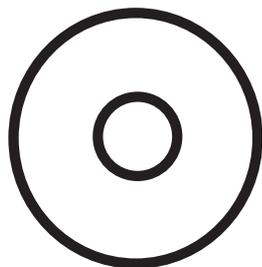




Summer - 2004/5

SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.



My first meeting with Carveth was brief but memorable. In 1949, having just gone up from Cubs to Scouts in the 1st Belgravia-Kensington (BK) Group, the characters in Kipling's Jungle Book were fresh in my mind. One of them was Kaa the python and thus when I discovered that one of the BK Rovers who had come to assist at a troop meeting was called Car, I was greatly taken aback! However, a close inspection soon convinced me that he neither looked nor acted like a python and I therefore put the matter out of my mind.

However, shortly after joining the BK Rovers in 1954, the Crew spent a long weekend at a farm called 'Journey's End,' near Johannesburg. Carveth was there and, at the end, offered me a lift. We talked and argued all the way home and thus began a friendship which has endured a full half-century and I would like to believe has enriched both our lives.

Born in Johannesburg in 1928, Carveth attended Jeppe Boys' High School, after which he qualified as an attorney, in which profession he became outstandingly successful. After leading the BK Rover Crew he soon became involved in the wider regional and national aspects of Scouting and, after serving on the National Scout Council, was elected Chief Scout in 1969, a position he held with distinction until 1973.

For most Chief Scouts the position is essentially one of being reactive - maintaining intact the fabric of the Movement as society changes, although perhaps with here and there some fresh

CARVETH GEACH - A LIFE IN SCOUTING

Peter Spargo

element. What Carveth will be remembered for, however, is his role as an experimenter and innovator. Let me mention three examples. He had always believed that the sharp split between the Scouts and the Guides was much to be regretted. Hence the introduction during his period as Chief Scout of a series of Scout-Guide camps in such wonderful places as the Natal Drakensberg and

the grounds of Modderfontein Dynamite Works in 1973 and, as those of us who were present will recall, it was an unqualified success. At least one more was held two years later. Finally, in those years of Grand Apartheid, Carveth decided that not only should Scouts work with Guides, but they should also meet the Voortrekkers. He therefore met the then head of that movement, Prof.

Boshoff, to explore the issue. At first our overtures were met with warmth and we all hoped that some form of joint activity might come of the talks. However, suddenly and tragically the talks were terminated and Carveth and I gained a strong impression that orders had come from the very highest quarters in the land that the Voortrekkers should drop the matter.

But there was much else besides: Carveth's major role in the Quo Vadis initiative of 1977 (the crucially important 'think tank' that was so important in, amongst other things, bringing about a unified Scout movement in South Africa); his seminal role in the acquisition and development of Camp Korhaan, on the banks of Vaal Dam, his crucial role in setting up and running the Jubilee Trust, which he chaired from 1992 until his death. His commitment was indeed memorable.



CARVETH GEACH 1928 - 2005

Phalaborwa, on the edge of the Kruger National Park. Although greatly enjoyed by all who attended, these camps unfortunately did not outlive his period as Chief Scout. Then there were the Pitso's, camps at which would be sought the views of Scouts - not Scouters! - from all over Southern Africa on a wide variety of issues relating to present and future Scouting. The first of these was held in

A final note. Throughout his Scouting career Carveth was ably supported by his wife Mary and many were those, including most richly my wife Celia and myself, who benefited from their warm hospitality both at their home in Bedfordview and their Bushveld game farm, Ntakobusi.

Car, you have Gone Home, but your contributions to Scouting in South Africa will be your memorial. *Requiescat in pace ...*



DUTY TO GOD

Mankind cannot exist without trees. Trees for various good reasons, should be part of every environment. Everyone, everywhere should use every opportunity to plant a tree – for example, for every kind of anniversary, from birth onwards. Only just be sure you're planting the right kind of tree in the right place!

This prayer from Portugal sums it all up:

The Prayer of the trees

Ye who would pass by and raise your hand against me, hearken ere you harm me.

I am the heat of your hearth on cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun;

And my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the boards of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle and the shell of your coffin.

I am the gift of God and friend of man.

Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer – harm me not.

