

MPUMALANGA S C O U T S

The greatest under-developed territory
in the world lies under Cub Caps!
From "Scottish Scout News"

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FROM OUR AREA COMMISSIONER:~

It is always difficult to try and put together a new project and present it. The first question that you will deal with is, Will the people like it? Then the second concern is the Programme.

I have seen how stressed the team was before the function. I am happy that despite all the odds the function went through. I just want to explain to all the Scouts and Scouters that this was our first rally and we are bound to make mistakes in it. For me the important thing is that we have learnt from it. I challenge all the Pack Scouters, Troop Scouters, Scouts and Cubs to come up with something unique in preparation for the following year. What would you like to see happening in this area? Please send your comments to the Area Commissioner or the Area Manager.

I want to thank all those who helped to make the day a success. I am sure we did live up to our

motto (SCOUTS RALLYING TO SUCCESS). I thank the Germans for helping out with the packing and dishing out of the food parcels. To the Rovers - You can only grow up when you have decided that now is your time. Please do not let anyone fool you otherwise. I would like to see more interaction amongst Mpumalanga Rovers. Summer camp is coming. This is the time where you have to shine. Prove to the whole country that Roving is here to stay. To Charlie and the band you guys were awesome. You made the day so special for everyone. Nikki keep going with your ideas. For the first time SASA Mpumalanga came together to have fun and not to camp. If we go on like this - come 2007 we are ready for you!!! Thank you all for being such wonderful people. Remember Mpumalanga Scouting Rocks. This is our time.

Elvis Maaka.



Vukile Mehana & Nkwenke Nkomo together at the Inauguration.



INAUGURATION OF REV. VUKILE CHARLES MEHANA—NEW CHIEF SCOUT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

That very Special Service of Inauguration for our New Chief, took place in Saint George's Cathedral in Capetown on 18th June, And our own Area Commissioner Elvis together with his wife Busi, and our Area Chairman Dudley with his wife Brenda were there to represent us all. Rev. Vukile comes from one of those deeply rooted - in- Scouting families. Thanks to his Mother's Passion for the Movement and her desire for that firm grounding in good character and discipline for her children, Vukile joined the Cubs. He or his Akela could not have dreamed that one day Cub V.C.Mehana would be Chief Scout! But it was those years through Cubs and Scouts that God was preparing him. Then on with his service to the Movement through many Avenues including the National Scout Council on which he

has served since 1999. No-one could be more sensitive and aware of God working in his life than Vukile who responded to The Call by entering the Ministry as a Methodist Minister. His brother was also a Scout and his sister became Akela.

Mpumalanga Scouting and Guiding wish Rev. Mehana, his wife and family a very Happy, Healthy, and Fun-Filled Term of Office and we look forward to their visiting us in the future.

In St. George's Cathedral:-



Vukile in Scout Hat, inaugurated by outgoing Chief Scout, Nkwenke Nkomo. Former Chief Scout Garnet de la Hunt and CEO of S.A. Scout Assoc. Luke v.d.Laan in attendance.

As a tribute to our New Chief Scout we print The Scout Hymn which was sung at the

Inauguration :-

**Now as I start upon my chosen way
In all I do-my thoughts my work my play.
Grant as I promise, courage new for me
To be the best- the best that I can be.**

**Help me to keep my honour shining bright
May I be loyal in the hardest fight.
Let me be able for my task, and then
To earn a place among my fellow men.**

**Open my eyes to see things as I should,
That I may do my daily turn of good.
Let me be ready, waiting for each need
To keep me clean in thought and word
and deed.**

**So as I journey on my chosen way,
In all I do-my thoughts my work my play,
Grant as I promise, courage new for me
To be the Best—the Best that I can be!**

Ralph Reader.

2005 RALLY REALLY REMARKABLE!



1400 Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Rangers and Rovers led by the Stevenson-Hamilton Pipe Band, made an impressive entry on to the Nelspruit Rugby Club Grounds for the 2005 Rally. One small Brownie was heard to say she never knew

there were so many Scouts and Guides in Mpumalanga; while one of the Akelas (Pack Scouter) told her cubs to look back and see the huge line of Mpumalanga Scouts and Guides who were following them.

What a sight!! Everyone settled in the Grandstands to listen to Mr. Volker Schmidt, North Rhine Westphalia's Representative; Mr. Joerg Hagmeier S.A. Representative for Nangu Thina; and Mr. C.M. Mashaba, Acting Head of Dept. of Education. This was followed by a wonderful display of

Tribal Dance given by the little Mataffin Amagundane, most of whom were 1st Mataffin Cubs. Then it was time to move to the Soccer Field where the Mpumalanga Scout Soccer Team played the Young Touring German Soccer Team. The Germans won 4 goals to 2. Mpumalanga's team played well. All credit to their 3 Coaches - Ace Mazibuku; AAC Scouts Reuben Mkandawire; and Sakile Manana who plays for the Dangerous Darkies Soccer Team.



Our No. 12 Dumisane Manana chasing the ball.

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At the Inauguration of the New Chief Scout, Area Commissioner Elvis Ndaka presented Nkwenke Nkomo with a set of Tribal Figurine glasses from the Glassworks in Swaziland.

The end of a great era had come and it was time to look back and reflect and celebrate. Nkwenke Nkomo, our most recent Chief Scout of South Africa's term had come to an end and the event was commemorated with a Gala evening entitled "10 years with the Chief Scout".

