



Pinebranch

First Pinelands

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EDITION

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Scouts News

Letter from the Editor

The second half of 2016 flew by so fast that I wasn't even able to get out separate editions! Clearly there was lots on the go as can be seen from this latest Pinebranch.

PLTU, Springbok and First Class activities, the Cedarberg Senior

Scout Adventure along with other activities for the Scouts. Cubs had an equally active time. There is lots to read about and see!

As always many thanks to all those who made contributions to make this possible.

Thank you too to Ian Mackie for putting together such an amazing publication.

Enjoy the read!

Yours in Scouting
JP Lugt

PLTU Feedback

Earlier this year, I attended the Patrol Leaders Training Unit course at Hawequas.

Though I knew the next nine days were going to be tough I had no idea of what I was in for.

Physically, mentally and socially I was pushed to my absolute limits. Throughout the course I doubted myself and what I was capable of doing. Slowly but surely I was made aware of my individual talents as a leader.

Although I didn't want to, having completed the course, I do not regret making the decision to attend PLTU. I have made many new friends and have gained much knowledge and confidence in myself as a leader.

By Ashley Davies



Scout's Springbok Service Project



My springbok service project was held at Oude Moulén Eco Village. The task of the project was to assist the project manager, Philani, in refurbishing an old apartment that will be used as an orphanage for girls over the age of 18. We spent over 40 hours between the 17th and 25th of September working on the project which included sanding, clearing rubble and cleaning and painting walls.

As the apartment was in such a bad condition, we had to do lots of work on

basic things that would make the apartment a space that the girls could live in. While the project is yet to be finished, we certainly had a massive impact in moving the project forward.

The project as a whole was a success. We always had ample work to do, which we completed to the best of our ability. The team of scouts I worked throughout the project with, were eager, hardworking and reliable. Philani was very pleased with our work throughout the 40 hours.

Scouts News

Reflections on observing nature for my Pathfinder badge while on Scout's survival camp

Luke Rice (age 12)

8:25 am

I hear ... the water flow gently on the gradual breeze of wind. I hear the bugs buzzing in the wind.
I see ... trees moving in the wind. Rocks being washed away by the water.
I smell ... the stench of baboon poo, and the absence of any other smell.
I feel ... happy just listening to the water flow.

10:35 am

I hear ... the flapping of birds wings and the leaves brushing against each other.
I see ... the butterflies fluttering in the wind. I see the river flowing rapidly across the rocks.
I smell ... air unlike the city air I am use to. I smell the burnt trees that turned to ash.
I feel ... sad wondering how those trees died.

2:55 pm

I hear ... the sound of rocks banging into each other and I hear old trees clashing together.
I see ... old and dead trees falling apart. I see bugs battling the wind to get places.
I smell ... the grass and the dust clouds I have just made.
I feel ... calm listening to the water flow.

4:35 pm

I hear ... the water running rapidly and the bugs buzzing around.
I see ... dragonflies flying through the sky. I see bird raceing through the caniouin.
I smell ... the salt in the rocks and the fresh air.
I feel ... happy watching birds race in the caniouin.

6:30 pm

I hear ... the birds cherping in the trees and the faint bug noises.
I see ... bugs buzzing in the breeze. I see rocks with different patterns.
I smell ... the ash from our fire.
I feel ... sad because it is the last super.

Paint the Lion Purple



Groups of Cubs and Scouts from Cape Town meet at Lion's Head every Thursday in October wearing Scout branded clothing and climb up to show that we are an active and adventurous movement (and it's a good chance to meet other people and a great view). Parents, friends, siblings, pets and anyone else are included.



Leander's Springbok Camp

Hawequas Scout Ranch, Wellington



We arrived at the camp site later than what was planned but were able to make the best of the day by constructing our respective camp sites and having the patrols make an amazing dinner. While on the first day we met up with 6th Rondebosh who

were also having a Springbok camp.

The next day we had tonnes of fun with them and did a lot of learning about what to do on a camp and how to handle with equipment for the new kids on the camp. That night we

had a camp fire 6th Rondebosh and man was it a fun night to experience. The final day was a calm one where we didn't do much but in the end we all had such an amazing time and I myself was glad to plan an event like this one.

Clifton 4th End of Year Picnic

To end of 2016 on a high note, we decided to revive the old tradition of visiting Clifton 4th with the troop and families on the last Friday of the term. There was a small turn-out this year, partially due to an overlapping Springbok camp, but we enjoyed a good swim, sunset and picnic dinner nonetheless. We look forward to seeing more of the troop there next time!



