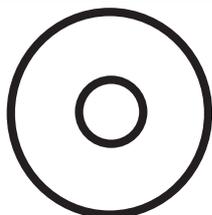




Autumn - 2005

SA SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.



COLIN JAMES INGLIS A tribute to a lifelong friend

By Graham Harrison

I first met Colin on a Saturday night in January 1946, the night I joined the 3rd Maritzburg (Scoutholm) Troop. I had been a Scout during the war years in Wynberg in the Cape.

I was now fifteen and appointed as Patrol leader. Colin was a young Assistant Scoutmaster of twenty, recently demobbed from the S.A.A.F. after flying Spitfires in Italy. When I think back on it now that five-year age-gap seemed insuperable, but Colin bridged it with effortless style. And he had both style and charisma.

He was friendly, easy to talk to, imaginative and inspiring. Every senior boy in the Troop (and probably the younger boys as well) became his instant admirer and imitator. His discipline was strict, but his wide games were always exciting, usually with an element of danger. He introduced the Senior boys to mountaineering, taking them to the Drakensberg every Easter. His hiking and camping standards were so high as to be almost out of sight, but we strained every nerve to attain his goals, and his smile of approval was greatly prized. I still recall the first Troop Camp he ran, and to this day, recall the songs we sang. After the camp he became Scoutmaster, and our old Skipper became Group Scoutmaster. Colin was inordinately proud of the Scoutholm Troop, in which he had been a Patrol Leader under its first Scoutmaster, Professor Alan Hattersley.

In addition to being Scoutmaster, he was an active member of the Scoutholm Rover Scout Crew, worked in a Government Office by day, and studied for a B.Com. Degree by night. The Commerce Faculty of the University of Natal (as it was then) was in Durban, and the University authorities went out of their way to help ex-servicemen, by arranging special lectures for Maritzburg students on Fridays from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. However civil servants (even an ex-serviceman) could not easily take time off from the office to attend lectures. Luckily Colin had a very understanding and helpful supervisor. Colin would saunter out of the office at 12h45 on a Friday, as if going to lunch, walk quickly round to the back of the

building where his supervisor would drop his briefcase to him from an upstairs window. He would then drive to Durban, absorb eight hours of lectures, and drive home again, around midnight, and that is



COLIN JAMES INGLIS

how he got his first degree.

As the only unmarried sibling in his family, he lived with and cared for his Mother. He had a house built in Scottsville for their joint use. This happy state of affairs continued until 1950, when he won a Victoria League Scholarship to Cambridge University. He was admitted an undergraduate member of Sidney Sussex College, studying Economics and was awarded a Master of Arts degree in 1953.

After Cambridge, he joined the Shell Company as a Trainee Executive, serving the Company in East London, Cape Town and London. His visits to Maritzburg to see his mother were keenly looked forward to by his old scouts, none of whom will ever forget him.

Over the years Colin served in many Scouting rolls. He was Divisional Commissioner for Cape Western from 1968 to 1977. In 1975 he was appointed

Chairman of the "Quo Vadis" Committee, which sought to address the issue of separate race groups in Scouting. Their recommendations were to form one unified Movement. He was Chief Scout from 1977 until 1985. In 1977 he was awarded the Silver Springbok. In 1986 in recognition of his work he was awarded The Edgar Brookes Award by the University of Natal for "outstanding contributions to human freedom and endeavour". He was International Commissioner from 1985 to 1995. In 1996 he was awarded the Bronze Wolf by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

In 1998 he invited me to assist him on the staff of the Cedarberg Senior Scout Adventure. Colin had been instrumental in establishing the Adventure in 1969, so as to provide the Senior Scouts with something special and challenging. When I arrived, Colin greeted me and the years just fell away – he gave me orders, just as he had in the old days, when I was one of his Patrol Leaders, and I gave him backchat, just as I had done in the old days, which no-one in Cape Western had ever done.

Until this last year, Colin has always been full of energy, urging everyone on to greater efforts, and never sparing himself. He set himself goals and he achieved them. He was always willing to try something new, to get a little more out of each day. If he had a fault, it was a conviction that he could get 65 minutes of activity out of every hour. Even in the old days, after camp, Colin would try a new wide game, designed to make full use of the features of that particular campsite. You have no idea how many trains we missed by just five or ten minutes.

I thank God for his friendship over the years, and though he is gone from us, he will live in our memories for all those who knew him.

