

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

Summer 2011/2012

BE PART OF THE REVITALISATION OF SCOUTING

During the latter part of 2011, you will have been exposed to or have participated in discussions around REV IT.

The decision of the National Scout Council Forum held late last year - to proceed with the Revitalisation of Scouts South Africa - has resulted in us taking full responsibility for any implementation processes going forward. The Chief Scout thanks all those who were part of the work streams. The planning part of the process is complete. Ydangle's responsibility has passed; the journey forward is ours to walk with each other.

For this process of implementation to be successful, we need to proceed responsibly; we need to carefully maintain stability within the Movement. As far as possible, we need to set out all the steps and to foresee the consequences of all of our actions. These details need to be thrashed out vigorously and transparently over the next few months so that all those responsible for voting on the final decisions will be fully informed before the June 2012 Council Meeting. A Steering Committee, under the Chairmanship of Garnet de la Hunt, will oversee the implementation.

To refresh your memory, the segments in the proposed EXCO of the future will be:

Structures (for the present exercise)

Administration:

Membership Admin
Accounting
Online Store
IT Webmaster
Property
Funded Projects Admin
Strategy and Property
Marketing and PR
Funding and Finance
P.O. & R.

Operations:

Youth Programme
Cub
Scout
Rover
Girls in Scouting
Adult Support/ Training
Groups
Community Based Groups
In-School Groups
NGO and Church Groups

We are inviting anyone who would like to be part of the process to involve themselves in work streams along the lines of the positions in the new EXCO - as defined above. The amount of involvement required will be dependent on the

amount of work and the time taken to complete the respective tasks by the end of May 2012.

Although not everyone will choose to participate in these work streams, it is imperative that all the work done must be shared and open for comment as we move forward. It is equally important that those who choose to participate should appreciate that it will take time and commitment to find the best solutions as soon as possible; but that does not exclude casual comment and input, as all opinions are welcome and they will be recorded and evaluated.

The first deadline will be to draft the proposed Constitutional changes that will be necessary to fulfil the requirements of the recent NSC Forum. This must be completed and circulated 3 months before the National Scout Council Meeting which has been set down for 23-24 June 2012.

Only if the relevant amendment to the Constitution is agreed by the June National Scout Council, will the new functional EXCO then be constituted formally; as proposed and in keeping with that amendment to the Constitution.

We see the future membership as undivided but, for this part of the exercise, we will deal with two components, namely the Administrative and Operational sections of a temporary EXCO module. Administrative matters will be Milly Siebrits' concern and Brian February will take the lead for Operational matters.

While we would naturally expect those previously involved with the lay side of the movement to make helpful comment more particularly on administrative matters, and the same would apply for the old uniformed side to make comment on uniformed matters, that should not discourage anyone from commenting on anything that seems significant or that will need attention in the new model.

Initially we ask you please to direct all your comments to SAHQ (info@scouting.org.za) where we have volunteer staff who will record, allocate, correlate and otherwise deal with each contribution.

be prepared....

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Nicholas Francis – Gauteng
Ryan van der Merwe – Gauteng
Michelle Morrow – Gauteng
James de Scande – Eastern Cape
Dean Gifford – Eastern Cape
Kirby Niemand – Free State & N Cape
Paul Maiola – Gauteng
Anne Nicholson – Gauteng
Christopher de Klerk – Gauteng
Ross Montgomery – Gauteng
Nicholas Weeks – Gauteng

We must congratulate 9th Benoni Pack on this wonderful service to their fellow handicapped neighbours. From time to time we hear of other services undertaken by Cub Packs and individual Cubs. Fundraising and assistance at an Animal Welfare Centre – offering their

9th BENONI CUB PACK

9th Benoni Cub Pack have sponsored their second Guide Dog "Ntini". Their first is "Ike".

The Cubs pictured saying goodbye to "Imrani" who took part in the Grand Howl at a recent visit to the Pack meeting..



time and hands at SAMREC, a penguin rehabilitation centre. This last weekend they released 27 of their 69 boarders back into the ocean. If you know of similar Cub activities please let the Editor know about it.

WOSM delegation at COP 17

The environment is our playground and at COP17 the World Organisation of the Scout Movement [WOSM] was able to share with the tens of thousands of international non-governmental and governmental delegates at the event how scouting has always cared for the planet, not because we had to, but rather, simply that we are in the business of creating a better world.

Towards the end of 2011, the city of Durban, South Africa, hosted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's COP17/CMP7 sessions. The 28th November 2011 marked the beginning of what was to be an extended conference addressing the most urgent plight of our planet, its survival. WOSM's delegation actively participated inside of the conference until it was finally closed in the early hours of the morning on Sunday 11 December.

Best scouting practises from around the world were displayed in the NGO exhibition area; projects run at every level and from every corner of the movement were the envy of civil society

and drew considerable attention from a number of foreign ministries.

Members of the delegation worked as key instruments within the youth constituency; participating in working groups - tracking and influencing negotiations, meeting with heads of state and ministers in discussing youth involvement and climate policy, delivering intervention speeches in sessions to the parties and holding press conferences.

