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First Pinelands



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Great to see another busy term of Cubs and Scouts.

Being Akela's husband I got to go on the cub camp at Haweqas again this year. It's always a highlight in the cubbing year and this year was no exception. The energy and enthusiasm shown by the kids is remarkable, but more so is seeing the cubs grow and develop year-by-year. I remember seeing cubs last year disorganised and homesick, but a year later being quite the opposite.

Kids do grow anyway, but experiences like these are so invaluable in a child's development.

There is lots more to read about so hope you enjoy it.

Yours in scouting
JP Lugt

SEAGULLS PATROL REPORT

WHAT WE DID:

- It was our patrol meeting tonight and we went to Grand-West where we planned on going bowling but actually ended up playing laser-tag instead because the alley was full
- I think that we had more fun at laser-tag than we would have had at the bowling alley because we got to work together as a team, even though Tye split up and tried to tag us.
- We then went to Spur and we all had a meal and a Milkshake, with the exception of Steven who had a cream-soda
- Sadly, Steven had to leave early but we still enjoyed ourselves
- The highlight for me was when Tye fell asleep on the coach at our table near the end of the night

WHAT WE ARE PLANNING:

- We plan on having another get together at the hall where Joshua will present his First-aid and backwoodsman powerpoints
- We will also have a patrol camp and hike in one next term
- Joshua will also be going to Joburg for the International Science Fair two weeks from now

By Josh Beerwinkel



ZEBRAS PATROL REPORT

On the 14th of September the Zebra patrol (Jodie, Josie and Malini) decided to get together and do badges for our patrol activity.

We met at the hall at 18:30 and set off to learn new things, complete advancement badges and bond as a patrol.

We started off doing the electrician badge. We learnt many things: how to join 2 wires, how to charge a battery and even find an electrical fault in a

car. We learnt the common causes of electrical accidents and that brown was live, blue was neutral and earth was green and yellow.

After that we did the observation badge: we smelt, felt, tasted and had to remember all weird and wonderful things. We had to remember common cars and identify clouds. We had to draw animal tracks and distinguish the different characteristics of a human footprint.

We decided to finish with a fun dance badge. We line danced to achy breaky heart, we did gumboot dancing to wamkelekile, and our last dance was the cha cha slide. Although it was something new to all of us, we all had our good laughs and fun together as a patrol and enjoyed our dancing a lot.

Until next time....

YIS
Jodie



JOSH'S 1ST CLASS CAMP REPORT:

On the 23rd of September 2018, 7 brave scouts, ok maybe just crazy scouts, set off to Hawequas Scout Ranch. It was a fairly uneventful journey, there was only one real mishap, one of the parents drove into a ditch just as we got into Hawequas, but other than that it was rather mundane.

When we started setting up camp we discovered that the tent that we had brought had a missing pole, so we substituted the pole with a tree. Our lunch (tuna mayo rolls), which we ate at the dam, was very tasty.

We then had a campsite construction session where we literally built the kitchen sink, and a flagpole, a gateway, a fence, a table, a sleeping bag line and a washing line.

Then we went to bumslide rock and went upstream all the way to a big pool with a whirlpool next to it. Being scouts we did some jumping into the pool from the rocks on the sides (we don't tell parents how high it was otherwise they won't let their scouts go on camps anymore).

Then we made supper, that was very tasty, and went to bed.

The next morning, we made breakfast and went further up the river by bumslide rock. On the way down the river I cut my finger, but it was fine. Later on, we made lunch, took down the camp and waited for the parents. Once back at the hall, we unpacked and went home.

It was a very fun camp but very tiring.

By Josh Lugt

PLTC (PATROL LEADERS TRAINING COURSE)

PLTC was amazing, when we first arrived at Hawequas it was awesome, there were loads of interesting people. The first day we were sorted into patrols, we set up camp, or at least tried. During the camp we had a load of lectures (which I personally thought were great) where we learned how to have a scouts own, how to deal with misbehaving patrol members, how the patrol system works, and pretty much how to keep everyone happy and have a good patrol, oh, and also how the court of honor works, that was fun. And we switched the role of patrol leader so everyone had a chance to lead. We also had PT every morning, that was fun.

We did a lot of team building games/activities which were great, we got to meet new people, make new

friends and learn new things. At some point, someone left food at their camp site, the baboons came, broke some stuff, stole some stuff, quite the adventure. Camp construction was rather interesting, they didn't have many staves so we had to use pioneering poles instead, so the tables were rather interesting, and rather difficult to put up.

