

MPUMALANGA Scouting

“Good, better, best, never let
it rest, till your good is better
and your better Best!”
Sounds like B.P. but it is John Furphy

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February 2006.

FROM OUR AREA COMMISSIONER

The year has just begun and already I feel the days running and I am trying to catch up! It would be foolish of me to start the year without reminding everyone that we have to thank the Lord for blessing us. We are alive today because He has given us the chance to live. We must remember that it is neither through luck or our intelligence that we have joined Scouting. He has a purpose for all of us, and ours as Scouts is to look after His children.

I had the good fortune of reading through an article “Life Long Lessons” sent to me by my colleague at work. I would like to share a few points with you all.
1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risks.

2. To fill your stomach you have to go through the effort of feeding yourself. Without lifting your hands, you won't be able to.
3. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
4. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship. Logically the greatest friends are the ones that you have known all your life.
5. When you realise that you have made a mistake, take immediate steps to rectify it.
6. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
7. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
8. Lastly stand up for what you believe in. Don't let those who were born with a hot spoon in their mouths talk for you. You



have to talk for yourself. Your first steps towards achieving your set goals measure your success.

As we start our year in Scouting do not let disappointments slow you down, because they are like road humps. Try to get over them as quickly as you can!
SASA MPUMALANGA ROCKS!!

Elvis Mdaka

CHIEF SCOUT ATTENDS IMBIZO 2006.



The Registration Comer.

Rev. Vukile Mehana there amongst us. Many Scouters said that for them he was the highlight of the whole Imbizo. One of the Rovers who could not stop talking about how he sat at the table with the Chief Scout, said, “I had no ideas about the Chief Scout. I could not believe that he also started Scouting at such an early age as a Cub-just like I did! - Everything he said was

What a wonderful way to start the New Year in Scouting going to the Imbizo 2006, to find our own Chief Scout,

so clear and positive.

The “Getting -to-know-you” Game brought everyone together. At Registration each participant got a paper with 20 statements on it, This they had to take and get the signatures of the individual Scouter who fitted a statement.



Happiness is Scouting—Rev. Mehana & Lynn Miller.

Lucy Magagula was M.C. for the day and did an excellent job. A Hymn, a prayer, then some items by our own Sekunjab Scouters Choir who entertained us again throughout the Imbizo. Area Commissioner Elvis gave the Welcome and opening speech after which he introduced the Area Management Team for 2006, then the new Management Teams from the 4 Districts. He outlined the S.A. Scout Association Policies for everyone, one more



The Chief Scout with the whole Gathering.

time. National Commissioner for Adult Leader Training, Gavin Kelly, came all the way from Pretoria to present David Mauku with his Commissioner's Woodbadge done in Germany; Keith Plant of 2nd Coalfields Witbank, and Alfred Chirwa of Sndzawonye with their Woodbadges; and Lynn Miller with her Honorable Charge renewed as a Training Team Assistant Leader Trainer. Then it was the turn of Mrs Thobile Hlaka from the Dept. of Agriculture's Environmental Education Centre. She gave two presentations. (Continued on Page 7)

A REVIVAL CHRISTMAS !



1st Revival Cubs having a great time decorating their mini Christmas cakes.

FOR THE NEWYEAR—

Do all the good that you can
By all the means that you can
In all the ways that you can
At all the times that you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.
- John Wesley.

John Wesley was Founder of the Methodist Church, which turns our minds to our Chief Scout, Rev. Vukile Mehana, who is also a Methodist Minister. We wish him, his wife and family a Happy New Year!





“Look after Your Scarf and it will look after You”- THAT’S VERY TRUE!



That’s what Lynn Miller, 2005 recipient of the Dudley James Award experienced in the middle of her Award Visit to Germany. She was walking down a crowded street in Dusseldorf in full uniform - naturally- and wearing her Mpumalanga Area Scarf, when out of the crowd came a German Scouter also in uniform and also wearing the Mpumalanga Area Scarf! Neither one could believe their eyes, but of course they went straight to each other and although they’d never met before, greeted each other like long lost friends. The Scouter was Marcelle Cordes from Essen, who had recently returned from leading a Contingent of Essen Rovers and Scout Leaders on their very successful trip to Mpumalanga ! (*Full Story in August 2005 Edition*) They were all watching a Street Parade and Lynn was on the way to see the Kwazulu/Natal Scout Choir perform. But if it had not been for the SCARF they probably would never have met! These are the wonderful things that happen in Scouting – and wonderful things can happen to you to -”**If you look after your scarf—it will look after you!!**”

See “*Look after your Scarf*” December 2000 issue.

SCOUT FRIENDS ARE REAL FRIENDS!

We made a short trip to Umhlanga in December 2005, and 2 days before our planned return home to Mpumalanga, our car broke down. The repairs were going to take about 5 days, as a spare part had to be sent from the Cape.

We really had an emergency – no car and nowhere to stay, because our accommodation was fully booked for the rest of

the festive season. There we were, stranded in a strange place, 9 hours drive from home – what were we to do?

Well, I phoned the office of KZN Scouting to ask for their advice. Their kindness and support was overwhelming. Lorna, Mike and Vemon went out of their way to help us. They transported us plus all our suitcases to Durban, gave us a place to sleep, and even dinner on the first night. We were safe and comfortable.

We as a family are proud to be part of

STOP! LOOK! AND SEE!