WOSM, as a leading global youth movement, demonstrated its leadership and commitment to broadening the climate change dialogue.

WOSM delegates were: Jared Abayo (Youth Director WOSM), Amos Ndegwa (IT Assistant and Communications Assistant WOSM-Africa), Magdalena Elisabeth Werner, Antje Kathrin Schroeder, Lars Martin Kramm, Daniella Drilling from DPSG, Quintin Combrink, Jessica Von der Meden, Sally Makofane, Previn Vedan, Ivan Povall, and Yubishin Moodley from the South Africa Scout Association.

DUTY TO GOD



In B-P's time, when Scouting was envisaged and formulated he had a concern that his world was being beset by immorality and a lack of opportunity and education for the masses of people, even in his beloved Britain. They were not producing the kind of person who was needed to overcome the struggles and hardships that were sure to follow in the new twentieth century that he had just entered.

He then set down a number of precepts that, if a young person followed, just might make a difference to help him face that world and do 'right' instead of what he was seeing around him. Maybe he had written off the adults as incorrigible. We know that those precepts are what we now adhere to as the Scout Law and Promise.

At that time the influences that affected an individual were just person to person and maybe, and occasionally, what he read in the newspaper or books, if he could read, or his religious upbringing if he had any.

We know that the ability to read is what got B-P's ideas off the ground. He published them in a comic book form each fortnight and 'Scouting for Boys' was the spark that set off the 'explosion' of Scouting. I don't think at that time they used the word 'media' but that is what it was. The media of the written word.

We move on a hundred plus years; how times have changed. The ability of our youth to know what is happening in all parts of the world, to share information and images are unprecedented, and hold great opportunities for good.

However there should be great concerns of how people engage with media. What has happened to the face to face relationships for that good. The parent to child relationship that is being substituted for on-line or cellular relationship with who knows what influences. How do our youth relate to the people they are physically with? You, their Adult Leader in our movement, can you shoulder the responsibility of seeing that this media is not mis-used? Today, what we see, read and listen to is not neutral, it shapes our thoughts and our lives. Our 'Duty to God' teaches that we must engage in this new 'world' creatively and morally and see that the young people in our care and under our influence are similarly engaged.

Environmental camps at COP 17

While the Climate Change negotiations were going on at the International Convention Centre in Durban, more than 1,000 Scouts were exposed to a program on Climate Change out of the Kwazulu-Natal Scout Headquarters. The scouts arrived in the morning and were educated about Climate Change, the COP17, Food for Life and scouting in Germany.

70 to 80 Scouts joined the activities on a daily bases. The Scouts did activities on:

- "How can I prevent Climate Change?" through collages and mind-mapping.
- COP17 – they were given a very brief and non-technical overview of what the conference was all about and what they could expect in the city later in the afternoon.
- Food For Life, the sustainable food growing programme of SASA.
- Scouting in Germany - the Climate Change Annual Challenge last year, 'Our World Our Challenge', was a result of the partnership between Scouts in Germany (DPSG) with SASA. In this activity the Scouts were exposed to Scouting practices and methods in Germany. Questions like "How can you have a troop meeting without a flag-break start?!" were answered and games from Germany were played.

In the afternoon all the Scouts were taken to the beach to the Greenpeace tent for a screening of a movie about the vulnerability of our climate and to an exhibition where

they could visualize what they learned during the morning. They also had a fun part of the day where they got either to do a short bongo-drum workshop or a skill-workshop on climbing and how to use bow-and-arrow.

The Scouts enjoyed themselves and their interest in sustainable living and climate change was developed. For many of them this was their first trip to the city of Durban and being part of the happenings at the conference was an experience of a lifetime.

Over the weekend 800 Scouts joined in with activities from the Wildlands Conservation Trust. Thank you to Wildlands for hosting the Scouts as well as for the financial assistance with the transport.

Special thanks must go to especially to the Ackerman Family Foundation and to DPSG and World Scout Foundation for enabling SASA to plant the seeds in the youth of today so that they may be leaders of a more sustainable future tomorrow.



John – I watch you wrestle with the job of Troop Scouter and see myself in your shoes some years ago now. I realize I remained a BOY Scout well into my 20s, until I fully realized what B-Ps Scout plan really was. "Be a coach as an adult in the movement, not a player on the team."

Once I realized that I was more able to assist boys go through the GAME of Scouting and help them reach Springbok Scout. – how many individuals? I really can't say, some years 2, others 4, and my best year 8. A great deal of time, effort and frustration; then the joy and celebration.

Our Troop, at the moment, has the potential to produce 3 Springboks this coming year, your first, and you know how much effort and frustration it has taken just to get so far. Unfortunately they are all older teenagers and teenagers have and are problems in themselves.

I have just read an article; "Beautiful Brains" Moody, Impulsive, Maddening. Why do teenagers act the way they do? - I have made a copy of this article for you and ask that you read it and take what it is saying to heart. It just may make your Scouting job that much easier,

Baden-Powell, over a hundred years ago, without all our modern, marvelous scientific equipment and knowledge, understood this very situation and designed his movement around it.