The people who organized and helped with the camp were really amazing, I can't imagine how it would have been without them. Overall it was a really amazing experience, and would highly recommend going on PLTC, it was fantastic.

By Josie Adlard





REGIONAL ORIENTEERING COMPETITION 2018

Here are a few photos from the Regional Orienteering Competition 2018
Laura Troost was the Chief Judge of the competition, and 1st Pinelands Rovers assisted with the judging.



AN AKELA FROM AUSTRIA VISITS 1ST PINELANDS

We didn't find Carina Janitschek, she found us! Carina hails from Eichgraben, Austria. She is Akela of the W1 Wanderwolf pack. In Austria cubs are called "Wölflinge".

Carina visited our pack twice and it was fun talking about the similarities and differences between the two countries and how cubs works. We exchanged a favourite game and campfire song and Carina taught us how to say "hello", "goodbye" and "thank you" in German – part of our advancement for the Community Challenge.

We took a short video of our Grand Howl which she could show her cubs. The ceremony is the same in Austria, but in German. Our cubs taught Carina a favourite and very South

African game: "Skop die Blik" and she taught us "Farmers and Carrots" which was an immediate hit with our cubs and we've played it a few times since. Then came the campfire song exchange.

Carina played "Komm, lauf mit uns hinaus" (come, and run with us) on the guitar. It's a song about cubs playing in forest where they love to play with friends and run and where they know every plant and animal. The German was way too hard for us to learn in the short time allowed... looks like we would enjoy another opportunity to learn! And our cubs

did a spectacular rendition of "Fred the Moose" for Carina to take home. We added Ging Gang Gooli to the sing song since we couldn't sing the German song and mused over Sir Baden Powell's clever idea to write a song made up of sounds strung together to form words with no meaning. A song for everyone from every language and cultural group.

We sent Carina home with a gift of a 1st Pinelands scarf and a few gold wolf advancement badges which depict South African big cats.



VISIT TO FALSE BAY NATURE RESERVE

We were invited by 3rd Pinelands for a joint outing to False Bay Nature Reserve. A major section of the reserve is centred around what is known as "the wagonwheel".

Treated effluent from the Strandfontein Sewerage Works is pumped out of the centre of the wagonwheel into dams arranged in a circle around the hub. Here birdlife abounds. It's like a Grand Central Station for birds.

The area is recognised as an International Birding Area and as a Ramsar site of international importance. The party of curious cubs (and parents) took a leisurely walk around the perimeter and observed the abundant

birdlife. A number of migratory birds breed here.

A municipal landfill site borders the wagon wheel and from close up the mass of trash and mess humans create could be seen.

This was an eye-opener to cubs and parents to see how much waste humans create and the desperate need for us all to reduce, reuse and recycle.

On a positive note, the reserve was a great illustration of how humans can implement measures to treat our waste and create an area of conservation even within a high-density urban area.





SECRET AGENT CUB CAMP

The mission: Find the Extortionists and retrieve the priceless Rose Diamonds.



1st Pinelands and 1st Claremont Secret Agents travelled to Hawequas disguised as cubs going on camp. The true nature of their mission unknown; even to their parents. Secret Agents arrived late afternoon, set up their own sleeping quarters and met fellow agents. Agent Purple Spider and Agent Red Dragon gave the first mission briefing. A visiting Russian expert, Martin, on the night sky brought his large telescopes and taught our agents how to find clues to the whereabouts of the Extortionists. Could the diamonds be hidden in a satellite.

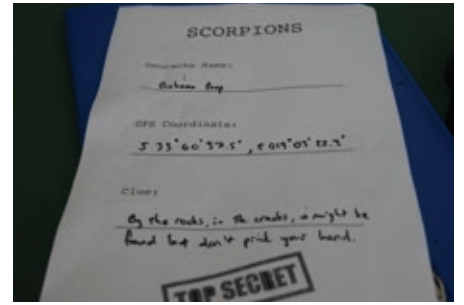
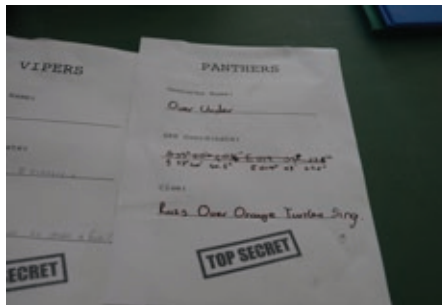
Agents observed Mars, Saturn, Jupiter and the moon up super-magnified. It was awesome! Martin trained the agents in how to build their own basic telescope with the same magnification as the Galileo had at his disposal at the time. We could all see how very clever Galileo was to deduce so many facts with so basic an instrument. The skies were clear – perfect for stargazing. And it was freezing cold out! Minimum temperature dropped to -2 degrees on Friday night. No agent complained. The cold added to the excitement of the mission.

