

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

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DUTY TO MY COUNTRY!

Down the years, both Veld Lore and Scouting About have tried to give an inspirational guide to help you explain our "Duty to God", but we must also be aware that we promise to "do my duty to my country". When chatting to our new prospective Cubs and Scouts, to explain what Scouting expects of them in this regard, it is a bit more difficult with just a simple explanation or two. What we really need is an active example, within the programme, such as a national flag ceremony and a singing of the national anthem. Take the opportunity to discuss inspirational people living, or who have lived, in our own community. We could assist and encourage our charges to take the doing of the "Good Turn", seriously, for helping their fellow South African citizens. Encourage the earning of interest badges, such as Citizen for the Cubs and Linguist for the Scouts. What about the "Good Turn" interest

badges – Civil Defence; Firefighter; First Aid; Handyman; Lifesaver; Public Health; Safety Code, and any of the others that could be construed to be of use in preparing our youth for "service" to their fellow man.

We Leaders, and our Cubs and Scouts, take a serious concern that our national and provincial sporting teams do well in whatever competition they take part. Now that 2010 has arrived and with it the fantastic "Soccer World Cup" competition that will be staged right here in our beloved South Africa. "The Greatest Show on Earth" as it has been called, gives us a magnificent opportunity to show, not only the soccer visitors to our country, but the whole world watching the spectacle on TV that Scouting is alive and well in South Africa. How will we manage that? It is up to every Scout Leader to take up the challenge and run with it.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



- Amy-Leigh Thompson - Free State
- David Ramatlotlo - Free State
- Catherine Lotter - Gauteng
- Melani Hoenslaar - Gauteng
- Rowan Carstensen - Gauteng
- Gavin Scott - Gauteng
- Stacey Dickinson - Gauteng
- Kewan Bagley - Gauteng
- Graeme Leighton - Gauteng
- Timothy Klue - Gauteng
- Ashley Petzer - Gauteng
- Andreas Sieburg - Gauteng
- Sean Morrow - Gauteng
- Matthew Hardy - Gauteng
- Ross Stewart - Gauteng
- Warren Bott - Eastern Cape
- Wesley du Preez - Kwazulu Natal
- Sean Antrobus - Kwazulu Natal
- Melanie Welgemoed - Kwazulu Natal
- Graeme Stephen - Kwazulu Natal
- Saiesh Ajudhiya - Kwazulu Natal
- Graema Thorne - Kwazulu Natal
- Damon Hope - Western Cape
- Min-Gah Ismail - Western Cape
- Dale Raad - Western Cape
- Joshua Stehr - Western Cape
- Robert Antrobus - Western Cape
- Michael Evans - Western Cape
- Sean Stopford - Western Cape

SEA SCOUTS NOW AND OF THE PAST

As we celebrate the 100th Year of Sea Scouting, we recall that some of the strongest and most active Scout Groups in the country, have been and are Sea Scout Groups. A great tradition has, and is, built into these Groups and they continue to give good Scouting to the youth of today. The absence of the "Sea" has not deterred our upcountry Sea Scout Groups and they continue to use every available stretch of water to achieve their aims.

Regular, and advanced water activities does place additional responsibilities on the shoulders of an active Sea Scouter – not only must he or she be trained in the regular activities of Scouting, camping, hiking etc., but be prepared to be trained and able to pass on all the water skills to their Troop.

To be properly equipped with canoes, row-boats, sail boats, life preservers



Port Elizabeth Sea Scouts of the 1930s – From the scarf colour, it is Algoa Sea Scout Troop with the swimming trophy, still going strong.

and all else that goes to provide active water activities, including trailers to transport equipment to that "water" and somewhere to store that equipment when not in use, is an expensive undertaking. We thank the Leaders and Parent Committees that have provided these facilities in the past and continue to provide them right now.

We must take this opportunity to congratulate all Sea Scout Groups in the country on reaching their century – and know, that because of the kind of people they are, Sea Scouting will prosper well into the next 100 years.

be prepared....

FLYING HIGH WITH MPUMALANGA'S GILWELL RE-UNION

Mpumalanga's Woodbadge Scouters met at the Air Base of Mercy, just outside White River. Mercy Air Services Christian Missionary and Development Organisation have three fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter. With the theme "Flying High", reminiscent of the recently held Scout Woodbadge in the province, "Where Eagles dare to fly!" With skits and songs of birds and aero planes among decorations of birds and aeroplanes made of natural materials.

