

Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

www.scouting.org.za



SCOUTS
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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"So in our work indeed, in any work of life we should look forward, well forward, with high aims and hope; look around with joy and goodwill; back with thankfulness at what has been accomplished and then press on with renewed vigour, with helpful initiative, and with broadened outlook, towards the highest goal, not forgetting to give a helping hand to others as we go. But when you look – look WIDE; and even when you think you are looking wide – LOOK WIDER STILL."

Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Winter 2011

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Yerissa Govender – KwaZulu Natal
Robert Lewis-Walker – KwaZulu Natal
Deen Storkey – Western Cape
Fiona Kerry – Western Cape
Charl Visser – Western Cape
Timothy Brummer – Western Cape
Matthew Harvey – Western Cape

Dudley Forde, former Chief Scout's Commissioner and long time National Adult Training Commissioner, has been awarded the Order of the Boabab for his outstanding leadership in the field of education and Scouting in South Africa. The President of South Africa bestowed the award at a ceremony in Pretoria on 27th April 2011.

Dudley, from KZN Province, is most probably best known in Scouting as the person that formulated and fine tuned the Patrol Leader Training Unit which course is now run in most, if not all, of the Scout Provinces in the country.

Congratulations from everyone who has ever been influenced by your dynamism.

Hugh "Buzz" Macey, has been awarded the Mayor's Medal of the City of Cape Town for his great contribution towards the development of youth affairs in South Africa. The award ceremony took place at a special Council Meeting on the 28th April 2011.

"Buzz" has served the Scout Movement for over 50 years and has held positions on National and International level including National Commissioner Scout Programme and organizer of the world renowned National Senior Scout Adventure, held every 2 years in the Cederberg mountains.

Congratulations from everyone who has been influenced by your adventurous spirit.



UPDATE

This edition of Scouting About reminds us of the main thrusts of Project Rev It and gives some clear pointers to the way forward.

The need for change in Scouting in SA resulting from low membership numbers, concerns about a burdensome bureaucracy, a lack of adult leaders and poor internal and external communications amongst others resulted in the NSC launching a re-vitalization project "Rev It" in March 2011.

The project is progressing on all fronts, despite the virtual nature of teams and a large amount of work needing to be done. A report out to the Executive on key proposals is scheduled for 23 July, whereafter the recommendations will be presented to members.

The Project remains focused on how the Movement should adapt to move to a future of growth and sustainability.

SO WHAT ARE WE AIMING FOR?

- Easier and faster to join the fun as an Adult Leader.
- Lots more help to ensure that the weekly Pack & Troop meetings are run well and create a desire by scouts and cubs to come back for more.
- More access to useful material and resources for Pack, Troop and Group Leaders
- More emphasis on self learning and self testing
- A national data base for membership details and options for all adult helpers to be members of the Movement.
- Reduced bureaucracy, yet strong protection of our youth members
- Groups at the centre of the scouting universe

DO YOU GET ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION? HAVE YOU JOINED AN EMAIL LIST YET?

Join the adult mailing lists at <http://www.scouting.org.za/maillinglist>

STAY TUNED:

Keep an eye out for our next edition of the Rev It Newsletter. Visit the Project web site on www.scouting.org.za/revit or our facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/SAScout> to leave your comments.

Or contact your Provincial office to pass messages on to revit@scouting.org.za it's not too late to add your views.

be prepared....

WEB PAGE – FACEBOOK – TWITTER – BLOG!!

And I suppose many more ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION channels that are out there or are in the pipeline to be sprung on us. In last edition of **Scouting About** I did a piece on ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, and did I have a response! I suppose I am a “babe in the wood” as far as this subject is concerned and I am prepared to leave it to the experts to handle.

Since then I have signed on to Scouting’s Facebook and had a look at Scouting Twitter and am amazed at the amount of information and comment there is out there. In fact there is nothing you might want to know about the Movement and it’s

happenings that you can’t find in these areas.

All very well! Now we come to the other part of our movement. This is where I had the most “comment” – our movement is for everybody in South Africa and there are areas in the country where there are just no computers, in fact not even electricity. In my last article I tried to stress this, and even cited the fact that **Scouting About** looks “great” on the Scout Web with colour and all, but we have insisted that this Scout Newsletter goes out on “hard copy” so that it can be distributed into the areas I mention.

From some of the “comments” I have received, this newsletter does not get “right out there” with regularity. They say they only see it now and again. Are Provinces receiving sufficient copies to cover their outlying regions? Are there bottlenecks where the distribution is held up at Region or District? The Movement relies on our adult leaders and their assistants to make the system work. In receiving even this piece of Scouting information, says to them, “Scouting cares for what you are doing, and you are indeed part of our national team”.

54th JOTA/JOTI

15/16 October 2011



Jamboree on the Air Jamboree on the Internet.

This year’s theme is: Peace, Environment and Natural Disasters.

South Africa Scouting’s main thrust this year is on the environment – “Climate Change Challenge”. We all have been asked to achieve what is been set out in the challenge and a part of that is JOTA/JOTI this year. South African Scouts will use JOTA/JOTI to contact Scouts in Germany, who themselves will be required to contact a South African Scout as part of this combined activity.

