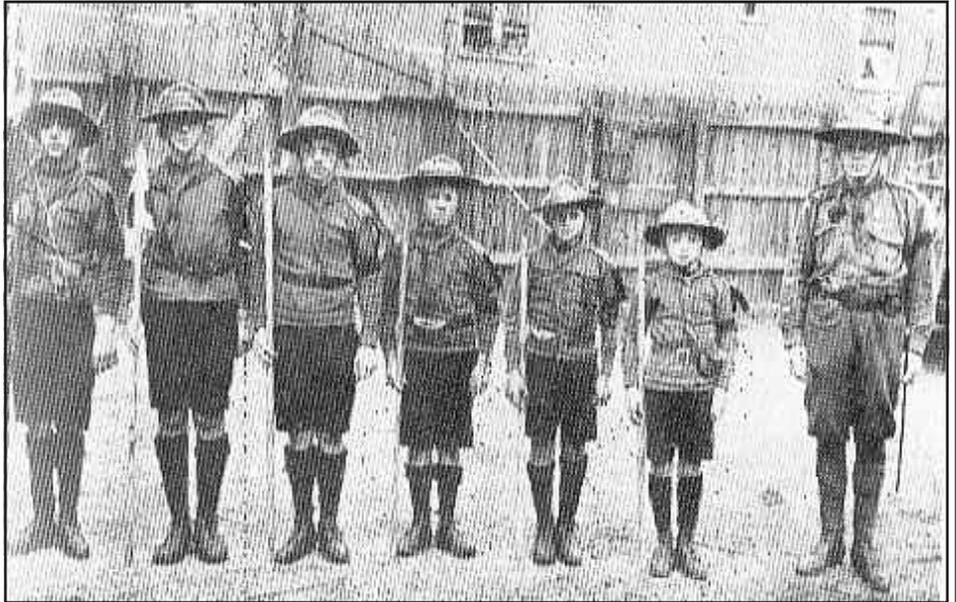
An interesting article by Piet J. Kroonenberg of Amsterdam, is available on the internet.

He tells how a patrol of six scouts, with their Scoutmaster Bernhard S M Blythe, from the university city of Oxford, cycled from their home to Hull in July, 1910 – took the ferry to Rotterdam where they were met by their contact and a unit of the Royal Navy Cadet Corps with a drum and piper band.

Interest in Scouting was raised as the patrol toured the Netherlands. By January 1911 seven troops had been formed – numbered 1 – 7. At that time the Nederlandsche Padvindere Organisatie – NPO was founded. Troop number 1 still exists to this day.

On December 11th, 1915 all Scouting in the Netherlands merged into NPV, the Vereeniging de Nederlandsche Padvindere – all thanks to some cycling British Scouts.

E-mail [pietkroonenberg@hetnet.nl](mailto:pietkroonenberg@hetnet.nl)



The six Oxford Scouts and their Scoutmaster in Amsterdam.

## 16th AUSTRALIAN ROVER MOOT

**TASMANIA – AUSTRALIA**  
**30 December 2004 -**  
**10 January 2005**

**TASSIEMOOT** invites Rovers, over the age of 18 years, to Lake Barrington on Tasmania, to apply for participation through their Area and National Headquarters – Contact Lauren Roberts on Email: [international@tassiemoort.com](mailto:international@tassiemoort.com) or Mobile +61 410 650 804 for more information.

## NELSON MANDELA TO RECEIVE AFRICAN ELEPHANT AWARD

On 23rd April, Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, will be presented with the "Africa Elephant Award", for his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Scouting in Africa. The Award will be presented in Johannesburg by the Africa Scout Committee.

Dr Jacques Moreillon, the immediate former Secretary General of WOSM, was

awarded the same recognition at a colourful ceremony in Dakar. His citation, in part, reads, "In Africa, eight countries have attained full WOSM membership during his tenure. Dr Moreillon has made over twenty missions to the region, visiting over twelve countries, lobbying presidents and ministers and worked hard to mobilise necessary resources, especially from outside the region ...."

## Join the International Service Team @ EuroJam!!

EuroJam 2005 – 29 July to 10 August – the biggest youth event in the United Kingdom for years – brings 16000 young people and their Leaders from across Europe and Internationally to Hylands Park near Chelmsford in Essex. They are looking for about 4000 people to become members of the IST – International Service Team for the event. You must be at least 18 years by that date, a registered member of your National Scout Association and be prepared to give up 2 weeks of your time. Contact <http://reg.eurojam.org/english/ist/>

## ON THE ROAD WITH SCOUTING

What a fantastic idea! A fully equipped Mobile Display Unit – MDU for short. So Scouting UK have the same problem we have – letting the general public know that they still exist. The MDU will travel around Britain, to cities and even to village



fairs. The Display takes 90 minutes to set up and it is expected that 1 million members of the public will get to see it in 2004. Not a bad start!

