



Western Cape Scouter

LOCKDOWN

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ISSUE 1 - March 2020

editor's note



It is quite clear that the corona virus situation has and will disrupt so many activities, including all the carefully planned scout ones. No one can predict when it will be

u n d e r c o n t r o l worldwide or when certain restrictions will be lifted. Thanks to modern technology and the internet which allows us to communicate with others and, more importantly, be kept in touch with all the latest developments.

As an older person, I need to be more careful than younger people although it seems as the virus is not always age specific.

On a personal note, as I am originally from Italy, you can imagine my worries about family and friends over there. Although my province is the second hardest hit after Lombardy, my home town seems to be coping reasonably well. We have all listened to so many stories and suggestions of what to do and not to do. You must

agree that the most important advice is to stay away from people (obviously there are some exceptions), but if you are not in contact with an infected person or item (door handle, any surface) you are unlikely to catch the virus.

Senior scout leaders are putting in place ways of keeping scouts on their toes during this possible "lazy" period, so keep motivated and listen to what Paddy and others say and what has been put into place by senior management.

The next scouter newsletter will probably have different news to what we are used to. In the meantime, keep safe and "be prepared".

Mauro Saporetti - Editor Western Cape Scouter



regional commissioner's reflections - march 2020

Lockdown as the virus spreads

This edition of the Western Cape Scouter is going out during a period of unprecedented turmoil for our country and all the people of the world.

It is a challenging time taking us all into new territory, new ways of behaving and new ways of doing things.

How quickly we have moved to virtual programs, online meetings and doing our scouting remotely. Necessity has always been the mother of invention, and certainly our leaders have been active in ensuring that support and information abounds for all of our members.

It is also a time for reflection, both Scouting and personally on how we run our lives, how we are all connected when the chips are down. We do need to embrace the lessons on social interactions, the need for communications and the reliance we have on many others around us that we so often take for



granted.

Our challenge as Scout leaders is as always to ensure safety of our members and provide them with opportunities for growth, especially in any new order or ways of doing things coming out of the crisis we are in.

Thank you for keeping Scouting going, safely and in a fun and exciting way.

Stay distant, Stay Safe, Consider others

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

hawequas report

Traditionally Hawequas is quiet in January with schools going back and groups kicking off the new year – we utilise this time to tackle jobs that need more time.

Projects

- Barn toilets were repainted, now in our standard interior colour, Broken White
- Barn Lecture room has been repainted with a projection screen painted as well. The window frames were painted too.
- Old House window frames and Barge Boards were all painted inside and outside. A projection screen was also painted. All white doors and door frames were painted as well.
- Some of the roads within Hawequas were filled to level off.
- A set of Gabions were put in place to control rain water washing away some roads.
- At the end of February the pool was emptied and cleaned out.
- PLTU staff have done a great job clearing out the stores, sorting out ropes and pioneering poles as well.

Courses and Events

- We had a Pioneer Badge Course which kept all very busy.
- We had a Map Reader Course.
- A company had a team building weekend.
- First Ottery had a big group out changing the lives of youth.
- The Imbuko Big Five Challenge MTB race came through Hawequas twice in one day with two very busy water points – 325 cyclists took part.
- The Cape Epic MTB will be coming through Hawequas on 20 and 22 March.
- PLTU will be happening during the school holidays at the end of March.

The biggest event we hosted at the eleventh hour was the Rayner Trophy – A huge fire had broken out in the Du Toits Kloof Mountains, 13000 hectares had burnt. We had been alerted that the Du Toits Kloof Pass may be closed, getting final confirmation at 11h00 on Saturday morning that the pass was closed – this meant we could not get teams and judges to the start point – the whole competition was re-organised and brought to

hawequas report

Hawequas! Six years ago we would not have been able to hold a competition like this at Hawequas – thanks to our network of hiking trails we now can!

We have had the CSIR preparing documentation for us with our ongoing process to getting all our

planning permissions in place – this has involved Dept of Environment, Heritage Council and Drakenstein Municipality. It's a long drawn out process.

