



Pinebranch

First Pinelands

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Another edition of the Pinebranch and it is fantastic to see all the activities going on.

Well done to the Upton teams who represented us well. We even got a second place!

Looks like the cubs had a busy term with some exciting hikes and cooking competitions, along with all the learning that takes place and is so valuable to our kids.

Thanks to all those who made contributions. Keep them coming to lugtjp@gmail.com

It's great to see that 1st Pinelands is alive and well.

Enjoy the read!

Yours in scouting
JP Lugt



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UPTON SHIELD 2017



This year's Upton Shield experience was a lot different to last year. This time instead of doing a loop on a farm we went from Strandfontein Pavilion to Sandvlei (where Kontiki was held). We started off relatively slowly with the first base, which was painting a patrol flag. Our flag ended up great thanks to the great art skills of Luke Rice and Adam Mackie and the great ideas of Luke Mayman.

We ended up being one of the last patrols to finish the first eight bases,

but we were one of the first to finish the first aid base (10th base); we had prepared exactly what they had asked us to do at that base at practice. By the time we got to the 15th /16th base one of the judges had told us that we were about 9th in hiking place. This was all good news, but that was not how they decided the winner. We knew we had to be consistent with what we were doing and that we had to do it twice as well. In the end this all played off, but unfortunately about 2 bases closed early, so we were unable to

hand in our final STA which could have put us on top and win the competition. We ended up coming 2nd place by 5 points overall. This was amazing, but also not necessarily what we wanted, but it was still amazing to be in the top 3. I really hope that next year 1st Pinelands can win it. I certainly do believe that they can win because there will still be 3 people from this year's team that will be on next years team.

Caden Sampson

UPTON SHEILD 2017



WELL DONE TO THE A-TEAM THAT CAME 2ND OVERALL!

Caden Sampson – P1

Adam Mackie – P2

Luke Rice – P3

Luke Mayman – P4



The day started with a bang. Everybody was up early and at the hall by 08:00 am. Once we had gotten everything we needed, such as the forms for entry, we went into the car that was to transport our patrol to Strandfontein where the hike was supposed to begin. During the car ride Simeon, Leo, Shaun and myself, my patrol, started revising our six basic knots and double checking that we had jerseys and our forms.

Once we had arrived at Strandfontein we got our name tags on and practiced falling in as a patrol. Once we had mastered it and were in synch I headed to hand in our indemnity forms and details where I stood in a long que. Eventually I got to the front where I was given a team number instructed to take my patrol to a wide open field

where we should stand in numerical order of our team numbers. Little did we know that we would be standing there for about half an hour. In time, the judges came and addressed the patrols and gave each patrol leader a brown envelope with things which we could use to complete STA's.

Then we were off. We had about an hour to run around near the parade ground, wide, open field, to complete some small bases which included; flag making, panoramic sketches, Rights and Responsibilities, the Scout Laws and Promise, a quiz on BP and mapping skills. Little did I know, the fun wasn't even beginning. We were soon hiking along a beach, making stretchers, coloured sand, shelters, picking up litter, tying knots, crossing rivers and attempting to take bearings.

Although it was a tremendous challenge I enjoyed being PL of a patrol on a competition. With ups and downs to being PL I enjoyed when I could help someone carry something or teach them something new and them teaching me something new. I learnt that as a leader you should respect and accept your team members for who they are and the way they think, but should also try to be assertive when you believe something would be better for the team.

Although we may not have come first we know what we need to improve on (shelter construction), should we be chosen to be in the same team again, and that we tried our best and had fun doing it.

Joshua Beerwinkel
(PL, 1st Pinelands C team, Upton)



UPTON SHEILD 2017

DATE: 14/05/2017

LOCATION:

STRANDFONTEIN PAVILION

MISSION: UPTON 2017

Josh Lugt, CJ Beerwinkel, Heath Witty and Kyle Loe, who were carrying staves, ropes and other gear set off as Upton team 9 to their first of 27 bases. The morning was cold, but everyone was still excited.



Our first major base was 1st aid where we had to splint our P4's leg and carry him to the next base on a stretcher we made out of 2 staves a rope and a jacket.

