



Pinebranch

First Pinelands

ISSUE 13 – 2018



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What I love about editing the Pinebranch is that one gets to see all that the Group is up to and meet interesting people along the way which is a real privilege. I hope that we can do justice through this publication journalising those activities.

Congratulations must go to Scoutt (yes that is his name) Lowe on achieving his Springbok Scout badge. This is the highest award a Scout can get before turning 18 and is a commendable achievement. Well done Scoutt!

In this Edition we also get to meet our new Troop Scouter, Mike Stanley. He comes with heaps of experience so we are very fortunate to be receiving such a capable and experienced individual. Welcome Mike and thank you for taking on this position. We look forward to walking this next chapter of your scouting journey with you.

Norman steps down as Troop Scouter, but continues as our overall Group Scouter which he has been holding together with the Troop Scouter position. Holding both positions has been very demanding for Norman all apart from his family and teaching activities! Focusing more on the Group Scouter role will strengthen our group and we are again fortunate to have someone as capable as Norman fulfilling this position. Thanks Norman for all you have done thus far for our kids!

There is lots more to read about and see. As always, thanks to Ian Mackie for putting this publication together so beautifully.

Enjoy the read.

Yours in Scouting
JP Lugt



SCOUTS IN MY LIFE

HOW DOES ONE REPORT ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SPRINGBOK SCOUT AWARD? I SUPPOSE THERE ARE MANY WAYS, BUT THOUGHT THAT THE SPEECH BELOW BY SCOUTT SUMS THINGS UP NICELY.

In any speech praising an individual, community or other entity's impact on one's life, it is easy to slip into the clichés: "It helped me to grow as a person", "I have discovered so much about myself", or maybe even "it really changed my perception of life". I tried not to do that in this speech and in complete honesty didn't have to try hard.

So, what impact has scouts had on my life? I've tried to break it down as best I can into a couple of points, that for ME, represent this influence best:

Toughness and resilience:

I think I may not have been able to include this one, had I been part of any troop other than First Pinelands. This is an important one. It is becoming increasingly obvious that generations of youth, void of significant struggle or hardship, are unable to cope with an at times fast and remorseless world. By sending your children to scouts, you are sending them to struggle and you are all better parents for it.

Elon Musk, a Pretoria born, American technology pioneer and visionary,

worth an estimate of 14 Billion dollars, said in his book that he attributes his success to adversity he faced as a child. While Elon's hardships took the form of school bullying and a stern father, it is easy to say that washing dishes in cold water until the early hours of the morning, or hiking in the pouring rain for hours on end with little food serves as our adversary.

Scouts hasn't just equipped me to grab my hardships by the horns, but has provided me with enough resilience to not let go.



This kind of character building is seldom found in youth organisations yet is so incredibly vital in ensuring capacity to excel.

Leadership

This one is a bit obvious and boring but I wouldn't be doing the sentiments of this speech justice by excluding it. Obviously a very large proponent of scouting is leadership. But the same is true for hundreds of organisations, right? Well yes and no. Scouting is very unique in the sense that the type of leadership learnt is highly intensive, hands-on and measurable.

Make no mistake, the type of leadership scouts breeds doesn't require you to inspire and be an example to your team before the big game but rather to inspire and be an example to your patrol while simultaneously making sure Jon has taken the rubbish bag back, Steve is doing his lashing correctly, Amy has stopped drinking the syrup and bob got his cut sorted out. Unlike many comparable positions of leadership, leadership in scouts can almost directly be measured by patrol character and success. This type of leadership is intense and practical and is therefore an invaluable skill to have. Scouts has provided me hours



of practice to hone in my leadership skills, which, in turn have benefited my other leadership posts outside of scouting in a tremendous way.

