



Victoria Scout Group

News sheet

Nº: 183

[July – September] October 2013

From the *Group Scout Leader* Lorrie Saliba

*50 Years of Service
to the Community
1963 - 2013*



By the time you receive this issue of the Newsheet, summer will be over and the group would have gone into the winter routine with weekly meetings and outdoor activities. But first I would like to start this article by thanking the leaders for a job well done during summer camp. The boys enjoyed every minute of their respective programmes thanks to these dedicated leaders. Another thank you goes to the kitchen team for the varied and good food they prepared during camp. This year's camp barbeque registered the biggest number of guests attending. My heartfelt thanks go to the group council members and to those parents who gave a helping hand in the preparations for the barbeque and the cleaning afterwards. Feeding around 600 guests in less than 1 ½ hours is no joke. Well done to all! Thanks also go to the Venture Unit and to the Hamrun Scouts' bagpipes for the spectacular opening of the campfire. They made this year's occasion a memorable one, which will stay in our minds for many years to come.

I started my article by saying that now the sections have started the weekly meetings and outdoor activities. It is during these activities that our members are continuously helped to develop

their capabilities and characters and thus benefit from the Scout Method. I insist that you parents encourage your children not to miss meetings and other activities without a valid reason. We also have to keep in mind the efforts and sacrifices of our leaders and the fact that this is all done on a voluntary basis. I would like to make it clear that those members whose attendance is not regular will no longer be allowed to be part of our Group.

Since the last issue of the News Sheet, the group continued with its programme to commemorate its 50th anniversary. These included the blood donating session at the Gozo

General Hospital, the outing and barbeque for people with special needs, the issue of a First Day Cover and a personalized stamp commemorating this special event, the exhibition at the Ministry Hall, the church parade at the Cathedral and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at our headquarters.

In the coming months the group is going to continue with other activities to celebrate its anniversary. Foremost amongst these is the publishing of a book which narrates the history of the group. The author is ex - Scout Mr Carm Cachia. Thanks to three individuals who are sponsoring these books, the group will give a free copy to all its present members. Thanks also to all those who contributed towards the publication of this book which is a dream come true. I wish that all ex Scouts would get a copy .

cont. turn over ➡



The GSL Lorrie Saliba seems to be enjoying the campfire.



Visitors to Summer Camp 2013 -from the left - International Commissioner Dr Kevin Camilleri, Secretary of the Association Dr Anthony Abela Medici, former Chief Scouts Vincent Cassar and James Rizzo, the present Chief Scout Dr Arthur Azzopardi, the GSL Lorrie Saliba, the Chief Commissioner Leslie Bonnici, Group Patron and former Chief Commissioner and GSL Joseph G Grech and AGSL Gorg Said

Views expressed in this publication are personal and not necessarily those of the Victoria Scout Group as a whole, or of the Scout Association of Malta.

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From the Scout Group Leader

Another activity will be a mass at the Victoria cemetery, which will be offered for the repose of ex-group chaplains and council officials. Each section will organize a good turn. The group will take part in a fund raising activity at Independence Square, the proceeds of which will be presented to the President of Malta for the Community Chest Fund. For this activity the group needs the full support of the parents and supporters. Three years ago, during a similar activity, the group managed to raise more than four thousand euro which were presented to President Abela. Let's make the sum collected on our anniversary year a bigger one. More details about this activity will be sent to you by post.

On behalf of the Group I thank you for your continuous support and wish you all the best.



ASL Jesmond Scerri, GSL Lorrie Saliba, the Chief Scout, Dr Arthur Azzopardi and SL David Grech share a joke

A point to Ponder with the Editor – Anita Muscat

Scouting – Education for life.
What kind of Education?
What kind of life?



Throughout the years, Scouting has been defined in different ways. However all these definitions of Scouting have one thing in common: Scouting is about providing education. This is and should remain the core business of the Movement, providing young people with opportunities to learn and develop themselves as happy people and active citizens.

Scouting is one of the leading movements in the field of non-formal education. The mission of Scouting is *“to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.”*

During the 39th World Scout Conference in 2011, the World Organization of the Scout Movement reaffirmed this educational profile and adopted the phrase *“Education for Life”* to express a common goal, something the Movement must strive to offer its members.

We live in a fast changing society and this affects the needs and aspirations of children and young people. To reflect on and to address these constantly changing needs, the **1st World Scout Education Congress** will be held between the 22nd and 24th November 2013 in Hong Kong. The organizing committee is inviting volunteers and professionals involved in supporting the Educational Methods in Scouting at national, regional and world levels. It is also inviting experts in the theory of education and representatives from other youth organizations to contribute by giving their perspectives. All these participants will share, discuss and debate their experiences and expertise in order to review the assumptions and practices by which the Scout Organization operates.