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Warden



rotary scout report - cape to rio

It was just a few months ago when we set off on this 3600 nautical mile adventure with nothing but the wide ocean and our skills ahead. Although we did not know what to expect nor what may come our way, we set off content, knowing that we had done all we could to fully prepare ourselves for this trans-Atlantic race.

Since October when the team was chosen, and even before, this race was the only thing on our minds. It was the first time since 2000 that Rotary Scout would have an all youth team competing in the race and we wanted to give it our all!

For all of us, sailing was a big part of who we are, and this was a passion that was developed through Scouts and through the facilities and training offered at the Sea Scout Base. Some of us grew up with Daniel and Nicholas being the ones who taught us how to sail at the Sea Scout Base at a young age. So, it is very special to have had them as skippers, because we know them so well and more than skippers, they are friends and mentors. This is something which gave our crew a special and unique bonding which I



will forever cherish.

After the team was chosen, the countdown began and the preparations too. For most of us, we had plenty experience with sailing on dinghies and smaller boats but, this was a 36-foot keel boat, so there was lots to learn, but this was easier due to our sailing experience. We went out for multiple training sails, and many days were spent on the boat, fixing everything and putting everything in place to make sure the boat was fully safe for this ocean crossing.

Departure day came quicker than ever, and by that point we were fully prepared. The next 31 days at sea were some of the best days of my life. It was an amazing opportunity to gain the sailing experience of an ocean crossing at the age of 15, and this was an eye-

rotary scout report - cape to rio

opening race, which taught me so much and expanded my horizon for sailing. I was so proud to have been apart of this youth team and it truly was an amazing experience, and something that has changed my life. We truly pushed ourselves and gave it our all in this race all the way to the finish line and it was the best feeling crossing that fishing line, knowing we did our best and we did it as an all youth team and although we may not have finished the race, we pushed ourselves and learnt so much which is worth more than anything else.

As the race came to an end, it left many of us stumped as what to do next. This race had been the only thing on our minds for so long that we were not sure where to go next. I felt way more motivated to tackle anything thrown at me. my

horizons have been expanded in the sailing world. In that I think that Rotary Scout is an amazing way for Scouts like myself who had very little prior experience in keelboat sailing to get the opportunity of competing in such a race and to gain experience in keelboat sailing, which is something I am very grateful for as it has changed my life.

Dominic Holling - 2nd Houtbay



rio to cape - returning

Co-skippering Rotary Scout in Cape2Rio 2020 was truly the adventure of a lifetime and something that I will never forget. An ocean crossing comes with all sorts of surprises and challenges. One of those surprises was something that I definitely wasn't expecting. The opportunity to sail back to Cape Town... We thought we would fly home with the rest of the crew and go back to regular life on land after a few days of adjusting to home life. But then one afternoon, while walking along the dock in Rio de Janeiro I bumped into Clarence Hendricks who was the skipper of Mojie for the race. We started talking and it turned out that he was skippering CFM 2 back to Cape Town. CFM 2 was known as "Zulu Girl" during the race. It is a Matt 1180 design 40' performance yacht. I had only met Clarence the day before we set sail for the race from Cape Town. I was introduced to him by Cathleen Hughes, a former Scout who had sailed on Rotary Scout in the 2014 Rio race.

I jokingly asked if they were looking for crew to sail home and he seriously said I could join them if I wanted. Stunned by this, I headed over to Rotary Scout to check on the lads who were packing up the last few items. When I told them, Josh immediately also wanted to sail home.

I am currently an ATS at 1st Bergvliet Sea Scouts where Josh is a 16-year-old Patrol Leader. In fact, I was his Patrol Leader while I was a Scout, so it was quite special to have done the race with him and sail back together!

After Clarence had agreed to take us both, it was a matter of making the phone call to Mom to try and convince her to let him off school for the delivery home. After a bit of convincing, we succeeded.

We set sail from Rio de Janeiro the same day the rest of the crew began their journey home. We were really sad not to be finishing the journey with them, but this was simply an opportunity that we couldn't say no to. The passage back to Cape Town is notorious for rough weather but this is exactly the experience we wanted. And that's what we got.

