



Pinebranch

First Pinelands



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ISSUE 15 - 2018

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**2017
WINNER**
NATIONAL HV MARSH
COMPETITION BEST
QUARTERLY
PUBLICATION

FOCHA

WATER SAFETY

... AND MORE!



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What a term it has been! From troop camp to Kontiki with lots in between, the Scouts have had a busy term. Rovers and Cubs also had lots on the go which is all reported on below.

Great news too was that we won the 2017 National HV Marsh competition for the best quarterly publication in our Pinebranch. I must thank everyone who has contributed in terms of writing and photos over the past year. This is a fantastic achievement and can also not have been done without the expertise and time that Ian Mackie has put in. Thanks Ian!

We were given the award at BP Sunday in February. Check out the trophy! Very cool. Keep the articles coming.

I must mention that one of my all-time favourite articles appears in this edition by Samuel Malone. Find it and you'll see why.

Thank you Samuel for your article.

Yours in scouting
JP Lugt



We won the 2017 National HV Marsh competition for the best quarterly publication in our Pinebranch!



FIRST PINELANDS TROOP CAMP REPORT

Troop camp, in my eyes, was very unique and special. It really set the bar high in terms of my expectations for scout camps. I enjoyed all aspects of it and it really catalyzed my general interest for scouts.

I learned a lot. The campsite construction was by far my favourite aspect of Troop Camp. The fact that we, as patrols, could custom build our campsites to our liking seemed very fun and new; especially since it was a quite foreign concept to me. It was during these times that I feel like I learned a ton and that some of the skills I had picked up on Friday nights

could come in handy in a practical sense. I really enjoyed the scenery of troop camp as well.

It wasn't anything too extravagant, but a rather simplistic arena where we could make of it what we liked. The dam was quite nice in my opinion. I enjoyed the times we took to just unwind and swim in the dam. One of my favourite parts of camps would be the beautiful skies that one would not normally witness in the city. We often get very mesmerized by the intricacy of modern society, that we don't often take the time to enjoy nature's greatest work of art which a clear night sky.

In brief, my first troop camp is an experience that I will cherish for a long time. I would definitely try to attend as many of these as possible in my scouting career. I really believe that camping is a great way for one to create stronger bonds with one's peers and I feel as if I have done just that this camp. Troop camp 2018 was truly an amazing, phenomenal way to start the year.

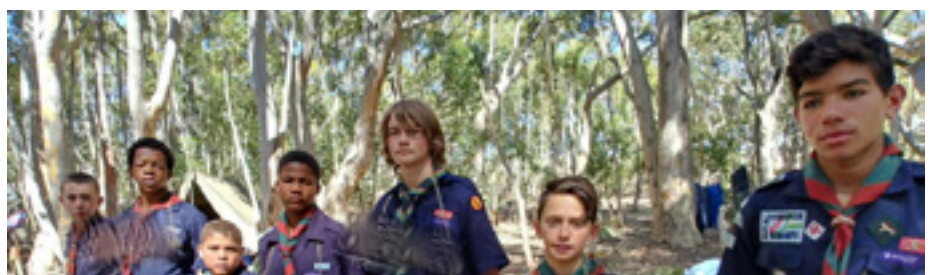
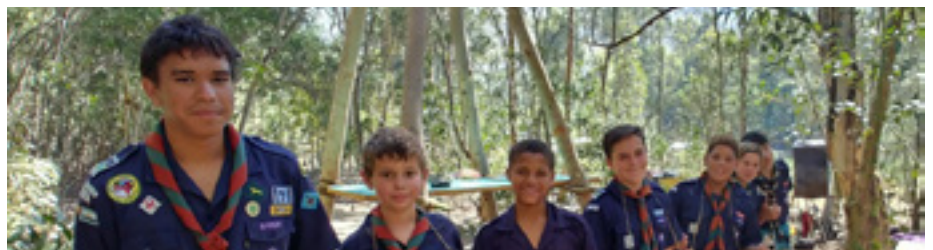
Troop Camp Patrol: Seagulls

By: Ramses Wonkam



SCOUTS NEWS







What I experienced on troop camp:
 Movie night and survival night.
 Returning home and civilization.
 Learning knots.
 Getting "tuc" (sweets).
 Swimming in the dam.
 Eating dessert.
 Getting sweets and popcorn.

