



Victoria Scout Group

N e w s s h e e t

Nº: 208

[October - December 2019] January 2020

1979 - 2019 ~ 30 years since the inauguration of the Victoria Scout Group headquarters

From the Group Scout Leader

Lorrie Saliba

Another year has gone by. Once again the year 2019 saw all our members and Group Council members being kept busy with the Scouting programmes as well as giving service to the community in general.

Throughout the past year our headquarters served as the base for a beehive of activities and as usual it was utilized by several other Scout Groups from Malta and abroad, as well as by Maltese Girl Guides and by various Non Governmental Organisations.

In my last report for the Annual General Meeting, I had said that it was time for the Group to buy a new vehicle as the second-hand mini bus we had had for the past 15 years was getting old and was often breaking down, thus costing the Group a lot of money apart

from creating a lot of headaches every time it needed to be used. This time instead of buying another mini bus the Group Council managed to buy a truck, which was used for the first time during Easter Camp.

Another unforgettable experience for 2019 was when 18 members from the Group had the opportunity to meet thousands of Scouts from all over the world while attending the World Scout Jamboree held in West Virginia in America last summer. For most of our members this was the first time they attended an event on such a large scale and this participation has been one of inestimable value to our Scouts, seeing they come from the small island of Gozo. Their horizon has now been widened in every sense, surely helping

continued overleaf...



Group photo with H.E. Bishop Mario Grech, the Chief Scout Captain Reuben Lanfranco and the Chief Commissioner Anton Pisani

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.

Published by the: **VICTORIA SCOUT GROUP**
H.Q. St. Domenica Street, Victoria, Gozo – Malta • Tel: 2155 6497
Group's web-site: www.victoriascoutgroup.org
Editor: **Anita Muscat** – Tel: 2155 4657 / 9920 9805 – anita@victoriascoutgroup.org



Group Scout Leader: **Lorrie Saliba** – Tel: 2155 5844 - Mob: 79 555 844
Email: lorrie@victoriascoutgroup.org
Group Patron: **Mr John B. Pace** MD, B.Pharm, FRCS , KM
Layout & Printing: **A&M Printing Ltd.** – Qala – Tel: 2155 3217

From the Group Scout Leader *cont....from front page*

to contribute to a more holistic education and serving them in good stead for the years to come.

This year we also had the honour to welcome at our headquarters the outgoing President of Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. This was the second visit the President paid to our headquarters. After meeting all the members of the Group, she stayed on for a dinner in her honour, a dinner which was very well prepared by the Group Council Chairman Mr Michael Grech who is a great friend of hers. Later this year, we also had an official visit by the new Chief

Scout of Malta Captain Reuben Lanfranco.

Many are those who have given their help to the Group during the past year. This help came in many different ways and means. To all those who answer the call for help whenever the occasion arises, be it for the benefit of our Group or the community at large, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Amongst others I wish to mention the Ministry for Gozo and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, the campsite owners and many others.

I must not fail to mention the Group Council members and the leaders

and say a very big thank you for their splendid work throughout the year. Very often they give their contribution unobtrusively, away from the public eye. I keep repeating the statement that without such people there would be no Victoria Scout Group. For the year 2020, I ask these colleagues to continue to pass on the benefit of their wisdom, experience and boundless energy to the Group that we all love.

Last but not least I would also like to thank the parents who entrust their children in our care and encourage them to work together with the leaders as this ultimately leads to the benefit of their children.

We were there!

Wednesday 18th December 2019
The Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba and some Scouters and Council members attended a gathering which the President of Malta, Dr George Vella hosted for NGOs and local councils to celebrate the Christmas festivities.



Christmas gathering - The Group Scout Leader, Group Council members and leaders meet the President of Malta, Dr George Vella.

WOODBADGE ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

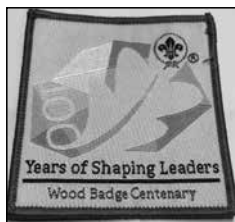


Remembrance Sunday - 10.11.2019
Lest we forget!