Although none of us walk around with our eyes shut, there are very few people who really SEE—or interpret what they see.

Just yesterday I listened to a Sunday School teacher complaining that he is amazed because the children seem to listen but fail to act on what they’ve heard. He had given a talk on “serving others” and had used a number of visual aids. The children joined in with suggestions and participated well. Afterwards he tidied up, collected his many things and made for his car. A teacher pointed out to the children standing by that in a small way they could actually serve then and there, helping him to carry his things. Of course they helped willingly - but not one of them had thought to offer help without being asked!

As Pack Scouters we suggest to our

By Jean Gobey, former National Commissioner for Cub Training.

Cubs that they keep their eyes open for Good Turns each day. How do they manage? Perhaps they do things we suggest, but do they ever SEE opportunities for themselves? Are they aware there are people standing on the bus, who would welcome a seat? When they see their Mother carrying in shopping parcels do they ever take them from her - or carry on with what they were doing? Have you ever watched someone walking in a crowd who drops something? What happens? Just about everyone stops or turns around to see what has been dropped, but does anyone call out or pick it up?

Do today’s children listen to the THEORY we give them and not understand that this should be converted into ACTION?

Just as for the majority of children it takes practice to be able to do well at Kim’s Game, so it is important that they receive

A DAY VISIT TO EUROJAM FROM OUR GOOD SCOUTER FRIEND JOHN ROBERTS IN BRISTOL

Greetings from Bristol, England, to all of you in the Scout Area. I am always interested in reading the Mpumalanga Sun, about the great events and news of the happenings in your Area.

I went to Eurojam in August with my son Andrew who lives in Ripon, North Yorkshire. He is a Primary School Teacher and also is the Assistant District Commissioner for Beavers in Ripon. He went through Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts in my Group in South Bristol and succeeded in gaining his Queen’s Scout Award. (The equivalent of your Springbok Scout Award)

It was great being at Eurojam for the day, where ten thousand Scouts were in camp. We met lots of Scouts from many countries. Our Badge Club –The International Badgers Club– had an excellent display on their site. They had lots of visitors during the time there. A lot of swapping went on. The European Scout Centre generated a lot of interest, where many Scouting Countries showed details of their Scouting, camp sites and activities. This

same Campsite will be used for the 2007 Centenary Jamboree. B.-P. would have been proud of the longevity of the idea he had all those years ago.



I have a great postcard with one of his drawings where he is an Oak Tree with his arms stretched out, and a Scout as an Acorn below. One of the sayings from long ago was “From little acorns a big oak tree grows!” That’s all for now. I look forward to receiving the next issue of your excellent magazine.

I am still collecting Scout Memorabilia and have a fair collection of different items. If there is anyone who collects badges or postcards I would be pleased to hear from them.

John Roberts.



an organization that not only serves others, but really takes care of their own. It is so great to know that we are part of a huge family, an international family in fact, that will react to help in any way possible with an emergency like the one that we had.

My most sincere thanks to our Scout friends in Kwa-Zulu Natal for your hospitality in our time of need. You really showed how to keep the Scout Promise to help other people. *Nikki Clark*

training and practice at “observing”. Try and bring this into your Pack Meetings in many different forms. One thing you could do after an outing, is hold a quiz along the following lines:

- * What kind of tree did we sit under to eat our lunch? (If you don’t know the name, describe it.)
- * Name 5 different birds seen on the trip?
- * What flavour cold-drink did you have?
- * Describe the person who opened the gate for our car . . . And so on.

Two other suggestions you could try is to wear something different on your uniform and see how many Cubs notice. If no one does, then ask them, next week, to describe what different item you wore the previous week. Put something really different or eye-catching on the Notice Board and see who notices first.. Use your imagination and it could be lots of fun for both Scouters and Cubs—and good training too!



“A Scout is Proficient in Knot Tying” –WHY KNOT?

A Scout becomes a Scout when, amongst other qualifications, he can tie the six basic Knots. He advances through Scouting, learning Lashing and Whipping. (That sounds like child abuse, but Lashings hold the poles together and Whipping stops the end of a rope from fraying.) He also learns a variety of very useful knots which he is guaranteed to use throughout his life time. Competitions are held to see which Scout can tie the knots the quickest both visually and blindfolded, increasing proficiency.

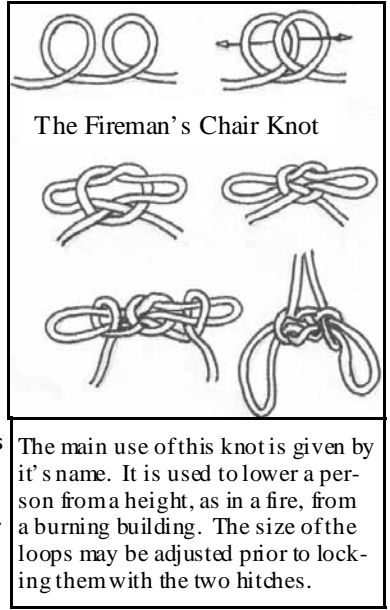
But did you know that there is an International Guild of Knot Tiers?