At another base we had to cross a river and we got teamwork points for making a human chain to get our gear across the river.

by making a tripod, climbing up it and jumping over. We came 25th out of 64 teams. Next year we aim to be in the top 10.

At our next base we were told that a rainstorm was coming and that we had to build a shelter out of our 2x2m piece of black plastic, a stave and our bags.

Another base was the coloured sand base where we had to make 5 colours of sand with 3 colours of food colouring. Later was the pioneering base where we had to get over a fence without touching it, we solved it

Well done to 1st Pinelands A team who came 2nd overall. Thank you too, to the scouters and parents who helped us: gathering gear, organising teams, training hikes and training at the hall. Josh Lugt

BADGES

SCOUT ADVANCEMENT BADGES

Membership - Joshua Beerwinkel, Philipus Botes, Mandla Dhlwayo, Siphon Dhlwayo, Leo Frater, Mushira Oberay, Etam Wonkam, Ramses Wonkam, Kathleen Vine, Guy Yates

Pathfinder - CJ Beerwinkel, Joshua Lugt, Adam Mackie, Marc Metelerkamp

Adventurer - Luke Jones, Shivaan Pillay

Explorer - Leander Harzon, Scoutt Lowe, Imke Muhr

Springbok - Scoutt Lowe

SCOUTCRAFT BADGES

First Aid - Luke Jones, Niall Sampson

Swimming - CJ Beerwinkel, Joshua Beerwinkel, Emma Carr, Chadley Potgieter, Ashleigh Rhodes

Survival - Luke Jones, Joshua Lugt, Adam Mackie

INTEREST BADGES

Backwoodsman - Leander Harzon, Joshua Metelerkamp

First Aid - Ashley Davies, Leander Harzon, Scoutt Lowe, Joshua Metelerkamp

Patrol Leadership - Scoutt Lowe

Reader - Scoutt Lowe, Heath Whitty

Speaker - Scoutt Lowe

CHALLENGE AWARDS

Cub Instructor - Joshua Metelerkamp, Imke Muhr, Shivaan Pillay, Niall Sampson

Patrol Leader Training Unit - Ashley Davies, Leander Harzon, Jason Hillebrand, Joshua Metelerkamp, Shivaan Pillay (all in April 2016)



ROVER WEEKEND AWAY

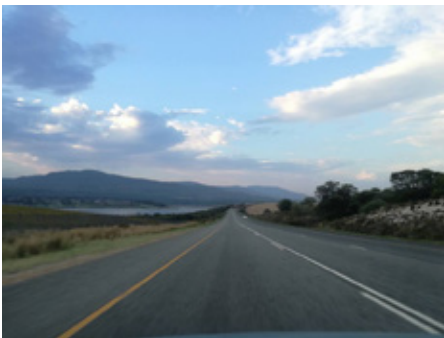
On the last weekend of April, 10 Rovers and friends went for a weekend away in Stanford. We made a full road trip out of it, singing along to old songs in the car and stopping at a few little places on the way. A highlight of the journey there was definitely our pit-stop at Peregrine Farmstall where we had the most divine steak pies. Our next stop was Grotto beach in Hermanus. A select few were brave enough to dip into the freezing water, while the rest of us enjoyed soaking up the sun.

We arrived in Stanford a little after midday and had the afternoon to explore and get settled. In true rover style we were 'glamping' (glamorous camping) with hot showers, flushing loo's and a fridge to keep the food cold.

Stanford itself is a wonderful little town! We browsed through all the little shops along Main road and were almost extras in a movie. We swam in the river and braaied underneath the stars.

On the Sunday, we played volleyball on the town common with lots of locals. This is a weekly game they play as a community on a Sunday afternoon, if you're ever in the area be sure to join in. (The games start at 3pm)

It was absolutely amazing to get away from the busyness of the city and to bond with friends who begin to feel like family on a trip like this. It was a well-needed break. Thank you to the Troost family for hosting us for the weekend.



ROVER WEEKEND AWAY



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CUB ACTIVITIES Q2 2017

CUB NATIONAL CHALLENGE 2017 - KIND IS THE NEW COOL – STAMP OUT BULLYING

Each year Scouts SA sets a national challenge for cub packs to take up. The Cub National Challenge consists of various activities or objectives to cover in each term. The 2017 Challenge theme of Kind is the New Cool aims to raise awareness amongst cubs to recognise different types of bullying, how to react to bullying and ideas to create a culture of kindness.