As in years past, Scout Groups are asked to contact Radio Hams in their area and request them to set up Jota Stations in Scout Halls, Scout camps or other Scouting activity sites on this week-end. Use Scout pioneering skills to erect a functional antenna. Your Radio Ham could be asked to set up “skeds” with German Hams beforehand so that contacts can be streamlined on the actual weekend.

Look in the “Climate Change Challenge” booklet and see what is required on this occasion. Your Provincial JOTA/JOTI organizer will have the information on the contacts and the area of Germany allocated to your Province.

CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

A KwaZulu-Natal Circular advises their entire Province has been awakened to the Climate Change Challenge issued by the Chief Scout in 2011. The launch took the form of a workshop attended by 28 Scout Leaders at B-P Camp in Durban. The course was presented by Guy Caws, a local Scout Leader and a professional environmental education officer. At the workshop the leaders were introduced to the concept of Climate Change, how to link environmental education to the Scout programme and they were given activities for inclusion in the Scout programme.

The Provincial Commissioner, Garth Kloppenborg, emphasized the potential



Asst. Commissioners, Mondli Dlamini and Bindi Singh plant a tree at the launch of the KZN National Scout Challenge 2011.

for Scouting to effectively address environmental issues and urged all Scouts to take part in the challenge. This was of specific importance for the National Challenge in KZN as Durban is the host to COP 17, the international climate change conference to be held in the city in November/December 2011.

CHILD PROTECTION IN THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

Arising out of a recent news report (in Cape Town) and allegations of sexual abuse of a scout, has once again highlighted this fact and in most cases, violence is inflicted by a person of confidence and someone in whom the scout has placed a lot of trust.

Brian February, our Chief Scout’s Commissioner, takes this incident in a very serious light and has issued a National Circular covering this aspect. Every adult in the movement is asked to read this circular, make sure they are trained in the Child Protection Policy of the South African Scout Association. This is available on the Scout Web, or ask at your Provincial Head Quarters for a print out. Training leadership is asked to make sure this information is imparted during every course they run.

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES & SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL-OUTS

South Africa is privileged to have a number of fine Search and Rescue teams, stationed in many parts of the country, standing by for that emergency call that can come through at any moment, night or day. NSRI – National Sea Rescue Institute, for emergencies in rivers and on the seas around our coast. MCSA – Mountain Club of South Africa on call out to rescue those of us who are injured or lost in our extensive outdoors and mountain ranges. Police or military helicopter crews that can be activated quickly in civil emergencies and sometimes, unfortunately, in civil strife.

These services are expensive to maintain and require a good amount of time and energy on the part of the volunteers that man them. The cost of getting a helicopter into the air or a rescue craft out to sea is astronomical. We ask that our adult leaders are aware of that and only “call out” these services in the most dire circumstances. It has been my experience that Scout parents are the most worried when their child might be in danger and are the first to “demand” that the rescue services are called out, or even do so themselves.

Scouting, as an active outdoor movement, must be aware of the dangers that can exist with small or even large groups of its members undertaking hikes, climbing expeditions, adventurous camps and activities on the water, whether on rivers, dams or the ocean. B-P said a Scout must “Be Prepared” - and how can we be prepared for the many things that can and sometimes do go wrong during such activities?

First of all, from the first day a Scout is Invested, at our weekly meeting, that young person experiences training in the OUT in ScOUTing, progressing to more advanced activities as he/she progresses up the Scouting ladder until the time comes, when the adult leader, judges that they are sufficiently trained to tackle that advanced activity whether its hiking, camping, climbing or boating.

All these activities have rules covering and controlling them in our P.O.& R. and these rules must be understood by every adult voluntarily active in the movement. Parents must be aware of the advanced state of the activity and give their consent. The District Commissioner being in a position to be able to OK that activity, knowing that the Troop Scouter has done the necessary training himself to pass it on, responsibly, to his/her Scouts. Weather forecasts are consulted, particularly in situations where there is a risk of bad weather heightening the threat during that activity.

With the DC, the Troop Scouter and the parents, knowing the map area the activity covers and with permission sought from the relevant landowner to accommodate that activity, our Scouts set off, full of enthusiasm and a spirit of adventure. If something serious does go wrong, in spite of all our precautions, an accident, losing their way, unexpected bad weather, even illness, are they able to cope and contact the outside world.

In spite of them carrying their mobile phone, coverage does not often extend to outlying areas or their battery can run down. Splitting the party up for someone to

backtrack to TRY and reach civilization – dangerous for that splinter group. These are all situations that should have been covered in the training, even before the activity started. Set up contact places or times on the hike with the Troop Scouter so that he knows that all is well. If the contacts are not kept, he knows that something is amiss and he can take the appropriate action.

All Scouts should be trained in signalling to rescue groups whether being searched for, on the ground, or from the air. Make it as easy for the rescuers as possible to find the party quickly, without the possibility of a tragedy developing.