And did you know that there is a Book written by an American,

Clifford Ashley, which contains in its 620 pages, every knot known to man? — over 3800 Knots! He took 40 years to compile the Book and 11 years to complete it! Able to tie a Reef Knot at the age of three, Clifford spent years searching out, tying and trying for himself. He interviewed Butchers, Carpenters, Weavers, Nurses, Surgeons, Falconers, Magicians, Thieves, Farmers, Balloonists, Mountain Climbers, Jewellers, Fencers, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, he even took details from an Executioner! Every Scout knows the difference between a Reef Knot and a Granny Knot! But this Book tells you everything you'd ever want to

know! For instance, the Sheet Bend - one of the six basic Scout Knots - was already being tied and used regularly by the Stone Age Peoples! You can see how to hang a glass jar safely; how to save your life by holding on to a thin cord without suffering Rope Burns. You can learn how to put a damaged rope back to work instantly. You can learn to tie a “Vicious” Knot that no-one can undo!

Ashley died within three years of the original publication in 1944, so the International Guild of Knot Tiers took on the job of correcting and updating, until today's edition is almost perfect, and is referred to in Knotting



The Fireman's Chair Knot
The main use of this knot is given by its name. It is used to lower a person from a height, as in a fire, from a burning building. The size of the loops may be adjusted prior to locking them with the two hitches.

Circles throughout the World as ABOK—Ashley's Book of Knots.

2005 CONTINGENT TO GERMANY REPORT BACK WITH THANKS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Four Scouts and Guides, members of the 2005 Contingent to Germany and the World Youth Day, met with Mr. Molai, Director in the Mpumalanga Department of Education, to report back on their adventure of a life time.

Cassandra Ngomane introduced their Presentation and spoke on the very comprehensive media coverage given to the South Africans on TV, Radio and the Newspapers. Goodman Ngwenyama gave a detailed account of the big Inter-

national Scout Camp prior to the World Youth Day. Joseph Msimango told how this Scouting experience has changed his life and outlook, and Daluxolo Maminza gave an exciting account of World Youth Day itself.

All four asked Mr. Molai to please convey the thanks and gratitude of the whole Contingent to his Department for their support.



MPUMALANGA SCOUTS OFFER FRESH WATER AT VOTING STATIONS.

Once again we will be going to the Voting Stations, and once again Mpumalanga Scouts will be around to offer relief for this queuing in the hot Summer sun. They will have fresh water which they will serve to all those who are thirsty.

Our photo shows Scouts Benito Nkosi and Noah Ngobeni doing their duty during the 2004 Elections.



A BRAND NEW BAKKIE FOR VICKY!

Mrs Margaret van der Walt, is everybody's helper and everybody's friend. She is a teacher at the St Ursula's Convent School, Krugersdorp, but she is also a Guider. She's known to everyone in Guiding as Vicky and is probably one of the longest serving Guiders, certainly in Gauteng West Region. She's seen 45 years service as a Guider and was a Guide before that. She has a very old Bakkie (Van) which has been used for years and years for transporting school equipment, and for Guide and Brownie camps, wherever and whenever needed—but now is literally falling to pieces. So that is why every child in the school signed a letter to the Radio 5 “Christmas Wish List 2005” asking for a new Bakkie for their favourite teacher. The Radio 5 Team were very sympathetic and phoned Vicky just before Christmas with the surprise news that she was to be proud owner of a brand new Bakkie with the compliments of Radio 5! Everyone, especially the children were thrilled that Vicky is appreciated for all she does, and they know that when the new Bakkie arrives it will become part of Guiding in their Region.



SCOUTING ACTIVE ON WORLD AIDS DAY ROUND THE AREA!

Our Scouts did an awareness good turn by going in full uniform to school on World Aids Day. They did good work amongst the Community as well.



Naxolo Mlambo making the speech.

HIV/AIDS support meetings were held by the Health Dept. at Vulamasango and Msogwaba where the Scouts were used as ushers. In Nkomazi

Scouts were at school in their smart uniforms.

Thirty Cubs and Scouts from 1st Revival, met at Mliilo Primary School, in full uniform, to honour World AIDS Day. During the Devotions the Cubs sang a few Christmas and Cub songs. Naxolo Mlambo

made a short speech to let the school know why they were in uniform, and how they should treat people who are infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. The Scouts also had a play that explained how friends should support one another when they are infected.

The whole group planted some banana trees so that the children may have free fresh bananas in two year's time. The teachers were amazed at the neatness and behaviour of the Scout group. Mrs. Mathonsi asked to have her photo taken with them.



Planting a Banana Tree.

The day was a success and the Mission accomplished.



CAMPING 100 YEARS AGO - SCOUT STYLE OR WHAT B.P. WAS GOING TO TEACH HIS SCOUTS!

One of the special exhibits at the Nelspruit/White River Centenary Outdoor Expo had the theme "Camping today and Camping 100 years ago". Knowing the Scouts, the Centenary Celebration organizers contacted the Scouting Mpumalanga Area Office for assistance in building their 1905 Campsite.



Jerry Brown stirring the pot over the fire.

Jerry Brown and the Rovers Mduzuzi Manana, Lucky Bhembe, Daluxolo Mamiza and Dumsan Manana took up the challenge. Much of the proven old ways of camping

are still done today and the skills have been passed down from generation to generation within Scouting.

The team set up the campsite in-



Dumsan Manana at the Pioneering table.

cluding a pioneering table, a cooking fire and tripods as well as the old-style tent. Jerry added some points of interest to the exhibition such as a chart about morse code,

an old-style camping fridge using evaporated cooling and a solar water heating model. Alison from the Centenary committee added an ox-wagon and some antiques to finish off the exhibition. In a mirror image a modern tent, table and Land Rover were set up – but these were not what attracted the crowds.

