

# MPUMALANGA Scouting

A joyful home coupled with the ability to serve others gives the best happiness.  
BP's "Rovering to Success"

Volume 5, Issue 4

November 2004



There's the never-ending Good News of Scouting and Guiding, and this edition is full of it! And there's the never-ending Good News of Christmas—

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given . . ."

And He shall be called Immanuel, which means 'God with us'."

In bringing to our boys and girls the great lessons of Scouting and Guiding, we are indeed following in the footsteps of the Master, and in celebrating His Birth, we wish you Peace and Joy with your family and friends. May this Happiness be with you and remain with you in 2005.

From *Elvis, Nikki and the Area Staff.*



## MICHAEL'S ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB WINS THE NATIONAL ESCOM ETA AWARD!

A 3-in-1 Household gadget — geyser + cooker + heater — invented by Mthayiza's Environmental Club headed up by our own Michael Nsimba, Scouter and Leader Trainer, earned them the National Escom ETA Award Trophy for 2004, plus a Certificate and Cheque for the school. (Escom is the Electricity Supply Commission operating the National Power grid, and ETA is the Greek word meaning "excellence". Initially their working model was judged in the last 9, then progressed further to the last 4 after

which they had to submit "the real thing" in front of the TV cameras. The judging of the 3 finalists, a High School from Gauteng, a Primary School from Eastern Cape and Mthayiza, took place in Johannesburg and the winner announced at a function that same evening. Michael said afterwards, he couldn't believe it! But he gives Scouting all the credit. It is what he has learnt through Scouting that has opened his eyes and his mind to a wonderful World!

Our congratulations to Michael and the children of the Mthayiza Environmental Club. We are proud of you!



## SOLITHA THEMBA AND HER CUBS BRING HOME THE "BRONZE" FOR TENTELENI SCHOOL!

Every year the Department of Education goes out of their way to find and recognise the top 3 schools in Mpumalanga who qualify for the "Bathapele" Awards—the "Helping other people" Awards, or in Solitha's words, "Sizanani". Pack Scouter Solitha's work with the Tenteleni Cubs did not go unnoticed. Friends, family, fellow teach-

ers and the Community watched as the Cubs worked hard to make all their plans come true. ~ Read all the details on Page 3.

When the Department got to know about it, they sent out their team to confirm everything. On 18th November Solitha travelled to Secunda where she received the Bronze Bathapele Award on behalf of the school and her "Star" Cubs. Well done!



## REGIONAL GUIDE COMMISSIONER, EUNICE RIKHOTSO, RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FROM SADTU

South African Democratic Teachers' Union, SADTU, recognises the voluntary work done by its teachers outside of the Classroom. The 2004 recipients of their Special Certificate included our Eunice Rikhotsi, Regional Guide Commissioner for Mpumalanga East, for her work and commitment in the Community through Guiding. On many occa-

sions Eunice has gone out to schools to tell Guiding's story, to encourage the opening of a new Group or the continuation of an existing Group—last Sunday she was at Shishila doing her bit.

This is over and above her normal school duties and the running of her home with her husband and their 3 sets of twins. Congratulations, Eunice!

## SCOUTING & GUIDING FRIENDS ARE FRIENDS FOR LIFE!

On their recent trip back to Scotland AAC Charlie & Lorna Baty stayed with, and visited old friends who were

Scouts, PLs and Scouters with Charlie in the early 1950s—over 50 years ago! All of them Life-Long Scouting Friends!

## MESSAGE FROM FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL, WORLD ORGANISATION of the SCOUT MOVEMENT

Dear Friends,

May 1st 2004, on the occasion of my farewell party with the World Scout Bureau staff, I was handed over a BIG and beautiful "Book of letters" sent from all over the world, which I have by now read through and through, including your very kind message.

Thank you for your warm words and thoughts, which I

have appreciated very much.

It has been an honour for me to serve World Scouting over these 15 years and one of the nicest part of my job was precisely to deal with people like you, whom I shall keep - with many others around you - amongst my very fond memories.