If you have ever had the privilege of taking part in the Senior Scout Adventure in the mountains of the Cederberg or elsewhere in the Cape, you most probably had a wonderful experience with adventure of every kind, quite unaware of the number of safety precautions set up by the organisers long before you even arrived to take part.

Ground to Air Signals

Body signals.		

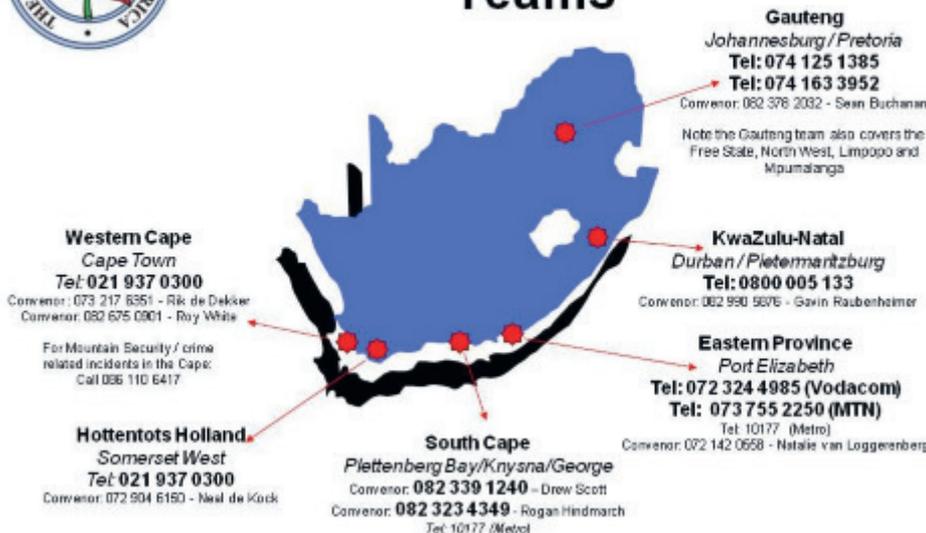
These Ground Signals should be made as large as possible in a nearby OPEN area. Use materials that contrast the colours around it; your bright coloured sleeping bag, or bright coloured clothing, held down by stones etc.

I	II	X	F	≡	K
Require Doctor serious injury	Require Medical Supplies	Unable To Proceed	Require Food and Water	Require Firearms And Ammo	Indicate Direction To Proceed
↑	▷	↳	△	LLL	LLL
Am Proceeding in this direction	Will Attempt Take Off	Aircraft Slightly Damaged	Probably Safe to Land Here	All Well	Require Fuel and Oil
N	Y	JL	W	□	!
No	Yes	Not Under-Mood	Require Mechanic	Require Map and Compass	Require Signal Lamp with Binary and Radio

If in doubt, use international symbol — **SOS**



MCSA Search and Rescue Teams



*All phone numbers are the emergency numbers that can be contacted in case of a mountain rescue emergency. Primary numbers are in bold. Last updated: Feb 2011

SHOW BUSINESS

FRANKLY, I WASN'T KEEN WHEN MY SON WANTED TO GO ON SCOUT CAMPS AND EXPEDITIONS...

AND I WAS RELUCTANT TO SPEND MONEY ON HIKE TENTS, RUCKSACKS AND OTHER OUTDOOR GEAR...

AND COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I WAS BEING ASKED TO SUPPORT GROUP FUNDS...

AND WONDERED WHY SCOUTING NEEDED MY PRACTICAL HELP AS A PARENT...



BUT MY EYES WERE OPENED WHEN THE TROOP DECIDED TO...



Show the magnificent job you are doing with your Cubs and Scouts! Communicate something of Scouting to parents and the public. Stage an open Scout and Cub day where you invite not only the parents, but all the community in the area you are active.

Activities could include.

- Demonstration of handicrafts by Cubs.
- First Aid demonstrations.
- Build an aerial runway or other pioneering project.
- Tent pitching, build camp gadgets.
- An open-fire camp cooking demonstration.

• Open your attractive Patrol Dens for inspection by the public.

• Display the trophies your Group has won during the year.

End the day with a Braai and a well planned Camp Fire.

This effort is a first rate example of how parents and the public can be brought to understand more fully what Scouting is all about. Parents and others can only be expected to give you strong support if they know something about what they are supporting! It's a common error to assume everyone knows, most people, including parents, don't really know!

Thanks Veld Lore!



WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE – SWEDEN 2011



On 16th July all Scouts and Leaders comprising the South African Contingent, will be making their way to Johannesburg to take part in a shake down camp in preparation for their participation in the 22nd World Jamboree in Sweden and the other visits and activities the Contingent will be involved in.

We wish them well on their journey, and look forward to receiving NEWS of their activities on Scouting's Facebook and other sources.

The 22nd World Scout Jamboree opens in Rikaby, southern Sweden on 27th July and depart on 8th August. The slogan for the Jamboree "Simply Scouting" and the official song "Changing the World". Tune into the video and hear the song on the Jamboree Web –

www.worldscoutjamboree.se/2011/04/jamboree-song-live/



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be prepared....