

Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

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SCOUTS
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

Spring 2009

WHEN THE OLD MUST GIVE PLACE TO THE NEW

There have been a number of changes to the Cub Programme of late; changes, which have left some Scouters confused and unhappy. We are living in an evolving world so change is inevitable and, understandably, some might feel threatened by these changes. It is never easy to part with old and familiar things. Even the most adventurous find comfort in the thought that somewhere there is something familiar and unchangeable to which they can return.

Don't look at the changes to the Cub Programme as a disaster, but as an opportunity to make a difference in more children's lives. Without change there can be no growth, so rather than resist these changes, run with them. Remember our eighth Scout Law, "A Scout smiles and whistles

under all difficulties". Every Scouter plays an important role in the lives of the Cubs in our Packs. If you don't embrace these changes with a positive attitude who is going to lose out at the end of the day?

Change is energy, change is life, and nothing stays the same. I challenge you all to be proactive, turn those negative attitudes into positive ones and make Cubbing the fun and excitement it should be for all the youngsters in South Africa.

I leave you with these words: *Success lies in the ability to adapt, to assume responsibility, to have a shared vision, to empower others, and to negotiate successfully.*

Enjoy the change!

*From Jeanette Angus
National Commissioner Cub Programme*

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Liesel Stevens – Western Cape
Gregory McQueen – KwaZulu Natal
Francois Huyzers – Gauteng
Oliver Helmrich – Gauteng
Andrew Ingram – Eastern Cape
Daniel Bott – Eastern Cape

ARBOUR WEEK

On Saturday 5 September 2009 more than six hundred Cubs and Scouts and one hundred adult leaders from KwaZulu-Natal joined forces with the Wildlands Conservation Trust to plant 6,500 indigenous trees.

The trees were planted at the Buffelsdraai Landfill site, near Verulam on the north coast of Durban, part of the re-building of 650 Ha forest around the regional landfill site.

Dr Andrew Venter of the Wildlands Conservation Trust stated that SA Scoutings contribution to the initiative is just the start. Scouting South Africa have an important role to play in getting youngsters out there making a difference around big issues like climate change. We hope to build their involvement in tree planting to other provinces and to other sites in KZN

Milly Siebrits – SASA Chief Executive, states how grateful we are to WOSM for giving us the opportunity to take part in the project – making a significant impact on climate change. She also thanked UNEP for granting funding to the SA Scout Association.

See photo's on back page.

A MEMORABLE SPRINGBOK SCOUT AWARD PRESENTATION

Patrol Leader Brian Tompkins of 1st Bergvliet Sea Scout Troop was recently presented with his Springbok Award in front of his Troop and his proud parents.

Brian's Troop Scouter, Adrian Velaers, can vouch for the magnificent cake, decorated by Brian himself, that was devoured at the Troop den on that occasion. From the picture below, it can

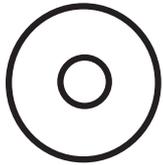


be seen that the cake was a true work of art.

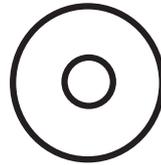
Springbok Scout Brian Tompkins with his most supportive parents, Gaeleen and Julian at the presentation function. Without full parental involvement a Scout has little chance of reaching the pinnacle of Scouting achievement as Brian has done.



be prepared....



GONE HOME



MICHAEL ERNEST RICHARDS

9 April 1950 - 5 August 2009

Mike was a Cub and Scout in 1st Umtata Group before taking on the job of Troop Scouter of 1st Selborne Troop then 1st Amalinda Troop in East London. Of the many hats Mike wore in his Scouting career, in that city, the one he most enjoyed was the position of AAC Scout Training and the running of many PLTU Courses. At that time he was instrumental in keeping "Gilwood Scout Training Centre" in good working order for Scout camping, Adult Training Courses and Cub Pow-Wows. In his younger days he devoted time, year after year, to the Senior Scout Adventures held in the Western Cape.

With the amalgamation of Border, Cape Midlands and Transkei Areas, Mike took on the job of Adult Leader Training until ill-health caused him to lay down so many of those Scouting hats.