Friendship

Let me begin by saying, scouts is like a stress test for friendships. On troop camp, for example, the one hour of sleep you got last night, coupled with near dehydration and catalysed with Shivaan's incessant joking is enough to break even the most saintly. It's in these high stress environments that the most genuine, hardy friendships are formed. Anything that would have jeopardized the friendship out of scouts, becomes somewhat inconsequential. Scouts turns friendships made of coal into friendships made of diamond, all the much stronger and all the much more valuable. I only have to look as

far as to my fellow PLs to know this is true. Now I have made scouts out to seem a lot like a boot camp, but importantly I have also experienced the most amazing, enjoyable moments that I will never forget for as long as I live and I have enjoyed these moments with the greatest of friends. I remember one time wading into ice cold, Theewaters water just after midnight with another patrol leader and together, being absolutely taken aback by the stars. What my school friends were doing at the same time isn't important but I'm sure, if I knew, I'd choose the icy water and warm company every time.

So that's it. The beauty in scouts is there is so much to draw from. For me the most impactful has been toughness and resilience, practical leadership and maybe most importantly, friendships built to last a lifetime. So in reflection I guess the clichés aren't so wrong – I have discovered so much about myself, scouts has changed my perception and also, I can say with conviction, Scouts has changed my life.

Thank you Scoutt Lowe

TABLE MOUNTAIN HIKE



We started the hike early in the morning. The people going on the hike were myself, Shivaan, Kathleen, Luzuko and Sean. We started the hike with an easy walk along the flat pipe track, on the camp's bay side of the mountain. After walking for a while we eventually started the ascent up diagonal. The ascent up the mountain was very steep and involved a small bit of having to take off our packs and climb up some rocks. Once we finally made it to the top we had lunch with an awesome view. After lunch all that was left to go on the first day was a short downhill and an even shorter flat walk. We had finally arrived at the scout hut, boots wet and feet tired. Well we were all resting in and around the scout hut, we were joined by Ben Poulter, who hiked a different route up the mountain.

We were also passed by other first pinelands scouts that were doing a different route. We cooked supper and slept. The next day we walked down Skeleton Gorge. It was quite an exciting descent due to the water flowing down the gorge and the wet, slippery rocks. We made it to the bottom of the gorge without having any major injuries. The hike was very fun and the view was beautiful. There were not that many complaints and we kept a good pace for most of the hike.

Luke Jones



TABLE MOUNTAIN HIKE



INTERVIEW WITH MIKE STANLEY – OUR NEW SCOUT MASTER

Mike, tell us a bit about yourself:

Born on 15 Aug 1970 in Durban, I went to George Campbell Technical High School a few 100 meters from the Durban beach front, on Fridays the corridors would be lined with surf boards. After matric I did my national service in the Air Force and was based at 85 Combat Flying School (South Africa's equivalent of Top Gun). I managed to fly in an Impala fighter jet and took the controls for about 20 minutes. After national service, I studied Electronic Engineering at the Durban University of Technology and I have a diploma in Project Management. After graduating and working for a few years I left to travel overseas for a year.

In 1997 I moved from KZN to Gauteng and held various positions in various companies until I ventured out on my own in 2005. In 2017 I moved to Cape Town to be close to my two girls Robyn (13) and Chloe (nearly 11).



Images off Google



What music do you enjoy?

I enjoy a wide range of music from UB40 to the modern pop, my favourite band is U2, I do not like rap music.

And movies?

My favourite movie is probably Titanic, due to its awesome storytelling and grandness of the set. I also enjoy the Bourne and Mission Impossible style movies, (fast action spy dramas are my favourite genre). TV series I enjoy are Billions, CSI types and Suits.

What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work and Scouts?

I have various hobbies and these change from time to time. I collect beer cans from around the world and have a collection of over 300. Most of the cans I collected whilst I was traveling around Europe and sent home in large boxes, some have been given to me by friends and family that know about my hobby, each one has a story behind it or has been saved by someone special that gave it to me.

Other hobbies include outdoors, camping, hiking, exploring, traveling, beer making, cheese making (not very successfully).

