



Pinebranch

First Pinelands

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Issue 11 - 2017

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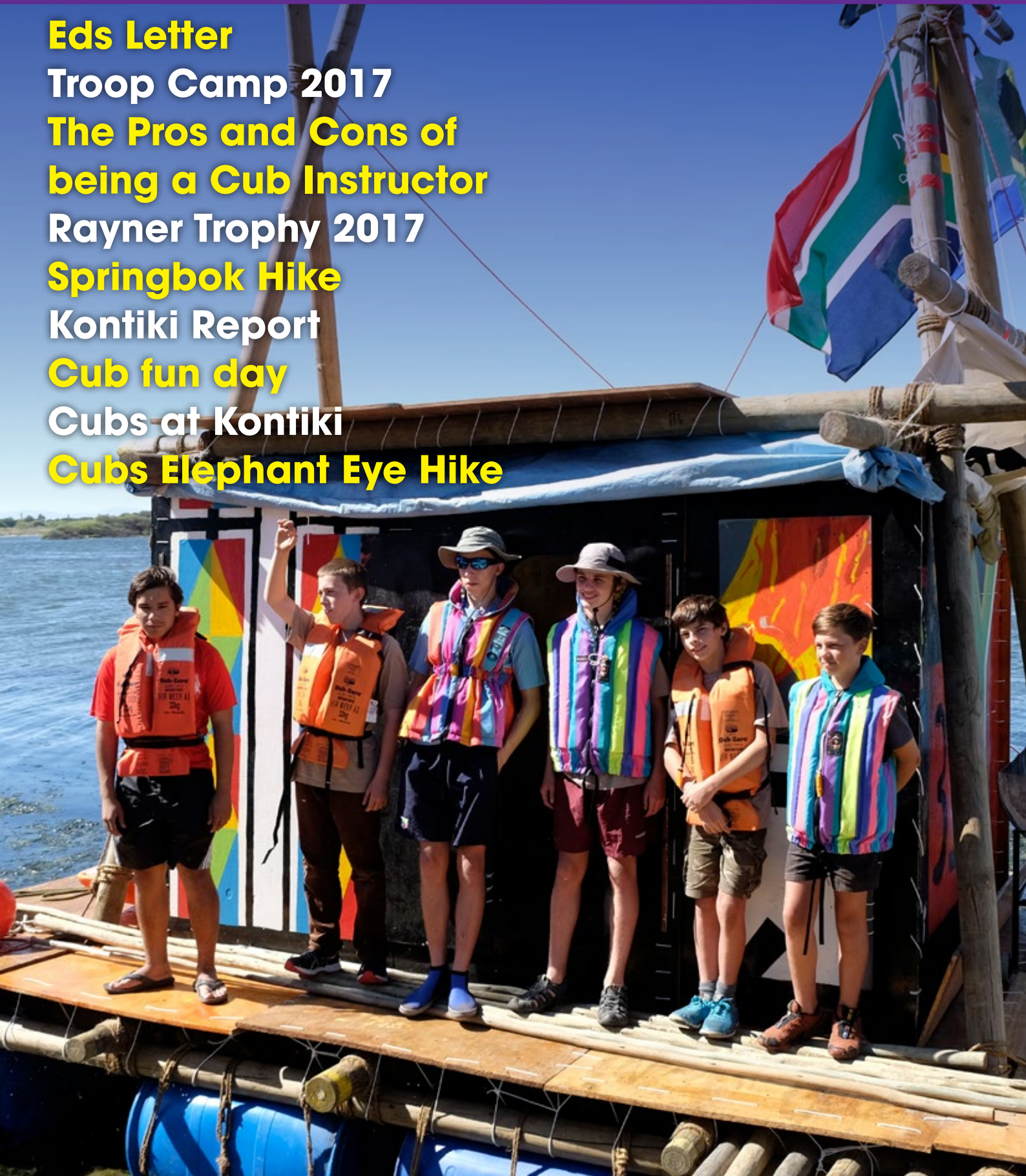
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Letter from the Editor

With the AGM behind us, time to look ahead. But first an update if you were not at the AGM. The new format Group committee is:

In Uniform

Scout Group Leader - Norman Davies
(also acting troop scouter)
Pack Scouter - Joi Lugt
Rover Scouter - TBA

Group Committee members

Chair Human - Sarah Rice
Secretary - Sonia Mather
Treasurer - Angela Ahlers
Maintenance - Anton Malan
Public Relations - JP Lugt
Social Convenor - Adielah Potgieter

Fundraising - Nicolette Harzon

Hall Hire - Norma Beerwinkel

Thanks to all the parents who have served, and those starting or continuing in these roles.