Veld Lore

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK / TOP AWARDS

Damian Lahoud – Cape Western Area
Phillip William Plant – Mpumalanga Area
Taun Kirby Brewsher – Tshwane Area
Alan Richard Newham – Gauteng Area
Gary Coolin Rice – Gauteng Area
Marc Baker – Gauteng Area
Craig William Lloyd – Gauteng Area
Sean Carter – Gauteng Area
Allan-Roy Sekeitto – Gauteng Area
Robin Bruyns – Gauteng Area
Hendrik Johannes Visser – Gauteng Area
Gregory Scott Gardiner – Gauteng Area
Graham Tuckey – Gauteng Area
Kevin William Kohler – Gauteng Area
Amber Leah Jackson – Gauteng Area
Lludd Gerallt Ap-Gwyn – Gauteng Area
Mark Timothy Stevens – Gauteng Area
Dylan George Lindsay - Kwazulu Natal Area
Jarred de Beer – Cape Eastern Area
Mark Muggelstone – Cape Eastern Area
Mark Anthony Welvering – Cape Eastern Area
Siseko Skade – Cape Eastern Area
Thulasizwe Ntsele – Gauteng Area
Robert Mientjies – Kwazulu Natal Area
Christopher Jacobs – Central Area

SAHQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Chief Scout and the National Scout Council we would like to wish all Scouts, adult volunteers and their families a healthy and rewarding 2005. We trust that you all had a peaceful and happy festive season and as true Scouts were mindful of those less fortunate and facing devastation elsewhere.

It is with sadness and a sense of loss that we advise that Carveth Geach has gone home. Car was a former Chief Scout (1968-1973) and currently served as Vice President of the Association, Chairperson of the Boy Scout Jubilee Trust Fund, Trustee of the Scout Foundation and active member of the National Scout Council. Car also held the worlds highest Scout Award – The Bronze Wolf. Car has led a life of service as is fundamental to Scouting. All who have served with Car will remember his compassion, incisiveness and pragmatism. Car always displayed a deep sense of justice regarding all around him and the society within which he served. From as far back as Quo Vadis in 1977 where against the country's laws he was instrumental in merging the Movement into one system for all, until present where Car fully supported the Transformation of the Association, it was clear that equality, fairness and unity were paramount. It goes without saying that Car lived his life according to those high standards that Scouting sets. He was a tremendous example to all in Scouting and outside, yet not aloof. He expressed a keen interest in the needs and opinions of the youth. In this way Car has endeared himself to all. He is truly a Scout's Scout and we are grateful for all that he has done. On behalf of the Chief Scout and the National Scout Council we express our deepest and sincerest condolences to Mary, the whole family and friends.

Looking back, 2004 could not have had more in stall for all of us. We remember the tragic losses of very special people within the Movement. We also celebrate the successes of what we are able to achieve as members of this, the largest youth Movement in the world. And there have been many achievements! The Association has also made tremendous progress in reaching out to others. The SCENE programmes, the Cub Challenge and so many other service projects in aid of those in our communities are but some. The "Scouting and Aids" programme was presented to the Africa Region and was lauded as an excellent example of what Scouting can do to address this terrible pandemic. The new Scout Trail was launched at an extremely good price in order to make it accessible to as many youth as possible. Its user friendliness, many illustrations and relevance is a celebration of providing all our youth with a book of adventure and development. We also celebrate our Chief Scout's Commissioner, Andre Bredenkamp's, fantastic achievement in climbing Mount

Everest. It is also the first recorded time that the World Scout logo was flown on the summit. These are all the obvious recounts, but what always astounds me is the way in which we can celebrate the volunteers of this Movement. Without exception, every observer of the voluntarism of Scouting cannot believe the commitment and hard work of the volunteers in Scouting. You are all sincerely thanked for continuing to make a difference!

The Association also remembers the many victims and those affected by Aids. One is starkly reminded of the horror of Aids when you can put a face to the 16-year-old orphaned Scout girl living in a rural community, who not only leads a Scout patrol but also cares for three siblings – all orphaned by HIV/Aids.

The Association also extends its expressions of solidarity to the Scout Associations in Asia and Africa who were affected by the earthquakes and tsunami late in 2004. We are, at least in thought, with all those brother and sister Scouts and their families who have suffered as a result. Various efforts in the Association to show support have been initiated and we hope they provide some relief.

We enter 2005 renewed and hopeful that we can continue to make a difference. Together with our fantastic partners which include Scouting Nederland, Scouts Canada, NOVIB, National Lottery, Food and Trees for Africa and many more, we are committed to "embracing change for the good of all youth" and enriching their lives.

B-P ON CAMPING

"The only place to do real Scouting is in camp."

"There's no place like camp to bring out the cheerful spirits of boys."

"Camping is the great point in Scouting which appeals to the boy, and the opportunity for teaching him self-reliance and resourcefulness, besides giving him health."

