

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



27th July to 7th August 2010

The South African Contingent returned home after the memorable closing of this historical Scouting event – the first World Rover gathering to be staged on this continent.

Commissioner **Debe Letsoge** leader of the Contingent reports that he was accompanied by Commissioners **John Ikgopoleng, Pablo Mogotsi, Aubrey Moreki** and **Thabiso Majola**. The Rovers with them were **Lehika Sidityi, Gabaathole Ntebang**, both from Vryburg; **Mbuti Ndzimakulu** from Potchefstroom; **Gabanakgosi Moalosi** and **Itebeng Makapan** from Mahikeng.

After the official opening ceremony presided over by the Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, the 1600 Scouts from 66 countries headed to the Expedition

Centres, Machakos, Kaiyaba and Embu; for four days of excursions, safaris and community services, All activities were conducted in line with the theme of the event "ULTIMATE DISCOVERY"

On the 1st August the Scouts returned to Rowallan Camp in Nairobi to participate in the Global Development Village programme. Discussions were encouraged on issues affecting them – Climate Change – HIV/Aids – Peace and others. While there they experienced other cultures, made International friendships. Learned dancing, drumming and making beads.

Commissioner Letsoge thanks all at SAHQ and those who sponsored the trip for making it possible for them to experience this Scouting growth opportunity.

Spring 2010

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Ricardo Peneda – Gauteng
James Vella – Gauteng
Sarah van Rooyen – Gauteng
Richard Marsh – Gauteng
Nicholas Reinten – Gauteng
Calvin Micklethwaite – Gauteng
Malcolm Arnold – Gauteng
Henry March – Gauteng
Helena Opperman – Gauteng
Brad Rawlins – KwaZulu-Natal
Alice O'Neill – KwaZulu-Natal
Carmen Jeary – KwaZulu-Natal
Travis Duck – KwaZulu-Natal

JOTA/JOTI

53rd Jamboree-on-the-Air/14th Jamboree-on-the-Internet – 16/17 October 2010

All Scout Groups are encouraged to take part in this one World Scouting Event, open to every Cub/Scout/Rover in the world. Some important web sites and call signs: www.scout.org – for WOSM web site for general information. www.jota.sub.cc JOTA web site. www.joti.org JOTI web site.

ZS6AAW – **Dave Gemmell** – SA National JOTA Co-ordinator.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE YEAR 2011

The South African Contingent to take part in the 2011 Swedish World Jamboree has been formed – so reports "Vuvuzela" their Web Bulletin #2. jamboree@scouting.org.za



Jamboree Badge

Three Troops – Drakensberg; Magaliesberg and Witzenberg, each of about 33 Scouts, with a Troop Scouter and three Assistant Scouters comprise the Contingent. "Vuvuzela" challenges every Contingent

Scout to reach at least First Class standard in the 365 days remaining until the group meet in Johannesburg to fly off to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree.

If you want to meet our Jamboree Troops and other Jamboree Contingent members online, search <http://www.facebook.com> and find South African Contingent to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree, Sweden 2011.

Mzansi Fridays

Now that the hugely successful Soccer World Cup has come to an end and so many of the National flags have disappeared off of our cars and about our buildings and streets – let us Scouts continue with the celebration and fly our National flag at all Scout meeting places, camps and activities. Keep the spirit of 2010 alive and continue to be "proudly South African".

Wouldn't that be **AYOBAaaaa !!!**



be prepared....

ORIGIN OF THE WOODBADGE

A Worldwide symbol of a trained Scouter

In 1888, when an expedition was sent to Zululand, South Africa, it had to contend with Dinizulu, King of the Zulus, a clever, heavily built man of 6ft 7in (just under 2M) in height. On state occasions Dinizulu wore a necklace of almost 4 Meters in length. It consisted of 1000 or more wooden beads, strung on a rawhide lace. The beads were of various sizes, some up to 75mm long, some a lot smaller. They were made of South African Yellowwood which has a soft pith – that when the beads were shaped this pith made a little nick at the ends of each bead.