Again, lots of activities in our first term back, all signs of a thriving group.

Enjoy the read.

Yours in Scouting
JP



Troop Camp 2017



Our first troop camp was a truly memorable one. We got to find out all the secrets relating to being a scout on troop camp. We also participated in the cool activities and all this contributed to a feeling of belonging to a brotherhood.

The first few days of Troop Camp 2017 were spent on camp construction and clearing the area of large objects that got in our way. Surprisingly, this was one of our favourite parts of troop camp. Another favourite was to play "Happy Valley" and "I lost the game".

For extra points we made special gadgets such as gates and revolving doors. There were lots of activities

for us to do, like stalking which took place on the third night. One of our favourites parts was the "winkel" mission. This was when we were sent to the nearest shop to find ingredients for "International Food Evening" and buying sweets which we later used to buy tickets to the movie night. The snacks which we traded in for our tickets were later served to us.

Daytime activities included mini Olympics. Activities usually started in the early morning. Being woken up by the scouters hours before sunrise to play a wide game - something played over a broad area - is not a very pleasant experience. But the silver lining to this dark cloud was the

fact that we could go back to bed and then only had to wake up at 8:00. By that time our breakfast would be made for us by the scouters instead of the other way round.

The PL's banquet took place on the last night. The food was cooked by the PL's for everyone. For starters we had tomato soup with bread. For a main course we had chicken and vegetables. Dessert was vanilla ice cream topped with Bar-one sauce.

The many things we've learnt on troop camp has taught us invaluable lessons about ourselves and others. A few mental notes we made along the way:

- Always try to find a loophole in rules,
- Never offer to help wash the dishes,
- Never ever procrastinate in front of Gabriel
- We both get very grumpy when we are tired.

Scouts News

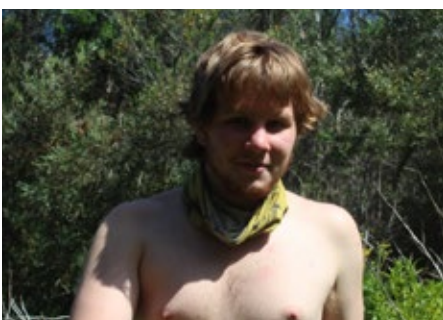


Troop camp has its ups and downs but the good far exceeds the bad when you look at it on a larger scale.



It was certainly fun, but more importantly, it equipped us with more scout skills.

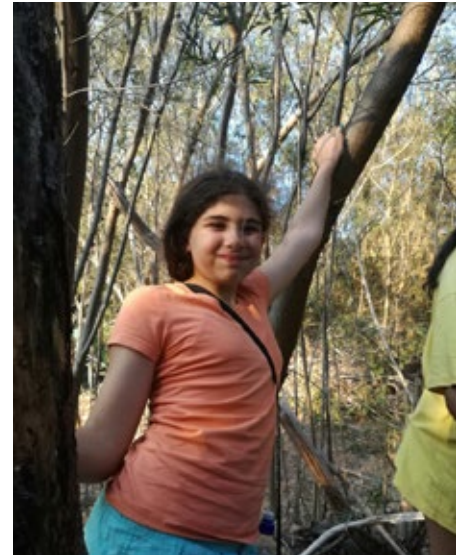
CJ & Josh Beerwinkel



Scouts News



Scouts News





The Pros and Cons of being a Cub Instructor

In my time of being a cub instructor I have found that there are a few pros and cons, just like almost any other activity.

I am going to start by going over the pros of being a cub instructor. The biggest pro of being a cub instructor is that you can interact with children of a younger age than you are; something that most people don't get the chance to do because they usually interact with people in the same age group as they are.

Another pro of being a cub instructor is that you can see what a program looks like from the view of someone helping to run it rather than just participating in the activities, something that I was unable to do while just being a scout.

A third pro of being a cub instructor is that I can help to run the cub meeting when multiple people are needed

and the program won't run smoothly without an extra person. Helping to make sure that the program runs smoothly makes it more enjoyable for the cubs.

The last pro is that you do get recognition for being a cub instructor and you do get a badge for being a cub instructor, although this is not a reason to become a cub instructor. People should become cub instructors to make sure that cubs have more enjoyable programs and to be able to interact with the cubs, not for a badge.

Sadly there are a couple cons but they are easily outweighed by the pros. The cons of being a cub instructor are very minor and consist only of missing some free time between school and scouts and also that sometimes it can be tiring to deal with disobedient cubs.

