



# **SAAF Association Port Alfred News**

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## **TALE DRAGGER**

**February 2019**

### **NEXT MEETING AND LUNCH-AT THE SKI BOAT CLUB ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY-12.00 FOR 12.30.**

We look forward to seeing you for the first time in 2019!

Please contact Lyn on 046 604 0493 or 082 577 8389 (Whats App) for your bookings or apologies.

As the caterer requires numbers on the day before the lunch, please advise by noon on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Please also advise any dietary requirements, e.g. if you do not eat fish etc.

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### **WELFARE OF MEMBERS**

Denzyl Goosen, Rev. James Hoyle and Mike Neave.

We hope that 2019 brings you better health and that you are soon up and about. Our prayers are with you. God bless.

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR FEBRUARY**

2<sup>nd</sup> Koos Van Rensburg; 9<sup>th</sup> Andrew Winkelmann; 11<sup>th</sup> Mike Neave; 26<sup>th</sup> Lorna Els.

We hope that your special day leaves you with the best memories for the rest of the year.

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### **URBAN JUNGLE**

An American woman calls a travel agent to make a flight reservation.

"I want to book a flight from Chicago to Rhino, New York," she says.

The travel agent says, "Are you sure that's the name of the town?"

"Yes, what flights do you have?" the woman replies.

After doing a search the agent says, "I'm sorry ma'am, but I've looked up every airport code in the country and cannot find a Rhino anywhere."

"Oh don't be silly!" the woman says, "everyone knows where it is. Check your map!"

The agent scours the map of New York and finally says, "You don't mean Buffalo, do you?" "That's it!" the woman says. "I knew that it was a big animal!"

## SAAFA PRESENTS: THE VICTORY CUP GOLF DAY 2019



TOP RIGHT: The winners of the Victory Cup at the SA Air Force Association Golf Day last Saturday, Dennis White, left, and Chris Roberts right, pictured with the Laurence of Bards who presented them with the trophy and a microwave oven each. Photo: JIM HODGIE

### Victory Cup winners-Dennis White and Chris Roberts.

A 35 km/h wind did not deter 134 golfers from playing their 18 holes. They came back to the Clubhouse, happy, smiling, windswept and... very thirsty. Koos and his merry bunch from 43 Air School were doing quite a trade in "Avgas" at the 13<sup>th</sup> Tee and it seems that a number of thirsts were quenched at this "oasis"

There were two raffles – a day trip to Sibuya for two (valued at over R3000) and a booze hamper. The raffle tickets were managed by Annatjie Rogers who with a team of willing SAAFA ladies raised a tidy sum of money. The evening show was opened by John Wesley, our Acting Chairman, who thanked Koos and 43 Air School for their help as well as their very generous sponsorship. They donated two microwave ovens as prizes for **Dennis White** and **Chris Roberts**, who were the winning pair of players. John also proposed a toast to our late Chairman, Hugh Holmes.

Koos then took over the emcee job and introduced Rob Knowles to run the auctions. We were donated a Chivas Regal gift pack (Paul Fryer) and four vouchers for dinner, bed and breakfast for two people (Royal St. Andrews Hotel.) These auctions raised R8000. Well done to Rob.

Koos then announced the prize winners from 10<sup>th</sup> position to 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was also a Lucky Draw and we had eight more winners.

Koos ended the programme and those who were left, settled in to do some "serious throat moisturizing!"

It seems a good time was had by all.

A big THANK YOU from SAAFA to all sponsors who contributed to a very good fund-raiser for us.

The biggest THANK YOU must go to Rodney Keet who worked his butt off helping to organise this event.

(Ed's note: My butt is still the same size that it was before this event!)



TOP RIGHT: AT THE BACK, Rob Knowles was engaged golfers to dig deep into their pockets to support the auction at the end of the SA Air Force Association Golf Day last Saturday. Photo: JIM HODGIE

(Rob Knowles in action doing the auction, which raised R8000.

## MTHATHA AIR SHOW

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017:

The skies roared with the engines of military, police and civilian aircraft at Mthatha's very first air show and career expo.

Not only were the aerobatics and displays breath-taking at Mthatha Airport, but hundreds of school pupils learnt about civil aviation first hand.

The event was a celebration of O R Tambo's life and marked October as "Transport Month"



TOP RIGHT: At 1000, The Flying Circus (Mthatha) performed a series of aerobatic displays at the inaugural Mthatha Air Show and Career Expo. Photo: JIM HODGIE



A drone fitted with thermal-imaging sensors can track stock thieves at night.

## WHERE HI-TECH WATCHES THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT....

Thermal imaging drones deployed against stock thieves.

Desperate to curb the theft of a billion rands' worth of livestock every year, SA's farmers are turning to the skies and using military grade equipment to catch thieves.

Those who farm cattle, goats and sheep are most vulnerable, with some farmers along the Lesotho border having lost a quarter of their stock in the past eighteen months.

