

# MPUMALANGA

## Scouting

B.P.'s unwritten 11th Scout Law— "A scout is not a fool!"  
'Rovering to Success'

Volume 2 Issue 2

April 2001

### Comments from our Deputy Area Commissioner -

We have all recently come back from the Founders' Camp—B.P. Camp 2001. All of us were blessed with the B.P. spirit and remembered that we Scouters were there, not for ourselves, not for B.P., but for the boys and girls of Mpumalanga. I have always believed in the Scout Motto and the eleventh Scout Law - I urge all Scouters to stand firm in their belief and to always put the need of the boys and girls before our own.

The future of the Movement and the Scouts depends on our commitment - not Dudley's

responsibility alone to lead the Movement, but all of us. And here, I welcome Brenda and Dudley home and hope they had a pleasant visit in the U.K. and Germany.

To the "entertainment" Scouters busy preparing for the German tour, it is not too long before you leave and we trust you will make us proud!

Let the B.P. Spirit live on!  
Elvis Mdaka

*The Scouts Own Service on Sunday -*



**B.P. Camp 2001.** The annual B.P. Camp held at the White River Municipal Swimming Pool for the Nsikazi, Inyamazane and East Districts, was a great success. A Rover Scout and Troop Leader from Swaziland joined our local Cubs and Scouts. A total of 334 camped, visited and took part in the weekend. We were privileged to have 12 Rover Scouts and Scouters from D.P.S.G., Germany to assist with the programme.

Activities for the Scouts' and Guides' Patrols included building a bridge over a Donga, treating and transporting the injured on an improvised stretcher and making a 3D model of a given map. The activity which proved most popular was lighting a meths stove and cooking a jam tin of popcorn, working from outside a 4 metre diameter circle with the stove in the centre!

In the meantime, the Cubs and Brownies had a wonderful time with their theme programme on Mafikeng, looking for lost horses, making search lights, silk screening blanket patches, making musical instruments and, of course, the sponge and water fights!

The huge campfire on Saturday night saw plenty of talent in dance and fun from local Groups, Swaziland and Germany. Sunday's B.P. Service was led by ADC Cubs Wendy Brown and several of the Scouters. Mr. Pierre Potgieter, local businessman, former Rotarian and ex-White River Scout, spoke of how Scouting had influenced and helped him throughout his life.

Tired, but happy young people went home, glad they are members of the World wide Scout and Guide Movements—which all began with B.P.'s first experimental Scout camp 94 years ago!

### The first Scouters to gain their Woodbadges in Mpumalanga

These 13 Pack and Troop Scouters are the first to be trained at home in the Mpumalanga Area for their Woodbadges, the world wide symbol of a qualified Scouter.

At the Scouts Own service at the East B.P. Camp, each was presented with the Woodbadge beads on a leather thong, replicas of those on the ceremonial necklace of Chief Dinizulu, which was obtained by B.P. The Gilwell Scarf with the square of McLaren tartan on the back, which they wear, is named after the world's first Training Grounds in England—Gilwell Park—and in memory of the McLaren family who donated the grounds to the Scouts.

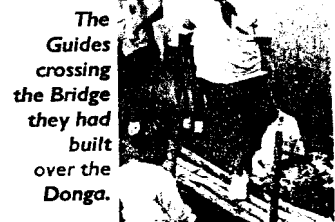
When a Scouter receives the Woodbadge, he or she automatically becomes a member of the World's largest Scout Group, the 1st

Gilwell Park Group, with its members in every Scouting country in the world.

We are proud of these fine Scouters!



**Presentation of Woodbadges: BP Camp 2001.**  
Front row: Stanley Baloyi, Rebecca Mngomezulu, Nomathemba Maphanga, Eugenia Nkosi, Julia Mwale, Solitha Themba, and Antony Sandleni.  
Back row: Samson Lumphondo Dick Manzini, Paul Nyoni, Joseph Maphanga, Elvis Mdaka and Raymond Madlophe.



*The Guides crossing the Bridge they had built over the Donga.*

**PLEASE!! ARTICLES / DISTRICT REPORTS** for the next issue of **MPUMALANGA SUN**

must be in by 10th June 2001, to—

The Editor, PO Box 3629, White River 1240.

