

# MPUMALANGA

## Scouting

Turn to the right and  
keep straight on.  
B-P in "Girl Guiding"

Volume 2, Issue 4  
August 2001

**Our Area Commissioner Comments on Advertising :-** You must have all seen the Nissan Advert on TV which ends with the man saying, "It's almost like being a boy scout all over again". Did you know that you are the biggest Advert for Scouting and Guiding? That because you are a Brownie, Guide, Cub or Scout, and you've promised to Do Your Best, you will be especially selected because everyone knows that you will stick to your Promise and carry out the task to the best of your ability. You are the Advert.

Recently we've had some wonderful Adverts for Scouting and Guiding Mpumalanga. The Sekunjalo Scouters Choir's tour through Germany; the Scottish Scouts on their visit to South Africa; and the example of 1st Mataffin Scouts and Guides joining hands with the Social Club to build the Community Hall. Each of these three events opened the eyes of everyone to see the ideals, values and benefits of Scouting.

IF you carry out a task well and enthusiastically - IF you carry out your daily Good Turn - IF you wear your uniform smartly and proudly at all times - in fact, IF you carry out your Law and Promise faithfully, you will be the best Advert for Scouting, ever!

People will notice you, and doors will open for you, because you are a member of the Scout and Guide Movements.

## 1st Mataffin Celebrates with their Community

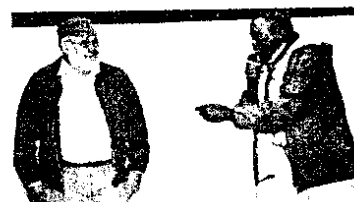
Seven years ago, former ATS 1st Nelspruit, Brian (Kehla) Birchall, member of the Staff of H.L.Hall & Sons, got together with three or four keen prospective Scouters and established the 1st Mataffin Scout Troop. Brian became Group Scouter and has always encouraged and advised the Scouters as the Troop continued to grow and take its place in the local Community. Today it is one of the strongest groups in Mpumalanga.

7th July was a proud day when 6 months of hard work and building by the Scouts and Guides, along with members of the Mataffin Movers Social Club, culminated in the opening of their wonderful Community Hall. MD of H.L. Hall & Sons, Dr. Rob Snaddon, who, together with Area Commissioner Dudley James, performed the Opening Ceremony, said, "The great achievement was not just the completion of the Hall, but that they'd done it all on their own."

ATS Paul Nyoni (Paul is also chairman of the Movers Social Club), gave the history of the Hall, TS Raymond Madlophe spoke about the Troop and read a tribute in verse to Brian Birchall. Mr. S. Mkhonto, on behalf of the parents, thanked the

Scouters for making Scouting available to the boys. Area Commissioner Dudley James said the Mataffin Scouts have set a great example to be followed by everyone, and Mr. Fraser Nyoni, Local Council representative, spoke in support of the youth of the community. Deputy Area Commissioner Elvis Mdaka, thanked all those who had supported the fund-raising for the building project, and all those who contributed materials. He spoke of the international support of Scouting from Germany, Netherlands, England and Scotland, and said what a pleasure it was to have the Scottish Scout Contingent present. He said our good Scout friend from Germany, Uwe Bothur, always emphasised Community projects, so the Mataffin Scouts had followed his advice. Elvis then called upon Mr. Hugh Hall and Mrs. Mdaka of the Guides to make presentations to those who had rendered outstanding service during the project.

On the entertainment side, the Scouts, led by Dikon Nkosi, did their Gumboot Dance, the local Church Youth Choir sang several items and the Scout 4 GEES Dance Group were really amusing. The Mpumalanga Scouters' Sekunjalo Choir, recently returned from their tour of Germany, was



Raymond reading the tribute in verse to "Kehle" Brian Birchall.

One of the Amagundane dancers greeting two Scottish Scouts.



outstanding. The Mataffin Dancers, the Amagundane, danced in traditional Celebration, after which refreshments and good fellowship were enjoyed, bringing a memorable day to a close.