Before setting course for Cape Town, we spent 2 nights anchored at the island of Ilha Grande, about 60nm south of Rio. Ilha Grande is a hidden paradise, tucked away from the mass tourist groups on the mainland. We would swim to shore to explore the island and enjoy a cold drink on the beach. Once we recovered our anchor and set sail for Cape Town, the adventure really began. Well round two of it. Unlike Rotary Scout, CFM2 is a performance boat designed for speed. We needed to get used to handling the boat as she was much more sensitive to small movements on the helm. Once we got the hang of it, we had an absolute blast!

We were able to experience a bit of everything! Starting off with a low-pressure system off the coast of Brazil with a fully reefed mainsail and a storm jib – to clear blue water and starry nights. We passed Tristan da Cunha, the worlds' most remote island! We could practically smell

rio to cape - returning

that English Breakfast on the island as it appeared on the horizon with the sunrise but unfortunately, we couldn't stop as the wind wasn't favourable.

By Day 10, we were realised we were eating a bit too much as our provisions were running a bit low! We quickly started rationing out. By the last week or so, we were eating scant food. Breakfast went from 2 blocks of chocolate per person to only a cup of coffee which we eventually ran out of. Lunch went from 1 tin of tuna between 4 people and some crackers to half a pack of freeze dry food for lunch. Supper was also half a pack of freeze dry. In the final stretch we only had half a pack of freeze dry a day and by the time we arrived in Cape Town all we had was hot sauce, salt and pepper.

Something magical about sailing across the South Atlantic was every day having the sun rise behind you and set in front of you during the race (on the way to Rio) and having it rise in front of you and set behind you on the way home.

Shortly after we passed Tristan, we had some strong breeze behind us, and I managed to surf a wave at 18.6 knots! We were constantly holding 10-11 knots. The weather quickly

took a turn for the worse with heavy swell and strong breeze on the bow. We were having to sail straight into the wind and swell in order to make our course to Cape Town. It required immense concentration on the helm, so you didn't damage the hull or rig. For 2 nights, we hove-to when we

couldn't see the waves to reduce the pounding effect of the waves. This time was bitterly cold and wet. We were making slow progress towards Cape Town. Our ETA was originally 18 days and we ended up taking 26 days...

Eventually the sea state lightened up but in the final 24 hours, we received a proper welcome home with a screaming South Easter on the bow and a heavy rolling swell. While night watch, Josh and I had two big breaking waves on the bow which soaked us from head to toe and was so strong we both held on for safety. Luckily, we were also tethered onto the boat.

Seeing the lights of Cape Town appear as a glow on the horizon was incredible! By the time Table Mountain came into view, the conditions had dramatically improved and about 30 miles out, the wind dropped off completely.

We were welcomed into port by almost the entire Rotary Scout Race crew which was awesome!

The passage home was an incredible experience that allowed us to learn a lot more about sailing! We are incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity thanks to Scouting. If we hadn't had the opportunity to have done the race as Scouts and if it hadn't been for Cathleen, a former Scout, we would not have had this amazing experience.

Daniel Skriker - Co-Skipper JML Rotary Scout

the rayner trophy

The Rayner Trophy is a senior scout hiking competition, known as one of the toughest competitions for scouts in South Africa. The secrecy surrounding the hiking destination each year and the activities we complete over the course of the hike secured it immediately as one of my favorite activities undertaken as a scout. I have competed in the Rayner Trophy four times, hiking the Highland Trail in Kleinmond, along a beach by the Koeberg power station, and twice at the Hawequas Scout Ranch, and each one has been a challenging and adventurous weekend where us scouts created hilarious memories and jokes. This year I was in a team alongside Thomas Roomes, Simon Bean and Natasha Roomes.

The competition was held at Hawequas over the first weekend of March. Though the area was well known to most of the scouts, the combination of temperatures of 30+ and an extremely steep first hour of hiking ensured the competition lived up to its challenging reputation. Night bases were a blast as usual, with our team acing Morse Code for the first time in our scouting careers, and us successfully popping balloons from across a "deadly chasm" (the Barn floor) and disarming "reactive

nuclear isotopes" (more commonly known as buckets of water).