During the 3 days of the congress, a daily theme will reflect on:

- The life and society Scouting prepares for
- The education Scouting provides
- The impact of Scouting in the life of young people and their communities

The focal points around which discussions will revolve will be Scouting values, leadership, trends in youth and education, the Scout Method, competencies and skills for life, unity and diversity, youth empowerment, learning environments and managing adult resources in the Movement.

Besides participating physically at the event itself, one can also participate through one of the online platforms (such as the Facebook page of the event) which are being developed for this purpose.

One of the challenges that Scouting faces today is not only to remain relevant, but also to constantly innovate and adapt to the rapid changes in the world while maintaining the core values of Scouting. According to João Armando Gonçalves, one of the members of the World Scout Committee, this congress will serve *“to look both inside and outside of our Movement and reflect on where we want to go.”*

(Information taken from documents issued by WOSM)

Santa Lucija Dinner

At the beginning of July, the group organized an open air dinner at the hamlet of Santa Lucija. The activity was very well attended by parents and supporters. The ideal weather conditions, the good food offered, the subtle background music and the suggestive location made the occasion a very pleasant one for those who attended.

Ventures James Grillage, Mark Portelli, Matthew Parnis, Jurgen Attard, Matthew Azzopardi, Leader Giacomo Xerri and Venture David Saliba help out at the dinner.



This pasta dish will soon be served.

WE WERE THERE Santa Marija Parade

As has been customary for these past 49 years, the group provided a guard of honour to H.E. the President of Malta, Dr George Abela and to the Minister for Gozo, Dr Anton Refalo at the agrarian show held on Santa Marija's feast at Villa Rundle Gardens. On his way in, the president stopped to talk to several members of the group.



The President talks to the Cubs

50th anniversary exhibition for the Victoria Scout Group

by CSL Anita Muscat

As part of the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Victoria Scout Group, the group held an exhibition in the hall at the Gozo Ministry, which exhibition narrated the history of the group from 1963 to 2013. Dr Grazio Mercieca, chief of staff at the Gozo Ministry inaugurated the exhibition. During his speech, Dr Mercieca congratulated the group for their sterling work among Gozitan children and youths. He talked about the purpose of the Scout Movement which is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. This is achieved by involving the members in a non-formal educational process which includes the learning by doing method, the importance that Scouts work in small groups, learn to be independent and that they care for the environment. The Scout Promise and Law emphasize duty to God and country and the need to help others at all times.

He praised past and present leaders and said they had done their best to pass on these values and to ensure that the hundreds of members throughout these 50 years learned new skills while enjoying themselves, were ready to be of service to others and become better equipped to face the future. Although the early years were quite difficult, the strong will and enthusiasm of the first leaders, especially that of the Scout Master Joseph G Grech helped to overcome those obstacles. The present Group Scout

Leader Lorrie Saliba is continuing in the footsteps of these early leaders and the group has now earned a reputation for being one of Gozo's most admired NGO's.

The exhibits demonstrated what happened in those early years, how the group worked hard to build its own headquarters, the group's participation in local, national and international activities. It included information about the different sections within the group and their respective training programmes. The instruments used by the Scout band were also exhibited. Various recognitions which the group received such as Għarfien Nazzjonali Żgħażaġħ fis-Socjeta (2004), Gieħ Għawdex (2007), Gieħ il-Belt Victoria (2010) and the President's Group in 2010. A miniature campsite highlighted the differences between camping methods and equipment in the 1960's and those in the present. It emphasized the importance of the Out in Scouting and the fact that notwithstanding these changes, the aims and values remained the same. Souvenirs from Scouting expeditions abroad, such as World Jamborees where thousands of Scouts from all over the world meet for a camp once every 4 years, other expeditions carried out as part requirement for awards or training purposes and other joint camps held overseas with foreign groups were put on show. Other souvenirs were donated to the group by visitors from overseas who paid a visit or stayed at the group's headquarters. Different uniforms and activity attire and the way these changed over the years were also displayed. Another clothing item unique to Scouts is a campfire blanket all covered in badges and some examples could be seen. Various examples of the Group's Newsheet which was first issued in August 1963 and which has now reached number 182 could also be viewed. Five enormous boards, one for each decade contained hundreds of photos of the various activities undertaken during these years. Many unique documents accumulated by the group along the years were distributed among the display cases. Several photo frames of council chairmen and important occasions which are usually found at headquarters were also part of the exhibition.



Council Chairman Michael Grech together with Dr Grazio Mercieca, chief of staff at the Ministry for Gozo, the Group Patron and the first Group Scout Leader, Joseph G Grech and present Asst Group Scout Leader Gorg Said together with members of the group at the opening ceremony



The Scouts view the exhibits.



Dr. Grazio Mercieca, chief of staff at the Ministry for Gozo, the Group Patron and the first Group Scout Leader, Joseph G Grech and some of the leaders of the group at the opening ceremony



A view of the Scout exhibition.