"A tenderfoot talks of "roughing it in camp"; but living in camp for a Scout who knows the game is by no means "roughing it".

"Have you ever thought how camp helps your boys to practise living the Scout Law?"

"It is only while in camp that one can really learn to study Nature in the proper way, because here you are face to face with Nature at all hours of the day and night."

"Every Scout knows that when you break up your camp there are two things which you should leave behind you:

1. - **Nothing.**
2. - **Your thanks** – to God for the good time you have had, and to the owner of the land who has let you have the use of it."

STARTER KITS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

During 2004 ten scouting groups in South Africa received starter kits funded by scouting groups in the Netherlands. This initiative is a result of the partnership between the South African Scout Association and Scouting Nederland and involves a scouting group in the Netherlands raising funds to buy a kit for a group in South Africa. It is hoped that the two scouting groups will also become pen pals.

There are many scouting groups in South Africa that do not have the most basic equipment or handbooks to do their scouting. These kits give them the opportunity to enjoy scouting as each boy and girl deserves to. Each starter kit contains scouting books, arts and craft material, ropes, sports equipment, books for record keeping and material to practise first aid.

**Thank you
Scouting Nederland!**



In October 2004 Luke van der Laan and Milly Siebrits visited two schools in the Free State to hand them their kits.

If your group would like a starter kit, write a letter to your Area Headquarters and motivate why you should receive one.

CAPE WESTERN AREA BADGE

As far back as I can remember, and most probably from the very beginning, the Ostrich design has been the logo of Cape Western Area. The badge design has



changed from time to time but always retained the Ostrich logo. One of the first administrative divisions of South African Scouting, it encompassed the entire old Cape Province. Even after being established, the former Cape Midlands and Border Divisions were administered from Cape Town. In the 1950s I attended the second Scout Wood Badge Course held in Port Elizabeth, directed by Frank Quin and Impy Briant, sent all the way from Cape Town to conduct the course. My theory notes were posted off to that city for reading and comment, with the usual postal delays, never ever delays by the training team!

ECO CUBBING

Each year in September and October our nation holds a Coastal Cleanup Day and National Marine Week. On both occasions we are concerned about the condition of our beaches and the oceans around us.

In 2004, cubs and scouts joined in the beach cleanup and also visited the Marine Week Exhibitions held around our coastal ports. Plastic, in its many forms, is the most noticeable culprit not only on our beautiful

beaches but also floating about in the ocean.

Any jellyfish eating creature swimming along and seeing a piece of plastic, thinks it's a jellyfish and eats it. The plastic blocks their insides and the creature dies a slow and painful death. In the past, dolphins in one of our Oceanariums have died because they swallowed plastic bags that have blown into their pool from the surrounding suburb.

If you have ever watched a show at one of our dolphin or seal pools, you will see how the trainer throws a rubber or plastic ring into the water; the dolphin or seal sticks its nose through the ring and brings it back to the trainer. Well, down on the Cape Town Waterfront I have seen Rangers capturing seals in the harbour and cutting off plastic bands (strapping) that have become stuck around their necks and have cut deeply through their fur covered skin into their bleeding flesh. Maybe these animals came across this litter floating about and had some fun with it – only to become badly injured. These are the “lucky” ones! Out at sea there are no Rangers to help the seals and dolphins that suffer the same fate.

Cubs and Scouts just do not litter!

ACTIVITY: Leaders are asked to observe the safety of Scouts and Cubs taking part in any “clean-up”. Make sure they wear shoes or tackies – slippers are not good enough. Have them wear tough gloves as broken glass is one of the common finds on these expeditions. Provide strong bags in which to



PLs Xhola Minziwa & Andrew Tonkin of Humewood Sea Scout Troop, Port Elizabeth display the plastic strapping found at a stormwater outlet on the beachfront.

place the litter. A split bag is most frustrating to a cub or scout trying to “do his good turn”. Keep the group together, don't let individuals wander off, especially in lonely places. Fair skinned children **MUST** wear a hat and shirt as sunburn is an ever present danger in our hot summer outdoors. Have them all wear suitable sunblock cream. Australians have a campaign to fight skin cancer: “Slip, Slap, Slop” - Slip into a shirt; slap on a hat and slop on some barrier cream. Do have an enjoyable outdoor activity.

GIFTS FOR PEACE



Peace - and peace education - has always been a fundamental part of Scouting, and was Baden-Powell's key theme at the very first World Scout Jamboree.

To make peace practical and real for every Scout around the world, National Scout Organisations have been asked to organise “Gifts for Peace” projects in their countries during late 2005 and 2006.