Luke Jones

1st Pinelands AGM 2016 Troop Awards

Attendance > 90% – Alec Cockburn, Simeon Davies, Shaun Krieg, Kyle Loe (100%), Ruan Loe, Tristan Loe, Joshua Lugt (100%), Adam Mackie, Luke Mayman, Ashleigh Rhodes (10)

Attendance 80–90% – Joshua Beerwinkel, Emma Carr, Ashley Davies, Leander Harzon, Jason Hillebrand, Luke Jones, Scoutt Lowe, Mercedes March, Joshua Metelerkamp, Imke Muhr, Shivaan Pillay, Deen Potgieter, Niall Sampson, Heath Whitty, Eli Zuhlke (15)

Junior Camping – Heath Whitty

Most number of nights camped under canvas away from scout hall. Minimum 10 nights camped with at least four scouts. Consideration will be given to organising and leading camps.

Senior Hiking Trophy – Shivaan Pillay

Most kilometres hiked in a year. Minimum 100 km hiked with at least four scouts. The overall standard of hiking must be acceptable. Consideration will be given to initiating and leading hikes.

Senior Camping Trophy – Shivaan Pillay

Most number of nights camped under canvas away from scout hall. Minimum 20 nights camped with at least four scouts. The overall standard of camping must be acceptable. Consideration will be given to organising and leading camps.

Anton de Roo Trophy for promise and potential – Joshua Lugt

The junior scout who shows the most promise, as decided on by the troop scouters. Consideration will be given to attendance, self-management, consideration for others and work in the patrol. No award will be made if there is no acceptable candidate.

Scout of the Year – Jason Hillebrand

The senior scout with the most outstanding performance, as decided by the troop scouters. Consideration will be given to attendance, leadership, advancement, enthusiasm and involvement. No award will be made if there is no acceptable candidate.

Promise and Law Trophy – Jason Hillebrand

The scout who demonstrates adherence to the ethical code of scouting, as voted for by the troop. A secret poll of the scouts, with a minimum return of 60 % and without nominations, will determine the awardee.

Patrol of the Year – Lions

The patrol with the best performance overall. Consideration will be given to star awards, performance at troop camp and on Friday nights, independent activities, advancement and patrol spirit. An award will be made only if a patrol reaches a sufficiently high standard.

Rayner Trophy 2017



Although most teenagers would be spending their weekend on Instagram, Snapchat and playing video games (which is what I would have been doing), I had the opportunity to go on an adventure. This adventure went by the name of Rayner.

Saturday was the first of what was yet to be two brutal days of hiking in the Kogelberg Nature Reserve. My team and I all left Pinelands with high expectations. Niall Sampson, Daniel North, Tristan Ahlers and myself collectively formed team 21.

Once our bags had been weighed to make sure that our backs didn't break during the course of the competition we set off on our adventure. Rayner is what tests the chemistry between you and your fellow team mates. It can make or break friendships, in our case it was a mixture of both.

We argued, fought, yelled at each other, but in the end it made us even better friends than before.

We would not have made it to where

we were without Tristan's leadership, Niall's organisation skills and Daniel's constant enthusiasm. But Rayner was not just about the bettering of friendships, it was about bringing pride to the troop from which the team originated. Although we did come 13th out of 32 teams we did our best to make troop as proud as we possibly could.

Coming back home on the Sunday Rayner ended with blisters on my feet, scars on my leg from rocks and sticks, with back pain caused by my hiking bag and soar calves, I look back on the weekend of Rayner and think that "memories were made that weekend, and there is not a single thing I regret".

Chadley Potgieter



Springbok Hike

On the 17th to 19th of March 2017 my hiking team and I partook in a 3 day, 33km hike in the Groenlanderg Reserve (near Grabouw). The hike, a Springbok requirement, is always the final challenge for a prospective Springbok scout – combining all the skills the participant has learnt - to undertake one final challenge.

Starting Friday after school, Shivaan Pillay, Kyle Cato, Kyle Loe and myself, left for the Groenlanderg and soon after, the hike began. The second day, covering more than 24 kilometres (and with multiple close run ins with Golden Orb Spiders) left the entire team exhausted but at the same time, with a feeling of massive accomplishment.