The second day of hiking drew us away from Hawequas in the morning, and we returned in the afternoon by Kloofing on the river. This take on the Rayner hikes was new and exciting, as well as a welcome reprieve from the heat. Pioneering and lifesaving was paired with water bases at every opportunity to provide relief for the scouts.

Meal Prep is always a huge highlight because each team can really come into their own with the variety of meals allowed. Sharing tastes of different patrol's meals and concocting our own was one of my favorite times, and adding small details and surprising judges with drinks, desserts and menus always puts a smile on my face.

Rayner 2020 cultivated new friendships from other troops, taught the training team the ropes for next year, and to my team's delight, gave us the opportunity to have the Rayner Trophy in our den for another year! Overall, it really was one for the books.

Rebecca Sparg - 1st Claremont Rayner Patrol Leader

Editor's note: Rebecca's team won the Rayner

the rayner trophy



scout programme

Rayner Trophy

The venue of the Rayner Trophy had to be changed with 3 hours notice because of a veld fire but not to be deterred it was moved to Hawequas and ran successfully, especially given the circumstances and ad hoc and last minute required changes.

Congratulations to 1st Claremont for retaining the Rayner Trophy and winning it three years in a row. Congratulations to 2nd Somerset West for coming second and it was fantastic to see 1st George who travelled such a long way to Cape Town who came third.

POSITION	TEAM NAME	MARK
1	1st Claremont A	400
2	2nd Somerset West A	362
3	1st George	360
4	2nd Fish Hoek	351
5	1st Bergvliet	348
6	2nd Plumstead	347
7	2nd Rondebosch	342
8	2nd Bergvliet	336
9	1st Blaauwberg B	332
10	2nd Hout Bay & 1st Fish Hoek	319
11	1st Pinelands A	316
12	1st Durbanville A	306
13	1st Blaauwberg A	303
14	9th/16th Cape Town	302
15	6th Rondebosch	293
16	1st Durbanville B	288
17	1st Pinelands C	281
18	2nd Somerset West B	271
19	1st Claremont B	269
20	1st Muizenberg	242
21	1st Pinelands B	241
22	1st Bellville South	214
23	1st Meadowridge	151

New Springbok Scouts

We congratulate our most recent Springbok Scouts being Andrew Venter - 1st Durbanville/Kraaifontein, Hendre Barnard - 1st Durbanville, Ashleigh Rorich - 1st Muizenberg, Matthew Gammon - 1st Claremont.

Scout Programme Suspended

The Scout Programme was suspended on 16 March 2020 due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic. We will reschedule Regional badge courses and competitions when once the Scout Programme resumes. In the meantime, remember your social distancing, washing of hands and above all stay safe.

Regional Team Coordinator – Scout Programme Western Cape
Nigel Forshaw

senior cub survivor camp

Our annual Senior adventure camp took place at Hawequas from the 13th to the 15th March 2020. 72 Cubs attended from packs all over the Western Cape. Cubs were split into 8 tribes, each tribe created their own banner which accompanied them to every activity. Cubs were kept busy with various tasks such as fire making, cooking, axemanship, and shelters. Various challenges were carried out during the weekend with the food challenge being one of many memorable moments. A **BIG** Thank you to Simon & Valeska as well as their team. Our Cubs learnt so much and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
Nicky Jonas



senior cub survivor camp



scouting in schools

Scouting in Schools presents cub and scout meeting to learners who are part of the program after school. During the duration of 2019 an average of 800 learners attended regularly and successfully earned more than 2000 badges. This is largely due to what Daniel Le Jeune and his team have been doing. They have taken the new programme and made it possible for Scouts who are part of the programme to earn badges. Daniel has been appointed as the program co-ordinator for the Scouting in Schools program and is always looking for young Scouters and past Scouts to join his team. For more info on how to join Daniel and his team please email the regional office.

Ahmad Solomon



club fun day

Cub fun day was held on the 7th March 2020 at Gilray Scout centre. Our theme was this year's SDG Challenge which focuses on gender equality, climate action, life below water & life on land. We had 20 packs participating, running various games, activities and

challenges. Thank you to all the Pack Scouters for the effort they put into the day's activities.