"TEN YEARS WITH THE CHIEF SCOUT"

I was so honored to have been there together with our Area Chairman, Dudley James. The list of special guests is too long to recall – so many people who have dedicated their lives to Scouting. It was a very auspicious occasion. Mr. Garnet De La Hunt, (Nkwenke's predecessor), spoke most honorably about the vast achievements during these past 10 years. All in all a job well done by an outstanding person upholding his promise at all times to do his best for Scouting and for South Africa.

Nkwenke then stood up to speak and began by asking us to welcome a very special person. He told us that he had brought

with him his very own "Scout Master", the man who had been his mentor as a young boy and the man who had taught him to always uphold the ideals of Scouting. The room was hushed as a very old distinguished gentleman took the stage, but one could see immediately the sparkle in this man's eyes and the proud smile before he spoke. This gentleman was not only Nkwenke's Troop Scouter, he was also his father!

He spoke with passion about the years when he was active in Scouting and he said that he had lived for the day when all people in South Africa would be equal, because this is what Scouting teaches us. He described how

great he felt to be at such a gathering where everyone was free to be brothers and sisters. His words were so meaningful and timeless – just like those of Baden Powell. I could then see how a Great Troop Scouter could play a role in shaping the life of a Great Chief Scout.

After a most entertaining speech by Nkwenke and the presentation of Awards, Andre Bredenkamp gave us a visual presentation of his awesome summiting of Everest.

The evening was one of those we will never forget just as our Chief Scouts and their contributions to Scouting in South Africa will never be forgotten. *Nikki Clark*

MY 3-IN-1 PROJECT by Michael, "the most creative teacher of the Year"



Last year (2004) I made a 3-in-1 Scientific Project. This facility was meant to work as a stove, a family heater as well as a geyser. The gadget won the prestigious ETA award in Johannesburg. I was also honoured as "The most creative teacher of the year" in our circuit.

Michael demonstrating his project to Dee Chandler.

This year in June I had a weekend camp with my Scouts. Oh, I was thrilled the way this Machine was so useful— remember "Instant hot water for every Scout for bathing, no waiting, just instantly!" The Scouts never stopped wondering, and they enjoyed themselves even more, knowing they had a reliable gadget to use.

I have 'Scouting' to thank. When

I joined in 2000, I was interested in the adventure and creativity Scouting provides. This is evident in the various handy camp gadgets we made, to make life much easier and enjoyable away from home. And yes, I can assure you, we survive under almost any unbelievable situations. Viva, Scouting, Viva!

Michael Nsimba.

OUR SCOUTING ADVENTURER RECREATES EPIC FLIGHT

Yes, our American Scouting Adventurer, Steve Fossett who has been mentioned several times before in our Magazine, has done it again! He has successfully recreated the First Non-Stop Flight across the Atlantic in 1919 by Pioneers Alcock and Brown.

Together with his friend and co-pilot

Mark Rebholz, (Captain with United Airlines) they flew a Wood and Canvas exact replica of the old Vickers Vimy Biplane, navigating just like Alcock and Brown, with a Sextant and a Compass— no Electronic equipment, GPS, or Auto Pilots in those days! Taking off on Saturday July 2nd at 10.52pm from the

American Coast, they landed 19 hours later on the Eighth Fairway of the Conemara Championship Golf Course in Ireland, at 5.04 pm the following day. Steve never stops looking for a new Challenge, a new Adventure. What an example to us all.— How are You doing???



2005 RALLY REALLY REMARKABLE!

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Sakile was himself a Scout in 1st Mayfern. Lunch was distributed to all the 1400 in the record time of 15 minutes, thanks to Marcel Cordes and his Rover Contingent, out from Germany doing Projects with Scouting Mpumalanga as well as seeing the Country.

Scouting and Guiding activities followed. Games and Challenges—the Stilt Walking was very popular. An impressive Closing Ceremony brought a successful and memorable day to an end.



Area Chairman Dudley & Area Commissioner Elvis enjoying the day!

STILTS — are seen being used by Clowns and other performers in Circuses and Parades, but they have many other applications. In Mexico and India they dance on Stilts. They are used for crossing or working on soggy ground. Stilts are used by fruit pickers to save moving ladders around, and today in many parts of the World, stilts are used for drywall installation, plastering and painting to avoid putting up scaffolding!



New Delhi Scouts dance on Stilts.



As you arrive or leave Scotland's Edinburgh Airport, the Royal Bank of Scotland's advert reminds you to —

- Make a Plan
- Make it Possible
- Make it Probable
- Make it HAPPEN!

and that's what we can all do for Scouting and Guiding Mpumalanga!



WISE WORDS FROM DENIS:~

In making the change from being an active Scouter for the best part of 45 years to becoming an Area Chairman, I just cannot resist the temptation to wander back down "memory lane". So here are just a few of the precious moments that I will cherish as long as I live.

For the first, let me take you back to my first ever B-P Sunday as a Scouter, long ago in Zambia. Some 200 Scouts, Cubs and Scouters had gathered in the densest bush country where the termite heaps are sometimes five metres high. The Pack Scouter had coached a newly qualified Leaping Wolf to read from Philippians 4. I waited with baited breath for him to say his piece to what, to him, must have seemed an awesome crowd. To my delight, his youthful voice enunciated confidently and clearly (echoed by the tall trees all around) from the top of just such an anthill;

these words:-

..... Finally my brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever is pure and lovely, whatsoever is admirable; if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think on these things.....

