



# Victoria Scout Group

## News sheet

Nº: 184

[October - December ] January 2014

### From the Group Scout Leader

Lorrie Saliba

This is the last issue of the News Sheet for the year 2013. During this year the group commemorated its Golden Jubilee (1963-2013). The activities held during the past twelve months, activities that were aimed for our present members, parents, supporters and ex Scouts brought back lots of memories to all. To realize the programme planned by the anniversary sub-committee was a big challenge for all, and I am proud to say that all the activities planned were carried out

Some highlights worth mentioning are: the group's hymn, which was sung for the first time by the established choir Laudate Pueri at Saint George's Basilica during a mass which opened the group's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations; the personalised stamp and first day cover issued by Malta Post; the scarf badge with the logo of Città Victoria which is to be worn permanently by the group members and the anniversary badge which was worn on the uniform during the anniversary year. Another activity, the Family Fun Day, aimed for the group's families, was appreciated by all those who took part. The summer camp's campfire, attended by the Chief Scout and several ex-Chief Scouts had a spectacular opening and ending, something to remember for a long time to come. The weekend camp for ex-members of the group and the exhibition held at the Gozo Ministry brought nostalgic memories to all those who attended. The highlight of all activities was the church parade at the Gozo Cathedral and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at headquarters. In November a mass for the repose of ex-group chaplains and other officials was held at Santa Maria cemetery. Several relatives of these officials attended. The chaplain and I put flowers and lit a candle on the tombs of these former officials.

The launching of a book narrating the history of the group was a dream come true. My heartfelt thanks go to ex-Scout Carm Cachia for an excellent job. Various good turn activities towards different institutions brought the anniversary activities to an end. The proceeds of the last two activities held were presented to I-iStrina campaign.

50 Years of Service  
to the Community  
1963 - 2013



The Minister for Gozo, Dr Anton Refalo unveils the commemorative plaque at HQ.

In order for this programme to be executed we needed all sorts of help. First of all I would like to thank my colleagues, the group council members and leaders, parents and many other people for their support.

In mid-December the group lost a faithful supporter, Dr Joseph Grech who also served as the group's chairman between 1978 and 1982. After his chairmanship Dr Grech continued supporting the group by attending almost all our fund raising activities. The last activity he attended was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary church parade held in October. My condolences go to his wife Monique and his children.

*cont. turn over*



The commemorative plaque.

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.

*From the Scout Group Leader*



*Group photo in front of the Cathedral.*

Once again I would like to thank all those who were of some help during 2013. These include the parents who trust their children in our care as well as supporters and friends. A big thank you goes to the council members whose work is not always appreciated and the leaders who give their utmost for the benefit of our members.

While looking forward to future challenges and innovations, let us work to maintain Scouting traditions by following the principles of Scouting as proposed at its inception so that our group remains a true Scout group and not simply a youth centre.

# Strina 2013 activities

by CSL Anita Muscat



A stop during the bike hike

As part of the celebrations of its 50th anniversary, the group organized two fund raising activities in aid of the Strina campaign. L-iStrina is Malta's major charity event and is organised by The Malta Community Chest Fund under the auspices of his Excellency the President of Malta..

The first was a bike hike held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. This year two routes were planned. One was intended for the younger participants while a more rigorous one awaited the more experienced bikers. The two groups were accompanied by a police escort and members of the Emergency Response and Rescue Corps and their ambulance. *cont. opposite*



GSL Lorrie Saliba and CSL Anita Muscat present the group's donation.



Our youngest cyclist, Benjamin, aged 5 is on his way with Akela Anita and ASL Jesmond Scerri.

*A point to Ponder*  
with the Editor – Anita Muscat

## Nelson Mandela – Gone Home!



Were you aware that Nelson Mandela was the Patron of Scouts South Africa?

South Africa's anti apartheid icon, Nobel prize laureate and a great supporter of Scouting, Nelson Mandela - passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2013. Scouts from around the world received this news with great sadness.

