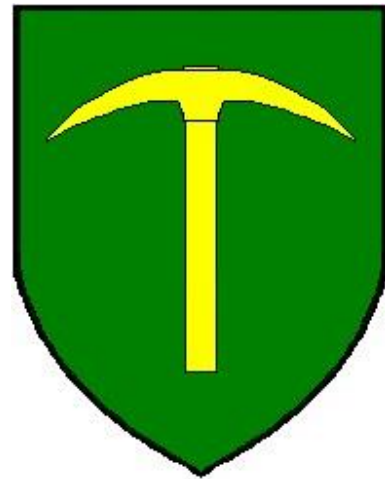




**May – August
2006**

Pioneer Trail



**Meeting
Mabukuwene Nature Reserve
Friday's 19:00 - 21:00 hrs**

**Scout Leader
Norman Scott
nclscott@netconnect.co.zw**

1st Bulawayo (Pioneer) Scout Group
www.angelfire.com/sc/matabeles/troops

Under the Pseudolachnostylis Maprouneifolia



Beloved Father Odilo...

A special June edition of Pioneer Trail was published in tribute to Father Odilo Weeger CMM, who passed away on the 8th of June 2006, in Bulawayo. In publishing this special edition, I would like to thank Patrol Leader Leon Wuyts, editor of our magazine, for collecting the material, and to those who so willingly contributed. The tribute is not intended to be a comprehensive record of Father's life work, but rather recognition of his wide-ranging interests in serving God and his fellow man. Father Odilo will long be remembered as a source of inspiration and encouragement to all. Mr John Sullivan, author of Father's biography, "The Cross and the Eagle", is inviting anyone who would like to write of their memories of Father Odilo to please contact him at Sullivan's Engineering, Bulawayo, or on the following e-mail addresses: johnsull@gatorzw.com or phikeleli@zol.co.zw.

Our Troop programme of activities since April has not run according to plan. The monthly hike for May was deliberately cancelled, when the Chimanimani Expedition & Hike became a reality at the end of April. The June hike was also cancelled owing to midyear school examinations being held the whole week before and after the scheduled hike weekend. A virulent strain of influenza in

Bulawayo affected our Scouts over an extended period of three months, resulting in reduced numbers attending Friday evening meetings. Then, to top it all, I had to work on the weekend that the Parent's Camp was to have been held, so that was cancelled. The Provincial William Arnold Carnegie Assegai Competition was also postponed, and will now be held in September. All in all, a very fragmented programme.

A letter complimenting the Troop for their assistance was received after one hundred and seventy Rotarians, who were attending a District Conference in Bulawayo, descended on Gordon Park for a social evening. Our Scouts thoroughly enjoyed their weekend in hosting the Rotarians. I would like to thank the Scouts who were able to come out to the Park for a job well done, not only for their enthusiasm in setting up the braai, but for their positive image of Scouting, in their manners, dress and joviality. A different and exciting activity in the life of our Troop.

The Troop was involved in a second good turn, when five members assisted with a mountain bike challenge rally held at the Bulawayo Country Club on Saturday the 15th of July. Again, my thanks to those Scouts for helping out.

The Troop took second place in the Colin Turner Memorial Pioneering Competition that was held on the 26th – 28th of May. The competition was wide ranging in projects, bases and initiative uses of pioneering skills. Representing our troop was Patrol Leader Leon Wuyts, Dylan Sandwith,



Some of the visitors to Gordon Park at the Rotary Get-Together.

Christopher Mackenzie and Martin and Peter Daly. In gaining 1683 out of a possible 2500 points and only 22 points behind the winners, I was very pleased, as the majority of the Patrol had been in Scouting less than a year. Well-done chaps.

We held our sausage sizzle for this term at our meeting place, Mabukuwene. Our guests were Martin Sanderson and Barry Duplock, two of our "silent" supporters who help make our Scouting so lively. Also joining us at the braai was Rob McKenzie, who,

because of the fuel shortage and price, usually waits in his car whilst the meeting is in progress. As it was a social evening for the Scouts, they organized their own games in between cooking their dinner. It was a really happy and relaxed evening.