This moment sticks in my memory because as a young Scouter two wonderful truths had become a reality for me in that moment. The first was that, given the chance, any boy can excel under our careful tutelage. The second was that this passage is what B-P must have been thinking about when he wrote the tenth scout law.

I will allow myself just one more anecdote. This time in a more jocular vein. About 12 years ago I organised a night hike. At the time I had a wonderful crowd of Dads, with way out ideas on making things exciting. One father connected a powerful audio amplifier to a

hi-fi speaker in such a way that when he tapped a Morse key, the speaker let out an explosive sound just like a machine gun going off. The trail led through a tunnel under the motorway and as each patrol entered the tunnel this gadget let forth such a realistic barrage that every team, except one, beat a hasty retreat and had to be coaxed to run the gauntlet.

Another father used a recent wreck of a car to reconstruct a road accident as the first aid base. He splashed tomato sauce all over the place and arranged for himself to pose as the accident victim. In the dim light of the stars the scene was so realistic that the boys, on arrival at the base, hesitated to start their treatment. The act involved the victim moaning that he thought his neck was broken; so that if his head was moved, the 'casualty' would slump into unconsciousness. One team

leader on seeing this said to his crew "too bad about this guy, he's dead, lets go on to the next base".



I treasure this episode too, because it reminds me that too often Scouters are too proud to make use of parents to enliven their programs. Also it is by creating challenges such as this that we can keep boys really interested in the game that is Scouting. By the way, half way through the night the police arrived to see where the war was. We had some difficulty in convincing them that we were not actually using firearms!

Scouting should be an exciting as well as an instructive game. Let us go all out to make it so in our Area.

Denis Bruckmann



The opening Ceremony.

The very first Girl Guide Fun day was held at the Mataffin Scout hall and sport fields on Saturday 28th May 2005. There were 190 participants from all over Mpumalanga East Region, including Inyamazane, Nsikazi, Nkomazi and Nelspruit. The day started with an opening ceremony at 9am. The Guides were then divided into 6 groups

GIRL GUIDE FUN DAY—MATAFFIN

for the day's programme. They had to complete 6 bases to be able to earn the Emergency Team Pennant – a special Guide Team challenge.

The bases included the following: First Aid for bleeding, sprains and fractures, burns and scalds. Mouth to mouth resuscitation, CPR and the recovery position. How to deal with a person who's clothing is on fire and how to react at the scene of an accident. They also learned how to throw a life line to someone who is drowning, run 100m in 20 seconds and build an emergency

fire.

A surprise on the day was a short visit from the Fire Department – arriving with two of their Fire Emergency vehicles. The Guides had the opportunity to ask the Fire Officers questions about fire emergencies. This was very exciting.

At the closing ceremony every Girl Guide received their pennant which can be sewn onto their campfire blankets, as well as an emergency First Aid kit. In every kit was a latex hand glove which the Guides had been taught to use whenever they

would need to have contact with another person's blood. A special thank you to Scouter Sue Walden for doing the CPR training and to all the Guider Adults who ran the bases on the day. Well done to everyone.

Nikki Clark

... With a very realistic simulated wound on her arm!



WEST DISTRICT CUB FUN DAY



Ria Backer of 1st Middelburg teaching Traditional Cub songs.

A total of 28 Cubs from 2nd Coalfields, 1st Middelburg and 1st Passau attended the Fun Day. There were eight bases, including a wonderful Obstacle Course made by 2nd Coalfields Scouts, African Masks, Singing and mak-

ing necklaces using popcorn—although more popcorn was eaten than threaded! At the end of the day the Cubs had earned the Singing Badge and the Masks Badge.



Heaven is . . .
Being a Cub!

Getting him there
is Akela's problem!

The Story Book

And Nature, the old nurse, took The Child upon her knee Saying "Here is the story-book The Father has written for Thee."

"Come wander with me," she said, "Into regions yet untrod, And read what is still unread In the manuscript of God."

Quoted by B.-P. in his book *Rovering to Success*.



A CUB PRAYER

Lord, in this morning hour I pray
To do my best each day.
Draw near to me and I will see
The kind of Cub You'd have me be.
Fit me, Oh Lord, in Thy great love
That I may be a better Cub.

Amen.





SCOUTING VERSUS SOCIETY - The eternal Battle. by Gavin Kelly.

Continuing our look at the general characteristics of the present day youth compared to the Scout Programme.

Health Awareness.

- ✦ Poor development of gross and fine motor skills (through less physical activity).
- ✦ Poorer general health (respiratory problems, diabetes, asthma, allergies, skeletal etc.)
- ✦ Average age of physiological puberty has decreased but emotional / physiological development has not adapted to match this.
- ✦ Over the last 20 years onset of sexual activity has dropped by 6 years (from 21 to 15) for women and by 4 years (from 20 to 16) for men.
- ✦ The age-group 16 to 24 has the highest rate of alcohol consumption.
- ✦ Nearly 800 young people start smoking every day (nearly 40% of girls started smoking in Grade 11 compared to 25% of boys.
- ✦ Pre-sixteen conception rate has risen from 66 per 1000 births in 1983 to 89 per 1000 births in 1993 and continues to rise.
- ✦ In 1997 some 35% of all households had somebody who was unemployed, and that was 8 years ago!