Agri's SA deputy executive director, Christo van der Rheede said that farmers, especially emerging farmers living far from towns, were being driven to extreme measures to recover their stock. He said that while commercial farmers had access to technology such as drones, emerging farmers often did not.

In 2017 the North West farming community of Schweizer-Reneke began to raise money for a drone fitted with a US military grade thermal imaging camera in the hope that it would track down people involved in attacks on farms.

Andre Pienaar, who helps operate the drone, said that they had to acquire special permission from the US Defence Force to export the camera. They had to wait six months for permission from the US Defence Force and sign multiple declarations that the drone would not be passed on to countries on

their watch list. The drone and the camera, which has both daylight and thermal imaging capabilities, is amongst the best in the world and has dramatically reduced stock theft in the area.

The drone travels for up to 7km at 70 km/h. The camera has facial recognition and vehicle registration reading capabilities.

The drones are also being used by Free State farmers and have been proved invaluable. They can be flown beyond line-of-sight for up to 5km. The thermal imaging is a force multiplier as it allows one to see perfectly at night and can even detect people hiding in dense bush, crags and ravines.

Andre Meyer, a Free State farmer used his drone to track down 10 of his cows that were being driven into Lesotho. The thieves got away, but he recovered his cows. Meyer, who has been on an international aviation course on regulations governing drone operations, has said that although there are strict rules about international airspace, he could fly his drone along the border and conduct surveillance into Lesotho for kilometres.

Civil Aviation Authority has said that no licence or certificate is required if the drones are for private use only. However, operating in the airspace of another country without permission is not allowed. Also, flying over national key points or over crowds has to have the necessary permissions to do so.

## LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Two prisoners are making their escape over the jailhouse roof when one of them dislodges a tile.

"Who's there?" shouts a guard.

The first prisoner replies with a convincing imitation of a cat's meow. Reassured, the guard goes back to his rounds.

But then the second prisoner dislodges a tile.

"Who's there?" demands the guard.

"The other cat," the second prisoner shouts back.

## EAA'S B-17 BOMBER "ALUMINIUM OVERCAST"



In 1934, the Boeing Aircraft Company of Seattle, Washington, began the construction of a four-engine heavy bomber. Known as Boeing Model 299, it first took flight on 28 July 1935. The government ordered production of 13 of these aircraft, now designated the Y1B-17. Delivery of these first production models was between 11 January and 4 August 1937. The B-17 received the name "Flying Fortress" from a Seattle reporter who commented on its defensive fire power. The B-17 underwent a number of improvements over its 10-year production span. Models ranged from the YB-17 to the B-17-G model. Between 1935 and May 1945, 12732 B-17s were produced. Of these aircraft, 4735 were lost in combat missions. At one time, more than a thousand B-17s could be assembled for mass combat missions.

The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress is a World War 11 bomber used primarily in Europe. B-17s from the US Eighth Air Force participated in countless missions from bases in England, often lasting for more than eight hours and struck at targets deep within enemy territory. Because of their long range capability, formations of B-17s often flew into battle without a fighter escort, relying on their own defensive capabilities to ensure a successful mission.

However, although the B-17s were bristling with machine guns, these armaments were not sufficient to prevent many from being hacked from the skies by enemy fighters. M-109s would fly beneath them with their guns tilting upwards and shoot into the B-17s under belly. It was only when the P-51 Mustangs were fitted with Merlin engines did they have the

capability to accompany the B-17s to their targets to give them fighter protection.

During the war, B-17s were amongst the most modern aircraft in the US inventory. However, the advent of the jet age and advances in technology made the Flying Fortress obsolete soon after the end of the war in 1945. In the years following World War 11, most B-17s were cut up for scrap, used in Air Force research or sold on the surplus market.

Throughout the war, the B-17 was refined and improved as battle experience showed the Boeing designers where improvements could be made. The final B-17 production model, the B-17-G, was produced in larger quantities than any previous model and is considered the definitive Flying Fortress. With its 13 x .50-calibre machine guns; chin, top, ball and tail turrets; waist and cheek guns, the B-17-G was indeed an airplane that earned the respect of its combatants.

In addition, air crews liked the B-17 for its ability to withstand heavy combat damage and still return its crew safely home. Out of the total of 12732 B-17s manufactured, 8680 were B-17-G models.

Whilst several airframes are to be found in museums today, only 11 are in an airworthy condition.

EAA's B-17G-VE, serial number 44-85740, nicknamed "Aluminium Overcast" was delivered to the US Army Air Corps on 18 May 1945. It was delivered too late to see action, but the airplane has an interesting history.



(Wishful thinking!)

I know that Christmas has gone by, but I think that this is such a funny picture of Andy Capp that you might enjoy too.

This is the end of me, for now. Looking forward to seeing you at lunch on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Take care and look after yourselves.

Editor: Lyn

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.