I also have a bucket list which I need to update with new challenges as I have almost completed most of them:

Rock Climbing

Abselling

Bungee jumping (Vic Falls)

Parachuting

White water rafting (Zambezi)

Travelled around Europe in a camper van

Scuba diving

Swam with Sharks

Swam with Whale Shark

Snowboarding in Canada

Dived the Great Barrier Reef

Flown in a hot air balloon

Still need to :

See Gorillas

Continue traveling

Fly in a helicopter

Paraglide

Tell us a bit about your Scouting career.

I started my Scouting Career at 1st Berea West Cubs (Westville, KZN) in 1978 in Black Six, I received my Leaping Wolf and moved onto the 1st Westville Scout Troop in Lions Patrol. In 1991, after my national service, I joined the newly formed 1st Berea West Scout Troop as an Assistant Scouter, 6 months later the Troop Scouter left and I took over. I was Troop Scouter from 91 – 97.

In 2007 I joined 1st Bryanston Troop as an ATS and in 2012 I started to run the Troop and left in 2017 when I left Gauteng to relocate to Cape Town.

What have been your highlights in your Scouting career?

Receiving my Springbok Badge, Bushmans Thong and Chief Scout Award. I attended the 52nd Lexden PLTU Course and I have staffed on about 12 – 14 courses, some at Lexden (KZN) and some at Gilten (Gauteng), I am hoping to attend a Gilqua Course soon.

I attended the 16th World Jamboree in Australia in 1988 as a Scout and I attended the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan as a Troop Scouter where I met a number of the Pinelands Scouts.

I have been on 2 Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure Hikes as a Mountain Ranger. I attended SANJamb 1985 as a Scout and for the 1993 SANJamb, I was the deputy sub camp Chief for Ndumu Subcamp.

Is there anything that really stands out in your Scouting career?

I do not think that I can identify one portion of my Scouting career that stands out above the rest. What I do enjoy; is seeing an unsure 11 year old enter the Troop and work their way through the Advancements and leave as a confident young adult, that is very fulfilling to me. I see Scouting as a 7 year project management and leadership training course.

What makes 1st Pinelands special relative to other groups you have worked with?

Each Troop is unique, they have different traditions and personalities, Pinelands grabbed my attention because it is a functioning Troop that needs a little direction to make it great, there are some awesome people involved in the Troop, Committee and the Cubs, all are vital to the effective running of a Troop and Group. I am looking forward to 2018 and making a few changes and improvements and seeing the Troop thrive.

HALL MAINTENANCE DAY

Hi Everyone

A big shout out for all the cubs, scouts, rovers, scouters and parents who turned out and made a success of the day. I'll try list everything done and risk forgetting something!

- Clear drainage lines in front of hall.
- Sand and varnish from double door
- New light fitting in passage above notice boards - (brighter and energy efficient!)
- Glue down loose floor blocks
- Fit shelves in cub den
- Fit shelves in store room
- Temporary repair to storeroom door
- Tidy loft
- Deep clean and declutter kitchen
- Deep clean and declutter meeting room
- Deep clean troop scouters room
- Sand, anti-rust and paint brackets for pioneering poles
- Repair hall blinds
- Paint loft hatch
- Paint outside of patrol corners
- Hack down (most of) port Jackson thicket
- Clear drainage lines outside back alongside neighboring building
- Remove rubble, weeds and rotting timber from back
- Remove ropes from tree
- Cart plant waste to dump (3 trips)
- Cart recyclable waste to dump
- Defrost fridge



- Replace panes and putty on kitchen and toilet windows
- Pack all camping equipment in QM store
- Fill in cracks in walls, around electricity meter, etc.
- Remove loose netting below data projector