UK Scouting is working on their ability to answer their 'where to join' enquiries – what about us? After a scouting promotion in your District, does your Group, District or Area have a streamlined Information Centre where the public can contact you and get prompt action by whichever unit is concerned?

Thanks to Scouting Magazine – UK

## CENTENARY OF SCOUTING



In 2007 the Scouting world will celebrate the Centenary of Scouting, 100 years from the day that Baden Powell ran the first Scout Camp on Brownsea Island. 2007 will also be the 150th anniversary of the birth of Baden Powell so there is every reason to celebrate the founding of our great Movement. It is said that by 2007 more than 500 million men and women would have promised to live by the Scout Law and Promise. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate the unique value of Scouting to the world and to celebrate the

achievements of 100 years of Scouting. It is also the dawn of a new century of Scouting. We should celebrate the future of Scouting and look how we can improve it to meet the needs of even more young people, their families and communities.

### When do we celebrate?

2007 will be promoted as a centenary year – a year of celebration and not one single date or event. However, preparations should start now.

### Who should celebrate?

The centenary belongs to every scout from every WOSM country. As such, all activities, projects and work done in the name of 2007 should involve all scouts and take place at local, national, regional and international level. All National Scout Associations have been asked to join in the anniversary celebrations in addition to celebrating the own anniversary. We will be celebrating the centenary with certain national events and every Area is encouraged to organise celebratory events within their respective Areas. Please contact your Area office and check how you could get involved or for more information you may contact Brian February at: [brian.february@capetown.gov.za](mailto:brian.february@capetown.gov.za)

## THE GACHARAGE PROJECT

In "The Leader" the Canadian Scout Leader Magazine we read of a project undertaken by the Gacharage Scout Group in a village Rwaka, near to Nairobi in Kenya. This village, like so many in Africa, having elderly grandparents taking care of grandchildren, due to the ravages of AIDS, causing the deaths of the parents. These families have no means of support. The Scouts undertook to assist with the building of round rock water tanks, to enable the families to catch roof water and be able to grow vegetables and lucerne to feed themselves and one or two cows and so obtain milk.

A great idea, but where was the money for cement and other building supplies coming from? Contacted by the Africa Region Office, Scouting of Canada, through their Brotherhood Fund, supplied sufficient money, with a contribution from the families concerned and with some local donations of material and labour, built six tanks instead of the four originally envisaged. The work stretched from October to the end of April. The last two tanks caught the last of the heavy rains and were filled within a week.

Not only were the tanks built within budget, but the community was able to acquire two cows with the funds available. The Vassar Scout Centre in Sweden raised sufficient to buy another cow and a calf for the other families.

This project not only created an opportunity for different generations to work together, but also created forums for discussing the AIDS epidemic and the community's response to it. It helped young people learn the value of service and giving in line with Scouting principals.

## FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAN

### 16<sup>th</sup> Senior Scout Adventure – Cederberg 2004

I have just received a most comprehensive copy of the Save-a-place Patrol entry booklet for the Senior Scout Adventure – 10 to 21 December 2004. Besides the entry form, the booklet contains everything you need to know about participating in this most exciting activity. As the closing date for entries is 31 July 2004, get cracking and get your copy of the booklet right away. You might have to do a bit of fundraising - entry is R1300, plus the cost of transport to Cape Town.



## HAVE YOU EVER SEEN LIONS EATING A BUFFALO?

*From a report in the MPUMALANGA ScoUtiNg.*

*By Ines Pleier*

Scouters from Mpumalanga East and we, the German volunteers, spent an environmental workshop day in the Kruger Park.

Kenneth Mabila was our guide on the Course covering the ecology of the park. It started off with a lively discussion about the part the Park played in South Africa's history. Then we had a guided tour, first to the buffalo and rhino breeding stations, which was a great experience for everybody, especially touching a live rhino! Our knowledge was enlarged with new and interesting facts about plants and animals. Later on we visited the plant breeding station where we learned about indigenous and pioneer plants and their effects on South Africa's flora. It was a great course and in my

opinion could have lasted much longer as it was so interesting. Later on, while on a tour we were lucky to watch lionesses feeding on a buffalo they had hunted down. Besides, we saw elephants, impala, giraffe, warthogs and so on.

In between, we had some environmental sessions where we worked on the topics "Sustainable Planet" and "Pollution Problems".

All in all it was a great and successful day. Thank you for everybody's support and I hope that the Scouters enjoyed the day as much as I did.

### Contributions can be:

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