



Summer 2006/2007

# SCOUTING ABOUT

News from the South African Scout Association.

2007  
One World One Promise



<http://www.scouting.org.za/scoutingabout/>

0860SCOUTS

## THE DAWN OF THE NEW SCOUTING ERA

More than 3 billion young people have called themselves Scouts in the last 100 years. The overwhelming majority cherish the experiences of being a Scout and often consciously attribute their successes, both personal and in society, to the effect Scouting has had on their lives. This is a significant contribution to the history of humanity and the shaping of our world, communities and families.

2007 marks the Centenary of Scouting worldwide. Born in the mind of the founder, Lord Baden-Powell during the siege of Mafikeng in 1899, Scouting has continued to epitomise the courage, hope and successes of young people irrespective of their socio-economic circumstances. The experimental camp held at Brownsea Island in 1907 not only symbolises the founding of the Scout Movement, but also illustrates the recognition that young people are the cause and inspiration of a new society. The clear intention of bringing together those privileged and underprivileged, from diverse backgrounds at the camp, illustrates the timeless insights of the founder. Shaped by the devastation and suffering caused by war, B-P envisaged a "better world for all" as created by future generations of young people seeking to develop their potentials and contributing to the harmony and the development of their societies.

The past benefits, successes and longevity of Scouting should truly be celebrated this year. Every Scout worldwide should be a part of the Centenary celebrations no matter where they are. Most importantly, the celebrations are intended to state clearly that "Scouting is committed to providing another 100 years of meaningful opportunities for young people and in making the world a better place for all!"

The South African Scout Association also celebrates its 100 years of existence. With a rich heritage of diversity and

commitment to equality, despite the historical challenges faced, Scouting is proudly preparing for its invaluable contribution to the future of South Africa. Scouting in South Africa has long embraced change (together with the challenges it brings) and remains committed to the principles and method of the Scout Movement.

The Scouting celebrations for 2007 are jam-packed with events. Two Centenary Events, the first worldwide, have already seen in 2007 with the Cederberg Adventure and the Mafikeng Centenary Moot taking place near Cape Town and in Mafikeng respectively. Both events saw participation of international teams from 18 countries and have, by all accounts, been etched into the memories of all the participants. This has been a fitting start to a busy year.

The Association will host the BP International Fellowship event in Cape Town in April in addition to Provincial Jamboree camps taking place until the end of 2007. Arrangements for BP Sunday and Scouting's Sunrise on 1 August are well advanced.

More than 200 young South Africans will travel to the United Kingdom via the Netherlands to participate in the World Jamboree which is expected to attract 40,000 people from all four corners of the globe. As a result of "Project Participate", it has been possible to ensure the participation of 60 disadvantaged youth to date. En route, the South African contingent will deliver two community service programmes in the Netherlands, showing their solidarity with youth facing challenges elsewhere.

Join us in making 2007 the biggest celebration in Scouting history while helping us to usher in the next 100 years of Scouting for all young people.

## CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUT AWARDS

**Andrew Saunders** - KwaZulu Natal Area  
**Caroline Coldrey** - Gauteng Area  
**Andrew Klazinga** - Cape Western Area  
**Devon Bowen** - Cape Western Area  
**John Lucas** - Cape Western Area  
**Jon-Peter Haaroff** - Cape Western Area  
**Byron Tonkin** - KwaZulu Natal Area  
**Damon Bailey** - KwaZulu Natal Area  
**Timothy Griffin** - KwaZulu Natal Area



**Eloise Fourie** - Gauteng Area  
**Duncan Fraser** - Gauteng Area  
**Leigh Records** - Gauteng Area  
**Christopher Shead** - Gauteng Area  
**Ian Trueman** - Gauteng Area  
**Stephen Strong** - Gauteng Area  
**James Southey** - Cape Eastern Area  
**Christopher Kloppenborg** - KwaZulu Natal Area

## CENTENARY GREETINGS FROM SAHQ

Without exception, those evaluating Scout programmes and observers of Scouting are consistently astounded by the passion and commitment of the adult volunteers who make it all happen. Without exception adult volunteers in Scouting are seen to be every aspect of being a volunteer in the true sense of the word.. While rewards are limited, the Association does not leave this fact unnoticed and sincerely extends its thanks to all who make up this most important part of Scouting in South Africa.