Graham Harrison is a prominent lawyer in Pietermaritzburg. Matriculating at Maritzburg College, he became an Assistant Pack Scouter at the Scoutholm Group. Graham finally decided not to renew his Pack Scouters Warrant in 2003, having looked after the same Pack for a period of over 50 years.

SAHQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we approach the end of the first quarter of 2005, Scouting is definitively alive with the efforts and achievements of the volunteers who make the programme work. At the outset the Association's National Scout Council thanks each and every adult volunteer for the tremendous effort and commitment that makes Scouting possible. These often come together with a great deal of personal sacrifice without which the Movement would be unable to make the differences in the lives of young people all over South Africa.

It was with great sadness that the Chief Scout announced the passing away of Colin Inglis, former Chief Scout and Bronze Wolf holder. Colin's contributions to Scouting were immense. Scout leadership attended his funeral in Pietermaritzburg

and held a memorial service in his honour in Cape Town. May Colin rest in peace.

The National Scout Council recently honoured the Chief Scout, Nkwenkwe Nkomo for his tremendous contribution to Scouting over the last ten years of service. At the celebrations he, in turn presented the Bronze Cross for Gallantry (highest award for gallantry) to the Chief Scout's Commissioner, Andre Bredenkamp. He also presented the Order of the Silver Springbok to both Ian Harry and Colin Stretton.

The National scout Council also took a strategic look at the future of scouting in South Africa. The following strategic priorities were identified: Transformation; Youth Involvement; Volunteers; Scouting's Profile and an Organisation for the 21st

Century. The objectives and workgroups responsible for each priority were adopted by the Council at its meeting on 12 March 2005.

The National Scout Council unanimously elected Reverend Vukile C Mehana as the Chief Scout Elect to take office as the Chief Scout of South Africa on 1 July 2005. Reverend Mehana has been a Scout, was Scouter, holds the woodbadge and has served in numerous senior Scouting positions over the years. We are confident that his leadership will be supported by all in achieving our Vision of being South Africa's Premier Youth Movement. Reverend Mehana will be inaugurated in Cape Town on 18 June 2005 at the St. Georges Cathedral.

The National Scout Council, at its meeting held on 13 March 2005, adopted the Association's Vision and Mission:

VISION

"The South African Scout Association is South Africa's premier youth movement dedicated to the development of young people in creating a better country for all"

MISSION

"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 SPRINGBOK / TOP AWARDS

Louise Talmash Griffiths - Gauteng
Patrick Scott Brown - Kwazulu Natal
Aidan Jonathan Brown - Gauteng
Gavin Philip - Gauteng
Warren Norman Thompson - Gauteng
James Henry Eames - Gauteng
Renato Machine - Gauteng
Daniel David Meistre - Gauteng
Gareth Richard Burl - Gauteng
Sebastien Loumeau - Gauteng
Jason Cape - Gauteng
Michael Louw - Tshwane
Claire Gordon - Tshwane
Christopher Louw - Tshwane
Johnstephen Marsh - Tshwane
Hendri Yorke Worthington - Tshwane
Simon Graham Maple - Kwazulu Natal
Scott Roy Mc Neil - Kwazulu Natal
Philip William Plant - Mpumalanga
Werner De Wit - Cape Western
Christopher Gaag - Cape Western
Warren Dean Klynsmith - Cape Western
Rocco Raymond Du Plessis - Cape Western
Theo Pieter Du Plessis - Cape Western

POPE JOHN PAUL II : GONE HOME

On behalf of the Chief Scout of South Africa, Mr N. Nkomo, and the National Scout Council of the South African Scout Association, I would like to extend our sincere commiserations to our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church.

Pope John Paul II was a great leader. He was an inspiration to us all especially those facing the challenges of poverty and under development. He will be remembered for the compassionate way in which he engaged the people of Africa, never ceasing to explore ways to help improve the plight of those less fortunate. His spiritual guidance and belief in equality consistently reminded the world of our common humanity no matter the differences.

We know that Pope John Paul II shared the belief in that which Scouting achieves. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all in this time of mourning and believe that in God's wisdom the future leadership of the Catholic Church's leadership will be determined.