Quarter 2 saw our cub pack complete the first part of the three part challenge – Ask a psychologist or counsellor to visit your pack and talk about various aspects of bullying. Tanya de Bruyne, a psychologist and cub mom, agreed to step in for us. This is an emotionally sensitive topic to cover and needs careful management. Tanya was up to the task and did a sterling job. The cubs acted out small skits of various types of bullying – physical, emotional, cyber and so on.



how the bullying could be addressed in each skit. Tanya used the analogy of a bruised apple. The beautiful red apple was insulted and beaten by being dropped on the floor multiple times. The cubs were shown how the apple still looks perfect on the outside after being so mistreated, but when one slices through it, the bruises are evident and so it is with emotional bruises.

The person looks fine on the outside but carries bruises from bullying for life. The cubs were very involved in this topic and actively engaged throughout. Another analogy was used to encourage our cubs to be kind. As a little bit of yeast makes a whole batch of dough rise, one kind word spreads, softens hearts and creates more kindness. It was a thoroughly thought provoking and meaningful programme for us all.



We couldn't have planned a more suited activity for Youth Day than a cub hike. The day gave us perfect hiking weather after a long miserable wet spell. Cubs with a few parents and siblings were happy to get outdoors and moving. The Cobra Camp hike is an easy walk along a sandy jeep track to an abandoned World War 2 radar station called Cobra Camp, one of six such camps built around the peninsula.

The hike winds through some classic fynbos and presents stunning,

unexpected views of Kommetjie and the Slangkop Lighthouse. We looked out for plants from the groups of Fynbos: Protea, Restio and Erica as well as a few birds which can be spotted along this route: The Cape Grass Bird, Ground Woodpecker, Orange-Breasted Sunbird, Greyback Cisticola and Rock Martin.

The hike led to three abandoned blockhouses built into the rock and the ruins of the radar station barracks.

Although in need of maintenance

and quite badly vandalised, these ruins were interesting to explore.

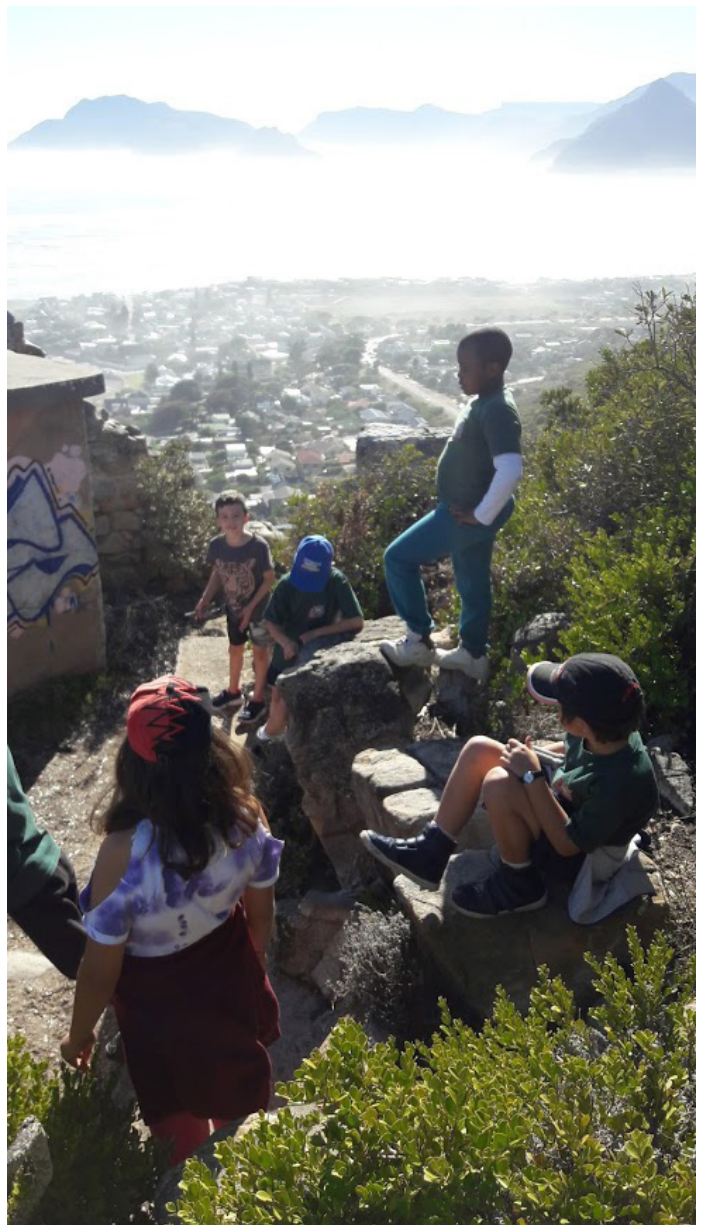
Stories were told of how South African Soldiers were stationed here to observe military activity off our shores during the war. Akela brought along an original World War 2 pair of binoculars and cubs took turns looking through them and imagining being a soldier at the station at the time.