Never before in the history of humanity has *change* been as rapid, uncompromising and dynamic as in the current Century. The constantly changing environment has its inevitable effect on the lives of all people. The environment that enabled the growth of Scouting is vastly different to the environment we are currently faced with. The desire to make Scouting available to future generations in the next 100 years, places enormous demands on those committed to providing the opportunities that Scouting presents. This primarily implies an ability and willingness to adapt to change. Scouting is a Movement of like-minded people all committed to the same ideals and principles. Being a Movement implies being flexible to the changing demands of a rapidly changing world.

The Scout Movement is noted for the difference it makes in the lives of people from all creeds and every corner of the world. Its educational value is scientifically verified. Currently being practised in 155 countries with a reported 28 million members, it is the foremost youth development organisation in the world. It therefore presents an invaluable opportunity in terms of nation building and community development.

The Scout Movement develops leaders! The examples of leaders who attribute much of their success to Scouting are far too numerous to mention but include household names the world over. These may be in politics, science, business, sport, the arts or as astronauts! Young people will continue to represent the hopes and aspirations of society for generations to come - and will also play a critical role in shaping the future for the generations to come.

Countries cherish the institutions and organisations that develop leaders. They are valued and supported because they represent the future welfare of their respective nations and societies. It is of enormous importance that all the leaders in Scouting accept and act on the enormous

responsibility they have, in not only ensuring that Scouting continues to be practised, but to bring every achievement and success to the attention of community and national leaders across all sectors.

Scouting encompasses timeless values - Scouting is a "principles Movement". Its existence depends on the core principles that are re-affirmed worldwide and are the basis for the brotherhood and sisterhood of Scouting. It is these common principles that bind Scouts across the world in the knowledge that they all share these core principles in common. Fundamental to cherishing Scouting is the innate responsibility to uphold the principles upon which it is based. Scouting in South Africa has a proud heritage of remaining true to its principles despite threats or the temptation to compromise.

Together with adapting to change, promoting the value of Scouting to our society and remaining steadfast to its core principles, the most important task we face entering the second century of Scouting in South Africa is to retain the passion we all have for the Movement!

L van der Laan

## PRESIDENTS AWARD, PRESENTED TO SCOUTS October 2006



**ABOVE:** Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex, presenting the President's Award Gold Level, to P/L Darren Erasmus of 1<sup>st</sup> Bothasig Scout Group at a ceremony at Franshoek. Congratulations Darren.

**LEFT:** P/L Alex Field of 9<sup>th</sup> Irene Air Scout Troop received the Gold Award from Prince Edward at a ceremony in Tswane.

The President's Award is a youth empowerment award established by the Duke of Edinburgh. The Gold Award recipients have their awards presented by a member of the British royal family. It encourages holistic development; challenges the participant to go the extra mile; to persevere in the face of uncertainty; to appreciate their environment and to chase their dreams. Both Darren and Alex accomplished the award while earning their Springbok Badges, the requirements are so similar. If any other Scouts have achieved this award we do congratulate them and ask them to advise SAHQ of the fact.

## WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF DR WONGA MBEKENI

It is with sadness that the Girl Guides Association of South Africa (GGASA) records the passing of Dr Wonga Mbekeni, husband of their National President, Mrs Eugenia Mbekeni. He passed away on Sunday, 14 January 2007 after a sudden deterioration in his health. The funeral service will be held in East London on Friday, 19 January 2007.

Letters of condolence may be addressed to Mrs E Mbekeni, Private Bag X4, Beacon Bay, East London, 5205.

## SCOUT INFO CENTRE NOW OPEN!!!!

Ever needed to get a quick answer or just find out what is happening in Scouting? Ever needed advice or ideas?

The National Office is currently piloting an information centre that seeks to respond to your query within one working day of your enquiry. The service will feature the possibility of sending fax, email or voice messages to a central information centre which will be monitored every working day.

For voice enquiries dial: **0860 SCOUTS  
(0860726887)**

For fax enquiries dial: **088 0216833910**

For email enquiries:

**info@scouting.org.za**



## CEDERBERG AND MAFIKENG ROCKS!

Other than sharing the fact that both the Cederberg mountains and Mafikeng are in rocky terrains (Mafikeng means "place of stones"), both had something else in common - big Scout events seeing in the new century of Scouting!

