

Hugh 'Buzz' Macey

Our living legend and Scouter extraordinaire



In April 2011 Buzz Macey was awarded the prestigious "Mayor's Medal for Community Service" in the category "for Youth Affairs" by the City of Cape Town.

This is a civil recognition bestowed on individuals for their commitment to society and an acknowledgement of Buzz's service to the youth of Cape Town and beyond.

But who is Buzz the Scouter that many of us have come to know?

Buzz started his love of Scouting when in March 1954 he joined the 2nd Pinelands Scout Group as an eleven year old Scout. He was well liked, as he is today, without ever seeking popularity and upon turning 18 he spent a year as a Rover. He was then appointed ASM and remained with the group for a further two and a half years until January 1964, spending in total nearly ten years with 2nd Pinelands.

Probably better known was his long association with the 1st Durbanville Scout troop, where he was Scoutmaster for an incredible 25 years from January 1964 to December 1989. Here Buzz imparted the true spirit of the brotherhood of Scouting and followed closely to the Scout programme the way BP himself had intended it. Camps, character building, hikes and competitions, so much more than the Friday night troop meetings.

On a Provincial level there must be many Scouts and Scouters who have attended the numerous courses where Buzz was the course leader or tutor and witnessed his dedicated and unruffled approach. Whether it was the logistics to run the Backwoodsman in the middle of nowhere or Pioneering, Cook, PLTU etc. Buzz himself attended many courses and is a holder of the Wood Badge and is now an Honorary Commissioner. He is on the Property committee, Hawequas committee and the Springbok Hike evaluator to mention a few of his other provincial commitments.

On a National level Buzz was on the National Scout Programme Committee from 1997 to 2002 and wrote the current "Scout Trail" and the "Adults Handbook".

Buzz's involvement with the National Senior Scout Adventure in the Cederberg goes back 42 years to the 1969 experimental camp. Radios and communications were his areas of expertise in the earlier adventures and this was followed by roles of Camp Chief and four times as Organiser. Have you heard the story of him being stranded overnight on top of Tafelberg in the freezing cold because the radio battery needed replacing? That's commitment!

Buzz was also involved in International Scouting where for three years he was the South African representative for the Southern Zone of the Africa Region and another three years as an advisor for Adult training. He was an advisor to the 5th African Regional Jamboree in Mozambique, and took part in the 1988 USA National Jamboree in Washington.

In recognition of his dedicated service to Scouting, Buzz has joined the short list of Scouters to be awarded the Order of the Silver Springbok and for his many years in the movement, the 50 year bar to his Long Service Medal.

Western Cape Heritage Team
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