## West of Scotland Scouts a credit to their Nation—and to Scouting!

Scouting Mpumalanga, in particular the White River Scout Group, hosted the 26 strong Scottish Contingent for their 5-day stay during their South African Adventure. In spite of the various hiccups, hitches and breakdowns with transport, their visit was a very memorable one for all concerned. Their Sudwala Crystal Caves tour—excitement in itself, thanks to the Sudwala Staff who were so willing, after a late arrival, to take the Scouts through, even although it meant a 19h00 completion time in the dark on a Friday night!

The Kruger National Park lived up to its name and revealed so much of its animal secrets, not to mention just the thrill of camping the night in the Park. A taste of Sabie, Gras-kop, and a peep through God's Window all added to the experience. Fox's Adventure took them up (and down!) the Barberton



Outside Sudwala ready for the Crystal Caves Tour.



4 Mr. Makatini's with Charlie singing "That's the reason noo I wear the kilt" - L-R Scottish Scouters George Stobbs, Joe Davis and Drew Young.

mountains and brought them home again in the dark, this time due to one obstinate local Combi! The busloads of little school children at Sudwala had never seen so many Mr. Makatini's in their lives! Charlie was able to prove that he isn't the only Scouter to wear the kilt!

Those who hosted, those who helped, members of the Public—all commented without a doubt that these smart young Scottish Scouts were a pleasure to have around and were a credit to Scouting. On the Sunday, prior to the arrival of these Scouts, Charlie had a telephone call from an ex-DC from Pretoria to say their Church Congregation had the most wonderful surprise and experience to have a contingent of Scottish Scouts join in their service. And they were all so smart - such a good advert for Scouting!

**U IN SCOT MAKES U A SCOUT!**



## SNAKES ALIVE! WHAT MONKEY BUSINESS!

What a fitting way to celebrate three events simultaneously! It was the end of Scout Week, Youth Day and part of the Toughees Challenge—Saturday, 16th June 2001. If you had been in the Nelspruit Botanical Gardens that day you would have been in for a big surprise.



TOUGHIES  
NATIONAL  
CHALLENGE 2001

The CUBS from Mpumalanga East District got together and after being placed into random Sixes, they had a Scavenger hunt to find jigsaw pieces which they assembled to find an animal that was on the endangered list. We wonder who had most fun, the CUBS as they raced around to find their treasure, or the monkeys who chitter-chattered and scampered around in the trees watching such jollity.

In their Sixes, the CUBS prowled through the gardens seeking all kinds of insects, butterflies, animals, fish, snails and reptiles that Akela had cunningly hidden in the most unlikely places. The twist in the tail was a Kim's game—they had to

remember all the animals and tell Akela about all of them before they could have lunch. Of course they could all remember each one; they are CUBS!

But who was that man and what did he have in his big box? Have you guessed? He was a herpetologist. Yes, someone who knows all about snakes and, yes, he had some in the box. He carefully took each one out and explained all sorts of things about it.

He showed the boomslang, that long, slender, slinky, green creature with the big, black eyes that lives in the top of the trees. The puff-adder that just lies there on the ground and pretends to be sleeping, but! Beware!!! It can strike so fast that you can't see it moving. There was the beautiful big yellow and orange python that is not poisonous but just winds itself around its prey and simply squeezes it to death before swallowing it whole.

The Cubs were enthralled by the wonders of these animals and have certainly learned to respect them as fellow creatures with a special place in nature.

The Cubs would like to thank Sue Walden for assisting in organising the event, Sandy Steyn for inviting the snake man, to their leaders for bringing them along to the magnificent Botanical Gardens, and to the Nelspruit Botanical Gardens for their hospitality.



L-R Lindo Gama (1st Mhola Cubs), Dyllan Courtney (1st Nelspruit) and Bruce Thomson (1st Penryn) finding another insect on the Stelitzia.

## THE GOOD TURN KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

As a Lay Preacher in the Methodist Church, I found myself having to attend a meeting at the Methodist Church in Kabokweni. Having no idea as to its location, I phoned David Mauku, Troop Scouter in 1st Kabokweni Troop, to ask for directions.