During the hostilities, the man who was to become Founder of the Scout Movement – then Captain Robert Baden-Powell – gained possession of Dinizulu's necklace and, as soldiers do, he placed it among his war souvenirs.



Later, during the Siege of Mafeking, BP met an elderly African, who queried his unusual depression. The man took from his neck a leather thong, placed it on BP's hand, and said: "Wear this. My mother gave it to me for luck. Now it will bring you luck."

Many years on, after Baden-Powell had founded Scouting in 1907, he instituted Wood Badge Training for Scouters in 1919 and Training got its name and emblem in the following way.



Seeking a badge that successfully trained Scouters could wear, Baden-Powell remembered Dinizulu's Necklace, and the lucky leather thong the elderly African had given him. Taking two wood beads from the necklace, and knotting them on a thong, he created the now world famous Wood Badge – to be worn around the neck and the only proficiency badge worn by Scouters. He used the small beads from Dinizulu's Necklace. The supply soon ran out, and replicas were made of beech at Gilwell Park, London. These are now worn by tens of thousand men and women around the world, who, through taking Wood Badge Training, have equipped themselves to serve young people through Scouting.

The specially woven grey and red scarf may be worn by a Scouter who has qualified for membership of the 1st Gilwell Group by completing the Wood Badge Training Course (Practical and Theory) and a period of application. The Tartan patch on the scarf is of interest because it perpetuates the Movement's thanks to Mr W de Bois MacLaren who bought Gilwell Park and presented it to the Boy Scout Association. The scarf is worn with a leather two strand Turks Head Woggle.



GONE HOME

Charles Robert Inglis Baty

31st August 1939- 27th July 2010

Charles had a lifelong involvement with Scouting. A Cub at 8 years old in Scotland, received his Queens Scout Award from the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan in Edinburgh Castle in 1956. By 1958 he was already Scouting in White River where he formed the 1st White River Cub Pack. Married Lorna in 1963 to which ceremony all the White River Cubs and Scouts were invited. He and Lorna ran the Cub Pack for thirty years.

He served Mpumalanga East District and Province in many positions. Attended the 15th World Jamboree in Canada and in 2000 attended the Netherlands National Jamboree. With strong friendships across the world, including the Provincial German Scout Partners. Charles would play his bagpipes at farewells of the Scout volunteers or visiting groups.

A member of the National Cub Training Board he contributed to editing Cub handbooks and training aids. An active member of the Mpumalanga adult leader training team since 1998. Received the Order of the Silver Protea – 1999. Was due to receive a 60 year bar to the Long Service Medal.

In a recent message received from Mr Garnet de la Hunt, former Chairman of the World Scout Committee and past Chief Scout of South Africa, he wrote: "It is with deep sadness that one realizes that a man like Charlie, who has given much of his time to serving his fellow men, should be damaged so badly by another human being. Charlie came to this country and identified with us. He did more for our fellow South Africans through Scouting and his Christian love for others than most. It is a matter of months before Charlie plans to leave South Africa to live out the rest of his life with his children in the United States. It is my prayer that Charlie, my dear friend of many years standing, will recover from his horrendous injuries."

Unfortunately this did not happen. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his children, Janet, Jennifer, Catherine and Alistair, who will now, not have the pleasure of sharing his company in their adopted country.

I have sometimes wondered whether, in a Movement like ours which was originally intended for the under-privileged boy in particular, it is right that only the best boys get the best opportunities. After all, we are supposed to be trainers of character, and you might well ask yourself whose characters need training most – the clean-limbed grammar-school types from good homes who get selected for World Jamborees, or **the rest of us?**

John Sweet

I AM NOW ADDRESSING THIS TO "THE REST OF US"

The South African Jamboree Contingent will fly off to Sweden in the middle of 2011 and leave "the rest of us" back here at home living off scraps of news of what wonderful activities our Jamboree Scouts are experiencing.

I say "NO WAY" let the rest of us organize our own Jamborees right here in South Africa and Join-In the wonderful experience of camping together with our brother and sister Scouts from all around our Province, even invite Scouts from other Provinces to join us.