I think that your verses

are really beautiful and they are framed in my mind. I thank you again so much for them. If I go back to Barberton this time it will *not* be to visit the Women's prison as in 1973, 1974 and 1975!

Yours in Scouting.

Jacques Moreillon  
Former Secretary General of WOSM

See poem "Remember" on page 5

CONGRATULATIONS  
To Jeurg and Katrin  
(our imported Scouting family)  
on the birth of  
a little daughter, Anna  
on 17th September.





The **21st World Scout Jamboree**, celebrating **100 years of Scouting**, is to be held from 29th July to 10th August 2007, at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex, England.



will be the **BIGGEST EVER!**  
**40,000 Scouts in Camp!!**  
And the jamboree Motto?  
**ONE WORLD • ONE PROMISE**

## THE PR OF THE PROMISE!!



Peter Duncan, newly appointed Chief Scout of Great Britain, featured in "Scouting" magazine.

Yes, it is the P.R.—**Public Relations**—of the **Promise** because of the commitment of all Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and leaders; Brownies, Guides, Ranger Guides and Leaders, the ideals and values of Scouting and Guiding are reflected through and by the actions of its members. And the P.R.—**Privilege and Responsibility**—of the **Promise** rests with the Scouter or Guide to introduce it to the brand new Cub, Scout, Brownie or Guide. To lead that young person to continue faithfully and fully committed to our Promise for the rest of his or her life!

Take for instance the new Chief Scout of the United Kingdom, Peter Duncan, a well-known British TV personality whose programmes were focused mainly on the Youth. One of the most popular was "Blue Peter" which many older folk may remember. Through circumstances Peter was only a Cub in the Movement, but the fact is that being a Cub, he had a Pack Scouter, his Akela, who had the job of helping him understand every part of the Promise and what it meant so he would know without doubt what he was committing himself to as he took that Promise.. Little did

that Akela know that she was responsible for one special little Cub who would one day be the Chief Scout of the U.K. **TO ALL OUR SCOUTERS AND GUIDERS**— just bear in mind as you lead the young people through the Promise (and the Law), that they might one day be very famous— maybe even the Chief Scout or Chief Guide Commissioner! **TO ALL OUR CUBS, SCOUTS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES**, remember your Promise (and Law) - that is your Privilege and Responsibility to stick to it always, even when you too become famous!



## GILWELL REUNION

The first weekend in September every year in every Scouting country throughout the world, the 1st Gilwell Park Group holds its Reunion. The biggest Scout Group in the world, it's members are all the Scouters who have completed their Woodbadge Training and wear the Gilwell Scarf with the McLaren Tartan patch at the back; and the two small wooden beads on the leather thong, for which the Scouter has worked so hard and so long—the treasured Woodbadge!

This year 27 Scouters and their



spouses attended the 8th Gilwell Reunion since the formation of Mpumalanga's Scout Area in 1997. The programme included a visit to the Sudwala Caves, the oldest Dolomite caves in the world! It is guaranteed there was not another Reunion activity like that in the world!

Back at White River HQ—Area Training HQ—everyone enjoyed a video of Scouting Netherland's 2000 National Jamboree, attended by several Scouts and Guides from Mpumalanga. The S.A. Contingent leader was our own Area Chairman (then Area Commissioner), Dudley

At the dinner, Samson, Reuben, Michael, Rebecca, Zodwa and Solitha.



James. The hall was beautifully decorated by Jerry and Wendy Brown & Co. continuing the theme of the Caves. A wonderful meal was served up by the Caterers. Training Team Leader Dee Chandler reported on the progress of training in the Area and the customary toasts were proposed to both South Africa and the World Scout Movement.

## EXPERIENCE OF A LIFE-TIME!

Two Contingents of Rover Scouts and young Guiders, led by Pack Scouter Lucy Magagula and Field Organiser Peter Mashiane left at the end of July on 3 week exchange visits to Baden and Passau respectively. These were as a result of our German Scout friends visiting Mpumalanga in 2003 when they did various joint projects here and were hosted by S.A. families. On this trip, the Rover Scouts and Guiders were hosted for part of the time by the German families.