These can be in one or more of the following areas:

- ☞ Creating a more peaceful world;
- ☞ Challenging prejudice;
- ☞ Encourage greater solidarity.

SELLING THE INVISIBLE

In our development programme, we approach a community and try to sell them on the "idea" of scouting. We are selling them the invisible. It's not like selling a pair of boots or a tin of jam, here the customer can see and weigh and decide that it's worth the cost that we are asking. In that community it is probable that no one has even heard of scouting and here comes a crazy person, in a fancy uniform, trying to get me to do something that I have no idea of what is required.

The term "selling the invisible" is a business term, recognised by firms such as Insurance Companies and Financial Services. They are selling the future, something you can't see or feel. We in scouting are also selling the future, how the youth will turn out when they grow up. Like the Insurance Company, we must prepare well to make our presentation understandable and something that every parent would wish for their child. We know that a well prepared scout/cub programme is magic to most youth, so therefore we are selling a good saleable product. The parents must want it, not just the school principal or the church parson. Without parent support we are fighting a losing battle.

Whether we are approaching development of the "Pakamani" program or extending existing Districts in our city environment – go well prepared to put the FULL story over – Show 'n Do, if you can, then leave them each with a well prepared sheet of paper telling them what to do next and where they can contact YOU; the Mr or Mrs Scouting, as far as they are concerned. Sure, put your Area HQ or District address and telephone number on the paper as well, but to them that could be as abstract as an address on the moon.

"SHOW-N'-DO"

It's been my experience that more Pack and Troop Leaders are recruited after a well advertised and run "Show-n-Do" than after any sit around and talk session. What is a "Show-n-Do"? It's a group of parents and friends of scouting getting together and experiencing a "hands on" activity of the cub or scout skills.

The District is the ideal venue for such a function. Each of the existing Leaders in the District is invited to prepare an activity base featuring one or other of the cub or scout advancement requirements. On the day, the invited visitors are divided into a six or patrol, with their sons or daughters as a competing team. They are first shown the requirements at one of the bases, then pit themselves against the skills of their cub six or scout patrol by doing that activity. The two groups then move on to the next "Show-n-Do" base. As many of the bases are visited as time allows. Refreshments are provided and the day could conclude with a braai and a Camp Fire. Make sure every visitor takes away that sheet of paper telling them what to do next and who to contact.

At such an event it is not only possible to recruit Group Leaders and non-uniformed Committee people; but District might find additional personnel for their ranks. Do stress that training is available for whatever job they would like to undertake in the movement, no one likes to show their shortcomings in front of others.

"Scouting for Boys"

The original, 1908 edition, of Scouting for Boys has recently been published by OXFORD University Press. The book retails in bookstores for R170. We have managed to secure a special discount for Scout Shops where it will retail for R125. With more than 380 pages of text, some of which has never been printed before, this represents an excellent buy and addition to your Scouting library.

PROGRAMME OFFICERS

The Association wishes to appoint programme officers in the North West, Free State and Eastern Cape Provinces on a contract basis. The officers will be tasked with ensuring that the Association's HIV/Aids programme is properly implemented and monitored. Other responsibilities will include assisting the Area offices in increasing their capacity toward providing better Scouting to more young people. For more information contact: M Siebrits, Project Manager, SAHQ on 021 6833910 or milly@scouting.org.za.

NEW SCOUT TRAIL



The up-to-date **SCOUT TRAIL** is now available at your Area Head Quarters. This well illustrated and comprehensive publication should be part of every Patrol Library. There is no excuse for your scouts to not make progress – from Membership, all the way through to the Springbok/Top Award, the requirements are fully laid out in this book. The first printing has been sponsored, so if you are quick and snap one up, you can get your copy at a very reduced cost.

TROOP LEADERS HANDBOOK – How can any Troop Leader operate without a copy of this publication? It contains everything you need to know on how to run an efficient, progressive troop.

Also available at Scout Shop at a reduced cost.

5th AFRICAN SCOUT JAMBOREE – MOZAMBIQUE

December 27th 2005 – 7 January 2006

To bring together the Scouts of Africa and to celebrate their unity and diversity.



There will be no SANJAM in 2005, but there is the wonderful opportunity of attending an International Scout gathering right here on our doorstep. Let all Areas in the country plan to have a contingent to attend this great opportunity in a years time. Very few Scouts have the chance to attend an International event overseas, so let us make use of this very much cheaper opportunity to be held in Catembe.

More information will be available in the new year so we can start planning our fundraising and preparing participants for this event. Look at: scout.moz@tycabo.co.mz

Contributions can be:

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