Youth

Scouting

Scouting is active with specific regard to physical and mental aspects:

- ✦ Sports, games and active programmes.
- ✦ Physically demanding activities.
- ✦ Mental development and stimulation.
- ✦ Healthy outdoor activities (clean air, water, etc.)
- ✦ Personal health standards and norms.
- ✦ Self determination and decision process.
- ✦ Guidance in social behaviour patterns.
- ✦ Setting of acceptable norms with regard to hobbies and personal habits.
- ✦ Involvement in planning and evaluating events and activities.
- ✦ Ensuring correct training standards are met.
- ✦ Allowing peer group determination of issues affecting involvement in the Movement.

AFRICA SOUTHERN ZONE SCOUT YOUTH WORKSHOP AND SCOUT

CONFERENCE.



From 23 April to 1st May 2005, Dede Letsoge (from North Western Province) and I were in Maseru, Lesotho, as delegates for the South African

Scout Association. The participating Countries were Angola, Malawi, Mocambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Lesotho. The Scout Youth Workshop was from 24th to 29th April. On the first day we all introduced ourselves and the BP Spirit was at its highest amongst all of us. The Basotho gave us a warm Scouty welcome with a yell, "Pula?! A e ne!!" (translated into English "Rain?! Fall!!") At the Workshop the medium of

communication was English and we were trained by members of the World Scout Bureau. There was also a youth trainer of the Africa Southern Zone from Zimbabwe, Mostaff Mate-sanwa. The Workshop involved training in Leadership Skills, Communication, Peace Building, the Scout method, the Constitution, Gender equality, Time Management and the structure of Scouting, from a Scout to the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

I learnt a lot at this Youth Workshop. In both the Leadership and Scouting Method sessions, the facilitators emphasised the Patrol System. The Patrol System is the rock on which Scouting is built—the Patrol System trains the children in Leadership skills—the "learning-by-doing method". In the children, the Patrol System produces adults who will be trusted to do their duty. Each

Country gave a report on youth involvement in Scouting's Leadership.

Then to the Conference, held 29th April to 1st May 2005. This involved all the Adult Representatives too, and I was so happy to see Luke van der Laan, Nkwenkwe Nkomo, Tebogo Rakgabyane, and Buzz Macey.

The Conference was officially opened with Prayers from Father Mariti, Vice-Chair. Southern Zone, and the Lesotho Chief Commissioner welcomed everyone. All Countries reported on the Activities of their Scout Associations. I was most impressed with our SASA Report given by Luke van der Laan. We are seen to be really active and doing our utmost best in South Africa. The whole House was very impressed with SASA's Projects. The final evening was an African evening. I was very taken with all the countries

coming up with Traditional singing and dancing—everyone different. The Basotho took the crowd with their high performance from their enthusiastic Youth. Pity! - I didn't perform anything because the other South Africans had already gone to the places where they slept. If I had performed it would have been a North Sotho Pedi Song and Dance, taking into account that South Africa is multicultural!! I learnt a lot of new things and made many bonds with the Scouts—brothers and sisters from the Southern African Countries. I would like to thank SASA Headquarters and my Area for giving me the opportunity to represent South African Scouting and for trusting me to do my Best.

David Mauku

INYAMAZANE ROVERS!



We, the Inyamazane Rovers, have started with our Crew of 16 people and a Committee of 6. With the help of Frank Oberholzer and others interested in Rovers, we managed to come together as Rovers, our Motto "Service".

We started with our first project, of cleaning our side of the Mthetho Mushi Game Reserve where our Scout Grounds are, on 29th June and 9

people attended. We have three more projects for this year—putting Dustbins in the main road with the help of some Company; collecting clothes and blankets for the poor people, and building shelters for the parents selling in the School Grounds, because when it rains they will get wet.

We are happy to be part of the action, we are happy that with Rovering, the World will change!

Lucky Bembe.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Cape

Town. The venue for the Inauguration of our new Chief Scout. But did you realise it is doubly significant? Saint George is the Patron Saint of Scouting! And for Mpumalanga Scouting and Guiding it is trebly significant; we have the DPSG (Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg—those wonderful friends together with us in the Partnership.



CAMPFIRE'S BURNING"

Due to lack of participants (and we do understand the busy lives our Scouters lead!), we've had to cancel—no postpone—one of the "good fun" Courses of Scouter Training—The Campfire Leaders Course. One of the questions asked on the Course is, "Which Campfire stands out in your memory the most?" How would you answer that question?

Was it the huge big Camp Fire at a Jamboree; at an Area event; or at your first Troop or Cub Camp? Or perhaps a Patrol Camp; or just sitting round the fire chatting to Akela or Skip when all the younger Scouts or Cubs have gone to bed? For that was almost what B.P. originally took the Campfire to be, but he would most definitely have had ALL his Scouts around him, with no exclusions. The Songs were incidental. It was a time of sharing Scouting experiences, or stories of real life adventures in Scouting. Not only the Scouting of that day in Camp; but of Scouting from B.P.'s "Book of Life", and those who listened and heard were privileged to hear it all first hand.

—When last did you sit round the Campfire and share?