True to the ideals of Scouting, David went the extra mile and immediately volunteered that I could be met along the way and escorted to the Church, as he would not like me to get lost there. He arranged for one of his Scouts, Nicholas, to be at Themba Hospital Gate, at eleven o'clock, in full uniform. I arrived at the appointed time to find Nicholas waiting. I

was directed right to the Church as well as being shown where TS David lives and works.

This kindness was not only appreciated by myself, but also by an old school friend from England who had come over for a holiday. Maggie (who is from a Scouting family, her late Father having been a TS and then a DC) was overwhelmed by the respect, friendship and sincerity of these two wonderful ambassadors for Scouting.

It is interesting that news of even the smallest good deed can fly over the continents, spreading the good news that Scouting works and can change the world.

Wendy Brown.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE AREA SECRETARY :-

*Congratulations to Timothy Mthethwa and his team from Inyamazane District for being first in with the Census. It makes everyone's life a lot easier when people keep to deadlines. Well done, Inyamazane!*

## EVENTS COMING UP IN THE AREA :-

- \* Gilwell Reunion for all holding the Wood Badge—1st September.
- \* Summer Camp for Cubs (East) - 28th -30th September.
- \* Summer Camp for Scouts (East) - 1st—6th October.
- \* Cub Fun Day (West) - 1st October.
- \* Guides' Summer Camp (West) - 2nd-6th October.
- \* JOTA— 20th-21st October.
- \* East District Swimming Gala— 27th October.
- \* Area Annual General Meeting (in the West) - 27th October.

## NANGU THINA IN SOUTH AFRICA

Our great friend and fellow Scouter, Uwe Bothur, from Bonn, Germany, visited South Africa once more. He spent a whole week in White River in order to work on current and future projects with Scouting and Guiding. Many meetings—one of them with the management team of the Scouting Area—took place, and we trust that we will see fruits very soon.

Nangu Thina will keep on supporting training and small scale projects that are innovative in the Province and we urge everyone to discuss

potential projects or ideas with the Area Staff, or the Scouter from Germany. Stefan Klatt from Karlsruhe has arrived and will hopefully stay up to the end of February 2002. Come and speak to him in the Area office or invite him to visit your Troop or Pack.

Uwe continued his visit in Durban with the scouting choir from KZN who are due to go over to Germany in September. He then went to Namibia where he also discussed certain projects with the Scouts.

Stefan Klatt



**It is so very disappointing, that neither Leaders nor members of the Sekunjalo Scouters' Choir have taken time to bring us the full report of their adventures, for inclusion in this issue, as we promised in the last edition.**



## “ONCE A SCOUT, ALWAYS A SCOUT!” - - Letters from former Scouts.

...I was a Scout in the Barberton Troop during 1940—1942. After 1942 I was moved to Zeerust with the family. My brother John was in the Cubs. Our Scout Master was D. Bornstein (Outfitter), Cub Master was R. Gurr. Both joined the S.A. Forces and were reported “Lost, presumed Dead” up North.

During the war years the Cubs were organised by P. Parkin, also a Scout, and myself. We did many jobs for War Funds—Bob a job, collected paper, iron etc.

*Donald Gray.*

... Having read your email, I'd like to say thank you very much for putting in the time to let me know what the Cub/Scout Movement is up to. As far as filling in the attached form, I'm afraid that my memory is very faded. Having left South Africa in July 1983, remembering names are very difficult. However the only ones that I do remember are the McQueen brothers, the Nel brothers and Mark Williams.

I do feel that to achieve what I have done to date has definitely been aided by scouts and cubs. I now currently develop all food products for Virgin Atlantic Airways out of the UK, and with my South African knowledge and background am responsible for the JNB and CPT routes to the UK as well as Delhi to the UK. This involves a lot of travelling and meeting a lot of interesting people.

To reach this position I spent eight years working for some of the best chefs in the

country and a year and a half in a factory environment developing food for the likes of Marks and Spencers.

*Lawrence Dodds.*

...I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter from you telling me about the Friends of Scouting! Its great to hear that the scouting movement I left behind a while ago is still going strong, and that there are still some names I recognise—Dudley, Marcus, Charlie.