A Portuguese Night

During July, former Scout Leader Lawrence Sciberras, his wife Roseann and their family (who now live in Portugal) were on holiday in Gozo for a few weeks. At that time the group was at camp, so Lawrence and Roseann thought of organizing a Portuguese night. Roseann was very busy replicating lot of Portuguese delicacies and making use of authentic ingredients brought over for the occasion from Portugal.

And what a feast that was! We started off with thin slices cut from an enormous *presunto* (a dry-cured ham, similar to prosciutto), more slices of *chouriço* (a spicy, pork cured sausage) and other cured meats, *queijo da ilha* (São Jorge cheese) and other types of cheese, dips and dippers, hot and cold meat and vegetable dishes, The feast was rounded off with a portion of Arroz Doce (sweet rice pudding flavoured with cinnamon and lemon) and typical drinks. This was a meal to remember. "Muito obrigado," Lawrence and Roseann!

At the end of the meal, Lawrence donated a hike tent to the group. *N.B. The enormous bone from the presunto imparted a delicious flavour to a pumpkin soup a few days later. Waste not, want not! It would have been a sin to throw away such a godsend.*



Roseann checks out the food

GSL Lorrie Saliba and ASL Frank Muscat bring 'home' the enormous presunto.



Are you being served? We've got a special menu this evening, some Portuguese fare.

Lawrence presents the tent to the group.



GREETINGS FROM PORTUGAL



Dears Lorrie Saliba and Victoria Scout Group,

On behalf of all members of the Group 113 São Domingos de Rana in Portugal, we want to congratulate you for this 50th anniversary of continuous Scouting.

For the Victoria Scout Group, we wish you another 50 years improving the education and training the men and women of the future based on the principles of the Scout Law and Promise.

For the GSL Lorrie, we wish you another 50 years of enthusiasm, dedication, being a model to all and a support for the Victoria Scout Group, passing your knowledge and your example to the next generations.

Sincerely yours in Scouting,
Angelo Sousa,
Group Leader
Agr 113 São Domingos de Rana
Lisbon Region - Portugal

Forthcoming events:

- ❖ Church parade and thanksgiving mass – Sunday 6th October 2013 at the Gozo Cathedral.
- ❖ Sunday lunch under the marquee tent at Dwejra (weather permitting) will be held on Sunday 27th October.
- ❖ This year's Christmas dinner will be held at the Calypso Hotel on Saturday 21st December.
- ❖ The group will be organizing a Car Treasure Hunt in aid of I-iStrina activity on Sunday 22nd December 2013.

Please keep these dates free so that you can join us for these activities. Further details will be forwarded in due time.

Commemorative Stamp Collection

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Victoria Scout Group, a First Day Cover and 50th Anniversary Post Card as well as a special hand postmark were issued by MaltaPost in July 2013. The special postmark was used on Saturday 13 July 2013 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office.



The Commemorative Stamp Collection

Copies of these items are available from the Scout Headquarters. Those interested please contact the Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba on 79 39 89 28.

A Trip Down Memory Lane The 3rd Decade



24th February 1985 Founder's Day church parade



1987 - The Scouts help in the building of the new headquarters.



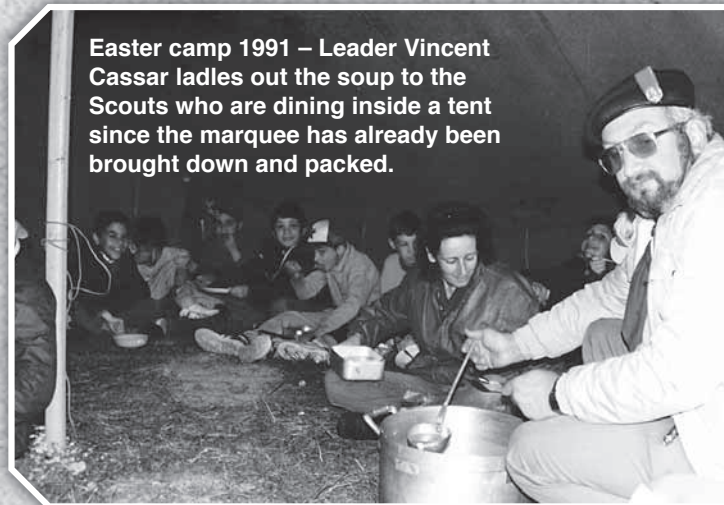
4th January 1986 - Visit by H.L. Mgr Nikol Cauchi, Bishop of Gozo



8th July 1989 - Ventures abseil down the new inaugurated headquarters.