Niall's First Class Camp

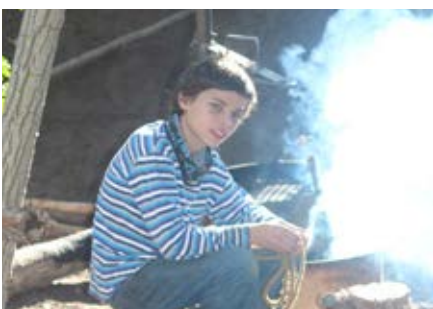
On my camp, we were faced with many challenges, this mainly included coping with the rain, and trying to stay on schedule by rearranging almost everything to accommodate the rain, but I can confidently say that everyone learnt something new, ranging from a different attitude towards the rain to make everything seem better than what it is, to various knots and

lashings that are useful in scouting.

From past experiences, I tried to make the menu better than the ones on the camps I went on when I was younger (and still go on lol) and for starters nobody went hungry and from my point of view, it seems like they enjoyed it, especially the chicken for supper and the bacon and eggs for breakfast.

My advice for anyone wanting to do a First Class camp, is to always

contact your examiner before you start your planning, don't think your planning is amazing, because the examiner will find 17 things wrong (the littlest of thing, but it is just to give the scouts a hard time and make them better according to Norman) and then you will feel a bit unmotivated.



The Senior Scout Adventure Cederberg 2016



When I first signed up for the adventure, I did not know what I was getting myself into. I thought it would be a walk in the park, according to the video on their website, I won't say that it was the complete opposite, but it was more difficult than expected, I thought I wouldn't make it to the end, there were others that were concerned too, but it was its own reward, finishing the adventure, knowing I did some of the most amazing activities and getting to experience different cultures once more.

I think the biggest thing pushing me to move far forward (away from the group) was Shivaan talking the same old rubbish every 10 minutes, and looking back, he was annoying, but if he wasn't there, I would have probably dropped out. Although the adventure was cut short due to a veld fire, it was still an amazing adventure.

Niall Sampson



Scouts News

Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure 2016 – From a Leaders perspective

“Adventure”. It is in the name and it definitely is no joke. The biannual “Senior Scout Adventure” held in the Cederberg this December was once again a huge success.

For those unfamiliar with the adventure, it is a massive not for profit event run by volunteers, held every 2 years for fit senior scouts over 15 years old. It entails hiking and trail camping the mountains while going from base to base doing all sorts of activities over the course of 12 days. The aim is to create a real outdoor adventure for

Scouts that cannot be experienced anywhere else. The adventure is one of those events.

There were 530 participants this year with Scouts from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Germany, Ireland and the UK. This year 1st Pinelands was hugely active in many roles - In terms of the staff, the adventure leader was Andre van der Walt (a previous 1st Pinelands parent, Pack scouter and committee member); Mike Metelerkamp (our very own chairman) was part of the adventure committee and stationed

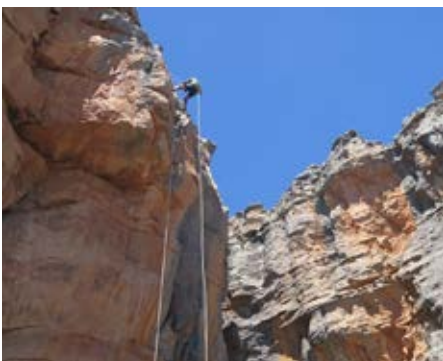
at the headquarters at Kliphuis; and Nicolette and Willie Harzon ran the incredibly popular “Settlers Culture” base at Heuningvlei.

1st Pinelands had 2 teams partake in the Adventure, a Scout team and a Rover / Adult team. Despite a fire that caused the early ending of the adventure, it was a roaring success and everyone that took part has left with incredible memories.

Ben Poulter



Scouts News





Cederberg Adult team report

1st Pinelands sent a team of ten adults to the Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure in December, made up of our Scouters, rovers and a scouter from 2nd Somerset West. We did the South Peaks route, which includes many of the major highlights of Cederberg, such as Sneeu Berg, Tafelberg, Maltese Cross, Wolfburg Arch and many more.

Unfortunately there was a large fire that started during the adventure, which cut off many of the routes, so we didn't get to see everything we had hoped to and the adventure had to close a day early. Despite this, we still thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We got to all the bases we could (some we had to miss due to the fire), set a few records at the Commando Course base, made a

3 course Dutch oven lunch, drove in 4x4s and learnt how to maintain them, went diving, learnt how to do tricks on trapeze, shot bow and arrows, went sailing and skiing, and a highlight for us all was ascending Sneeu Berg, watching the most beautiful sunset and then spending the night on a ledge overlooking the Cederberg valley.

