



Spring - 2004

SA COUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

COMMUNIQUE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION

Ten years of democracy. Ten years of getting to know each other better. Ten years of freedom to associate. Ten years of laying a solid foundation for the future of our children, their children and their children's children. These are some of the fruits we have been able to enjoy as a country and we believe our Movement has also achieved its own milestones during this decade of democracy.

We agreed that as a non-formal education movement, we had no right to deny any child access to scouting. Consequently, the South African Scout Association was open to all young people without qualification other than the acceptance of our law and promise. We adopted a flexible approach to the wearing of uniform, more in line with the recommendations of young people.

These and other milestones are worthy of note and have contributed to the stabilisation and growth of our Movement. As part of our ten year review, we have identified and addressed a number of issues and have, without fanfare, already initiated implementation on quite a few of these.

Allow us to take this opportunity, as we wish you another and more prosperous ten years of democracy, to commit ourselves to even continued accountability, transparency and good corporate governance founded on the democratic principles of scouting. We, accordingly, pledge ourselves as follows:

We, the Chief Scout, Assistant Chief Scout and Chief Scout's Commissioner, mandated leaders of the South African Scout Association having met in Durban on 17 December 2003 agreed and resolved that the South African Scout Association (SASA) shall at all times adhere to and uphold the Association's Constitution as adopted by the National Scout Council (NSC) on 18 May 2003 and underpinned by the ethos of scouting.

Consequently, all structures and organs of SASA shall conduct their day to day operations in accordance with the guidelines set

down in the Constitution, Policy, Organisation and Rules (PO&R) and the Association's Policies as amended and adopted by the NSC. In the unlikely event that challenges arise outside the scope of the Constitution and PO&R they shall be resolved through consensus and if necessary by a vote by the NSC (National EXCO when the NSC is not in session) as provided for in the founding documents.

As mandated leaders of SASA our primary responsibility is to facilitate the delivery of sustainable quality scouting to all the children and youth of South Africa and to cooperate with all other structures of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) in pursuance of the mission of scouting worldwide.

We, further, endorsed the principle of collective leadership, as epitomized by the patrol system, at all levels of the Movement. Therefore, the notion that SASA can be held to ransom by any individual or group is not only dismissed but completely rejected by us. This endorsement, in essence, demands of us that we should actively encourage and nurture succession of leadership for the growth and perpetuation of the Movement.

Having affirmed the above and the ramifications thereof, we irrevocably bind ourselves to the promotion of good governance, accountability and transparency in the execution of our duties as they are codified and embedded in all the founding documents of SASA. To this we urge all leaders to support us by jealously guarding and protecting the policies and principles enshrined in these documents.

Let us all take ownership as leaders without fear or favour.

NNV Nkomo - Chief Scout, South Africa

GB Dlamini - Assistant Chief Scout, South Africa

A Brendekamp - Chief Scout's Commissioner, South Africa

CONGRATULATIONS

The Chief Scout and Chief Scout's Commissioner are pleased to announce the appointment of **MARIA VAN STADEN** as the National Commissioner – Transformation. Maria is warmly welcomed.

SPRINGBOK/TOP AWARD

May to September 2004

Shelly-Anne Wakeford - Cape Eastern Area
Adrian M Kriel - Tshwane Area
Warren Anderson - Gauteng Area
Sean Messham - Cape Western Area
Duncan Keir - Kwazulu Natal Area
Ryan Robertson - Kwazulu Natal Area
Matthew van den Honert - Cape Western Area
Grant Booker - Tshwane Area
Craig Booker - Tswane Area

Marco Tivers - Kwazulu Natal Area
Pierre van Schalkwyk - Cape Eastern Area
Ravi Chetty - Kwazulu Natal Area
Adeeb Samsodien - Cape Western Area
Jonathan Gardiner - Cape Western Area
Duncan Jack - Kwazulu Natal Area
Debbie Lee du Preez - Tshwane Area



DUTY TO GOD

DUTY TO GOD



The Spirit of Scouting

Many are not fully aware that, along with the fun and adventure, Scouting embraces timeless spiritual values that will be found in all the great religious teachings. This becomes clearer if we meditate upon the implications of the Scout Promise and the Scout Law. Here, briefly, are a few thoughts you might care to ponder upon.

THE SCOUT PROMISE

As with the Scout Law, the words of the Promise vary here and there from country to country, but generally it adds up to this: We promise on our honour to do our duty to God, and our country, and to help other people at all times, and to obey the Scout Law.

It is a solemn promise that, in a spirit of Oneness with our Creator, goes to the very heart of the concept of universal brotherhood, and shows us that we can best express our love for the Father through love and service to our fellow man.