Upon becoming President of South Africa in 1994, Dr Mandela recognised the pioneering role of Scouting in integrating South African society when he accepted to become the Association's Patron. Under his patronage, the Scout movement made tremendous progress and is today the largest youth organisation in South Africa. In 1999, this Scout Association played host to the world when the 35th World Scout Conference was held in Durban. Today, South African Scouting is at the forefront of the campaign against HIV/AIDS.

In April 2004, Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa was awarded the Africa Elephant Award,

the highest Scouting Award given by the Africa Scout Committee for his continued support of the growth and development of the Scout Movement and for his commitment to the dignity and freedom of all people, including the development of youth and education. The award was presented on April 23 by the Vice Chairman of the Africa Scout Committee, Nkwenkwe Nkomo, who is also the Chief Scout of South Africa.



*great inspiration for all Scouts around the world. Today, over 40 million Scouts join the rest of the world in mourning for this great loss and we pray for his soul to rest in peace."*

In his speeches, Nelson Mandela often referred to the Scout Movement:

*"The importance of a high moral code, which is at the foundation of the Scout movement, cannot be stressed too highly."*

*"The Scout Movement is a world leader in educating youth. It has particular relevance to the needs of youth in Africa and the emerging democracies around the globe."*

*"Scouting inspires patriotism, sound moral values, courage, character-building, self-reliance and community awareness. It also motivates our young people to achieve their full potential." - Nelson Mandela*

In naming their Patrols, Units and Groups 'Mandela', Scouts in Africa identify themselves with those values to which he dedicated his life.

Scott Teare, the Secretary General of WOSM said: *"He is and will remain a*

Speaking about his mortality, Mandela once said: *"Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace."*

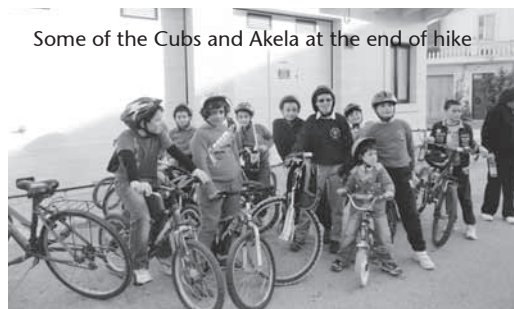
These are words of a man who knew his purpose in life and was totally dedicated to it. This purpose, described in the statement above, is very similar to the fundamental principles of Scouting, duty to God, duty to others and duty to self. His determination, perseverance, courage and self-sacrifice for the good of other people are qualities that all Scouts should emulate as they endeavour to live in accordance with the Scout Law and Promise.

Indeed Madiba was a great pathfinder who strove to leave the world a little better than he found it.

*(Information taken from documents issued by WOSM and the website of the Leicestershire Scouts)*

Another activity was a Car Treasure Hunt held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The starting point was the square at Munxar. A series of challenges spread around Gozo awaited the participants.

The proceeds from these two activities as well as other donations from parents, supporters and the group itself amounted to €1000. This was presented to the organizing committee during a variety charity show held at the Astra Theatre on Strina Day, 26<sup>th</sup> December 2013.



Car Treasure Hunt - SL David Grech with the winning team and the runners up

# TROOP REPORT

by SL David Grech

September not only marks the end of the summer holidays and of returning back to the routine of winter and school but it also marks the start of a new Scouting year. Each year the Troop tries to prepare a programme that fully uses one of the pillars of Scouting, the Patrol. Citing our founder Lord Baden Powell: *The Patrol System is the one essential feature in which Scout training differs from that of all other organizations. The Patrol is the unit of Scouting, always.*

On this thought, the Patrol Leaders' Council, together with the leaders, structure the activities to fully incorporate the Patrol System. The first activity where this was put in practice was the annual Halloween activity. This year the Patrol had to come up with an innovative design for a jack o lantern. All Patrols showed a range of skills and the final products were pumpkins carved in a variety of ways. The other part of the evening was dedicated to a range of games and activities with a horror theme. Here the Patrols had to wrap the Mummy, evade the wicked witch and search through the gooey Pandora box for hidden gems.