Leaders and Scouts attended the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday held at Independence Square. Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War and is commemorated every year in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

Celebrating the Wood Badge Centenary 1919 - 2019

The year 2019 celebrates the centenary of the Wood Badge, which is the highest level of the Scouting leadership programme for adult leaders. On Thursday 14th November 2019, the National Events team in collaboration with the



Training Department held a special event for all Wood Badge holders. During the evening those leaders who have recently completed their training programme were presented with their award. Various leaders from the Victoria Scout Group attended this event. A special commemorative badge was presented to all those present.

Point to Ponder with the Editor

Anita Muscat

THE 24TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE - UNLOCK A NEW WORLD - PART 2



24th
WORLD SCOUT
JAMBOREE
SCOUT MONDIAL
North America 2019



The closing ceremony

On the 2nd August, the 24th World Scout Jamboree came to an end. The previous two weeks had seen around 45,000 Scouts from over 150 countries come together at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, USA. Together they shared so many exciting activities and experiences, learnt new skills, made unforgettable memories and forged new friendships.

If the opening ceremony was a show-stopper, the closing one certainly matched it. It started off with a marching band from the 3rd US Infantry Regiment, the Old Guards, who represented the USA as one of the 3 co-hosting countries.

Then the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Ahmad Alhendawi went on stage and shared his message where he encouraged Scouts to be *"agents of change in their communities back home."* He reminded those present that the Jamboree demonstrates to the world how Scouting celebrates diversity and unity and that the

Jamboree site should serve as an example of how a global village should look like. He commented that together Scouts and volunteers had succeeded in building a city

worldwide can play in protecting our planet. He explained that: *"Global citizens are those who identify themselves not as a member of a nation, but instead*



Magnificent fireworks light up the sky.

based on unity and understanding, thus providing an extraordinary experience of international celebration. He encouraged the youths to stand up and take action to address the challenges which face their communities and our planet. Scouts should promote human rights and fight injustice. They should tackle climate change, promote gender equality and strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations. Finally he thanked the organising Scout Associations of USA, Mexico and Canada and all those other bodies including some 8000 International Service team (ISTs) volunteers for making the Jamboree a resounding success.

Mr Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General of the UN from 2007 - 2016 also made a special appearance to highlight the vital role that 50 million Scouts

as a member of humanity. They are understanding and tolerant of other people and cultures. They fight for the protection of our planet. They are committed to service and helping others."

The American organisers then passed the Jamboree flag to the Korea Scout Association who will host the 25th World Scout Jamboree in 2023.

The ceremony continued with live performances from popular musicians and bands. It came to an end with a stunning firework and pyrotechnic display as well as a laser light show in the night sky over the Jamboree site.

There's no doubt about it. Those Scouts lucky enough to attend this Jamboree certainly had the experience of a lifetime!!

Information and photos taken from <https://www.scout.org/world-scout-jamboree-closing>



Mr Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary General of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement takes to the stage.

O Lejl Mingħajr Skiet

- Group's Christmas Concert and Good Turn

On Saturday 28th December, the Group held its first ever Christmas concert at the Catholic Action Hall in Victoria. The evening started off with a mass which was celebrated by Fr Simon Cachia. This mass was offered for the repose of the soul of former member and supporter Vince Rapa who passed away last month.

After mass it was time for the Cubs and the Scouts to do their bit. And they certainly did their best by presenting songs, plays and skits to the audience. Well done to the Cubs and the Scouts for their contribution in making the evening a success, to the parents for their support and cooperation and to the leaders for their dedication and hard work.



Compères SL David Grech and Venture Scout Adrian Mercieca

Another thank you goes to these sponsors for their support.

- Castle Pharmacy • Gateway to Success - Gozo Maths and Accounts Tuition • Pro Stage Sound • Ta' Philip Restaurant • The Christmas Store.



Thank you



Stunts and skits by the Scout Troop

A word of thanks and praise is definitely due to ACSL David Mario Fenech and his wife Svetlene who were the masterminds behind the evening's performance. Well done indeed!

For another year, instead of sending Christmas cards, the Group donated a sum of money to a Gozitan NGO. This year the beneficiary will be the Gozo Mental Health Association. During the evening, those present also added their contributions towards the same aim.