Liam Brown: Lions Patrol.





The ride to troop camp was boring and long. I turned on the radio and listened to music. When we got there we set up the tent and got the table ready. One Patrol did a challenge where they had to drink 25lrs of water. They failed and Guy had to make a "waterfall" in the lats.

Tristan Veck: Lions Patrol

We arrived and packed out our bags. We waited for 20 minutes and then went to the campsites. We built something until it was late. Next day kept building stuff and went

swimming for a bit. We played some games and made lunch and later supper. Day 3 we finished building and focused on cooking activities like making lunch and supper. We did a lot of swimming and then we got to the most important part of the camp:

The naming ceremony!

Once everybody has been given their names we all sang campfire songs and went for a night swim. Then we went to bed.

On the fifth day we had a cool food

auction. For lunch we had to buy stuff with beans. Then you had to make lunch for the scouters. Most of the scout's food was edible, said one of the scouters.

The seventh night was international food evening. Everyone was excited. The PL's went to the shop to go buy stuff for the night at lunchtime. When they got back everyone started making their food. Three hours later scouters came for dinner. I think every scouter loved their meals.

Ruan Loe: Eagles Patrol





MY EXPERIENCE AS A FIRST TIME PL ON RAYNER

Being a PL on Rayner is a good experience because Rayner is a fun competition that does not require a lot of planning on the PLs side. The actual competition is quite tough, but fun at the same time.

The team that I led on Rayner 2018 consisted of Kyle, Guy, Ramses and myself. We had a relatively fit team so we were able to stay at or near the front of the pack for the majority

of the competition which meant that we didn't have to wait in long queues for most of the competition.

The area that the competition took place was not ideal because it was a beach and we had to walk on sand most of the time which really is not that great. We did well in most of the bases that we did and the food that we made was really good.

The most annoying thing about Rayner was having to stop every now and then to empty the sand out of our shoes and walking along long beaches with very sore and tired feet. Getting covered in sand is also rather unpleasant.

All in all, it was a fun experience that I would like to do again.

By Luke Jones



PATROL LEADERS TRAINING UNIT (PLTU) 2018



27th Gilqua PLTU
2018



PLTU is a 9 day camp that only 40 scouts are allowed to attend. It is a badge course, but not just any badge course. PLTU is not like a normal badge course, it is a challenge award, which is why the course is very challenging.

PLTU challenged me both mentally and physically. The course puts you in very tough situations that you will have to overcome. PLTU will teach you many lessons and at times, push you to your limits.

Many memories and friendships are made on this course. I would encourage anyone eligible for this course to apply as it is a life changing experience.

The course is a lot of fun and while you're there you might not savour every moment, but once you're no longer on the course you start to wish that you were there.

I wish to return as staff on the course next year and I hope to see some of you there as this course truly is a valuable course to attend.

Luke Jones

KONTIKI

VIKING STYLE



On the 23rd-25th of March, the 1st Pinelands scout group participated in the annual Western Cape Kontiki competition. From the 23rd to the morning of the 24th, the scouts worked hard in building our raft, which had to be Viking-themed.

After the opening parade, during which the raft team had to dress up in Viking costumes, we launched the raft. The launch was a great success, and soon we were dropping anchor at the place where we had to stay overnight.

During the day, we completed the activities that we were assigned, and ate supper. After darkness fell, we retreated inside the hut on the raft, to do more activities, when we realised that we had started to drift away. Luckily, we managed to be towed back in, all the way to shore. We were tied to a fence, and we went back inside. During the night, it started to rain, and the roof leaked, but we still managed to sleep enough. The next day, we finished a few more activities, and we had lunch on the raft.

When we were towed back in, everyone there immediately began taking apart the raft, and packing it up into trailers. We drove back to the scout hall and unpacked. After that everyone went home, tired and proud, even though we didn't win.

Heath Whitty



Kontiki 2018, wow it was amazing! Every troop had amazing rafts. I think our raft was the best. I will not be talking much about raft team because I was on fringe. Fringe team was so much fun, we did tons of activities and spent time with other patrols.

