

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

0860SCOUTS

Dear Colleagues

Autumn 2012

We are well into the new year and as we work on preparing motions, that when approved, will begin the implementation of the changes to the organisation a host of questions are coming up from people in the Movement.

The EXCO had a discussion on the way forward and decided that the best would be to have regional meetings with the leadership, for discussions of the critical questions. This is not intended to be a meeting of everyone in the Province but rather the senior people only so that discussions could be focussed.

It is the intention that the NSC meeting to be held in June 2012 will be used as a discussion meeting to finalise motions on these changes. This will be a meeting where further clarifications can be made and input sought from the members of the NSC towards agreeing and finalising the motions for a second NSC to be held at the end of September 2012.

For the regional and NSC discussions we are currently drawing up a clarification guide (explanatory memorandum) from the recommendations that were made. These guides will be circulated before the discussion meetings.

Name of project

At the last NSC it was suggested that as we have finalised the design phase of Project RevIT a new name should be used for the implementation phase of the project. Could interested members please submit ideas to info@scouting.org.za before 31 March 2012.

Name of Association

In the Rev It documentation and Marketing proposals it was suggested that the South African Scout Association changes its name to SCOUTS South Africa. The rationale for it is the following:

- It is easier on the tongue.
- The logo used on all documentation, marketing material etc. is the purple SCOUTS South Africa logo.
- Many of the National Scout Associations are following the trend, i.e. Scouts Canada and Scouts Australia.
- It causes confusion as the Association already uses trading as National Scout Council because the bank accounts are vested in the National Scout Council.
- The Association will need to do some name changing in the future as in some cases The Boys Scouts of South Africa is still used. The Association would want to do the exercise once and not a multiple times in one year.

Sea Scout and Air Scout logos

We have asked interested members to submit ideas for a Sea Scout and an Air Scout logo. Interesting logo designs were received, and we will use the regional and NSC meetings for further discussion on it.

Brian February and Milly Siebrits will contact the various Provinces regarding the regional meetings. If you have any questions, need clarity or have comments please forward them to info@scouting.org.za.

Kind regards

National EXCO & SteerCom

be prepared....

OLAVE - LADY BADEN-POWELL

On June 26th 1977, at the age of 88, one of last century's truly great women passed on to Higher Service – Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, widow of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of the Scout and Guide Movements.

Like her husband, she too left us a "Last Message".

Dear Guides, Scouts, Cubs and Brownies and all their leaders and friends:

I shall have left this world when you receive this message, which I leave to express my thanks for all the kindness and the affection shown to me, and to say how greatly I have rejoiced over the way in which you have all carried out your share in the work of the Movement that my beloved husband invented for the advancement of boys and girls of all countries, years ago.

I have firm belief in Almighty God and in the life in the world to come, when he and

I will be reunited, and together we shall watch over you who have been enrolled as members of this world family, and go on caring for your progress and your well being.

I trust that you will continue fully to use the system of work and play that the Movement provides, keeping up the fun and friendship made at your meetings and in camps, abiding by the Promise and upholding the Laws that you undertook to live by when you joined up.

In that way you will not only advance yourself in body, mind and spirit, but you will affect those around you in doing what is honourable and right and wise, and in giving out kindness of thought and action, thus striving against all ills

and helping to make the world a happier and better place in which to live.

I trust you will be successful in all your tasks, and may God be with you all in the coming years.



Lady Baden-Powell

DUTY TO GOD



Where there are more and more Cubs, Scouts and Guides of different faiths coming together at Scout's Owns or even in the Group, there is an increasing demand for prayers acceptable to all, we give two examples here.

In 1923 the famous Dr Annie Besant (who incidentally was deeply involved in Scouting in India) was President of the Theosophical Society, where she wrote the following prayer. It has since been used often throughout the world as a "Universal Prayer" or "Universal Invocation".

O Hidden Life,
Vibrant in every atom:
O Hidden Light,
Shining in every creature:
O Hidden Love,
Embracing all in Oneness:
May each who feels himself
As one with Thee;
Know he is therefore
One with every other.

And the universal prayer by St Francis of Assisi:

O Lord, make us instruments of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love: where there is injury, pardon: where there is discord, union: where there is doubt, faith: where there is despair, hope: where there is darkness, light: and where there is sadness, joy.

there was some hesitation about dressing-up by the boys . . . that depends was the reply, when asked for a reason, although clowns, witches, pirates and 'aliens' were acceptable themes; camp fires; hiking and walks – even through the park in uniform so that the public can see us.

- None of the Cubs I spoke to feel that they get enough trails, codes and secret messages, and scavenger and treasure hunts.