Anja Muhr



Left to right. Top row: Aurelien Brandt (adult), Shivaan Pillay (scout), Kailen Naidoo (adult), Dylan Ball (scout from 37th Springvale in Gauteng), Luke Jones (scout), Ben Poulter (scouts' mountain ranger), Marc Meterlerkamp (scout)

Left to right. Bottom row: Gary Grant (adult), Anja Mühr (adult), Imke Mühr (scout), Laura Troost (adult), Tamsin Metelerkamp (adult), Niall Sampson (scout), Josiah Senior (adult), Werner Meyer (adult from 2nd Somerset West), Joe Harding (adult)

The third and fourth quarter of 2016 was a full and active time for the cubs. A brief report follows.

Silvermine Waterfall hike



Saturday 08 August was a perfect winter's day for a hike. 20 cubs with parents and siblings in tow set off for Silvermine waterfall. An short, easy and rewarding hike for a Saturday afternoon.



Cub Campfire

Friday 19 August saw a warm and fun joint Cub Campfire with 3rd Pinelands hosted at our hall. The campfire was ably led by Cub Instructors Shivaan, Imke, Josh and Niall who created an atmosphere that was just right. For a number of cubs this was their first campfire.

Orienteering at Princessvlei 20 August

What is orienteering? A competitive sport in which participants find their way to various checkpoints across various terrains with the aid of a map and compass, the winner being the one with the lowest elapsed time.

This district orienteering event was organised by 1st Pinelands Rover Crew.

Scout teams competed for time. Cub teams participated to learn map reading skills. The Princessvlei route provided challenges and rewards for orienteers of various skill levels.



Orienteering is awesome outdoor fun and develops skills such as:

- Decision making
- Map reading
- Compass skills
- Spatial orientation
- Relating the 2D image of the map to the 3D environment around you
- Direction finding ability
- Problem-solving (what is the best route to follow to my next point?)
- Time management
- Social skills
- Teamwork
- Courage

Cub Repairs Badge

Useful skills for anyone to know... simple repairs... how to change a tap washer, glue an item and refurbish an item with paint, and how to use basic tools. Parents pitched to demonstrate and each cub left pack meeting with a couple of new repair skills.



Nursery Ravine Group Hike

Thanks to Angus Hofer for his report on the nursery ravine hike here...

With swirling, cold grey mist and gusting threats of rain all around the three boys playing on the rocks, you'd forgive me for thinking the weather could've been better. Danny's Dad, Manie, was in a T-shirt, which made me feel even colder in my raincoat. That was my first thought anyway. Before it sunk in that the weather had been perfect.

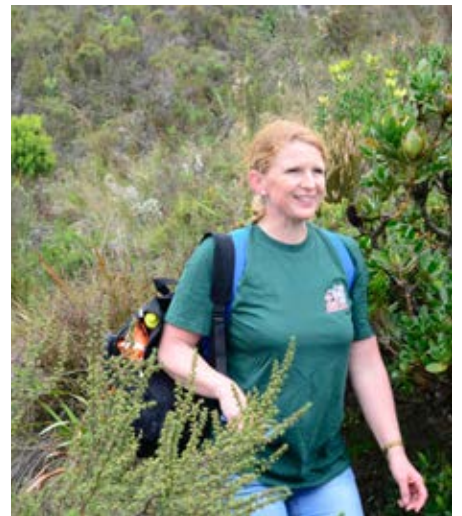
In conditions for which Cape Town is both loved and resented; sun, cloud, rain mist, perfect stillness and wind, Fynn, Danny and James were part of an 'advance guard' of three Pinelands cubs who had, departing Cecilia forest carpark, just climbed Table Mountain for the very first time. We had come up Nursery Ravine, Manie and I tagging along behind as the boys almost raced to the top, words of caution left on the wet rocks over which they scrambled.

While waiting for sweeper Joi at the top of Nursery Ravine, we took the three boys up 'on top', that cold spell where they got to make imaginary hideouts in the weird limestone formations, buffeted by the wind. True to their wonderful age, the weather didn't feature in their thinking.

We then hiked to the two late 19th century dams (Hely-Hutchinson plus another). This was a fantastic side-trip. It was almost 'busy', with other hikers and the exotic pines lending to an urban park-type atmosphere; Fynn, James and Danny heaving rocks into the dam.