Mr Scouting – East London, held the Silver Protea Award and the 30 year Bar to the long service medal.

BARRIE "NODDY" COVENEY-WINTER

15 March 1940 - 1 September 2009

Barrie died in his sleep in the St Helena Hospital, Welkom.

As a member of the Free State Adult Training Team, he attended many SATAAC, PLTU Forums, AAC Forums and Cub Pow-Wows. Barrie received the bar to the Medal of Merit and held the 30 year bar to the Log Service Medal.

Barrie joined the movement as a Scouter at St Andrew's Welkom Group in September 1975 then formed 2nd Welkom Group in 1979. In the course of his Scouting career he served in many positions within his Province. As a most dedicated person, "Noddy" will be sadly missed by all in South African Scouting.



DIANE MOSS

6 May 1955 - 20 August 2009

Di, as she was known to all, started her Scouting career as "Akela" with the Dagbreek Scout Group, a position she held for many years. When that Group closed, she took on the position of Area Secretary of Free State and Northern Cape Area in Welkom.

Di was a member of the Adult Leader Training Team and attended a number of Cub Pow Wows.

This lady with whom so many had dealings and to whom they took their problems, can be truly said to be "A Scout's Scout" – she will be missed by anyone she ever came in contact.

MANDELA DAY

On Saturday, 18th July, I joined many Scout parents, friends, Leaders, Cubs and Scouts at a special gathering to honour our former President on his 91st birthday. We all signed a banner with his picture on it and pledged 67 hours of service to our fellow countrymen. This same occasion was celebrated by Scouts throughout the country.

This great man has dedicated his life to many causes, to all our country's youth – particularly to those suffering from AIDS and has pledged to help eradicate the scourge – and to us in



Scouting, he has gracefully accepted the honour of being our Patron. Everyone of us who calls himself or herself a Cub or Scout has made a promise to do a good turn to somebody EVERY day. Sure, the 67 hours we pledged and hopefully have already completed, is symbolic of the respect we all hold for Madiba, Now let us go forward, more determined to uphold that part of the Promise we have freely made, to "do a good turn to somebody every day" and continue to make South Africa a better place for all to live.

DUTY TO GOD



GOD'S GREAT GIFT OF WATER

Until our land is stricken by drought, and we pray for rain, we tend to take water for granted, and forget that it is one of God's great gifts, to be valued and cherished and conserved at all times.

Be quiet within for a few moments, and meditate on God's precious gift of water. Here are a few of many facts to ponder – bearing in mind that our own bodies are over 80 percent water: Water combines chemically with many substances. It is a constituent of nearly every mineral, even the hardest stone, and of all animal and vegetable tissues.

The percentage of water in ordinary vegetables varies from 89 percent in cabbages to 96 percent in cucumbers. In fruits it varies from 78 percent in plums, 74 percent in bananas, to 93 percent in watermelons.

Water forms the greater part of blood, and also of sap in plants and trees. As we have seen it is the great carrier of the animal and vegetable kingdoms. We can get along without gold and much else that we prize, but without God's gift of water all life on earth would be a dead cinder, beyond all prospect of revival.

It is not by chance that religious references to water abound, and water is employed in various ceremonies, such as baptism and sprinkling by Christians and others. With Jewish people water is the symbol of purity, and with the Hindus it is the symbol of fertility, while the Taoists of China and Japan see water as the symbol of humility, because it always seeks the lowest level.

There are many other aspects of water that you can reflect upon, to help you to come nearer to a full realization of the immensity of one of God's greatest gifts to mankind and to all His earthly creatures.

Veld Lore

16th NATIONAL JAMBOREE ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

6th to 12th November 2009

South African Scouting has been invited to send Scouts to this event.

All who are interested to attend please contact the Chief Scout's Commissioner through SAHQ.

Details have been advised to your Provincial Head Quarters.