THE SCOUT LAW

1. **A Scout is honourable:** In a world riddled with falsehood and deception, crime and corruption – even in some of the highest places – honour is a precious spiritual quality that shines like a light in the darkness.
2. **A Scout is loyal:** Loyalty to country, loyalty to those above us and below us, loyalty to parents and family and friends, and to all who place their trust in us; this is a spiritual quality that goes hand in hand with honour.
3. **A Scout is helpful:** It is a matter of putting others before self, of being selfless instead of self-centred. Helpful in service to others, and service to others is service to our Creator. This is why the Good Turn is so important in Scouting.
4. **A Scout is a friend to all:** All the peoples of the earth are the children of God. We are all members of one vast family, irrespective of clan or country, class, colour, or creed. It is only on this basis that world brotherhood can be meaningful.
5. **A Scout is courteous:** Being courteous is simply being polite and considerate to all – but especially to women and children, to the elderly, the sick, the handicapped. Courtesy to all is yet another expression of the spiritual qualities inherent in brotherhood.
6. **A Scout is a friend to animals:** All living things of any kind, including not only animals but also plant life, are the creations of God – entrusted by Him to our care. To love nature, and to help to protect and conserve it, is yet another way of expressing love for our Creator.
7. **A Scout obeys orders:** We live in a perfectly Created, precisely ordered Universe. Mankind too needs orderly progress, for without it there is chaos. In the family, the community, and all walks of life, there are inevitably order-givers and order-takers. It is a duty to obey legitimate orders – and question them afterwards if we feel that way. Good discipline is essential. And one of the greatest gifts we can develop is self-discipline, which has important spiritual connotations.
8. **A Scout is cheerful:** Why should we “smile and whistle” under all difficulties? The answer is both simple and profound. Life is eternal, and the earth is a school. We are here for a comparatively short while, to learn certain lessons that can only be learned in hard material conditions. The difficulties that beset us are not there by accident, for God has a Plan and a Purpose. Life’s obstacles are there to be overcome with cheerful acceptance. Even the most difficult problems are but character-building stepping-stones on the pathway to Perfection.
9. **A Scout is thrifty:** In Nature as we know it on earth, and throughout the Universe, the Creator has seen to it that nothing is wasted – everything is “recycled” and reused in one way or another. All around us we see this Divine example of perfect thrift. It is a lesson that man needs to learn, for so many of the problems confronting mankind stem from man’s own wastefulness of a myriad God-given human and natural resources. Thrift not only has material aspects, but deep spiritual implications.
10. **A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed:** The very world we live in is a Thought in the Mind of God. Though unseen, thoughts are immensely powerful. All words and deeds are the products of thought. Negative thoughts are harmful both to the thinker, and to others. Positive thoughts are helpful to the thinker and to others. Thus cleanliness in thought, word and deed is of tremendous significance. As we think, so we are. As each one of us makes his way along the path of life that is eternal, he is creating his own destiny according to the purity or otherwise of his thoughts, and consequently his words and deeds.

VC

GONE HOME



Mohau Godfree Leboko (26 years)

Assistant Area Commissioner:
Development – Gauteng Area

South African Scouting is shocked by the tragic death of Mohau.

On behalf of the Chief Scout, the National Scout Council and Area Commissioner of Gauteng Area, we express our deepest and sincerest condolences to Mohau’s family, friends and community. All who knew him will miss his infectious enthusiasm, noble thoughts and kind heart. Mohau was a Scout’s Scout. Our loving God will embrace him and give him peace.

Alan Shinton passed away early on Sunday 3 October 2004. Alan was a former Area Secretary, Cape Western Band co-ordinator and leader of the Scout Heritage Centre in the Western Cape. A recent visitor to the centre/ museum stated that the quality of the exhibits surpasses even that of BP Park in the UK. Alan dedicated an enormous amount of time to Scouting. He has ensured that so much of the Association’s history and records have remained intact. We cannot thank Alan enough for his efforts. We will miss his excellent sense of humour and enthusiasm for Scouting. Our sincerest condolences go out to his family and friends.

Richard Dey is remembered for his dedicated service to the Movement for more than 70 years. He was patrol leader to Car Geach, former Chief Scout. He ran extremely successful Scout Groups in Gauteng and the Western Cape. He served as Area Secretary after his retirement, as Chairperson of the Area Finance Committee, EXCO member and Treasurer of the Southern Zone of the Africa Region. He was also my mentor. He will be sorely missed.

Both Alan Shinton and Richard Dey went beyond mere service to Scouting. They always had a spring in their step even in trying times. They were both wonderful examples of true Scouts in every sense. May they rest in eternal peace knowing that they left this place a little better than they found it.

