



SAAF Association Port Alfred News



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TALE DRAGGER

January 2018



SAAFA would like to wish each and every one the very best for the New Year. May 2018 bring you peace, prosperity and all the good things that you wish for yourselves.

There will not be a lunch at the beginning of January. Details of our next lunch will be announced in the next issue of the Tale Dragger.

WELFARE OF MEMBERS

Sick Bay: Denzil Goosen, Gavin Kendall, Joan Grisdale, Tim Bradbury, Rev.James Hoyle and Guy Hilton-Barber.

Our family at SAAFA would like to wish you all a speedy recovery. You are in our thoughts and prayers and we hope that you soon feel a lot better.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR JANUARY:

1st Joan Grisdale; 2nd Denzil Goosen; 18th Gwynneth Hill; 20th Cecil Jones-Phillipson; 22nd Guy Hilton-Barber and Allan Lubbe; 26th Natie Ferreira; 29th Myrna McCabe; 30th Trevor Underhill ; 31st Mike Beaumont.

Our very best birthday wishes to you all. May you have a special day, the memories of

which will stay with you for the rest of the year.



(Who says that smoking causes cancer?!)

IMPRESSIONS OF A PILOT

Flight is freedom in its purest form,
To dance with the clouds that follow a storm,
To roll and glide, to wheel and spin,
To feel the joy that swells within;
To leave the earth with its troubles and fly,
And know the warmth of a clear spring sky;
Then back to earth at the end of the day,
Released from tension that melted away.
Should my end come while I am in flight,
Whether brightest day or darkest night;
Spare me your pity and shrug off the pain,
Secure in the knowledge that I'd do it again;
For each of us is created to die,
And within me I know,
I was born to fly.

(By Gary Cloud Stoker)

SUBJECT: Oh!

Bert, at 85 years old, wanted a pair of soft spike golf shoes, so seeing some for sale, after his round, bought a pair. He was so delighted with his purchase that he decided to wear

them home to show his "missus." Walking proudly into his house, he sauntered into the kitchen and said to his wife, "Notice anything different about me?"

Margaret at age 83 looked him over and replied, "Nope."

Frustrated as anything Bert stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the kitchen, completely naked, except for the new golf shoes.

Again he asked Margaret, a little louder this time, "Notice anything different NOW?" Margaret looked up and said in her best deadpan voice, "Bert, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, and it will be hanging down tomorrow."

Furious, Bert yelled out, "AND DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S HANGING DOWN, MARGARET?"

"Nope. Not a clue," she replied.

"IT'S HANGING DOWN BECAUSE IT'S LOOKING AT MY NEW GOLF SHOES!"

Without missing a beat, old Margaret replied, "You should've bought a new hat!"

HUGE AIRBUS STRUGGLES TO LAND IN CROSSWINDS AT DUSSELDORF AIRPORT.



This was the terrifying moment that a huge Emirates Airbus A380 struggled to come in to land at Dusseldorf airport recently.

While the descent was relatively calm, the problems began when the wheels touched down on the tarmac.

The plane came down at an angle and as the pilots attempted to line up with the runway, a sudden and powerful gust caused it to sway wildly. For several moments the plane tipped from one side to the other as the pilots attempted to bring it under control.

When landing in strong crosswinds, pilots will typically approach the runway with the plane at an angle, to counteract the effects of the wind.

At first it looked like a pretty normal crosswind approach, but after touchdown, the situation changed dramatically.

A photographer – Mr. Bogdan – said, “I have never seen such a tremendous reaction of an airplane after a touchdown. You could see that the pilots tried to align with the runway by using the tail rudder and luckily it worked out. The skill of the pilots was incredible.

Even after an unexpected wind gust after touchdown, they managed to re-align with the runway. Incredible job.”

An Emirates spokesman said, “Emirates flight EK55 on 5 October 2017, landed safely in Dusseldorf under strong crosswind conditions. At no time was the safety of passengers and crew on board compromised.”

(UK Daily Mail)

AN EAGLE KISS

Freedom and I have been together 11 years this summer.

She came in as a baby in 1998 with two broken wings. Her left wing doesn't open all the way even after surgery...it was broken in 4 places.

Apart from the broken wings, she could not stand, was emaciated and covered in lice. She was taken to the vet in a huge dog carrier, with the top off, and shredded newspaper to lie on.

I used to sit with her and talk to her, urging her to live, to fight, and she would lay there looking at me with those big brown eyes.

She was tube fed for 4 to 6 weeks and even then was still unable to stand.

It got to the point where the decision was made to euthanize her if she couldn't stand in a week's time.

You know you don't want to cross that line between torture and rehab and it looked like death was winning. She was going to be put down on that Friday and I was supposed to go in to the centre on Thursday afternoon. I didn't want to go because I couldn't bear the thought of her being euthanized, but when I got there, everyone was grinning from ear to ear. I went immediately to her cage and there she was, standing on her own, a big beautiful eagle. She was ready to live.

As she could never fly, I was asked to glove train her. She got used to the glove and we started doing education programmes for schools in western Washington.

In the spring of 2000, I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I had stage 3, which is not good (one major organ plus everywhere else) so I wound up doing chemo for 8 months.

When I felt good enough, I would go and take Freedom for walks.

In November 2000 I was told that if the cancer was not gone after 8 rounds of chemo, then my last option was a stem cell transplant. I went for the tests and the following Monday I was told that the cancer had gone.

The first thing I did was to take the big girl for a walk. We went to the top of the hill. It was cold and misty. I hadn't said a word to Freedom, but somehow she knew. She looked at me and then wrapped both wings around me and she touched my nose with her beak and stared into my eyes. We just stood there for I don't know how long. That was a magic moment and we have been soul mates ever since. This is a very special bird.



(Courtesy of Wally)

That's the end of my story-telling for now. If you are travelling over the Festive Season, take care and look after yourselves. Have a good time and we wish you all of the best. We look forward to seeing you next year!

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NOTE:

The Editors extend their thanks for all contributions received. Opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors or SAAFA National Executive. The Editors reserve the right to amend or reject any editorial matter submitted for publication

