

Winter - 2004

# SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

## ANDRE BREDENKAMP REACHES THE TOP OF THE WORLD!!

"You get to the top, you feel particularly lonely. There is snow everywhere. It's a blizzard. You have this mask on your nose and your face, and a big hood over your ears. You can't hear anything. It is completely silent, you can just hear yourself breathing. You have such sensory deprivation. You see people gesticulating to each other. You shake hands, pat each other on the back.

"You take off your mask, you have no oxygen, you want to fall asleep. You don't have the capacity to feel much, you aren't thinking straight".

"Then you realise you have a job to do. You think about putting up the flags. There is a country you are standing up for, this flag of democracy. You really have to concentrate. You have a strong bond with the nation whose flag you are putting up there. You feel solidarity, patriotism. I have done this for my country. You drink some water, put your mask back on and turn around to go down."

This was how Andre Bredenkamp, our Chief Scout Commissioner, described how it feels to be on top of the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest. Andre who cut his mountaineering teeth in the Drakensberg, being a Maritzburg Boy Scout. He does not hesitate to name Colin Inglis, a former Chief Scout, for instilling in him a love of the mountains while he was his Scout Leader. Colin was a Cambridge graduate and a World War II pilot in the SA Air Force. He was chairman of the Mountain Club of SA and a great climber.

Another person Andre admires is Ed February, "the first black climber of international stature in South Africa", who was part of the disastrous 1996 Sunday Times expedition up Everest.

Andre left two flags on the summit, one incorporating the South African Scout logo and the emblem of the International Scout movement, as well as the South African Flag.

Andre, Chris Drummond and Mike Nixon were the South African trio who decided to tackle Everest from the Tibetan side "because 70% of Everest climbers tackle the easier side from Nepal". After weeks of acclimatisation, Mike Nixon had to pull out suffering lung infection. Andre and Chris were woken by their Sherpa, Lakpa Chir, at 11 pm to prepare for departure. It took at least an hour to do the most mundane things, putting on boots, because of the cold



and shortage of oxygen. They started the ascent just after midnight on 19 May. "We climbed for about 7 hours in the dark. Chris was still with us at this stage. At the top of a ridge, a gust of wind flung Chris about 20 metres down the side. He was stopped in a wedge between two boulders and, in the process, he lost his ice axe. When he had returned to the path, shaken, he realised he would be unable to ascend for seven more hours without the ice axe and turned back".

After his successful ascent, and a gruelling climb down, Andre returned to camp at about 10 pm in the dark. He was met by his frostbitten friend, Chris Drummond, the only person to remain behind in the avalaunche threatened camp to await the return and help the exhausted Andre into his sleeping bag, made him tea then lay beside him to keep him warm.

Andre has four of the seven highest peaks on the seven continents under his belt - Acconcagua in South America, Mount Elbrus in Russia, Kilimanjaro in Africa. Now Everest. "Three to go!" It's Andre's intention to achieve all seven peaks, a feat that only one South African, Sean Wisedale, has accomplished to date.

## NELSON MANDELA RECEIVING THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT AWARD

Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa, has been presented the Africa Elephant, the top Scout award in the continent, for his continued support of the growth and development of the Scout Movement.

The award was presented April 23 by the Vice Chairman of the Africa Scout

Committee, Nkwenkwe Nkomo, who is also the Chief Scout of South Africa.

"The welfare of young people is very close to Mandela's heart. Although he never wanted places and things named after him, a significant and very telling testimony of his love for young people is the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, established



## SAHQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Chief Scout and the National Scout Council we would like to congratulate the Chief Scout's Commissioner, Andre Bredenkamp on the outstanding achievement of summitting Mount Everest from the Tibetan side (first South African to do so). Andre flew the Scout flag despite the adverse conditions and having climbed for more than 14 hours. Well done and congratulations Andre!