1987 - Easter camp at Xwejni



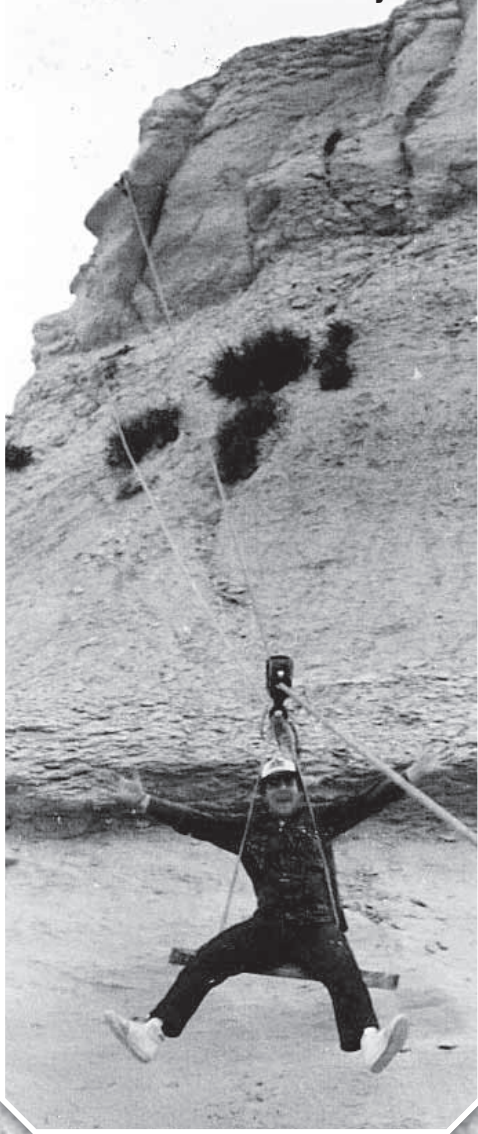
Easter camp 1991 - Leader Vincent Cassar ladles out the soup to the Scouts who are dining inside a tent since the marquee has already been brought down and packed.

Memory Lane

1983 - 1992

Sometimes a short walk down memory lane is all it takes to appreciate where you are TODAY.
(Susan Gale)

Easter Camp 1988 – The Venture Scouts' aerial runway



ERRATA CORRIGE

In the last edition, the title on this page *The First 10 Years* should have read The 2nd decade, 1973 – 1982.



8th July 1989 - The President of Malta, Dr Ċensinu Tabone unveils a plaque and declares open the new Scouts Headquarters.



8th July 1989 - The Cubs celebrate the opening of the new headquarters.



12th November 1988 – The Ventures seem happy after devouring a meal prepared for the Venture Award.

SEENEE PACK

by CSL Anita Muscat

REPORT

During the month of July the two Packs started working on the Health and Fitness Badge. Two parents, Mrs Tania Casha and Mrs Elizabeth Sultana, a dentist and a podiatrist respectively delivered a talk and a Powerpoint presentation highlighting the importance of caring for our teeth and feet. The Cubs were very interested and joined in the discussion animatedly. As usual they had a lot of questions for our professionals who patiently answered these difficulties. Our thanks go to these parents for kindly offering some of their time to be with us.

Summer camp was next on the agenda. The Cubs spend 3 days and 2 nights at camp during summer. For several boys it was their first experience and though it was not easy to be away from family members, home and all its comforts, they did their best and stuck it out till the end. **Well done!!**

This year's theme was Pirates! A joint programme was prepared for both Packs. All activities revolved around this topic. The Sixes were named after famous or rather infamous characters in the pirate world. The Cubs prepared pirates' hats which they used during their item for the campfire. This was the action song "Have you ever seen a zombie walking by?" whose lyrics were modified to reflect the theme. A Treasure Hunt took the boys all over Dwejra from one checkpoint to another in search of the pirates' loot. Working in teams, they had to decipher coded instructions and answer questions which tested their Scouting knowledge. It was good fun throughout and the treasure was really yummy!! Swimming also featured twice daily although a windy day somewhat limited our attempts at the Swimmers' Badge. However the waves at the Inland Sea were ideal for a Ram the Boat session where each team tried to sink the other's vessel (a lilo) and throw all the mates overboard into 'shark-infested waters' where they would meet a gruesome end. I would like to reassure our readers that in spite of all these shocking intentions, at the end of camp, all the mummies got their sons safe and sound with no harm to either limb or soul. The Cubs also prepared a pennant. During some night games, the pirates had to find their way blindfold to a mystery destination in pitch darkness with

PIRATES



their team mates giving them instructions and their enemies shouting at the top of their voices to confuse them. Then we had the marauding pirate chief who entered the campsite stealthily under cover of darkness and spirited away several Cubs. It was then up to the others to find his hideaways and release the prisoners. The pirate chief returned to his ship empty handed as all the prisoners were liberated from their prison.

