



WESKUS TAK
WESKUS BRANCH
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After a break in July with many members away on holiday or visiting children in other regions of our country, we gathered at the Langebaan Yacht Club for our monthly meeting. The meeting was very well attended with 57 members and a further seven guests.

Ons eie kampioen ribbetjie braaiers, André en Linda Burger, bygestaan deur hul borrelende 11 jarige dogter Michelle, het vir 'n baie smaaklike aandete gesorg.



Die braaiers, André en Linda Burger



Die mense skep terwyl Michelle toekyk

Hul is verseker kompetisie vir daardie meer bekende restaurant wat die standaard betref en natuurlik was die prys tot almal se voordeel. Baie dankie aan die Burger gesin. Heerlik!!



Wie kan kla oor so 'n lekker bord kos!!!

In between the formal and social of the evening some very capable lady dance instructors demonstrated the intricate moves and steps of "line dancing". Thereafter it was up to us to show what we could do. Some very skilled cowboys and cowgirls and some not, but thoroughly enjoyed by all. In the end the Boere Cowboy was Gibbs Gerber and Annerie van Eeden proved she was quite a few steps ahead of her rivals. Congratulations you two, well done!! Our thanks to Elize, Marie and Rina for showing us the way to move and step.



Some cowboys and cowgirls



Giving line dance a go



Sheriff van Heerden

Lootjie is gewen deur een van die gaste, Theo Zeeman.

Dankie aan Hester Ferreira vir die skenking van bosse veldblomme vanaf hul plaas aan gelukkige dames.

7 SEPTEMBER 2016

Dit was Bingo-aand by die Langebaan Seiljagklub. Weer eens 'n goeie opkoms van lede asook 'n paar gaste. Die Seiljagklub het een van die mees populêre plekke geword vir ons maandelikse byeenkomste. Die bestuur het SALMV Weskus Tak met ope arms verwelkom en is baie tegemoetkomend. Die Tak is baie dankbaar vir hul gasvryheid.

Hanlie Wroth, wife of Charlie, ex-SAAF Navigator, and both members of our branch, gave a talk about her book "North of the Red Line". She started writing the book in 2012 which originated from a Facebook group of more than 23,000 members who had participated in the border war from 1966 till 1989.



Rob was running the Bingo show which was thrilling and tense as there were some great prizes to be won. Some members won two prizes while many lost out with only one number still required. The free banquet tickets won by some members was a pleasant surprise to all. The main prize being an expensive



bottle of perfume. All in all a most successful and enjoyable bingo. Thanks Rob and to all those who donated prizes.



Marion Strydom receiving the main prize from Doreth

Die ete is voorberei deur Mossie en Doreth en was soos gewoonlik besonder smaaklik. Nieteenstaande die heengaan van Doreth se moeder 'n paar dae voor die byeenkoms, het sy voortgegaan en met die hulp van Mossie en sy skoonogter, Avril, 'n heerlike ete aan die tak voorgesit. Baie dankie aan die Basson gesin.



Doreth by die voorbereide aandete.

Weer eens 'n lekker Tak-byeenkoms.

Lootjie wenner – Mickey Sweetnam

Hester Ferreira het weer eens bosse veldblomme saamgebring en is gegee aan dames wie se name getrek is. Dankie Hester.

The venue: Langebaan Yacht Club. Attendance: 50% of branch members plus a few guests. Activity for the evening: Beetle Drive. Dinner: Hamburgers and side dishes plus desert. Hosts: Rob and Lesley Sproul and Renee and Greg Smith. Beetlemeister: Rob Sproul.

Onder die leidende hand van Rob is 'n paar rondtes Beetle Drive voor en na ete gespeel. Die geraas in die vertrek was tekenend dat almal geniet het om weer tieners te wees en met die hulp van dobbelsteentjies hul oponente 'n stryd aan te sê. Die vlugheid van hand en skerpheid van oog was bepalend. Elke rondte het 'n wenner opgelewer Die uiteindelijke wenners van die aand was: Dames – Kotie Wagener en Mans – Bart Hauptfleisch. Dankie Rob vir 'n baie genotvolle aktiwiteit.



'n Ou het 'n dop nodig om dié spel te verstaan.

All helped themselves to the very tasty hamburgers and side dishes. During dinner there was a buzz in the room as people discussed what the best method and tactics were to be successful in Beetle Drive. A lot of different opinions, but clearly the camaraderie and spirit amongst members were very good.