OR e-mail:

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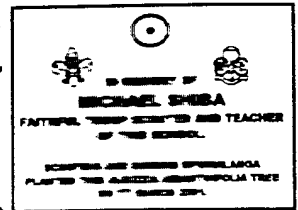
Jane Vilekazi with Cub Tswarelo Malope & Scout Siphiso Mndawe beside the Albizzia Adianthifolia-Tree they have planted.

## Tree Planting Ceremony—

Cubs, Scouts, Scouters, Guides and Guiders joined the 1st Cophetsheni Cubs and Scouts in planting a tree in the school grounds in memory of Michael Shiba. The Drum Majorettes led the procession to the school where Pack Scouter Jane Vilekazi welcomed everyone.

Michael Nsimba, 1st Mthayiza Troop Scouter was Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Mandla Mkombo spoke on behalf of the school, and Dumisane Shiba on behalf of the family. The Cophetsheni Cub and Scout choir sang an item, and all the Scouters and Guiders sang a tribute to Michael. Assistant Area Commissioner Charlie Baty and Nsikazi District

Commissioner Douglas Mabuza, stressed the importance of the day—one of commitment to going forward to fulfill the vision of Scouting and



The plaque affixed to the wall beside the tree.

Guiding for all in Mpumalanga. As the tree, tended by the Cubs and Scouts, would grow big and tall, giving shade to all, a home for the birds and a climbing tree for the children, so the Cubs and Scouts, Brownies and Guides, who are looked after by their leaders, would grow up to serve the community, following the example of Scouter Michael Shiba.

## Two former Scouts share their stories with Mpumalanga S<sub>co</sub>U<sub>ti</sub>N<sub>g</sub>

Pierre Potgieter, and his brother Dion joined the 1st White River Scout Troop in the early 1970's, Pierre in the Springbok Patrol and Dion in Hippo Patrol. Pierre's father and mother both became involved as active Group Committee members.



Pierre, holding the green 1st White River scarf in the picture, eventually became Patrol Leader of the Springboks and led them through many Scouting experiences, including adventures on the old overnight steam train trips to Pretoria for the B.P. Services in the City Hall,

which was always packed to capacity.

Pierre and his wife Louise have done much for the community. It was a privilege a couple of years ago, for Mpumalanga Scouting to assist Pierre by building a raft on which the new Toyota Hilux bakkie was floated for the National launch outside White River.

March saw the visit of yet another old White River Scout, Deon McDonald, back for a couple of weeks from



Atlanta in America, where he and his wife, Kate, have settled. Deon was both Cub and Scout in the White River Group from 1981 to 1989. He too, became a very competent PL and was one of the 7 White River Scouts selected for the S.A. Contingent to the 16th World Jamboree in Australia in

December 1987—the highlight of his Scouting career in "Bringing the world together" the theme of the Jamboree.

Deon and Kate returned to America leaving best wishes to Scouting Mpumalanga, and the invitation to anyone going to the U.S.A. at any time, to visit them at their Atlanta home.

## Why do we keep records?



The time and effort needed to keep accurate records for Packs and Troops is donated cheerfully by some Pack and Troop Scouters, grudgingly by others. Some leaders keep no records at all. And yet the importance of keeping records must surely be appreciated by everyone. No one in the professions or business world could conduct his daily affairs efficiently without records. Why should Scouting or any other activity be different? Besides providing a necessary detail of a boy's progress in Scouting, keeping accurate records is a form of courtesy too.

When (or if) you resign as Scouter, you should be able to turn over to your successor, complete and legible records of every boy in your section. This will enable him or her to carry on your work in the most effective manner. In the same way, when a boy

moves to another place and joins a new group, the information recorded by his former Scouter will be of value to his new leader.

Boys' and parents' memories can be faulty and carefully kept records will immediately confirm if service awards are due. Progress Charts faithfully kept act as a spur to greater achievement and provide the boys with much needed recognition. Not only that, but when a complete HISTORY (Log or Scrap Book) of the Group is maintained, when it comes to contacting former Scouts and Cubs for Anniversary functions it is easy—and what a pleasure to be able to show all those "Grown-ups" their pictures and stories when they were very young!

As a Scouter, will YOU do your part?



## Ideas for Pack Programmes

(With acknowledgements to former National Cub Commissioner, Mrs. Jean Gobey's newsletter).

