

# Scouting About

News from Scouts South Africa.

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**SCOUTS**  
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

## Spring 2014



### Exploration and outdoor adventure whilst on EE Camps in Hawequas

The Environmental Education Camps, funded by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund and developed and coordinated by the National Scout Office, have been hugely successful and have seen hundreds of Cubs and Scouts trained all over the country.

Recently over 250 children and youths participated in five camps at Hawequas, the Scout Adventure Centre in Wellington in the Western Cape. "Our participants meet at a train station close to their Group. Our great facilitator Asanda Quwe meets them there and escorts them by train to Wellington. We have entered into a partnership with Metro rail who provides a first class coach, with a Metro Rail Ambassador and two security guards. The doors don't open at any of the stations along the way" explains Hawequas warden Kuba Miszewski when asked about the logistics of getting the Scouts to Hawequas. On arrival in Wellington the youths are met by Kuba

and taxis who transport them to the camp.

Being winter, the campers are housed indoors. "We provide separate accommodation for the girls, boys and Scouters. Since we started the camps we have not had a dull moment and have had five wonderful groups of youths eager to learn more. Some of the environmental projects included identifying and clearing alien vegetation and exploring the rivers on the farm. We really hope this enhances their love and respect for the environment around us!" says Kuba.

The EE Camps strive to develop skills and increase understanding and appreciation for how we as humans, with our own cultures and traditions, relate to our biophysical surroundings. The camps also include practising how to make informed decisions and how to develop and live by an outdoor behaviour code when it comes to protecting and conserving the quality of our environment.

The EE camps also serve as a catalyst to provide Scouts with knowledge and tools to achieve their World Scout Environment Badge.

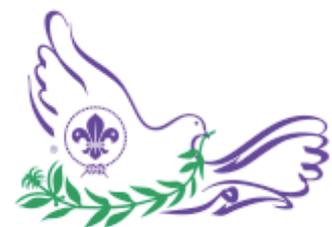


2nd Khayallitsha Troop at Hawequas.

### CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



- Benjamin Alexander – Western Cape
- Emer Mae Butler – Western Cape
- Jordan-Leigh Timmerman – Western Cape
- Rudolph Backer – Mpumalanga
- Matthew de Toit – KwaZulu-Natal
- Emma Gultig – KwaZulu-Natal
- Benjamin Houghton – KwaZulu-Natal
- Nathisvaran Govender – KwaZulu-Natal
- Jodi Rae Weeks – KwaZulu-Natal
- Michael Saunders – KwaZulu-Natal
- Laura Troost – Western Cape
- Henri Theron – Western Cape
- Jessica Old – Western Cape
- Matthew Arnott – Western Cape



**Messengers of Peace**

Reading your mail and experiencing your MoP Good Turn efforts, I understand that so many of our Scout Groups have been, and are doing, voluntary work in so many areas. Make sure that our national office gets your reports and photos so that these magnificent actions can be reported, and added to, the MoP International timeline.

be prepared....

## A great loss for Scouting and the South African steel industry

It is with great sadness that SCOUTS South Africa announces the passing away on Monday 1/9/2014 of **Cecil Reddy** whom for many years gave his time and expertise to the South African Scouting Movement. Mr Reddy was the Chief Executive of MacDonald Holdings in Durban.



Cecil Reddy joined SCOUTS South Africa as an adult and was actively involved in the growth of our Scouting Movement. He was passionate about the importance of the Scouting values for future leaders and embraced the skills taught to thousands of children and youths nationwide. For many years he was a member of the National Scout Council and served as the Finance Committee Chairman. Currently, as a Trustee of the Scout Foundation which holds in trust the investments of SCOUTS South Africa, he contributed to the sustainability of Scouting in our country. In 2007 he was welcomed as a Baden Powell Fellow, a distinguished order reserved for those selected people who serve Scouting.