A three course luncheon, followed by reminiscences of Woodbadge Courses and Scouting Days of yore. How Scouting had opened so many doors to them, not only in Scouting but in their careers. After the calling of the roll, "Those magnificent men in their flying machines."

One of the Mercy Pilots briefed them on the work of Mercy Air and the theory of flight.

He then introduced them to a film star – a beautiful lady!! . . . A 1959 Beech 18, twin engine, twin tailed aircraft which carries 9 passengers and two crew. She was used as one of the planes in the making of the film



Colin Logan in the Cockpit of Mercy Air's Film Star 'Plane.

"Amelia", the story of Amelia Earhart, the courageous and adventurous lady pilot, lost flying over the Pacific. She was never found.

1st Nelspruit Guides added the final touch to the success of the re-union by making a "Chocolate Scouter" complete with Gilwell scarf, woggle and beads for those attending.

CAMP FIRES

It is my opinion that the Campfire is one of Scouting's most treasured heritage from the early days of 1908 – if not, why would B-P have written and divided 'Scouting for Boys' not into chapters but into Campfire Yarns? It was obvious that he recognized the value of a Campfire as a very important training opportunity and we must revert to this principle – Campfires are as much of the scheme of training as activities dealing with skills or leadership training. What part do they play in training, you may ask and the answer is fairly simple. In camp it allows us to reflect on the day's activities and learning again to entertain ourselves in a wholesome and worthwhile atmosphere not having to rely on TV, films and videos and to build memories to look back on.

"These are the times we shall dream about

And we'll call them the good old days."

Think back on your Scouting career, to those special Campfires and you will bring to mind again countless Scouting friends. If we are trying to instill this ideal into our Scouts, surely we must make the Campfire a vital activity in all our training programmes, running first class

examples of what Campfires are and what they are intended to be and yes, to build memories in our minds and the minds of our Scouts.

Quoting the late "Twigs" Berry-Smith:- "We go back to the earliest days when the legends, history and traditions of people were passed on by the elders to the new generations around the tribal fires. The fire was always the centre of the family circle and even today, with central heating etc. most people enjoy sitting around a fire in the home, and it is around the fire that one relaxes and relates the events of the day. B-P knew this pleasure in many parts of the world and wrote 'Scouting for Boys' as a series of Campfire Yarns. His intention was, perhaps, that after a days activities Scouts could gather around a fire to discuss what had happened today and to plan for tomorrow. We should start from here, from B-P's idea, and make sure our Campfires are enjoyable and good fun."

And I would like to add – memorable and a valuable training opportunity in discipline, citizenship, confidence, art, relaxation and stress relief.

Hank Burgess

SCOUTING AND UNEP "SEAL THE DEAL" TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Scouts across the world are lending their voices in the fight against climate change. From the Arctic Circle to small island states, to the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, climate change is impacting upon traditional Scouting activities. The World Organization of the Scout Movement is made up of over 30 million girls, boys, women and men in 160 countries and they are feeling the heat from climate change across the globe.

Make your voice heard, sign up at: www.sealthedeal2009.org or for more information go to:

<http://www.scout.org/ClimateChangeScouting>

Worldinfo 9

"A worthwhile gift and a refreshing experience.

Mike "Cheese" Meintjes is a living legend in South African Scouting.. Mike's friends have written a book on the life of this extraordinarily kind, caring, decent human being who has spent most of his boundless energy serving others, and doing good. It is titled "LIFE with MIKE or the man with the funny ears" the forward is written by Morne du Plessis.

This is no story of a "goody two shoes" but rather it tells of a physically tough man, a rugby player who stood back for no one, a mountaineer up with the best, a man of moral fibre, with a delightful sense of humour This book sets a standard for all of us that could make this world a better place. It is also fun to read!

It is a terrific Christmas Gift and you can get copies by phoning John Mutti on 083 255 5699."

Did you know?

That the absence of frogs is the first sign that rivers, dams or wetlands are polluted!! We are killing the messengers, telling us of healthy water!

SPRINGBOK SCOUT AWARD PRESENTED IN AUSTRALIA

Over the JOTA weekend and at a JOTA activity, **Ruth Smit** was presented with her Springbok Award. Now living in Queensland, Australia, Ruth earned her Award while a member of Gladstone Troop, Kimberley, here in South Africa. In May of this year, Ruth, with her brother Richard, also a Patrol Leader in the Troop, emigrated, with their parents to Gladstone, a town in northern Queensland and immediately joined the Kareeba Troop, one of two Scout Groups in that town.