Luke van der Laan - Chief Executive



**The Pope wearing the Wood Badge scarf.
A photo of the Pope meeting Italian
Scouts on their 50th anniversary.**

WATER – GOD’S GREAT GIFT TO THE WORLD

With the most vivid memories (from TV pictures) of the devastating Tsunami, that struck and killed a quarter of a million, men, women and children over the Christmas period 2004, and left many millions more without homes or food and facing death by disease, how can we say that water is God’s great gift?

That, unfortunately, was nature in it’s most devastating mood. Every one of us depends on nature for our very survival. Water is one of nature’s greatest gifts, too much or too little of it affects our lives in one way or another. Floods or drought as we know it, can affect different parts of our country at the same time. Cape Western – Water Shortages – you can’t water your garden! Cape Eastern – A flood on 22 December, and then the most rain they have had, at this time of year, in many, many, years! Most of the time we have just enough water for our day to day requirements whether it comes out of a tap in our home, or we must take a container down to a borehole, the river or a spring to fetch it. I see a wonderful advertisement put out by one of our mega-stores, installing children’s’ roundabouts with a storage tank (with their name on it) and a tap. The action of the children playing and pushing the roundabout, pumps water, from a borehole, to the overhead tank.. What a great service - even if they get the advertising. We should always be very aware that water is a gift and we must not waste it or pollute it at all.

The oceans of the world are the great reservoirs of water but this water is undrinkable and can be a threat to all of us who live close to it or sail on it. Again we depend on nature, the sun (heat), winds and cold, to bring it’s purified water far inland and deposit it in the form of rain and snow, so that we can use it. Rain falls on our open countryside or our city gardens where it can immediately be used by the crops on farms, bush and grass in the bushveld and flowers or vegetables in our gardens. If we are prepared beforehand we can collect some of it in tanks. What is not used sinks into the ground and collects in underground lakes (aquifers) or runs off into our rivers or dams from where we can use it ourselves via the pipelines into our cities or towns.

We depend on water for our recreation as well: Swimming in a pool or dam, canoeing, sailing or even rafting on our rivers. All this water is drinkable, once it has been purified, to prevent diseases spreading. As a cub or scout we should help nature by knowing how to purify water, not only for our camp or hike use, but to be in a position to show others how to protect their own health.

A WATER EXPLORATION HIKE

Hike up a small stream, to its source if possible. Carry out activities of the following kind – recording your observations in a logbook. Go, prepared with waterproof boots and rubber gloves:

1. Fill a sample jar with water, downstream, and fill another later on, at or near the source. Let the samples stand for 24 hours. The downstream jar of water will probably contain many small particles – evidence of soil erosion.
2. Note any silt in the stream. This sandy sediment is further evidence of soil erosion. Note if any living creatures are evident in the water – tadpoles, insects etc. If not, a sure sign of pollution.
3. Record evidence of substantial changes in the colour of the water – the muddier the water, the greater the degree of soil erosion.
4. Observe whether the land has been cultivated right down to the streams edge – or alternatively whether urban factory or housing development runs virtually to the streams edge – for, from a conservation viewpoint, a belt of indigenous bush or grass should have been left along the banks, to help prevent soil erosion, and aid the ecology generally.
5. Note any litter in the stream, and/or on the stream banks.
6. Note evidence of community sewage or factory effluent polluting the stream.
7. Note any dead fish in the water – a sure sign of chemical pollution.
8. Note any evidence of stream-choking plants such as water hyacinth, kariba weed.
9. Note any evidence of recent floods, such as uprooted trees and heavy silt along the banks.
10. Observe the activities of the villagers along the stream: Are their houses or huts too close to the stream? Are they using the stream for purposes such as drawing drinking water, bathing, etc.? Are they filtering and boiling the water – probably polluted by water-borne disease? Are they watering cattle upstream of the village, thus exposing themselves to further health hazards? Are they washing clothes in the stream, creating further pollution?

A stream or river is for EVERYONE’S use, the people, animals, fish and anything that depends on the water for it’s existence – trees, plants and all those little bugs we see where ever there is good water. Civilisation has moved on – we don’t use our rivers to dispose of our human and household waste as they did in centuries past.