I am very pleased by the number of our Scouts who now spend their weekends out at Gordon Park. Our programme of activities there range from maintenance work at the camp, to learning and practicing Scouting skills. Then there is the social aspect, the cooking of their meals and gaining those all-important camp nights for their progress awards. Patrol Leader Leon Wuyts has been coming out since he joined Scouting, and at the monthly church service on the 14th of May, he was invested into the Gordon Park Crew. His investiture has sparked an interest in the others, who are now working with renewed vigour to gain their Advanced Scout Badge, one of the requirements for entry into the Crew. Congratulations, Leon, on your investiture, and my thanks to all parents in encouraging your sons to utilize Gordon Park.



Father Odilo, Leon and Norman – Crew Investiture, May 2006.

And now, until the next time, it's back to my hammock beneath my favourite *Pseudolachnostylis Maprouneifolia* with a floppy hat pulled over my eyes as I dream of what I need to write and ask Santa Claus for this year.

N. Scott
Scout Leader

Colin Turner Memorial Pioneering Competition

26th – 28th May 2006

On the Friday afternoon before the competition, Leon, Chris, Peter, Martin and me met at Christ The King Church, and Norm took us out to Gordon Park, where we set up our camp at the Silver Boar Campsites. We unpacked our stuff, and while Mart, Pete and I were collecting gum poles, Leon and Chris went down to Headquarters to collect ropes and lanterns. Leon and I collected some firewood while Chris and Pete made an altar fire. Then Mart and I set up our tent, and Pete and Chris set up their own tents. After that we fought about where the bags were to go, finally we decided to put them in the bigger tent: ours. After that we began work on our gate and a table, while Chris collected mud for the altar fire.

During that, the other Troops arrived slowly, and began to set up their camps.

On the second day we had a slow start. We were the last to wake up, but worked faster than most of the other troops. At about 8 o'clock there was Opening Parade, in uniform, where Norm, who was running the competition, told us what to build. He then asked to see all the PL's, while the rest of us had to change into camp kit and start on our projects.

While Norm was talking to the PL's, Chris and Pete improved their altar fire and kitchen. Martin and I finished the table, and started on the chair we had to make. When Leon got back, Peter and him started on the gateway. Chris and Martin built the bed, which Chris and Pete slept on that night.



Leon, Chris and Pete close to the end of the competition.

During campfire that night, we took the chair down with us, which Leon sat on the whole time. It took the fire lighters about 10 minutes to light the fire. Then they chose each Troop, one by one, to come up and give a short skit. After that, Norman wanted to inspect the chairs, and sat on each one. On the last one, one of the other guys was holding it up, and when he let go, the chair broke!

The next morning, we had to wake up early for inspection: trying to clean up all the mess some of us had made the day before – hard work! Then we had to clean up the tents, sorting out all our stuff into neat piles.

Chris and Pete made their kitchen look a bit better, while Martin cleaned up the rest of the area. Leon and I made a knotting board, which we had to hand in during inspection.

After inspection, we changed out of our uniform and worked on our site even more for closing inspection. After inspection, we had a morning parade, followed by a Scouts' Own at the campfire. Then we had some more tests: different bases where we had to do knots, splices, whippings and machines. Then we made a Scout trestle, and had it inspected. After it was inspected, we raced it across the training ground, and luckily ours didn't break into pieces. This was followed by a knotting relay, where we won points by tying a whole bunch of knots correctly.

After all that excitement, we had lunch, followed shortly after by the final Closing Parade. Unfortunately, we had not won, but had come a close second place. We were all pleased

however, and we had all enjoyed the competition. We stayed in uniform for closing inspection and the final marking of our campsites. We spent the whole afternoon cleaning up our campsite, making sure it looked the way we found it. Then Norm came with the trailer, we piled all our stuff in it, and went down to Headquarters.

At Headquarters, we finished what little food we had left, and waited for the other Troops to leave so that Norm could lock up the Park. When they finally left, Norm took us back to town and dropped us off at Christ The King where our parent's were waiting.

Dylan Sandwith



Shaun's Hike

2nd – 3rd June 2006

First of all we all went to Maleme, then we made a hot fire and cooked our wonderful dinner. And then we all sat round the fire eating corn curls. We then got our beds ready, and then went to bed; me and my brother Pete slept in the trailer. Everyone else slept on the floor! We all woke up, freezing cold, in the morning and made a fire again, and then made our breakfast and set off on our hike.

