



Western Cape Scouter

We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year



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ISSUE 3 - December 2019

editor's note



This is the third and last issue of the Western Cape Scouter newsletter for 2019.

I would like to thank all the contributors for their support and willingness to add their stories to this newsletter. Obviously without them there would not be one.

I have been asked to be the editor for 2020 and for near future.

Therefore keep the articles coming to keep making this newsletter worth reading.

We will continue in 2020 with four full issues, one for each term, namely March, June, September and December.

I would ask you to get your articles with photos ready as soon as possible and email them to me at

saporetti.mauro@gmail.com.

A few requests from me: please supply high resolution photos separately and not embedded in the text. Please can you use meaningful file names when attaching documents in email to me so that I can easily recognize it when I prepare the newsletter for publication. As mentioned before, variety of articles makes for more pleasant reading.

As I am not actively involved in any role of scouting any longer, I am not always aware of what is going on, although I get updated via the usual emails.

For the moment, best wishes to you all and your families and if you do some scouting during the Xmas break, let us know so that we can share your experiences.



regional commissioner's reflections - year end 2019

Exams are finished and it's back to scouting and outdoor fun for the coming school holidays and festive season.

It has been a hectic scouting year with 3204 visitors to Hawequas; 1055 to the Table Mountain hut and 505 to Appleton Camp. Courses had 651 scouts on 28 courses and 331 Adults on 24 training courses.

A really busy year.

Our census shows 4273 total members in WCR (slight growth but not our targeted 10%), and finance position is showing a small surplus and reduced subsidies for our properties. All credit to the Regional Management team members for guiding us successfully in 2019 and our SGL's and their Scouter teams for bring exciting and fun scouting to all your members.

So it is time for getting outdoors, finishing the paperwork for the year (Star Awards and Scouts Digital) and relaxing with family and friends.

2020 starts with a flurry with Rotary Scout entering the Cape2Rio 2020 with a youth member crew, Scouting in Schools intake of new interns, the launch of Meerkats (with a number of dens



currently being registered) and training courses, camps and competitions all in the first few months.

Some new booking rules have been introduced to ensure our campsites are efficiently managed, and an exciting eco project will be launched at Hawequas.

Finally look out for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) that Scouts SA, World Scouting and United Nations are promoting in 2020.

Have a wonderful summer, Blessed Christmas and fun Festive Season and thank you again for making 2019 such a Scout filled year.



hawequas report

Hawequas has been very busy, with many activities taking place.

We had the Chief Scout visiting us to see what we have and to see what our future plans are. We will be starting a Buchu farming project which will financially enhance the sustainability of Hawequas in the long term.



We have managed to get the Adirondack Shelter up to its site in the saddle where we will be erecting it in the coming month. We are fortunate to have received funding to have trail builders who will cut a trail from the MTB track to the saddle along the contour. This will create a great circular route.



We were privileged to host Gordon Carr from the UK. Gordon runs the South London Scout Centre where many of our scouters have worked in the past. Gordon is a great supporter of Hawequas.



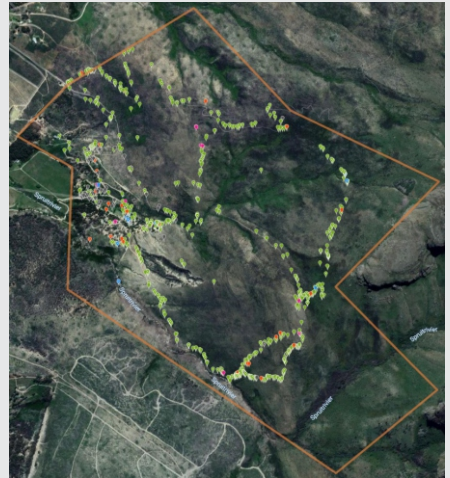
Fish Hoek Cubs getting kitted up to use the Ropes Course - All groups can book and use the course!

Kuba Miszewski

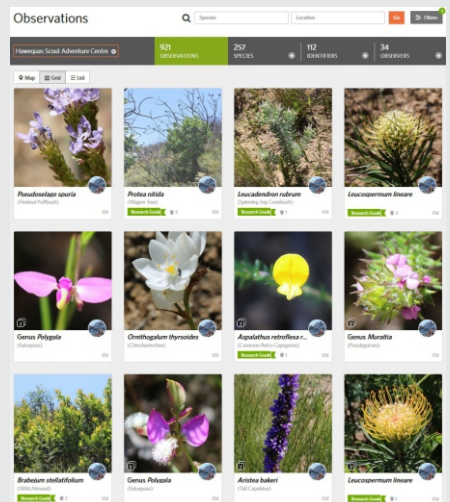
the regeneration of the fynbos

On 17 January 2017 a huge fire fanned by a strong wind blitzed its way from Du Toits Kloof and headed north through Hawequas. We were indeed grateful to the fire fighters, Kuba Miszewski, John Wilson, the South African Air Force, local farmers and staff and many others who I am not aware of who ensured that no buildings were damaged. Now that the dust has settled perhaps we can take a less emotional look at what happened?