We estimate that at least 500 to 800 people walked through the exhibition. Our huge sign saying "Scouts – 100 years young in 2007" prompted folk to ask lots of questions about Scouting. Alison kept on pointing out the pioneering table that the Rovers had built right there on the day. This was great for our publicity in Nelspruit. Jerry and Nikki were on duty at the exhibition over the 3 days. So many commented that our way of camping looked like so much more fun!! Yes, Scouting is fun!



Logo of 1st World Jamboree.

W.J. I YES!—WORLD JAMBOREE No. I!

World Jamboree No.1 was held in the huge Glass Covered Olympia Exhibition Hall in London. The Jamboree Committee knew exactly what they were about when they made the indoor venue. The majority of Contingents were camped under canvas at the Richmond Old Deer Park, a short Bus/ Train ride from Olympia. Camping in the unpredictable British weather they did get rained out the one night and were accommodated by the locals in Scout, School, and Church Halls to dry out and until the weather cleared. In Olympia, a thick layer of soil and grass turfs covered the concrete floor to afford the right outdoor conditions, indoors! -for the exhibitions and competitions including the Tent Pitching.

8000 Scouts from 34 Countries participated, bringing with them –a llama from South America, Ponies from Iceland, an alligator from Florida USA, Monkeys from South Africa and a lioness cub from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe.) all of which made up the Jamboree Zoo. Local Scouts had assisted in the erection of the 3 Deck Pirate Ship moored off Treasure Island; the Tropical Forest from the Jungle Books

with primitive huts and log houses; and in the middle the Rocky Mountain Pass leading up into the rafters of the huge Arena. At 14h30 in the presence of Representatives of the Royal Family, B.-P. and Lady Olave, a Roll on the drums with a rousing march, and the Youth of the World began to wend their way over the Pass and down the Mountain slope to the thundering applause of the huge audience. First came the American Scout Orchestra from Denver, Colorado, followed by a Group of American Red Indians in magnificent feather head-dresses. Team after team, Contingent after Contingent, proud behind their Country's Flag, streamed down the ramp, round the Arena and out, leaving a lump in the throat of almost every spectator. Then followed mass Scout Demonstrations of showing the Practical Programme of Scouting to complete a wonderful Opening Ceremony. Outside, hundreds of Scoutcraft skills were on exhibit in the Stalls set up round the grounds.

The next 8 days must have been highlights in the lives of all 8000 Scouts. B.-P. was himself in the midst of all the activity most of the time. He visited the Old Deer Park Campers twice and on the Sunday joined the 12000 for the Thanksgiving Ser-

vice led by the Archbishop of York. The Scouts became more proficient, the Spirit of Scouting grew and grew, and the Media's reporting became so enthusiastic for Scouting as the week progressed. The first Boy Scout World Jamboree was an unqualified success, reaching the climax on the closing night. After the finals of the Trek Cart Obstacle races and Tug-o-war, (both won by the Danish Scouts!) and the American Red Indian Scouts had performed a magnificent War Dance, B.-P. made the Farewell Speech. One young boy called out aloud—"We the Scouts of the World salute you Sir Robert Baden-Powell—Chief Scout of the World." All the Flags dipped in his honour and the cheering of thousands engulfed him.

What a privilege it must have been to be there representing your Country in front of the Chief Scout of the World who linked hands and arms with every single person in that Arena singing Auld Lang Syne together at the end of a wonderful Jamboree. And everyone bade farewell saying "See you at the next one!" -which (as it is today) was to be 4 years hence in 1924 just outside Copenhagen in Denmark—But that's another story!!



ONE WORLD ONE PROMISE

40,000 Scouts from around the World including South Africa, will camp together at Hylands Park Chelmsford Essex in England from

2007 CENTENARY JAMBOREE

27th July to 8th August 2007. Activities include the World Village where Scouts can explore Creativity, Technology and Culture. The Community Action Day—helping make a difference in the Community The Gilwell Adventure—a day

of fun and Scout Skills at Gilwell Park. The Global Development Village— The Centenary of Scouting on 1st Aug. Live TV links with the Jamboree and Brownsea Island where B.-P. held the first Scout Camp! And much more fun and excitement!

We would like to encourage everyone to find ways such as "Camping 100 years ago" to promote Scouting – especially as we approach our 100 years in 2007. We are hoping to call together as many Scouts as possible from past and present in 2007 – and it is now that we should start the awareness campaign.



“American Boy Scouts roll up their Sleeves to help Hurricane Victims” **AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

This Headline appeared in the last edition of the Magazine. Did YOU answer that question? Whether YOU are a Cub, Scout, Brownie, Guide, Patrol Leader, Guider, Scouter, ex Scouter, ex Guider, Retired, Active, Parent, Guardian, or a faithful supporter of the Movement, it applies to YOU! So read on! (and for the elders or Oldies please read “the tests and badges you Gained!!”)

The Emergencies of the World today demand, more than ever before, that Scouts and Guides be trained as individuals and as Patrols and Troops/Companies, to meet Emergency Situations.

