



Pinebranch

First Pinelands

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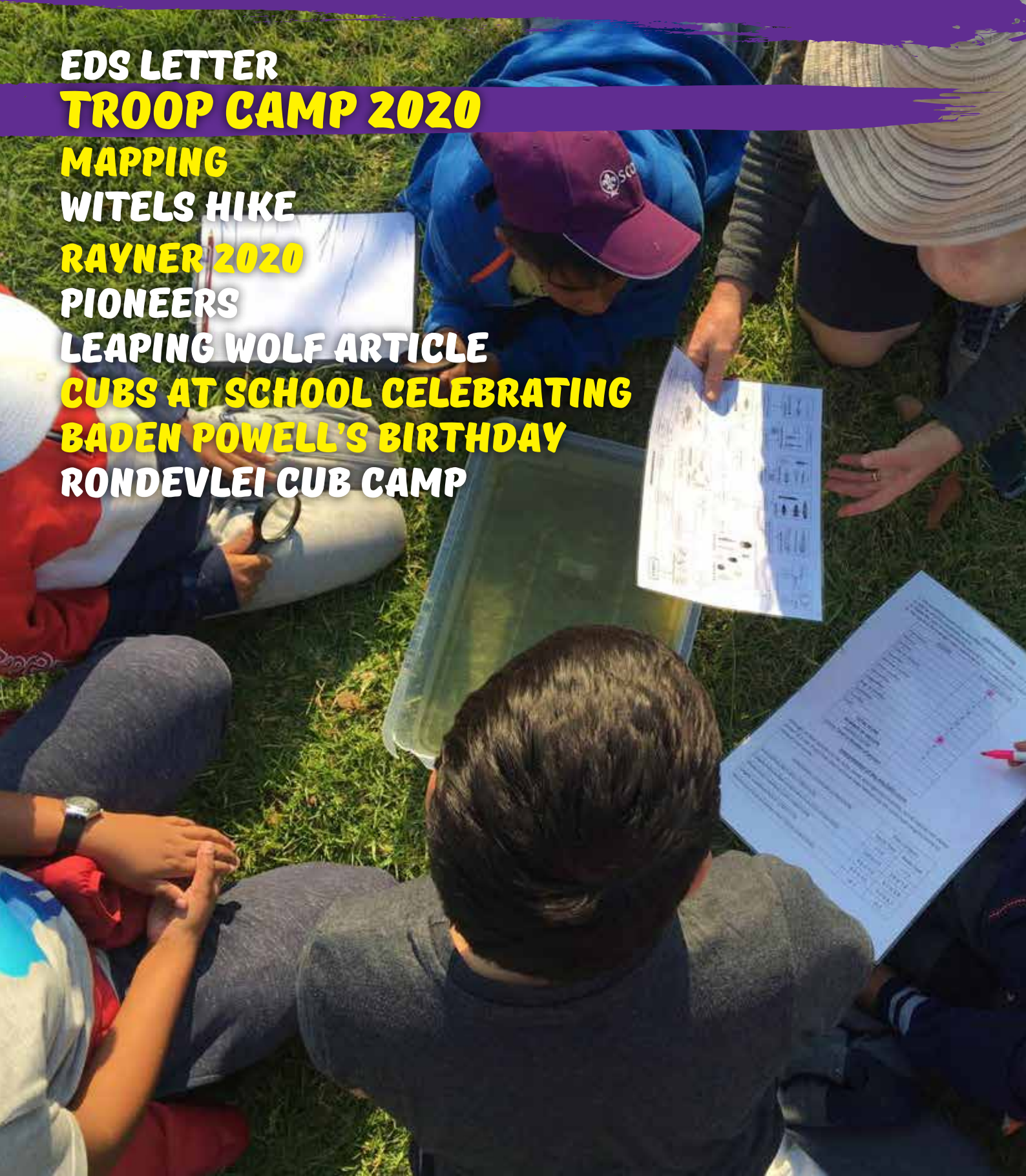
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Some insightful and interesting articles in this edition showing why Scouting is so valuable for our kids. Thanks, as always, to each of our scouters who make these opportunities possible. Your time, effort and dedication are so valued.

Thank you too, to those who contributed towards this edition of Pinebranch. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated too.

Enjoy the read.

Yours in Scouting
JP Lugt



TROOP CAMP 2020

Troop camp started off with the advanced party setting up camp early for the rest of the troop. Seagulls were the only all boy patrol. We made many fond memories together as a patrol which we will never forget. Our favorite day of camp has to be day 4 when we went to town and

all got fresh fades and eyebrow lines. Later on in the day we had international food evening, we chose to do America and made McDonald's themed food. This turned out to be an excellent choice as we ended up winning international food evening. Troop camp was very memorable for

a lot of people but definitely the most memorable for Jordan. It was his last troop camp with 1st Pinelands. He will definitely be dearly missed by the patrol.