It was confirmed recently, by way of independent evaluation, that the Association has progressed enormously in terms of its transformation strategy. How does this benefit Scouting? At the outset, by becoming more relevant to the needs of all our youth and communities at large, the benefits are immeasurable. The Movement is intended to evolve together with the changing needs of society. If this does not happen the Movement would be in danger of becoming irrelevant and outdated. In 2001 it had become clear that this was very close to being the case. In terms hereof the National Scout Council saw the practical benefits of meeting the said needs. This is not only in terms of representation in decision making, as commonly perceived, but included taking a strategic view of the Movement as a whole: the relevance of the programmes in terms of the needs of the youth: the status of the Association's policies and profile. Also included was the need to review the manner in which we include / involve young girls and women, raise money, communicate and allow the youth their rightful participation in decision making. The wearing of the uniform required more flexibility so as to accommodate those unable to afford a uniform and also those more comfortable in an alternative uniform (after all it is all about "uniformity" and not a uniform). The strategic plan listed all these

steps that would advance the Movement in terms of its position in South African civil society and its ability to meet the Mission of Scouting. - The benefits are very apparent and every committed member who has played a role in bringing this about is sincerely thanked for their contribution.

In partnership with Scouting Nederland, we are pleased to announce the launch of the "starter kits" campaign. Scout Groups in the Netherlands fundraise and then provide funds to purchase a starter kit for needy South African Groups. Often new South African Scout Groups cannot afford even the most basic materials. The starter kits include all written materials (including handbooks and the HIV/AIDS package) and basic equipment to launch the Scout programme. Scouting Nederland is thanked for making this new initiative possible and we encourage as many visiting Dutch Scouts as possible to make contact with the Scouts who have benefitted from this help.

Many of the Association's members are not aware that the President's Award is included in the Scout programme. The President's Award is a prestigious international award (more than 100 countries) and is available to any interested Scout members. The requirements for the award closely resemble that of Scouting and one could complete the award simply by following the Scout Programme. All that is required is to register through the Area offices. There are many benefits attached to achieving the awards including credits for university entrance.

Again, sincere thanks go out to all those who have made a difference.

*Luke van der Laan*

### Our Patron - Nelson Mandela continued

when he pledged one third of his salary for five years to help young people in South Africa," said Kinuthia Murugu, Director of the Africa Scout Region, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speaking as the Patron of the South African Scout Association, Mandela praised the progress that the Scout Movement is making as a world leader in youth education. He said: "The importance of a high moral code, which is at the foundation of the Scout Movement, cannot be stressed too highly."

The Scout Movement is in the forefront in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa, especially among young people who comprise the majority in the population. This is an issue for which Mr. Mandela has also vowed to commit his life. Recently, while receiving an award for humanity

from the British Red Cross, Mandela said: "I am now devoting my life to fight AIDS in Africa, especially with young people." The award was presented to him by the then Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Dr. Jacques Moreillon, in his capacity as a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Scout Movement is the world's largest educational youth movement with more than 28 million Scouts, youth and adults, in 216 countries and territories. The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

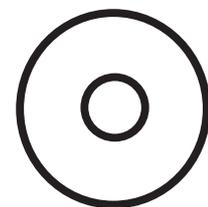
## CONGRATULATIONS

### "Order of the Silver Springbok"

Herb Brandli of Gauteng Area  
Hugh Macey of Cape Western

### Springbok Scout Awards – January to April 2004

Brent van Biljon - Kwazulu Natal  
Derek Leisegang - Kwazulu Natal  
Neilandren Naidu – Kwazulu Natal  
Daniel Schmidt - Cape Eastern  
Brian Reynolds - Cape Eastern  
Dieter van Rooyen - Cape Eastern  
Bryan Edwards - North West  
Malcolm Dunkeld - Tshwane  
Alexander Melck - Tshwane  
Jacobus Berger - Tshwane  
Anthony Bellingham - Tshwane  
Dylan Enslin - Tshwane  
Angus Nixon - Tshwane  
Tamryn Franks - Kwazulu Natal  
Simon Molholland - Kwazulu Natal  
Craig Blair - Kwazulu Natal  
Guillaume Greyling - Cape Western  
Cuan Coetzee - Cape Western  
Bradley Mann - Cape Western  
Ryan Hultter - Cape Western  
Richard Evans - Cape Western  
Kenneth Combie - Cape Western  
Gareth Lottreaux - Gauteng  
Donovan Lacey - Gauteng  
Warren Carlson - Gauteng  
Ernest Louw - Gauteng  
Quinton Jonker - Gauteng  
Matthew Beyers - Gauteng  
Matthew Day Gauteng  
Sebastien Gruber - Gauteng  
Ryan Mayne - Kwazulu Natal  
Douglas Blight - Central  
Karl Oliver - Central  
Shaun Murray - Kwazulu Natal  
Duncan Rens - Gauteng  
Catherine Beneke - Gauteng



## GONE HOME

### Ossie Carstens ZS1DZ

Ossie, who has co-ordinated JOTA for The Scout Association of South Africa for a number of years has died, on 1 May, in Pinelands in the Cape. Ossie will be sadly missed by his daughter Kim, his two sons Storm and Dain as well as his many friends.



## DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Watching on TV, the Commemorative Services of D DAY 60 – I saw that Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany was invited to be present at the French ceremony, the first German head of state to be invited since those days – he had an opportunity to address the gathering where he said that even after all the years, and though 95% of his people were not even born when the Nazi tyranny took place, Germany still felt responsible for what had happened. Those millions of young men and women who had given up their lives or the offering of years of service to their country while in the army, whether the cause was right or not.

Then I thought of my own South Africa and what we had been through and ten years ago what B-P's daughter, Betty Clay had said to me at the 1994 Gilwell reunion at Gilwell in the UK. " You Scouting people in South Africa, can now give all your youth good scouting and remember to keep your country's promise just as my father had set it out!"

Well, I came home inspired and set about scoutings rural development in my own Area. Development did take place, as development took place all over the country, but not to the extent that we had dreamed of. Financing this development was never enough. In spite of that, inviting rural and underprivileged youth into our fold must proceed – a duty to our country.

Most of our scouts and leaders can not tackle earth shattering activities as Andre Breedencamp has achieved in conquering the world's largest obstacle, and that on the difficult side, bringing glory to his country and to South African scouting. I recall two ten year old cubs, picknicing on the banks of a river – seeing someone in difficulties in the water, paddled out on their surf-ski and rescued a seventeen year old from certain death. A P/L using his First Aid knowledge to maintain an elderly woman, with heart problems, in consciousness until the paramedics arrived, put her on a drip and rushed her to hospital. A group of Scout Leaders encouraging their group and in later years, other groups to join in, doing what scouts love to do, hiking – in so doing raised a substantial sum of money which they donated to a mission doing wonderful work among Aids sufferers and deprived people. All making a difference in their community, which is an important part of our country.

I trust that all Scout and Pack Leaders are encouraging the youth in their care to be active in doing their "Good Turn" – this is what the world out there expects of us.

## THE NEW GAUTENG AREA BADGE

With the merger of Gauteng and Tshwane Areas, a new identity was required. We publish a photo of the new Area Badge which replaces all the old badges worn up to this time. Members are required to convert to wearing the new emblem by September 2004.

Badge swoppers will be pleased to note the incorporation of the Scout Arrowhead which immediately identifies it with scouting and the very ecological design – sun, river and bird.

Scout Jed Almyer, presented the winning design for the new badge in an Area wide competition. The new design was shown to Area members at the recent Kon Tiki 2004.



Celebrating the contributions made to community conservation in South Africa.

- 5 June World Environment Day
- 17 June International Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 11 July World Population Day
- 9 August International Day of the World's Indigenous Plants
- 1 – 7 September National Arbour Week
- 16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 18 September Coastal Cleanup Day
- 17 October International Day for Eradication of Poverty
- 18-22 October National Marine Week
- 27 November Birding Big Day

Useful telephone numbers:

- SAN Parks Central Bookings:  
012 428 9111
- KZN Wildlife Central Booking:  
033 267 7251
- Bird Life SA:  
011 789 1122
- Endangered Wild Life Trust:  
011 486 1102

We trust that this information will enable all Pack, Troop and District Leaders to incorporate some of these dates into their year Conservation Programme.

*Thanks to Nedbank Green Affinity who are also Proudly South African.*

## LEXDEN – 100th PLTU COURSE

**7 to 17 July 2004**

In 1959 – 45 years ago Dudley Forde ran the first Lexden Patrol Leader Training Course in Pietermaritzburg. As time has gone by, over 3000 scouts have had the benefit of that 10 day experience. Not only that but also the many Troop Scouters, as part of the staff, who were able to go back to their own troops and know how their Patrol Leaders should perform. Not only a boy training event but one of the best adult leader training experiences.