It was an interesting off the beaten track spot well worth a visit.

COBRA CAMP HIKE



“ STORIES WERE TOLD OF HOW SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS WERE STATIONED HERE TO OBSERVE MILITARY ACTIVITY OFF OUR SHORES DURING THE WAR.”



DE HEL NATURE RAMBLE

De Hel Nature Reserve in Constantia is a little known tucked away pocket of afro-montane forest on a steep slope surrounded by urban development. It boasts beautiful tall indigenous trees and is a unique home to the Knysna Warbler.

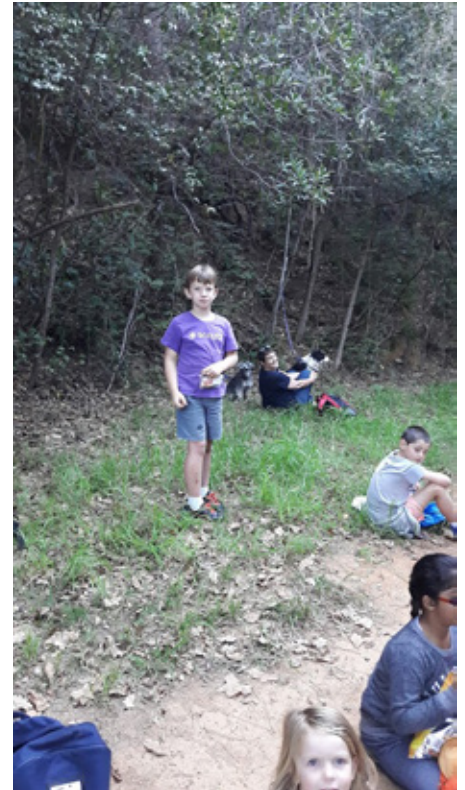
“DE HEL” REFERRING TO “STEEP GRADIENT” IN DUTCH, RATHER THAN “THE HOT PLACE DOWN UNDER”.

In the early days of the Dutch Colony, this site was a forestry station. The site of the original woodcutters’ cottages still exists although the cottages are no longer there. A small stream runs through the kloof.

The party of cubs with a few parents, siblings and dogs wandered at a gently pace along the shady wooded paths. This walk totals 3 km. Most of the route follows a shady contour of gravel road. A short section follows a narrow log step steep path downwards to a stream bed. The idea was to take a gentle walk and appreciate the natural beauty around us. We kept our eyes peeled for sightings of the Knysna Warbler.

One cub found half an eggshell, which we identified through comparison with the photo on the info board, to be that of a Knysna Warbler – a lucky find that day. Snack time was enjoyed in peace beneath the majestic yellowwoods.

This spot is well worth the visit. A few directions to the start for fellow 1st Pinelanders who may want to follow our cub footsteps...Follow Rhodes Drive to Constantia Nek, take the first circle exit into Southern Cross Drive. About 700m down on left hand side is entrance to De Hel – marked by low pole fence. Drive slowly; it’s easy to miss it. Parking on the roadside in Southern Cross Drive.