While we were on the hike I saw a warthog hole and lots of big bush pig holes right in the middle of the road. And then we climbed up Mt Inungu, stayed there for a while, wandering around and looking at the Cross. Then we ran all the way down again. As we all reached the bottom, Norm went back to the Landie at Maleme, while we carried on to World's View.

On the way to Rhode's Grave, I saw a dead civet that had been hit by a car. When we got to Rhode's Grave, we had a break and Leon took a picture of us all. Then Norm came and picked us up, and then took us to a kopje close to Rhode's Grave, which we climbed and saw big holes in the rock, called Swallow Holes.

Then, while we were headed for GP, we saw a heard of wildebeest. When we got back to the Park, we made a fire and had lunch. After lunch Scott and me climbed all the way through Piglets cave and sat on the top of the very top rock, looking down at all the guys below us. Then we climbed all the way down again.

Then me, Peter and Martin made our beds in the rafters of the outdoor kitchen. Then we all helped by doing some work to help Norm, then we finished off making our beds. Then we went with Norm in the Landie to check the water tanks, we came back, and I wrote this story of my hike, the second one I've ever done.



Martin, Scott, Pete and Shaun in the rafters.

Shaun Daly

Our First Solitary Hike

4th – 5th August 2006

Leon, Dylan Martin and I started our hike by being dropped off on the side of the main road in the National Park, and we hiked a little bit east to Rowallan Park, where we set up camp and slept for the night.

We woke up the next morning at about 6. The sun had already risen. We ate breakfast and packed up, before starting to hike at around 7:15. While we were walking, we were looking around for any game, but didn't see any. We walked along a path, passing and going over some dwalas, looking at the map every now and then until we reached Gwangwazila, where we had a quick rest admiring the view of the land in front of us.

After that we continued to Gali where we had lunch and rested for about 15 minutes, before we started to hike back to GP. Martin and Dylan started before us, so they ended up going a different way to us, so we tracked them to Shumba Shaba, where we lost track of them, and so we waited for them half way down the mountain for about 5 minutes until we decided to wait for them at the bottom of the mountain.



Martin, Leon, Dylan and Pete at the end of the hike.

When we got to the bottom, we waited for a while before we headed on to the Park, which we reached about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Norm congratulated us on our first hike without him.

Peter Daly

Mr Ross's Letter – Rotary Weekend

8th May 2006

Dear Norman

RE – Rotary Conference – Gordon Park

A very special thanks to you, your Scouts and Adam for a job superbly well done and for making the Rotary Conference Braai and Get Together at Gordon Park an outstanding success. Many of the visiting Rotarians expressed the view, to me, that it was the highlight of the Rotary Conference.

I wonder if any of the visiting Rotarians appreciated how much work went into the setting up and preparation at Gordon Park.

I know that for the past month you have been cutting the long grass on the parade grounds, on the roads and around the buildings with the old hand pushed grass-mower – no wonder the Scouts are so tough.

6

Your Scout crew were outstanding – getting all the equipment, tables, chairs, liquor bar, benches, rubbish drums, electric lights, braai drums, washing tanks, setting up the projector screen and cutting and collecting firewood.

I noticed that all the equipment, heavy as it was, had to be brought on site using the small hand pulled two-wheeled trolley.

Thanks for making sure that there was water on tap on the parade square and that the Gordon Park's diesel powered generator was available and that there was also electric power on the parade square.

The Scout Cooking Tem under the supervision of John Sullivan did a superb job; we originally planned to cater for about 110 and ended up providing for over 170 people.

Thanks again to your crew, the “clean up” on Saturday went off well and hopefully we left the Park in the same excellent condition that we found it. Perhaps Rotary with its International contacts could investigate the possibility of donating a small tractor to do the grass cutting and hauling for Gordon Park – I would be happy to co-ordinate this donation.

Thanks again for a job well done.

Malcolm Ross

Some Words of Wisdom

A long-standing friend of both the Troop and Norm, a “silent supporter”, a few years ago presented the following speech to the CBC Speech Night. His words of wisdom apply still more today, and so with his kind permission, we've reproduced his whole speech below. It may be longer than expected, but it holds a great many gems for both the young and old of today's world.