- Is the Scouting you do with your Patrol or Troop really worth sharing at the Campfire?

- When did you share an exciting Scouting Adventure / Experience?

- When did you have the undivided attention of the Cubs as you told them about a real Scouting adventure that actually happened?

- When did you chat WITH your PLs (or Sixers) round the dying embers of the Campfire?

- Do the Campfires you run have a lasting impression on you, all because of their FUN and ENJOYMENT?

Yes, today the songs and skits ARE all part of the fun; so it's important that the Cubs and the Scouts get to know them all BEFORE the time; and that means devoting perhaps the last 15 to 20 minutes of a Pack or Troop Meeting to going over the songs which are well known to your boys, and you Cubs and Scouts telling Akela or Skip the ones you'd like to sing.

Dibby Bryant, Director of Northern Transvaal's Campfire Leaders' Training Course of November, 1963, told us:- "The Campfire is just as much part of the Scheme of Training as other Scout activities. The Campfire trains boys in CITIZENSHIP, how to ENJOY LIFE and the ART OF ENTERTAINING ONESELF, rather than Public or Media entertainment. (So important today!) But more so, it trains boys in SELF CONFIDENCE. Then there is the RECREATION—Re creating the Scout Spirit at long Camps!" And Dibby concluded: "there are the MEMORIES of the Campfire to look back on!"

So keep the CAMPFIRES BURNING and remember, if you haven't a repertoire of songs, or want some new ones, there is the CAMPFIRE 'n JAMBOREE CD, well worth having, and which has now come out with the words as well, making it easier to learn as you sing along. You'll really enjoy it.

And by the way—DON'T let the next Campfire Leaders' Course pass You by!!



SANDY, our Scouter who never gave up, has GONE HOME.

Sandy Steyn, our Wheel-chair Scouter, said Farewell earlier in the year when she, her husband Deon and their 3 children moved from Nelspruit to Mocambique. They went to fulfill Sandy's dream of starting a little Guest Farm 200 kms. Up the Mocambique Coast, and were doing well until Sandy developed body sores from being confined to the wheelchair and sitting most of the time. She suffered the same complaints while still with

us, but had access to quick and effective medical treatment, which was not available up there. She was brought down to Nelspruit for treatment, fighting the Septicemia which took her Home.

Sandy was paralysed from the waist down as a result of the horrific accident they survived in 1998 while moving from Secunda, where they had



been very active in Scouting. After months in bed, two German Scout Groups supplied the funds for a wheel chair and later she acquired a little car which she learnt to drive and which made her even more independent.

Sandy was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation Certificate for her showing real Scouting courage and for making the Cub Law real to all of us:- "A Cub does not give in to

himself". Representatives from the Groups, Districts and Area attended Sandy's Memorial Service on 12th July. During the Service, the Preacher thanked Deon and the Children for their example in the way they had stuck by wife and Mum through thick and thin.

And now they are returning to Mocambique to do their best to complete the work of making Sandy's dream come true!

OUR HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mrs. Rosemary Swemmer on her appointment as NATIONAL DIRECTOR of the Girl Guide Association of South Africa. Rosemary has already done sterling work with the Guides and in 1997 joined the Area Staff of Mpumalanga Scouting to assist in running the Kweliphuzi Sub-camp of the S.A. National Jamboree. She and her husband Derek were formerly key trainers on the N.Tv. Scout Training Team, and Derek's Mother, May Swemmer, was one of the 1950/60's Training Team who guided Charlie through his courses.

Guy Briggs Ex 1st Nelspruit Scout, who now runs Mfafa Safaris on his election as Provincial Chairman (Mpumalanga) for NATASA, the National Tourism Authority of S.A. Guy has always said it was Scouting that helped

him get where he is today.

Our good friend, **John Ineson**, International Commissioner for U.K. Scouting, on being awarded the Silver Wolf "In recognition of Service to Scouting of the most exceptional nature". John and his wife Diane, visited us briefly in 2003. One of his many successful projects was to trace the unknown grave of Sergeant Goodyear, one of B.P.'s boys of Mafeking Siege fame (The boy on the bicycle on the Mafeking postage stamps). John found the grave in the Randfontein Cemetery and immediately launched an appeal fund throughout the Scouting World, which paid for the erection of a Memorial Stone over the Grave, which carries the words "In memory of the First Boy Scout."

THE WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE HAPPENS THIS MONTH

This month of August sees a week long Youth Conference in Cologne, Germany. A huge team of people have been involved in making it happen, including our own UWE BOTHUR who was instrumental in helping make Mpumalanga Scouting and Guiding happen too.

We wish Uwe, and everyone concerned and connected with the event, a successful and satisfying outcome, after all the hard work.

Full report in our next issue.



The Judges, Wayne Logan, Peter Reddin and Robbie Schorman relaxing after their hard work!

SCOUT COMPETITION CAMP 2005.

The East District held its Competition Camp over the last weekend in June, and although there were only 4 Patrols, it was a success. The standard of camping showed some improvement over last year's camp, with still room for improvement in camping standards. This will only be achieved by holding more Troop and Patrol camps during the year. Only by doing will we be able to improve—remember the Scout method of **showing and doing**.



1st White River Patrol being inspected.

