



# Western Cape Scouter

Issue 3 - September 2020

PLEASE wear your face mask



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# editor's note



Apologies for the late issuing of the September newsletter due to various reasons. Management decided to publish this edition, although it seemed that we would not have enough material. But, thanks to various contributors, we managed to put together a reasonable edition. Due to covid-19, topics are of a different nature compared to "normal" times. This situation is likely to carry on well into 2021 and I think most of us are getting used to the new "normal". Unfortunately, there are too many people in the world who seem to refuse to take adequate precautions and this is adding to the uncertainty for the future.

Scout S.A. is very clear on what steps need to be taken to keep everyone safe but still trying to keep the movement going. Many scouts, scouters and management have done an excellent job and many have come up with a variety of ideas to keep cubs and scouts focused. We know from the past that scouts have always been of incredible help to the ones affected by disasters and, this time around,

we have seen them raising to the occasion again, although we don't get to hear of all they do.

So many events have either cancelled or postponed that it is impossible to predict

when the situation will be back to near normal. There are testing times ahead for everyone, including learners, cubs and scouts. Now is the time to try and be inventive as well as keeping focused. It is sad to hear how many world leaders and followers have not understood the severity of the endemic and what it does to all of us. But we have seen the scout community understanding the challenges ahead and adjusting to the situation. We hope and pray and we know that we will get over this as we stand together with the same objective.

Until next edition, and we hope to have a reasonable Xmas season, keep safe, wear a mask, wash your hands regularly and keep social distance.

Best of luck to all learners for the upcoming exams.



# regional commissioner's reflections - september 2020

As I reflect on the past months, the way COVID has impacted us all and the movement to Lockdown level 1, I find I am on an emotional roller coaster, probably much like most people.

I am proud of our organisations' responses to the pandemic. The cautious approach in the interests of our members and their families well being. I am delighted that we can now open scouting to physical activities under a new normal. We will get used to doing things differently. I hope by the time you read this edition all our halls will be permitted to re-open for use.

Scouting has been very busy with projects, challenges and activities. A few groups chose to do limited activity, many others tried to embrace the challenges of virtual scouting at home, and provided continued advancement to youth members.

All round we have continued to improve facilities at Hawequas Adventure Centre, restarted the Scout Mountain Club, repurposed the Scouting in Schools interns to



assist at their allocated schools, finished the financial year with a small surplus and established the calendar for 2021 Courses and events. I think we are well positioned for 2021 and the new challenges it will bring.

Read in this edition of the many fun challenges youth members have embraced.

This month is Purple month in WCR and our "Paint the Peaks Purple" theme is a great way to get group members, parents and friends all out and hiking and creating brand awareness for Scouts.

Stay active, stay safe and once again enjoy the Scouting stories shared in this edition

Paddy

# hawequas report

## Buchu Project :

We have now planted 17000 Buchu plants, which will grow upwards very slowly for the first year, in which time they are busy putting down roots.

The irrigation system is all plumbed in and working, being a wet winter we have only watered for a few hours, at 15 minutes a time during the odd hot days that we have had.

## The Hawequas Fynbos Restoration Project :

We have started with this exciting project, where we have identified areas that need to be cleared of alien vegetation – we employ two unemployed workers for two days a week to clear aliens, under the guidance of John Wilson, who comes out to Hawequas every week! We are making tremendous progress, large areas have already been cleared. In general we are clearing Black Wattle, Gums, Hakea and Pines. To help with the clearing we have bought 2 x Tree Poppers, a big and smaller one and we have a big one John has loaned to us. What can't be pulled out is cut and herbicide is applied to the stumps

within minutes of it being cut down. Our good friends at Cape Nature have supplied us with the Herbicide.

This project is funded by donations, a week costs us R800 – for the two workers. We urgently need more donations to keep this project going – it would be great if a few more did



# hawequas report

a monthly donation via a stop order to keep going! Don't be shy!

## Rare Plants :

We are thrilled to have found a few *Protea Serurria gracilis*, first time since the fire of 2017 that we have found this beautiful flower again. Thanks to clearing the aliens, we are giving the fynbos space to grow!

## Z Fold Maps :

We have produced a Z Fold Map of the hiking routes on Hawequas. Hawequas is open for day visits where you can go and do the hikes. We can't wait to be able to host you all overnight again!