In time gone by we called this a Join-in-Jamboree, and those of us who recall that time have happy memories of our participation in a theme of the culture

of the country where the World Jamboree was being held. Sweden this time. What a wealth of ideas come to mind.

The Jamboree theme 2011 – "Simply Scouting" had me wondering for a time – Why? Then it struck me – What has kept the movement growing for over 100 years? The answer – "Simply Scouting!" What we do so well, and what we have been doing for so long, simply Scouting, is what young people want. Let's organize our J-I-Js just doing what Scouting does best – camping, cooking, hiking, pioneering and the other hundred simple things. Let's not get involved in grandiose ideas and price the occasion beyond what the rest of us can afford.



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JUNGLE PATHS

Baden-Powell saw the value of using Rudyard Kipling's jungle stories and characters as a basis for young people relating morality to reality and fact to fiction. Children of Cub age do enjoy the stories and do accept the morals underlying each. But . . . and this is the problem . . . it is up to the leaders to make the magic, sensitivity and reality of the jungle acceptable. This can only be done with a good understanding of the stories and characters. By an enthusiastic telling of the stories not a laboured reading of the stories.

THE BOOK

It is a fact that leaders find 'The Jungle Book' rather heavy reading. However, over the years condensed versions have come to light. Ask around your Seenees and various headquarters to see what you can find. Today, most children associate the story with the cartoon characters made so popular by the animated film released in 1967 and watched by them over and over again when younger than Cub age. Leaders should be careful and explain liberties taken in the film with the original Kipling stories, giving them the deeper meaning and values they deserve.

THE STORY

The Jungle Stories tell of a little Indian boy who lived with a wolf pack. He was the son of a woodcutter and wandered into the jungle and became lost after a tiger (Shere Khan) attacked his village. **Raksha** (Mother Wolf) named him '**Mowgli**' as he reminded her of a frog (by the way, Rudyard Kipling made up the name Mowgli).

In the jungle Mowgli is taught the law of obedience, self-reliance, alertness, hunting skills, to help others as himself, to do things with

meaning and purpose, not to make a nuisance of himself – in short, character building.

THE CHARACTERS

First of all Mogli's friends: **Akela** – Lone Grey Wolf. Leader of the Pack. Commanding loyalty and obedience. Was wise and caring. **Father Wolf** – Head of the family, protector of Mowgli. A wise hunter in the pack. **Raksha** – Mother Wolf. Caring, fierce, stood up for what she believed in. **Bagheera** – The black panther. Taught Mowgli to hunt and move silently. To be brave and loyal. Helped Mowgli to be



An illustration from the original "Letting in the jungle", published in 1895 – by J Lockwood Kipling, Rudyard's father.

accepted into the pack. **Baloo** – The bear. Close friend of the Man Cub. Taught Mowgli the Law of the Jungle. Helped Mowgli be accepted in the pack. **Kaa** – The rock python. Strength and gentleness in one character. Showed Mowgli how to move in the jungle and swim. **Hathi** – The elephant. Leader of the herd. Great friend to Mowgli. His strength, wisdom and fairness was respected by the Jungle Folk. **Rikki** – (Rikki-Tikki-Tavi) the mongoose. A very fast little animal. Deadly enemy of snakes. Brave. **Chil** – The kite. Messenger of the Jungle. Hunting bird, eagle-eyed. Fast moving, seeing great distances. Reliable. **Rama** – The Bull Leader of the herd. Friend to Mowgli. Strong. Mowgli rode Rama when he killed Shere-Kahn.

Now the characters we do not admire: **Banderlog** – The monkey people. Shiftless, unreliable, dirty, unthinking, lazy. **Tabaqui** – The jackal. Mean, tale teller, nuisance, scavenger. **Shere-Khan** – The lame tiger, a bully and a coward.

Do we Cub Leaders of today, in our very "Green" environmental thinking, have a problem with 'killing' rogue Tigers, Pythons swallowing monkeys whole, executing the Red Dog pack and other vicious happenings in the story? Today, as it was in Rudyard Kipling's observations all that time ago, it is part of nature and nature must take its course. On the other hand, wanton killing, like poaching, and needless destruction of the forest, can be explained and needs to be explained to young minds.

