

# 1<sup>st</sup> BEDFORDVIEW SCOUT TROOP

DISA ROAD, BEDFORDVIEW

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22 September 2011  
Ref: Troop 2011/07

## Re: General News

Dear scouts and parents

### Report-back on the Troop hike:

Although attendance was low, the recent troop hike at Van Reenen was by all other accounts a huge success. We left Rosedale farm on Saturday morning for a brisk 4,5 km hike into the town of Van Reenen, where we visited the smallest church in the world. Our patrol gained a new member on the way with Bandit the dog tagging along for the trip.



After a brief snack we then made a bee-line for “Lion’s Rump”, the highest peak in the area which offers spectacular views over both the Free State and KZN. A couple of over-heated scouts stopped at a small farm dam on the way up to cool off!

**Keegan, Tristan and Gabriel beat the heat**

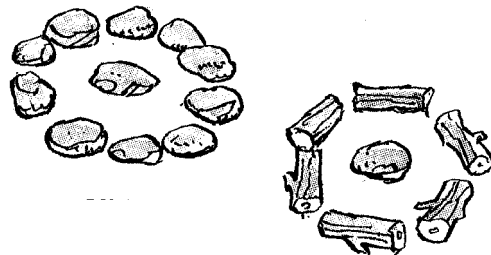
After admiring the view we then headed back to Rosedale farm for a hearty braai and a well-deserved rest.

The next morning we explored San paintings on the farm itself before heading off for Spioenkop. The rest of the morning was spent exploring the battlefield and getting a feeling for our country’s history. It was then time to return home and to normality ... until the next scout trip.

### Gone Home:

It was with great sadness that the troop learnt of the passing of Mike Scott, our erstwhile District Commissioner. Mike only recently took on the post of DC, but immediately got stuck into the job, and was a guest of Kudu Patrol’s at the troop competition camp held earlier this year.

Mike took ill a few months ago and stood back from the DC position in order to regain his health. Mike’s



be prepared....

**Troop Scouter:**  
**Assistant Troop Scouters:**

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service will be held at 11h00 on Tuesday 27 September at St Columbus Church, 35 Lurgan Road, Parkview.

#### Troop Camp:

There will be a troop camp held at Welbedacht Farm on the banks of the Vaal River from 7 – 9 October 2011. The venue and the recent warm weather are obviously conducive to boating and other “wet” activities and should result in a great camp and a good rest before the end-of-year exams.

The cost of the camp is R180 per person. This will cover camping fees, transport to the venue and food on the camp. Invested scouts who anticipate a problem in affording the camp should feel free to approach the committee for financial assistance. Our current chairman is Marlou Giannoccaro who can be contacted on 082 457 1820.



**Learning about the Spioenkop trig-beacon**

Male friends of a scout-going age with a genuine interest in scouting are welcome to attend the camp.

We anticipate leaving for camp at 17h00 on Friday 7 October and should be back at about 15h00 on Sunday 9 October. All travelling will be done in full scout uniform. A kit list is attached at the end of this letter.

If you are keen on attending the camp, please RSVP by no later than Friday 30 September 2011. Depending on the response to this camp we will decide whether or not a troop programme will be run for those not attending the camp.

#### AGM:

It is time once again for the Group AGM. A separate letter will be sent out in due course although at this stage I would ask everyone to pencil in 4 November into their diaries. The AGM will be followed by an informal bring and braai.

#### Fundraiser for Ant Hoines:

A while ago you were told about the horrible accident that Bedfordview rover Anthony Hoines was involved in. Since then a great deal has happened. Ant has just left ICU after spending several months there on a ventilator. He is now able to talk and remains up-beat, an excellent example of “a scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties”. Although his diagnosis as a C5 quadriplegic has been confirmed, Ant has taken the proverbial bull by the horns and is undergoing rigorous physiotherapy to enable him to use an electronic wheelchair, which will give him a great deal of freedom. His progress since being placed in a recovery ward in the Meulmed hospital has been remarkable and Ant has now been allowed a couple of visits home.

A fund has been set up to assist Anthony. As you can imagine a great deal of specialised equipment has to be purchased to allow him to perform tasks that we take for granted. The fund will be raffling off a helicopter flight over Joburg to help raise funds to assist with this.

Scouts who want to should chat to me about selling raffle sheets on behalf of the fund. Scouts are under no obligation to do this. This is not a troop fundraiser and nobody will think any the worse of anyone who does not want to take part. I do think though that it



would be a great gesture for everyone to try their best to sell some tickets for an excellent cause.

Anthony has repeatedly given of himself to the troop over the years, and he has become a familiar face at scout competitions and boot hikes. It would be really nice for the troop to do something in return, and this is a relatively simple thing that everyone can do that could make a big difference.

#### Troop Holiday:

The troop holiday has been confirmed for 9 to 13 December 2011. I have been in contact with the BP Island Campsite in Durban and the basic planning for this event is well underway. In order to facilitate planning, it is imperative that scouts make a final commitment to this event now. The cost of the event is R750,00 per person. This will not cover the entire cost of the camp and some fundraising is going to have to be done. In order to plan this properly, we need to know who will be attending.

Could everyone please complete the reply slip at the end of this letter and return it by no later than 7 October 2011. Email replies are also fine. Male friends of scout-going age may attend this camp if there is place, but places will be allocated to members of the troop first.

#### Waterkloof Air Show:

The Air Force will be putting on an awesome air show at Waterkloof in Pretoria on 1 October 2011 from 08h00 to 17h00. Cost is R50,00 for adults and R20,00 for children. I thought it might be an great troop activity to attend this. Could you please let me know if you want to attend by no later than 17h00 on 25 September so that I can organise transport.

#### Upcoming Events at a glance:

##### **September**

30 Star Patrol evaluations

##### **October**

1 Waterkloof Air Show  
7 – 9 Troop Camp  
15 – 16 PLTC (by invitation only)

##### **November**

4 Group AGM  
26 District Go-cart competition

##### **December**

2 Last meeting of the year  
3 White Stripe Dinner  
9 – 13 Troop Holiday

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

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#### **REPLY SLIP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ will / will not be attending the troop holiday from 9 to 13 December 2011, presently scheduled to be held at BP Island, Durban.

### **SUGGESTED KIT LIST FOR TROOP CAMP**

- Full scout uniform with a hanger
- Your green card
- Sleeping bag with a small mattress and pillow
- Hat
- 2 litre water bottle
- Hiking boots or sturdy shoes
- 3 x socks
- Underwear
- 3 x shirts (bring your black camp shirt if you have one)
- 2 x shorts
- 1 x warm anorak or similar garment (the nights will be cool). Long pants if you get cold.
- 1 x rain jacket or similar wet-weather item
- Beanie (optional)
- Strops / slippers (preferably ones that can be secured to your feet and can be used in water)
- Swimming costume and towel
- Messkit (plate, bowl, mug, knife, fork, spoon, tea towel)
- Toiletries (soap, sponge, facecloth, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss etc)
- Sun cream and insect repellent
- Torch with batteries
- Pin and a magnet if you do not have your Pathfinder
- A6 hard-cover notebook
- Pen and pencil with sharpener
- Plastic bags for litter / laundry
- Any personal medication
- Duly completed consent form and health certificate with R180,00
- Camera (optional)
- Basic first aid kit
- 1 x set of old underwear that can get dirty