Plays and songs by the Cub Scouts



Everyone on stage for the finale

Group's Christmas dinner



On Saturday 21st December, the Group held its Christmas dinner at the Hotel Calypso.

The group would like to thank all those parents and supporters who attended this dinner as well as the chef Giuseppe Puglisi and the management of the hotel.

Another thank you goes to Assistant Cub Scout Leader, David Mario Fenech and his wife Svetlene for providing live entertainment as well as the sponsors who provided prizes for the raffle.



CHRISTMAS CAKES 2019

Once again, Group Council members prepared Christmas cakes as a fundraising initiative.

The Group would like to thank all those who supported this activity by either helping in the preparation of these cakes from beginning to end or by ordering a cake or two.



LUNCH AT DWEJRA

On Sunday 6th October, the Group held a fundraising lunch under the new marquee tent at Dwejra camping site. The Group also put to use the new off the grid solar PV system funded through a grant by the Ministry of Gozo.



Thank you

The Group would like to thank the following sponsors for their support.

- Castle Pharmacy
- Gateway to Success – Gozo Maths and Accounts Tuition
- Pro Stage Sound
- Ta' Philip Restaurant
- The Christmas Store
- Simon Enriquez
- Angelita Grech (parent)
- Michael Grech Financial Services
- Mejlaq Jewellers
- Abraham Said – Vini e Capricci
- Joe Spiteri - Ta' Mena Estate
- Ta' Dirjanu Supermarkets
- Vassallo Jewellers

SATURDAY & Seeonee Pack REPORT

by CSL Anita Muscat

The Cub Scout Programme is always quite packed and that for these 3 months was no exception.

Scouts do their best for the environment:

In October, a special meeting was held at Dwejra where the Venture Scouts were holding a weekend camp. The Cub Scouts were introduced to the new off grid solar PV system bought by the Victoria Scout Group as part of the EcoScouts project, funded through a grant by the Ministry for Gozo under an NGO fund scheme. Engineer and parent Anthony Mercieca explained, in a way simple enough for our young members to understand, what such a system entails, how it will be used at camp, what solar energy is all about, the benefits of sustainable energy sources and why it is important to adopt such systems.



Meeting at Dwejra



Sleepover number 1



At Festa Scouts

In October, the Packs took part in the JOTI, Jamboree on the Internet. During the chatting session, they were involved in a veritable globetrotting session as they contacted over 36 countries through supervised chatting and Skype calls.

During these 3 months, the Cubs took part in not just one but 2 sleepovers. The first one was held in October. There were games, a campfire and a singsong in the yard, a pizza night and a film show. At the end of the film, there was a **MASSIVE** pillow fight. To calm things down, hot chocolate and marshmallows were given out to pave the way towards bedtime. Bedtime was rather late but this was a special occasion so it didn't really matter. Peace and quiet finally reigned over the hall as one by one, everyone (**32 Cubs, 4 leaders, 4 Venture Scouts, 1 baby and a dog**) dozed off.

This peace and quiet was abruptly broken in the morning by a special wake up call. The group of Venture Scouts present (Thank you Benjamin, James, Luca and Mike Angel for helping out.) used some of the band instruments in the display cabinet and transformed them into a unique and noisy 'alarm' clock.

In November, the Cubs took part in the Festa Scouts event held by the Scout Association of Malta at Ta' Qali Park in Malta. It was great fun and there were so many activities – climbing rope bridges, sliding down a chute, having a go at the climbing wall, taking part in a **very**,



Jamboree on the Internet



Our Cubs do take their duties seriously!

very exciting obstacle race, playing human table soccer, finding your way through a maze inside a tent, jousting over a balancing log and taking part in an archery session amongst others. It provided the chance to meet fellow Scouts from other groups in Malta. We also met the new Chief Scout, Captain Reuben Lanfranco.

Another meeting with the new Chief Scout took place in November, when, together with the Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of Malta,



The Cubs' good turn at the old people's home he paid his first official visit to our headquarters.