The Cubs also participated enthusiastically in the group activity - The Poseidon Adventure. As usual, SL David Grech came up trumps with his ideas for the games offered. Teams made up of Cubs, Scouts and Ventures had a go at each of these games. Racing against time, they had to retrieve as many corks as possible from a basin full of water and bobbing corks. If you think that's easy, you should try it with your hands behind your back, kneeling down and recovering these corks with your mouth! A memory game tested their observation skills and their ability to work as a team. Another game involved searching for marbles inside a murky muddy pool. This time you had to feel about with your hands and feet in an attempt to find these marbles since visibility was close to zero and no one was so foolhardy as to duck in the water and conduct an eye search. During another game, the boys had to wriggle their way under a set of ropes which skimmed the surface of another shallow and muddy pool. On their exit they dripped mud from all over their bodies. Water balloons featured prominently in two other games. In one game, the Scouts had to pass them from one team member to another without bursting them. In the second game, they had to throw the balloons and hit other team members placed at different distances from the 'thrower'. All in all it was great fun for all!

After camp, 3 of our Cubs joined the Troop. We wish Malcolm, Christian and David all the best in their new section. Meetings resumed at the end of September. An interesting and exciting programme is already planned for the coming months. Be prepared for more fun Cubs!

N.B. (A strange condition called 'mummy-itis' often strikes some of our younger members at camp especially towards night time! We need to investigate this peculiar occurrence and find a cure as soon as possible. Any suggestions out there?)



Podiatrist Elizabeth Sultana explains how we should take care of our feet.



Simon Rapa manages to pass through the muddy course.



Welcome to our tent, our home.



A group photo of the Packs at the Inland Sea.

The *Venture* Unit

By
Venture Scout
**Matthew
Azzopardi**

The Unit opened its account for the month of July by giving a helping hand at the group's annual fundraising dinner at St Lucija village square. Here the Ventures helped in all aspects, from the setting up or dismantling of the site, to serving the guests. It was quite a successful activity in which the Ventures worked together as a team to obtain the best possible results for the group.

Apart from this, the Unit decided to celebrate the start of summer 2013 with an exhilarating activity that would not only serve as a completely new experience for the Ventures, but also as a challenge for them – **diving**. In this activity, the Ventures got the chance to experience one of the thrills of the modern world. With the help of several instructors, the Ventures explored the world beneath the sea at Xwejni. During this activity, all of the Ventures had a lot of fun and will surely never forget this unique and breathtaking experience with the Unit.

For the group, the transition between July and August signals the arrival of the annual summer camp. This year

though, the camp was a special one since it was part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of our group. At camp, the Ventures work hard every day in the setting up of the campsite, and also in the preparation for the BBQ and campfire. The Unit also built a huge tower for the campfire...in a new record... the tower was constructed in just five hours! Besides this, the Unit had its own activities. Apart from taking part in the group's activity, and in a treasure hunt with the Troop, the Ventures also carried out other activities like archery, kayaking, swimming, and abseiling. The Ventures also tried out a completely new activity... building and sleeping in camp-made hammocks. The Unit first made three hammocks out of canvas and rope and placed them in a hut built as another pioneering project. The Unit then took turns to sleep in these hammocks at night, but it was a successful endeavour as the Ventures enjoyed themselves in this new challenge. In August, apart from the camp, the Unit also attended the parade and exhibition at Villa Rundle on the Feast of the Assumption of Saint Mary.



An underwater experience awaits Pierre Bugeja, Beppe Galea and Mark Portelli

The Unit started the month of September with a wonderful night hike through the idyllic Gozitan scenery and slept in the woody area under Chambray. The highlight of September was of course the Group's exhibition in commemoration of the 50 years since the beginning of the Group. Therefore, the Unit helped in the setting up of the exhibition and also attended to the opening of this exhibition.

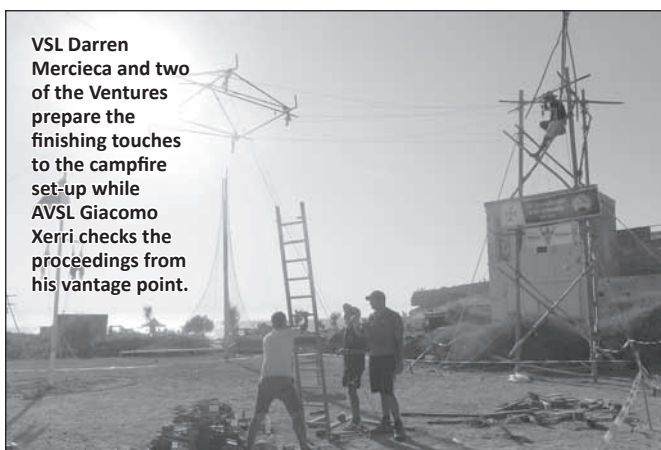
From the Executive's perspective, I can say that these last three months have not only been a great success for the Unit, but have also served to tighten the bonds of friendship between all Ventures. And, of course, now that the new scholastic year is up and about, we would like to wish all of our Ventures and fellow Scouts a successful school year!