We did tug of war, knee boarding, an obstacle course, volleyball and group activities. My favorite was the obstacle course. My team came second. We had to do 10 jumping jacks, swerve in between trees, jump over a high pole then on to a balancing beam, then tyres and fireman carry's back to another obstacle, under over and then sprint back to the wall. We had an opening ceremony and every troop was dressed well. There was even a dragon! Kontiki 2018 was my first but not my last.

Ben Harris



I really enjoyed Kontiki because of the activities and the creativity that went into making our raft, gear, and costumes. Everything really showed the Scout spirit involved.

It was great to be part of the fringe team. We went to bed at a reasonably late time and had to wake up early. Many of the activities were fun and engaging for the troop. My favourite activity was the obstacle course.

Our patrol did well in most of the activities. We made it to the semi-finals in the tug-of-war. And the referee made a wrong call (at least we thought so!) costing us the volleyball. We were knocked out on the first round of knee-boarding though. Overall, I found my first Kontiki to be a great experience.

Jakob Malone







ROVERS WEEKEND AWAY

WE LOVE SUMMER AND CHEEKY CAMPING TRIPS.

On the 10th and 11th of March 2018 the 1st Pinelands Rovers and a few tag a longs went on an annual camping trip to Stanford in the Western Cape. The weekend was filled with frisbee, volleyball, paddling, hand stands and good food!

We headed out in 2 cars, the first leaving on Saturday morning and making stops in Kleinmond and Hermanus along the way. Team 1 went for a walk along the river and played some frisbee until Team 2 arrived and the real fun started.

With both teams in camp it was time to light the fire and have a braai, very relaxed vibes and a HUGE Pavlova finished off the evening.

The next morning we were all up early to have a full breakfast of bacon and eggs and pork sausages to get the tummies full before a 3 hour paddling trip was to take place.

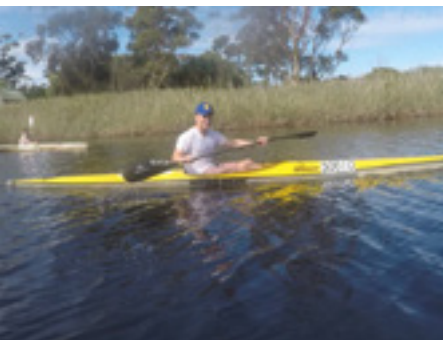
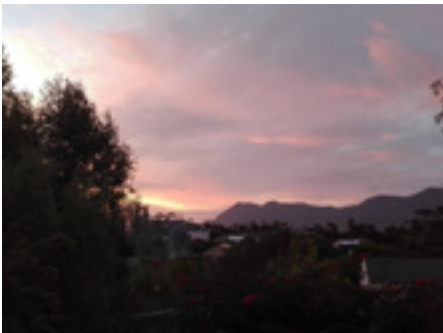
Down the river we go and it takes a little while to get used to paddling racing canoes, but we manage and we're off and before we know it we pass the 2km mark and see a lovely muddy patch! We pull up onto the bank and have a little look around before squelching our toes in the mud. No time to waste though, there's a swimming spot up ahead that we simply must get to!

After a swim, some handstands and

a snack (including fresh figs which grow freely at our camping spot) we're paddling back up the river.

Once back on dry land it's back to the campsite to pack up our tents before the afternoon volleyball game that takes place every Sunday on the Stanford common. Team 2 unfortunately has to head home early but Team 1 stays on to play an exciting game which our team won 2/3 games.

Back to Cape Town we go, with a head full of memories and a few photos to prove it. Until next year (or hopefully sooner). The 1st Pinelands Rovers (and the tag alongs)



ROVER NEWS



CUBS IN QUARTER 1, 2018

INTERVIEW WITH RON TUFFIN ALIAS "BAGHEERA" – NEW 1ST PINELANDS ASSISTANT PACK SCOUTER

Q: Welcome to the 1st Pinelands Cub Leader Team. Tell us about yourself.

A: I was born in Johannesburg in the mid-seventies.