The second sleepover was held in December and so it included several activities linked to the Christmas period. It started off with a visit to an old people's home where the Cubs entertained the residents with some carols and Scout songs. This was their good turn for the festive season. Back at headquarters, it was time for some boisterous games. These were followed by the Christmas party (= more games + food) and a birthday cake. There was also a very interesting slide show of Bagheera Betty's visit to Tanzania and all the unique animals she encountered and the sights and places she visited. There were also some rehearsals for the Group's Christmas concert. At the end of the evening, (but not quite) a Christmas themed film was shown. The evening came to an end with the customary pillow fight, after which they boys and the leaders settled down to sleep.

At the end of December, under the guidance of ACSL David Mario (Wontolla) and his wife Svetlene, the Cubs together with the Scouts, took part in the Group's Christmas concert called *O Lejl Mingħajr Skiet* and presented several songs and two plays. A big well done goes to one and all for their efforts and hard work.

At the end of another year, the leaders would like to thank all those who gave a helping hand and supported the Packs in their activities throughout 2019. Without your help, it would not have been possible to organise certain activities and the Cubs would have had a less enriching experience.

To more adventures and learning by doing experiences in 2020! #cublif



Congratulations Fr Simon Cachia

The Group would like to congratulate Fr Simon Cachia on his appointment as the new Parish Priest of Fontana.

Fr Simon is the son of the Group librarian Carm Cachia. He is also a familiar face with the Group members and a frequent visitor to both headquarters and camp as he often celebrates mass for the Group.

We wish him all the best in his new appointment and promise to keep him in our prayers.

Ad multos annos!



Fr Simon celebrates mass at camp and at headquarters.



The Group would like to congratulate H.E. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, on his nomination as Pro-Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops by Pope Francis.

This is indeed a great honour both for him and our diocese.

Mgr Grech will assume full position and duties of Secretary General when the present appointee Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri 's term in office comes to an end.

Mgr Grech has been a frequent visitor to our headquarters. He has also visited us at camp. During important Scout events held in Gozo and Malta, he has celebrated Mass for our group and for other Scout Groups present for the occasion.

We wish him all the best in his new post and promise him our prayers.

H.E. Bishop Mario Grech celebrates mass for the Group on various occasions.

Congratulations Group Council Chairman Michael Grech

Congratulations to the Group Council Chairman Michael Grech on receiving the award *Gieħ Ghawdex* on the occasion of Jum Ghawdex on the 28th October 2019.

Gieħ Ghawdex is a recognition given to Gozitans who have contributed to society in different aspects of life. The award was presented by H.E. the President of Malta, Dr George Vella.



Group Council Chairman Michael Grech with his award

Congratulations George Cassar

Congratulations to George Cassar, former Chief Scout and former member and leader of the Victoria Scout Group on his appointment as the Secretary General of the Scout Association of Malta.

Venture Unit REPORT

by Venture Scout **James Mizzi**

This year started off with a bang for the Unit with a weekend camp at Dwejra during which time the group organized the annual Marquee Lunch and an abseiling activity which was open for youth organisations in Gozo. This was a great opportunity for Ventures and their friends to try abseiling, either for the first time, or for the hundredth time!

During this camp, the Group inaugurated a new off the grid solar PV system as part of the EcoScout project, funded through a grant by the Ministry of Gozo under the Gozo NGO scheme. The Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Justyne Caruana came down to Dwejra and viewed these solar panels. She also visited the Venture Scouts during the abseiling activity which was part of another project under the Ministry for Gozo Sports initiative scheme.



The Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana visits the campsite.



Abseiling at Mgarr ix-Xini

Scouts and food are an inseparable duo!



An archery session



Olive picking in Sicily

The Unit helped out during the marquee lunch which was attended by parents and supporters. They served food, and of course, filled up their stomachs as well!

During the month of November, the Unit had two olive picking experiences, one in Gozo and one in Sicily. Six Venture Scouts went olive picking in Sicily, along with the Venture Scout Leader Jesmond Scerri, the Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba and the Group Chairman Michael Grech. The olives collected were pressed into oil which will be used during the number of lunches and dinners organized by the group.

Next came along something which was anticipated eagerly - the Executive Committee elections. Every year the Unit elects 5 Venture Scouts to act as members of the Executive Committee. These members plan the upcoming activities for the Unit. The roles at grab are: the chairman, the secretary, the treasurer, the quartermaster and a member. After a weeklong of posters and speeches, the election campaign finally came to an end and the 5 members were chosen. Congratulations to Matthew, James, Adrian, Luca and Presley for being elected!