Lucy's Group to Baden spent the first 11 days at the Area Summer Camp, together with 350 local Scouts. Then it was out and about the Black Forest area, speed boating, a hike in the Alps up to Neushwastein Castle; visits to the City of Munich, an HIV/Aids Centre (NGO), a German Hospital, Gaggenau's Centre for Physically and Mentally challenged persons, Baden-Baden (a reminder of B.P.); a day in Heidelberg and a day at the Mercedes Benz "Worth Plant" where all types of heavy vehicles are made.

Lucy's group at the Mercedes Benz factory with the Unimog.



Peter's Contingent to Passau attended the Area Scout Camp. They did quite a bit of hiking (including an exciting overnight hike), enjoyed the City Games, home hospitality and visiting Austria. Comments as to how the Contingent members can help Scouting and Guiding back here in Mpumalanga— "We want to plan next year's Summer Camp"; "We want to get more Rover Crews going" "We want to arrange longer hikes for Scouts and Guides". "We want to teach our Scouts and Guides the commitment and dedication of helping others through the Community project ideas we got in Germany".

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Scouts and Cubs from 1st Sandzile Group visited sick children at Themba Hospital and gave them small toys to brighten their day. Maron Matshimane and Sister Thwala supervised the visit and also explained to the Cubs and Scouts how the hospital works.

An important part of Scouting is that the young boys and girls reach out into the Community and find out how they can perform service to the people. Pack Scouters Nomathemba Maphanga, Julia Mwale and Jean Mgwanya said that the boys and girls enjoyed the day a lot and many of them have asked for more information about how to become Care Givers.

Sister A, Thwala, with Vuyisile and Thabang.







## TENTELENI MEETS THEIR TARGETS!

At the beginning of the year the Tenteleni Pack got together and identified their projects for 2004. Here are the results:-

### Needy Family

'In June I identified a learner whose family was not in a good condition due to illness. The mother was unable to fill in a Consent form because she was too sick. I visited the family and asked the lady if the Cubs could help her by making a vegetable garden for her family, which she appreciated very much. In July, 25 Cubs volunteered to do the job, which we completed in 2



Digging the Family Garden.

days, as there were so many of us. We told the young people to look after it.  
School Garden

Seeing that we had a feeding scheme at Tenteleni School, we decided to make another garden to support the feeding



Watering the School garden.

scheme. This we completed in the first week of August, and both gardens are now of help.

### Elderly People

We then had a brainstorm of what we could do for elderly people, because they are the

origin, or pillars of our birth. We thought of cooking soup, pap and mielie bread.

We invited them to a special day when we entertained them with music, to say thank you for giving support to some of the youth whose parents had died. Some of them are sick as well as jobless. We gave them some vegetables from the school garden and also Thank you Cards.



The Cubs singing to entertain the elderly folk in the classroom



The Cubs peeling potatoes for the soup



The Grannies looking forward to the meal and entertainment.

### Caring about the Environment

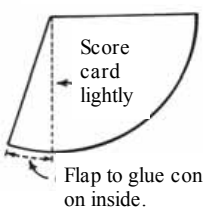
In October we went to the Casterbridge farmyard, where the Cubs learnt a lot about the animals, how to care for them and had an opportunity to feed them too. Some of the Cubs rode the ponies. Everyone was so helpful and interested in the Cubs.

*Solitha Themba, Pack Scouter.*

## AKELAS AND BROWN OWLS- CHRISTMAS IDEAS FOR CUBS AND BROWNIES.

### Cone Creations

Radius = Cone height



Suspend from ceiling



Cone Craft from the late Vic Clapham—and even a Cone Bird, which can be changed to fit the birds you see on the BIRDING BIG DAY. Here are a few ideas for you. There's almost no end to what can be done with cardboard cones, big or small. Let Cubs use their imagination. Cones can be used to make party hats, or inverted with a handle added, sweet containers. Give cone craft a Conservation angle and show how cones can be made from scraps of cardboard, foil, paper, ribbon, cotton wool, beads, buttons etc.