Nicky Jonas



cape epic cancellation

The Cape Epic got cancelled a day before it was due to start! An interesting set of events followed!

So what does my daughter, at that time in Mexico, World Champion Spanish MTB team Masquebici, Colombian, Argentinean and Polish riders have to do with Hawequas? My daughter was Team Masquebici's physiotherapist in 2017. When Cape Epic was cancelled the team needed somewhere to stay and a plan was hatched very quickly – a Whatsapp call to Mexico and contact was made with me – 3 hours later 14 Camper Vans rolled into Hawequas.

The riders were supported by six Physios who set up in the Barn lecture room with Physio tables and all, a team of mechanics set up a Workshop in the Barn and a catering team set up in the Ole House. Three meals a day were prepared and served to 35 people, Chioneso worked late into the night washing dishes and pots, Arnold kept all systems working.

These are all professional riders who have to keep training – every morning they would set off for a

ride of between 100 to 75 km – the team manager would collect their stats every evening.

Covid-19 started exploding all over



cape epic cancellation

Europe and countries were going into lock down, with flights being cancelled by the hour – the Spanish Team were contacted by their Embassy to fly out immediately and had to leave in a rush on Thursday morning – flying via Qatar – each extra day they would stay the flights were doubling in cost. At the same time the Argentinean Team found out the all flights home had been cancelled for 30 days! The Poles had a confirmed flight to Germany on Monday.

The Campervans had to be returned and all teams had a night booked in CT – The Argentineans are returning to Hawequas on Monday, to stay in our buildings waiting for some change to lock down status.

This whole unplanned event has contributed very handsomely to Hawequas's budget, at a time when all bookings have been cancelled.

We are witnessing and extraordinary period in our history and we are right in the thick of it.

Kuba Miszewki - Hawequas Warden



springbok service project

My Springbok Community Service project was to revamp a 200-year old naval bunker repurposed as a clothing bank for the Happy Valley Home Shelter in Simonstown.

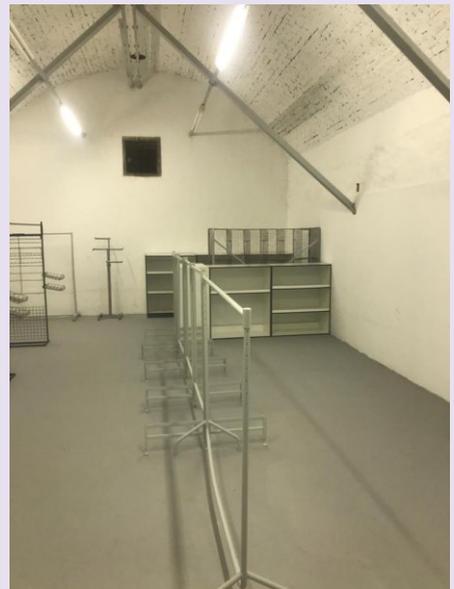
A team of 6 completed the project in the 2019 summer holiday. We sanded down every surface and removed the old carpets. A new coat of paint on the walls and treating the metal immediately brought new life to the building. The beams were painted in a rustproof paint and painted red. Instead of replacing the carpet, the floors were painted grey.

The work was very physical, working long hours with a strong sense of comradery and achievement. I was fortunate to source donations of paint materials and equipment. This was critical to the success of the project as we ended up using about 120 litres of paint, 6 rollers and 10 paint brushes, along with drop sheets and reams of sandpaper.

The goal of the project was to make the clothing bank feel like a clothes

store where the homeless could source clothing while maintaining their dignity. I'm pleased with the outcome.

Michael Uphill - 2nd Fish Hoek



springbok service project

Zizamele creche is situated at the top of Imizamo Yethu – an informal settlement in Hout Bay – in a two-roomed structure with a playground area opposite it. This creche serves as a day-care for 20 young children (between the ages of one and six) whose parents work during the day. The facilitator, Thembisa, looks after the children, feeds them lunch and teaches them basic learning skills. Karen Templett acts as the overseer and ensures the creche always has the resources to operate.