- Disaster? No – but ok it could have been, we were prepared and minimal infrastructure was damaged.
- Fynbos permanently destroyed? No – the seeds and rootstocks survived: Fynbos needs fire so this was exactly what was needed.
- What about the snakes, tortoises, rodents, baboons and all other animals and insects? It is sad that wildlife would have been affected but bear in mind wildlife is adapted to fire survival and benefit greatly from the young veld.
- Will this happen again? Yes, fire is part of the ecology at Hawequas and on average will happen every 15 years as it has been doing for millenia. We need to be prepared and to protect buildings. Water tanks have been installed. Hawequas has its own bakkie sakkie. Hawequas is a member of the local conservancy. Everybody helps everybody in the area in times of fire, and with other issues too.



Distribution of iNaturalist Observations



Some observations from Hawequas

the regeneration of the fynbos

- The aliens are going to take off – what can we do? Scouts at competitions, schools, PLTU participants and others have been hacking and Working for Water and other agencies are helping too.

This is a major problem: please help by doing your bit.

- Will Hawequas ever be the same again? Most definitely yes.

The regeneration of the Fynbos was slow in 2018 being a drought year but accelerated in 2019 after the reasonable winter rains. Now is the perfect time to explore the veld and discover what is going on. A number of us have been doing this and have taken photographs of plants, insects, lichens, birds and animals and a species list for Hawequas is being built up as a result. All this is being documented at

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=142529.

We have 908 observations, 253 species and 31 observers.

If you are running an activity at Hawequas why not load up the iNaturalist app on your smartphone, take a walk and click away at our Hawequas natural history. It is stunning. Areas that have not been photographed up until now are on the entire south side of the Spruit River and the track from the top of the donga to the koppie. People pics can go on WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook.

We need a photo of a Hawequas Puff Adder. I was too slow with my camera and it sloped off! Remember to keep a safe distance and do not harm any wildlife. Stay safe.

Nigel Forshaw



The burnt veld in September 2017



The regeneration of the veld in October 2019

scout programme

Quinn Trophy

The Quinn Trophy is a fun competition for scouts and their parents and this year it was held on Noordhoek Common with an Olympic Theme. Congratulations to 6th Rondebosch for winning the competition, 2nd Fish Hoek for coming second and 1st Camps Bay for coming third. Well done to all the other Troops for attending and participating. Activities included Tug-of-War, Volley Ball, Three Legged Soccer, Tossing the Caber, Sack Race, Limbo, Tangrams, Paintball Shooting, Olympic Torch, Olympic Medal, Olympic Bracelet, Olympic Stadium, Country Flag, Country Passport, Scavenger Hunt, Olympic Mascot, National Anthems, Hourglass Race, Tyre-a-War, Junior Cross Country, Senior Cross Country, Adult Cross Country and CD Discus. Full results are available at

<https://westerncape.scouts.org.za/2019/10/16/regional-quinn-trophy-results-2019>.

Many thanks to Conrad Thomas and the team of judges for running the very successful event.



New Springbok Scouts

We congratulate our most recent Springbok Scouts being Llewellyn Joubert – 1st Strand, Dayton Charles – 1st Bergvliet, Daniel Middleton – 1st Durbanville and Nicholas Cato – 1st George.



Patrol and Troop Star Awards 2019

These are highly likely to have been completed by the time you read this. TSs can use the awards as a tool to ensure the Troop is running

scout programme

optimally and assist in 2020 Troop planning. Please assist your DC in ensuring your Troop and Patrols are Star Awards compliant.

Badge Courses, Competitions and Regional Diary

Badge courses for the 1st quarter 2020 have been loaded in to Scouts.Digital and Scouts may apply therefore apply for these courses now. Have a look at What's On the website for more details on courses, competitions and the regional diary at

<http://westerncape.scouts.org.za/whats-on/>.

May you all have an enjoyable, restful and peaceful festive season.

Regional Team Coordinator – Scout
Programme Western Cape
Nigel Forshaw



ScoutWiki – 558 pages and counting

Are you looking for programme ideas or simply want resources to share with your Cubs, Scouts, Rovers or fellow Scouters? ScoutWiki is a SCOUTS South Africa member driven resource and is a fast-growing source of all things Scouting. It's a living site for the whole Scouting community to be able contribute in order to have a central place for all Scouting resources.