Great hamburgers and

Raffle winner: Gavin Goldschmidt

Thanks to all who contributed to another great Branch meeting.

Die jaarlikse stap langs die see tussen Laaiplek en Dwarskersbos is 'n buitemuurse aktiwiteit wat populêr is onder die Tak se lede. Soos gewoonlik was Lappies die hooforganiseerder en het lede en families saamgetrek in Dwarskersbos se karavaanpark. Dié wat wou stap is vroegoggend per bus na Laaiplek geneem en is daarvandaan oppad terug na Dwarskersbos langs die pad afgelaai, afhangend die afstand wat hul wou stap, enigiets van 13 tot twee kilometers. Oud en jonk het die mooi van die natuur geniet. Welgedaan aan al die stappers.



Die langafstand stappers



'n Toeskouer



ander speel in die see

Back at the caravan park Gibbs started early preparing the dough of the "rooster koeke". The men made fire and soon the first batch was available for tasting. Marion climbed in and kneaded the rest of the dough as was required and Gibbs eventually braai-ed 140 koeke. The butter, jam, honey and cheese ensured a tasty snack for all. The walkers joined as they completed their distance. Thanks to all, but especially to Gibbs and Marion for your efforts.



Gibbs braai 140 roosterkoeke



Marion sê dankie dis die laaste kilogram deeg

Of course the lunch meal was a barbeque done by each member or family when and how they wanted to do it. Just a most relaxing Saturday morning and lunch. Thanks to all for participating and showing excellent camaraderie and friendship. Thanks Lappies for the arrangements.

4 NOVEMBER 2016

LMB Langebaanweg het 'n kaskar wedren en potjiekos/braai kompetisie vir die basis personeel asook uitgenooies gehou. Die Weskus Tak het vir die plesier deelgeneem aan die potjiekos kompetisie. Peet Badenhorst, Kevin Kilfoil en Renee Smith was die span. Rob, Bart en Les het later by hul aangesluit vir ondersteuning. Daar is drie potte ingeskryf. 'n Sout en Peper Pot, 'n Brandewyn en Coke Pot en die hoofpot was 'n Pasta Pot. Alhoewel die span nie onder die wenners was nie, was daar lekker gees gevang en is die dag terdeë geniet.



Everyone having a good time out in nature

Terwyl die koeke gebraai is, is daar ook gekompeteer tussen gesinne en wie ookal met die ysterballe in die spel van petanque. Lekker ontspanne wedywing.



Petanque



Peet, Reneé and Rob preparing for the potte



Die drie potte



Braai



Die pasta hoofpot

The annual banquet of the Branch was held at the Riviera Hotel in Velddrif. It was great to again dress up and get together in a more formal manner. Again a good turnout with 50% of members attending.



Die vyfgang maaltyd was, soos verwag en waaraan ons gewoond is, uitstekend. Tussen die toesprake en lighartige stories wat vertel is, is daar lekker gekuier en is die aand terdeë geniet. Dankie Rob en Renee vir jul reëlings en baie dankie aan die personeel van Riviera vir die smaaklike disse en uitstekende diens.

A wings parade was held at AFB Langebaanweg where Chief of the Air Force, Lt Gen Msimang, presented commission and wings to pilots, flight engineers, loadmasters and radio operators who had qualified on their respective courses. A number of members from the Weskus Branch attended the parade.



Some of the Branch members who attended the parade

NUWE LEDE SEDERT JULIE 2016

Neels en Mariaan Botha
Leon en Sally Maré

SAAFA AWARDS TO MEMBERS DURING THE YEAR

Rob Sproul - Order of the SAAFA Silver
Chippie Strydom – Presidential Merit Medal
Mitch Mitchel – Presidential Merit Medal
Johan Ferreira – Presidential Merit Medal
Kevin Kilfoil – Presidential Merit Medal



Rob receiving his award from National President Hugh Paine



Chippie receiving his medal from Rob



Johan receiving his medal from National President Hugh Paine



Mitch receiving his medal from Rob



Kevin receiving his medal from Rob

Congratulations to all. You thoroughly deserve your award for services rendered to the branch through the years.

Die volgende artikel is ontvang vanaf Werner Vermaak en sy gade Dolores. Werner was die Hoof Instrukteur en leier van die Silver Valke te LMB Langebaanweg toe hy einde 2015 die SA Lugmag verlaat het en by British Aerospace Systems in Saudi Arabië aangesluit het.