THE "WATER DECADE"

Water for Life 2005/2015 A Challenge to Scouts



The United Nations has designated 2005 – 2015 as the "Water Decade". Almost five years of that decade has

already passed, but not too late, starting today, we South African Scouts, who have not done anything towards this challenge, can pick up the banner and run with it into our future.

Those of us who learned the poem, "The Ancient Mariner" at school, will recall the line "water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink!". Unlike this poor thirsting sailor, with the ocean all around him, unable to drink any of it because of the salts and minerals contained therein, which would have killed him, so many of our fellow countrymen, who rely on river and dam water, are finding that they are also unable to drink because of pollution in the water, the only water that is available to them. In times of drought they do not even have "grey" water to irrigate their crops,

when below ground there may be any amount of water if only they could afford to sink a borehole and pump that water to those crops.

Most of us live in homes with running water. We just turn on a tap and out comes beautiful drinking water. We step into the shower, turn on two taps, wait until the hot water comes through, adjust the cold tap until the water is just right before we step in and start our cleansing. How much, perfectly good drinking water, has disappeared down the outlet by then? Much more than that poor rural person, who has had to walk some way to fill her bucket or drum and then carry it all the way home, all the water she will have for her family to cook with and drink that day, not mentioning water to wash themselves and their clothes.

A "WATER DECADE" raft expedition!

On a suitable dam or stretch of river, that has been checked out for health safety, each Patrol sails their raft for the weekend, and carries out "Water Decade" activities of the kind set out below. Before the expedition, the organizers provide each crew with a fact sheet that gives data about the dam or river and the uses to which the water is put – facts gathered from the appropriate water authorities.

During the expedition, each Patrol reflects its activities and findings in a simple logbook.

Here are some typical activities:

- Observe the presence of water birds, fish and all manner of other aquatic wild life, such as frogs and crabs.
- Take soundings of water's depth at various points.
- Report on water pollution, litter, light penetration of water, silt, water temperatures at various depths, etc.
- Report on presence of water plants, from algae through to water hyacinth, kariba weed, etc.

The data in the official Fact Sheet will to some extent dictate the nature of the activities. Crews can identify with the "Water Decade" by painting the Water Decade emblem on the raft's sail, along with the Scout emblem. Logbooks can be illustrated with diagrams, simple sketches, colour photos, nature specimens, etc.

LEARN ABOUT WATER

To help make Cubs and Scouts more water conscious, arrange appropriate educational tours, such as:

- A tour of the local water works.
- A visit to an irrigation scheme.
- A visit to a hydro-electric scheme.
- A trip to a fish-farming scheme.
- An expedition to a crocodile farm.

- Find out what socio-medical projects are in your area. Such as Valley Trust in KZN – visit with dedicated people who have founded Trusts to protect rivers and wetlands close to where you live.



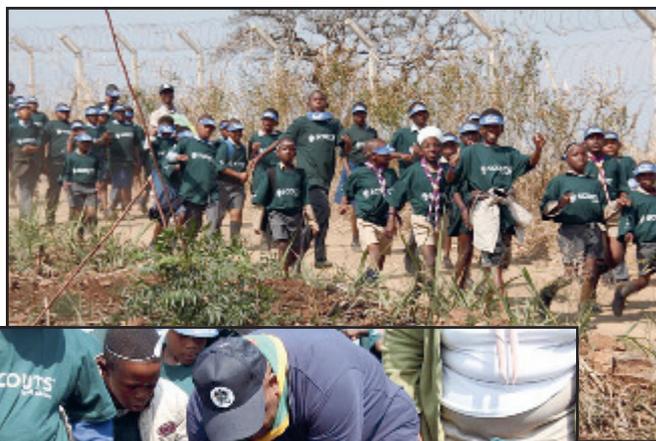
Hold a "WATER DECADE" camp!