Our Government realises it. Scouting and Guiding have always realised it, and have played a major part in Emergency Situations such as wars, natural disasters, epidemics, accidents, and big and small emergencies of every kind. First Scouting/ Guiding shows you how to look after yourself. Then it shows you how to help others. Be Prepared! It is the very foundation of your training. From the rising accident

rate on our roads, to the threat of nuclear war... from the accident in the home, to the sinkhole or the flood, the Hurricane or Tornado, the Fire or the Bus disaster, today's World is a Dangerous World. It is more dangerous than it has ever been before, when you add it all up.

There is nothing extra in getting yourself organised for Action and Service in Emergency.

The vast majority of your tests and badges, and your normal Patrol and Troop/Company programmes, equip you for Emergency Action. All you need to do is realise this, and see your Scouting and Guiding in this light. From the moment you do so, your test and badge work takes on a great new significance. And your Scouting becomes more exciting and right up to date with the World of today.

Adapted from Veldlore.

1st PASSAU SCOUTS VISIT KWAZULU NATAL.

The scouts who were working on their Adventure Badge from 1st Passau went on a trip to KZN.

We left from Witbank on the morning of 6th December and travelled down to Pongola. We stopped off at Pakamisa to pick up Chil (Carol Sulter) who was to be our guide during the stay.



Thoko Masango hesitantly feeding the Ostrich!

We then went on a game drive through Big 5 country. The scouts had a close encounter with a not too friendly bull elephant! We also saw White Rhino, lots more elephant, giraffe and many different antelope. Although most of the ostriches were ferocious, there was one which didn't mind being fed mealies by Thoko.

Wednesday was an exciting day. We travelled to Sodwana Bay where the Scouts saw the sea for the first time. They enjoyed the beach, but burnt their feet on the hot sand. Fortunately they could cool them off in the water. We braaied hamburgers on the beach and left really late.



Sea Scouts - or Scouts in the sea?

The next day Chil took the scouts on a hike down to the dam so that they could make casts of animal prints. We managed Zebra, Impala, Blesbok and a wild cat. Chil told them about different plants they could eat and introduced them to the delicacy of "termites". Arthur said



Trinity Nhlapho making his Cast.

that they tasted like peanut butter. (I think I'll stick to Black Cat thanks!). Walking through the bush with a trained guide gave the boys a real insight into the ecology of the area.

Sadly all things have to come to an end but the tour was a great success. The scouts learned lots and had a great experience. Our sincere thanks to Issabella Skepsky who sponsored the excellent Tented Accommodation, and also arranged the Game drive. Thanks too, to Chil who was such a wealth of information in the bush and who initiated the whole trip. Here's to more exciting Scouting in the New Year.

Raksha

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

1st Nelspruit Cubs and Scouts did their Annual Good Turn attending the Town's MOTH Remembrance Service on 11th of November. There they distributed the wreaths and floral tributes for the various Dignitaries and Organisations to place at the Memorial Cairn. This year the Scouts did an "Extra" by representing the Movement at the White River Remembrance Service the following Sunday when the local Troop was unable to attend. Services are held throughout the World on either of these dates to remember all those who gave their lives in Service for their Country and for Peace in the World.

Scouts who joined the Ser-

vices, and there were well over half a million of them, found Scouting of the utmost value, a fact freely acknowledged by their comrades. "My officer's a Scoutmaster," wrote a sergeant describing his escape from Germany into Switzerland, "and with only a compass and map he led us over 120 miles of woodland into Switzerland. How's that for Scout training?" A convoy of a hundred Air force motor lorries in Burma, reached safety because a Scout, Leading Aircraftman Alfred Dean, was able to repair a wrecked bridge with a few old railway sleepers and some ropes. It took him 25 minutes to do so, and when the last heavy vehicle had crossed over, the bridge

"gently subsided." - Just one of the many many instances of Scouts' work.

Everywhere where Scouts served, whether in Europe, the Middle East or the Far East, the tale was the same. For work requiring intelligence and training, the first choice was a Scouter or an ex-Scout if one was available. The position of Scouts in the Armed Forces was well summed up by a brigadier with more than thirty years experience of training men for the Regular and Territorial Armies. "A batch of first-class Scouts," he reported, "would prove more acceptable to a commanding officer or a sergeant major than a similar number of lads

with any other form of spare-time activity in their past."

The foregoing is taken from the book "The Left Handshake." The Forward by the Chief Scout Lord Rowallan, says "They remembered their Promise, to do their best to do their duty to God and their Country; to think of other people and not themselves. So when the time came, they were prepared in body and in spirit to render their service. Their record is unsurpassed; they were the bravest of the brave." - And that is why "We Will Always Remember Them"



SATAc—FIRST EXPERIENCE!

Sue Walden Reporting...

With great excitement, & a bit of trepidation, four of Mpumalanga Scouting's Commissioners set off in the Area taxi for the Conference Centres at Mariannhill, outside Durban. Julia Mwale and Lucy Magagula were to attend the AAC's Forum, Michael Nsimba and I were off to SATAc. (the South African Training Advisory Council.)

We made very good time & arrived at the Mariannhill guest house ready for the weekend. We knew we were going to be very well fed & looked after by the nuns who run the place as we had been there on Course before.

The sisters come from Germany, and recognised the DPSG logo on our combi. They wanted

to know why we South Africans had "their" Scout logo. One of the nuns who was attending another seminar at the guest house told us that in her youth, she had been a Guide in Munster. We chatted about Scouting in South Africa, and it was pleasing to hear from someone who has dedicated her life to serving God that "It is incredible how so much good can come from one man's idea, and how many people that idea can touch". We were talking about B-P.