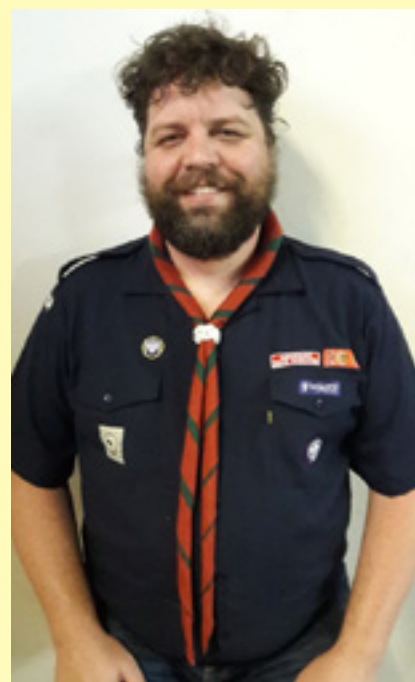
Q: Favourite music and movies?

A: I have a varied taste in music which, much to my wife's despair, does not include anything 'classical'. My current playlist is dominated by Eighties Pop (Depeche Mode, Duran Duran...) but also includes some angry teenage girl music (Pink, Avril Lavigne), Country and Western (Lady Antebellum, Taylor Swift (I have daughters, and I'm sticking with that excuse), all the way through to some screamers by the likes of 30 Seconds to Mars and Linkin Park. Although if I had to pick

a favourite it would be that place occupied by the likes of Bon Jovi and Bryan Adams. My choice in movies is probably as varied as my choice in music. The greatest movies of all time for me include Gladiator, Schindler's list, and Inception. I love super hero movies; and am a nut for science fiction.

Q: Can you share with us some of your experiences in cubbing and scouting

A: I have been involved in the scout movement since 1983 when I joined 1st Greenside in Johannesburg as an 8 year old cub. In those days cubs was just for 3 years and I went up to Scouts in '86 around my 11th birthday. I later joined 1st Pinelands when my family moved to Cape Town in 1990.



66th Lexden – That's me 5th from the left in the back row, and that's our Troop Scouter, Mike Stanley, 5th from the right, third row from the back.



Photo Me (on the right), newly invested, with my cousin.

In the early 90's a group of Western Cape scouters were preparing to start a PLTU in the Western Cape. As part of this preparation a number of scouters and scouts were sent to Lexden in Natal to attend a PLTU course at the home of PLTU. Along with 5 other 1st Pinelanders, I was privileged to be one of the scouts attending PLTU as a 'pant at Lexden in July of '91.

In December of '91 I travelled to Port Elizabeth to QM on 7th Glands PLTU. And was ultimately a QM on 1st Gilqua PLTU in 1992. All of these PLTU experiences grew me in some way.

Among the many Scouting experiences I treasure a few stand out.

- Cuboree in '83 at the Rand Show Grounds.
- My Leaping Wolf.
- JOTA in 88 or 89 in Mafikeng the birth place of Scouting (CQ, CQ, CQ Jamboree, this is Hotel 5 Alpha Bravo Papa. CQ, CQ Jamboree).
- Googlie Adventure (I forget the year) the biggest wide game you have ever encountered
- SANJAM '89 at Midmar dam in Natal.

- Cederberg adventures as a scout and later a staff member on the diving base.

- Along with Bruce Dixie, I accompanied Garth Hannaford on his Springbok Hike in the Groot Winterhoek near Tulbagh.

- I was given the great honour to reply to the address of the TL at the end of the 66th Lexden PLTU.

- I'm not sure if the tradition remains at Gilqua PLTU where the Program Staff maintain a "hit list" of their favourite staff members. The inaugural hit list was released just prior to the 1st Gilqua course starting. I placed in all 10 positions. Unfortunately, although I maintained my position at the top, I was down to only 5 positions by the end of the course. To be clear this was not a "hit list" like you hear on the radio, more like something the Mob would maintain. Fun was had by all.

Q: What do you enjoy about being a pack scouter?

A: I never expected to be involved with Cubs. I always thought I'd be more involved at a troop level (I did a year as APS of 1st Rosebank Air Scouts in 1995), but I am loving being involved with these kids.

The thing that gets me most is their enthusiasm to learn. Everyone loves playing games and our cubs are no different, but when it comes time to learning knots, the points of the compass, or how to stop a bleeding nose they are just as into it as if we were about to play a game of Stalk the Lantern. And they are not teenagers yet so they still think we (adults) know some things.