The Cub page in the March 1987 edition of SCOUTING reads ... "It begins with ... M" It seems that they are developing programmes on the different letters of the alphabet and this is a novel and very inspiring suggestion to follow. Under the letter M they suggest :-

moon - mars - memory games - messages - mothers - marzipan sweets - money - monkeys ... and with these eight topics alone I can see a wonderful Pack Programme being developed. Next time you do not know what to put into your Pack Pro-

gramme, why not take the letter C for Cubs, or the first letter of your name, or just any letter, and together with your helpers brainstorm words and develop a programme around these words. For example, the first letter of my name "J" could give you:-

**Jupiter**—a steam release space travel game. **Jacaranda**—time to observe trees breaking into blossom, or any nature topic. **Jazz**—Cubs enjoy a sing-song, or make musical instruments and play them. **Jobs**—play acting round the different work people do. **Jump**—an active relay incorporating

long or high jump. **Jungle**—a yarn from the Jungle Book. **Jackal**—following the yarn, why not attempt the Tabaqui Dance (see Wolf Cubs Handbook, page 26). **Jingles**—a sense training game listening to & identifying radio / TV advertisements



Not only is this easy, but it can be a lot of fun and never again will you need to wonder what you can use as a theme for the Pack meeting. Your Cubs will enjoy the activities too. Do try it, and have fun!

## Guiding Notes from the Diaries of Guide Commissioners Jan Davidson & Eunice Rikhotso.

S.A. National Guide Meetings were held in Johannesburg in March, both Jan & Eunice attended. Those present included National President Isobel Direko (Premier of the Free State), National Commissioners Jenny Watson and Eugenia Mbhekeni. Five days of hard work on the Guides' Transformation Challenge 10-Point Action Plan. This is designed to streamline internal and user-friendly workings of the As-

sociation to make it effective from the bottom up as well as top / down, (all Guides are friendly anyway!). Christian, Stephen, Björn and Thomas from Germany, paid a flying visit with Jan round the Guide Companies in the Middelburg District.

Busisiwe Mokoena, Nomsa Masina, Antoinette Palmer and Alison Young (replacing Elise Fourie) are ready for the Africa Region Conference in Cape

Town (30 June - 8 July) where they will work on the Conference Staff and attend Workshops during their off times.

Eunice said 3 Guiders, Nancy Nkosi, Numsa Mnisi & Sarah Matsane together with 16 Brownies were invested at Maqamela school in front of a good turnout of parents. Guiders please note to invite non Guiders and prospective Guiders (& Scouters!) to observe our enrolments.

## Cub Capers .....

Did you know that the **Vulamasango Cubs** are Pied Pipers? Do you remember the story of the Pied Piper who got rid of all the rats by leading them away to the sound of his Pipe? The townspeople never said thank you and never paid him. So he led all their children away too! Well, Akela Rebecca Mngomezulu used this story as her Pack Programme when Dee and Charlie visited them. They really had fun being Pied Pipers, and the theme being RATS, they had to make a picture of a rat with leaves and

seeds (all natural materials) glued on to the outline.

**1st Mhola Cub Pack** in Barberton is the newest Cub Pack in the Area. Seventeen brand new Cubs made their Promise in front of District Commissioner Jerry Brown, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, Wendy Brown and their parents. Pack Scouters Gezephi Zulu and Thotshiswe Mtshali had organised the Cubs to entertain their guests with a demonstration of Ballroom Dancing before the Pack Meeting.

**1st Tenteleni's** Vegetable theme gave rise to plenty of fun and laughter. The story of the "Big Pumpkin", Potato Race, planting seeds, preparing vegetables—



APS Gertrude Nkosi handing out seeds for planting.

Using the peels and cooking



the vegetable curry! ... See the photo

Akela Eugenia

Nkosi ran her first Camp at **Buhlebuyeta** for 112 Cubs, Scouts, Guides & Leaders. The Cubs reported:-

... "Bekhumnandzi ngoba benisphethe kamnandzi ngoba bengidla kahle ende ngilale kahle ngavuka nga geza ngabuye nganaksa lifiya nesinkwa nema gcanza nema thende bekamahle kakhulu ende msebenti bewukhana uhambe kahle futsi uphele khahle futsi siyabonga lakwentile." ... "I was happy because you sing and they look beautiful. First I was happy about Chali because he was here with us" ... "Bekhumnandzi silele kahle sipheke kamnandzi sidlale ma-games lamnandzi makhulu sigezekamnandzi. Bekhumnande kakhulu ngebe besilangene labancane. Besihlangene nalabanye bangani betwu bekuncamp firi. Sihlabelela sadlala ma-games siyabonga." ... "The campfire was very very good. It was fun."

