



SAAF Association Port Alfred News

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TAL E DRAGGER

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NEXT MEETING AND LUNCH AT THE SKI BOAT CLUB ON 7TH AUGUST- 12.00 FOR 12.30.

We look forward to seeing you. Please call Hugh at 046 624 1589 or Wally at 046 624 1861 to let us know as to who is attending and who cannot join us. Any apologies can also be communicated to either Hugh or Wally.

WELFARE OF MEMBERS

Sick Bay: Denzil Goosen, Rev. James Hoyle, Gavin Kendall, Pierre Hendricks, Deleste Vandermeulen, Donna Ferreira and Lee Botma.

We hope that your recovery is a quick one and that you are soon back on your feet again.

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing to higher service of Myrna Keet on 15th July 2017. Our sincerest condolences to Rodney, family and friends.

Lest we forget.

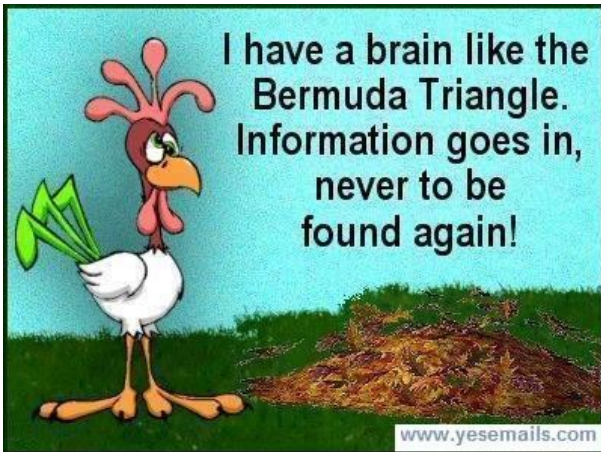
We have also just heard that Pierre Hendricks passed to higher service on 18th July 2017. Our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Lest we forget

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR AUGUST:

6th Hugh Holmes; 16th Frank Pascoe; 17th Walter Gridale; 19th Gary Human; 23rd Gordon Goff; 26th Anthonie Knoetze;

Once again it's your "New Year."
Regularly they just appear.
With every good wish we say to you.
Have a great day with fun time too.



MODEL AIRCRAFT AND VINTAGE CAR SHOW AT PORT ALFRED HIGH SCHOOL.



Saturday, 15th July dawned bright and sunny with a tiny breeze blowing from the west. This was the day that Tim Cockbain had worked so long and hard for. There were enthusiastic aircraft owners, putting their planes through their paces, much to the delight of the onlookers, many of them young children. Remote control cars were also put through their paces. Vintage cars were lined up across the playing field for all to look at. The highlight of the Show was, of course, the para drop from a helicopter drone. The field was laid out with numbers plus letters (according the tickets sold from raffle sheets) and the winners were those lucky enough to have the little parachute land on or near the square containing their number. Unfortunately, as luck would have it, the wind decided to stretch its wings, and blew the parachute off course, a couple of times. The

school tuck shop was open and boerie rolls etc. went like wildfire. The bar at the Clubhouse also did a brisk trade. It seems that, by the end of the show, a good time was had by one and all.



LISTEN TO YOUR DOCTOR

Morris, an 82 year old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?"

Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc: Get a real hot mamma and be cheerful." The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, "You've got a heart murmur. Be careful." ...oooh!

BATTLE OF BRITAIN BRAVERY



In November 1940, three women of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) were

awarded 50% of all Military Medals (MM) received by members of that service during the Second World War. They were stationed at RAF Biggin Hill, in Kent, which suffered some of the worst air raids during the Battle of Britain.

In a devastating attack on 30 August 39 people were killed. The next morning those who survived reported for duty as usual, at the start of a day that would see further air raids.

Sergeant Joan Mortimer, Flight Officer Elspeth Henderson and Sergeant Helen Turner were all WAAF teleprinter operators who stayed at their posts during the heavy Luftwaffe attacks on 1 September. Elspeth Henderson continued her work keeping in contact with Fighter Command Headquarters, Uxbridge, while the raid was on. She carried on even though she was knocked to the ground as the ops room where she was working took a direct hit. Helen Turner, the switchboard operator also carried on working as the building was hit and bombs fell nearby. It was only when a fire broke out and they were ordered to evacuate that the women finally abandoned their posts.

Sergeant Joan Mortimer was in the armoury when the air raid started. Although surrounded by several tons of explosives, she remained at her telephone switchboard relaying messages to the defence posts around the airfield. When she had finished her work, she picked up a bundle of red flags and hurried out to mark the numerous unexploded bombs scattered around the area. Even when one went off close by, she carried on.