Dear SAAFA family,

First of all I wish to say how much we miss the monthly meetings and exceptional company of all the current and former SAAF members which shared the SAAFA ethos, vision and common background.

I write this letter to the SAAFA West Coast Branch as an update and hopefully an on-going future communique of life outside of the SAAF, and as a matter of fact, outside of the boundaries of our beautiful South Africa. Yes, you read correctly, these days I'm employed outside of the SAAF as well as outside the country.

During 2013 I was approached the first time by a British Engineering company, BAE Systems, to join their team in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as an Instructor on Pilatus PC9 aircraft. At this point of my SAAF career, I could not see a purpose for leaving the SAAF, nor any real reason to leave the comforts of our own shores. However, as my first SAAF contract came to a point of renewal during 2015, a lot had changed. I started to consider my own future prospects within the SAAF, where my career was heading, the politics within the greater system as well as where I wanted my family to be in a couple of years. This created great psychological challenges, never mind the prospect of leaving my beloved SAAF, the Silver Falcons and Langebaan. After careful deliberation and intense prayer, I made the decision, to leave the comfort zone of the SAAF and explore new ventures beyond its gates. I accepted the post with BAE Systems Saudi Arabia and started working for them

almost one week after completing my SAAF contract on 04 December 2015. I was immediately placed on the world's newest and probably most costly and best military training systems, the Pilatus PC21. Sadly I had to leave the family behind in South Africa initially, as the security/visa process in the Middle East is particularly strict.

Arriving in Saudi Arabia on 17 December 2015, I was amazed by what I found. None of my expectations were met. Firstly, as a "newby" in the Middle East, I did not know what to expect, so hence, as any good soldier, I prepared myself for the worst... "kamp staaldraad", perhaps another "Gogga" or typical SAAF deployment to the middle of nowhere. What I found though, was very different. I found a modern compound on the outskirts of the city, abundant with trees, manicured lawns, well managed facilities, clean streets, the most beautiful landscaped gardens and swimming pools everywhere (13 in this compound to be exact)

Life on the compound is typically a western lifestyle with all the amenities from back home, all packed into a 1km x 1km compound. Women have all the privileges like back home, except for driving.



Off compound, life is different though. The city is a city under construction. Riyadh is transforming from an old Middle Eastern town into a modern first world city, however take note...it's under construction. In many places you will see the most amazing shopping malls, skyscrapers which is an architect's dream and highways Cape Town could only dream of, however with over 5 million people living in an ever developing and ever changing environment, it does leave areas of absolute chaos, crazy driving experiences and less than flattering "dirty" parts of the city. Women have to wear abayas everywhere outside of the compound limits, are not allowed to work and not allowed to drive a vehicle. This most certainly limits the typical freedoms Dolores was used to back home, however she has grown accustomed to the services offered by BAE Systems. Regular bus services run in and out of the compound to various parts of the city. Schooling for our boys Luan and Wian is great, absolutely first world and really progressive, however very expensive. Thank goodness for me though...the company pays for this.



On the work front, the pace is relentless and I probably never worked as hard for such a sustained period. This said though, the experience gained is immense and of course the financial reward and the fact that I'm tax free (for now), remains the biggest draw card, regardless of the strenuous nature of the job.

As for life beyond work, well, it's a big adventure. We regularly go camping in the desert (especially now that it's not in excess 40°C every day and have made a visit to Bahrain recently too.



I hope that this little bit of news from the Saudi Arabia will enlighten all our friends on the West Coast as to our desert adventures. All I can say in conclusion is that if it wasn't for my rich training and rewarding experiences within the SAAF, this adventure would've never been possible. There are some things which I personally would've loved to have still done in the SAAF, amongst other Test Pilot Course as well as being the Commanding Officer of my own flying unit, but alas. Regardless of missing out on some of my SAAF aspirations, as a family we could've never imagined that life would turn out to become such an enormous global adventure.

I wish to thank everyone back home for your support and prayers for not only us but also other ex-SAAF'ers doing similar work across the globe.

Kind regards,

Werner, Dolores, Luan and Wian Vermaak

We wish the SAAFA National President and members of NEC as well as all the Branches a happy and blessed festive season.

Geniet die waardevolle tyd met u familie en vriende.

Reis veilig en ons sien mekaar weer in 2017. Redaksie.