Elaine and Paul Smit, the proud parents of Ruth, holding her Springbok parchment. With them is her Australian Troop Scouter, Peter Rasmussen.

WORLD WATER DAY 22 March 2010

In past issues of Scouting About we have tried to make South African Scouting aware of the "Great Gift of Water" we have, in spite of the scarcity of water in this country, being recognized as a water deprived area of the World. While planning your 2010 programme, bear in mind this date and insert your water activities in that time.

Next edition of Scouting About will highlight an expert's suggestions to keep in mind in water education.

B-P WRITES . . .

In the first edition of Scouting for Boys – 1908

RESCUE FROM RUNAWAY HORSES

"Accidents are continually recurring from runaway horses running over people." He goes on to encourage Scouts to learn to deal with this, and how to deal with the injuries resulting...

In the twenty-first century we don't see many runaway horses, but we do hear of and experience so many motor accidents, injuries to pedestrians and the careless handling of appliances and tools in the home. Small children getting their hands on carelessly left drugs or medicines in the home. Children burned or scalded by open fires or stoves left unattended. As Scouters, we are preparing our Cubs and Scouts for their adulthood and can only strive to make them safety conscious in the home and workplace. Encourage them to be good and considerate drivers – water safe and outdoor safe in hiking and mountaineering. "Accidents will happen", they say; therefore every Cub and Scout should "Be Prepared" for emergencies and know their First Aid well. What a wealth of activities the above offers for inclusion in our exciting programmes.

It is only right that as part of our promise "to help somebody every day," that every Scout should be properly trained and hold the First Aid interest badge. As part of the requirements for that badge the Scout is instructed to be part of a team, his patrol, in dealing with a staged emergency.

EMERGENCY RALLY:

Best held as a District activity: The organisers arrange with the Scouters within the District or a friendly Paramedic, to each be responsible for a staged emergency incident station. Motor accident with an "injured" driver trapped in the vehicle or an "injured" child lying in a dangerous position, under the vehicle, or a staged electric line accident. "Injured" pedestrian, with a broken leg, laying on the side of the road, a "frightened" child, "injured", trapped up a tree, an elderly person showing symptoms of a "heart attack", etc. The route of the incidents can be spread out in a circular route in the neighbourhood, out of sight of each other. On completing one task the P/L of the team is given a compass or mapping instruction to proceed to the next incident station, and so on. If sufficient incidents are arranged, each team can be taken to, and start simultaneously at one or other of the stations, then progress around the course. Timing is very important, otherwise the faster teams pile up behind the slow coaches at their next base. The teams are marked for efficiency and teamwork and the team with most points is declared the "winners".



"The greatest waste of our natural resources is the number of people who never achieve their potential.

Get out of that slow lane.

Shift into that fast lane.

If you think you can't, you won't.

If you think you can, there's a good chance you will.

Even making the effort will make you feel like a new person.

Reputations are made by searching for things that can't be done and doing them !"

JOTA 52, FUN IN NORTHERN NATAL!

We got together at Tom Worthington Dam, Hattingspruit, camping at the Glendee Yacht Club. The two Scout Groups in the district, 1st Ladysmith and 3rd Newcastle were joined by the Newcastle Guides, special guests and the Voortrekkers for our annual JOTA camp. A huge antenna was built and linked to the amateur radios, call sign – ZS5JF, internet links were established and the camp was up and running.

To maintain interest during the camp the following Scout Bases were run – Climate Change – Water Footprint – Orienteering – Geocaching/GPS – Trust Golden Challenge. The Cub Bases – Trail Signs – Model Boats – Fishing – Recycling – Weaving – Living Gardens.

JOTA Log listed contacts with Scouts in New Zealand, Indonesia, Canada, UK, USA. the Mafikeng station and other South African JOTA stations.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Looking through "Vic Clapham's VELD LORE Scrapbook" No 6 Nature, I came across the article "How to develop film". Using photography to record "OUR GREEN HERITAGE". His description shows you how to develop old black and white 35mm film which must still be enlarged and printed before you are able to use those "photos" to illustrate your log or use in a display. Still in black and white – you have lost all the beautiful colours of nature.