During the course of the afternoon, more delegates arrived & we were able to renew old friendships & form new ones. I was privileged to be one of the only two ladies at SATAc. Carol Olive from Gauteng was the other. All the rest of the delegates were men.

The weather was very hot. 39 degrees in the shade + 120% humidity. We all felt it but were able to take a swim after completing our Agenda.

All too soon, Sunday lunch time arrived. It was time to get back into the Combi and take the long drive home.

Michael Nsimba Reporting..

SATAc for me was challenging and enjoyable. I found the whole weekend was run in a very Positive atmosphere and discussions were really fruitful. All the work we did together was good and I felt we were always on the right track. The various projects are important for us to examine, review and reconsider for the benefit of improved methods and improved training for the Scouters and eventually the Scouts them-

selves.

It was good to meet some of my old Scouting friends again and to make new ones too.

I was tired but excited when my Area of Mpumalanga was chosen as the Venue for the next SATAc!

Lucy Magagula Reporting...

The Assistant Area Commissioner's Forum (Cub Programmes), held in Kwazulu Natal from 13th - 15th January 2006 was a learning experience for Julia Mwale and me. We had a chance to exchange ideas to assist Pack Scouters throughout the Country with their programmes and ensuring that our Cub Training Programme is up to date. We appreciated spending quality time together socialising with Cub Commissioners from the other Areas. It was a real eye-opener for me!



1st NELSPRUIT CUBS DO WELL IN THE SPORTING FIELD!

1st Nelspruit Pack have some very sporty Cubs, and would like to share their achievements with everyone.

Damon Hakderman participated in the Pick 'n Pay cycle race in Gauteng recently. He rode 4.97 Km and came in the top 20.



Damon with his Cycling medal & Ribbon.

Darren Rix was chosen as the Junior Player of the Year at Mpumalanga Golf



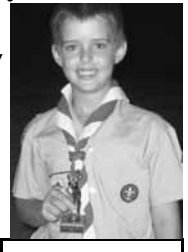
Darren with his Golf Trophy.

Academy.

Joshua Basson was the winner of the Monthly Golf Competition held on 20 November 2005.

1st Nelspruit invested 3 new Cubs on 21 November,

The Pack closed the year with a Christmas party on 28 November, when they made cards & gifts for their parents, played lots of fun games. 1st Nelspruit wishes everyone a Happy New Year!



Joshua shows his Golf Medal

UWE GOES A-ROVERING!

Uwe Bothur, joint founder of the Europe/South Africa Partnership and of Nangu Thina, and one of Scouting's and Guiding's dearest and most faithful friends, took time off from Scouting when he joined the Management Team for the successful World Youth Day, which took place in Cologne last August 2005. This was a mammoth project organised for the young people of the World. Uwe was part of that team that saw it through. We know that he was able to play the part because of his dedicated Scouting background and we are

proud of him. We are also so proud that he should choose Mpumalanga and South Africa to come home to relax and recharge his batteries. It was Christmas holidays, not many folk were around and Uwe was able to take time off! However, in between times he was able to catch up with all the happenings in Scouting Mpumalanga. He was present at the Area AGM and was also able to attend our Area Man-



Uwe Bothur.

agement Meeting.

He made it his aim to meet as many of the Mpumalanga Rovers as possible, and to do so he joined the Rovers Adventure to the Kruger National Park. (see the report below!).

Before leaving for home, Uwe marked up yet one more happy memory—he was Father Christmas amongst the AIDS Orphans. And no-one could be better equipped than our Uwe—the Scouter with the Big Heart!



ROVERS REWARDED WITH AN EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO THE KNP!

On 1st November 2005, 13 Rovers made a weekend tour to the Kruger National Park. All the Rovers in the group where part of the 2005 Summer Camp team, and had also volunteered to do service at the 100 years of White River celebrations. All of the Rovers except for 2 have also attended camps in Germany.

The weekend began with a visit to the Skukuza Education Center and a guided

tour to the Rhino and Buffalo enclosures. Camp was set up at Lower Sabie and everyone enjoyed a great braai dinner.

Very heavy rain at night caused some chaos, but each and every one must be complemented for their Scouting Spirit and Survival Skills, (although no-one had much sleep due to the damp and cold).

A lovely letter of thanks was sent by the Rovers to the drivers for the weekend,



who were Joerg, Hagmaier, Reuben Mkandawire, Uwe Bothur, Nikki Clark and Ace Mazibuko.

A well deserved break for a dedicated group of young leaders.



(Continued from front page.)

The first was a detailed account of all the Centres plus facilities available to Scout Groups throughout Mpumalanga. The second was the "Plant a Tree-Grow your Future", the proposed Project for the Centenary of Scouting's Gift of Peace from Mpumalanga. Full details will be circulated to every Pack, Troop, and Crew in the Area. Brian February, Co-ordinator for the 2007 Centenary Celebrations, flew in from SAHQ Capetown and showed the Programme and activities for the 2007 World Jamboree in England, plus the details of all Local Join-In-Jamboree Events to take place at the same time in South Africa, and in all the other Scouting Countries worldwide.



Brian February with Elvis Mdaka.

Just before adjourning for lunch, Dudley James spoke of the contribution made to Scouting by Lorna Baty, and the Chief Scout presented her with the Medal of Merit.