By Caden Sampson



Hi there scouting enthusiasts. I am delighted to tell you about an exciting day during Troop Camp 2020 which had occurred from 5 January to 12 January.

Despite all the work that had to be done during the days of the Advance Party, I kept remembering that the rest of the Troop were due to arrive soon. During the final hours of Advanced Party (the morning hours of Sunday 5th January 2020) one of the other Troop Camp PL told me that they did not feel entirely ready and I could relate since I felt the same.

The patrol leaders had to go to where the parents dropped off the rest of the troop. Each patrol gathered and we hiked a fair distance back to our campsites. Upon arriving we put our things aside and we had our first Parade (I was the unlucky Patrol Leader to be the first one to do a parade). After Parade the patrols gathered their personal kit and brought it to the locations that will be the patrol

campsites for the next 8 days and then made several trips to bring all the necessary patrol kit.

And now for the really exciting part: My patrol (the mixed Eagles Patrol) managed to clear a massive space (it was covered in bramble), to be the first patrol to pitch both the boys and girls tents. Amongst our tasks, I felt that we were very organised in having some people doing lunch preparations while others were doing camp construction. A few hours after lunch, the patrol members preparing the quadpod for the eating table had finished it, but had not yet added the seats. The fact that the quadpod was finished so quickly was a massive achievement, which I don't recall having happened on my previous Scout Troop Camps.

There were several shortish, thickish staves (construction sticks) that were useless for other construction ideas, but were used for the preparation of an Altar Fireplace.

This is a special fireplace that has a frame made of thick sticks with rocks packed in the middle of the frame and with leaves piled on the rocks. Mud is then packed on top of the leaves, which once dried can have a fire built on top. The other constructions that were completed were: a washing line, a sleeping bag line and one seat for one side of the table. Three of us continued some more construction a little into the night, but stopped pretty soon as we realized that we were making too much noise.

I hope this article gives you an idea of the possibilities of what an organized patrol could do on the first day of Troop Camp.

By Simeon Davies, the Eagles Patrol Leader of Troop Camp 2020



We all met at the Scout Hut early on Sunday morning after a Saturday full of labelling and packing (and repacking) my ruck sack. I was a bit nervous, none of us knew where we were going but we did know that we'd be away for 8 long days!

Some of the parents gave us a lift and we headed down the N2, over Sir Lowrys Pass, until we turned off just after Peregrine Farmstall and headed past apple orchards and fields until we found some scouters making tea in the middle of nowhere – we quickly unpacked, said our goodbyes and headed off on a 2km hike down to camp. If we were expecting a nice comfortable campsite. We were to be surprised – we had to spend the first 2 hours clearing trees and branches so that we had enough space to put up our tents. Chicken a la king for supper, a quick swim, a game of continuous cricket,

rake duty then finally a good sleep. We're on Troop Camp time now so are an hour ahead! Day 2 – our tent ridge pole broke so we all had to find space in other tents to sleep – or at least trying to...

We did so much but the bits I remember most are the International Food Evening, continuous cricket, lots of cooking, PL Day and feast, late nights and early mornings, filthy dish washing cloths, survival night and the Winkel mission.

Thankfully there were no serious injuries – just some sunstroke and twisted ankles and the numerous injuries to Emily's fingers which meant she got out of most of the chores!

Some notable highlights were – wrestling fights between Sam and everybody bigger than him, the attempted Mexican-Swedish

overthrow of America, rolling around in the sand, hot chocolate and chats, the dutchie stew and Malini's jokes.

Overall the thing I remember the most was never having a moment to spare and not even having the time to be homesick. I made some great friends and came home exhausted, filthy but happy.

Adapted from the journal of Alexander Everatt (Buffaloes)





MAPPING

This year I attended the mapping course. The first weekend was from the 17-18 January and 7-8 March, both weekends included an overnight.

During the first weekend we covered most of the knowledge for the mapping scout craft knowledge and a few small tests. The topics covered included:

- Knowing the different compasses that are available, explaining how each compass is used and identifying problems that may disrupt a compass during an activity and how to prevent those problems.
- Knowing the difference between True North, Magnetic North and Grid North as well as how to find each with a map and/or on the ground.

- Being able to explain the cause and effect of magnetic declination, knowing the relationship between true bearings and magnetic bearings and demonstrate how to convert bearings from a map to compass bearings and vice versa.
- Carry out the following: explain what a map is; knowing types of maps that are available and what information each provides; demonstrate knowledge of scales and know how to convert between RF (Representative Fraction), graphic and statement scales; Demonstrate knowledge of map symbols; Being able to read contours on maps and explain how the contours indicate slopes, gradients and major

landforms; Correctly measure a distance on a map and calculate the actual distance that this represents on the ground and Set a map using a compass and by ground to map comparison.

On Sunday the 18th we were tasked with two things: To study for a test and draw up two maps, both for the second weekend. The one map used a plane table of a relatively open area, with four sighting stations to have approximately 100 sightings (totals number from all stations).