To mark the occasion, all past participants and staff are invited to take part in various celebratory activities:

**SCOUTS OWN** – Sunday 11 July 2004. 19h00 at Lexden.

**CELEBRATION LUNCHEON** – Saturday 17 July 2004. 12h15 at the Golden Horse Casino, Pietermaritzburg. Pay your R90 to KZN Area HQ, P.O. Box 267, Durban 4000

**100th COURSE CAMPFIRE** – Saturday 17 July 2004. 17h00 Bring & Braai – 19h00 Campfire.

## SCOUTREES IN CANADA

"The Leader" – Canada Scouting's Leader Magazine says "GO GREEN". Making their Scoutrees project work for climate change.

Through Scoutrees, two million trees are planted each year. This already makes an impact on the amount of forest cover available in Canada to absorb carbon dioxide and reduce climate change. Over the 30 year life of the programme, it is estimated that Scoutrees has removed approximately two million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. That is the equivalent of absorbing all the carbon dioxide emitted, through energy use, by 7.7 million single detached homes or 275,000 cars every year.

## PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN WEEK

September will soon be upon us – let us prepare and be part of the **PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN WEEK** campaign. Each District or Group can work towards this event and show the rest of the country that as scouts we are Proudly South African. We list some suggestions you might include in your activity:



### Some suggestions include:

- ☞ Identify a local hero/ role model to speak on being proudly South African at a local meeting or event.
- ☞ Serve a proudly South African meal or have a camp fire with a SA theme.
- ☞ Construct a Proudly South African structure (pioneering) and fly the South African flag.
- ☞ Sing South African songs.
- ☞ Buy, as prizes, Proudly South African badges at the local Nedbank branch (R3).
- ☞ Present activities around indigenous flora and fauna.
- ☞ Bake and ice a proudly South African cake.
- ☞ Invent / play a Proudly South African game.
- ☞ Invite the local media to provide coverage on your Proudly South African activities.
- ☞ Do a good turn for a local school, old age home, etc. or organise a litter cleanup of your community.

If the above activities are arranged it would be a wonderful opportunity to get the press to cover these. Let's get Scouting into the papers!

Visit <http://www.proudlysa.co.za/> for more information.

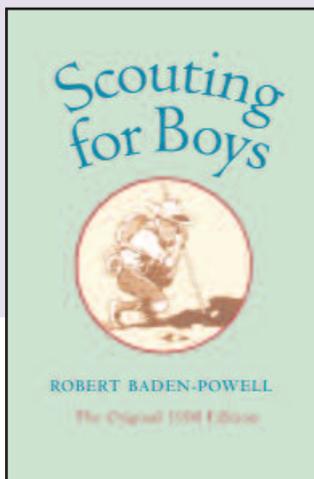
## SCOUTING FOR BOYS IS BACK!

Written by Robert Baden-Powell, edited by Elleke Boehmer

Published by Oxford University Press, 382 pages, R170, Hard Back (ISBN 0-19280547-9)

You all know that Scouting for Boys, one of the most influential books for young men of the last century, and a worldwide best seller behind only the Bible and the Koran. The book, and its author Robert Baden-Powell, spawned a Movement that now boasts more than 28 million members in 216 countries. In the USA, Scouts make up 85% of FBI agents, 26 of the first 29 US astronauts, and 72% of Rhodes scholars!

The original and complete 1908 version of this iconic text has recently been published by Oxford University Press. Packed with adventure stories, true-crime tales, and insights to cure every cultural malaise, it is a curious, compelling, and unforgettable miscellany.



Need to know how to track a murderer, forage for food in the wilderness, attain the perfect physique, or stop smoking? Scouting for Boys is the book for you.

Scouting for Boys is unique in the way Elleke Boehmer, the editor, identifies and explores the multiple anxieties and contradictions which permeate the book. She probes the reasons for its success,

whilst tackling head-on its more controversial aspects. The book is illustrated throughout with Baden-Powell's own drawings, and for the first time ever includes passages removed by the original publisher. Hilarious and shocking by turns, be prepared to laugh and learn.

Elleke Boehmer is a writer, critic, and Professor of Postcolonial Literature at Nottingham Trent University.

Nuggets include, for the career conscious, 'how the wearing of a hat shows character'; and for the amorous, how a man should not 'lark about with a girl whom they would not like their mother or sister to see them with, and not make love to any girl unless they mean to marry her'.

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