

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

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Ref: Troop 2012/01

## Re: General News

Dear scouts and parents

A warm welcome back to all of you after what I trust was a restful festive season.

### Troop Holiday:

The troop holiday held at the Vaal River over the December break was an immense success. The river offered an ideal spot for canoeing, sailing and swimming. There was also beautiful scenery for hiking in the area, and scrumptious meals under and African sky made for an unforgettable camp.



**Gabriel, Keegan and Ross at the year-end dinner**

The highlight of the trip was a day-log trip tubing down the Vaal river, shooting rapids and watching comorants and leguaans hunting in the cool waters.

In light of the Senior Scout Adventure this December there will be no troop holiday at the end of this year, but hopefully many of you will be able to join us for a troop holiday in the not too distant future.

### Farewell to Mark Brown:

After having given several decades of his time to the Bedfordview Group and the Northrand District, Mark Brown will be leaving the troop to pursue a new life in Perth, Australia. Mark will be leaving at either the end of March or the beginning of April.

Mark was born into a scouting family, with his father acting as DC for the Northrand District and also being instrumental in the development of the scout programme at that time. Mark obtained his Springbok Scout Award with the Jan Smuts Scout Group before moving over to Bedfordview as an ATS.

be prepared.....

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

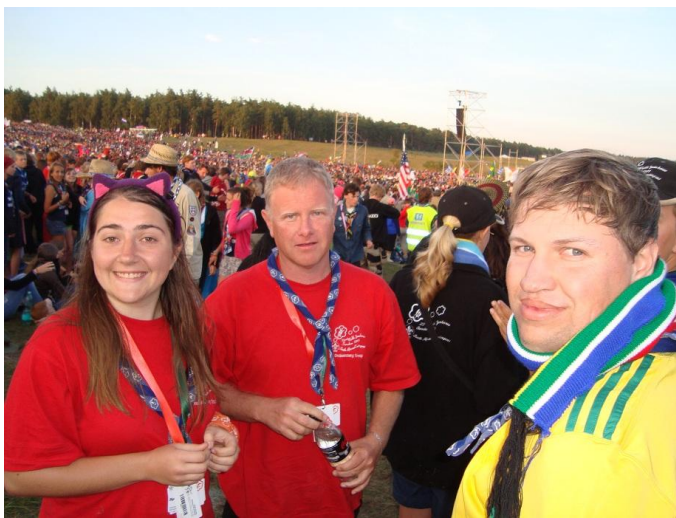
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He was quickly recruited into the rover crew and has been a staunch member of the Crew for the past 20-odd years. Mark later took over as TS of the troop and was my TS for much of my scouting career. Mark moved over to the Northrand District Staff about 15 years ago where he took over the District Scouter position, working closely with Paul Cummings. When Paul left the District Mark took over as ADC (Scout Programme).

Even though he was officially a district staff member Mark's heart was always with Bedfordview and he regularly helped out with programmes whilst continuing his work at District. Mark also took over as RSL of the Bedfordview Rover Crew when Roald Kvevli resigned. A few years ago Mark resigned as ADC so that he could dedicate more time to the Bedfordview Group.

Mark's contribution to scouting was recognised a few years ago when he was awarded the Medal of Merit. He also holds the Long Service Medal.

Mark will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best with his new life in Australia. A farewell will be arranged once we know exactly when he will be leaving.



**Mark at the recent World Jamboree in Sweden**

#### Assistant Troop Scouter Needed:

It is impossible for someone to replace Mark but it is important for the troop that we find someone to succeed him in his position as ATS. If you have a father, uncle or friend who enjoys the outdoors, working with youngsters and giving back to the community please have a chat to him to see if he is interested in joining the scouter team at Bedfordview.

Although a scouting background is of course useful it is certainly not a prerequisite for the job. Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn more than make up for any skills shortage, and SASA has an extensive series of training courses available which will soon provide even a novice with a range of scouting skills.

Applicants should be older than eighteen, be willing to abide by SASA's rules and regulations and will have to submit themselves to a background check to ensure that they are of a suitable character to work with the youth. A prospective ATS will need to complete three short training courses over the next year or so, which will then allow the issue of the ATS warrant.

Prospective applicants are more than welcome to contact me to find out a bit more about the position and what it entails. It is hard work, but it is also incredibly rewarding and allows you access to a range of activities which most people only

dream about. Mark, for instance, has attended three World Scout Jamborees and five Cederberg Adventures. He has also helped shape many young people's lives, which in itself is a fantastic reward for the time that he has given to the movement.

A good ATS is an invaluable asset to any troop and can only help to build the troop and ensure that the scouts attending the troop get the best scouting experience possible.

### Trip to the Cricket:

On Friday 24 February, instead of a regular scout programme, we will be watching the Lions take on the Cobras at the Wanderers Stadium. The cost of tickets for under-18s is R25 per person. The match starts at 18h00 and accordingly we will meeting at 17h00 at the hall in order to arrive on time. There is normally food and drink available at the match.

We will be wearing black troop golf shirts for the evening with jeans. If you do not



have a golf shirt, why not purchase one? Alternatively you can wear a black t-shirt to the cricket instead.

Friends are more than welcome to join you for the trip. Please let us know whether you or your friends will be attending by no later than Friday 17 February so that we can make a booking for the excursion. There is a reply form at the end of this letter.

### **Douglas and William at the recent White Stripe Training**

### BP Celebrations:

The annual BP celebrations will be taking place at the Quarry behind the Edenvale Hyperama on Saturday 25 February. The day will be kicking off with a canoe polo competition, to be followed by a light dinner and a campfire. Full details of the event will be forthcoming shortly, but in the interim please pencil this date into your diaries.

### Kontiki:

The annual Kontiki event will be taking place at Arrowe Park in Benoni from 16 to 18 March. The venue is much smaller than the Murray Park venue, which means that interaction with the rest of the Gauteng scouting community will hopefully be a great deal easier.

A great deal of work and planning goes into Kontiki and as such it would be appreciated if all those scouts who are keen on attending Kontiki could fill in the attached reply slip and return this as quickly as possible.

Consent Forms:

We are well into 2012 and only a handful of scouts have returned their annual consent forms. The rules of the South African Scout Association mean that scouts who have not handed in their consent forms will regrettably no longer be allowed to take part in scout activities. A copy of the annual consent form is being sent out with this newsletter for those who have lost the consent form sent out last year.

Troop Caps and Golf Shirts:

A number of scouts have asked where they can order golf shirts and troop caps. These items are worn as camp uniform and can be ordered from Zelia Cardoso on 082 837 0773. Ideally each scout should own at least one troop golf shirt and a cap for use on competitions and camps.

Upcoming Dates:

**February**

24 Trip to the cricket  
25 District Canoe Polo and BP Celebrations

**March**

16 – 18 Kontiki  
30 – 1 April Troop Hike

**April**

6 – 9 Troop closed  
21 – 22 Kim Shield  
27 – 30 Troop closed

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

Yours in scouting

Andrew Campbell

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**REPLY SLIP**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you attending the cricket Y/N? Are you intending to attend Kontiki? Y/N  
Number of friends attending: \_\_\_\_ Interested in doing canoe polo on the 25<sup>th</sup>? Y/N