Eventually we had to return. The terrain on the way down reminding me of the brilliant feat achieved by all the children. More importantly, it had shown them what was possible*; they had climbed a stiff hike that all-in-all - frequent play-and-snack-stops included - had taken about six hours. They weren't even tired.

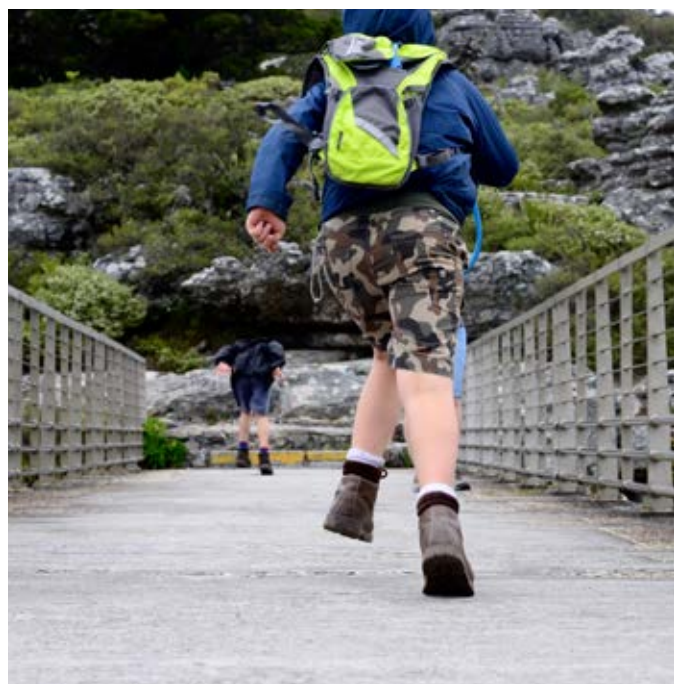
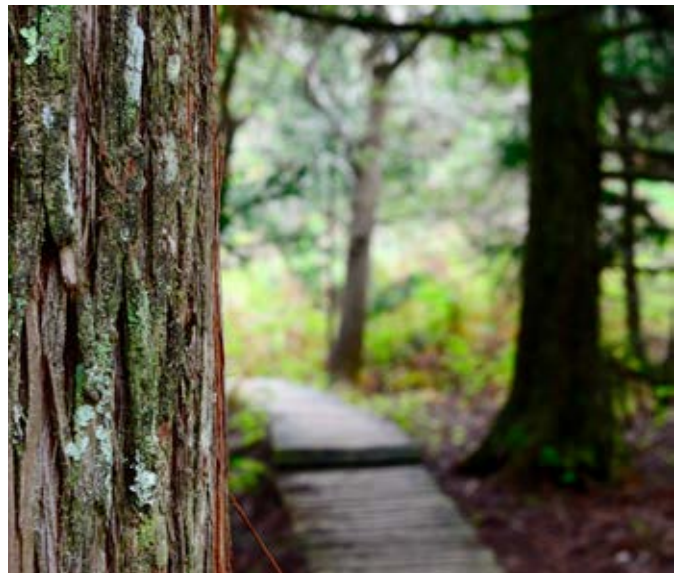
*because they were with their mates - one parent-plus-child would be a chore!



Cubs News



"The terrain on the way down reminding me of the brilliant feat achieved by all the children."



Cubs 100 ECD project

– Book Nooks for Mhani Gingi

22 October 2016 saw a morning of hammer and screwdriver wielding and wood construction as cubs built 7 book cases for 7 ECD's... 7 handy adults were needed to supervise 7 groups of cubs...

As part of the cubbing centenary, Scouting SA raised funds for grants to be allocated to projects for 100 ECD's (Early Childhood Development Centres) nationally. Grants could be applied for qualifying projects and

our application for the 1st Pinelands cub project was approved.

The cubs built 7 wooden storage containers for books which fold open to form a "book nook". Destined to be stocked with 30 age and language appropriate books each and then donated to 7 ECD's supported by Mhani Gingi in Langa, Philippi, Khayelitsha and Crossroads. The cubs will remember a visit from Joan Wright earlier in

the year on behalf of Mhani Gingi when she showed photographs of what life is like for children attending these ECD's and what resources are needed.

We partnered with Russel Brown and Kevin Petersen from Tekioo Design and Technology for kids who teach woodworking skills at schools around Cape Town. The books were joint sponsored and supplied by Biblionef.



