

# 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

**Autumn 2011**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF SCOUT

Fellow Scouts, the National Scout Council met this last weekend – 11/13 March 2011, in Pretoria. We used this opportunity to reflect on the Movement in SA and the challenges facing us as a movement.

We have undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the state of the Movement and did not like what we saw. Despite some pockets of excellence, we have become lethargic. Our offering to the youth of South Africa has not kept pace with a changing world. We have become bureaucratic to the extent that it is a burden to adult leaders and a hindrance to delivery of programmes to our Cubs, Scouts and Rovers.

Clearly this is untenable. We are all in agreement that we want a movement that is current and reflects the needs of our youth, that is vibrant, fast moving and fun to be part of. In short our aim is to revitalize Scouts!

To this end we have committed to undertake a project to address the challenges facing the movement. **Project REV IT** will commence with immediate effect.

To get where we want to be, requires that we all pull together as one, take along what works and discard those things that do not benefit the Movement as a whole. I will require all of your support to reach our destination.

I wish to assure you that the Values and Principals that form the foundation of the Movement, as well as the Aims and Methods will remain unchanged.

We will be communicating progress to you on a regular basis via various channels. We will value your suggestions for revitalizing the movement.

I do hope you will join in with the National Scout Council on this journey of transformation.

Yours sincerely  
**Rev Dr Vukile Mehana**  
Chief Scout of South Africa



## We the NATIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL

### Recognise:

- Scouting in South Africa faces a serious challenge.
- That the problem is everyone's problem.

### Further we commit to:

- Contributing the time to play my role in making the change happen.
- Act in the interests of the Movement as a whole and lead my constituents along this path of change.



be prepared....



At a braai you are munching on a mutton chop. Your dog's watching you intently. Eyes sparkling. Tongue drooling. Tail wagging. Without speaking a word, your dog's communicating: He is saying to you - "Oh boy, I need that bone more than anything in the whole wide world. Now! Please!"

### TAIL WAGGER - OR A TAIL-DRAGGER?

Our Scout training is leadership training. You can't be a real leader unless you can communicate well. If you neglect COMMUNICATIONS you are not leading, - you are misleading. Being a good communicator is one of the most important skills you can master in this fast-moving modern world.

The Patrol is a fine place in which to start. Get good communications organized in your Patrols and your Troop, and all your activities, big and small, will be far more successful, and far more fun. ALL activities involve communication with others, so let's tackle the thing properly.

*Vic Clapham in VELD LORE – let's learn from the master communicator!*

**WE ALL – ADULT LEADER – CUB – SCOUT and ROVER** have a major challenge in 2011. To reach our goal we must COMMUNICATE well! Whether our task is in the Group, District or Province, tackle that task briskly, communicate promptly with the next in line and it will be said that you are a **Tail-Wagger!**

## CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



**Herman Martinus** – KwaZulu-Natal

**Kelsey Escolm** – KwaZulu-Natal

**Chad Dormehl** – KwaZulu-Natal

**Traves Clack** – Mpulalanga

**Umar Kaprey** – Western Cape

**Roshan Combrinck** – Western Cape

**Daniel Fenton** – Western Cape

**Michaela Janse van Rensburg** –  
Western Cape

**Dominique Battle** – Western Cape

**Richard Hallendorff** – Gauteng

**Rebecca Davies** – Gauteng

**Jessica Westraadt** – Eastern Cape

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

As good communicators we must think of, and use, all avenues of this important technology.

Just a few years ago, the thought that almost every household in the country would have a Personal Computer connected to e-mail and the Web, was unthinkable. Now virtually every one of our Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and we the adult Leaders are on stream, connected to blogs, twitter and facebook. Our Scout Headquarters has our e-address on record and pumps out the latest information and request. In our pocket we carry our mobile phone that not only rings to give us a personal message but stacks SMS messages, reminds us of time and place of meetings and appointments and takes very

good photographs right there on the spot to download onto our notebook or laptop, carried in a bag right beside us wherever we go. This enables us to build up a slide show of information we can project through a compact LCD, onto the wall of the Scout den so everyone is informed of our activities and parents are kept up to date on what we are doing.

Sure, this is an utopian world but unfortunately not everyone in our Scout Groups has all this equipment, so we must revert to "hard copy" which can, of course, be originated on the selfsame PC or laptop and reproduced on a sophisticated digital printer if we so wish, just as the "hard copy" of this **Scouting About** is reproduced

and circulated to all Provinces using "snail mail".