During the meal, the Amagundane Tribal Dancers –many of them 1st Mataffin Cubs, put on a great Dancing display. Group photos were taken after lunch before everyone moved inside to listen to the Chief Scout's Address. He spoke of his own Scouting career, from Cubs right

through; he said that the Cub or Scout is the most important person in the Movement, and that we owe our existence to them! The Scout Movement is the largest Voluntary Youth Movement in the World, and we as Volunteers, must be fully trained to give our Best to our Cubs and Scouts at all times. The Community, the Public, and the Parents have complete faith and Confidence in the Scout Movement. They entrust their children to us. We must keep it that way by "Being Prepared" and by offering the Best Scout Training to our youngsters. His third and last point was to always respect and Thank the Parents of the Cubs and Scouts. They are our Supporters. If the Pack/Troop is well run, they will offer help naturally, as they can see the benefits of Scouting in their Children.. He ended by wishing Mpumalanga every success in their efforts and thanked everyone. By this time the storm had broken, it was lashing rain, and the power went off. Our Chief had to leave us early to drive the long trail back to Johannesburg with his daughter and his niece. Everyone appreciated his efforts to be with us and for his positive message. A big Thank You to his daughter and his niece for keeping him company on the journey.

The Drama Group— Treatment Action Campaign—of six young people from Kanyama, on a humorous play by Torchlight, bringing home the Message of HIV/AIDS and



The Amagundane Dancers.

bringing home the Message of HIV/AIDS and



The Sekunjalo Scouters' Choir

Gender Issues. The Spiritual Motivation- The Quiet Time - was led by Rev. Barbara James, wife of Butch who was Troop Scouter of Nelspruit for a number of years.

Their two Children were in the Nelspruit Guides and Scouts, so Barbara mothered a complete Scouting Family. Her message which was based on Psalm 121; Isaiah 58 vs. 11; and Phillipians 4 vs. 6 & 7. was "God is

always there to help." "He is there to keep us on the Right Track"- and He does! - especially in Scouting!

Scouting Mpumalanga wishes to thank everyone who played a part in the success of Imbizo 2006, especially those who stepped in at the last minute. They are all too many to mention by name! A big Thank You to Nangu Thina for their blue Key chains. A very Big Thank You to our



Marcus and Mduduzi signing the Register.

Catering, and Travel costs = South African HQ. and NOVIB of Netherlands. And also a big Thank You to SAHQ for their wonderful support in sending our Chief Scout, Gavin Kelly, and Brian February, to share with us, and to these 3 Super Scouters – You're great! Or in the words of our Area Commissioner Elvis "You ROCK!!!"

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR COMMISSIONERS.

During his visit for the Imbizo, National Commissioner for Adult Leader Training, Gavin Kelly ran a very interesting and useful Middle Management Course for all our new Area and District Teams.

Sixteen Commissioners came away with new perspectives on time management, problem solving, communications, running effective meetings, financial management, administration, the structure of the Scout Movement in relation to reporting and liaising.

The course was run under the auspices of the Jacobs Foundation and ensured that our Commissioners are well equipped to serve their Scouters and Scouting.



Gavin with the Commissioners

LORNA RECEIVES SCOUTING'S MEDAL OF MERIT.



Charlie, Chief Scout Rev. Vukile Mehana Loma and Dudley after the presentation.

Lorna Baty has dedicated her life to Scouting at the side of her Charlie. Unbeknown to them, Lorna made her Girl Guide Promise in Nelspruit the same month of the same year as Charlie made his Scout Promise in Scotland! Their names are synonymous with Scouting and are so well known to hundreds of Cubs, Scouts and Scouters. Prior to their marriage Lorna was already part of the Team and at their wedding in

1963, the White River Cubs and Scouts formed a Guard of Honour for them.

Lorna assisted with all the Administration and Record Keeping of 1st White River, helped organise catering,; cub camps; the Steam Train trips to Pretoria for the Baden-Powell weekend with the 4th Pretoria Hatfield Group. She made all the Group Scarves and assisted the parents making the Costumes for the various Scout Variety Shows. After 30 years with 1st White River, when Charlie move on to Assistant District Commissioner and District Commissioner, she did all his secretarial work and all his Training Course Session notes and overheads for the Training Team Courses in both Northern Transvaal and in Mpumalanga

Currently she is assisting Charlie as Assistant Area Commissioner Public Relations and does all the layout and typing of the Area Magazine, newspaper articles and Display pictures.

Lorna saw their four children through the Girl Guide and Scout Movements, serving for a lengthy period on the Girl Guide Parents Committee. Their son Alistair gained his Springbok Scout Badge.

Lorna never went into Uniform but has been a pillar of support to the family and to Scouting. She has always lived according to the moral standards set by the Scout Promise and Law and is a devout Christian lady.

The Chief Scout thanked her profoundly for her outstanding service to Scouting and said it was a special privilege to present her, as it was the very first Medal of Merit he had presented as Chief Scout.



"Good, better, best, never let it rest, till your good is better and your better Best!"
Sounds like B.P. but it is John Furphy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

February

1st Travelling Shop
4th-5th Intro. to Adult Leadership. WR.
4th-5th Cub Camping, Witbank
17th-19th District BP Camp
19th East BP Parade.
25th-26th West BP Camp.