Saturday dawned cold and clear. All secret agents woke early for morning boot camp. Secret Agents arrived by parachute to train the agents in finding clues hidden in geocaches. We came close to finding the Extortionists. HQ was bugged with listening devices which meant a special team came in to “sweep” the area while the agents collected meal rations for lunch which were delivered via helicopter drop. Saturday ended with a campfire, a new experience for the majority agents on camp. At the close of Saturday we were hot on the heels of the Extortionists.

Sunday saw the agents enjoying a Cubs’ Own, the theme of which was an interview with a real, life secret agent who was granted permission by the CIA to publish her story. Camp was struck and in a final boost the last of the clues were discovered. The Extortionists were among us all the time! Scouts on camp acting as double agents! They were arrested to be tried by an international court. And as for the stolen Rose Diamonds – these were recovered too. Well, at least only by those agents brave enough to stick their bare hands into the cold sticky gloop in the depths of the Deep Dark Caverns of the South. Well done, Secret Agents!







CUB CAMP

Cub Camp was awesome. I earned two badges. I was the sixer for my six. I made some friends called Olly and James. We made a portable weapon. Camp was very fun. By James Malan (9)

NURSERY RAVINE HIKE

This hike is one of the challenging climbs up Table Mountain. Cubs and a few parents set off from Cecelia Forest parking area with the cubs in high spirits. It's about 45 minutes at cub pace to the start of Nursery Ravine. Cubs were warmed up and ready for the adventure as we reached the foot of the steepest section of climb. The path (read rock and log staircase!) zig zags up Nursery Ravine, tracing the course of a cool clear mountain stream all the way up. Plenty of spots to fill your water bottle.

We hiked through pure beautiful Afro-Montane forest two thirds of the way.

The last third opens up as the trees clear and the view over the Cape Flats is spectacular. One experiences a real sense of achievement on reaching the top after such a long climb! It's steps and steep all the way for about an hour! Here we cheered as each hiker joined the rest of the group. Special cheers for those who did it for the first time and for those who were determined to complete the challenge when they knew it would be a challenge.

A well-deserved lunch break was enjoyed by all while we compared lunches and scratches and enjoyed the endless view. Then a short stroll

along the top of the table to the Hely-Hutchinson Dam. It's so picturesque to find a pristine dam at the top of a mountain. Aren't dams usually in a valley?!? After a brief exploration around the dam, we headed back down via the same route. Going down such a steep route is almost tougher than going up. It's a tough descent. Needless to say we reached the end exhausted yet content. And who could complain about a bit of screen time when we get home after such a whole day of being in the great outdoors busy with hard physical activity. Only a little bit of screen time though....Let's get back up a mountain soon!

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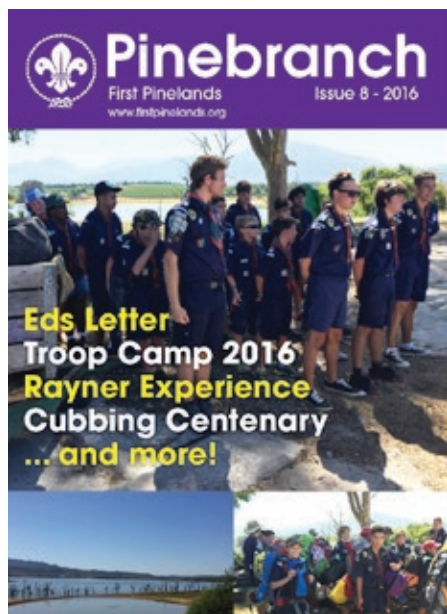
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BREAKING NEWS! HV MARSH AWARDS 2018

I have the pleasure of announcing, on behalf of the Chief Judge, that Pine branch of 1st Pinelands Scout Group is awarded the Silver Award for their publication.

Brendon Hausberger, Chief Scout

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