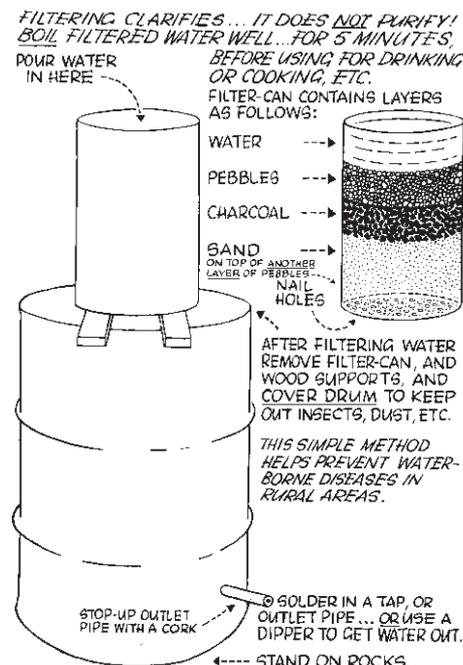


OPERATION FILTER

Surface water from rivers, dams, ponds etc is generally liable to be contaminated with water-borne diseases. This can also sometimes be the case – especially when related to shallow formations – with underground water from sources such as wells and springs.

It is advisable that water for human consumption, from such sources, is both filtered and boiled. The accompanying sketch from “101 Thrifty Ideas for Energy Conservation”, shows how a simple filter can be made, and used. If every rural family used a filter like this there would be a dramatic drop in water-borne disease.

The pebbles, charcoal and sand (river sand) should be well washed before the filter is constructed, otherwise your initial attempt at filtering will be a disaster. Charcoal is the partially burned wood from your camp fire – or charcoal filter material can be bought from a hardware store.



SKETCH FROM VELD LORE

Looking for a “Good Turn” project as part of your scout progress – make and distribute Filters in those communities that need them in your area.

JOIN-IN-CENTENARY



To make it possible for all scouts to celebrate the century of scouting in 2007, a number of activities will take place during that year. In South Africa a Rover Moot will be held at Mafikeng in February and all Areas are requested to organise and run Join-in-Centenary camps at which International scouts and scouts from other Areas will be invited. South Africa's 2007 National Organiser is Brian February, and all Areas are asked to appoint their organisers, now, to liaise with Brian.

Contact Cell: 083 468 8243
e-mail: brian.february@capetown.gov.za

Scouting UK has produced a "Join-in-Centenary" resource. This will include a 52 weeks worth of programme ideas, all connected with the Centenary of Scouting. Available by visiting www.world.scouting2007.org/english/joinin.php

WORLD JAMBOREE 1955 – GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The 50th Anniversary of the 1955, 8th World Jamboree – held at Niagra-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, the first Jamboree held outside of Europe, is being celebrated the weekend of September 16th-18th – 2005.

The organising committee would especially welcome the original Jamboree attendees. Contact the committee through web site: <http://wj55.org>

WHERE THERE IS LIFE THERE IS WETLAND

“GRASS ROOTS” Nedbank Green Affinity Magazine

The Klip River on the outskirts of Soweto is one of the rivers and wetland areas identified as a key project for rehabilitation. Contact Patrick Kwelepeta, project leader of the Mayibuye Wetland Project – which aims to rehabilitate five kilometres of this river.

How? Patrick is very active in encouraging the schools in Soweto to become involved, so Scouts or Leaders, ask around the schools for your contact.



The Klip River on the outskirts of Soweto.

SCOUTING SAUDI ARABIA

About 4000 Scouts in Saudi Arabia helped with the annual pilgrimage to Mecca which attracted some 2-million Muslims from around the world.
WorldINFO – February

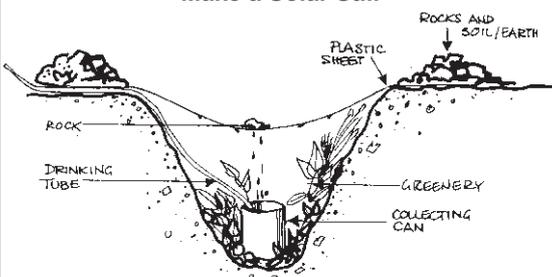
WORKING IN TEAMS

“Every team has at least one ‘difficult’ person in it. If you don’t immediately recognise who that person is – it’s probably you”.

“I’m willing to take bigger risks and take on bolder projects because I’m less concerned with succeeding than with discovering the unexpected things they might lead to!”

Mark Shuttleworth, first African in space.

Make a Solar Still



WATER FOR SURVIVAL . . .

Its important that you get to know which greenery is “safe” as water from both methods does contain a bitter taste, the sap from the plant.

Water Transpiration



Contributions can be:

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