And here are a couple of games for your Christmas Programme:-

**Christmas Stocking jigsaw:** This is a team relay race which will need the following for each team— a large piece of card, cut in the shape of a Christmas Stocking, and a similarly shaped piece of card with pictures of presents drawn or glued on it. Now cut it into enough irregularly shaped pieces to give each team member one piece. The object is for each team to rebuild the jigsaw on the stocking outline as quickly as possible. Perhaps you

may think it advisable to give the boys and girls a glimpse of how it should look before starting. The game can be varied by hiding the pieces around the hall with the teams racing to find the pieces they need to rebuild the puzzle

**Blind Stocking:** Make up several old stockings with a variety of items (small toys) inside. Make sure the tops are tied then ask your Cubs to guess what's inside.

**Christmas Kim's Game:** Instead of using a variety of items, why not use a selection of different sweets? Apart from being more fun to play, there is no problem afterwards in disposing of the items and there will be little trouble in remembering what was displayed!

**Lastly**—To all the Brownies and Cubs (and Guides and Scouts too!), remember, a holiday job for you is to make a Christmas card (or cards). Send to those people who have been special to you during 2004, or to someone who needs a wee bit of love this Christmas.

## AROUND THE WEST DISTRICT

**DISTRICT COMMISSIONER,** Graham Sulter's term of office came to an end on 30th September. Graham has decided not to renew his Warrant, but Jane has taken a Pack Scouter's Warrant for 1st Passau in the meantime. At a function on 9th October, AC Elvis Mdaka made a presentation to Graham and Jane in grateful thanks for all they had done in the District over the years. Scouting

and Guiding Mpumalanga echo these sentiments, wishing them and the family well in the future.

**CUB FIELD DAY** was held at 2nd Coalfields grounds, with 54 Cubs attending from Coalfields, Middelburg, Passau, Thushanang and Mtombeni. Bases included making dragonflies with beads, Kim's game., an accident scene where they used their 1st Aid, Safety, knotting, and feats of



skill. 2nd Coalfields won the Trophy at the end of the day

The new **1st Passau Troop** went on their first camp, worked on the Pathfinder Badge and learnt about backwoods cooking Their first **JOTA** was a great success, thanks to Christo who came in and operated the radio.

They were only on air from 12h00 until 18h00 but during this time they made several local and international contacts - to Kimberley, Newcastle, Cape Town, Ladysmith, the Seychelles, Bombay in India and Namibia. They also heard people from Russia, California, Zambia, Japan and China but were unable to speak to them. **The Passau Pack** is flourishing with exciting programmes and outings.



## CUB SUMMER CAMP

The Cub Summer camp was held over 3 days at the Amsterdam Environmental Centre, where Rebecca Mngomezula was the Camp Chief. The



The Cubs getting ready for the Cubbylympics



And the "Waterlympics" was such fun!

theme was "Cubbylympics" with the Cubs divided into 5 teams according to the Olympic circles, and each team painted their own flag. The White team came first, followed very closely by Green, Blue, Red and Yellow. However, every Cub received a prize, donated by our German friends including Katrin Frei and Combined Warehousing, Nelspruit.

Bases were run by the Pack Scouters for the various requirements for the Athlete's Badge. The programme included a session on HIV/Aids and Emergency First Aid run by Lucy Magagula and a Cleaning Project in Amsterdam where the Cubs had "Proudly South African" logos painted on their faces, were given plastic bags for their hands and refuse bags before setting out to clean up the town. The reactions from the public were wonderful and the Cubs really did a good job. Other activities were steam release games, night games, campfire and story time.



Prize-giving

Daniel and Slade (1st White River) receiving their prizes



**Cubbing saves lives**—at the Camp every Cub was given an Emergency first aid kit, containing dettol, cotton wool, a plaster and a latex glove. The Cubs were taught that they can take care of people, but it is very important not to touch somebody else's blood.