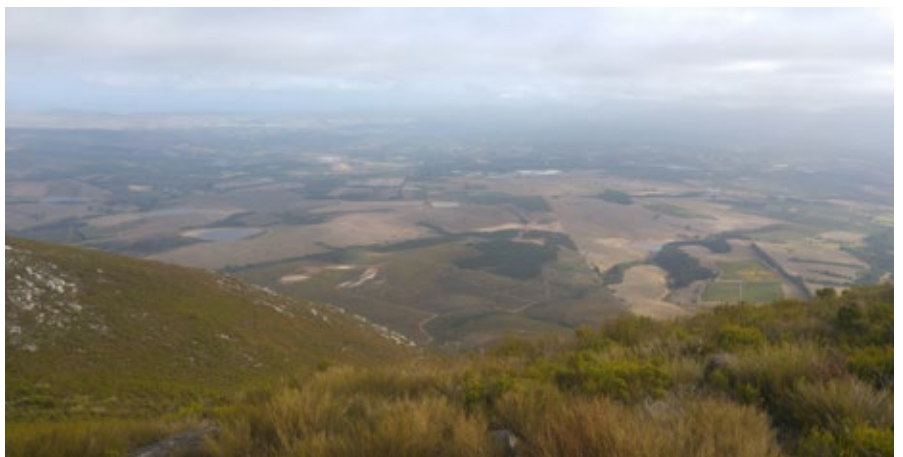
The hike was an opportunity to improve hiking and map-reading skills but also to simply enjoy and rekindle love for the great outdoors. The theme for the hike was water conservation. Being located close to the Theewaters dam, and with near constant view of the large dam, we



could see first-hand the tremendously horrific effects the drought has had on the water levels in the dam. In a similar way we on the hike had to conserve water as there was no guarantee for water on the mountain. Luckily, our efforts paid off and we got off the mountain safely and well hydrated.

The hike was not easy by any measure and kudos to my team for handling the hike like absolute champions, without so much as one complaint – truly a firm reassurance for 1st Pinelands hiking potential!

Scout Louw



Kontiki Weekend Report Back

The people on the raft this year were: Kyle Kato, Niall Sampson, Luke Rice, Luke Jones, Adam Mackie and me. Niall was PL.

We worked for twelve hours, eight hours on Friday and four hours on Saturday. We had done a lot of preparation for the event repainting, measuring ropes, and much, much more. The theme for this year's Kontiki was Local Is Lekker.

Finally, the time came to leave on the raft. The raft team changed into our costumes for the parade, and lined up. Our costume theme was sport, so Kyle was in a swimming costume, Niall was in rugby uniform, Luke Rice was dressed as a soccer player, Luke Jones was a cricket player, I was a tennis player, and Adam was a cyclist.

After the parade it was time to leave. We got on the raft, pushed off with punting poles, and were then called back in at another place. It turns out that we were only supposed to get ready, not push off. Finally, we left, and we reached the place where we would stay and dropped the anchor.

Once we were settled down, we received our first STAs (Spare Time

Activities). These included making a shoe, building a windmill, and cooking. I carried the food ashore and did the cooking, and Kyle did the windmill. The nights were freezing, and we had to do night shifts, so someone could raise the alarm if the raft started to sink.

The next day, we took up the anchor in preparation to be towed away. The wind blew a few of the rafts around us into one spot, including us, and we waited in a little group of rafts, for the boats to take us away.

Eventually we were taken, and when we reached the construction area, we threw ropes to the fringe team so they could tie us off. Dismantling took about two hours and then we all went to the scout hall to unload the ropes, poles etc. off the trailers.

I'm sure everyone was happy to be home!



Scouts News



Scouts News



Kontiki 2017 (fringe view)

On Friday the 24 March 2017, fourteen First Pinelands scouts set out for Zandvlei Sea Scout Base. On day one we helped build the raft, but day two was more exciting as we also did some fringe activities. The activities were: Volleyball, Kneeboarding and Tug-o-war and two new activities; Blow Darts and Frisbee Golf. We won the Frisbee Golf overall.

Only Caden, Ashley and I did the night activity because everyone else was busy fixing our tent that had been sabotaged by some people who pulled out all the pegs. On Sunday all fourteen scouts went home in one piece. We all gained valuable experience that we can use next year.

Josh Lugt

Cub Fun Day 2017 – It's a dog's life

Owning a dog can serve many purposes. They can be a friend, companion, guide and even a protector. As part of our Outdoor Code, we learn to be kind to animals.

The theme for the Cub Fun Day which took place 1 April 2107 was simply – dogs. Anything and everything to do with dogs!

Thaba Moilola, Matthew Welby-Solomon, Daniel Lugt, Laasya and Divya Jonnalaggada, Ben Harris, Alicia Tuffin and Inge Beerwinkel joined in the fun of this annual provincial cub event. It was a hot and sunny Saturday afternoon. Each of the thirty packs represented set up a game in keeping with the theme. Cubs could move around with a buddy and try out the wide variety of creative games. One of the highlights was the “snake man” with his pet (non-venomous!) snake which could be touched – if you dared.