Since leaving Nelspruit (and the 1st Nelspruit Troop), I spent 4 years in Durban studying Engineering at the University of Natal, and then left for the UK, to work in London and study further at Cambridge University. I am now back in South Africa—in Johannesburg—working for an international management consulting firm. The strange thing is that I found the quote in Dudley's introduction of the newsletter regarding education:

“The test of success in education is not what a boy or girl knows after the exams and leaving school, but what he or she is doing 10 years later”

quite true. After all these years of education, in far away places, the skills I learnt at scouts—leadership and teamwork—are the skills that I use most often.

*Keith Webb.*

...I must remark at how small the world is! I am living in Surrey and working in London

with my wife, Joy, and I am loving it. My Scouting and Cubbing days are a fond memory and have served me very well through life. After leaving White River I joined the scouts at Tzaneen, where I made many friends, many of whom I still have today. After that I went to Middelburg where I helped with the occasional running of scout meetings with some of my friends (Brian Theunissen, Bruce Mattheus and Mike Simmons, the latter being the leader of the Pack, so to speak.)

I have lost contact with everybody from White River since it is about 20 years ago when we left. I am glad to hear that you have been able to continue the scouts in White River. Scouting taught me a lot about life and has made me very self sufficient. I have regarded myself as a “Macgyver” type problem solver and have a great love for the outdoors. As a result I have become a keen sportsman and outdoorsman with fishing, rock climbing, mountain biking, climbing and photography being particular interests. I do miss South Africa a lot and hope to return some day in the future.

If I have children of my own in the near future, I intend they should also go to Scouts or Guides as it was of great benefit to me. Thanks for getting me started on that path.

*Phillip Leavesley.*

## ANOTHER OF UWE'S ANGELS—

Hello! My name is Daniela Jaensch and I am working in the headquarter office of the Mpumalanga Scouts. I have already been working here for one month and I'll stay here until the 2nd October. I am enjoying my time here and I wish to have the opportunity of staying longer.

In Germany, I just finished school during the German summer in June. After my South African time I'll start studying construction engineering in Wuppertal. The town is very close to my hometown Wuelfrath. I still live with my family, that means my parents and my “little”, but taller, brother Thomas, who is 16 years old. I am involved in Scouting in the “Stamm Franken” for nearly 11 years now. I started with the cubs and went through all the different age groups (we have 4 in Germany). And since last year I've been a Pack Scouter myself. My friend and I run a pack with 10 cubs and I love it.

Here in Mpumalanga, I work with Charlie and Lorna on a system to save addresses and with this we are able to start “Friends of Scouting”. But I am also working with Dee, e.g. we continue the work

Heike and Daniele at the Life Form Taxidermist, sharing a laugh with the Lioness!



Daniele and Dee in the Office.



Heika started with the New-File-System. Furthermore we organised the Vulamasango Tour to Germany, and we met them afterwards again. I also had the opportunity to take part of an Introduction Course in Kamhlushwa, that I enjoyed a lot. It was quite interesting for me to see how a group starts up.

I joined the Area Management meeting and a District meeting. I wish to meet all of you, but my time is running away...! I want to say THANK YOU to Nangu Thina, they brought me to S.A. and to Dudley James with his family, because I am enjoying the time I'll stay with them. And to everybody else, I need to add, but I couldn't because of the space!

PLEASE!! ARTICLES / NEWS / DISTRICT REPORTS for the next issue of MPUMALANGA SUN must be in by 10th October 2001, to:- The Editor, PO Box 3629, White River 1240. OR email: cbaty@mweb.co.



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B-P in "Girl Guiding"

## FORTHCOMING COURSES

- Introduction Course (West) -  
15th—16th September.
- Scout Warrant (East) - 21st—24th September
- Training Aids and Skills (West) -  
October (to be confirmed)
- Leadership and Fundamentals (East) -  
Suggested 13th/14th October.

## Report from 1st Kabokweni:-

Warm greetings from the Scouters and Scouts of our Troop. We are in good health and I am feeling more Scouty now after the recent successful course. I've been on many courses now and I have noticed how we are encouraged to give our time to the boys, teaching, training and having fun with them. At the courses we are re-fuelling and re-servicing for the best implementation to our boys, and I really appreciate that even on heights.

