

## Girl Guide and Boy Scout Camps & Hikes



Before the Scout programme included girls, the separate Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements held a number of combined Camps and Hikes in the 1960's through to the 1990's.

The following stories were collated from the records available in the Western Cape Scout archives. If you have any memorabilia from these events that you would like to pass on to the archives they would be most welcome.



### Western Cape Guide and Scout Camps

From the Scouting side much of the early organising and effort came from ['Bunny' Bennington](#) whose creativity was amazing with his sketches, rhymes and puzzles. He was largely instrumental in creating the Eerste River Scout Campsite ['Gilcape'](#) (closed in 1988) where many of the Guide / Scout camps were held and of him it was said at the time, "If you seek his monument, look around you."

#### **1967**

Friendship Camp - Clencairn

12 - 14 August / Guides 47 / Scouts 46

This very first Guide and Scout friendship camp was initiated by the Girl Guide Movement. The Saturday morning saw some warm up games and in the afternoon an 'adventure hike' visiting various bases with traditional Scouty items, but in the evening a 'Bop' (as a teenage dance was then called) was held, starting at 9:00 pm and ending at 10:00 pm. Lights out was at 10:30 ! Sunday's activities included cake icing and carpentry.

Display - Gilcape

16 September

All the Guides and Scouts that attended the Friendship Camp were invited to the 'Gilcape Day' to display for the parents some of the stunts and activities that proved so successful on the weekend.

Reunion - 6th Rondebosch Scout Hall

14 October

The Saturday evening programme consisted of the showing of 'cine' films taken at the Friendship Weekend and the Gilcape Display, together with other interesting activities at Gilcape.

#### **1968**

Training Weekend - Gilcape, Eerste River

29 - 31 March / Guides 42 / Scouts 44

This camp was a follow up to the Clencairn Camp and once again the boys and girls co-operated well together and the girls especially enjoyed the more robust activities.

Whereas central cooking was used at Glencairn, on this camp Patrol cooking was introduced and was much enjoyed by the Scouts and Guides. The weather was fine and use was made of the Towers, Obstacle Course and Swimming pool.



A 'Coracle' made out of sticks and plastic

#### [Report](#)

Reunion - 6th Rondebosch Scout Hall

15 June

The Saturday evening reunion programme was preceded by the viewing of the photos that were taken at the camp. This was followed by patrol stunts and a film of the training weekend.

## 1969

Leader's Weekend - Gordon's Camp, Glencairn

10 - 12 October / Scouts 39 / Guides 40

The weekend started in Simonstown with an Adventure Hike before returning to Glencairn.

New to the camp was the making of Toboggans that were then used on the nearby sand dunes and Puppets for a puppet show.

There were also 'Scouty' stunts based on the recent Gough Island rescue that included smoke signalling and improvised stretcher.



Toboggans

## 1971

Training Weekend - Strand Scout Hall, Willow Bend, Strand

4 - 6 September / Guides 40 / Scouts 40

The camp was run on mixed patrol lines with patrol cooking. The programme consisted of stunts and competition, and with the beach nearby there was life saving, building sand castles and tug-o-war.

The highlight of the weekend was the patrol Shakespearean plays presented on the hall stage.



Sand castles

## [Photos](#)

## 1972

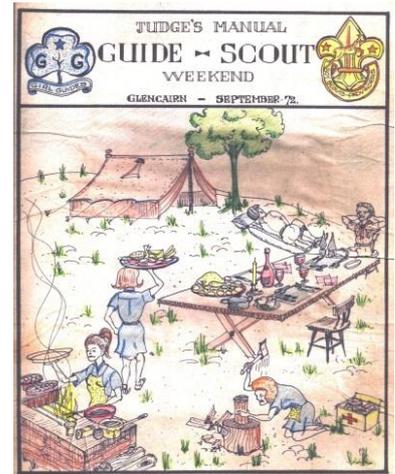
Guide / Scout Weekend - Gordon's Camp, Glencairn

2 - 4 September / Guides 40 / Scouts 40

In spite of the pouring rain on the Saturday, everyone joined in the programs with *un-dampened* enthusiasm.

The highlight of the day was a demonstration of Dutch Oven cooking where they were shown how simple it was to roast chicken and potatoes and to bake an apple pie. The patrols then preparing their own Dutch Oven supper.

Saturday night stunts by the patrols were international events and the Adults had to guess what they represented.