It was good to have a patrol of Guides with us, and although from a pioneering point of view they were not as good as the Scouts, they made up points in other areas and acquitted themselves very well, finishing tie with 1st White River for first place.

This year the main judging was done by three ex 1st and 2nd Nelspruit Springbok Scouts, Peter Reddin, Robbie Schorman and Wayne Logan. Although they were perhaps a little lenient with their marking, they really got into the spirit of things, opening trowsers here, pulling ropes there, inspecting

lashings, checking campsites. They were also heard asking a lot of questions. I think they enjoyed themselves just being around the campsite, probably thinking of days gone by. Another highlight was the 10 minutes allowed into the guava orchard, where everybody was allowed to pick a quantity of guavas fresh from the trees. During Saturday morning's programme we had an "unfortunate incident" where Badger (Brenda James) met with an accident, cutting her artery, breaking a lower limb and suffering a severe cut to her forehead. Fortunately having Scouts and Guides around, she was quickly treated, stabilized and moved to the nearest available transport. The judges were impressed with this First Aid section of the Competition.

"Fox"



The winning Guide and Scout PLs Nozipho Nkuna of Spice Girls, and Bradley Chambers of Lion Patrol receiving the Trophy from DC Rodney

WEST DISTRICT COMPETITION CAMP.

The Area Competition Camp was held over the weekend of 20 – 22 May 2005 on a farm on the banks of the Olifants River between Middelburg and Witbank. Host troop Middelburg decided to take a step backwards in time by providing the scouts with a totally undeveloped site. The open area of ground, thorny weeds, blackjacks, veldt grass and numerous other obstacles, also provided the scouts with a challenge many had never faced before – no latrines! (Certain Scouters had also never faced this challenge). Teams arrived on Friday afternoon at about 5pm and proceeded to unload their equipment. After the official

opening and the allocation of sites, the contest began!

By 7pm when supper was served, there was already a lot of hungry scouts who wolfed down the food and went on with their work. Some teams established their sites at a good rate, while some of the others were much more relaxed. Saturday morning saw a good breakfast which was enjoyed by all which was then followed the first major inspection. Competition was hot between the Buffaloes and the Bats, who were setting the standard for the others to follow. 1st Passau in their first competition, with borrowed equipment and scouts of an

average age of 12, were acquitting themselves admirably in the more experienced company.

By Sunday morning the two teams to beat were obvious, when Bats' secret weapon was unveiled. The ONLY latrine to be established on the site gave them such a boost that there was no beating them and they were justly crowned kings of the camp, thereby ending a drought of no wins in who knows how many years. Congratulations go to the Bats patrol from 1st Middelburg, who beat the Buffaloes from 2nd Coalfields into second place. Third place went to Eagles, also from 2nd Coalfields with a 4th place going to 1st Passau with a spirited performance.

Dave Becker

AN UNUSUAL PACK OUTING!

The Cubs of 1st Middelburg enjoy a visit at Kalell's Mill in Middelburg. Ever heard of swimming in Mealies . . .? See for yourself! After an afternoon spent at the Mill experiencing all the processes



involved in refining the Mealies into Maize Meal, a very exhausted but happy group of boys go home, each armed with a Kilo of healthy Maize Meal!

1st PASSAU—a thriving Group.



Some of the Troop in uniform with the new Group flag, dedicated on 26th July

Jane Sulter reports:- They have had a new group of invested scouts at 1st Passau. Investing has become easier owing to a donation for uniforms from Highveld Steel and Vanadium. Thank you to the generous donors!

A first for the Group—the four Nhlapo brothers all invested into the Group. Gives new meaning to the Brotherhood of

Scouting! Arthur & Trinity are Scouts, Nyathi is an Assistant Troop Scouter and

Siphosithu is a Cub.

Last term the winning Cheeta Patrol, went to Botshabelo for a hike.

The Cubs are working hard on their Toughes Challenge—sanding and painting blocks for a Creche in the Informal Settlement,



At the Fort—L-R: Arthur, Thoko, Mpho, Wesley, Thando, Oliver & Shorty.



Cubs painting their blocks.

Orange Six had the most bones for the term and also went to Botshabelo for a hike.

(Back left to right) Newly invested Elliot Mazibuko, Oliver Ntuli, Shorty Sithole, Mpho Lecau and Wesley Sibonyoni



L-R: Arthur, Trinity, Nyathi and Siphosithu.

Here they are examining an Ndabelo hut.





TOP MARKS TO MARCEL'S "ESSENER'S."

This super group of 23 Rovers & Leaders from Essen in Germany, were in South Africa from 17 July 2005 – 7 August 2005. They travelled to Witbank first and stayed over at the Witbank Nature Reserve. The Reserve Management had requested assistance from the Scouts in various tasks in the Reserve. This became the Essen Group's first project in the name of Scouting Mpumalanga. They did an invader plant clean out, tagging the indigenous trees and painting parts of the buildings in the Reserve. They also visited a Creche housing about 100 orphans at Clarinet, an informal settlement outside Witbank. Other activities in the area included a visit to Angel's orphanage and a meeting with the 2nd Coalfields Cubs.

Once in the East most of the group made the very special Crystal tour in the Sudwala caves and thoroughly enjoyed this unusual experience. They also did Fox's Adventure in Barberton, sleeping overnight in the Agnes Hut on the trail, and then learned goldpanning at one of the Barberton gold mines.