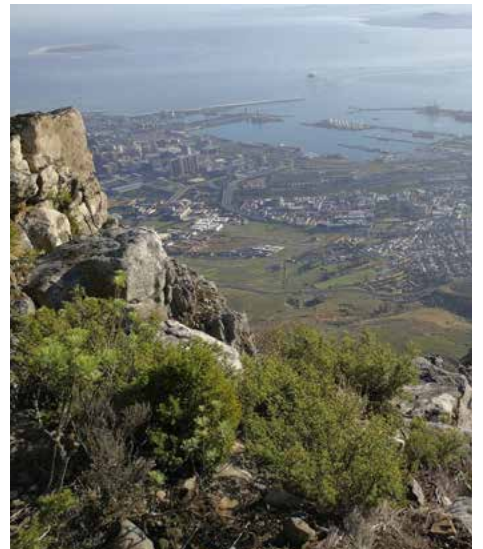


Thank you to you all. Special mention to Anton Malan for his coordinating effort and Rene and her sister for keeping us fed and watered. We spent a fair bit of money on supplies and still have other things to attend to in the weeks ahead.

Norman Davies



DEVILS PEAK HIKE



Screengrab below from Devils Peak drone footage.



CADEN'S ADVENTURE FULL DAY HIKE



Luke Mayman, Luke Rice, Adam Mackie, CJ and Josh Beerwinkle joined Caden Sampson on his adventurer hike up Table Mountain.

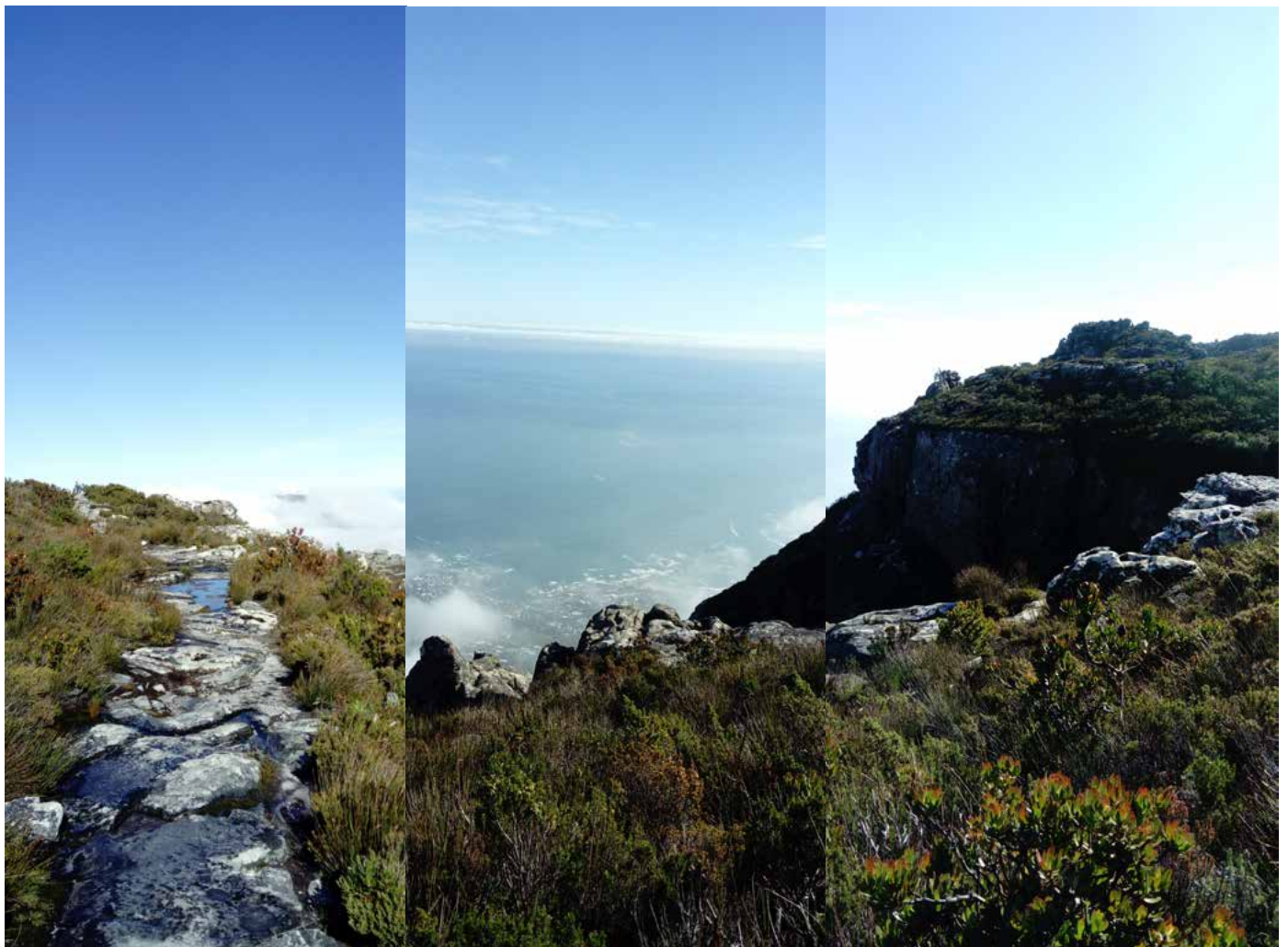
We started walking early in the morning, the mist still laying over the mountain like a table cloth. After we walked from Signal Hill to the start of Table Mountain the mist started to clear. We walked through the cable car gates and then had to stop to