For the second weekend we were given electronic copies of the 'Map Reading & Mapping Badge Course Notes 2020', the course leader did not want to print out notes for everyone.

The remainder of the Map Reading (Scoutcraft) tasks were extended to second weekend. A test (exam basically) was written to test our knowledge and understanding of what we were taught (sounds like school doesn't it...).

On the second weekend, we revised what we covered in the first weekend and did a few activities. This went on for quite some time, with breaks in between. Later into the evening we had supper and then we had the test, it wasn't like normal school test, it was actually fun, yes, fun. Once that was finished we had to prepare and go to bed. The night was horrible. There were 'thousands' of mosquitoes. The next day we had to demonstrate a working knowledge of bearings and

back bearings via: identification of a feature from the map, by taking bearings to locate it on the ground and carrying out an exercise in the field to determine our position on a map by resection method using back bearings (Triangulation) and using a compass to follow a compass trail of about 1km in length consisting of about eight distances and bearings (True and Magnetic North).

Finally, we needed to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of all features on a map by carrying out an imaginary hike of approximately 25km between two points on a map selected by the examiner as well as describing the route in detail, indicate an area which could be an overnight spot and

estimate hiking speeds over different terrains indicated on the map by the examiner. Not much happened, but each activity took quite a bit of time, about an hour per activity. However, we ended about an hour or 2 earlier than the course was supposed to. If you are interested in mapping then by all means sign up for Mapping Interest next year, but the course is pretty complex therefore more suitable for senior scouts.

By Simeon Davies





WITELS HIKE

In the lead-up to Rayner Trophy 2020, which I unfortunately missed, there were many training sessions. Most on Wednesday mornings, but the best one was a weekend klooing in Witels. On the first day of the expedition we hiked upstream. Sometimes in the river, other times next to the river. Unfortunately, about halfway to the campsite one of our hikers sprained his ankle quite badly and his bag had to be carried by other members of the group for the rest of the hike. Eventually we got to the final swim to the campsite. Once we were at the campsite we unpacked our bags and about half of the group found

that they hadn't waterproofed their sleeping bags properly. Luckily there was still enough daylight time for them to dry before sunset. On the second day we started back in the river stopping along the way to jump off rocks into some of the deep pools. We spent the second half of the second day hiking almost entirely next to the river. At the end point we all got back into the cars even though we were soaking wet and headed for home.

By Josh Lugt



WITELS HIKE





RAYNER 2020

Rayner is a senior overnight hiking competition for scouts over the age of 14 and a half and takes place every February. The competition was 66 years old this year, beginning in 1954 in the Western Province. Rayner is a competition focused on testing fundamental scouting skills, such as: mapping, survival skills, knots, teamwork, cooking and scouting knowledge. The teams hike along a path dotted with bases that test these skills and are scored based on their performance. The team with the highest score wins.

I enjoyed Rayner very much this year. It was my first Rayner and despite having many memorable moments on the junior hiking competition Upton, Rayner is

my favourite. Although it is a competition, you are always having fun and learning new things and have new experiences.

I experienced kloofing for the first time on Rayner. Kloofing is where you are travelling by walking through rivers and land and is very exciting. I also enjoyed the cooking of the meals. At the end of the first day of hiking and bases we arrived back at the campsites and started to prepare the food. Guy Yates prepared a beef stir fry for our team while Simeon, Adam and I worked on STA's and cleaned up the site. STA's are Spare Time Activities which are not compulsory but are usually very fun and can give you bonus points.

Rayner is a great way to spend a weekend. You get to be in nature and see beautiful landscapes and learn new skills. You meet scouts from other troops and you make memories with old friends and new friends. First Pinelands entered three teams into the competition this year, which is considerably more than previous years, and intend to send just as many in the years to come. I really hope that everybody gets an opportunity to go on this amazing adventure.

By Joshua Beerwinkel



RAYNER 2020



PIONEERS



LEAPING WOLF ARTICLE

By Kieran Solomans

I started working on my leaping wolf very late. There were only three months to complete it. It was very tough, but I was determined to complete it in time. All was done while I was busy with the end of the year exams.

I started with the food for life and picked veg that would grow in the shortest period as radishes came out beautifully, only to be eaten overnight by small caterpillars AAHH! I had to start all over again. Second time around, I continuously checked the plants for any pests and finally got a crop to harvest, enough radishes for a salad.

I enjoyed learning about knots and presenting them on a board and showing them to the pack. Once I got that signed off, I started doing more things simultaneously. I chose to do a PowerPoint presentation on how cell phone towers work for technology and for Personal Challenge I went back to the recorder playing a very challenging piece. I chilled past getting my outdoor challenge and was finally presented with my Leaping Wolf in January a week after turning 11.

Special thanks to Akela and the Old Wolves in my house who helped and guided me.



CUBS AT SCHOOL CELEBRATING BADEN POWELL'S BIRTHDAY





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