If we are one of the Scout Groups fortunate enough to be able to communicate electronically, make sure that everyone in the Pack, Troop, Rover Crew and parent are on the address list so that the important information you have to impart gets to everyone. If not, then go back to the "hard copy" method, which unfortunately sometimes is so screwed up in the youngsters uniform pocket, that when he gets home it ends up in the washing machine, unseen and unread. You just might have to go the old fashioned "snail mail" route.

**COMMUNICATE** you must, so make it work!

## The Green PEA Jamboree

From 1st to 5th April 2011, Scouts from Eastern Cape Province and all the other Provinces of South Africa will gather to enjoy people, environment and adventure in Kirkwood, Sunday's River Valley in the Eastern Cape.

The Green PEA Jamboree will have its greatest focus on community service with a difference. The environment and people aspect will be happening at Rietberg Primary School in Kirkwood where Scouts and schoolchildren, together, will enjoy a programme of typical Scout oriented



games and skills, paint funky murals on the school building and help launch a food garden project in line with the "Food for

Life" programme of the South African Scout Association. A home base at Africa Imprint will cater for the adventurous side of the Jamboree.

The Green PEA Jamboree **CAMP INFORMATION** is all published on Scouting Eastern Cape **SCOUTBOOK** pages. Sign in and see how they have done it – use their example to publicise your next event. Use the Facebook pages established in your home Province and let everyone know of the magnificent activities you are planning!

# THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE 2011

For the first time in some time Cubs, Scouts and Rovers will combine their efforts to take part in a national themed annual challenge. Today I received my "Climate Change Challenge 2011 Adult Handbook" Fifty five pages of what your Cub, Scouts and Rovers will need to achieve, with an Introduction section for adult Leaders. The Challenge has been split up into programmes and based on what can be achieved in a series of the normal two hour weekly meetings. The handbook is still with the printer but all necessary information can be down loaded from South Africa Scouting's Web pages.



Reference material: has been suggested – "Be Prepared for Life booklets 1-6" – "Food for Life Booklets". I would suggest you find a copy of "International Show-and-do Conservation Project Kit" produced by Vic Clapham with The World Wildlife Fund and sponsored by Bata". SAHQ still has a supply of this magnificent booklet which you can order through your Provincial Shop. There must still be copies in Scout libraries, that's where I found my copy.

These booklets not only suggest activities to undertake the challenge successfully, but also have diagrams and pictures to be enlarged and used as display material.

Our Precious Soil – Clean Water – Pure Air – Free Wildlife – No Litter, and much more.

*Printed below are some of the illustrations for you to enlarge and use in your challenge.*

In Scouting we are so inclined to assume that every Troop Scouter or Pack Scouter is an expert in every aspect of what they are asked to do or undertake in the name of the movement. This is not always true. Scouting South Africa has issued quite a complicated Challenge for 2011 and we, every one of us, would like to meet that Challenge I am sure.

As the very first exercise in attempting the Climate Change Challenge 2011, Adult Leaders must ask, themselves – Am I knowledgeable in what is expected in promoting the Challenge? What is, and what is

causing climate change in the first place? If we are not familiar with the term "The Greenhouse Effect" – "Soil Erosion" – "Air Pollution" – and many others, we will be unable to successfully pass on to our Cubs and Scouts what is required in the Challenge Programme, plan the activities and all else that is required of us. In so doing, not give our kids the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience of something that is now, and is going to affect their lives in the future.

Don't just say, I know nothing of what is expected of me, and leave it there. Get a copy of the Adult Handbook on the Challenge. If you cannot get it down loaded from Scouting South Africa's Web pages, then get a copy from your Provincial or Regional HQ. All the answers are in there, but if you still do not have the confidence to tackle the Challenge, find someone in your community that has the knowledge and ability to put over the programme. It need not be someone in Scouting. There are any number of groups of concerned people out there that would be very willing and able to assist you. Maybe you know someone in your local Weather Reporting Services, Forestry Department, Wildlife Protection Society or even a school teacher in your vicinity that has the knowledge and concern for such things. Work with that person and get your Troop and Pack to meet the Challenge in 2011.

## SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUTING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GERMAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION DPSG

German and South African Scouts will do similar activities. South African Scouts will be encouraged to contact German Scouts and start a friendship, especially over the JOTA/JOTI weekend in October.

South African Provinces have been allocated

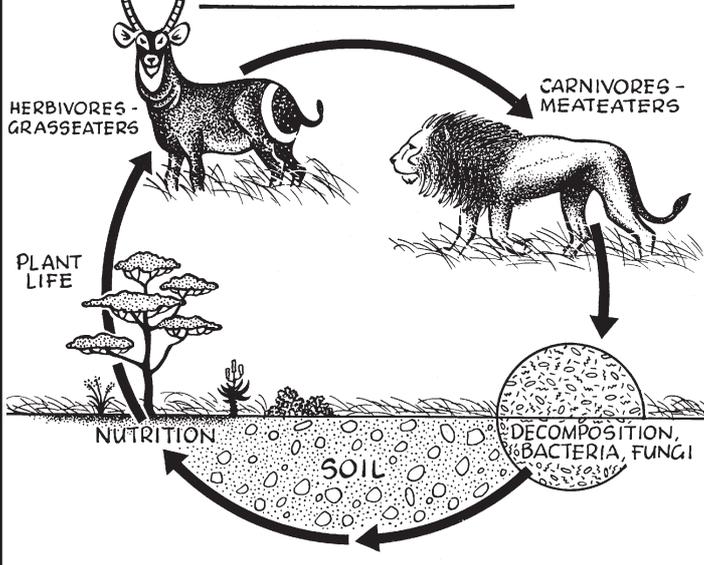
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three or four German Provinces for this contact. For instance Gauteng East will contact

German Scouts in Berlin. Western Cape Scouts in the urban areas will contact German Scouts in Mainz, and so on. Your Provincial organizers will be able to contact their German counterparts on email and arrange direct contacts for Scouts.

### The Balance of Nature THE LIFE CYCLE



### Plants are Nature's Air-Fresheners



WHEN WE BURN FUEL OF ANY KIND WE USE UP PRECIOUS OXYGEN FROM THE AIR. WHEN WE BREATHE IN OXYGEN, WE BREATHE OUT CARBON DIOXIDE ... WHICH PLANTS ABSORB.

ALL PLANT LIFE MANUFACTURES OXYGEN. IN OUR AIR-POLLUTED, HEAVILY-POPULATED WORLD, PLANTS ARE VITAL TO OUR SURVIVAL.

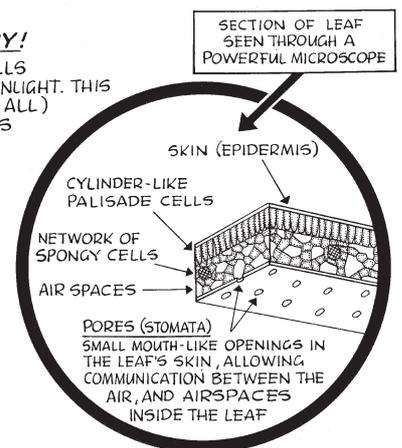
#### EVERY LEAF IS AN OXYGEN FACTORY!

THE LEAF'S PALISADE CELLS ABSORB MOST OF THE SUNLIGHT. THIS IS WHERE MOST (BUT NOT ALL) OF THE PHOTOSYNTHESIS TAKES PLACE.

FOR THE PROCESS CALLED PHOTOSYNTHESIS THE LEAF NEEDS CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE AIR. THIS ENTERS THROUGH THE LEAF'S PORES.

VIA PHOTOSYNTHESIS, ALL PLANTS ABSORB CARBON DIOXIDE, AND GIVE OFF OXYGEN.

ON LAND AND IN THE WATER, PLANTS OF ALL KINDS ARE OUR ONLY SOURCE OF OXYGEN!



## MEET THE OTHER HALF OF THE 1st EDENVALE SCOUT GROUP

1st Edenvale Scout Group has two Scout Troops – one the Boy Troop that has existed for some time and now the newly formed Girl Troop consisting of seven girls and Troop Scouter Ms Carmen Schutte. The seven girls were invested on 26th November 2010 and have already taken part in a number of Scout activities in the North Rand District. They meet on Friday afternoons at the den in Elma Park.