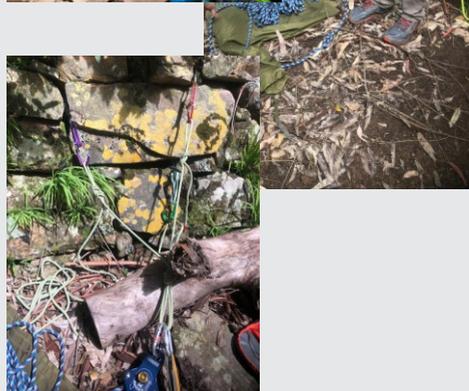


# w. c. scout mountain club

The first meeting of the Western Cape Scout Mountain Club took place on 13 September, in conjunction with a team from the Mountain Club of SA Search and Rescue team led by Andre van Schalkwyk. The meeting at Cecilia Forest was largely focused on mountain safety and awareness, with some practical demonstrations by the MCSA S&R members of their equipment, including cams, pulleys, ropes, and harnesses. A mock search was conducted to demonstrate the grid and box search principles, and various practical scenarios were used to develop an understanding of what a hike party should focus on from a safe hiking perspective. The Scout members of the meeting were:

Peter Otzen (WCR Coordinator for Land Scouting Activities)  
David Knight (TS, 1st<sup>t</sup> Claremont),

Kyle Corbett (ATS, 2nd Bergvliet),  
Connor Winter (ATS, 1st Meadowridge),  
Renae Hislop, Kyra Willis



# ash tree planting

City of Cape Town plants an Ash tree at Durbanville Kraaifontein Scout hall!

There was great excitement at our hall as DK Sea Scouts had the privilege of being part of the tree-planting ceremony that was happening simultaneously in two other locations in the Western Cape, to officially launch Arbour Month!

Dk Scouters eagerly welcomed Simone Carelse from the City's Professional Office, her staff and their fellow scouts. Temperatures were taken, hand sanitiser provided, details recorded, and questionnaires completed, in-line with the Occupational health and safety guidelines set out by Scouts South Africa in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Cape Ash (*Ekebergia Capensis*) is the South African official tree of 2020. This evergreen, and ornamental shade tree is common in most provinces in South Africa, namely: Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KZN Coastal Regions, Mpumalanga and parts of Limpopo. The Cape Ash grows very fast, up to a height of 15m, and is suitable for large gardens and open spaces. These trees carry fragrant white flowers followed by red berries,



ceremony, impressed the city

# ash tree planting

representatives with her wide range of knowledge about trees! Scouts, Cubs and Meerkats recited their Outdoor Codes which also impressed all present!

Altus De Wet then launched the 'adopt-a-spekboom' project by telling the Scouts, Cubs and Meerkats how to grow their Spekbooms and help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. All attendees were presented with a Spekboom!

The DK group is certainly looking forward to sitting under the shade provided by this lovely tree in years to come!

Thank you, City of Cape Town for 'Making progress possible together.'



# leadership development

The Leadership Development Courses (1 and 2) are designed to give new and junior scouts the understanding and skills that they need to develop within their patrols. These courses were run in the Western Cape Region on, respectively, 22 and 23 August. Given the COVID-19 restrictions, the courses were run on a dispersed format, with many patrols of 7 Scouts with one Patrol Leader spread

at locations as far apart as Fish Hoek, Gordon's Bay, Stellenbosch, and Durbanville. Over 200 Scouts were accommodated on the two courses in total, thanks to the availability and leadership of the Patrol Leaders, and thanks to the enthusiasm of many junior scouts in the Region.  
Peter Otzen, Course Leader.



# leadership development



# virtual cub camp

Regarding the Virtual Cub camp, it went extremely well with great buy-in from parents and Cubs alike. There were 15 who attended of which 3 were Chums. We also had 2 CI's and us 4 Scouters.

The camp was held on Zoom last weekend from Saturday 4pm to 9.30pm and then again on Sunday 8am to 10.30am. Most of this time was spent in front of phones/laptops but there was ample time allowed for cooking and doing the various activities so it was quite relaxed. We actually did most of the activities a little faster than expected so finished a bit earlier on both days.

Activities on Saturday included: building a blanket fort, a Minute to Win it game where various fun challenges were performed by the Cubs with time limits, cooking dinner (chicken & vege steam pack) & dessert (mug brownie in the microwave), learning Xhosa phrases, creating Distress signals and learning about other ways of creating distress signals, singing and a yarn.