Before the Halloween activity, the Troop also organized a day hike where the whole Troop hiked from HQ all the way to Ramla bay, passing through Nadur where, upon arriving, each Patrol prepared an open fire and cooked up a meal for the Patrol. After clearing up the fires, the Troop headed back to HQ passing through Ramla valley.

November saw 2 activities being held in Dwejra. The first one was a fun day of games held in Dwejra valley where the main activity centred on a Patrol of pirates trying to hijack



*The Troop paint the spars.*

various shipping routes and their trades. Each Patrol had the chance to be pirates and try to disrupt the shipping trades of the other Patrols.

The other activity at Dwejra was the annual Mini Olympics. The Patrols had to decide to which event each and every one of them would subscribe. These events included; races, high jump, long jump, shot put, javelin, relays and marathons. Over a period of three hours Scouts competed across these track and field events to determine the overall top athletic Patrol.

December's main event was a district camp organized for Patrol Leaders of both the Victoria and Xaghra Troops. In all, 14 participants took part in a weekend full of sessions and events that focused on leadership and Patrol management. The highlight of the camp was the 6 course meal that the PL's had to prepare with a box of mystery ingredients. Both teams came up with a menu that could compete in top restaurants. This activity's main focus was to see how the team works together to come up with the best menu using a set amount of ingredients and manage time in an efficient manner. A big thank you is due to leaders from both Troops for running this camp impeccably.

Looking forward to the new year, the Troop is looking to the approaching Easter camp but before that the leaders are busy adding up the scores of 2012-2013 to come up with the Scout that will win the Scout of the Year award. This award is given to the Scout that during the course of the year demonstrates that he truly observes the Scout law and promise. He should take an active part in all Troop and group activities, even those which sometimes seem boring or are held at different times. He should always be on his best behaviour and is a model for other Scouts, is reliable and is able to work in a team. He should always try to improve himself and his Patrol by following the Scout programme and work towards achieving the best while working in the Patrol. Some years this award is very straight forward with the top Scout being a cut above the rest. This year however the race was very close with few points separating the first three places. So without further delay... The winner of this year is..... *to be continued*



*Pumpkin carving*

## Visitors to HQ

Dr Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo  
 Dr Arthur Azzopardi, Chief Scout  
 Leslie Bonnici, Chief Commissioner  
 Joseph Borg, Deputy Chief Commissioner  
 Vincent Cassar and James Rizzo, former Chief Scouts  
 Fr Anton Briffa, OFM, chaplain of the Scout Association  
 Cedric Salafia, Hamrun Scout Pipe Band

Various Group Scout Leaders and Scouters from different Scout Groups in Malta and Gozo as well as parents and supporters of the Victoria Scout Group  
 David and Jill Clements –UK  
 Saliba Ignatius, ex-Scout – Canada  
 Mrs Monique Grech  
 Natalie, Bevis and Isabelle Parker – UK  
 Peter Pace, ex-Scout - Qormi

# SECOND PACK REPORT

by **CSL Anita Muscat**

On resuming meetings in September, several new boys joined the Pack. In the following months more new members joined. So now we would like to give a warm welcome to Nathan A, Nathan B, Rovyin, Michael R, Presley, Sam, Mark, Gabriel, Jean Pierre, Christian and Michael M within our Scouting family.

In the middle of October, both Packs participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Jamboree On the Internet – J.O.T.I. This year's theme was **LET'S SHARE**. During the chatting sessions, held under the leaders' supervision, contacts were established with various countries, amongst which were Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Denmark, Gibraltar, Germany, Greece, South Africa and Italy. The Cubs then had to complete certain tasks and challenges. One of these was preparing the peace tree and decorating it with as many Tsurus as possible. In Japan where the next world Scout Jamboree will be held, the Tsuru is a sacred bird. Legend has it that this bird lives for a 1000 years and that it has the power to grant wishes. So the Cubs folded lots of coloured paper to form Tsurus which they then stuck onto a dead branch. Later they made the Messengers of Peace \*\*symbol with their hands and made a wish for peace among nations.