look at the map. After hours of walking we reached a point where we had to cross a small waterfall and had to throw our bags to the other side in order to cross. We saw many birds and a stunning view as the clouds were very low so it looked like we were on top of them, the clouds seemed to have no ending point it was beautiful.

The point finally came where we had reached the top after many stops in

between we had lunch at the top of the mountain and rested. Then we got ready for our trip down. We walked continuously and finally reached the bottom where we were collected and then taken to the scout hall to go home. It was an amazing day filled with fun and adventure with great friends. We look forward to the next one.

Luke Mayman



MY EXPERIENCE ON GORDONS TROPHY



Gordon's shield is a camping competition, like the setup of troop camp, but you get barely any sleep & with a lot more STA's (Spare Time Activities). Some of them are fun, some of them are not so fun, it all depends on the theme of the competition.

This was my first time as PL for Gordon's shield, but I was a good learning experience for the whole team, as most of them have not been on Gordon's shield before, but now they know what to expect for next year & come in the top 5! The biggest shortfall that we had was

because the team has never been in a competition like this before, they did not understand the importance of the STA's, as that counts for the most marks & ultimately decides who wins the competition.

But in the end, with the amount of time that we had to prepare for the competition and since this was the majority of the team's first time & considering that we did not enter last year, I can say I am proud of the result.

Niall Sampson

EAGLES PATROL MEETING

On Friday, 25 August 2017 the Eagles patrol members Luke Jones, Josh Lugt, Simeon Davies, Josie Adlard and Alchil Jonnalagadda, met at 11 Glen Garry for a patrol meeting. We shot air rifles, did some archery, played table tennis and assigned a patrol quartermaster and patrol scribe. The newest patrol members learned how to hank ropes. We had an awesome time as a patrol and we all enjoyed ourselves. Josh Lugt