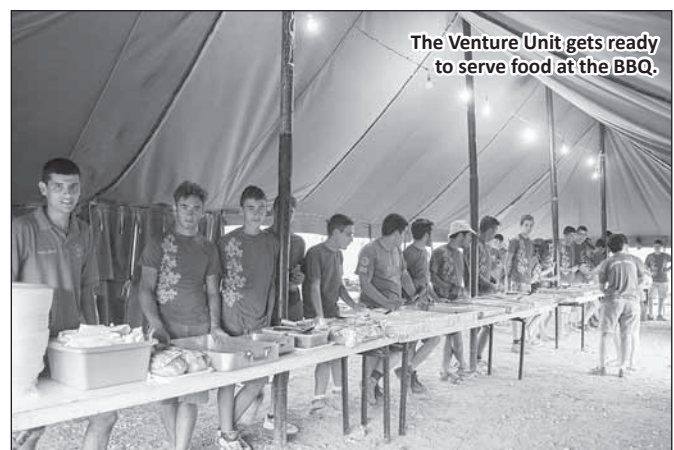
Mathew Parnis and David Saliba take their turn at the hammocks.



Preparing for the group BBQ - Ventures Mark A, Pierre, Mark P and George Chris are having a hard time putting up this pole.



VSL Darren Mercieca and two of the Ventures prepare the finishing touches to the campfire set-up while AVSL Giacomo Xerri checks the proceedings from his vantage point.



The Venture Unit gets ready to serve food at the BBQ.

Badges and Awards for July to September 2013

Packs

Attard Mark - Mowgli
 Bajada Clint – Swimmer Stage 1
 Camilleri Neil - Kaa
 Ellul Dorian - Mowgli
 Farrugia David- Mowgli
 Galea David - Kaa
 Galea Karl – Entertainer, Local Historian
 Galea Mike Angel - Mowgli
 Grech Jean Pierre - Swimmer Stage 1, Mowgli
 Grech Jeremy Paul – Mowgli
 Portelli Malcolm - Kaa

Rapa Simon - Swimmer Stage 1, Mowgli, Astronomer
 Sultana Russell - Mowgli
 Terribile Michele - Swimmer Stage 1, Kaa
 Xerri Benjamin - Swimmer Stage 1
 Xerri Samuel - Scientist
 Xerri Jerrod – Kaa
 Xiberras Christian – Kaa

Unit

Attard Jurgen - Theseus
 Bugeja Pierre – Theseus
 Galea Beppe - - Theseus
 Parnis Matthew - Theseus

Euroscola Day 2013

On Monday 29th April, a group of Gozitan 6th formers which included Venture Scouts Beppe Galea and Matthew Azzopardi, from Sir M. A. Refalo School participated in the Euroscola Day. This event was held at the EU Parliament in Strasbourg. Together with other students from different countries of the EU, the Gozitan students had the opportunity to discuss many topics including the environment, renewable energy, agriculture and Europe's future. Students also had the opportunity to question MEP Jacek Saryusz-Wolski about subjects related to the European Union, mainly about the economic crisis. The teachers also organized a visit to Paris and other interesting places near Strasbourg.



Venture Scout Beppe Galea asks a question at the European Parliament.

Venture Scouts Beppe Galea (left) and Matthew Azzopardi at the European Parliament



Blood donating session

Donating blood saves lives.



As part of the activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the group, a blood donating session was organized at the Gozo General Hospital on Sunday 1st September 2013. Around 30 persons – leaders, parents, supporters and others – participated in this good turn.

The group would like to thank all those who responded to its appeal. The group would also like to thank the staff of the National Blood Transfusion Unit and that of the Gozo General Hospital.

Volunteers Miriam Tabone and Mark Rapa with GSL Lorrie Saliba and CSL Anita Muscat and a nurse from the Blood Transfusion Service.



Mother and son Moira and Beppe Galea



A parent's experience

On the 1st of September, I accompanied my son Beppe to donate blood for the first time, as part of a generous initiative organized by the Victoria Scout Group. It was a very positive experience. We were treated like heroes for giving just 15 minutes of our time and a pint of our blood. We now look forward to remain regular, lifelong donors.

The staff at the Gozo General Hospital was very friendly and efficient. GSL Lorrie and CSL Anita supported the donors and made everyone feel comfortable. We walked away feeling like we had done something meaningful that Sunday morning. I encourage all those who can, to be generous; this small act of kindness can save lives!

Moira Galea

THANK YOU!

- The group would like to thank Galea Curmi Engineering for their generous donation.
- The group would also like to thank Caruana and Cini Co Ltd for their support.
- Another thank you goes to David's Bakery for their support.
- The group would like to thank sisters Lorenza and Lina of San Lawrenz for their generosity.

Summer Camp

Visitors to camp

Visitors to this year's summer camp included the newly elected Chief Scout, Dr Arthur Azzopardi, the Chief Commissioner Leslie Bonnici, the International Commissioner Kevin Camilleri, the Secretary of the Scout Association of Malta Dr Anthony Abela Medici, Asst Commissioner for Administration Pat Marsh, former Chief Scouts Vincent Cassar and James Rizzo and former Chief Commissioner Joseph Grech. The Mayor of Victoria, Dr Samuel Azzopardi, the Mayor of Xewkija, Pawlu Azzopardi and the Archpriest of the Cathedral parish, Mons Joseph Attard also paid a visit to the campers.