Another highlight for this period was the sleepover. Since this coincided with Halloween, a party with a spooky theme started the evening. Cubs were invited to bring costumes to get into the feel of it all. So we had lots of skeletons, wizards, ghosts, pirates etc who joined in the fun and special games such as the pumpkin roll relay race complete with brooms and baby pumpkins. Singing and dancing to themed music added to the (anything but) creepy and eerie atmosphere. Dinner and a campfire followed. Finally it was time for a filmshow. This time, as befitted the occasion, the film chosen was Hotel Transylvania complete with Count Dracula and his fellow monster guests - Frankenstein and his wife, the Mummy, the Invisible Man, the Werewolf family and others who meet at his 5-star hotel to celebrate his beloved daughter's 118<sup>th</sup> birthday. The trouble (and the fun) started when a human being inadvertently stumbles into the party, into the place which serves as a hideaway for monsters and where human beings are not allowed. Snacks, popcorn, crisps etc were distributed during the filmshow and this was met with resounding approval as was the hot chocolate and other goodies provided before going to bed. The hall at headquarters became the sleeping quarters for the night. One by one, the Cubs dozed off till the next morning when they were woken up with a bang, literally. Although this noisy awakening with band instruments and kitchen equipment repeats itself every year, the Cubs still expect it and enjoy it tremendously.

As their good turn for Christmas, the Packs paid a visit to St Domenic Home for the Elderly. They sang Christmas carols and several Scout songs. They then spent some time talking to the residents and gave each a gift. A joint Christmas party was held at headquarters. Lots of noisy games, good food and a visit by Father Christmas made it an enjoyable experience. At the end of another year, some thanks are due. First of all, I would like to thank my fellow leaders Edith- Rikki, Francis-Raksha, James-Mowgli and John Paul – Chil for their help and support throughout the year. Other thanks go to the GSL Lorrie Saliba, leaders from the other sections, council members and parents who were ready to provide a helping hand when this was needed.

*\*\*\*World Scouting's Messengers of Peace Initiative, launched by the World Scout Committee in 2011, aims to inspire the millions of Scouts who are doing amazing things in their local communities to tell the world about it, and thus inspire other Scouts to do even more. Any Scout project that brings a positive change in a community - its health, environment, social circumstances, safety or addresses conflict - is a Messengers of Peace project.*



Joti 2013 - A session of Stomp Dancing with Mowgli James



Pasta for dinner during the sleepover



The Cubs make the Messengers of Peace symbol near their peace tree.



Group photo during the Halloween party

## AWARDS AND BADGES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Packs</b>  | <b>Attard Christian</b> – Tenderpaw             |
|   | <b>Attard Gabriel</b> – Tenderpaw               |
|   | <b>Attard Ellis James Jude</b> – Musician       |
|   | <b>Azzopardi Nathan</b> – Tenderpaw             |
|   | <b>Bonello Nathan</b> – Tenderpaw               |
|   | <b>Camilleri Neil</b> – Scientist               |
|   | <b>Casha Neil</b> – Mowgli, Craftsman, Pet Care |
|   | <b>Clark Presley</b> – Tenderpaw                |
|   | <b>Debono Royvin</b> – Tenderpaw                |
|   | <b>Ellul Dorian A.</b> – Altar Server, Artist   |
|   | <b>Farrugia David</b> – Musician, Craftsman     |
|   | <b>Farrugia Mark Saviour</b> – Tenderpaw        |
| <b>Galea Karl</b> – Astronomer, Health and Fitness, Scientist, Raksha |   |
| <b>Grech Jean Pierre</b> – Tenderpaw                                  |   |
| <b>Grech Matthew</b> – Kaa, Raksha                                    |   |
| <b>Mizzi James</b> – Baloo  |   |
| <b>Morgan Sam</b> – Tenderpaw   |   |
| <b>Unit</b>   | <b>Galea Beppe</b> – Apollo, Demeter, Hermes    |
|   | <b>Parnis Paul</b> – Theseus                    |
|   | <b>Portelli Mark</b> – Theseus                  |