The Cederberg Adventure for senior Scouts, from 28 December until 8 January 2007, saw in a spectacular New Year in the Cederberg Mountains. Participants from 12 countries including Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Belgium and the USA participated. An official visit by N Gooderson from the World Scout Bureau to witness South Africa's Gifts for Peace project, "scouting and aids". By all accounts, the international participants all agreed that it was a world-class event and an excellent example of Scouting in action, in a pristine environment and truly an adventure.

In partnership with UK Scouting the Mafikeng Centenary Moot was held at the SCENE in Mafikeng from 28 December until 5 January 2007 and was attended by participants from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and the United Kingdom. This was a truly memorable event for all concerned. Activities included renovating a neglected school, the presentation of toys to an Aids orphanage, viewing game (incl. White rhino at 10m!!) and the opening of the BP Trail. The BP Trail leads the hiker to historically relevant sites, the home of the founder of Mafikeng, beautiful landscapes and the city museum and Scout offices. While exhausted, all participants completed the 20km hike and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity.

Both events were featured on national TV and radio items. Well done!



## A RESOUNDING 'YES' TO "SCOUTING AND AIDS" PROGRAMME!

The "scouting and aids" programme was launched in 2001 seeking to make a difference in the lives of young people living with Aids, affected by Aids and those at risk in getting the HIV virus. With the invaluable support of OXFAM Novib, who had the insight to see the enormous potential of this simple yet effective programme, the programme has succeeded in making the difference in young people's lives. The Association views addressing HIV/Aids as a moral responsibility that is inseparable from the aims of the Scout Movement.

The Cederberg Adventure is known for its high adventure bases and extreme(ly fun!) activities ranging from para-sailing and archery to scuba diving and rock climbing. It was therefore expected that a certain amount of scepticism and a "oh not Aids again!" would greet the staff of the "scouting and aids" base at the adventure. Despite the lack of enthusiasm, reports indicate that the base was an enormous success sometimes keeping teams engaged long after their departure time. Even some traditionalists, who would not have considered the relevance of the programme, had to agree that

the base was a valuable opportunity for Scouts. With the support of STOP AIDS NOW, the event offered Scouts a rare opportunity to reflect on pressing issues related to HIV/Aids. Scouts revisited their attitude towards those suffering from AIDS and their own sexual behaviours.

The "scouting and aids" programme was observed by an official visit of N Gooderson from the World Scout Bureau in Geneva. Ms. Gooderson is responsible for the Gifts for Peace programme that has featured the "scouting and aids" programme as a leading initiative internationally. Ms. Gooderson confirmed that the programme was clearly relevant to the needs of the participants who readily got involved and seemed to benefit a great deal from the programme. She also noted the interest from international teams in implementing the programme back in their own countries.

The resounding response was a "thumbs up" for the programme! Well done to Llewellyn van Aarde and his team for the tremendous effort put into making the base a success.

## INTERNATIONAL JOIN-IN-JAMBOREE NELSPRUIT

Mpumalanga Area invite all Scouts to take part in their J-I-J - 8th to 12th August.  
Cost: R300 Contact: Area Office 013 751 2410 - Nickki, for more information.

## CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMISSIONER SUMMITS MT VINSON, ANTARCTICA

The Chief Scout's Commissioner, Andre Bredenkamp has recently summited Mt. Vinson in the Antarctic. Temperatures were at times as low as -40C. This completes the sixth out of seven summits of the highest mountains on the seven continents. As part of the Centenary of Scouting, Andre hopes to summit the seventh and final peak, Carstenz Pyramid in Papua New Guinea, during 2007. Less than 150 climbers have achieved this feat in the history of world climbing. Andre has assured us that the scout flag will be raised on top of his final mountain.

Andre was also the first South African to summit Mt. Everest from the Northern Side and the fourth South African to have summited this highest point on earth. He was also acknowledged as the first to have flown the Scout Emblem on Mt. Everest worldwide. Andre was awarded the Bronze Cross for having achieved this tremendous feat despite adverse conditions and the loss of life during his attempt.



André (center) with his companions on the summit

# CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION AND SCOUTING

## INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (ISACC)

Engaging youth worldwide to change attitudes is a powerful strategy in addressing the harmful effects of climate change. Scouting's natural attributes of leadership, community engagement and strengthening core values are all evident through the ISACC program. This initiative shows real, sustainable results that develop environmentally conscious attitudes in youth worldwide.