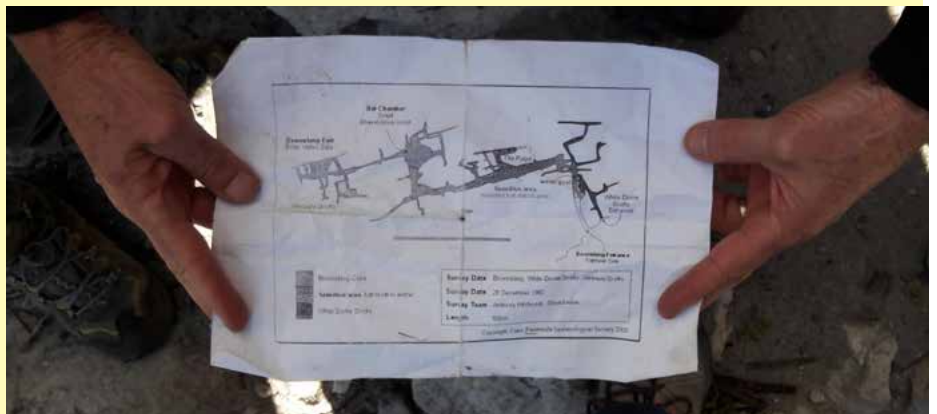
KALK BAY CAVES CUB HIKE

A great day for a hike, 26 August 2017. Our excited 1st Pinelands party of 5 cubs and 4 old wolves joined the equally excited cubs from Two Oceans District at the start of the Kalk Bay Caves hike. For most of the 100-strong hiking party, this was to be a first-time venture to one of the better known caves on the Echo Valley hiking route. The hike starts from Boyes Drive with a flight of steep stone steps and continues at a similar gradient upwards along a winding 2km path to the cave entrance.

The hike up was arduous, especially the last 300m, the steepest section of climb. Cubs have this way of effortlessly bouncing up steep mountain paths and rocks like nimble Dassies! Greater effort was expended by the Old Wolves. Frequent rests gave plenty of opportunity to regroup and to admire the clear view over Kalk Bay harbour and the whales at play close to shore.

Hike leader, Jim Cairns, gave careful instructions on how we were to tackle the caves. First a head count by each pack and some organising of line order. Make sure you keep the person in front of you and the person behind you in sight to avoid taking a wrong turn. It is possible to get lost inside the cave. We flicked on our head torches and crawled under an overhanging rock to enter the Caves. The first 20m of the passage is low and wide which meant crawling on wet sand and, at times leopard crawling for adults.

The caves are well ventilated and the air was fresh and cool. After the initial low passage there was standing room for the rest of the zig zag route. There were boulders to be climbed and narrow gaps to squeeze through. It was cool and wet with pure clean water dripping from the cave roof. It was fun to try catching the falling drops in our mouths. Bats could be seen clinging to the higher sections of the interior rock faces. It took 20 min at an exploring pace to emerge into the blindingly bright sunlight at the cave exit. The caves are in pitch darkness. Torches essential!





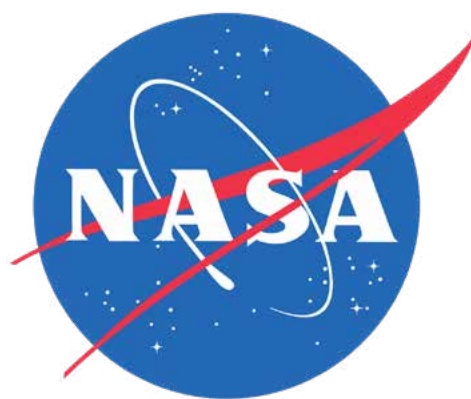
A rest and comparing of experiences and another head count and we set off on the return route around and along the mountain top. The view stretching from Kalk Bay harbour and Fishhoek beach all the way across Clovelly to Noordhoek beach was spectacular. We stopped off at a large rocky outcrop for some boulder climbing - a must on any cub hike. Then headed down the long winding path back to the start. Certainly a hike that bears repeating. The sentiment of our cubs on return, "Akela, we must bring the rest of the cubs here!"



MISSION TO MARS CUB CAMP 2017

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, **BLAST OFF**

The Mars explorers landed on Mars (Hawequas) on 15 September 2017. An historic moment – the 1st Pinelands and 1st Claremont Cubs being the first humans ever to visit the intriguing planet. Famous astronauts Major Tom (Ian Webb), Buzz Aldrin (Fraser Hewson), Sally Ride (Kathryn Kenyon) and Valentina Tereshkova (Joi Lugt) welcomed the explorers.



Camp catering was ably handled by the catering team members named Mars Bar, Marshmallow, Marsala, Marzipan and Marscarpone. Explorers were assigned to their Mars capsules (tents) and rover crews (camp sixes). Camp currency was Oxygen which could be earned and traded. High wind conditions made capsule pitching an exciting adventure. The first night on Mars we explored the terrain in the dark, finding reflective clues before heading for our capsules for the night.