Luke

BIG FUN AT THE WHITE HOUSE



Hylands House, near Chelmsford in Essex UK, will be the stunning backdrop to the 2007 World Scout Jamboree. As preparations for 2007 gather pace, marking the Movement's first 100 years, the eyes of

Scouts everywhere will focus on the all-important 2007 Jamboree between July 27 and August 8. Here 40,000 young people will camp, live and work alongside each other for what is bound to be an amazing event.

They will come from every corner of the globe, 216 countries and territories, representing the widest range of cultures

and regions to celebrate what unites them and explore what they can do to help create a better and more peaceful world. The Jamboree, together with 'Join-in-Centenary' programmes, Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), all running at the same time, will enable Scouts everywhere to share in the fun and spread the Scouting message wider than ever.

A fact: More young people from more countries participate in the World Scout Jamboree than there are people taking part in the Olympic Games!

Report from Scouting Magazine – UK
Find more information on www.scouting.org.za/jamboree

AKELA'S CORNER

B-P. Said: *'Play is the first great educator'*

After any number of years dealing with the adult side of scouting, I find myself as an "Akela" of a truly South African Cub Pack – I have taken B-P.'s saying and put it into practice. We don't have instruction periods, we don't have test passing sessions we just have 'games' or doing things. Activities might be another name for it. Take each of the requirements for the Cheetah, Leopard or Lion badge – the requirements are progressively the same for each. Think up a game or activity for each that the entire Six can take part in – 8 year old to 10 year olds as the team, pirate crew, army scout platoon or whatever, each age group to achieve their part of the task. Move your locale around – it's no fun looking for a pirate treasure in the scout hall! I suppose you must remain a "Peter Pan" and think make believe. One 'game' might take an entire pack meeting but by

the time it is finished, the entire pack has achieved progress.

Baloo, the teacher, is always available to show them how – Raksha, the mother figure, is there to bandage up the cuts and scrapes (First Aid) and of course feed the pack (fires, cooking, grow veg.) Bagheera knows how to hunt (sporing, sense training) and is a very good athlete (climbing, running and jumping), Akela, the wise old leader, knows the way to lead the pack (compass), the best places to visit, (swimming, boating, knots, nature), etc.

Our pack has just three Sixes, and we must have the four adults or three adults and a Cub Instructor to take the part of Bagheera, to make the programme a success.

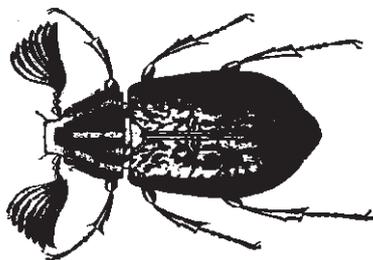
So what is the "secret"? – You must recruit the adult help, train them and USE them!

ECO CUBBING

Have you cubs ever seen a Dung Beetle? Unfortunately if you have been to any of our game parks you may see them squashed by motor cars along the roads. These little insects do a great job in their environment by collecting a big ball of animal dung and rolling it backwards to a place where they can bury it. Their action cleans up the outdoors. The females lay an egg inside the dung ball where the young have a "great place" to hatch out and "lovely" food for the first days of their lives. The left over dung remains in the ground to fertilise the plants that grow there.. A real useful little critter, so ask your dad to drive carefully in the parks and not ride over them!

PLAY DUNG BEETLE SOCCER

Pack is divided into two equal teams, all go down on hands and feet. Goals on each end of the room. A rag/sock ball is provided and each team attempts to score in the opposite goal, by pushing the ball with their feet, backwards only. Don't let them kick out backwards as Dung Beetles can't do that. This is a very tiring game and should be played for a short time only.



INSURANCE

According to the Association's Policies and Rules, all the assets belonging to the movement must have appropriate insurance. The responsibility for ensuring that this insurance is in place rests with the Group Committees, District LAs, Regional EXCOs and the Area EXCOs accordingly. The national insurers Alexander Forbes are able to offer very competitive rates on account of the size of the portfolio.

A concern was raised recently regarding insurance cover for members. The Association has public liability insurance which covers any damage sustained by third parties attributable to the acts of it's members. There is however, no member-to-member insurance. Due to the indeterminable risk associated with Scout activities it has been impossible to identify an underwriter prepared to offer such extensive cover and the costs thereof would be unaffordable. Accordingly, the matter was discussed at the recent National Scout Council and it was resolved that Scout Groups would be able to purchase such cover of their own accord either for particular activities or annually. Regardless of the cover purchased however, the indemnity clause agreed to upon joining the Movement is still applicable.