## [Report](#)

## 1973

Guide / Scout Weekend - Gilcape, Eerste River

1 - 3 September / Guides 40 / Scouts 40

After setting up camp on the Saturday morning, the afternoon was taken up with inter-patrol relays on the playing field.

On the Sunday after the Guide/Scout's own it was into working clothes with some of the tasks being painting of the barn, grass and tree planting and concreting the carport.

This was however interspersed with Scouty activities like a Scout transporter and a drum raft. Monday relay races included a pyjama race and an egg and spoon race.



Drum raft

## [Photos](#)

## 1974

Guide / Scout Weekend - Gilcape, Eerste River

31 August - 2 September / Guides 40 / Scouts 43

In spite of extremely bad weather conditions, a full programme of Scouting activities and Handcrafts was carried out. The Scouts and Guides taking part all enjoyed the camp although they were cold and wet a good deal of the time.

### [Report](#)

## 1975

Guide / Scout Weekend - Gilcape, Eerste River

30 August - 1 September

The highlight of this year's camp was undoubtedly the television base where patrols had each to rehearse and present a play using the contents of a lady's handbag as props. Although each patrol had the same props the eight plays varied from thrillers to comedies. The corner of the barn used as the studio became in turn a train compartment, hairdressing saloon, a bank and other ingenious sets.



The Television base

### [Report and Photos](#)

## 1976

Guide / Scout Weekend - Gordon's Camp, Glencairn

4 - 6 September / Guides 37 / Scouts 34

Once again the mixture of starting day one with a morning adventure trail, then afternoon games on the field and old movies set what has become the normal pattern. As day two was a Sunday there was a Scouts/Guides Own, then bases for patrol stunts with the evening ending off with a concert. Day three was devoted to Handcrafts the included kite flying.

### [Report](#)

## 1977

Guide / Scout Camp - Gilcape, Eerste River

8 - 10 October

For this camp a comprehensive booklet was issued detailing the programme, menus, competitions, patrol instructions and a list of the staff.

A first for this camp was that one of the bases was an equestrian centre on the main field where Guides and Scout could ride the horses. There was also Archery, a puppet show and a campfire amongst the many other activities.

### [Photos](#)

## 1978

There was no Guide / Scout Camp in 1978 as many of the Scouters were involved in preparing for the National Senior Scout Adventure in the Witzenberg Mountains.

## 1980's and 1990's

The writer of this article was unfortunately not able to find much information in the archives for the 1980's and 1990's. Gilcape closed 1988 and Hawequas became the Area's prime camping ground and the few records do however show that Guide Scout camps were held ever year at Hawequas from 1992 to 1996.

### [1992 Photos](#)



Hawequas handcraft

## **Guide / Scout Adventure Hikes**

In 1964 the concept of Scout/Guide Adventure Hikes was originated by Carveth Geach and came about as a result of discussions around modernising Scouting to provide stimulating and challenging projects for the older boy.

### **1964 - 1<sup>st</sup> Scout/Guide Adventure Hike - Drakensberg**

The first Adventure hike took place from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of October and was based in and around Cathedral Peak Hotel. There were day hikes and overnight camping near the 'Pyramid' and at Sebaiene Cave. Eleven Guides and sixteen Scouts attended and headquarters consisted of four Scouters and two Guiders.

[Report](#)

### **1965 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Scout/Guide Adventure Hike - Hogsback**

Hiking across the rolling hills of the Hogsback district past the Madonna and Child waterfall, the big tree, Hogsback village, Tor Doonee, an overnight stop on the farm Schoongesicht and slogging up the mighty Gaika's Kop (1950m).

[Report](#)

### **1966 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Scout/Guide Adventure Hike - Cedarberg**

This adventure hike was held from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October at a cost of R6 each for 7 days and the venue was the farm Driehoek in the Cedarberg. There were 15 Scouts and 20 Guides and the hikes were led by experienced SMC leaders [Neville Weller](#) and [Wally Struthers](#).

[Report](#)

### **1981 - Scout/Guide Adventure Hike - Wild Coast**

This adventurous annual hike took place along the Wild Coast, Transkei, from 29th December 1980 to 9th January 1981. It was organised by Peter Foster, Scoutmaster of 2nd Somerset West Troop, Cape Western Area.

[Report](#)

*Western Cape Heritage Team 2015*