The group's second project was shopping for and packaging all the food for the Area Rally. This they handled in their stride and on the day all 1400 Scouts and Guides at the Rally received their food within 15 minutes – Well Done!

Their third project was to assist with erecting a fence at the Inyamazane District Camp Ground near Mthethamushwa Game Reserve. The group had done some fundraising in Germany to assist with this project. While in Kanyamazane they enjoyed home hospitality with the Scouters and also visited the Mathamu Cultural Cen-

tre, the Msogwaba old age home, The Moses Sihlangu Street Children project and the Ligwalagwala FM Radio station.

Their fourth project was to prepare the Nelspruit Scout hall for painting; while at the same time repairing the tables and benches in the hall and clearing out the overgrowth in the garden. They also had home hospitality in Nelspruit with the 1st Nelspruit Guides and Scouts. The Brownies prepared breakfast for the group and the Cubs prepared lunch. The Guide and Scouts hosted everyone for a super dinner.

The final project was to check all the tents that had been donated to the Area so that they are now ready for the Groups.

Their last days here were sight-seeing days. They travelled into the Kruger Park, then over to Hoedspruit and back to the airport.

The Essen Group must be complimented for the way in which they tackled the above projects and for the example of harmony amongst themselves and their willingness to work together. The Essen Rovers said that it was due to their very hard work in preparing themselves long before they made the trip. What also helped, was to reflect on the day's activity every single evening.

Most of the credit must go to Marcel Cordes, one of our Volunteers from 2003, who initiated and led the Group. He always said that he would return one day to South Africa, and bring all his Rovers with him. Well done Marcel!



The whole group at the Clarinet Creche with some of the orphans.

PATROL RECORDS ~ Essential Communications

You may not have realised just how important your Patrol Records are. Let's look at some, and see why you should keep them up to date: YOUR PROGRESS CHART on the wall of your den, lets every man see exactly where he and others stand on test and badge progress. Its very existence is an invitation to make progress, keep up with the others, get ahead of them. It is not possible to plan Patrol Programmes without a Progress Chart—and that's why the PL should have an extra copy of it in his personal file. In turn, the big Troop Progress Chart cannot be kept up to date if Patrol charts are not marked up weekly. Again, from the Progress Chart you can extract progress information for parents, for the unit magazine, and so on.

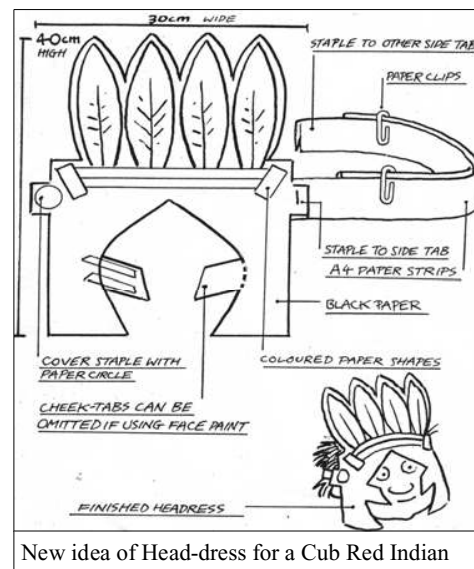
YOUR SUBS RECORD is another simple little record that needs to be kept up to date, and studied weekly so you know who has paid up, who is lagging behind, who needs reminding. YOUR PATROL COUNCIL MINUTES must be written after each meeting and filed otherwise you can't read them over at the next Patrol meeting, and deal with "Matters arising from the Minutes"; the same applies to Court-Of-Honour Minutes and Minutes are a handy reference for writing brief monthly Patrol reports for your unit bulletin or magazine! Or an annual report for the AGM. YOUR PATROL LOG BOOK is an important record, and you should have a Patrol Scribe or Patrol Herald looking after it, keeping it up to date.

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YOUR PATROL GEAR AND EQUIPMENT LIST is an essential record. That gear costs money. Once every year Skip has to account for it—and you can't do an annual stocktaking without a gear and equipment record. You can't even check, after a camp, that everything's back in good order. YOUR MAILING LIST IS VALUABLE. Have a list of Scouting personnel from GS down to your Patrol, and use this list as a basis for drawing up a Mailing List of those people to whom, from time to time, you want to post, telephone or deliver information.

THE HIKE DISTANCE CHART has been proved to be a most valuable record—showing how many kms have been hiked, and how many overnight camps have been experienced, by each member of the Patrol, and the Patrol as a whole. All these and other essential records are necessary communications—if you don't have them, you can't communicate the information they record; which means you can't run your Patrol properly. Keeping these various records, seems like a lot of work for the Patrol Leader. This isn't so. No good PL is a one-man-band. He delegates the keeping of many Records to other members of the Patrol . . . And simply checks that they do it. The best time to check is at Patrol Council meetings, when each Scout should be given a brief report on how he has carried out his Patrol Jobs.

~ Veld Lore .



New idea of Head-dress for a Cub Red Indian

A GREAT TROOP GOOD TURN ! !



1st Sindzawonye Troop repairing the road entrance to the school, where the dip was too deep and cars were scraping on the verge. Troop Scouter Alfred Chirwa supervising the work with his Patrol Leaders..