In my work, I was in contact with Karen and went up to the creche a few times before starting to see what needed to be done and how we could do this. Over the course of four days we cleaned, repainted the walls, fixed the window, washed blankets and toys, painted a welcome sign, neatened the outdoor area and planted a small garden. We also spent two days sewing 40 covers for the mattresses the children use for napping and making an octopus soft toys for the children. While we were working at the creche, the children would come and play in the area and often watch us work. However, on some days they would

become curious and find ways to get inside and prevent us from working. To overcome this, we would all take a break and play games outside with all the children which was the perfect break for us and an enjoyable time for all.

Through this project I was able to experience part of a community which is not my own and to learn to appreciate the many privileges I have. I love spending time with children and am so glad I had the opportunity to help impact the lives of these children in a small way – albeit simply by upgrading the creche.

Nina Holling – 2nd Hout Bay



springbok service project



meerkat little camper challenge

On the weekend of the 27 – 29 March, our Meerkats took part in a camping challenge.

Meerkats had to complete a range of activities to earn their Little Camper badge. They had to have a scavenger hunt around the house to find what Daries-Hendricks one would pack if you were going on a camp. They had to sleep in a tent/shelter with mom or dad for one night. This could be a tent or blanket fort, in their house or garden. Then they had to keep it tidy for the duration of the camp. They had to prepare a meal.... and help with the washing up! After that they had to go for a walk and find at least 3 interesting things. These could be anything in the house or garden. Meerkats were instructed to be very careful around mom's precious ornaments. Lastly, Meerkats had to have a campfire!

Robyn Daries-Hendricks was the first meerkat from Durbanville Kraaifontein Sea Scouts to complete the Little Camper challenge, with her mom Hayley Daries-Hendricks.

Virtual Campfire on Zoom

Meerkats and Den Scouters from the whole country took part in a virtual campfire, online, to remember Earth Day, 1st April, via

Zoom. Everyone had loads of fun leading songs. The evening ended with Granny Meerkat's announcement that she will be making us all "Lockdown" campfire blanket badges!

Angela Hillier - RTC Meerkat Programme



campfire chats

Want to catch up with your fellow Scouters and share ideas?

Check out the daily virtual "Campfire Chats" here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/554076540>

To join, email joy.hutchinson@scouts.org.za for the password.

Each evening will be a different topic – with the weekends being open for a general discussion on anything you would like to bring up.

These are the upcoming topic of discussion. They are subject to change so check our the daily posts on the SSA Facebook page.

- 31st Pow Wow Chat with Rochelle
- 01st Scouting with Adrienne
- 02nd Wellness with Dr Karon Willson
- 03rd Rovers with Cameron Belling
- Weekend – General Discussion
- 06th Adult Awards by Andrew Campbell
- 07th Training with Sheila Tanner
- 08th WSJ and International Events with Gerard Evans
- 09th Chat with Gary – our Chief Commissioner
- 10th Growing your Unit with DeWaal Fourie
- Weekend – General Discussion
- 13th Scouts Digital Warrants with Andrew Tanner
- 14th Youth Leadership with Lawrence, Justice and Daniel
- 15th Virtual Scouting ideas with Angus Hay
- 16th Open to your suggestions! Please email joy.hutchinson@scouts.org.za

We look forward to having you join in – even if it is just to say hello or listen in!

All SSA Adult Leaders are welcome

scouting from home

OPERATION COVERT-19

Once the National Lockdown was communicated we realised this was a great opportunity for our scouts to sharpen up on their scouting skills – through a sustained interpatrol competition.

We were really fortunate that Operation Covert-19 had been developed by Johan Harzon and his ATS team from 1st Stellenbosch.

Operation Covert-19 is a programme of 60 tasks which each scout can complete – and each task counts towards patrol points. The programme has some core scouting tasks like building a shelter to sleep in overnight as well as simple fun tasks like watching a movie or reading a book.

The programme allows scouts to complete tasks at home – so they are learning skills in a fun way – whilst signing off advancement tasks and earning badges.

