

FIRST KENGRAY BK

Scout Group

June 2009

by Ewen McAlpine

Midwinter campfire—101 years of Scouting with KBK



The group held its annual campfire on the 19th of June – the Friday closest to the winter solstice, where we experience our shortest day and longest night. The winter solstice is symbolically seen as a time of rebirth by many cultures, and for us it marks the shortening of nights and the lengthening of days, as we approach summer once again.

Although a much more subdued event this year than our centenary celebrations at Johannesburg Zoo last year, the age-old campfire spirit was still present in abundance as our voices rose into the chilly winter night.

Traditionally, our midwinter campfire is one of the events on our calendar, like Kontiki, that brings together the various



branches of our group – cubs, scouts, adult leaders and parents – in a celebration of scouting.

This year the campfire was lead by our three patrol leaders – Dylan, Daniel and Tyrone – who did the group proud, putting together a varied programme that kept the crowd entertained.

As usual the cubs also got to participate, leading a song as well as

performing a skit. Let's hope that many more generations of boys will experience scouting with Kengray BK...

A big thank you to all who made our 101st birthday a success, the many hours of work you put into scouting is appreciated!

More photos are available on our website: <http://www.firstkengraybk.org.za>

Important Upcoming Events

- 4TH-5TH JULY: PATROL CAMPS
- 10TH JULY: ADVENTURE GOLF
- 17TH JULY: MOVIE EVENING (HOPEFULLY *HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE*)
- 31ST JULY: DISTRICT BOOT HIKE
- 14TH-16TH AUGUST: TROOP CAMP/ HIKE
- 6TH SEPTEMBER: SPRING FAIR
- 11TH-13TH SEPTEMBER: CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE
- 18TH-20TH SEPTEMBER: DISTRICT CAMPING COMPETITION
- 3RD-4TH OCTOBER: DISTRICT PIONEERING COMPETITION
- 26TH OCTOBER: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE 2009 YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON OUR WEBSITE.

Contribute...

Send your photos and/or articles to ewen@scouts.co.za so that we can include them in future newsletters and on our website.

The website is a good place for everyone in the group to have a look at the photos from various group events.

Visit: <http://www.firstkengraybk.org.za/>

Photos from the campfire have been uploaded, and while you're there, checkout the other albums in our gallery.



Bear Grylls—New UK Chief Scout

If you watch DSTV you most likely know Bear Grylls from his various survival exploits in *Man vs Wild* on *Discovery Channel*. But what some of you may not know is that he was recently named the new, and youngest ever, Chief Scout of the United Kingdom Scout Association.

“In short, because I love adventure and I love hanging out with good friends. For me this is what Scouting is about.”

Bear Grylls

He is the youngest Briton to summit Mt Everest, as well as ex Special Forces soldier, who has a passion for the outdoors. Commenting on his appointment, he said: “I feel so honoured to be offered this position, and have always held such admiration for Scouts and all they do around the world. The Scouting

Movement is a massive force for good, touching many, many young lives. Above all, it gives millions of kids the chance to live and learn about the wild and to experience real adventure. My hope is to help Scouts of all ages, including adults, to reach their full potential, to follow their dreams and to enjoy the camaraderie that the Scouts is famous for.”

Scouting in Britain is at its strongest ever, with 33 000 youngsters on waiting lists to join the movement – something most of our boys take for granted.

Scouting, both locally and internationally, is in need of good leadership and fresh ideas to dispel the misconceptions that exist about our movement—let’s hope this is the start.

Badges and all that...



One of the great mysteries in scouting, it appears, is how scouts earn badges. Well, no longer! There are various types of awards scouts can earn – advancement badges, interest badges and challenge awards – with the ultimate goal of any scout being to receive their Springbok Scout.

The advancement badges progress through Pathfinder, Adventurer, First Class, Explorer and on to Springbok Scout – with various tasks to be completed along the way.

The requirements for these, and all other badges, are available at the Scout Shop and on the internet (for free). Scouts are encouraged to do interest badges that they are interested in – these range from reading to sports to astronomy, as well as more traditional scouting activities. Scouts, unlike in cubs, are expected to show initiative when completing badges, and it may be helpful if they received a little nudge from their parents every now and then.

There is only one way to get a Springbok Scout, and that is hard work and perseverance.



“There is a destiny that makes us brothers—none goes his way alone; all that which we send into the lives of others, comes back onto our own.”

Edwin Markham



“The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

Eleanor Roosevelt



“Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, covered in scars, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming, Yahooo – what a ride!”

Author Unknown



Visit us on the internet

<http://www.firstkengraybk.org.za>