Mr Reddy worked as the Sales Director of MacDonald Steel SA (Pty) Limited for over two decades until acquiring the company in

1992. As the Chief Executive he expanded the business into a South African diversified industrial group incorporating steel stockholding and distribution; heavy, light and precision engineering; automotive body fabrication; and pipe manufacturing. Under his management MacDonald Holdings grew from two divisions and 70 employees to 16 companies that employ

more than 800 people. He served as a Director on all the companies that comprise Macdonald Holdings. Mr. Reddy was acknowledged as one of South Africa's astute business leaders and, at 29, was the youngest mayor ever elected in the country.

Cecil Reddy was an example to many in the Scouting Movement and his passing will be greatly felt. "On behalf of the Scout Board, the Chief Scout Mr Sibusiso Vilane, all our Commissioners and uniformed and non-uniformed members we express our appreciation to the family for the contribution Mr Reddy made to Scouting and promise to emulate his commitment to uphold values in the movement" said Prof B Khumalo, Chairman of the National Scout Board. **MAY HE REST IN PEACE**

I have just returned to my office after attending a funeral. The funeral of **Rodney Barker**, a long time Area lay-chairman and one time President of the old Cape Midlands Division of Scouting who died at the age of 88 on the 6th September 2014. As his sons stood up, during the funeral service, and said what a great father they had had and even mentioned the encouragement they had received during their Scouting years, I thought back and recalled the times I had "hated" the man. As a volunteer, was I not giving up so much of my time already, but no, Rod expected even more from us all. Each and every activity, Join-in-Jamboree, J.O.T.A. weekend, Area Fete or whatever, had to be planned to perfection and executed without a hitch. As young Scouters this taught us "know it alls" that good enough was never enough. He was so right – "If something was worth doing in Scouting or elsewhere in your life, then it was only right that you did it to your best ability."

My thoughts dwelt on one occasion, the 1982 - 75th Anniversary Jamborally, organized and held at "Gilsands" our now extinct training facility and Scout camping area. With Rod



**Rob Barker receiving a plaque from the Transkei contingent at the Jamborally.**

egging us on, we organized a camp of two thousand Cubs and Scouts with their leaders under canvas, which included a Patrol of Scouts, one each from all the other Areas (Provinces) in the country and one Patrol from Namibia. The main activity during that camp, remembering the 75th Anniversary of Scouting, the re-enactment of B-Ps "Brownsea Island Camp", with borrowed white bell tents, and the commentary being read over loud speakers by a professional actor who later became very well known throughout South Africa. Not only was the audience all the Cubs and Scouts, their parents, friends of Scouting, but the entire National Scout Council who had met in P.E. that same weekend. As Camp Leader on that occasion, I was "chuffed" to receive congratulations from Colin Inglis, the Chief Scout at the time, Arthur Johnstone, Carveth Geach, and Chas. Martin, all past Chief Scouts and many of the other Council members, for how well everything had been conducted. Thank you Rod for the "nice" way you got things over to us, "to do our best" at all times. Our Scouting management became so much better with Rod guiding us.

## B-P's OUTLOOK

*Faith, Hope and Love*



It has been said that youth is fortified by hope and old age is soothed by content. Youth looks forward with hope, old age looks around with content, and some day, when I grow old, I am going to look round with great content. In the meantime you who are not over eighty-one must go on with the work you are doing; there couldn't be better work, and you will be earning your old-age pension of content when you will be able to look back with satisfaction on having done a work that was worthwhile. And to the younger ones I say press forward with Hope; mix it with optimism and temper it with the sense of humour which enables you to face difficulties with a sense of proportion. Press forward with a Faith in the soundness of the Movement and its future possibilities, and press forward with Love which is the most powerful agent of all. That spirit of love is, after all, the spirit of God working within you.

Remember, "Now abideth Faith, and Hope, and Love – these three. But the greatest of these is Love." Carry on in that spirit and you cannot fail.

*December, 1937*



**18-19 October 2014**

## 100 YEARS OLD AND STILL A SCOUT AT HEART

On the 1st of June **Lionel Cohen** celebrated his 100th birthday! He joined the Scouting Movement at the age of 13 and in 1997 he received the 70 year Bar to his Long Service Award. Until recently when his Group closed he was still an active member.