Master of Ceremonies, Dave Thomson; Chairman of the Board, Jonathan Rowland; Headmaster, Dickie Peters; Honoured Guests; Staff; Parents and Pupils

When Mr Peters first approached me about a month ago to talk at this occasion, my first reaction was one of great honour to be given this opportunity, followed by “heck, why me, what have I done to deserve this”. What have I, with no (well not many) grey hairs got to offer and who am I to give inspiration? They must really be scraping the bottom of the barrel (I still believe this to be true!).

I got to thinking. Could it have been my outstanding academic achievements at school!? Probably not – I only just scraped through A levels after a lot of hard graft. Could it be my outstanding sporting achievements? – unlikely yet again. I wasn't going to bore you with any school experiences, but I feel I must mention my vast first team rugby career that lasted for, let me see, about 36 seconds! I generally played second team rugby (but I guess it's the same today, the second team got to play all the good matches as we never needed to use our first team to play against lesser teams like Falcon, Plumtree and St. George's). Anyway, I was one of the few prefects that didn't play first team rugby and I desperately wanted to – I mean the girls don't understand the concept of 2nd team players. On one occasion, I was given this chance. Playing against Plumtree who had this mean looking winger – this guy was about 7 foot tall and at least

27 years old, and was feared by all. I figured if I could drop this guy, my place in the team would be secured. The whistle went, the winger almost immediately got the ball, the majority of our team scattered but I took my chance and stood my ground. Thinking back I'm not sure how graceful or even how effective my tackle was. But when I woke up sometime later I had 7 painful stitches in my head.

Then I got to thinking, hang on, I'm really quite a rare species in that I am still one of the diminishing group of old boys from my year who, probably for reasons less known to us, still live in Zimbabwe and in particular, Bulawayo. Yes, I am a CBC old boy, I am a Zimbabwean, I love and am successful in my job and I'm proud of what I am and what I have done. I can handle what is thrown in my way and I can make a difference. I've been very fortunate in that I've probably learnt more and gained more experience here, than I would have in any other country in the World.

Maybe THAT is what I have to offer and share with you tonight.

I am one of those mad buggers who one can see on a regular basis, normally in the mid day heat or ridiculously early hours of the morning pounding the tarmac and as my friends say "busy chasing nothing" (this is often when you guys are on your way home from the Brass or Ivy League after which you tell your parents that you spent the whole night standing around chatting and drinking copious amounts of coke). For some reason I like marathon running but don't profess to being very good at it. In reality I am probably just a jogger. I started this madness soon after leaving school and in the past 16 years have completed numerous marathons of different distances including five 90km Comrades marathons in Durban as well as various other endurance events.

I don't intend boring you with the details of running – the training, hydration, diets, carbo loading, physiotherapy, the pain, drips and how many times I vomited, But I have learnt a great number of lessons from running which I have used and which I think are very applicable in everyday life....

Whether we are athletic or not in the context of life we are all marathon runners. We have all completed plenty of marathons and have the various certificates and medals to show for our achievements. We are all running various marathons right now and have plenty more to run in the future. Our lives as a whole are like a marathon – we are all in the same race but are at different stages of it. The life marathon is a slightly different race in that we all start at the same place and have all got to cross the same finish line. However, to get from the start to the finish we can choose whichever route we want and to some degree how long we would like to take. We can take the direct, probably the more boring route and see little on our way or we can take the more interesting scenic route. Our performance is measured more by what we see, experience and learn along the road, with the emphasis on making the most of the race and enjoying it. In the "life marathon" the old geysers (one only has to look around me to see them) are much further down the road than some of us. They have learnt more than I have and hence have become much better runners than I am. Most of us are still in the middle somewhere, frantically learning as we go and trying to make the right decisions along the way.

In the life marathon many of you school guys are still in the early stages. If you look back on your marathon so far you may find that :

Maybe, you started out too quickly at a pace which is not sustainable.

Maybe you are actually one of those freaks who will sustain the pace and win the race. Maybe you took a few wrong turns and are still looking for the right course. Maybe you are still lost.

Maybe you had to respond to a call of nature and stop to look for a porta loo. Maybe it was just a wee leak which didn't cost much time, maybe it was a number 2 which did.

Maybe you are on the wrong diet,

Maybe you overslept and started late,

Maybe the person you wanted to run with is holding you up or maybe its visa versa.

Maybe you feel sick or simply don't like running, maybe you are coming last.
Maybe you just want to give up and stop.

We've all been there, but guess what, IN THE LIFE MARATHON YOU CAN NEVER GIVE UP.