# *A Trip Down The The 4<sup>th</sup> Decade,*



1993 - An aerial runway during Easter camp



1993 - An AFM helicopter's visit at Easter camp



1993 - A rafting session by the Ventures during summer camp



Easter Camp 1994 - The calm AFTER the storm - the trunk with the wet equipment has sunk into the mud



1995 - Members of the Malta Contingent at the World Scout Jamboree in Holland



1997 - A campfire during Easter camp

# Memory Lane

## 1993 - 2002

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



7.11. 1998 – Dr Jacques Moreillon, Secretary-General of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, visits HQ.



1998 - The tower at summer camp



July - August 2000 – Some of the Victoria Scouts (Andrew Calleja and David Grech, furthest left) who attended the International Patrol Jamborette in Blair Atholl, Scotland together with some Scouts from Mosta and Sta Venera



Summer 2002 – Ventures David Grech, Joseph Scerri, Vince Rapa and Shawn Agius with AVSL Leli Mizzi during an expedition to Italy



Founder's Day 2002

# Victoria Scout Group

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations

**Church parade and thanksgiving mass – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013 by CSL Anita Muscat**

As part of the celebrations commemorating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Victoria Scout Group organized a church parade and a thanksgiving mass at the Gozo Cathedral on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The Hamrun Scout Band led the parade. Mass was celebrated by Mgr Joseph Mercieca, Archbishop Emeritus. Co-celebrants were Mgr Joseph Attard, Archpriest of the Cathedral parish, Mgr Joseph Farrugia, Group Chaplain, Fr Anton Briffa, OFM, Chaplain of the Scout Association of Malta, Fr John Muscat and Fr Alan Xerri, former Scouts and Fr Joseph Xerri, Guardian of the Conventual Franciscans in Victoria. Special guests for the occasion were the Minister for Gozo, Dr Anton Refalo, the Chief Scout Dr Arthur Azzopardi, the Chief Commissioner Leslie Bonnici, Joseph Borg, Deputy Chief Commissioner, as well as former Chief Scouts James Rizzo and Vincent Cassar. Mr Dave Clements, an English Scouter who is an old friend of the group came over from England for this special occasion. Numerous parents, council members, ex-Scouts and supporters were also present.

At the beginning of mass, the group chaplain read a message from H.E. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo. The bishop expressed his disappointment at not being able to attend because he was attending the general assembly of the European Episcopal Conference. During the mass, the Group Scout Leader, Lorrie Saliba together with the Scouts reaffirmed the Scout Promise. At the end of the mass, the Group Scout Leader presented a memento to the archpriest. Accompanied by the band, the group then marched back to headquarters. At Independence Square, the group saluted the Chief Scout. Back at headquarters, the Minister unveiled a commemorative



The co-celebrants during the mass



The Victoria Scout Group leaves the cathedral and marches along the streets of Victoria.



The group salutes the Chief Scout, Dr Arthur Azzopardi at Independence Square.

plaque and Mgr Mercieca blessed it. The Thanks Badge was then presented to three group council members Mrs Celine Portelli, Mr Raymond Caruana and Mr John Xerri.

In his speech, the Chief Scout congratulated the group and encouraged its leaders and members to continue to live up to the Scout Law and Promise as this would ensure the success of the group as it had done so far. On behalf of the Scout Association of Malta, the Chief Commissioner also congratulated the group and presented the Group Scout Leader with a commemorative plaque. Other presentations to the Minister for Gozo, Dr Anton Refalo, Joseph G Grech, Group Patron and former Group Scout leader and Chief Commissioner, the present Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba as well as to other officials of Scout Association brought the ceremonial part of the activity to an end.

A reception for all those present then followed.



The Chief Commissioner Leslie Bonnici presents the Thanks Badge to Mr Raymond Caruana.



The Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba demonstrates the memento presented to the group by the Scout Association of Malta.



The memento presented to the GSL and all the others were prepared by Scouter Emanuel Mizzi using the pyrography technique.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Pipe Band leads the parade.



The Chief Commissioner presents the Thanks Badge to Mr John Xerri.



The Chief Commissioner Leslie Bonnici presents the Thanks Badge to Mrs Celine Portelli.



Distinguished guests at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at headquarters

# THE VICTORIA SCOUT GROUP

## A Chronicle of Events

### April 1963 – April 2013

Compiled by Carmel C. Cachia



One of the highlights of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victoria Scout Group was undoubtedly the publication of the book which narrates the history of our group.

The author, Carmel C. Cachia is a former Venture Scout Leader. In his preface he declares that when he joined the group in 1967, he never imagined that 45 years later he would be asked to write a hymn and a book about the Scout group of his boyhood. But he did both and admirably well. The book makes very pleasant reading and as one moves from one section to another, he is eager for more without ever becoming bored.

Mr Cachia immediately accepted the GSL's proposal and started working on the book. Going through so many documents - log books, books, newsheets, newspaper cuttings, photo albums, magazines and websites, he started to put together the facts. Later he had to sift and choose what to include and what to omit, which is no easy job. In

the book, he describes not only the most historically important events in the life of the group but mentions many other occasions which were also important to the members since they provided instances of fun or sorrow, new experiences, moments of solidarity or pride or service to the community, participation in national and international activities, and of opportunities for learning by doing. All these events have inevitably left their mark and moulded our group into what it has become today.

The author encourages the readers especially former members to read the book and "*relive the thrills and good times we enjoyed*" but he also stresses the importance of Being Prepared to face future challenges if the group is to continue to grow and serve children and youths in Gozo. Present leaders and members should follow in the footsteps of former ones to ensure the continuing success of this Scout Group.

As the Group Scout Leader repeatedly declared, this was indeed a dream come true, both for him as well as for all those who have the Victoria Scout Group at heart. The group is greatly indebted to Mr Cachia for the compilation of this book. It can now proudly declare that its first 50 years of existence have been immortalized because of this book.

Thank you very much Carm.

Anita and the other Scouters

**NB: All the present members of the group have received a free copy of this book. However other copies can be purchased from headquarters or leading bookshops.**

## Local Youth Ambassadors



The Scout Association of Malta and the Victoria Scout Group proudly announce that two Scouts have been chosen to represent their local council alongside other Local Youth Ambassadors. These are Beppe Galea from Victoria and Matthew

Seychell from Mtarfa. Well done Beppe !



## Gone Home

**Giovanna Saliba** - the Group Scout Leader's mother

**Mr Emanuel Cefai** - long time supporter of the group

**Dr Joe Grech MD, DPM** - former Group Council Chairman

**Marcel Micallef** - Scouter

Christopher Micallef's grandfather

*We extend our condolences to their families.*

*We urge our readers to remember them in their prayers.*

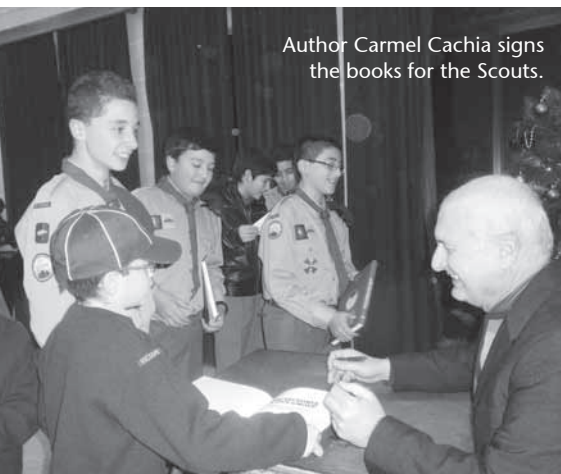
*May they rest in peace.*

## We were there



In December, the Gozo NGOs Association celebrated International Volunteer Day 2013 with a number of events. During a commemoration ceremony, Ministers, Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue and Dr Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo unveiled a commemorative plaque commemorating the anniversary of 5 Gozitan NGOs one of which is the Victoria Scout Group. The Group Scout Leader also attended a Mass celebrated by H.L. Bishop Mario Grech at St Francis Church, Victoria. After the Mass, representatives of the 5 Gozitan NGOs that were celebrating an anniversary in 2013 planted a tree in Villa Rundle Gardens while Dr Grazio Mercieca, representing the Minister for Gozo unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Author Carmel Cachia signs the books for the Scouts.