The greatest under-developed territory in the world lies under Cub Caps!
From "Scottish Scout News"

Diary dates

September

3rd Gilwell Reunion.
7th Travelling Shop.
10th-11th Introduction to Adult Leadership.
19th Training Team Meeting, Nelspruit.
23rd-25th Cub Summer Camp.
26th-1st Oct. Scout Summer Camp.

October

1st Scout Summer Camp.
5th Travelling Shop.
8th Training Team Planning Meeting, W.R.
14th-16th JOTA / JOTI.
29th Area AGM.

November

2nd Travelling Shop.
26th Area Management Year End meeting.

TO ALL WOODBADGE HOLDERS
Please note that when in uniform, no matter which scarf you are wearing, your Woodbadge beads should be worn. They are a sign of training, just as the Gilwell woggle is, and should not only be worn with the Woodbadge scarf, but at all times.



MARCUS AND MARIA, two special visitors.

Marcus Koppe, Volunteer Scouter in 2002, paid a fleeting visit to Mpumalanga on his recent holiday in South Africa. This time he brought his girl friend, Maria. They spent a morning with Nikki at the Area Office catching up on news and activities. They sent love to everyone they did not manage to see.



THE OUT IN SCOUT—FOX'S ADVENTURE

This venture was started as an adventure for Senior Scouts of the Far East District and came about through a brain-storming session between of the then DC Charlie and ADC Fox. It is however, interesting to note that to date we have had far more "overseas" visitors than local participants attempting FOX'S ADVENTURE. To qualify for the Badge one must complete both the hike up the mountain as well as the cycle ride down again. The Badge can only be earned once regardless of the number of times a person may do this adventure. To date approximately 193 have attempted the

Adventure, although in the beginning no-one had cameras to record how many people actually finished the Course

7 Mpumalanga Scouters, Collin (Fox), Charlie, Lynda, Rodney, Elvis, Antony, Amon and Juan, and 1 Guider Cheryl, have all completed the event. Local entrants have been 3 Ranger Guides from 1st Nelspruit, 13 from 1st Nelspruit Troop, 3 from 1st Middelburg, 14 from 11th Lynwood and 10 public entrants who joined the various groups.

Two Scottish Contingents totaling 50 boys, finished well. 91 Scouts, Rovers and Scouters came from various German

CLAUDETTE JAMES, EX WHITE RIVER GUIDE RECEIVES EXTRA SPECIAL WOODBADGE.



Dudley putting his own Woodbadge beads on Claudie.

Claudette (Claudie to all her friends), ex-White River Guide who gained her Chief's Challenge, took up a teaching post in Kent, U.K. She joined the 24th Medway, Borstal Scout Group as an assistant Troop Scouter, worked very hard through her various training courses in the U.K. until attaining her Woodbadge.

When it came to the Presentation, the date coincided with Dudley's and Brenda's visit to the U.K. in May/June this

year. So as a "special" - a unique one at that - Dudley handed on his own Woodbadge Beads—the handing on of knowledge from Trainer to Trained Scouter—from Father to Daughter, a proud moment! The Ceremony was shared with Area Commissioner Graham Hancock.

Others present were Troop Scouter Ian Leicester and Group Scouter Trevor Banks, who has been the driving force and encouragement behind the Ice Cream Badge support for Mpumalanga from Kent County.

Graham, Trevor, Claudie, Ian & Dudley



Standing far right Dee with Alfred; kneeling far right, Bob Centre Charlie, far left Samson.

1st SINDZAWONYE Scout Troop had the surprise visit of Assistant Cub Master, Bob Davidson of Pack 61, St. Francisville, Louisiana, U.S.A. and his Girl Scout daughter, Jessica. They accompanied DC Samson Lufhondo; Dee Chandler and Charlie Baty of the Training Team, who went out to present Alfred Chirwa with his Woodbadge Beads prior his leading the Group to Germany. Both Bob and Jessica were most impressed with the

Troop Programme, especially the very active role played by the PLs and the Message given by one of them at the short Scouts Own at the end of the meeting. While Bob and Jessica were visiting Sindzawonye, Kyle, the Cub Scout of the family, had a wonderful time at the 1st WHITE RIVER Pack Meeting.



Kyle on far right with the Pack

"LOCKS FOR LOVE" Young Jessica Davidson, Girl Scout from U.S.A., who recently visited Mpumalanga, is busy with a most unusual, but worthwhile Good Turn. She and her friends are all growing their hair as long as possible before having it cut, so that they can donate it to the Organisation "Locks for Love". They turn it into wigs for those, young or old, who lose their hair through chemotherapy and other treatments.

SCENES FROM EARLY HIKES



Some Germans in the Mine Tunnel.



At the top.

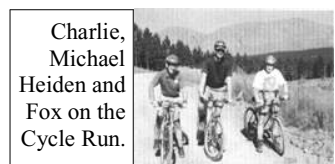
Groups, together with 1 Jamaican who did it with a German Group.

In addition to the above, the visiting German Choir completed the 21 km overnight Queen Rose hiking trail also situated in the De Kaap Valley Mountains during their visit in 2004.

As in all sports, injuries can and do occur and since our first group in July 1997 we have had 5 minor incidents and 1 serious accident due to a fall from a bicycle.

It is a great challenge—remember Camp Fire Yarn No. 2 in "Scouting for Boys":

C U THERE!



Charlie, Michael Heiden and Fox on the Cycle Run.