ORIENTEERING PROGRAMME

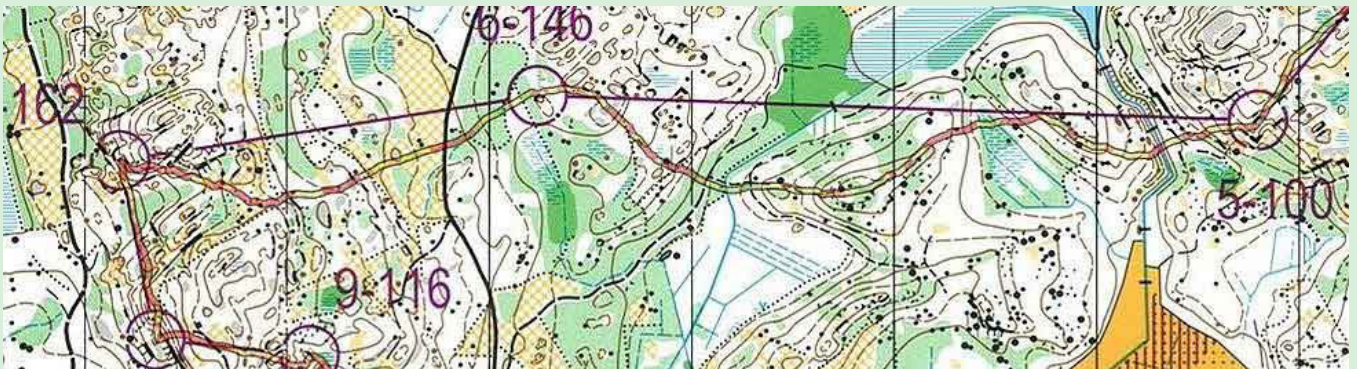


The cubs enjoyed an expert orienteering themed pack meeting with orienteering development officers, Beth Hanson (visiting from the UK) and Karen Chambers (visiting from Gauteng – SA National Orienteering Protea Team). It was a great opportunity to have such high level, passionate orienteers share some of their skills with our cubs.

Orienteering as a sport develops multiple skills – map reading, direction finding, spatial awareness,

problem solving and emotional development. The cubs learned the basics on a cone courses which increased in difficulty as they caught on. Cubs could race against each other on the cone courses. We then progressed to an orienteering course with punch controls dotted around Central Park.

Thanks to Karen for kindly arranging for a detailed orienteering map of Central Park to be created for this and future 1st Pinelands mapping type activities.



INTERSIX SOUP COMPETITION

The much anticipated Intersix Soup Competition on 26 May 2017 had our cubs thinking up their own soup recipe and working together to bring their ingredients the following week. Each six was tasked with creating their own recipe which was top secret and withheld from the other sixes.

A couple of trusted Old Wolves were included for consultation occasionally. Some guidelines and ideas were given regarding ingredients which can be added to the soup and those which should not be added to soup...



INTERSIX SOUP COMPETITION



This event is a great exercise in teamwork. The competition started with each six at their own station chopping and slicing ingredients and diligently stirring their masterpieces under the supervision of a few parents. Delicious aroma's filled the hall and extra beans were scored for cubs that participated well, worked well together and tidied up their stations themselves. Our cubs acquitted themselves well.

THE JUDGING BEGAN. TASTERS OF SOUP WERE LADLED INTO NUMBERED CUPS TO KEEP THE IDENTITY OF THE CHEF SIX UNKNOWN.



Akela acted as co-ordinator for the parents and cub instructors who made up the ten judges. All the soups were most tasty. The outright winners were an elated and jubilant Blue Six who took the 1st Pinelands Soup Ladle Trophy for the second year running. Excellent work Blue Six!

The cubs enjoyed their soups and above that we were able to donate 6L of soup to The Haven Night shelter in Claremont.

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UP-COMING EVENTS

Group Hall Maintenance Day: 19 August

SCOUTS

Scout's Springbok Award Ceremony: 28 July

Gordons Shield Trophy: 12-13 August

South African National Jamboree (Sanjamb) - Bloemfontein: 8-16 December 2017

24th World Scout Jamboree - West Virginia, USA: 22 July - 2 August 2019

CUBS

Kalk Bay Cave Hike: 26 August

Cub Camp: 15 - 17 September



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