He served the Movement as the Scoutmaster of the 10th Green and Sea Point Troop, the Assistant Divisional Commissioner - (Special Duties), Regional Commissioner of the Western Cape, Chief Judge for the Gordon's Shield and longest serving member in South Africa. Now after 87 years of service to the Scouting Movement and Green Point in particular, Lionel Cohen has achieved another milestone, he is 100 years old!

Over his years he has achieved many awards, including the Medal of Merit and Bar, Long Service Medal and Bar, the Life Commissioner and Longest Serving Member Awards as well as the Gordon Shield Award and not to forget the Order of the Silver Protea with reiterated his servitude and Scouting heart.

It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to spend a lifetime living according to the Scout Promise and Law and giving back to others. Both from him and his wife Joan. It is clear that **Lionel Cohen** is living testimony of the saying "once a Scout, always a Scout!"

## Chief Scout summits Kilimanjaro in support of girls in poor communities

On the 18th of July Chief Scout Sibusiso Vilane summited Kilimanjaro for the 18th time. The Chief of the South African Scouting Movement summited the highest peak on the African continent in a bid to raise funds for 'Track 4 Mandela' an initiative of the Imbumba Foundation, a charity that strives to support girls in poor rural communities.

"In our country many girls who live in very poor circumstances miss school on a monthly basis as they do not have access to sanitary towels", he explains. "In 2012 I was approached by an old friend of mine, Richard Mabaso, to support him in raising funds to purchase packets of sanitary towels that can be handed out for free so that girls do not miss out on school. Education is very important and I really want to empower girls to embrace their own futures and seize the opportunity of being educated. Our aim was to summit Kilimanjaro on Mandela Day and raise funds to purchase 67 000 packets of sanitary towels. In reality we raised over

100 000 packets, so I am very grateful."

As for the Kilimanjaro climb itself, it seems that the adventurous mountaineer had a blast! "There were ten people in our expedition and it took us 6 days from entering the gate to summit and return down. We took the less travelled route and it was a terrific climb! The weather was lovely, the enthusiasm in the group was good, I had fun with a purpose and did my best to serve, like a good Scout should," he chuckles.

Chief Scout Sibusiso Vilane will be running the Cape Town Marathon in September 2014 to raise funds for SCOUTS South Africa.



## KWAZULU-NATAL RALLY

On the 6th September, over 1500 Cubs and Scouts from the KZN Province took part in the annual Scouts South Africa Competition Rally. Minister of Finance Nhlaniah Nene and Chief Scout Sibusiso Vilane attended the event which took place at the Outdoor Centre in Ladysmith.

This year the winning Cub Pack was 1st Mbhasobheni Pack from the Zululand District. The Scout Troop who took the trophy was 1st Imbaliyamazulu Troop from Pinetown District.

Minister Nhlaniah Nene spoke to the adult leaders and youths present and stated "The values of Scouting have endured the many changes that our society has gone through. A Scout is a leader and a good Scout must have hope. Continue to uphold the values of Scouting as they will serve you well, and look to your Chief Scout who is an inspiration to all of you." He continued by saying "If we have civil servants and politicians who subscribe to the Scout values there would be



less corruption. If we have a private sector subscribing to the values of Scouting, we will have a better world."

Chief Scout Sibusiso Vilane was thrilled, and addressed the young people, saying "Today

looking at you to take over the leadership of the country when we are all gone. You must remember that you are all limitless!"

For the past two months Cub and Scout Groups throughout the province competed in district skill competitions. The winners of each district came together for this exciting Rally and showcased their talents and knowledge while competing to be the best of the province! The various events included cooking a meal without utensils, first aid, knowledge on HIV & AIDS Prevention, the values embedded in the Scout Promise and Law, environmental and national symbols. Prizes were up for grabs as well as the title "Best Scout Troop" and "Best Cub Pack" in the province for 2014.

you all displayed amazing talent and passion and this is what Scouting wants to encourage from every one of it's members. It's so important to find your hidden talents. When the Scouting Movement gives you opportunities, you must grab them! We are

The Rally was hosted by SCOUTS South Africa with the support of the Dept. of Education of Kwazulu-Natal and the travel expenses funded by local government.