Colour photography was available but you had to take the full roll, 24 or 36 shots to have them processed by a professional which set you back quite a bit of money.

Today, you lucky Scouts and Leaders, carry around with you your mobile phone and most probably with a camera facility. So easy to aim and click and bring home your recorded hike or camp. The only shortcoming is that it must be used sparingly if you do not have a recharging electricity point. If

you are using a small pen light battery operated digital camera, you make sure you have spare batteries in your pack.

If your sequence of shots "tells a story", you are able to transfer everything onto your computer, edit it a bit, add your text, put it onto a memory stick or CD, or e-mail to your friends. Most Scout happenings to-day, are lodged on face book or tacked onto a section of your Group Web pages. Everyone with the facility can now enjoy your effort. Remember, that in so doing, you are subjecting every viewer to the quality of your work. Make sure it is not boring – boring! – dark photos because you took them in the shade and your flash did not work or you were too far away and the flash was ineffective. Heads are cut in half, fuzzy, because you did not hold the camera still.

It all seems so simple with today's technology but remember, Digital Photography is still Photography, and

the art must be learned with study and practice. A "good" photo is still a "good" photo whether it's taken on film with a sophisticated camera, or with your phone camera, as you hike along. Be aware of sun direction, shadows, the background of your shot, is there a lamp pole appearing to stick out of your subject's head etc.? Taken from too far away? Don't be afraid to "stage" your shots, especially if you are looking to tell that story. And don't let your subjects fool around in your pictures, unless of course, you are looking for a fun shot. Don't publish pictures of bad Scouting – camp fires too close to a tent, Scouts doing dangerous things on a rock face without safety gear, Sea Scouts sailing without life jackets, crooked pioneering projects with bad knotting on view, etc. On the web, the shortcomings are there for all to see!

Learn all the tricks of good photography and your friends will certainly enjoy your effort.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations is how the outside world sees our Scouting - Whether they are impressed or unmoved, depends on how you and I project ourselves. Do the other citizens of your town, suburb, village or rural community know that there is such a thing as Scouting in their midst? Well, if you do good and active Scouting, not only in your Scout hall, but out and about in your community, and your Scouts and Cubs are seen to be smart and well behaved, you have gone some way to improve your public image.

Public image? I thought that was public relations, you say. Well that of course is part of Public Relations but there is a lot more we must do to make that busy, busy public out there aware of our aims and objectives, make them aware of our achievements and overcome past prejudices and misconceptions.

I recall a story I was told by a doyen of Scouting PR – Ron Nicol: "A salmon swimming at the bottom of a stream, lays 20 000 eggs, only the bears know about it. A chicken lays only one egg and she soon lets the whole world know what a great achievement it is!"

In a nutshell, Public Relations is the art of "advertising" to everyone, what we are and what we aim to do. Big businesses employ PR experts to do the job for them and pay them a lot of money for the privilege. We witness it every day – we are bombarded by advertisements in our newspapers, magazines, TV and radio. When a housewife goes to an advertising Supermarket and gets bad service or is overcharged, in spite of what the advert proclaims, she is disillusioned and maybe, never shops there again. So it is a two-way commitment, the PR expert praises you, then, it's up to you to live up to what he is claiming.

Scouting needs public relation people too. Somebody to stand up there and say what a great movement we are part of. Without doubt we are a great saleable commodity, have been around for over a hundred years and still going strong! At SAHQ, Province, District and in every Scout Group, we need somebody to do the job. We call them a Public Relation Officer, someone with confidence in the movement and in contact with the media preferably. He or she

becomes part of the management team of that District or Group. Somebody not involved in the day to day running of the section and free to plan and assimilate information and contact those that matter – parents of our Scouts and Cubs – friends of Scouting – the community leaders and of course those out there from whom we anticipate finding our new recruits and also folks to fund us.

I have written that Scouting depends for success on the quality of the programme that is put in place. A good programme, with our Cubs and Scouts achieving and in the public eye, makes it possible for the PR Officer to "crow" and let the community in general know what a great Group or District they have in their midst. Besides our PR Officer our Cubs and Scouts must be our best recruiters. If they are having good and active Scouting, they let their pals know and you have your hands full with an overflowing unit. On the other hand, if the uniformed Leaders do not do their part, we will soon find that your PR Officer will hand in the towel as he has nothing good to work with.

Contributions can be:

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be prepared....