*L to R Back: Amber Kitchen; Monique Alexander P.L.; Amber Wayland; Carmen Shutte T/S – Middle: Rachel Branicka; Marie-Louise Welkin – Front: Allegra van der Westhuisen; Sabrina Schutte.*

## WORLD SCOUTING FUTURE WORLD EVENTS

The 40th World Scout Conference and the 12th World Scout Youth Conference will take place in Slovenia in 2014. The 15th World Scout Moot will visit Iceland in 2017.

As we know the 23rd World Scout Jamboree, 2015 is to be held in Japan, but the 24th World Scout Jamboree 2019 will be hosted in North America, after a collective bid by Canada, Mexico and the United States of America.

## NEW OFFICIAL FACEBOOK

Ian Webb, our Web Master reports that there's a new official Facebook page for Scouting in South Africa – [www.facebook.com/SAScout](http://www.facebook.com/SAScout) Scouts, Scouters and families can visit the page for the latest news and updates about Scouting in South Africa and around the world. By clicking "Like" you will also see the updates on your Facebook news feed as well. There are also several discussion pages about ways to improve Scouting in South Africa in line with project REV IT.

## CUB CORNER

Those of us who live close to our oceans are very aware of the power of our moving air – Winds to most of us, yachts skimming along with no motor – Seagulls just seem to hover in the air without even moving their wings. The tops of waves being blown in a spray of white foam. Wind surfers and Kite surfers shooting over the surface of the sea. I even recall my Cubs leaning over against the strong wind with their arms outstretched to see who could lean furthest without falling on their faces. Are our Cubs aware that wind is the air that they breathe, a very thin layer of air that surrounds the earth must sustain every living

thing and the 7 billion people that inhabit the earth. If I took a 45cm globe representing the world, the thickness of the usable air around that would only be represented by the thickness of a human hair.

**Activity:** List all the things that people do that are polluting that precious air!

What things on earth are purifying (cleaning) that air so we can breathe it again?

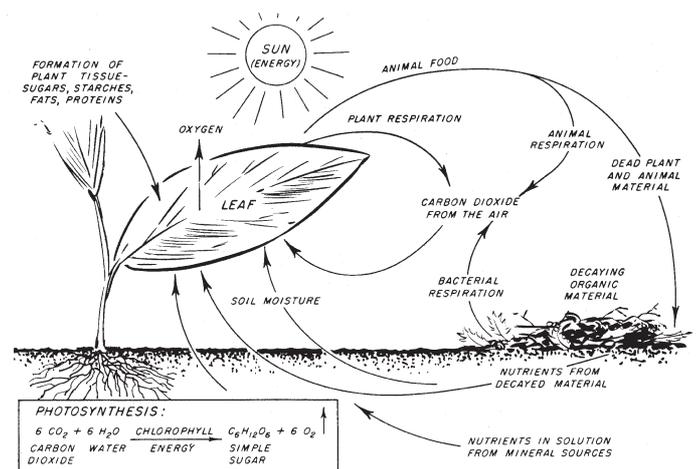
Build a kite or glider to demonstrate that air has substance.

Light a short candle, then put an upside down bottle over it to demonstrate that fire needs air (oxygen) to burn.

## Main Causes of Air Pollution

- Factories fill the air with a great variety of dangerous substances. There are many other ways of disposing of these substances, but the cost is high.
- Motor cars and other road vehicles are major air polluters. They fill the air with about 75 million tons of pollutants every year. This increases every year!
- A jet airplane gives off as much soot and other particles as 24 thousand cars!
- Oil is widely used in houses, hotels, factories, etc., for heating, cooking, power. The sulphur dioxide poured into the air from oil furnaces contaminates both water and soil, and also causes metal corrosion in vehicles, machines, metal structures, etc.
- Coal fires play their part. It was the particles from all the coal fires heating the houses in London, England, that caused the air pollution catastrophe in December 1952 when 4 thousand people died in one week.
- Grass and forest fires all play their part in polluting the air. Likewise, when you burn garden and other household waste, you add to the problem.

## PHOTOSYNTHESIS: How Plants Make Food and OXYGEN



**SCOUTING ABOUT** is receiving news of our Provinces launching the International Climate Change Challenge 2011 in their part of the world through Media Releases and encouraging their Scout Groups to become fully involved in the Challenge. As a public relations exercise, Scouting South Africa has a major opportunity to show our nation and the world that we are really concerned in what is happening to OUR PLANET EARTH, the only space vehicle we have, on which to survive.