The group also hosted a group of persons with disabilities from the ARKA Respite Centre to a barbeque and campfire. This activity has been held regularly during the group's summer camp for the past 23 years.

Other visitors hailed from overseas – Spain, the United Kingdom and Austria. During the last two days, a group of Italian Scouts joined the group at camp.



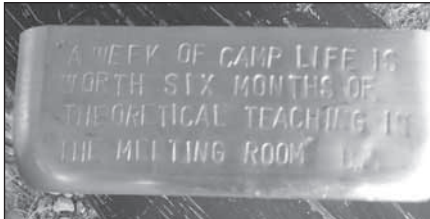
BBQ and campfire for residents of the ARKA Respite Centre



The group of Italian Scouts with the GSL



Work on the PH by AGSL George Said and AVSL Leli Mizzi



Some wise words by Lord Baden Powell



Summer Camp 2013 50th Anniversary BBQ and Campfire

by CSL Anita Muscat

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the group was also reflected in this year's preparations for the campfire thus making it more memorable than usual. This year's barbeque registered a record attendance. Around 500 guests attended. There were also around a 100 campers.

Special guests for the occasion were the newly elected Chief Scout, Dr Arthur Azzopardi and former Chief Scouts Vincent Cassar and James Rizzo, the Chief Commissioner, Leslie Bonnici, the present and former Honorary Secretary of the Scout Association of Malta, Dr Anthony Abela Medici and Robert Gonzi respectively, the International Commissioner, Dr Kevin Camilleri and the Group patron and former Chief Commissioner and Group Scout Leader, Joseph G Grech.

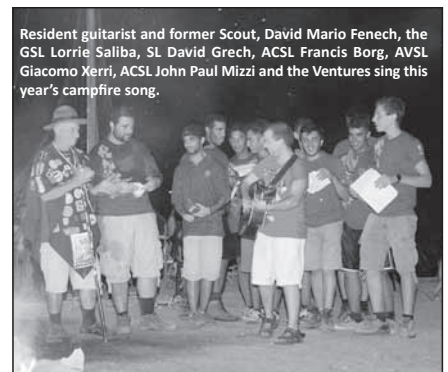
After serving the numerous items of food to all these diners, it was time for the campfire to start. The guests moved from the dining area to the campfire area and waited for the fire to be lighted.

To the surprise of those present, a fireworks display was let off. The sound of bagpipes was then heard and a group of bagpipers from the Hamrun Scout Group could be seen approaching the campsite from the Dwejra Tower. These were accompanied by 5 torchbearers. On their arrival each person explained what his light represented. The group patron and first Group Scout Leader, Mr Joseph G Grech declared that his light represented the beginnings of the group. The Group Scout Leader, Lorrie Saliba explained that his light was the continuation of the members of the group during these past 50 years. Mr Michael Grech, Group Council Chairman said his light represented the different councils within the group while Mrs Josianne Xerri represented the parents of the group's members. Dr Sunny Galea represented the group's supporters. They then used their flames to set alight four corners of the mechanism prepared by the Venture Unit which later started the campfire going. An additional fireworks display at the end of the campfire was another surprise and was welcomed by all with cheers and a round of applause.

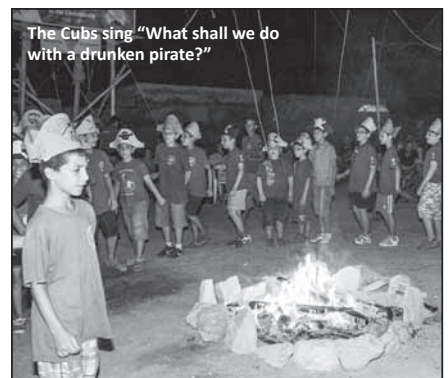
Different songs and stunts as well as the customary annual campfire song composed by former Scout David Mario Fenech entertained those present.



Some of the spectators 'volunteer' to take part in a stunt.



Resident guitarist and former Scout, David Mario Fenech, the GSL Lorrie Saliba, SL David Grech, ACSL Francis Borg, AVSL Giacomo Xerri, ACSL John Paul Mizzi and the Ventures sing this year's campfire song.



The Cubs sing "What shall we do with a drunken pirate?"

VISITORS TO HQ

Brugnettini Davide and Duzha Emanuela from Rimini, Italy

SATURDAY PACK REPORT

by CSL Mary Rose Pace

Treasure Hunts are always popular with Cubs. So as it was too hot to stay indoors, the Cubs had a Treasure Hunt at the public gardens. They were divided into Sixes. The subject chosen was pirates and so they chose their names accordingly. They had to

Juan Scerri and Benjamin Xerri with the pirate flag.