What you'll find on the wiki

- Scout skills such as first aid, mapping, and pioneering
- Specific topics where you can learn more about the Advancement programmes and badge requirements.
- Campfire songs, skits, cheers
- Cub and Scout cooking recipes
- Programme ideas
- History and heritage such as Baden-Powell's story, the history of Scouting, the timeline of the Senior Scout Adventure, and more

Many of us have all sorts of scout resources saved on our computer – add them to the wiki to make them available to all Scouts. If you have good knowledge of a Scouting skill, please write a wiki page about it.

What makes a wiki so useful?

- It's really easy for anyone to add and edit content
- Content is easily searchable
- It's mobile ready – content is available through your phone or tablet
- It's easy to link through from one page to another, e.g. from Cooks Interest Badge to Scout Cooking Recipes
- It is a great digital supplement to the traditional resources such as the Pack Scouters Working Kit.

Editing and adding pages is easy

If you can open and edit a Word document, then you'll be able to create and edit a wiki page. While it may take a bit of time to get used to at first, there is a helpful tutorial (see link "Updating the wiki" on the left side of the wiki page). If you get stuck, feel free to contact us and we'll gladly help out. Anything you add can be edited and improved on by others, so don't be afraid of experimenting, or starting something that others can finish. Request an account now to begin.

To become a contributor and share your resources and ideas, visit scoutwiki.scouts.org.za
Ryan Hultzer

ultra trail cape town visits smc hut

For the 4th year running Scouts SA assisted the UTCT 2019 Ultra trail runners by providing a much needed Aid Station on top of Table Mountain. This Aid Station is the most remote aid station and provides refreshments, much needed water and general support for over 1200 trail runners in the (100, 65 and 35km events).

The field of world class athletes, local challengers and enthusiastic trail runners, which includes a number of Scouts SA members always enjoy the 'Stop at the Top' in the grounds of the Scout hut.

The team made up of Regional Management, Rovers, Alumni and friends of scouting set up tables by 6:30am, place Marshalls on the trail and prepare for all weather conditions each year. This year was no exception with temperatures down to a cold and wet 9 degrees in the am, rising to full sunshine in the midday.

Our Scout banners, enthusiastic and welcoming staff and location as the pictures show, always make for a pleasant and fun Aid Station, and great publicity for Scouts SA in the trail running community.



hawequas fours rugby

Wednesday 20th November was the big day at Hawequas, where we organised an Inter Farm event for workers and children from the farms around us. This year we had four aside rugby, as our field is too small for Sevens! We have wonderful neighbours who contribute to the evening, from sausage and rolls to make Boerie Rolls, to "Smoer", to refreshment packs and cool drinks and doughnuts.

The "Little People" of the valley come to have fun and the guys take their sport very seriously.

I organised for two of the Springboks from the Springbok Sevens Team to come to visit and spend time with all – two great guys, Zane Davids and Selvin Davids.

The team from Indigo Berries came out on top and took the "Hawequas Fours Bowl" trophy and one of their players was chosen man of the match, receiving the "Golden Boot

Trophy". It is important for Hawequas to be part of the valley and to contribute to the well being of all.

Kuba Miszewski



i can help save mother earth

Grade 5 Silukhanyo Primary School learner **Nicole Dambakurima** is a second generation Scouting member. She joined the Scouting-in-schools programme earlier this year at the encouragement of her father Kenesias, who was a Scout in Zimbabwe when he was young. Nicole lives in the disadvantaged community of Zola in Strand in the Western Cape.



"My father taught me that I need to keep my environment and our animals safe. He took us to the beach to clean up and helped us plant trees. I saw what a difference that makes. When I heard about Cubbing he encouraged me to join. I have learnt that **I can save the animals in the sea by keeping my environment clean.** People here don't care and they have destroyed mother earth. We are a **new generation** and it's **up to us to save mother earth** and so I must clean up my yard and our street. Also making Eco bricks helps. Today at our Cub meeting I got to make my own Eco brick and I'm very happy about it!"

"**Cubbing also helps me with my school work,** especially with natural science and English. I had a test and I was able to answer the questions correctly because I understood it better. We had also **done activities about the environment in Cubs** and so **when my teacher taught us about it, I knew it already.** I've also learnt what to do when there is a fire. I know I must not panic and get out and get help", she says confidently.

i can help save mother earth

Seeing Nicole excel at school has inspired her friends and their parents to consider Scouting. "I invited three of my friends to join Cubs and they did. **One of the parents let her daughter join so her English could also get better."**

"One day when I am an old lady **I will tell my grandchildren that I wouldn't be a millionaire if it wasn't for Scouts!** I am going to be an artist and a scientist. I am going to invent a special pen for my mom. It will be a pen that writes what she says. I will also invent a door that will allow people to walk through it and be in another place. So if I want to go to the mall or I want to go to Zimbabwe, I would just walk through the door," she grins. "I keep all these ideas in my head as there is no paper for me to write on at home."