While the Cubs were doing their Athlete's badge, Khomotso Malumane fell and grazed his knee. Before anyone could do anything to help, his friend, Kulegane Msibi reached into his pocket and pulled out his first aid kit.

**He first put on the glove**, then cleaned the graze with dettol and cotton wool and finally neatly stuck on the plaster. The Pack Scouters all agreed that this practical demonstration confirmed that the Cubs had really learned a good lesson and that if every Cub protected himself properly when doing First Aid, his life would be saved from contracting HIV/Aids.

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Amsterdam clean-up



Water ecology practical demonstration

Scouts and Guides attended the camp with Michael Nsimba as Camp Chief. The days activities were designed around the facilities at the Environmental Centre. These included a Community project to clean up litter around the town; Environmental Education on insects found around the campsite and their importance in the environment, Water Ecology and the Wetlands, providing Scouts with information on wetlands and invader plants—run by Fanie and Nic from the Amsterdam Environmental Education Centre and a team from the Ermelo EEC. The base on HIV/Aids was run by the Scouters. The Scouts were bussed to the sites for Conservancy Management and Wetland Protection which included clean-up of invader plants.

Scouting and Life Skills were also part of the 6-day camp, where the youngsters learnt about Birding HIV/Aids, Backwoods Cooking, Flags and Ceremonies, Compass and mapping, Knotting and Pioneering, Tent pitching and First Aid.

The Scouts and Guides had fun on the Dry and Wet obstacles Courses, Problem Solving Challenge and playing Volley Ball.



One of the Scouts holding an insect he found.



Katrin and Annette from Berlin, Germany struggling with some invader plants!

A heartfelt thanks to all who were involved in the Summer Camps—Kerstin Gerenkamp for planning all the meals, shopping and collecting donations; Benedikt Feldmann for getting the Area tents and equipment, and taking out the advance team to pitch tents; Birdlife South Africa, Birdlife Lowveld and NABU Germany who funded the transport to the Scout Camp; and Sakhamuzi from Richards Bay who ran the Birding Base. Thanks too to Nic Haarhoff and his team at the Amsterdam Environmental Centre for all they did for the Camps.

## SCOUTS CHASE TWO FAST LADIES, JOANNA AND CHEUGNETTE IN THE 2004 GREATEST TRAIN RACE.



The Scouts were 2nd Coalfields Troop, the ladies—Joanna, Class 24 Loco No. 3664 and Cheugnette Class 19D loco No. 2650. The relay teams of

5 Scouts in each completed the 29 kms between Witbank and Middelburg, along with over 5000 other competitors. Once again local Charities benefited tremendously

through Rotary, the organisers of the event.

The question—Who ran out of steam? Certainly not those two fast Ladies!

Nkosana Mngomezulu and Thabang Makoma crossing the line.







## FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES TO OUR VOLUNTEERS (UWE'S ANGELS!)



Dudley presenting Michael with the Mpumalanga Area Scarf

Farewell and a thousand thanks to Michael Heiden, who will be remembered by us all as Mr. Computer, or Mr. Fixit! Much of his time with us was spent helping with computer programmes, solving the problems, teaching all of us illiterate computer Scouters and Guiders. He's one of the best teachers, with such wonderful patience! His sterling effort for which he'll be remembered most of all was getting the Area Magazine running on to e-

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AND Kerstin Gerenkamp, who really grew into a very capable lady during her time with Scouting Mpumalanga. She became such a help in the Area Office; her abilities to plan and develop increased as she took responsibilities in the organising of the two Scouting trips to Germany and the local one to the National Jamboree in Mafikeng. Kerstin did trojan work in the organisation of

Summer Camp. She actually extended her period of stay by 3 months in order to do so! Such was her commitment to us all. Kerstin, you have left your footprints clear in the story of Scouting and Guiding - we will miss you!

And HELLO to Benedikt Feldmann from Gelzenkirchen:-  
 "My name is Benedikt and I came to the office on 20th August. As everybody who was at Summer Camp knows, I am 24 years old.. I started Scouting 15 years ago as a cub and now I am a leader of St. Michael Cub Pack with about 20 boys. When I am not busy with Scouting I study Constructional Engineering and Catholic Theology to become a teacher. On arriving in South Africa I travelled around to visit all the

Kerstin receiving a farewell gift from Elvis and Nikki.