CUB NEWS BY AKELA

The year had to start with something active and exciting for active, excited cubs! We made whizzers and had fun whizzing them all around in patterns; watching their vibrantly coloured tails fly through the air with an addictive whizz. And whizz. And whizz... And whizz and whizz!.....Whizz Whizz whizz!



It was time to learn about time next – **“BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, BUT NEVER LATE IS BETTER”**.

Being punctual is a good habit. The Silver Wolves made a giant clock of themselves, each cub a number on the face and clock hands made with ropes hands. Each hand held by a cub and the two cubs moving around the clock to make the time. The Gold Wolves mastered the 24 hour clock and played digital 24hour clock bingo to prove it.

Conservation stove cooking had us all making tiny fires on our tin stoves. It's amazing how much heat these generate from just a little fuel. It took some time, but we all boiled our eggs in homemade tin billy cans.

FOCHA. YES, FOCHA.

Never heard of it?! Well, I'm glad you asked – Friends of the Children's Hospital Association. They do wonderful work caring for all the sick children at Red Cross Childrens' Hospital. Some children are hospitalised for months. They are often very sick... and scared and lonely.

FOCHA brings cheer and encouragement – toys and volunteers to play with the children, meals for parents who come from far and spend months at their child's bedside, second hand clothes, food parcels to take home on discharge when the need is great and small things that make a huge difference; a birthday present on your birthday and easter eggs at Easter.

As the cub Good Turn project this year we collected and donated food items, clothing, toys and books. Wow! The cub families were so generous! Everybody pulled together really hard to make this a huge donation of good quality, much needed items which were gratefully received. Five cars were needed to transport all the donations to Focha – well done cubs and parents. You really did your best!