Maybe you've got to slow down, maybe take on some fluid, maybe ask for help or maybe have a rest. Maybe rethink your race plan.

Sometimes with endurance events it's better to start slowly at the back because one finds that often these are the people who come through strongly and pass you before the end.

There are so many marathons within life itself, some of your current marathons could be:-

Getting through exams or getting through school for that matter;

Choosing a career,

Overcoming a sickness or injury;

Courting or even marriage (now that's a scary ultra not for the faint hearted);

It could be an actual sporting event;

Or, right now it is probably just getting through my boring speech.

One of the great things about running is that running is a great leveller. At the start of the race there are all walks of life. The educated lawyers and doctors, to the less educated unemployed and even board chairmen of certain private senior boys' schools. There are the young and old - people you would normally associate with and people you would not be seen dead with. People who have run that particular race or other races before and others who are total running novices. The leveller is that we are all in it together. For the duration of the race we all have the same goal, we are all going to hurt and all experience the same things. There is a great feeling of "I am not alone". The other great thing is that at the end of the day when we cross the finish line we will all be winners. Yes, only one person can cross the line first but we can all win our individual races. This could be to set a new best time, just to finish the race, to complete the distance (or the day after) more comfortably or to help somebody along the way. At the end we will all stand proud of what we have done and we will have won.

There are a few basic principles and guidelines which I try, but don't always succeed, to follow when running a marathon and I have found these useful and applicable to any goals or problems that we may encounter in life:

1. Preparation -

Anything we want to achieve takes planning and preparation – we can only expect to take out what we have put in. From a running perspective we've got to put in many early mornings and miles and miles of training schedules. We've got to choose the right equipment, the right shoes.

A good example is swatting for exams. I remember in my school days as exams drew nearer there would be much banter in the common room after a weekend. Everybody seemed to be having so much fun but not doing any studying. Did you study? – Nah. Then they go on and get straight A's. I believed they were so much brighter than me that they didn't need to work as hard. But I can tell you now that is bull. If they got out A's they put in A's. I remember my Biology teacher, Mrs. Carew, always had a saying that if your exam preparations were not in final stages by the time the jacarandas bloomed you would fail. I see them blooming now so how do you guys stand?

2. Identifying objectives, setting targets and planning a strategy. –

The first part of strategy is to make a decision to run. I run because I enjoy it and I know that it's good to keep fit and healthy. But I also know that if I don't target and make a decision to compete in at least one specific race a year I will never have the commitment to keep training and working towards it. It's too easy to make excuses and find something else to do.

Goal setting is something we have to learn. If you think of your school environment, your goals are all set out by your teachers, parents and the system. Here is an assignment – do it this way and have it completed by this date.

The funny thing is when we move out into the big world we've got to set our own targets in order to keep ourselves motivated and focused. Personally this is something running taught me a great deal about.

Often in life our problems seem insurmountable. Believe me at 30 k's into a 90k run another 60 k's seems impossible. I have found that to get through I have to break the big problem into little chunks and just tackle one at a time. I break the 90 k run into 3 x 30 k or 9 x 10 k runs. If we concentrate on the one in hand and not the next, the big picture seems less intimidating. I hate to keep mentioning exams but I really hate them and they are another prime example – study for one at a time and tackle one at a time. The other part of strategy is to identify our weak points and work on them. We all have Achilles heels that hinder our performance and success. From a running point of view my weak point is my upper body strength – most grannies in retirement homes are stronger and certainly bigger-chested than I. From a personality point of view my inability to handle criticism is probably my biggest weakness.

The final part of strategy is to develop good support structures to help us. These may be a partner or a parent. To be in with the wrong crowd, to train with the wrong people will always destroy this structure.

Remember, the plan always needs to be reassessed and re-evaluated as we go along.

3. The third principle is perseverance – Never, ever give up!
Long endurance events do funny things to your body and your mind. At the end of races I've seen grown men cry and plenty of woman - like hormonal bickering.! After running for between 3 to 4 hours, we have a thing in running that we call "hitting the wall". Your legs go dead, your muscles ache, you have a total lack of energy and often dizziness and nausea. The medical reason for this is that until this point your body is burning up glycogen reserves for energy. When you "hit the wall" your glycogen is all used up and your body is now making the change to burning up fat and muscle for energy. The secret here is to keep your mind together because it only lasts for about 30 minutes to an hour. Before a race I try to remind myself of the wall, tell myself it will happen and try to be prepared to get through it. I tend to almost always to forget. My friend Kieran Walsh, probably known to many of you, is a good example of a person who can achieve through being mentally positive – although in his case to be mentally challenged probably helps! I have seen him at the end of the run, bleeding from his nipples, legs and feet without even being aware of it. He is mentally so strong that he can just focus on the finish line and not get bogged down by anything in between.