The Cubs' "Rat" pictures





B.P.'s unwritten 11th Scout Law—  
"A scout is not a fool"

## FORTHCOMING TRAINING COURSES

May 5th-6th— Jungle Background and Scout Skills (WEST)

The above is postponed due to the additional Cub Warrant Course

June 25th-26th—Training Aids, Cub Skills, Scout Skills (EAST)

### Additions to Diary:-

April 27th-30th—CUB WARRANT (in the West) Applications close on 20th April. (Moved forward from July 2001).

September 21-24—SCOUT WARRANT. (in the EAST.)

Scout Week—June 11th to 17th.



**SCOUTERS AND GUIDERS—  
BE SURE TO CIRCULATE THIS  
MAGAZINE TO ALL YOUR**

## HOW SALUTING BEGAN two-part Law of the Wolf Cub Pack.

Do you know how saluting began?

It is a very old custom, going right back to the Middle Ages. In those days knights took part in combats to test their skill with a spear and a lance. A high-born lady usually presented the prizes to the winning knights, who would shade their eyes with their hand as they approached, as if dazzled by the lady's beauty. This gesture gradually became a general token of respect.

The Scout and Cub Salute, of course, mean more than respect. The three fingers

of the Scout salute represent the three parts of the Scout Promise, while the two up-raised fingers of the Cub salute, besides representing the two ears of the wolf, are a reminder of the

The SCOUT SIGN is given at an investiture or when re-affirming the Promise. The Scout Sign is NOT used by the Cubs. There is NO Cub sign.



SALUTES are given on the following occasions and are used irrespective of whether the head is bare or covered:

- As a greeting. Scouts and Scouters salute one another.
- As a token of respect. At the hoisting of the National Flag or flags of other countries.
- A Scout gives the salute when reporting to receive an order and again when he departs after receiving an order.
- At a March Past. No salute is given in Church or when flags are lowered.



**GUIDING MPUMALANGA** wish to acknowledge with really grateful thanks and with Good Guide Cheers—the tents and cooking equipment supplied under the auspices of our good friends in Nangu Thina. *Thank you all!*

## NEWS FROM THE TROOPS . . . .



*Jerry, Collin & Reuben of the Training Team, watching the fun.*

Assistant Leader Trainer Jerry Brown, always has something "up his sleeve" (in other words, a surprise for us) - And once again at the Scout Basic Skills Course he came out with 3 poles per Patrol and challenged them to get themselves at least 300 mm. Off the ground. It's a good puzzle! Our Scouters on course had fun—try it yourselves!

How many Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Scouters, Guiders, Parents, know what wild plants they can eat and which are poisonous?

*Patrols and Deputy Area Commissioner Identifying the plants.*



Well, 1st Mataffin Troop do! At a recent Troop meeting 12 different plants were shown to the Scouts for them to identify. They did it very well, and those they didn't know, Troop Scouter Raymond Madlophe helped them out. At the

same Troop meeting Deputy Area Commissioner Elvis Mdaka showed the Scouts electrical safety and wiring a plug, while Assistant Troop Scouter Paul Nyoni had a survival Quiz for them. That evening, Area Commissioner Dudley James brought Rev. Ron Howard, White River Methodist Minister to see Scouting in Action. Rev. Ron told the PLs and Scouters that it was 50 years since he was in a Scout Troop Meeting. The last time was in Tanzania where he did his Scouting!



*"Oxygen is Life—Life is never a Vacuum" -*

That's the message Assistant Area Commissioner for Development. Dick Manzini, left with 1st Mayfern when he visited the Troop Meeting recently. The Scouts discussed their duties in the conservation of the country's resources, especially the trees and plants which give us the oxygen. Dick tested the amount of oxygen in an upturned jar with a candle burning inside—a good example. The Patrols went on to tackle several challenges, when even Dick was surprised at their success and ingenuity. Mayfern Scouts are sharp!