The aim is to "learn by doing" through simulating, in camp, various water problems faced by millions of people in rural communities, not the least in Southern Africa. Here's the pattern:

- The weekend camp programme is based on rural water problems.
- Each Patrol takes along a prefabricated water filter, and all water for all purposes must, before use, be (a) filtered and (b) boiled for 5 minutes. The weekend camp is based on rural water problems.
- Each Scout is rationed – allowed say 7 litres a day for ALL purposes – a total of 56 litres per day per Patrol of 8.
- Only one water point may be used for drawing the Patrol's daily ration, and this point should be at least 500m away. Each Patrol must, in advance of camp, devise a method of easily transporting the water ration. e.g. an old lawnmower chassis.
- Preplanned menus must be based as much as possible on waterless cooking, and cooking without utensils (to save washing up water.)
- Patrols can gain bonus water from Nature, by using devices such as a desert survival still, collecting any rainwater in a suspended plastic sheet etc., etc.
- Preplanned Patrol Information Boards must feature educational material related to rural water problems.
- Competition points can be awarded for factors such as the amount of water ration left over when camp closes, by each Patrol; ingenuity in transporting water; skill in gaining bonus water from Nature; waterless menu planning, cooking without utensils; water related material displayed on Patrol Information Boards.
- Campfire songs and skits can be water-related, also the Scouter's campfire yarn, etc. The Scouts Own service can also relate to water, as can the daily prayers.

ARBOUR DAY - KZN



Two young Scouts plant the first tree under supervision.

OPERATION FILTER

Surface water from rivers and 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.

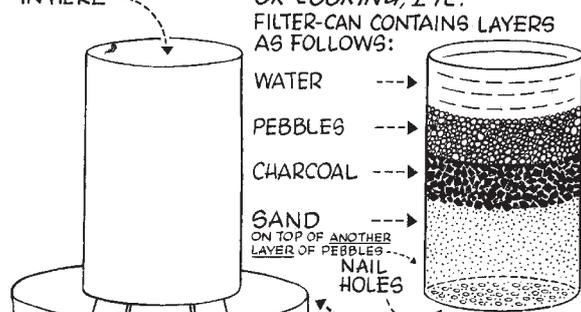
It is advisable that water for human consumption, from such sources, is both filtered and boiled. The accompanying sketch shows how a simple filter can be made, and used. If every rural family used a filter like this, and boiled their drinking water, there would be a dramatic drop in water-borne disease.

Have each Patrol build such a filter and experiment with it at the den, using “polluted” water from a tap, having had sand and cuttings of grass mixed in.

Use the filter at a “Water Decade Camp” then demonstrate it’s use and

boiling, to a rural community, then present the filter to a family in that community.

FILTERING CLARIFIES... IT DOES NOT PURIFY! BOIL FILTERED WATER WELL... FOR 5 MINUTES, BEFORE USING FOR DRINKING OR COOKING, ETC.



FILTER-CAN CONTAINS LAYERS AS FOLLOWS:

AFTER FILTERING WATER REMOVE FILTER-CAN, AND WOOD SUPPORTS, AND COVER DRUM TO KEEP OUT INSECTS, DUST, ETC.

THIS SIMPLE METHOD HELPS PREVENT WATER-BORNE DISEASES IN RURAL AREAS.

GOLDER IN A TAP, OR OUTLET PIPE ... OR USE A DIPPER TO GET WATER OUT.

SCOUTS SPREAD THE MESSAGE

Eight hundred Scouts of **Mpumalanga Province** hosted an environmental relay along the main road from KaNyamazane to KaBokweni on Saturday 25th July. Also involved were eighteen schools, the departments of education, of economic development, environment and tourism, AutoTec foundation, Sappi, Sanbi, Working on Fire, Buyisa-cbag, Vodacom, Mthetomushwa Game Reserve and Eco Schools, who took up stations along the route and educated people on a wide range of environmental issues.

The love of Nature, and care for the environment, are integral parts of the Scout programme and the Scout Movement took the opportunity to convey this to as many people of the community as possible.

The theme of the relay was **Luhambo Lemvelo** which means “mobilization for environment” The message that Scouting would like to share, “Let us empower as many people as possible to work together and take action towards ensuring that our environment is preserved for the youth of the future and to leave the world a better place than we found it” – words taken from the last message of Lord Baden-Powell, our founder.

Contributions can be:

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be prepared....