## The Group remembers its benefactors

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, the group chaplain, Mgr Joseph Farrugia celebrated mass at the Santa Maria Cemetery. This mass was offered for the repose of the souls of former Council chairpersons and members as well as group chaplains. Various family members of these benefactors attended this mass. Flowers were later placed on their graves.



Wife of former group chairman Saviour Camilleri during the first reading

The **Venture** Unit  
By Venture Scout **Matthew Azzopardi**

October started with a bang. As part of the celebrations of the Group's 50th anniversary, the Group held a mass at the Cathedral Church in Victoria. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Pipe Band came over for the occasion and lead the parade towards the Cathedral and back to headquarters. After mass, the group saluted the Chief Scout Dr Arthur Azzopardi at Independence Square. A reception for guests and Scouts was later held at headquarters.

In October the Unit also held a sports activity at the Gozo Sports Complex, where the Ventures played football and basketball together in a spirit of friendship. The Unit also gave a vital helping hand during the marquee dinner at Dwejra by camping overnight to pitch the marquee, and also helped with serving the food and other chores. The Ventures also attended the funeral mass of the GSL's mother. The Unit closed its account for October with a challenging 3-day expedition. The Ventures braved the bad weather and embarked on this hike. However the expedition had to be cancelled midway in the second day due to a very bad storm. However the Ventures had found the courage to go on this expedition against all odds; a show of courage and will!

The Unit opened the month of November in style, with a sleepover at HQ. During this night-in, the Unit cooked a **HUGE** homemade burger, stuffed with bacon, salad and sauces. This burger was a successful endeavour, not to mention that it fed a whole Unit! This night-in was a brilliant idea since the Unit had great fun and carried out several activities that strengthened the ties of friendship between the Ventures themselves. The Ventures also attended to the Group's November mass and bike hike. The Ventures' help was requested and provided during a car wash held by another organization as part of its Strina fundraising campaign. Towards the end of November, the Unit did not fail to hear Santa's call and in a Christmassy mood the Unit decorated the HQ in preparation for the year's most wonderful time, Christmas.

During December, the Unit carried out a number of different activities. Apart from attending to the funeral of an ex- group council chairman, the Unit held its annual good turn. The Ventures went to help the Xaghra Scout Group in the building of their new HQ. Here the Ventures carried out a number of tasks given to them by those in charge, such as cleaning the area. The Unit also attended to the Group's Christmas Mass and ended a prosperous year with an abseiling session at Dwejra, a session which is surely loved by all Scouts.

*Ed's note: Those Cubs who got a 'preview' of the mega-burger and its accompanying bun –made to measure on order by a friendly baker – continued to talk about it for the weeks which followed. They were really impressed about the sheer size of it – a whopping 50cm diameter and an impressive height with the added stuffings - and were somewhat perplexed as to how it was possible to fit it in someone's mouth. But it found no shortage of willing recipients so much so that by the end of the evening only a few crumbs remained of the monumental offering.*



The Unit set up their tents.



The Ventures tuck into their mega burger.



The Unit's good turn at the new headquarters of the Xaghra Scout Group

A hiking we will go ....