FOCHA

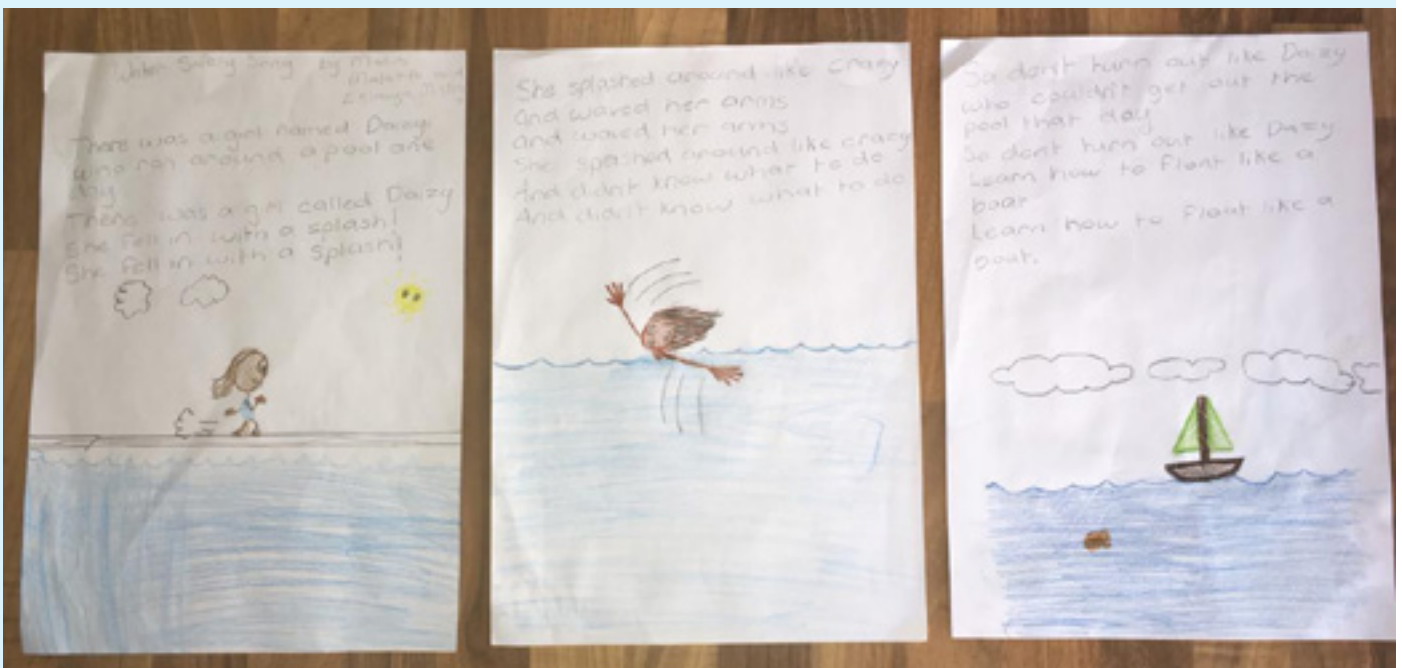


LYRICS FOR WATER SAFETY SONG

There was a girl named Daizy,
Who ran around a pool one day
There was a girl called Daizy
She fell in with a splash!
She fell in with a splash!

She Splashed around like crazy
And waved her arms and waved her arms
She splashed around like crazy
And didn't know what to do!
And didn't know what to do!

So don't turn out like Daizy
Who couldn't get out the pool that day
So don't turn out like Daizy
Learn how to float like a boat
Learn how to float like a boat.
by Malini, Ecklavya and Malathi Mistry





Aptitude Challenge is the advancement we were working on this quarter. **Personal Safety** is something we all need to be aware of. We learned about secrets – good and bad, Yell and Tell if you feel uncomfortable or in danger and know how to stay safe online.

Summer is hot...and we spend time in the pool. It's a good time to learn about water safety and practice some water skills. We don't want to be like the foolish sea captain in the yarn. You know, the one who didn't want to build life rafts for his ship or teach his sailors to swim...

All that could be found after the ship went down was ... the captain's shirt. A highlight for us all was hearing the Water Safety song composed by Malini, Ecklavya and Malathi Mistry. The following week, we headed for Pinelands North Primary School Pool and did our duck dives, lengths, treading water and practice how to rescue someone who has fallen in the water.

SOME OF US PASSED FOR THE SWIMMER BADGE TOO.



SENIOR CUB CAMP 2018 – SURVIVOR

I found all parts of the camp enjoyable, but some parts stood out from the rest.

Most of the highlights were when I got my miniSASS badge, when we got up so early, when we dunked our heads in the dam then we ran back and had top class food, at least I think it is. I thought it was funny when we had the food competition. I learnt what a macro invertebrate is...it's an invertebrate that is small, but you can see without a microscope. I'll never forget this camp ever!

Aidan Petersen

My experience at Survivor Camp was amazing. It was camping and believe me I love camping. I just love being outdoors and sometimes I camp in my yard.

I liked how they made it like a boot camp and they gave us really cool buffs. Mine is black. And I received a Survivor logo that I sewed on to my cub uniform. It looks very nice on my uniform and I wear my buff a lot, even some-

times to school. At Hawequas Scout Ranch, I earned one badge (a mini SAS badge) and it means I went fishing. My favourite dish was the bacon and eggs and the Milo cereal. We met lots of Cubs from other places and I recently saw one of them again.

Samuel Malone

When I arrived I got put into Black Six and when we fell in we got custom buffs. We went on a night time hike that night and got given hot chocolate and went to our tent and tried to sleep.

The next day I woke up and a scout started randomly running around waking everyone else up with crazy music. We had breakfast and then we did the disgusting food challenge where you had to eat disgusting food. And then we swam and that night we played stalk the lantern and had a campfire and then slept.

Daniel Lugt



CUBS

KONTIKI

Vikings knew very much about water... and war! This year's Kontiki theme made great material for a Viking programme in preparation for Kontiki. 1st Pinelands cubs made a great turnout to support our scout team at Kontiki.

Our group came second in the cross country – well done again cubs and parents! The cubs participated with such a great attitude in the Cub/ Brownie Activities too. It was fun making Celtic bracelets, playing Viking games like Kubb and making words with a Viking alphabet! A great way to end a fun quarter filled with a wide variety of activity.

**ENJOY THE EASTER BREAK,
WOLF CUBS. GOOD HUNTING!**

VIKING STYLE







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