2019 came to an end with the annual Winter Camp at ta' Blankas Gardens in Xewkija. This was organized during the last weekend of the year. Although it was freezing cold, the Ventures still pushed through the 2 nights and managed to carry out various activities such as archery, a cooking competition on a budget, and abseiling at Imgarr ix-Xini whilst overlooking a beautiful view of the valley.

We look forward to another year full of adventures and activities that will help us to grow into better citizens and that will serve to forge new friendships.

Festa Scouts 2019 - Sharing our Adventure



So said the poster and so did all those who attended this activity.

On Sunday 3rd November, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Ventures all joined in the fun and games on offer at Ta' Qali Park. And it was a great experience!

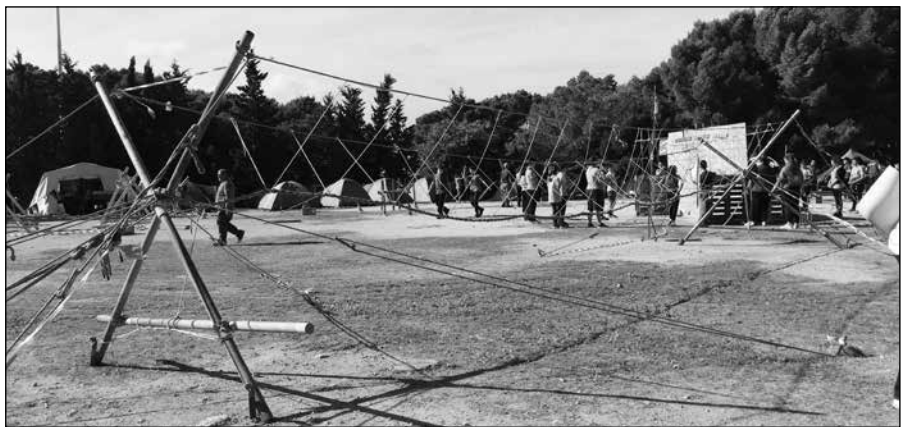
Well done and thanks to all those Scout Groups who organised such a wide array of activities - abseiling, zipline, pyrography, jousting, a very imaginative obstacle course, a maze inside a tent, an escape room inside another tent, human table soccer, archery, bridge crossing, a homemade slide and a climbing wall amongst others.

It was indeed a feast of activities prepared by Scouts for Scouts and for the general public.

Till our next adventure. When it calls, we are ready to go.



Meeting with the new Chief Scout, Captain Reuben Lanfranco



Group photo at the entrance to Ta' Qali Park

Rover Crew



Abseiling at Dwejra and winter camp 2019

Visitors to headquarters



H.E. the Bishop of Gozo, the Chief Scout, the Chief Scout and the Chief Commissioner, the Group Scout Leader, the Group Council Chairman and Venture Scout Leader

- H.E. Bishop Mario Grech who has now been appointed as the new General Pro-Secretary of the Synod of Bishops.
- The Chief Scout, Captain Reuben Lanfranco.
- The Chief Commissioner, Anton Pisani.
- Helen and Paul Dailey, Norfolk, UK.
- Dave and Gill Clements, Peterborough, UK.
- The 1st Rabat Scout Group.
- The Dingli Scout Group.
- Professor M. Montebello, ERRC Secretary General.
- H.E. Mgr Dr Joe Vella Gauci, Ambassador to the UNESCO and ERRC Chairperson.
- Joellson Bezzina - Wasteserv Malta Ltd.
- Ludovica Betto and Amadeo Regoraro - Scouts from the Turin area.