Benedikt Feldmann



Scouters in Mpumalanga doing a survey for the Training Team. This is now done and I am busy with a project about vocational guidance. The Scout Career Exhibition is one of my ideas. The other is a project for Scout Troops. After testing this with 3 Troops it will hopefully become a booklet that every Scouter can use for his Troop. Just before Christmas I will fly back to celebrate this with my family in cold Germany!" - *Benedikt*

## Field Day for Nkomazi District



The Nkomazi District Field Day was held at the Mahusha Game Reserve close to Shamamah College, Kamhushwa and was attended by 150 Cubs and Scouts. The programme included a base on HIV/Aids, and Flag Ceremonies. The S.A. National Defence Force held a

base on the S.A. Coat of Arms and the S.A. Police Services ran a base on the S.A. Flag. The Mahusha Game Reserve Staff discussed the Environment at their base.

Many thanks to the SADF, SAPS and Rangers for giving up their time to contribute to the Field Day, and to DC Amon Mavuso and his team of Scouters for organising this fabulous event.



## GIRL GUIDE LEADER TRAINING DAY.

The Mpumalanga East Girl Guide Training Team went to Kamhushwa in August to train new Guiders who are interested in starting Brownie, Guide and Ranger units. The Team was headed by Andrea Vinson, with Brenda James, Eunice Rikhotso, Girly Maseko and Nikki Clark.

The new Guiders learned how to start their groups and what the requirements are to become Warranted Guiders. They also received training on the Promise and Law, Ceremonies and the advanced programme. A follow up Training was held in October.

A special thanks to DC Amon Mavuso for assisting with venues and the communication to organise the training days.



### REMEMBER??

Do you remember travelling far Right over the continent of Africa? To the World Scout Conference, 1998 To be there in Durban, you couldn't wait. The success of it all, to the Team and to you We thank you so much, because we were there too! We had our stall there-Scouting Mpumalanga, Youngest Scout Area in South Africa! Remember the programme on SAFM Called 'Total Exposure' on which you told them And all of SA, the value of Scouts. With Peter James Smith we'll join in the

shouts "Well done, dear Jacques! In your own unique way." SA Scouting did benefit so much that day! You spoke of old Barberton in your days of Red Cross; Your visits thereto were never at loss, Scouting and Guiding at work even then, For Barberton Scouts started in 1910! That's part of our Area, believe it or not So when in retirement some spare time you've got Come back to old Barberton, Kruger Park too And then we will show you what Scouting can do.

In real remote places it shines like a light Where young folk so helpful make day out of night. We Cubs, Scouts and Scouters, and Brownies, Guides too, And also the Guiders all say Thanks to you For your service to Scouting o'er so many years - Scouting Mpumalanga gives you three hearty cheers!

You're now part of the LEGEND it's so plain to see, And the two people smiling? - are God- and B-P!



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## Field Day for Nkomazi District



The Nkomazi District Field Day was held at the Mahusha Game Reserve close to Shamamah College, Kamhushwa and was attended by 150 Cubs and Scouts. The programme included a base on HIV/Aids, and Flag Ceremonies. The S.A. National Defence Force held a

base on the S.A. Coat of Arms and the S.A. Police Services ran a base on the S.A. Flag. The Mahusha Game Reserve Staff discussed the Environment at their base.

Many thanks to the SADF, SAPS and Rangers for giving up their time to contribute to the Field Day, and to DC Amon Mavuso and his team of Scouters for organising this fabulous event.



## GIRL GUIDE LEADER TRAINING DAY.

The Mpumalanga East Girl Guide Training Team went to Kamhushwa in August to train new Guiders who are interested in starting Brownie, Guide and Ranger units. The Team was headed by Andrea Vinson, with Brenda James, Eunice Rikhotso, Girly Maseko and Nikki Clark.