## GILWELL RE-UNION

The Gilwell Re-union, as everyone knows, is an occasion of great heartiness. As you stroll around in the autumn sunshine there are so many good fellows about that it is no wonder that good-fellowship is the keynote. A perfect stranger greets you like a long lost brother. A fist like a ham grips your arm. "There is someone over here," they cry, "who is dying to meet you." You tag along obediently, trying to look modest and unassuming but inwardly thrilled by the glory of it all, only to find that the person who is "longing to meet you" is more interested in chatting up the young lady in her brand new scarf and beads.

Another will plant himself in front of you as you hurry to the Training Ground to catch the last flight of the hot air balloons. "You don't remember me, do you?" he cries accusingly. "Scout Course one-nine-one. August 1985," and then to remind you, he trots out some fable about some idiotic thing you were supposed to have said, or done, in the long-forgotten year. Very embarrassing it can be at times, but on the whole heart-warming and extremely flattering to the ego.



front of the White House and met a man with whom I had had a most interesting conversation not so very long before. He has forgotten it, and me, completely. I reminded him of our conversation. "I think you must be confusing me with someone else," he murmured and moved on to seek more congenial company, leaving me standing there like a hot-air balloon that had refused to rise. I wish I knew whether he had truly forgotten me, or was merely trying to cut me down to size.

Alas, I did not see the flight of the model hot-air balloons but I was told that they went up in great style despite the strong breeze that was blowing at the time.

*John Sweet*

## YOUNG SKYDIVER RECEIVES HIS WINGS

Almost ten years after joining Scouts as a Cub in Port Elizabeth, a teenager, 16 year old **Karl Whitlock** of St Columba's Scout Group, has been awarded his Parawing badge for completing a solo skydive and the ground safety training.



"After the training, I did five static line jumps with Eastern Cape Skydiving in Grahamstown. When I started I was fairly nervous, but once in the plane and preparing to jump, I was excited." said a beaming Karl. "This will go a long way towards my ultimate goal of becoming a pilot."

His parents, Kevin and Zelda, both of whom are involved in Scouting in the city, said it was quite nerve-racking to watch your son jump out of a plane. "We only relaxed once Karl was back on the ground."



Mind you it cuts both ways. Nothing is worse than when you, in your turn, greet a fellow Gilwellian with traditional heartiness and are received with polite non-recognition. It happened to me at the last Re-union. I had gate-crashed an after-lunch coffee party on the lawn in



*Courtesy of 1st Polokwane Troop and his Scout team built this tower as his Springbok Project. Not only was the tower of majestic proportions but served the team as a practice abseiling structure.*

## FROM INDIA: A SOLAR WATER LENS

This interesting experiment, idea for a Solar Camp, comes from India.

1. Take the rim of an old bicycle wheel, without tyre or spokes.
2. Cover the rim with a sheet of clear, transparent plastic, tying it with cord around the inside rim.
3. Support the plastic-covered rim about waist high – perhaps suspend it from a tall tripod in full sunlight..
4. Slowly pour clear water into the plastic.
5. The plastic will sag, forming a "water lens". At some point, the lens will focus the sun's rays into a "hot spot" at ground level.
6. If you put a cooking utensil, such as a billy at the focal point (the "hot spot") filled with say rice and water. When the sun is at its hottest – from 11 a.m. onwards – the rice could be cooked in a couple of hours. Maybe you might have to move the billy to remain in the exact "hot spot" as the sun arches overhead.

You don't have to confine the experiment to cooking rice – you could for instance try a packaged soup.

Note: For increased efficiency, cover the cooking utensil top with a sheet of glass, and put insulating material around the utensil – such as old newspaper – to decrease loss of heat through the sides of the utensil. You can also paint the outside of the utensil matt black.

*Veld Lore*

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be prepared....