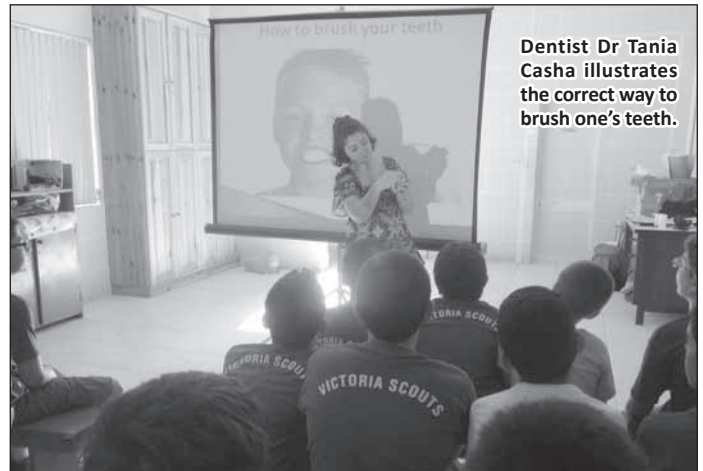
tie some knots, sing a song and answer questions about Scouting. The winners were the Caribbeans. Second place went to Jack Sparrow while the third place was assigned to the Pirates of the Caribbean.

Summer camp was next. This was held between the 29th and the 31st July. Again the theme was pirates. Treasure hunts and Swimmers' Badges were some of the activities held. During the first night, the Cubs went for a night hike to the village of St Lawrence. A joint activity with the Troop was the Poseidon Adventure. It consisted of various water and mud based games. The Cubs enjoyed these

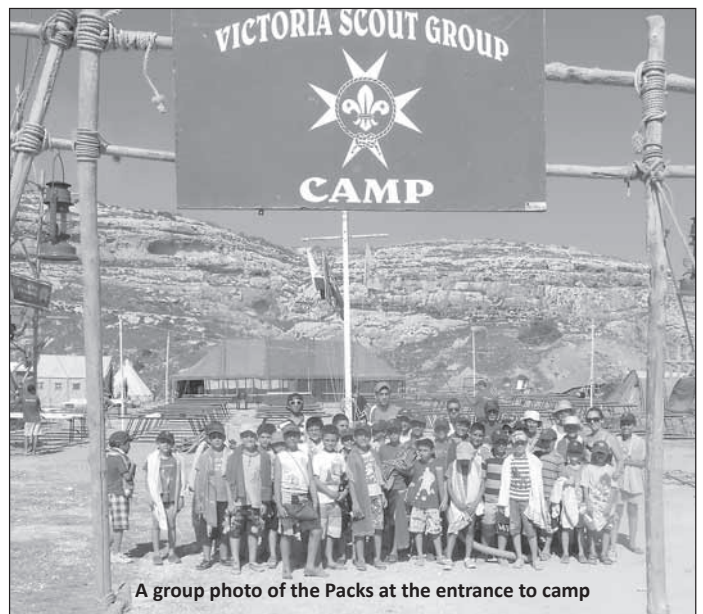
games tremendously. The last activity for camp was the campfire and all the Cubs took part in this. The Barbarossa Six won the camp competition while Barbaglialla Six, the Barbablù Six and the Barbaverde Six followed.

After camp, there was a short break from the weekly meetings. Once these meetings started in September, the Pack's size decreased by half since 10 Cubs joined the Troop. I wish these Cubs a happy life with their new section. We also welcomed some new members.

Meanwhile preparations are ongoing for more activities to celebrate our group's 50th anniversary.



Dentist Dr Tania Casha illustrates the correct way to brush one's teeth.



A group photo of the Packs at the entrance to camp

Thanks to helpers Roseann, Moira, Anna, Maria Elena, Maria, Lino and Anita, the pots, pans, dishes, utensils etc are all spic and span.



Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you goes to those parents who gave a helping hand to Ms Maria Mercieca, Group Secretary during the group's barbeque. The help given during the preparation of the food and cleaning of headquarters on Wednesday 31st July 2013 as well as that given during the cleaning up (of the never-ending number of dishes and utensils) on Thursday 1st August at the campsite was greatly needed and very much appreciated. Organizing a barbeque for around 600 persons is no mean feat and was it not for your help and that given by others, this would not have been possible.

More thanks are addressed at those parents who turned up to help in the cleaning of the headquarters in preparation for the ceremonies and reception which followed the parade held on the 6th October 2013.

Once again, thank you all.

CHRISTMAS CAKES FOR SALE

The Group will have homemade (**un-iced**) Christmas cakes for sale. The cakes will be 18 cm in diameter and will cost €10.00. Special orders for iced ones will also be accepted. You can place your orders with the Group Scout Leader on 79 39 89 28 or CSL Anita Muscat on 99 20 98 05 till the end of November.