This global youth engagement platform is nurtured through a partnership between Scouts Canada, the South African Scout Association and the Delphi Group. Launched in Canada in 2004 and South Africa in 2005, ISACC engages all types of communities wealthy and poor, rural and urban, in both industrial and developing nations.

In South Africa a pilot program was run in

rural and urban areas. The overwhelming response from Scouts and leaders clearly indicated that this program should be introduced into the regular program. Comments from rural areas and township Scouts on what they learned from the program to stop global warming included: "I started to recycle the rubbish", "I am picking up litter", "I am saving water at home", "I am saving electricity", "I have planted a tree", "I have stopped cutting down trees" and "I am telling others to stop cutting down trees".

Worldwide, the program continues to spread and is easily replicated. In partnership with UNEP National Scout Associations and regional staff from across Africa participated in a three day ISACC workshop in order to share the programme and assist those interested in adopting it in their own countries.

Participants refined program materials and engaged in implementation plans to engage their communities. The diverse program material is available in an 'open source' method and available to all Scout associations to implement.

ISACC has a profound impact on youth and hundreds of communities in Africa and Canada. It is a model program to leverage youth leadership on this critical global issue, affecting behaviour and consumption choices through a 'low tech' sustainable community approach.

Further funding is critical to ensuring the wide scale roll out of the programme in South Africa, thereby equipping the leadership of tomorrow with much needed environmental consciousness in what is arguably the most significant threat facing the future of the planet.

## A TOAST TO OUR FOUNDER 100 YEARS ON

The following toast was made to our founder at the Gauteng Area Sea Scout Patrol Leaders Dinner at their Base Hartbeespoort, by Norman Doak of 3<sup>rd</sup> Kensington Sea Scout Group.

### DREAMS

Everybody needs a dream in life. It gives one a direction to travel in as well as a goal to reach.

The dream may change or the goal be redefined but it still needs to be there.

There was once a little boy who had a dream. He dreamed of living in the woods and every spare moment he would slip away from home and run into the woods. He had no clearly defined goal other than adventure and personal satisfaction.

He taught himself to hunt and caught birds and rabbits and learned how to cook them.

He learned how to make a weatherproof shelter and spent nights camped out in all sorts of weather, trusting in his skills to keep him dry.

He learned how to track animals and people and could stalk right up to them undetected. He honed his skills over many youthful years and eventually the time came for him to go out into the world.

He joined the army and pursued his dream of adventure. Due to his skills and eagerness, he rose swiftly through the

ranks and he saw much action in foreign lands, serving in the name of his country.

After many campaigns and victories, he found himself back home. The cities were dingy and crowded and the youth of the day were lost in nothingness and had no direction. He remembered his own youth and the things he had dreamed of and decided to offer some of his skills to the youth.

Boys make natural gangs and he capitalized on this and encouraged them to form patrols from the members in their street. He organized games and activities pitting one patrol against another from another street, and so his dream of adventure continued and lived on in the youth he was teaching.

He offered them an opportunity to go camping and they took up his offer with great gusto. He taught them the skills he had learned, how to cook their own food, how to stalk and also how to sail a boat.

So was born a new direction in his dream and a new goal - one that would engulf the youth of the world in a movement that would offer positive personal growth and achievement while having youthful fun and adventure.

That boy was none other than Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Scout Movement and leader of the largest youth movement in the world. The dream was

amended to suit the times, and the goal was changed from self satisfaction to satisfaction in the service to others.

The man is dead but the DREAM lives on in you. Make the most of it.

I propose a toast to our founder and the SCOUT MOVEMENT for 100 years of service to the youth of the world.



## WORLD SCOUTING CENSUS

1922	First Census	1,019,205
1939	membership	3,305,149
1947	membership	4,404,927
1952	membership	5,561,993
1957	membership	7,589,183
1962	membership	9,366,962
1968	membership	11,981,737
1972	membership	13,110,259
1979	membership	15,000,000
2006	membership	28,000,000
2007	- ???	Let's help it reach 30,000,000

### Contributions can be:

Posted to: The Editor, P.O. Box 1733, Port Elizabeth 6000  
 Faxed to: 041 585 8513 - Email to: scout2007@iafrica.com  
 Editor: Colin Stretton - Tel: 041 585 1147