The new Guiders learned how to start their groups and what the requirements are to become Warranted Guiders. They also received training on the Promise and Law, Ceremonies and the advanced programme. A follow up Training was held in October.

A special thanks to DC Amon Mavuso for assisting with venues and the communication to organise the training days.



### REMEMBER??

Do you remember travelling far Right over the continent of Africa? To the World Scout Conference, 1998 To be there in Durban, you couldn't wait. The success of it all, to the Team and to you We thank you so much, because we were there too! We had our stall there-Scouting Mpumalanga, Youngest Scout Area in South Africa! Remember the programme on SAFM Called 'Total Exposure' on which you told them And all of SA, the value of Scouts. With Peter James Smith we'll join in the

shouts "Well done, dear Jacques! In your own unique way." SA Scouting did benefit so much that day! You spoke of old Barberton in your days of Red Cross; Your visits thereto were never at loss, Scouting and Guiding at work even then, For Barberton Scouts started in 1910! That's part of our Area, believe it or not So when in retirement some spare time you've got Come back to old Barberton, Kruger Park too And then we will show you what Scouting can do.

In real remote places it shines like a light Where young folk so helpful make day out of night. We Cubs, Scouts and Scouters, and Brownies, Guides too, And also the Guiders all say Thanks to you For your service to Scouting o'er so many years - Scouting Mpumalanga gives you three hearty cheers!

You're now part of the LEGEND it's so plain to see, And the two people smiling? - are God- and B-P!



A joyful home coupled with the ability to serve others gives the best happiness.  
BP's "Rovering to Success"

## B.P. TALKS MOUNTAINEERING TO THE ROVERS :



### DIARY

(2005 dates to be confirmed)

20th-28th November	BIRDING BIG DAY
27th November	SCOUTERS ANNUAL MEETING & COUNCIL, White River
11th December	SCOUT CAREER EXHIBITION, W.R.
3rd January 2005	AREA OFFICE OPENS
8th January	AREA MANAGEMENT MEETING, White River
17th January	TRAINING TEAM MEETING, Nelspruit
19th January	TRAVELLING SHOP
22nd-23rd January	INTRODUCTION COURSE, W.River
2nd February	TRAVELLING SHOP
5th-6th February	CUB CAMPING COURSE - Witbank; SCOUT CAMPING & MAPPING- White River.
18th-20th February	DISTRICT BP CAMPS

"It isn't the height of the Mountain that counts so much as the difficult bit to overcome.' That is what General Bruce, the leader of the expedition to Mount Everest, said to me in talking of the possibilities of rock and mountain climbing for young men. Climbing aught, indeed must, be done in teams, and for that reason it is good. Each man on the rope has to make himself efficient, so as to be helpful to the others. That is a good practical lesson in itself. Climbing is the best possible physical developer of nerve and muscle and endurance. A good climber cannot be a weakling. Then it needs observation—eye for country and resourcefulness. The selecting one's line and picking it up as you climb is what gives rock and mountain climbing a never ending variety and interest and helps one to be successful or to be merely a moderate climber accordingly as you become good at observation. Then there is the moral effect of learning to face a difficulty, even when it looks like an impossibility, with calm determination and good cheer. You thus get to face the difficulties of life in the same spirit, and by sticking to it and trying the different ways round or over the obstacle you get there in the end. Lastly there is your soul. A funny thing to find in climbing but there it is. Climb in company, but when you reach a glorious summit sit down alone apart and think. And as you think, drink in the wonderful inspiration of it all. When you come down to earth again, you will find yourself another man in body, mind and spirit."

- B.P.s Rovering to Success.

## THE DREAM - TO CONQUER MOUNT EVEREST.



**Climb every Mountain,  
Ford every stream,  
Follow every rainbow,  
Till you find your dream.**

(From Rogers & Hamerstein's  
THE SOUND OF  
MUSIC.)

THE TEAM: Chief Scout's Commissioner André Bredenkamp, Chris Drummond, Mike Nixon.

