



■ Celebrating Third Pinelands Scouts' 50th anniversary were: Thoko Miya (from Kenilworth), her mother, Beratang, Camilla Kotze (from Marina Da Gama) from 3rd Pinelands, Ross van Rensburg (from Claremont), Michaela van Rensburg (from Claremont), Brian van Rensburg (Claremont), Carl van Rensburg (Claremont) and Katherine Kotze (from Marina Da Gama).

## Scout group marks 50 years

Toni Stuart

Reyersdall Hall in Rondebosch was abuzz with celebration as Third Pinelands Scouts celebrated their 50th anniversary on Saturday May 12.

Two hundred and sixteen people turned out to celebrate the troop's achievements and growth over the past half a century.

The Third Pinelands Scout troop was started in 1957 when the First and Second Pinelands Scout troops were full and there were more young boys interested in joining the scouts.

Hugh Macey, of Durbanville, known in scouting as Buzz, was the first troop scout of Third Pinelands when it opened. He is now a national commissioner for scouting.

Talking about the 50th anniversary,

he said: "I think it's great, particularly when you start off at the beginning and think, 'Can we make this thing work, especially with two other scout groups in the area'. Thomas Schrick played a big hand in keeping this thing going."

Buzz said he was very pleased to be able to celebrate Third Pinelands' 50th anniversary with them.

"I just think that not only have they lasted the 50 years but during that time they've had great achievements like going to Scotland and climbing Kilimanjaro," he said.

In January this year, Third Pinelands led a successful expedition up Mount Kilimanjaro, in which all 18 members of the Vibrant Souls team submitted.

In 2002, two scouters and six scouts went to Scotland to attend

an international jamboree.

And in 2003 the troop went overseas again, this time to Germany.

Troop scouter, Thomas Schrick took guests on a trip down memory lane on Saturday night, looking at their highlights and low points.

One of the low points was a drop in membership in 1986 and a cub being knocked down by a car in 1987.

But in 1988, they held a recruitment drive to grow their numbers.

Mr Schrick took over as troop scouter in 1991 and again held a recruitment campaign to increase numbers.

Chairman of Third Pinelands, Roy Nienaber, thanked Mr Schrick for his hard work and commitment throughout the years and guests gave him a standing ovation.

tion to thank him for all he had done for scouting.

"We really can't thank you enough for all the work that you do," said Mr Nienaber.

Mr Schrick has been involved in scouting for the past 27 years, having joined the scouts at the age of 13.

"Some of my best years were as a scout," he said.

"It's something I believe I wouldn't have enjoyed had I not been a scout.

"I'm a firm believer in the word 'out' in 'scout'. The more you can get the youth out to have fun, the higher your survival rate," said Mr Schrick.

He said he is elated that the group is still around after 50 years, especially when one looks at groups that were even older than they are, but no longer exist.

Along with its 50th anniversary, Third Pinelands also celebrated its 21st Springbok scout.

Kerry-Ann Little, 16, is the troop's second girl to receive her Springbok scout colours.

Formalities were interspersed with a three-course dinner. After the main meal, they watched a DVD presentation of the Vibrant Souls summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Asked, what he hoped for the next 50 years, Mr Schrick said: "Continuation. Invariably, somebody will have to take over from me, hopefully that person will have the same drive and passion."

If you would like to join Third Pinelands Scouts, call Thomas on 084 707 6204.

■ Third Pinelands Scouts troop scouter, Thomas Schrick awards Kerry-Ann Little, 16, her Springbok scout colours.