Let us take the fantastic positives in the Jungle Book and run every one of our Pack meetings based on the principles as envisaged by the founder, and as set out in many books and publications available to the Pack Leader.

CANADIAN SCOUTS VISIT THE GOLDFIELDS

Roger Maggs, Scouting Free State and Northern Cape reports that a contingent of 19 Scouts and their Leaders from Ontario, Canada visited Welkom where they stayed over and installed two water tanks and gutters at the Edu-College as part of their project of reaching out under the banner of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals No 1.

The party had already visited Scouts in Kimberly and Bloemfontein, taking part in the Kimberly 39th Nite Hike and also visited the Big Hole. One of the highlights of their visit was a stop at the Morning Star Centre for kids effected and affected by HIV/Aids in Welkom and Kutlwanong.

Creighton Avery of Ontario says that Scouting in Canada is very well supported by the community and they are able to collect money to support their South African project. She said that while in South Africa, until 26th August, they will be concentrating on visiting schools in poor communities, encouraging them to start vegetable gardens and provide food. At each of the schools they will erect two water tanks and provide gutters to keep the tanks full in the rainy season.

On their Blog, to family and friends back home, the group report that they provided the tanks at seven of the eight schools they had intended. Visited Mafikeng SCENE and the places of interest in the siege town – "the birth place of Scouting". Went on Safari at Pilanesberg National Park. While staying over at Gilwell in Johannesburg visited the "Cradle of Humankind" and looked forward to visiting the Scout Shop. Everywhere they traveled they enjoyed the interaction with South African Cubs and Scouts.



The Canadian Contingent with local Scouts and Leaders when they installed two water tanks and gutters at Edu-Collage in Welkom.

FOOD FOR LIFE BADGES

I have a further report from GS Guy Caws in KZN saying that "Guerrilla Gardening", as reported in Autumn Scouting About, and now the "Vertical Gardening" concepts are great for Scouts to earn their Food for Life badges. "Vertical Gardening" is stacked vegetable and fruit growing, in fact any gardening in a restricted space. This is not a new idea, it has been around for an eon, growing food on steep hillsides, cliff faces, on garden walls, one trough above the other; and in more recent times stacked in shade or plastic covered 'green' houses.

I was even more fascinated by seeing an "up side down garden" – tomatoes growing from the bottom of a plastic bucket which was hung from a stoep roof truss, with the plant hanging down covered in beautiful red tomatoes. This is called "Suspended Gardening". The plants are watered and fed nutrients by a drip pipe inserted into the top of the bucket.

So many of our Scouts have very little space for Food for Life gardening, they might just look at tips for "vertical gardening" on the web. If you don't have access to the web, ask a friend or a Scout Leader who is connected, to call it up for you.

Gardening is fun and rewarding for our young Cubs and Scouts to master. See the joy of the young Cub who first sees his beans, under cotton wool, sprout their roots and stalk, from, what to him, or her, is a pretty hard and lifeless thing.

Now, the Cub Food for Life badge can be earned by a 10 year old as a requirement for his or her Leaping Wolf Badge. Pack Scouters, don't wait for the Cub to reach that age before being introduced to vegetable growing. Let them be exposed to the wonder of seeing nature in all it's glory. There can be disappointments, but lets try and try again. Let us also make them aware that is not a "quick fix" towards a badge, patience is needed to experience that wonder.

We recommend that all Groups get a set of the Food for Life booklets, Starter, Silver, Gold and for the Scouter the Adult Leader "How To" booklet, obtainable from your Scout Shop, at very little cost. The requirement for the Cub Food for Life badge will be set out in the new Cub Trail but we feel that the Starter booklet is so well illustrated that the Cub, using it, will understand the process more easily.