Good luck on your road ahead! Unfortunately luck is also part of the job.

A Scouting friend,
Your ageing GS

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/10/teenage-brains/dobbs-text/2>

8TH ST ALBAN'S TURNS 100!

When the Ruddell brothers first opened the 8th Pretoria (St Albans) Scout Troop on the 6th March 1912, little did they know the impact it would have on their community. Despite having to endure two World Wars and the Great Depression, the group was able to remain open.

A 100 years later, and they are still going strong. To date the Troop has been awarded with 12 King Scouts, 8 Queen Scouts and 65 Springboks. This is a testament to all the Pack and Troop Scouters who have come through their doors over the years. The late Donald McMillan, also known as Mac, was

an exemplary example of one of these dedicated Scouters. He joined the group back in 1929 as a cub and remained involved with the group right up to his death in 2006. He was made a Troop Scouter just before his 18th Birthday and later became the Group Scouter of the group.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary and to give old St Albaners a chance to get together, the group has planned a number of events.

- 100th Anniversary Wine & Cheese party – 8th St Albans scout hall – Friday 2nd March 2012.
- St Albans Fun Rally, Braai & Camp Fire – St Albans scout hall – Saturday 3rd March 2012.
- Church parade – St Albans cathedral – Sunday 4th March 2012.
- Jumbo rally – Cullinan camp site – 8th to 11th September 2012.

For more information on the group and the above mentioned events please contact Tude Davies on 072 885 0929, preferably after hours.

You can also contact the Group via Facebook or on E-mail at 8ptastalban@gmail.com.



PROFILE OF A SPRINGBOK SCOUT

Dirk Swart of Amanzimtoti

Earlier this year the Press featured the acquisition of a spotter plane at Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park for the fight against rhino poaching. The two Game Rangers, Lawrence Munro and Dirk Swart, made this happen through overseas donations, which also covered the expense of their training as pilots.

Dirk Swart is a Springbok Scout. He joined the Scout Movement in 1986 as a Cub in the Coastal District and achieved all the Cub interest badges, the Leaping Wolf Badge and "Cub of the Year" awards before moving up to Scouts. A keen nature lover he already decided at the tender age of four to be a Game Ranger when he grew up. He enjoyed and learnt much from the outdoor scouting activities, PLTU, being a Patrol leader and, eventually, Troop Leader at 1st Amanzimtoti Scout Troop, which helped him in his later career. Dirk achieved his Bushman's Thong and became a Springbok Scout in 1996.

After school Dirk obtained his Diploma in Nature Conservation at Mangosuthu Technikon (Now Mangosuthu University of Technology). During his practical year with Natal Parks Board his scouting skills came into play, first at St Lucia then at Weenen Game Reserve and then finally at Royal Natal National Park. Together with

Field Rangers he had to do extended foot patrols (hiking) often up to 20 km per day. He also had to construct a bus stop (which, incidentally, featured in a short TV film "Buffalo Thorn") at Mfabeni, St. Lucia on the way to Mission Rocks, where his pioneering skills were used. Whilst still a Cadet, he applied for a position as Anti-Poaching Officer at Mkuse Game Reserve – here he found that he had to build a new team as the Anti-Poaching Unit needed a complete overhaul. Once again he could build on some of the scouting skills, particularly PLTU.

As Anti-Poaching Officer they often spent several days in the bush setting up observation posts or ambushes and had to be self-contained – provide their own rations, unlike the Army who had field kitchens or were issued with ration Packs! Later Dirk was at Kozi Bay for a few years where he was Second-in-Command (2 I C), before moving to Hluhluwe Game Reserve as Section Ranger Northern Section where he presently lives with his young family. He furthered his studies and is also a qualified Green Scorpion and attained his Private Pilot's Licence – perhaps stimulated by flying in a Microlite with Air Scouts at SANJAMB and handling the controls of a light plane in flight at the Cederberg Adventure?



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CAMPS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY DISTRIBUTION TRUST FUND



For the past 10 years the South African Scout Association has successfully run Environmental Education Camps in both the North West and the Western Cape. These camps have been made possible with funding received from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF), which has made it possible for learners to attend these camps for free.

Between the 10th October 2011 and 4th November 2011 six camps took place with 239 learners and 12 educators attending at the Sea Scout base in Sandvlei, Cape Town. The other two camps are due to get going shortly at Hawequas campsite in the Western Cape and Bundu Game lodge just outside of Welkom.

The programme of these camps is run along the lines of the Scout method, which is

complementary to Department of Education's curriculum. The following aspects are dealt with over the 2.5 day camps:

- Climate change
- Food gardening
- HIV/ Aids Awareness
- Personal hygiene and Sanitation
- Star Gazing
- Welcome to Scouting
- Sailing on RotaryScout

Experience from past EE camps show that the learners go back to their respective schools and start recycling projects and food gardens. This has had a positive effect

on both the schools they attend and the general community in which they live.



Contributions can be:

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be prepared....