THE SUPPORTS: Nepalese Sherpas came with them

from Katmandu, Tibetan porters & climbing Sherpas—they all had to attend the *Punja*, the Blessing Ceremony conducted by the Buddhist lama before they would go near the mountain. At home: family, friends, well-wishers with whom André kept in touch, through e-mail, of the team's progress.

THE JOURNEY: Through the hill country up to "Chinese Base Camp" (CBC) at 5200m. 15kms to Intermediate Base Camp then 3 days to recover. Forward to Advanced Base Camp, (ABC) boulder climbing then slipping and falling over frozen lakes. After that, a few days rest, then off to Camp 3 on top of North Col, using ice crampons and climbing all the way up 60% to 70% gradients, with the Sherpas fixing safety ropes in steeper places. Forced back to ABC by very bad winds, tried again next day but

forced back again and then bad weather forecast for the next 3 days. A problem at high altitude is food loses taste, no appetite and therefore forced eating.

Getting weaker and weaker. Decided to return to CBC, 1200m lower and more oxygen - All the way back to the beginning! In André's words:

"1 day down, 3 days rest, 2 days up and 1 day rest. Tried for North Col again and successfully reached camp, stayed 2 nights to acclimatise—sleeping at 7000m not enjoyable (oxygen 45% of sea level!),

waking scared because you can't breathe, with sleeping bag covered in snow and ice and icicles on your face! From here 3 days to the top! The 3 biggest days of our lives! 3 days of hell - it all depended on Weather and Wellness! (Who was in charge of that?) After tea and porridge you pack up and walk all day, taking 45 minutes to climb 100m. it was awful! On the first day from Camp, Mike, with a serious lung infection, decided to turn back to allow us to continue. Following day climbed to the next camp at 7600m. The most difficult day so far, snow all the way - spent a few hours melting snow to boil a packet of dehydrated food; tents pitched on very steep ground, difficult to get in and out. Next day to the highest camp in the world at 8300m, arriving at 17h30 and left

for the summit bid at mid-night, wearing torches on our heads. A lot more difficult than we thought and came close to death more than once.

On Summit ridge Chris was blown 13m down by a strong gust of wind, falling on his back-pack on a rock—which saved his life. Severely shaken, frost bitten and with 7 hours to the summit in worsening weather, Chris decided to turn back. (Three climbers lost their lives that day attempting the summit.)

On we climbed - I took at least 10-15 breaths for every step. All I wanted to do was sleep and lay in the snow for 10-15 mins before Sherpa Lakpa woke me I was disorientated, but I had undertaken to plant the SA Flag with it's 10year Democracy logo, and the special Scout Flag. It was a job I had to do! Finally, at 14h15, Thursday 20 May 2004, with 15 others, I successfully summited Everest at 8848m and planted the two flags. The special Scout Flag carried both the World and South African Scout badges—I think it was the first time in history the Scout flag has been flown on Everest!

After 15 minutes on top in appalling blizzard "white out" conditions (the wonderful view was completely closed), we set off and arrived back at the 8300m camp absolutely exhausted after nearly 22 hours of continuous physical and

mental effort. Chris had remained in camp despite an avalanche build-up of snow above our tent, made tea for me and helped me into my sleepingbag. Over the next 2 days we made a rapid descent to Advance Base Camp. Together again with Mike, the 3 of us made for home."

\* \* \* \* \*

**To reach your dream,**

whatever it may be, you must have the Scout's stickability and the Scout Promise and Law tucked under your belt! That is why André succeeded. And with the prayers of everyone, André achieved the ultimate for his country and for Scouting.

Thank you, André!!



Chief Executive Luke van der Laan, with Chris and André, holding the Scout Flag. they were taking with them to the summit of Mt. Everest.

**Articles for the next Magazine issue**

**MUST be sent to:**

**P O Box 3629,  
White River 1240.**

**OR [cbaty@mweb.co.za](mailto:cbaty@mweb.co.za)  
Not later than 4 February  
THIS IS YOUR MEANS OF  
REPORTING NEWS OF  
YOUR ACTIVITIES!**