



IN-FORMATION

NEWSLETTER OF THE DURBAN BRANCH

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Chairman's Chatter

It was with some embarrassment and distress that I realised that I have not put out a newsletter this year. My apologies for that, but it is amazing how quickly the year has passed!

The past year has been marked by good camaraderie, the loss of some colleagues and friends, and sadly a decline in the attendance at our lunches with as little as 12 members attending at times.

A mention must once again be made regarding the wonderful hospitality that our branch has received at Air Force Base Durban, and we thank Col Barney Fourie (Officer Commanding AFB Durban) for this kindness and assistance. A particular thanks must go to WO Maggie Olivier, the Club Manager, who has provided wonderful 3 course meals at every single lunch this year!

The Sunset Call

Since the publication of our previous newsletter it is with great sadness that we report that the following members have been called to Higher Service:

- a. Chris Hickson.
- b. Guy Dottridge.
- c. Alex Bell.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families and friends.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

New Members

Our new members that we welcome to the SAAFA, and our Branch, are:

- a. Ronald Collyer.
- b. Mike Impson joined as an Associate Member.
- c. Joanne Pavel.
- d. Neville Dolley who was transferred from the East Rand Branch.
- e. Lt Col (ret) Pat Titlestad (ex OC Umvoti Mounted Rifles) joined as an Associate Member.

Luncheons

The lunch program of lunches being held on the first Friday of the month instead of the second Friday is working well. We have not had a single problem with double or unexpected bookings by the Mess.

Due to the increased traffic on Friday afternoons, and particularly on the first Friday of the month, our lunches now start at 12h15 in future so that the guest speaker can speak before lunch now, and starters are served at 13h00. The pub is open from 11h30 for those thirsty early travellers.

Contact me, Steve Bekker, at 031 904 3644 or 083 655 6532 or by e-mail at stevejbekker@telkomsa.net by the latest on the Tuesday noon preceding the luncheon to make a booking. Also, if you have booked and need to cancel your booking please do so as ***promptly*** as possible.

Member's Accounts

Sadly, we could not equal our record of a 100% membership subs payment as in 2016 as 2 members have failed to pay their subs for the year. However, our statistics re the payment of subs still looks good.

Our annual capitation fees to NEC have to be paid on, or before, 31 March 2018, so I implore you to sit down quickly and pay your 2018 subs if you have not already done so. The subs have remained R120 per annum, or 6 beers per annum if ordering a restaurant, so please pay them promptly.

Please note the new banking details below when paying your subs by EFT as the Standard Bank accounts no longer exist. An EFT payment is preferable for us.

Please pay your subs at the lunches, rather than cash deposits at the bank, if you are paying your subs with cash as the banks charge us R40 if you deposit the money at a bank teller, and up to R7,50 for an ATM cash deposit.

If you must pay by depositing cash at your bank, please add R40 if depositing the money at the bank teller and R10 if you are making an ATM deposit. Thank you.

New FNB Banking Account

The SAAFA Durban Branch has opened a new FNB cheque account and the banking details are as follows:

SAAFA DURBAN BRANCH
FNB Acacia House
Cheque Account
Branch Code: 210750
Account Number: 62604514556

If you have any money lying around doing nothing or looking bored or homeless, you are welcome to deposit it into the above account and we will ensure that it finds a good home amongst friends!

Welfare

The SAAFA Durban Branch still has three beneficiaries that are assisted financially. The monthly grants are paid from the branch savings, generous donations by members, and an amount is being sponsored by the Johannesburg Branch Benevolent Committee over and above the grant by the Durban Branch.

The Air Forces Housing Memorial has committed to providing assistance in 2018, which is administered by the SAAFA Johannesburg Branch.

Attendance of Memorial Services and Functions by the SAAFA Durban Branch

The following Memorial Services and functions were attended since the last newsletter:

- a. A wreath was laid by Nick Lithgow on behalf of the SAAFA Durban Branch at the annual AFB Durban Memorial Parade on 12 May 2017.
- b. I laid the SAAFA Cross at the Delville Wood Memorial at the Cenotaph in Durban on 16 July 2017. What made this occasion especially memorable for me was that my grandson, Brendon, accompanied me to lay the SAAFA Cross; after some instruction in regimental drill and procedures.



Brendon and I on our way to lay the SAAFA Cross

- c. I laid the SAAFA Cross at the Delville Wood Memorial at the Glenwood High School in Durban on 27 July 2017.
- d. I laid the SAAFA Cross at the Gunner's Memorial in Durban on 3 September 2017.
- e. A contingent of 16 members and spouses of the SAAFA Durban Branch attended the Annual Military Spring Ball at Umvoti Mounted Rifles on Saturday 16 September 2017. The SAAFA flag was proudly displayed and could not be missed.
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- g. Nick Lithgow laid the SAAFA Cross at the Durban High School at their Annual Memorial Remembrance Service on 7 November 2017.
- h. Nick Lithgow laid a SAAFA Cross at the Remembrance Day Memorial Service at the Cenotaph in Durban on 12 November 2017.
- i. Linda and I attended the SAAFA Pietermaritzburg Branch's Christmas Lunch on 28 November 2017, which was a really pleasant affair.

Awards in 2017

Brian Emmenis was awarded the Order of the SAAFA (Bronze) for his immense assistance to the SAAFA Durban Branch during our fund raising campaigns in 2012 and 2013.

During our only meeting earlier this year at the Makaranga Lodge, I had the privilege of handing John Boardman the Presidential Merit Award for his outstanding service over the past 15 years to SAAFA Durban Branch, and for his continued service to the Durban Branch despite the fact he now lives in Pretoria. John has already been awarded the Order of the SAAFA (Gold).



Christmas Lunch on 24 November 2017

The SAAFA Durban Branch enjoyed our annual Christmas lunch at AFB Durban on 24 November 2017.

I was pleased that we had a turnout of 45 members and friends, and it really was an excellent day. WO Maggie Olivier and her staff provided an excellent meal which was enjoyed by all.

One free lunch was won and cash prizes of R500, R250 and R100, was won by three lucky members, of which the Chairman was sadly not one. A bottle of Zulu Rum, sponsored by Clinton Wyness, was also won.

Below is wonderful incriminating evidence of us having fun and enjoying ourselves.



Branch members pretending to pay attention while the Chairman was addressing the lunch!



The Chairman thanking WO Olivier, the Club Manager, and staff.



Desert!



Always proudly displaying our SAAFA flag!

CONCLUSION

On that happy note, on behalf of Linda, myself, and the SAAFA Durban Branch Committee, I trust that you will enjoy a safe and wonderfully blessed Christmas, and that 2018 will only treat you kindly.

Finest SAAFA greetings,

Steve Bekker
Chairman SAAFA Durban Branch

Disclaimer : The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of the SA Air Force Association