Sunday had PT, cooking pancakes for breakfast, tidying up the fort & final inspection in uniform, a Cub's Own and listening to a speech by Baden Powell before announcing

the winning team & final flag down.

The parents were sent a list in advance of the ingredients for the 3 meals so that they could be prepared but the dinner was flexible regarding what they put into their steam pack. Some families cooked different things because of dietary requirements as well but everyone did their cooking online and listened to Samantha's instructions. We then ate our meals together over Zoom and chatted, so as to give everyone time to cook.

It was a fairly simple camp so it didn't require as much pre-planning as a normal camp. We chose not to do any interest badges as we had already done 2 in the 1st Term and most kids have done some during Lockdown in addition to the Water Champ & Covid19 badges.

Pros: not weather dependent, less exhausting for scouters & cubs alike, no cash outlay for parents (ingredients were basic pantry/fridge items), parents got involved & send in photos of the various activities, can be arranged quickly, no midnight crazed Cubs running around keeping everyone

# virtual cub camp

awake :)

Cons: need "paid" Zoom so that there is no time restrictions (luckily my brother in the UK allows us to use his), less one-on-one time with the Cubs, less advancement possible especially the outdoor stuff we normally do at camp, quite tiring on the eyes being online for so long but it was good to keep them engaged the whole time.

Lisa Storey - Pack Scouter - 1st Muizenberg Sea Scout group



# cubbing during lockdown

Cubs has always been about outdoor activities – games on the field at the Sea Scout base, cooking on fires, hiking, camping, visits to the beach. When Lockdown hit in March, we didn't quite know what to expect – would Cubs stay interested when all they saw was an emailed programme and little pictures of the Scouters faces on Zoom calls?

The first thing we did was enable our Cub parents WhatsApp group to allow messages to be sent from parents to us. Before it had only been used for emergency messages from us Scouters to the parents. This would prove to be an important communication tool between us and the Cubs.

Then we started sending out some programmes via email & WhatsApp. They were fun activities to relieve boredom and keep the kids busy while they were stuck at home. Some included advancement, some were for interest badges and some were just fun experiments or challenges. We received a few programmes from Scouts South Africa Head Office that we used, a few were shared by

other Cub packs and the rest we planned ourselves. We experimented with different ways to get the information to our Cubs – weekly emails with a long programme of various activities to be done over 2 weeks, or daily challenge WhatsApp's for one specific activity, or a combination of the two.

Some parents wanted an emailed programme and some wanted it on their phones so we did what we could to share the information and keep our Cubs motivated to continue to earn Advancement challenge badges as well as Interest badges. We were pleasantly surprised at the enthusiasm of some parents to help their Cubs to achieve – and very impressed with the photos, videos and drawings sent through to us.

It's been tough to keep the motivation going, especially since there were some Cubs who didn't enjoy attending online Zoom meetings or doing advancement work alone at home. Some were restricted by time issues or schoolwork pressures as well. We relied heavily on parents to give the information to the Cubs and

# cubbing during lockdown

encourage them to actually do the work and this wasn't always successful for various reasons. I have to remind myself that not all kids are created equal, not all lockdown experiences were the same and not everyone enjoys Cubs without other Cubs with them doing the fun stuff.

However we have seen many Cubs do the challenge activities with their parents & younger siblings and it's wonderful to see what can be accomplished at home if the parents buy in to the importance of Cubbing and the life skills it teaches.

In total, our Pack of 26 invested Cubs & 6 Chums (visitors who are not yet invested as Cubs) earned the following badges from March to September:

## **Advancement badges:**

Awareness Challenge – Silver Wolf x 1

Community Challenge – Silver Wolf x 2

Outdoor Challenge – Silver Wolf x 3

Aptitude Challenge – Silver Wolf x 2  
Silver Wolf x 2

Awareness Challenge – Gold Wolf x 1

Community Challenge – Gold Wolf x 3

Outdoor Challenge – Gold Wolf x 3

Aptitude Challenge – Gold Wolf x 3  
Gold Wolf x 4

## **Interest badges:**

Covid19 awareness x 26

Water Champ Challenge x 13

City Nature Challenge x 4

Athlete x 11

Cooking x 3

Drawing x 3

Artist x 2

Conservation x 2

Scholar x 1

Gardening x 1

Handcraft x 1

Family Camping x 1

Photography x 1

Civil Emergency x 1

Outdoorsman x 1

Swimmer x 1

We are very proud of all of our Cubs and hope to see them all soon at a Face to Face meeting at Lakeside Park!

