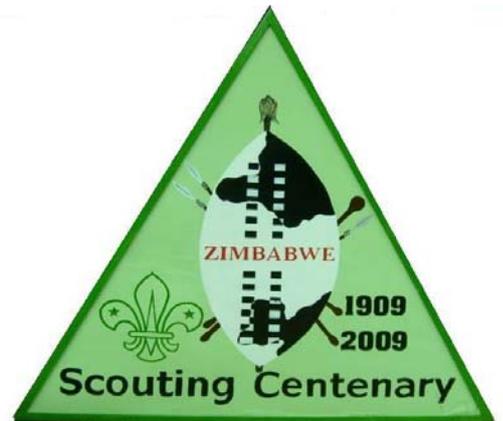


MATOPOS MUMBLINGS



Special Newsletter for
Centenary Camp at
Gordon Park, Matopos

ISSUE 3
Monday 10 August 2009



Scouts Honoured at the Centenary Service

The open air St Georges Chapel was filled to overflowing with people sitting up on rocks and under the trees for the special service. The service included Bible readings and hymns and was conducted by Father Martin Schupp, of St Mary's Cathedral Bulawayo. At the service deserving Scouts were also honoured for their contributions to the Scout Movement.



Lay Supporters Martin Francis Sanderson, Hylton Garrick and Derrek John FitzParick each received the highest honour for long and dedicated service by being awarded the Silver Elephant for their continuous dedication and commitment to Scouting for many years. This is the highest order of recognition in Matabeleland.



Ephraim Sibanda of the 15th Bulawayo (Milton Junior School) joined the worldwide Gilwell Troop for Adult Leaders when he was presented with his scarf and Wood Badge. Currently he is the Assistant Provincial Scout Commissioner (Travelling).

Mr. Ntokozo Ncube, the former Provincial Scout Commissioner of Matabeleland, was awarded a long service medal for his 15 years of service and was also presented with a memento by the Matabeleland Scout Council for his contribution and service to the movement. Currently he is an inactive member of Scouting in Zimbabwe due to personal commitments but visits the Province regularly for special events.

Activity Bases compete for attention

Scouting is unique and is augmented by the way we do our activities. When everyone left their homes they did not expect this kind of fun especially those that are coming here for the first time and we say to them this is Gordon Park where dreams are turned to endeavours.

Bases opened on Saturday and included Jumping Jupiter, Re-entry - which has recorded the highest turn out so far, Galaxy Crawl, Space Walk, Art and Craft and Weightlessness. We caught up with Prisca, one of the participants and had this to say: "all my life I have never seen something like it."



All active Scouts need food this has been provided at the Flight Food and Pancake bases which have been very popular too.



As for the Cubs, Jumping Jupiter has made their stay here at Gordon Park unforgettable. Hikes cannot be left unmentioned as two hikes have been done now. The first one was after the Opening Ceremony to Fort Usher and the second one to the White Rhino Caves.

A special base was listening to the voice of Lord Baden Powell on his 80th birthday.

Additional activity bases such as The Umbilical Cord, Escape Hatch and Invaders will be opened on Monday. Other bases still to be opened include Space Navigation and Spider's Trap.

Hikers return from the Fort Usher Hike

The two groups of hikers that left Gordon Park on Saturday have returned to camp after travelling for about 35 km. The first group to arrive was the one led by Mduduzi and Mandela. They arrived back in camp today at about 15:00. The group did not encounter many challenges as they reached Fort Usher at around 18:30. The minor problems they had was to help the younger Scouts to carry their rucksacks.



For many Scouts this was their first overnight hike and they enjoyed being out in the Matopos and hiking the areas visited by Lord Baden Powell.

The second group arrived at about 16:00 and they also did not experience any problems except a minor miscalculation near Nkantoli Battlefield. This meant they missed a turn and had a small deviation before getting back on course.



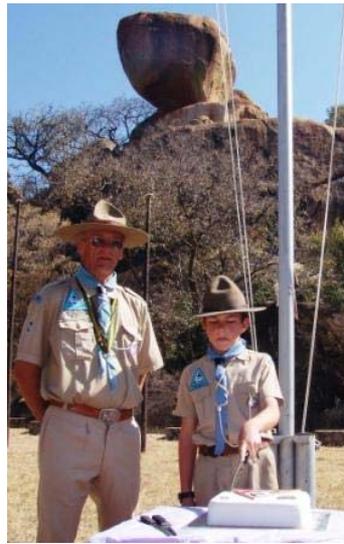
Unfortunately none of the hikers made their way back in time for the Centenary Service. They sacrificed a lot as they also missed the capture, slaying and cooking of the 100ft long *Matopoensis*

Sausiagensus. This was a special treat for everyone else who was in camp.

Another set of hikers is expected to leave tomorrow for the Fort Usher hike.

Hikers are also going on walks to Shumba Shaba to see the view of Gordon Park and the Mtshelili Valley and to see the cave paintings at White Rhino Cave. On the path to White Rhino Cave one group found droppings and evidence of where a leopard had eaten a dassie and small buck.

1st Pioneer Group—Also 100 years young!



Today the 1st Pioneer Group provided a treat for everyone when they cut their 100 year anniversary cake. The Group is the oldest in Zimbabwe and was registered in 1909 as the 1st Matabeleland. All the Scouts from the other Provinces were given a piece of specially made cake as part of the Birthday celebration of the oldest Scout Group in Zimbabwe.

The Scout Leader, Norman Scott, has been a Scout himself for more than 50 years. He started his Scouting at the 8th Hillside Group in 1957. He succeeded the likes of Skipper Knapman, Gerry Barry, Clive Espline and Jim Craig and took over the 1st Pioneer Group from 1994 to the present day.

Mutare Boys Dominate the Campfire

When you are moving around camp you are sure to hear the song of the moment “*To whom does it belong to*” The song came from yesterday’s campfire in a presentation done by the Mutare boys from Manicaland Province. The Manicaland Provincial Scout Commissioner ran short of words because of the exciting and ecstatic group song. It went so well that everyone at the campfire joined in.

Midlands also set a record after giving the longest performance so far. They also sang a song and each member of their group made a contribution. After the campfire we spoke with Ian, Blessing and Tatenda from the Midlands who said that this was a normal performance..

The Scouts from Bubi were not left out when they left the crowd begging for more with their *Imbube* traditional dance led by uMabonda. These Scouts are coming in for their first time.

We urge everybody to take campfires seriously and prepare their presentations well beforehand.