CUB POW-WOW 2010 MYSTERY SAFARI - PORT ELIZABETH



Friday, 23 April dawned, wet and miserable. Where we going to experience a wet and windy Pow Wow? Arrival over the muddy road that led into Samcay, the youth centre on the banks of the Zwartkops River. We need not worry, the sun was soon out and we had a great four days of the promised "Mystery Safari" in glorious weather. Action and the Outdoors was promised and that was what was given. Elephants – Sea and sand – rafting on the river – all to do with the OUT in Scouting. The reason for holding a Cub Pow Wow was not forgotten, the camaraderie of the movement, exchanging ideas, meeting old friends and making of new friends. All too soon the 27th April arrived and we were all on our way home with wonderful memories.

SPRINGBOK PRESENTATION – CAPE WESTERN PROVINCE



*L to R: Standing – Matthew Albertyn; Nicholas Harvey; Sean Stopford; Damon Hope; Rev. Vikile C Mehana (Chief Scout of SA); Mr Brian February (Chief Scout's Commissioner); Robert Turner; Dale Raad; Michael Evans.
Front: Stephen Cloete; Joshua van der Ploeg; Marcel Mulders; Kelly de Kock; Mingah Ismail.*

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Spring 2010

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF SCOUT

"A trained scout will see little signs and tracks; he puts them together in his mind and quickly reads a meaning from them such as an untrained man would never arrive at". (Scouting for Boys by Lord Baden-Power)

It is always exciting to interact with you through this Newsletter. SPRING HAS ARRIVED, that lovely time of the year: time of renewal, re-energising, new beginnings and flowers blossoming. This season always challenges us especially as Scouts to think afresh and dream new dreams but significantly, it is in the realisation of those dreams that we will make a difference to the lives of the young people of our country.

As one of the critical strategic thrusts of our Movement, the focus of the SASA continues to be on Youth Development. We now need more than ever before to encourage the young people to champion this development. Our society needs the highest levels of honesty, integrity and responsibility from all of us especially the youth who are the hope of the bright future of our world. It is therefore my considered view that, at the forefront of our efforts for moral regeneration character building, we must place the youth ahead of ourselves.

The following are three significant insights I want to propose on youth development:

☞ Youth involvement

To ensure that we are constantly growing, we are calling for more youth involvement, more especially in decision-making structures of SASA. Simply put, the Scout belongs to the youth. There is a world of unlimited possibilities, innovation and we encourage them to march to the next millennium with pride and dignity. As they say any organisation without an active youth is doomed to die. The launch of the National Scout Youth Forum on the 23rd September 2010 is a progressive response to this strategic task.

☞ Enhancing the culture of Volunteerism

We are excited to report that as the National and Provincial Commissioners will be meeting from the 23rd September 2010 to, inter alia, deliberate on how best to make the Scout programme to be of relevance to the youth of today

and further make an impact to the youth in general, it would have been appropriate if they were to seek an input as well from the young people, thus ensuring that they are taking them along.

It is a known fact that policies are significant factors in determining a favourable environment for youth development. We are, therefore, looking forward to join hands and find solutions together to our present challenges hence we call for more Volunteer involvement who are committed to sacrificing their time, know-how and experience for the transcendental co-existence of our Communities through Scouts. The 2010 World Cup was a huge inspiration for our country, so too the culture of volunteerism. When we are able to give of ourselves voluntarily, we must know that we are becoming our finest.

☞ Continuous mobilisation of Resources

However, the lack of adequate resources, both financial and human, continues to be the greatest challenge for the Scouts. As these resources play a vital role in supporting the growth of Scouting, this remains a matter of smart and collective approach especially by those in the leadership of our Movement, as such resources will assist us a great deal in

ensuring the growth of the movement, existence of sound administrative processes at all levels, and impact to the lives of our youth and society, thus producing good citizens for our country.

The combination of the above stated three factors, in my view shall always ensure that we are on top of our game. As the calendar year draws to a close, we hereby express our heartfelt wishes of good luck to all those who will be writing their exams especially given the recent disturbances.

Once again, I sincerely hope you will find this edition of Scouting About both exciting and insightful.

Enjoy a glorious spring and summer! And happy Scouting

*Rev Vukile Mehana
Chief Scout: South Africa*



Rev. Vukile C. Mehana

be prepared....