For the bravery that all three WAFs displayed in their determination to carry out their duties during such danger, each was awarded a Military Medal in November 1940.

POND, GIRLS AND A FARMER

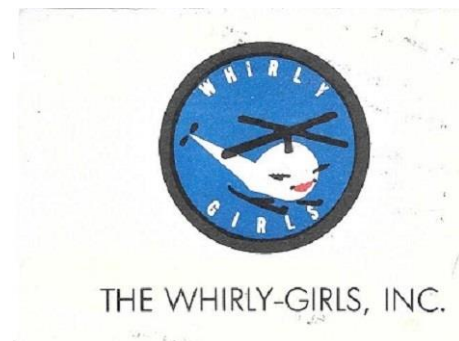
An elderly man in the Eastern Transvaal had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in his back garden which he converted to a swimming pool with picnic tables and braai areas. He also planted some fruit trees in this area.

One evening the farmer decided to go down to the pond and look it over. He also grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw that there was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in the pond. He made them aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man frowned, "I didn't come here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked."

Holding up the bucket he said, "I'm here to feed the crocodile!"



NOTHING LIKE A CHOPPER

In 1976 Val Humphreys (late wife of late Ken Humphreys) – an experienced fixed-wing aircraft pilot – underwent training to become the second female helicopter pilot in South Africa. (At that time the only other woman in the country with a helicopter on her licence was Deanne Eddy)

Val trained on Hughes 300 and 500 series with Gerald Broberg of Ultra Air as instructor. Comair was the Southern Africa distributor of Hughes Helicopters. Asked by "Comair News" why she was obtaining a helicopter rating, Val said, "Choppers are really so satisfying to fly – they defy gravity!, but in a more serious vein, I hope to become a professional helicopter pilot."

Gerald Broberg commented, "You need 40 hours for a conversion on to a helicopter, and, although few pilots would admit it, it's like learning to fly all over again."

JOBLESS SOUTH AFRICAN MAN BUILDS A CHOPPER

19th June 2015

All he wanted to do was fly in a helicopter. So an unemployed man at Siza informal settlement near Rustenburg decided to follow his dream – and build a helicopter.

Vusimuzi Mbatha, 35, originally from the Eastern Cape, said he became fascinated with helicopters when he saw them in operation during a strike on the platinum belt in North West in 2014.

He said he started to buy parts, bit by bit, and used scrap metal to build his helicopter.

It stands proud in front of his shack. It sports a television set, a clock on the back of a seat and has a two-way radio. It has a red as well as a green light on its tail that flash at night. Its engine is powered by petrol and a motor bike battery is used to propel the rotor. The rotor hub is housed in an old cold drink crate. The cockpit is also built out of cold drink crates. A fire extinguisher is located on the left hand side of the helicopter. The aircraft stands on a four-wheeled trolley built out of scrap metal.

The steering wheel is made from a PlayStation control and there is also a clutch and an accelerator.

"The helicopter is incomplete; there are still some parts that I have to put in. The challenge is the money. I am not working and depend on odd jobs to build this helicopter." Mbatha wanted experienced pilots or aviation experts to inspect his helicopter before he could take it to the sky.

"Flying can be dangerous. I want the helicopter to be inspected for safety before I can fly"

GOLFING JOKES

Golfer: Do you think that it is a sin to play on a Sunday?"

Caddy: "The way you play, it's a sin on any day!"

Golfer: "This is the worst course I've ever played on."

Caddy: "This isn't the golf course. We left that an hour ago!"

WORLD RECORD BREAKING EAGLE FLIGHT.

A video has been made of an eagle's flight from the top of the world's tallest building to his handler below. The eagle was fitted with a camera and released from the top of the 2,715 foot Burj Khalifa building in Dubai.

The eagle had no idea where the tiny speck of land was that his handler was standing on or what it looked like among all of the other islands and buildings and people.

Somewhere along the way, the eagle actually picks out and recognises his trainer from among all of the other objects, people, etc. You can see him looking for his trainer, who is invisible to the human eye and the camera, and then once he spots him, he folds his wings and drops like a bullet straight to his trainer.

What is surprising is not only how efficiently

the eagle spots his trainer from that altitude, but how smooth his flight is, with no camera shake whatsoever, even when it goes into a power dive.

May we all have the eyes of an eagle!
(The video is on U-Tube. Look for the heading: "World Record Breaking Eagle Flight)

We hope that you enjoyed your flight with us with this edition of the Tale Dragger. Wrap yourselves up in this chilly weather. We look forward to seeing you at our lunch on 7th August.

Editor: Lyn.

Co-Editor: Annetjie

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