The cubs then met a very entertaining Barry. A man with a special relationship with his dog. Barry is an ex-racing car driver who lost his sight in a tragic accident. Vixen is his guide dog. The cubs were riveted as Barry explained how Vixen was trained and how she assists him. He demonstrated how her harness works to give him clues on where to walk safely when they are out and about. She is extremely obedient and even empties her bowels and bladder on his command when they find a grassy spot! Barry taught us how he manages everyday tasks without his sight.

The thought given to the clothes he wears so that he can tell which is front and which is back when he dresses himself, how he tells bank notes and coins apart, some of the voice command features he uses on his smartphone and laptop, how he prepares food for himself and finds his

way around his flat. Although his talk was humorous and he had the cubs giggling away, Barry gave us insight into how it is to live without one's sight and impressed upon the cubs the importance of wearing a seat belt as this would have saved his sight in the accident.

Fallen Angels Animal Rescue Centre was the non-profit organisation supported by this event. Cubs donated dog food for centre. Fallen Angels rescues dogs that are being mistreated or neglected and finds new homes for them where they will be loved and cared for. Fallen Angels has rehomed close to 900 dogs in their 3 years of operation.

Our cubs returned home happy after an afternoon of fun and having learned something useful in the process. We look forward to Cub Fun Day next year!



1st Pinelands Cubs at Kontiki 2017

An opportunity to run in the fresh morning air on the banks of Sandvlei appealed to the six cubs and their parents who joined in the cross country to clock up a few points in support our 1st Pinelands Kontiki team.



The Cub and Brownie activities followed where our cubs could mingle with almost 200 Cubs and Brownies from the province. We made beach scenes sea sand dough and shells. We played a challenge game where each pack needed to cross a "river".

One could only cross the river while wearing "magic boots" which allow the wearer to walk on water. There

was only one pair of boots per team. The cubs found creative ways to carry each other across sending one person back to fetch another. A great game involving problem solving and team work. We ended with a round of bird bingo where identifying birds correctly earned your pair a prize.

A couple of cubs stayed on to see the rafts come in and help to dismantle

our 1st Pinelands raft. An interesting experience involving balancing across the gangplank and exploring the raft as ropes were untied and pieces removed. Matthew Welby-Solomon, Daniel Lugt and Inge Beerwinkel did plenty of good turns untying knots, hanking ropes and fetching and carrying. Some excellent beginner skills were learned for future raft building efforts!

Cubs News

1st Pinelands Cubs at Kontiki 2017



Cub Elephant's Eye Hike

18 March 2017



Sixteen cubs with as many parents and a number of siblings set off from the Silvermine Reservoir. Hiking conditions were perfect. A previous pack meeting saw the cubs learning hiking safety – the buddy system, why we wear shoes on a hike, the importance of sunblock, hats, carrying enough water and what to do (and what not to do) if you accidentally get separated from the group. The majority of the party, both cubs and parents, were

about to set off on their very first hike ever. Hike leader and sweeper appointed and off we went. This is a lovely scenic hike which is for the most part not technically difficult. The last few hundred metres to the cave are steep and rocky but cubs managed easily appearing to imitate rock daddies hopping up to the cave.

The cubs were given the challenge to sharpen their observation skills

along the way by looking out for the Prinskaasteel River, Tokai Forest Fire Lookout Hut, the upper cable way station in the distance, Princessvlei, Zeekoevlei, Rondevlei, Strandfontein sewerage works, a sunbird and a restio plant. The cable way station was obscured by cloud on the day and the sunbirds were elusive (most likely evading boisterous hikers); however the cubs were keen spotters and acquitted themselves well.

Cubs News



Heading back down from the cave we were greeted with a hearty cry of "1st Pinelands!" from below.



The cave afforded a lovely cool resting spot with wonderful views to enjoy while snacks were munched. Cubs wanted to know why it's called Elephant's Eye Cave when no elephants can be found in the area... (answer hidden somewhere in this edition of the Pinebranch)

Heading back down from the cave we were greeted with a hearty cry

of "1st Pinelands!" from below. Rover Harry Joannou was on his way up with friends and recognised our group t-shirts and some of the cubs from the pack meeting run by the rovers a few weeks earlier. A few happy exchanges took place when the cubs recognised him. We hiked a slightly different return route to make the most of taking in the beautiful natural surrounds of Silvermine.

It was a great hike experience to get the first timers hooked on hiking. Hoping to see you on future hikes...

*Answer: From the Tokai area looking up at that section of the mountain it resembles an elephant's head and trunk. The cave sits exactly where one would imagine the elephant's eye to be, hence the name Elephant's Eye Cave.

Key Members of 1st Pinelands

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