Summing it all up, it seems that although Cubbing is fun, they really enjoy and want more adventure!

Read through the above points again and you will find many exciting and interesting things that you can include in your Pack programme over the next few months.

By Jean Gobey

DO YOUR CUBS TALK TO YOU? DO YOU LISTEN TO YOUR CUBS?

All too often we spend our time with Cubs in organizing, telling, showing, disciplining, hurrying, training and having fun together – but, how often do we really get the time to LISTEN to them? To really hear what they are saying? Communication is a vital skill for all of us to master, and this implies telling and talking and, more importantly, listening and understanding.

Do you get to listen to your Cubs? Using those moments of "togetherness" on outings, after lunch at camp, or with the stragglers around a camp fire? Have you grasped the opportunity to find out what your Cubs really think about Cubbing, and your Pack? Perhaps you are in for a surprise, and get a lot of help in your future programming – especially if you chat to your ten-year-old Cubs. Here are some of the surprising, and not so surprising, things Cubs have told me.

- Topping the list of their favourite types of yarns came adventure, the ghost stories – something I was told years ago

to avoid, especially at camp, but maybe today's Cubs are different!

- All said they wished they could hear more Jungle Stories, and yarns about B-P and his many military adventures. There are many books available and you might look for "The Life of B-P – a Series of Theme programmes for Pack Meetings", by Amanda van Ryneveld.
- All the Cubs consulted enjoy cooking – especially bacon and eggs, and pancakes; fun games; handcraft; with the most popular being wood and soap carving, and the making and flying of paper aeroplanes; play acting – but



A TRIBUTE TO NEVILLE COXON

19/02/1927 to 23/08/2011

A true Sea Scout through and through



Neville Coxon

Soon after Neville arrived from Britain he joined the South African Air Force, where in Pretoria he met and married his wife Anne. In the late 1950s Neville was transferred to Cape Town and became involved with Shackleton air craft which were protecting our southern oceans.

I first met Neville when he and I were Sea Scout Leaders at a Senior Scout Adventure held at the General Botha facilities in Granger Bay – Sea Point, in the mid 1960s. A most memorable ten days using all the craft and instruction equipment of the base. A true nautical experience.

A few years later a similar course was held at the Naval Base Saldanha, where Neville was totally involved.

Even at that early stage he proudly conducted my Port Elizabeth Sea Scouts and myself over the then developing facilities at Sandvlei and outlined the future plans that Sea Scouting, through Scouting Western Cape had for that superb property.

Soon after taking up residence in Fish Hoek and with his sons being members of the Sea Scout Group in the town, his wife Anne, without his knowledge, proposed him as a committee member. He immediately got stuck in and his commitment to Sea Scouting speaks for itself.

He had a vision to build a yacht for the Scouts. He had a hull donated by Bellville Rotary and for the next seven years, worked constantly on it. "Rotary Scout" was launched in 1994. That yacht has been to Rio in 2000 and to St Helena four times, each time with Sea Scouts as crew. See the article in Scouting About Summer 2011/2012 and read the part that vessel is playing in Environmental Education Camps in the Western Cape at this very time.

Being a man that worked with his hands – woodworking and fibre-glassing, he and Nick van Gysen built a fleet of fourteen

Saldanha dinghies for Sandvlei Sea Scout Base. Not content with that, he and Colin Inglis built glass canoes for use at the Cedeberg Adventures.

For the amount of time and effort devoted to establishing Sandvlei Sea Scout Base, the hall on the property is named "The Neville Coxon Hall". And for his having initiated the Kontiki Competition, the overall Kontiki winner is awarded the "Neville Coxon Trophy"

As part of the Area Adult Leader Training Team for many years, his skills were used to train Sea Scouters in their job of training true Sea Scouts in competitions he initiated.

Though not a well man, Neville lived a full life and it can be said to be; *'A man who loved to give of himself'*. For his many accomplishments Neville was awarded the Silver Springbok by South African Scouting. The Scout Movement and many thousand Scouts have benefited from his vision and his joy of being able to give. His greatest joy was watching the Scouts sailing and enjoying what he had created for them. He was a unique man who has left a great legacy for Scouting and his adopted country.

*Colin Stretton
and Western Cape Heritage Centre*

EXTEND YOUR SCOUTING!



Go to the Library section on Scouting South Africa's web site and look for "Extend your Scouting!" This is a booklet from way back, but as pertinent today as it was then.

Is your Pack or Troop entirely of disabled Cubs or Scouts? Or are there one or two disabled kids in your Group? Children with disabilities, visual, hearing or physical, are part of our community and Scouting is for ALL children. No Scout Group should ignore this situation, and maybe say "Our section is an active unit and we would have difficulty with individuals slowing us down". That is not the Scouting way! Look at this little publication and see where disabled individuals, even adult leaders, can fit into your programme. and maybe go out of your way to "Extend Your Scouting".