Abseiling at Dwejra

# SATURDAY PACK REPORT

by CSL Mary Rose Pace

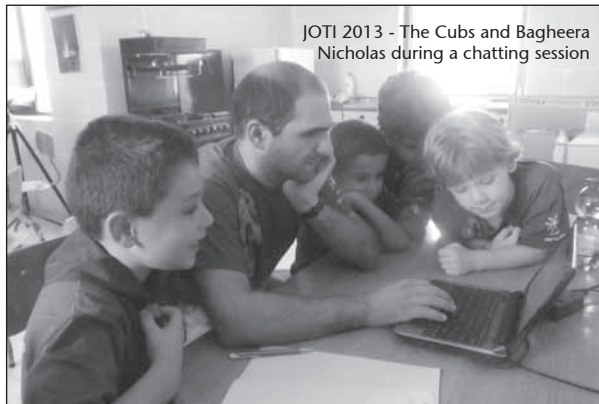
As the older Cubs joined the Troop, new Cubs were enrolled with the Pack and started working to gain badges. The first activity as a Pack was attending a Mass and participating in a parade from the citadel cathedral to the headquarters. This was another activity to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victoria Scout Group. During the month of October we celebrate Jamboree on the Internet - J.O.T.I. Cubs had to chat via internet with other Cubs from all over the world for that day only. Following this activity both Packs took part in doing the tree of peace. The theme was LET'S SHARE. So all of them had to create a bird to decorate the tree and at the end they will get the J.O.T.I. badge. This is a yearly activity. Another outdoor activity was held at the citadel. The Cubs were divided into groups called Sixes and each group was given a set of questions. They were first given a code leading them to the first checkpoint and they moved from one checkpoint to another by answering questions about our group and our founder, doing knots and singing songs. They spent three hours enjoying the games.

The next joint activity with the Seeonee Pack was a sleepover which was held during the midterm school holidays. As it was Halloween, a party was held, during which they transformed pumpkins into lanterns. The evening ended with a film and the Cubs were able to return back home at 7.30am on the following day. Almost all the Cubs who attended had the chance to get acquainted with each other. At the end of November, a Mass in memory of relatives who passed away was celebrated at headquarters.

As December was approaching the Christmas activities started and the first one was decorating the boards and also singing Christmas carols. Following this activity the Cubs started to create Christmas Cards. Another enjoyable activity which many attended was the bike hike. This activity served as a means to collect money for the Community Chest Fund. The day after, nearly all of the Cubs attended an organised visit to the old people's home of St Dominic at Victoria and they gave a small gift to the residents. Christmas carols and other hymns were sung during this. The usual Christmas party was held and Father Christmas distributed the presents. The last item on the calendar for this year was the Christmas Mass. During this group meeting held in December, Cub Scout Matthew Grech delivered the boys' Christmas sermon.

Unfortunately this year the G.S.L.'s mother passed away so all the group attended the funeral to pay their respects.

Once again I thank all the other assistants of the Saturday Pack for their help and wish them a happy new year. Big thanks go to all the parents for the trust they show towards the group.



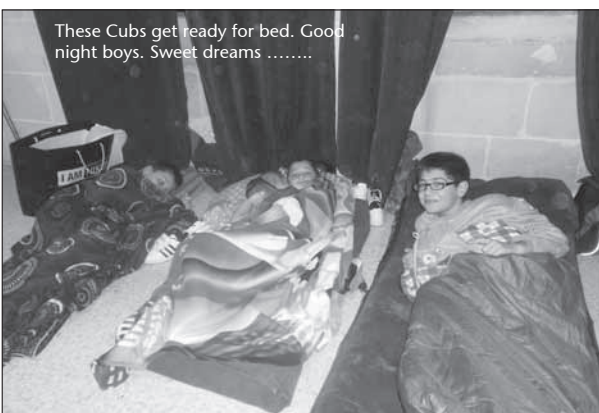
JOTI 2013 - The Cubs and Bagheera Nicholas during a chatting session



The Cubs at the home for the elderly



A funny photo of the Packs with Father Christmas



These Cubs get ready for bed. Good night boys. Sweet dreams .....

## Well done!

Well done to council member Gino Mizzi for transforming the door leading to the headquarter's yard. The upper part of this glass door has now been embellished with the Scout logo in stained glass.