**Scouts:** 17 Scouts and 3 Scouters attended BP Camp. We had our Autumn Camp in April at Numbi Caravan Park at Hazyview, which lasted for 5 solid days. There is a lot of advancement as regards the Pathfinder and other interest badges. The Scouts did a clean-up campaign around the Kabokweni Post Office 3 times.

**Cubs:** Not a lot has taken place concerning the cubs as their Akela was sick for several months but she is now well and we hope a lot will be achieved also regarding their advancement.

**Guides:** 9 girls and guider attended the BP Camp on the Saturday. Our sympathy goes to the family of Guide Ntombifuthi Ndaba who died in March. Up to now the Guides have learnt the importance of trees and went around differentiating trees. Traditional dance skirts were made for Fund-raising. Yours, in the warm spirit of brotherhood Scouting, David Mauku.

## FROM THE TRAINING TEAM ~

On Wednesday 8th August, a convoy took off from White River for Durban, with 9 Scouters and Renate following on her own to attend the National Training Techniques Course. It seemed to take a long time to get to Durban, but we had a number of stops on the way. Unfortunately it was too late and dark to go to the beach when we got to Durban, so it was straight to BP camp and a very warm welcome from the Kwazulu Natal team. After supper people stayed up talking and making friends with participants from other Areas. The rest of the weekend, I am sure, went by in a bit of a blur—long days and very, very short nights! Our Mpumalanga team certainly kept our flag flying, with their presentations, their friendliness, and I was so proud to be associated with them, particularly at the campfire where their spirit of brotherhood came out so strongly.

On a different note, out of the 37 participants on the Advanced Programme Planning Course, only 3 have handed in their assignments. Congratulations to Michael Nsimba, Lucy Magagula and David Mauku—is nobody else out there interested? Are we wasting not only our time, but yours as well? Please guys, I know you can do it, and are probably doing it all the time, but how about sharing your programmes and ideas with us.

Out of the 13 ladies who attended the Cub Wood Badge in 2000, only 5 have completed it. Unfortunately I cannot hold it open much longer, and if you wish to get your beads, and be acknowledged for the work that you have done, your assignments must be completed by the end of the year. And what about you participants of the Scout Wood Badge from Mpumalanga West who have still to complete yours?  
- Dee.

**"Smartness in uniform and correctness in detail may seem a small matter, but has its value in the development of self-respect and means an immense deal to the reputation of the Movement among outsiders who judge by what they see."**

BP's - Aids to Scoutmastership.



1st Nelspruit Guide Company—Leigh-Ann Wandrag and Clare Vinson with Guider-in-Charge Claudette James watching Bronwen Stephen working at the Plane Table. June 2001

## GUIDING IN PICTURES.



1st White River Ranger Crew—L-R Atoinette Palmer, Rebecca Alston, Nomuzi Rikhotso (the newly invested Ranger), Cheryl Buchanan (Crew Guider) and Alison Young. 16th March 2001.

## CAMPER'S DOZEN—TWELVE HINTS FOR CAMPERS.

1. It's more important to have warmth below you than above you for sleeping in camp—the cold rises from the ground. A layer of newspapers between your blankets or on the groundsheet will give you extra warmth.
2. Never waste a journey in camp. If you're going in the direction of water, take a bucket with you. If you're going passed trees, carry some twigs or branches back for the woodpile.
3. When you're building a fire, begin small with "tinder" - small twigs, dry grass or leaves - and light it with the wind at your back.
4. Have a good supply of twigs ready to build up your fire before you light it.
5. Make gadgets to keep things off the ground.
6. Don't lace up both ends of your tent—fresh air won't hurt you, but no fresh air may.
7. Air your blankets, sleeping bag, or whatever you have slept in every morning, if you can.
8. Wear takkies or sandals on your feet.
9. Don't waste a fire: hot water is always welcome.
10. Don't forget to pack matches, salt, rubber bands, sticky tape, and plaster strips.
11. Don't leave things lying about—any uncooked food will attract flies and other insects, and axes and knives can cause accidents, besides which they cost money and should be looked after, like all equipment.
12. Soap rubbed on the outside of pots before cooking makes them easier to clean afterwards.