Nicole lives and breathes Cubbing! "Cubs is really amazing and crazy fun! I can share life experiences with my friends and my dad is very proud of me!"

sis volunteers

SiS volunteers share USA experience with Minister Marais

Minister Anroux Marais meets with the Scouts. Photo: DCAS

Fourteen young Scout leaders received the opportunity to work at various summer camps in the USA earlier this year through Awesome Travels and the student exchange programme CIEE. Last week they met the Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Arnoux Marais, to share their experiences. Before being selected to work in the USA, all 14 had been volunteers in the 2018 "Scouting-in-Schools" programme, which offers Scouting to disadvantaged learners in Western Cape schools. This programme is run in partnership with the After School Programme and the Western Cape Government.

Aslam Smith from the Cape Flats attended Camp Hazen, a summer camp located in Connecticut and run by the YMCA. The camp gave young kids the opportunity to discover different fun activities whilst challenging themselves. "The US kids were all very friendly and interested in Africa. I was able to teach them some basic skills, like how to light a match or ride a



skateboard," said Aslam. "My experience as a volunteer in local schools gave me the skills to cope as a camp counsellor and taught me how to manage time." Aslam received a certification as an archery instructor whilst in the USA.

A number of volunteers learnt new sports skills, including Buhle Ndlcini who excitedly explained that he had learnt how to tie zip lines and set up climbing ropes.



sis volunteers

Fellow intern leader Litha Nofenela helped to run activities at Campfire Iowa Camp Hantesa. This summer camp took place in Iowa, next to the Des Moines River. "I am the first person in my family who left the country. Everybody was very proud, also my neighbours, not only my family. This opportunity brought a 'great light of awareness' of Scouts in the townships. Through the camp in a foreign country I grew as a person by learning how to talk and work with kids. I also learned leadership, not only how to lead others but also how to lead myself."

Western Cape Regional Commissioner Paddy Milner explained how the 14 camp counselors had to go through a local application process and then had international interviews via Skype. "I'm very proud of them. It has been wonderful to see how they have grown since they first entered the Scouting-in-Schools programme as unemployed youth with no experience."

None of the 14 had ever been on an international flight or imagined that they would find their way to the USA. Ahmad Solomon, who coordinates the Scouting-in-Schools programme, addressed the



volunteers with the following message: "You are now role models. America is now possible to your communities because you have been there. Do your best and be your best because there are young people looking up to you."

"You are my heroes," added Minister Marais. "Thank you for teaching them our South African heart-beat."

scout scarf selfie

Thank you to all Cubs, Scouts, Scouters and parents who entered the Scout Scarf Selfie competition earlier this year.



We are excited to announce that 9 year old Reece Temmers of the 1st Strandfontein Cup Pack and sisters Grace and Katie Botha from the 1st Durbanville Scout Group are the winners of this year's competition!

Reece wore his Scout scarf to school and promoted the Movement amidst his peers. Sisters Grace and Katie did the same and also made a crown in their Scout Group colours for their younger brother.

They all received a SCOUTS SA neck warmer. Well done!



2020 cape2rio

SCOUTS South Africa will be entering the 2020 edition of the Cape2Rio offshore sailing race with an entire youth crew. The crew of two young adult leaders aged 21 and five Scouts between the ages of 15 and 18, will be competing in the race on JML Rotary Scout. They will leave Cape Town on the 4th of January 2020 and the race crew are expected to fly home in the week of 2 February 2020.

JML Rotary Scout is a Tosca 36' cruising yacht owned and operated by SCOUT South Africa. She has competed in three previous editions of Cape2Rio in 2000, 2014 and 2017. In addition to this she has competed in the Governor's Cup Race to St. Helena numerous times.

The yacht feeds into the Scouting methods of adventure and learning by doing. This is ultimately a means to achieve our aims of developing character, training in citizenship and developing the spiritual, social, intellectual and physical qualities of young people.

Cape2Rio is an iconic ocean race, covering some 3600 nautical miles across the South Atlantic from Cape Town, South Africa to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is a gruelling test of character and seamanship skills.

Everyone on the team began their Scouting journeys at the age of 11. They started learning how to sail on dinghies and have been trained in skills such as pioneering, first aid, navigation and cooking. Most importantly, through the Scouting programme, they have not only learnt practical skills but have been able to actively practice teamwork and leadership.

The combination of having participated in the Sea Scout programme from a young age and competing in Cape2Rio gives the young crew the experience and potential to enter the maritime industry as a career.

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