Cubs News

The reception at each educare was extremely warm when we delivered the bookcases and there was much excitement around the books. It was quite sobering to see the very difficult circumstances under which these Educare's operate. 65 children crammed into one tiny, hot wendy house, no safe outdoor areas to play, ie the children spend most of the day

in a confined space, lack of ablution facilities – a row of 7 seven buckets along an outside wall act as potties. Yet it was encouraging to see the love and dedication with which the principals put into their work. Each space was neatly kept, clean and tidy.

The children were occupied with constructive activities; building

puzzles, playing games, singing, washing hands before snack time. It was also encouraging to see how various organisations work together to resource these centres. AfriCan provides a meal per day per child and tracksuits, Mhani Gingi provides training and educational materials. This is where 1st Pinelands Pack has been able to play a valuable part.



District Kit Flying

November must be one of the best times of the year for a kite flying event as one is almost guaranteed to have wind! The gusty wind on 5 November didn't quite play along for the Liesbeeck District Cub Kite Flying event held at Julianaveld, Pinelands. There was a fairly good turnout with the aim being to get 100 kites up in the air in celebration of the cubbing centenary. We made it into the sixties with the number of kites.

Cubs learned which kites fly best in short gusts of wind and wind with varying speeds. We experienced the elation of seeing your kite bobbing cheerfully in midair and the disappointment when it plummets and hits the ground suddenly. We learned perseverance, how to handle frustration and how to work together. We had a good time.



Edwards Shield

We had a good turnout of cubs to participate in The Edwards Shield competition – a competition testing cub skills and providing cub fun. This was the first 1st Pinelands entry into Edwards after a number of years of absence. 32 Packs from around the Western Cape entered. Laura Troost and Rikki competently led 1st Pinelands Pack. The 2016 competition venue was Oude Molen Eco Village.

“What do the cubs actually do at Edwards Shield?” I hear you ask.

Each pack has a base from which cubs are called a few at a time in different age groups to participate in a variety of activities. The competition includes activities to do at our base.

Edwards is a fun event where cubs put their skills to the test in a supportive yet competitive environment and get to see other cubs in action. 1st Pinelands came 18th on the final score sheet. We now have a starting point to work on for next year.



Cubs News



23 September - Heritage Day Cub Programme

The theme was Indian culture and the Jonnalaggada's (Akhil, Divvy and Laasya's parents) shared some of their traditions with us. Parents and siblings joined the programme. Cubs harvested giant strelitzia leaves ahead of pack meet which were washed and used as plates to serve delicious Biryani.

A traditional Indian sweet followed. We sat on the floor in rows and ate with our right hands only.

We learned about Diwali and how lamps are lit with a small cotton wick and cooking oil and laid on a table decorated with patterns in flour.



End of Year Pack Meet

We ended the year with a wide game in which parents and siblings participated. In teams we counted the rungs on the slide ladder in Central Square Park, with limited budget purchased party food at Kwikspar and took a team selfie on top of the jungle gym. The wide game was followed by the Cub Awards Ceremony followed by snacks. A good way to round off a good year of cubbing for 1st Pinelands.

At the meeting we also awarded the following year end awards:

1. **1st Pinelands Cub Awards 2016**
2. **Outstanding Attendance** – Daniel Lugt, Steven de Villiers, Dayle Gibbs, Luke Thorne, Tye Thorne
3. **Honesty** – Thaba Moaloi
4. **Helpful Cub** – Tye Thorne – always the first to volunteer to help and goes the extra mile.
5. **Courage** - Liam
6. **Enthusiastic Cub of the Year** – Tshiamo Mbelekane
7. **Perseverance and Progress** – Luke Thorne –
8. **Hard working Cub** – Zoe de Roo.
9. **Ultimate Do Your Best Cub** – Dayle Gibbs –
10. **Pack Scouters award for leadership** – Matthew Welby-Solomon
11. **Akela Pulker Service Award** – Daniel Lugt
12. **Junior Cub of the Year** – Alicia Tuffin
13. **Senior Cub of the Year** – Steven de Villiers
14. **Six of the Year** – Green Six



Cubs News



Cub Camp

Seven 1st Pinelands cubs joined an exciting camp organised by 1st Claremont at Koggelberg Farm Hostel near Elgin in December. The Gold Rush theme of the camp had the cubs panning for gold in the pristine river while learning about water safety. Camp money could be

earned through various activities and used to purchase food for the mining teams. Canteen rules included "You may eat with your fingers, the food is clean". There were many highlights! Thanks to 1st Claremont for including us in their awesome camp.



Upcoming Events District Camp Fire – 24 February,
March Rayner Trophy – 4 - 5 March, Kontiki Weekend – 24 - 26

Key Members of 1st Pinelands

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