Covert-19 has been a huge success at 6th Rondebosch – with all the

scouts getting involved – in fact there is probably more scouting happening now that prior to the lockdown.

For some parents this has been a life saver – its really kept their scouts occupied in a productive way – in fact they are even getting high quality meals made for them whilst they kick back and relax.

Quote Corner:

- “This is a fun way to develop our skills”
- “The programme has kept me busy and I am glad to be ticking off my advancement”
- “As a Mom this programme is great – it keeps my scouts busy and we have had cooked suppers and baked cakes.”
- “Great initiative – it has provided structure for my scout and pushed her to both the stuff she enjoys and some of the advancement she does not.”

John Fraser – Troop Scouter 6th Rondebosch

scouting from home



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SCOUTS
South Africa

WESTERN CAPE

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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“Humbled to be able to serve in this time of need”

During the COVID-19 lockdown, [SCOUTS South Africa's](#) adult volunteers nationwide are providing essential care services and social relief of distress to older persons, mentally ill, persons with disabilities, the sick and single parents with children that can't leave their homes.



In the Western Cape, Rovers Laura Troost and Johann Harzon are coordinating the collection and delivery of groceries and chronic medication within their communities. “These are unchartered and difficult times. People are fearful of the unknown and it our role to provide some peace of mind to those who are vulnerable in our communities”, clarifies Johann Harzon. “Scouting at its core is all about developing youth to be great leaders and to give back to their communities. I feel it's my duty as a citizen to help where I can. So in line with our permits, the government gazetted regulations, our safety guidelines and keeping common sense in mind, we are assisting people in Pinelands, Kensington, Goodwood, Mowbray and Claremont as that is where our volunteers currently reside. When more Adult Scout volunteers come on board, we will be able to expand our reach within their local communities.”

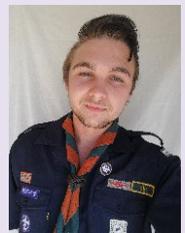


Photo: Tamsin Metelerkamp, 1st Pinelands Rover Crew after the 1st delivery.

“I come from a Scouting family and my mother is a nurse. By doing this I am also able to step up and do my part” says Laura Troost. “I have learnt to be prepared so therefore I read up about COVID-19, how it spreads and how to prevent contamination. I also discussed this with medical professionals, verified the government guidelines and compared our procedure to that of the Gauteng Rovers who are providing a similar service. Our pool of volunteers are all following the stringent rules we put into place to keep themselves and the people we serve safe from contamination. These regulations include such things as wearing a mask and gloves when going out, sanitizing our car door handles and steering wheels, our hands and handles of shopping bags among other things. We also don't have any direct contact with the people we serve. Everything happens over WhatsApp and email and we leave the groceries at the doors or with security officers at old age homes.” she explains. “So far the deliveries have been standard. However sweets seem to be the comfort food of choice for the elderly during this time where they are isolated from their friends and family members.”



Photo: Laura Troost



The Western Cape logistics are coordinated centrally by Johann. “When we get orders in I look at our pool of people and consolidate shopping trips. We try to limit exposure as much as possible and so one person would be fulfilling a few orders in one trip. Therefore we ask people to give us 24 to 48 hours to complete an order. The deliveries are done free of charge by our volunteers who consider it a privilege to help” he says. “I myself am humbled knowing that when we look back at this time, I will know that I was able to contribute.”

To view what the SCOUTS SA volunteers in Gauteng are doing [click here](#).

For information please email jwharzon04@gmail.com and cc pr@scouts.org.za

conservation badge course

A Scoutcraft Conservation badge course was run in December 2019 at Hawequas. 38 Scouts attended. A major goal was to eradicate the Black Wattle on the ridge above the warden's house. The course removed 4 out of 6 stands. The remaining 2 stands were later hacked by John Wilson and Jacob. Pine trees were also cut and uprooted along the cycle track between the dam and the warden's house. Here the Scouts are at the dam before setting off on the 1 hour walk to get to the Black Wattle site. Please assist Hawequas in alien control.

Course Leader
Nigel Forshaw



contact details

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