March

1st Travelling Shop
4th Campfire Leaders Course, W.River.
5th HIV/AIDS Course, White River.
13th Training Team Meeting.
17th-20th Cub Warrant Course, White River.
21st Scouts Cooking Competition, East.
21st Inkomazi District Talent Day.
25th Inyamazane Cleaning Campaign

April

1st Cub Handcraft & Scout Skills, W.R.
2nd Pack Training Aids; Scout Skills, W.R.
21st-23rd Inyamazane Fun Camp.
22nd Area Management Meeting
27th-30th Scout Warrant Course, White River.

May

1st East Field Day, Cubs & Scouts.
3rd Travelling Shop.
5th-7th West Competition Camp.
6th Inkomazi Sports Day
6th East District PLs Forum
8th Training Team Meeting.
20th Jungle Background, Compass & Mapping, White River.
27th Area Rally.

IT'S STILL "HAPPY NEWYEAR" AT THE END OF JANUARY!

Another idea for your Programmes

January 30 heralds the start of the Chinese New Year - and an ideal occasion for you to inject a little oriental spice into your Troop or Company Programmes.

Try cooking a Chinese meal using camp stoves—you may find that it is so easy to do, with such a tasty result, that Chinese food becomes a permanent part of your camp menu.

A traditional part of the Chinese New Year is the visiting of elderly relatives, with special foods prepared for them. Why not offer to prepare and serve a special meal (of any sort) for the residents of a local old folk's home?

Ask a local person who originates



Chinese Scout Badge.

from China to come and talk to the Troop about their customs, food and dress. Try to learn some of their language. "Kung hay fat choy" means "We wish you prosperity" and is a well-received greeting.

The end of the New Year celebrations is marked by the Lantern Festival. Strings of lanterns of all shapes and sizes are hung out to celebrate the coming of Spring and the start of the growing season. See which Patrol can produce the smallest/greatest quantity/largest/most decorative Chinese lantern in say, 20 minutes.



David Heun.

HERE I AM! I'm David Heun from Frankfurt in Germany. I am the new Volunteer and will work with Scouting Mpumalanga from 5 January to 13 May. I have been a scout since the age of 11. I am 20 years old and finished school last Summer, but I didn't want to start my studies immediately, so I have taken a year's break. In September and October last year my older brother and I travelled through the Sahara Desert in an old Combi. It was quite an adventure. Then I arranged to come to South Africa, not for holidays, because I'm a Scout, I want to help other people especially Scouting Mpumalanga. I hope, that you and I have a great time here in Mpumalanga, and that I will learn something from you and you will learn something from me. "Learning by doing" (the Scout way!), I will do something, that you learn from me, and you show me, that I can learn from you.

"PLANT A TREE AND GROW OUR FUTURE"

That is what Scouting Mpumalanga has been doing since it's inception in 1997.

Every year on Arbour Day/Arbour Week, you will find Scouts and Cubs, Guides and Brownies, out planting trees somewhere in Mpumalanga. Every Training Course in the early years, planted a tree in the Scout grounds, Church grounds, School grounds—wherever the Courses were held, so that in years to come there would be a place for the birds to nest and shade for the participants—the future Scouters and Guides of Mpumalanga.

Even before the establishment of the Area, Scouting and Guiding planted trees. In the early 1960s when the small White River Scout Hall was completed, a Paper Bark Thorn tree was planted just inside the gate. The Thorn tree was the Badge of the Northern Transvaal Scout Division (the old name for the Area). Then in 1974 4th Pretoria Hatfield planted the Kiepersol tree during their visit, at the same time as White

River planted the Baobab in the front grounds—the Baobab tree became the Badge of the Northern Transvaal Area. The Yellow-wood tree, also in the front grounds, was planted by the Scouts who were in the Contingent to the 15th World Jamboree in Canada. And the Indigenous trees round the Church at the back of the Scout Hall were all planted by the Scouts.

Many of our Scout Grounds have commemorative trees—one of the most notable being Gilwell, Florida in Johannesburg, which is steeped in Scouting History.

When the Hillview Village community had settled in their new homes just outside White River, the local Scouts and Cubs, having pre-arranged for each family to dig 2 holes and have enough compost and fertilizer, went along and planted an indigenous tree and a fruit tree in every garden. Today they have shade and fruit!

In 1982, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of World Scouting, 75 trees



were planted by the White River Scouts and Cubs, assisted by former Scouts of the Group and numerous local personalities. The majority of these trees are there today in the White River Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary for all to enjoy.

2007 marks the Centenary—the 100 years of World Scouting, an opportunity to plant 100 trees and more, as the whole Scout Area of Mpumalanga prepares to involve itself in the Project to make its communities and its people appreciate and conserve God's wonderful gift of trees for the generations to come.

THE AREA SCOUT LIBRARY IS GROWING! - A WEALTH OF INFORMATION -

Read B.P.'s "Scouting for Boys" - "The Wolf Cubs' Handbook" and others written by our Founder.

Look for ideas, Games, Activities for your Pack, Troop or Patrol Programmes.
Read the exciting, real life Adventures of Cubs—Scouts—Rovers!
Discover Projects—Good Turns—Camps—Hikes!
It's all in the Library at Area Headquarters - - - Nikki will assist you!

Articles from your Company, Troop, Crew, Cub or Brownie Pack, to be submitted **ON OR BEFORE**

15th May

To: PO Box 3629, White River 1240
or e-mail to cbaty@mweb;
or hand in to the Area Manager,
Nikki Clark.