Please contact your Area Headquarters should you require further information in this regard

TRAINING SPEAK

Where training practice is effective:

+ leaders have a clear purpose for the activities they have planned and are managing:

+ talk is encouraged and valued in a variety of contexts;

+ interaction between leaders and scouts is used to extend thinking and understanding, and to promote good behaviour and enjoyment;

+ good use is made of space, equipment and materials to give scouts a broad, exciting and interesting range of activities;

+ scouts receive clear explanations and instructions and have a secure knowledge of what is expected of them;

+ leaders ask relevant questions focussed on the task in hand;

+ scouts receive praise and constructive criticism which enables them to grow in confidence and to learn from their mistakes.

We have serious responsibilities as to what messages we put over to impressionable young minds.

CAPE EASTERN AREA BADGE

Cape Eastern Area, another Area incorporating no less than three of the old Areas – Cape Midlands (Elephant head), Ciskei/Border (blue crane/Aloe) and Transkei (three leg pot), needed to look at a completely new design for their emblem a few years ago. They came up with the coastline, ocean and dolphin, with a koppie of the Karoo in the background, representing the massive area that is now the Eastern Cape Province. They incorporated the South African scout emblem to make it a truly scout badge.



POSITIVE SCOUTING

Forum: Scouter's Forum
Topic: Positive Scouting
Posted By: jediwannabe

A big "Positive" for me is the massive inroads that scouting is making into Limpopo province. This weekend about 30 new scouters from Limpopo finished their warrant course, all of these scouters are unemployed and giving 100% of their time to improving their communities. The one scouter has about 90 scouts in her troop!!!!

And the troop has only been running for about a month!!!!

"PASS THE FLAME, UNITE THE WORLD"

Area Commissioner Cape Western Brian February was honoured by being nominated as a Torch Bearer for his work in the Scout Movement for the past 40 years. His own words were.

"I was taken by surprise when informed that I had been nominated and was selected to be one of 120 Torch Bearers to participate in this historical event and I would like to thank Naomi Spies of 1st Strandfontein for nominating me." Brian said.

On the eve of the Torch Relay, to take place on 12 June, all the Torch Bearers attended a reception in their honour at the Cape Town City Hall. Here they were registered, briefed and presented with their tracksuits and introduced to some very important guests.

"It was during that evening that I realised how big this event was when I rubbed shoulders with people like, Baby Jake – former four times World Boxing Champion, George Bizos – the Human Rights Lawyer and who defended Nelson Mandela in the Rivonia Trial, Chester Williams - Springbok rugby player, Penny Heyns – Olympic Champion, Lucas Radebe – former captain of Leeds United and Bafana Bafana to name but a few".

"As D-Day dawned I was up bright and early proudly dressed in my tracksuit smarting the Athens 2004 logo. The day was filled with all sorts of emotions and nerves as I met some of my fellow Torch Bearers at the Philippi Indoor Centre. From here we were bussed along our route through Guguletu, Nyanga, the outskirts of Heideveld, Vanguard Estate (where I grew up), Rylands, Silvertown, Belgravia Estate, Sunnyside and Athlone. As I sat on the bus waiting for No 45 to come up – my designated number for the Relay, I thought how appropriate it was for me to be assigned to this route and to carry the Torch down Belgravia Road. This was the area where I spent the first 30 years of my scouting as a Cub, Scout, Scouter and District Commissioner. In addition it was down Belgravia Road, that I walked many a day while still at school to go to City Park Stadium and Hewat Training College to participate in the Inter Schools Athletics and to train for the

Western Province Athletic Team. Not for once thinking that I would have this honour one day".

"Cape Town came out in it's thousands to witness this historical event and as I stepped off the bus on the corner on Belgravia and St Simons Roads I was caught up in the emotions. I was met by family, friends and some scouts.

Thanks to Gavin Withers and Chris Hendricks for arranging this. As I was ushered into a quick photo shoot with the scouts, other people many of whom I did not even know jostled to get a quick photograph, with them touching the Olympic Torch. I was quickly moved away by one of the Torch Relay Officials who nicely welcomed me to the Torch Relay and turned the on the fuel in my torch as Torch Bearer no 44 approached me. I lit my Torch from Thompson Mangaliso – a weightlifter from Mannenberg and started my

historical journey remembering the words from the Athens Olympic Official the night before, "that while you are carrying the Flame you are the only person in the world at that time, holding the Olympic Flame and the eyes of the whole world will be on you". What an honour it was!"

In a flash I had reached the end of my sector and Baby Jake Matlala the former World Boxing Champion was waiting to light his torch from mine. The Flame continued its journey through the streets of Cape Town and ending up with the lighting of the cauldron on the Grand Parade that evening."



Area Commissioner Cape Western Brian February decked out in his tracksuit and with the Olympic Torch, with some of the scouts and leaders who witnessed his historic run.

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