A quick story about him: on one of his runs, he saw a tennis ball lying in the road, so he picked it up and put it in his pocket and carried on. At the end of his session, standing around catching his breath, one of his colleagues noticed the bulge, which had moved around to the front a bit. "What's that?" he asked. "Oh", said Kieran, "its tennis ball". "That must be painful" came the reply, "I had tennis elbow once and that was bad enough!"

In life there are many walls that we have to hit and get through, lets face it, particularly so in Zimbabwe. Let's consider CBC for a moment. What a milestone it has reached this year. 50 years and looking stronger and stronger with each year. One only has to look around at the number and quality of officials, trainers (the staff) and indeed spectators. Yes, we are all concerned about the future of our private schools but could this problem not just be a glyco wall? Possibly CBC is out of glyco reserves but has adequate

reserves of fat and muscle to go the full distance. Could the same be true for the economy of our country. The Glco reserves can always be replenished.

4. The fourth and final principle is to enjoy the race and to allow ourselves the chance to celebrate our success.

How true is the common saying "Life's a journey enjoy the ride". I know a lot of people in business who hate their jobs and hate what they do. What a shame. Many of them probably hated school too. How many of our friends have left Zimbabwe because they were unhappy, only to find that they are even more unhappy elsewhere. If they could only look at the bright side and pick out the pluses.

In conclusion, I would like to leave a message particularly directed at those pupils who are due to leave school in the next year or two.

Guys, you have been so very fortunate in the start of your marathon of life. Your parents have afforded you the best training available in what I believe to be the best country you could ever wish to compete. The platform has been set and it's now up to you.

- Set you goals and choose your direction.
- Make every decision and action count.
- Don't be scared to stand up for what you believe in or to take a stand and be counted.
- When you succeed, celebrate and enjoy – you deserve it. When you don't, learn from your mistakes, get up and try again.
- Most importantly enjoy what you do and make the most of every opportunity. Don't have any regrets.

As you move through life give thought to what marathons you want to run but make sure you run them and run them well. Whatever you do don't give up, don't bomb out.

Have a gas and kick some serious butt !!.

Good luck to you all, we'll see you out there on the road of life (if its you that are passing me at the time, please do it quietly and respectably).

Thank you.

Peter Tipler

A few more thoughts:

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Bill Cosby

"I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people."

Lord Baden-Powell, 1st Baron of Gilwell

"Never speak about the good you are going to do, simply do it. Then there would be no need to speak."

"Only one power is greater than the atomic bomb – the spirit and soul of man."

Albert Schweitzer



1st Bulawayo (Pioneer) Scout Troop

Troop Programme of Activities for September to December 2006

September

1 – 2	Monthly Hike
5	Schools open
8	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
10	Gordon Park Service: 12:00 noon
15 – 17	William Arnold Carnegie Assegai Competition: Gordon Park
22	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
29	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
30	Provincial Cook-Out Competition: Milton Junior School

October

6 – 7	Monthly Hike
8	Gordon Park Service: 12:00 noon
13	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
14	Scout Memorial Service for Fr Odilo Weeger: Gordon Park, 2000 hours
14 – 15	Parent's Camp: Gordon Park
20 – 22	JOTA/JOTI Camp: NUST
27	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene

November

3 – 4	Monthly Hike
10	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
12	Gordon Park Service: 12:00 noon
17	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
24	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene (Sausage Sizzle)
25	Provincial Scout Award Ceremony

December

1 – 2	Monthly Hike
5	Schools Close
8	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene
10	Gordon Park Service: 12:00 noon
8 – 10	National Patrol's Competition: Ruwa Park, Harare (to be advised)
15	Troop Meeting: Mabukuwene (last meeting of the year)
25	Christmas Day

Pantomime Duty Dates to be advised

Additional Activities may be added to the Programme