Visit:
WWW.inquiry.net/outdoor/games/disabled/ and find a myriad of games and activities to be played by disabled Cubs or Scouts. You might even try them out in your very abled Cubs or Scouts unit to give them an indication of what a disabled kid faces every day.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Riley Somiah – Kwa-Zulu Natal
Semeshan Naidoo – Kwa-Zulu Natal
Jean-Luc Regaud – Kwa-Zulu Natal
Kelvin Ivankovic – Kwa-Zulu Natal
Stanley Truby – Gauteng
Andrew Edwards – Gauteng
Neofitos Evangelidis – Gauteng

SHARING THE LEADERSHIP – REDUCING THE LOAD ON ADULT LEADERS

There is no doubt that Scouting suffers continually from a shortage of adult leaders. There are just not enough trained Scouters to staff most Troops and Districts adequately. What are the reasons for this state of affairs?

When you think about it, is there really a shortage of leadership in your Troop? Maybe, too much adult leadership and too little Scout leadership. This may surprise many of our over-worked and exhausted Troop Scouters – but in most cases true.

Scouting has developed a tremendous structure with an over-emphasis on adult participation and the wrong perspective of

the place and purpose of adult activity in the Movement. How often do we hear of a Troop Scouter threatening to resign because he does not have sufficient adult assistants or the Districts with five or six ADCs. Do we really need all these adults to organise this “game for boys” which originally all they came and asked for, was just a little help?

In trying to help “these boys” we have perhaps developed a form of over-organised leadership which is robbing them of much of the joy of organization which was originally intended to be theirs – the excitement of Patrol and Troop planning

under their own leadership. The cure for Scouter burn-out, exhaustion and overwork can lie in our own hands.

In order to effect this cure, each and every Scouter must have faith and confidence in youth’s ability to lead, and secondly we must, as B-P instructed, put power and responsibility into the hands of our Patrol Leaders. The Scouter who is threatening to resign because of no adult help, probably has a number of extremely capable Patrol Leaders who are dying to get a chance of some real involvement in the Troop.

By Rob Robilliard



From Taiwan to Iceland, from Austria to Burundi, from Israel to Mexico, millions of boys and girls do their best to live by the Scout Promise and the Scout Law. For over one hundred years the words have tumbled from the lips of millions upon millions of Scouts in many, many languages. In Chinese and Urdu, in Swedish and Arabic, in Finnish and French and Greek and Afrikaans and English, every day of every week of every month of every year, these simple

words are uttered and taken to heart. So it is, too, in many African languages. Whatever language you speak, the meaning is the same. Today, as never before, these simple, meaningful words unite a vast section of the youth of the world in a common endeavour to become good citizens of their countries, and good citizens of the world.

Find a quiet place and go over your Promise and Law once again, today. Here is a great and simple code which can enrich not only your life as a boy or girl, but your whole life, as a man or woman. And by trying your best to live by it, you enrich the lives of all with whom you come in contact, for the rest of your life.

Veldlore

SCOUTING HELPED ME BE PREPARED - Bear Grills

Youngest UK Chief Scout at 37



http://scout.org/en/information_events/news/bear_grylls_interview

THE SCOUT – “IF”

With apologies to Rudyard Kipling

If you can light a fire with soggy matches,
While standing in a steady stream of rain,
And see it fizzle out before it catches
And hold your tongue, and light the thing again.
If you can fix a brew for all your brothers,
When they are in their blankets, warm and dry,
And rather you got wet than all the others,
And laugh when you are tired enough to cry:

If you can tie a knot that never fails you,
And trust it, if the worst comes to the worst
To save your life when nothing else avails you,
But put the other fellow’s safety first.
If you can give first aid to those who need it,
And treat for shock when you are shaken too,
And though you suffer badly, never heed it,
Until you’ve done the best that you can do.

If you can go on working when you’re weary,
And go on singing until your throat is dry,
If you can meet with sadness, and be cheery,
And when you fail, just have another try,
If you can trust your friends and those about you,
And yet forgive them if they should forget,
And though the whole world sometimes seems to
doubt you,
Be loyal to the task which you are set.

If you don’t put yourself before the others,
And never your Patrol before your Troop,
If you salute all races as your brothers,
In one united Universal Group:
If you can see the aim, and help to win it,
And never falter till the job is done;
Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,
And – what is more –
YOU’LL BE A SCOUT, MY SON.

Contributions can be:

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be prepared....