Yours in Scouting,  
Akela

# Launch of Florence & Watson volume 2

## Launch of Florence and Watson volume 2 at Thembani Primary 21 September 2020



Scouting in Schools Project Leader Ahmad Solomon handing a Scout mask to the Provincial Government Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport

The Minister, Headmaster, Champion Teachers, Project Leader, Scout Intern Leaders and Scouts receiving their copy of the 2nd vol of Florence and Watson.



Some conversation about badges with The Minister.

## Launch of Florence & Watson volume 2

Masks and sanitizers being gifted to the school by the the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport.



The Minister watching learners play one of the games found in the Florence and Watson workbook

Interns with the Minister at the launch which took place at Thembani Primary



# history of gilwood scout museum

Did you know that the Gilwood Scout Training Centre in Goodwood also houses the Western and Eastern Cape's Scout Heritage Museum?

Sadly, it is not uncommon that the history of some organisations is kept in a dark unwanted location, sitting on dusty shelves in battered boxes, its members unaware of its existence. Many years ago, this certainly seemed the fate of Western Cape's Scouting past, resting peacefully within the Regional Headquarters, but this was to change.

## Where it all began

During the period 1965 to 1982 Mr Carl Rayner became the first Archivist to venture into the hidden past. He spent many hours sorting, reading and making a pathway that others would follow. In 1970 he took on the task of writing up the

## Museum opens in Cape Town

On Heritage Day 2000 the museum section was opened by the Colin Inglis and to acknowledge Carl Rayner's contribution, his Granddaughter opened the reference library which was then named after him.

History of Scouting in the Cape from 1908. Well into his eighties with his task completed, 'Serpent' as he was fondly remembered, passed away in 1982.

Work then stood still until 1990 when Alan Shinton took over as Archivist. He was to explore and catalogue the over 90 years of Scouting in the Cape. It was Alan's idea to create a Museum and display Scouting's hidden treasures.



The museum's stay was however short-lived as the building was sold and after two weeks the exhibits were packed away and moved to the new abode in Goodwood. Then came the mammoth task of sorting out all the boxes containing the museum artifacts, archives, and library into their new locations.

# history of gilwood scout museum

Sunday 25 November 2001 saw the re-opening of the Scout Museum by Andre Bredenkamp the Area Commissioner. The Scout Band was in attendance and guests were able to view the exhibits.

The Museum, Library and Archives were now part of an integrated Heritage Centre and at that time the Team members were; Alan Shinton, John Waterhouse, Ruth Cloete, Richard Dey, Denzil Roberts, Colin Inglis, Jock Ritchie, Les Weber, Jenny Howard and Caryl Curran.

Alan passed away in November 2004, but his legacy lived on.



## The digital age

By 2007 Social Media and the Internet were upon us and the Heritage Centre had just one webpage, but that was soon to change. Retiring from the corporate world and with the team down to just Denzil, John and Jock they were joined by Stuart Ravenscroft who applied his IT skills in digitising and indexing many of the records. Scouring the archives to record our long Scouting history he created

anecdotes sourced from the records of those South Africans who were witness to these historical events. Most of these accounts had never been published before. This can now be found on the ScoutWiki pages.

'Gilwood' is born

# history of gilwood scout museum

The next reorganisation of the Museum display area came when the Western Cape Office relocated to Rondebosch in early 2013. Once again many of the exhibits were boxed as the floor space was reallocated to accommodate a lecture hall. With the interior freshened up the Training Team moved in and we became 'Gilwood'.

Unpacking and placing the memorabilia then took place giving both the museum and the training area a genuine 'Scouty' feel to the building. This time there was even more Scouting memorabilia as the collection from the National office was transferred to the museum at Gilwood.



Mick Hatton was the next to join the heritage team and much of the redecorating was done by him. Not only were his practical talents put to good use, but he has done great work in the archives.

Andre Foot who for a long time had been helping Stuart with his IT graphic skills, upon retiring in 2015 spent many hours restructuring the display cabinets.

In 2016 the Eastern Cape collection, consisting of the old

Border Area (East London) and Midlands Area (Port Elizabeth) was transferred to Gilwood by Andre and Stuart with the help of Edna 'Tiny' Packwood of PE and they have their own display area.

John Potter with many years of Scouting to his name joined the team in 2018.

So next time you visit the Gilwell Training Centre, pause to have a look at our rich Scouting heritage.

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