AWARDS AND BADGES FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

Packs

- Attard Joseph – Tenderpaw
- Aquilina Matthew – Mowgli
- Borg Bernard - Tenderpaw
- Cauchi Warren – Kaa, Collector
- Chini Jonathan – Tenderpaw
- Cutajar Gabriel - Tenderpaw
- Ellis Alex - Tenderpaw
- Ellis Matthew Angel – Mowgli
- Galea Jake - Tenderpaw
- Gauci Mathias - Tenderpaw
- Grech Gabriel – Mowgli, Entertainer, Musician
- Hili Adrian – Tenderpaw

- Kravchenko Andriy – Tenderpaw
- Mirti Lorenzo - Tenderpaw
- Mizzi Loren – Bronze Arrow
- Portelli Lucas Jo - Mowgli
- Sacco Isaac – Bronze Arrow
- Sacco Jan - Tenderpaw
- Spiteri Anthony – Mowgli
- Spiteri Jordi - Tenderpaw
- Spiteri Luke - Tenderpaw
- Vassallo Jake – Tenderpaw
- Zerafa Sven - Tenderpaw

Link Badge for:

- Mattia Cassar, Joseph Mizzi, Thiago Jo Said, Sean Spiteri and Gary Vassallo

JOTI Badge for:

- Liam Apap, Jeevan Attard, Joseph Attard, Matthew Aquilina, Bernard Borg, Thomas Camilleri, Warren Cauchi, Jonathan Chini, Kevin Cordina, Gabriel Cutajar, Lucas Debono, Alex Ellis, Jaiden Jo Formosa, Jake Formosa, Jake Galea, Luca Galea, Mathias Gauci, Gabriel Grech, Adrian Hili, Andriy Kravchenko, Francesco Julian Mercieca, Glenn Mifsud, Lorenzo Mirti, Loren Mizzi, Lucas Jo Portelli, Gabriele Puglisi, Isaac Sacco, Jan Sacco, Luca Schembri, Anthony Spiteri, Jordi Spiteri, Andreas Tabone, Jake Vassallo and Sven Zerafa.

Well done to all!

Gone Home



VINCENT RAPA, a former member – Cub Scout, Scout and Venture Scout, who was still a supporter of our Group passed away in November at the age of 34.

Our deepest condolences go to his wife Amanda and his twin daughters Haley and Katelyn, his parents Mariliana and Sammy, his siblings John and Mariella and his in-laws George and Maria Said. George is the former Assistant Group Scout Leader and he is still active as a Scouter.

All those of us who knew Vince will always remember him fondly - his impish grin, his infectious laugh, his joie de vivre as well as his mischievous antics. Vince, in your life, you kept the Scout Promise and you always did your best.

May God be with your family in this hour of grief. May they find all the comfort they need, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in their hearts.

Please remember him in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

GROUP MEETING AND NOVEMBER MASS

by **CSL Anita Muscat**

On Saturday 16th November, a group meeting was held at headquarters. The newly appointed Chief Scout of the Scout Association of Malta, Captain Reuben Lanfranco paid his first official visit to headquarters. He was accompanied by the Chief Commissioner Anton Pisani.

On arrival, they were welcomed by the Group Council Chariman Michael Grech and the Council members. They later met the members of the different sections in their respective halls.

The Chief Scout was presented with a copy of the book narrating the history of the group by the author, Mr Carm Cachia.



H.E. Bishop Mario Grech dons his new tippet with Scout emblems.

Another guest for the Group meeting was H.E. the Bishop of Gozo who celebrated mass for all those present.

Before mass, the Bishop was presented with a special gift – a tippet decorated with the emblems of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, that of the recent American World

Scout Jamboree and other Scouting symbols. These tippets were prepared in Italy and were used during certain celebrations at the Jamboree. A special one was ordered especially for the bishop.



Group photo with guests, Council members and Scouters

Dinner with guests

Following mass, the Chief Scout and Chief Commissioner met the Group Council members in the boardroom. A dinner for the guests, the Group Council and Scout Leaders as well as some Venture and Rover Scouts was later held in the Georgia Grech Hall at headquarters. During this time, there was time for chatting and getting to know each other better.

The Group would like to thank the Chief Scout Captain Reuben Lanfranco and the Chief Commissioner Anton Pisani for accepting our invitation to visit headquarters, meet our group and join us for dinner. We would like you to know that you are always most welcome at our headquarters.



Dinner with the guests



The Chief Scout meets the Scouts, Ventures and Cubs in their respective halls.



The Chief Scout is presented with a copy of the book narrating the history of the group by its author Carm Cachia.