The first day was a geology exploration of the surrounding terrain. Peggy Whitson (Lindsay Shand – Geologist) gave us a break down of how rocks are formed and some identification of our samples found. Then followed core sampling of marbled cupcakes to illustrate how geologists piece together a picture

of the rock formations below the surface by studying a series of core samples from an area. Lunch, games and building volcanoes followed. By then it was superhot on Mars. Fortunately, we found water on the red planet – enough for a very quick swim – it was freezing! We made purpose designed fine nets to use for stream exploration the following day. Dark night was eagerly awaited as we all wanted to see our “gunpowder” charged volcanoes erupt. The wait was worthwhile as we were rewarded with a view of spectacular showers of sparks from six volcanoes! A great intro to the campfire.

The final day dawned with slightly weary Mars explorers waking up to space music and Mars fitness exercises. We learned about how streams on Earth are assessed to gauge the health of the stream. We were about to explore the stream on

Mars and collect samples to look for macroinvertebrates (the larva of dragonflies and the like). Is there life on Mars? The more variety we find the healthier the stream. This completed our Minisass (Mini Stream Assessment) badge requirements.

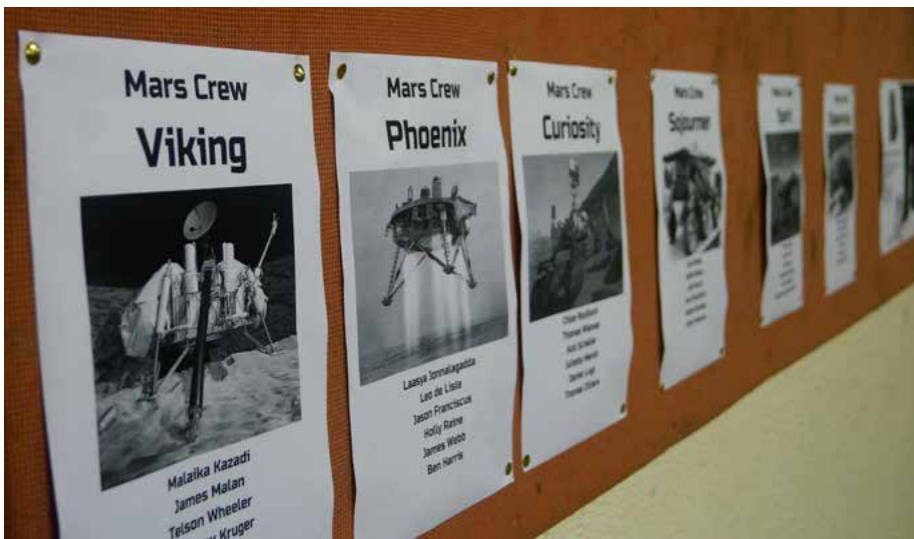
All too soon it was time to pack our kit, take down the capsules and prepare to head back to Earth. The closing ceremony was a time of thanking the Old Wolves who made the camp happen and for celebrating the good time we had. Each explorer received the Geologist badge, Minisass Badge, camp badge a Mars bar and a certificate with their Mars name. (Your name and surname with the first syllables swapped. E.g. Daniel Lugt becomes Lugniel Dat). Explorer parents arrived in their space shuttles. This was no one-way trip to Mars! Back to Earth we launched....plans brewing for the next exploration....

MISSION TO MARS CUB CAMP 2017





MISSION TO MARS CUB CAMP 2017





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Cub leader
Treasurer
Hall Hire
Quarter Master
Hall Maintenance
Fund Raising
Secretary
Pinebranch PR
Social Convening

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Norman Davies
Joi Lugt
Ange Ahlers
Norma Beerwinkel
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072 997 7550
083 415 4489
082 994 1562
082 564 7988

sarah@sarahrice.co.za
wolf@firstpinelands.org
joannlugt@gmail.com
treasurer@firstpinelands.org
normabeerwinkel@gmail.com

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