

RLI RA-AFRICA BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT DICKIE FRITZ SHELLHOLE EDENVALE ON 6th JUNE 2017

WELCOME

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the RLIRA Africa Branch Annual General Meeting.

Thank you for joining us today, your support is greatly appreciated.

ATTENDANCE

We have a Total of 35 Members present.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

Maurice Gabriel –Cape Region

Skippy Mitchell –KZN Rep.

Terry Pittaway

Jay Nel

Mick Jefferies

Wayne Thompson

Roy Wiggill

Gus Mason

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Copies of the 2016 AGM Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2016 have been published on the RLIRA Webpage and sent to committee members.

Limited Copies are available from the Secretary.

Matters Arising.

(There were no matters arising from the floor).

Previous Minutes accepted:

Proposed. - Rob Marsh

Seconded. - Alan Beattie

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Last Year in Review- 2016

Chairman Brian Lewis reviewed the activities of the Association over the last year, highlighting the following:

2016 was a successful, albeit a challenging year for the Association.

Our Success was due in the main, to the support and loyalty from the members and supporters who attended the events and functions the committee arranged over the year.

We enjoyed good attendance numbers at these functions, and it was good to see some old soldiers, a few of whom joined us for the first time.

The measure of success for us is the attendance figures at the events we arrange , and judging from the numbers we have seen at most events we have been pretty successful , and in the process We raised income of some R429k .

It is important to keep in mind that the main goals of the Association is to maintain bonds of friendship , keep the RLI spirit alive and build on the camaraderie.

We believe we have been instrumental in making this happen , however it is you the members and supporters who have been attending and supporting us , that has made 2016 the success it was and for that we Thank You .

Having the replica Trooper Statue in South Africa, based in the Memorial Gardens at the Dickie Fritz Shell- Hole in Edenvale Johannesburg, has proved to be very popular with members and supporters. It is easily accessible to most members, NOK and supporters who live in and around the city of Johannesburg.

The Troopie Statue has become a “Rallying Point” for members, who together with friends and supporters gather every month in the presence of the Troopie for the reading of the ROH which is followed by the usual prayer meeting function.

Open air memorials for Eddie Kaschula and Shorty Schultz have also been held at the Troopie.

The attendance on most occasions has been growing in numbers, and this is gratifying to note. However the declining economy and the negative impact it is having on the lives of our membership, some of who have been hit harder than most, will begin to take its toll in the coming years.

Your committee will continue to drive fund raising initiatives to enable it to be better placed to be able to provide assistance when called upon .

Patrons Day and the Puma 164 Memorial Service Parade held in September, which was followed by a Portuguese Themed function in the afternoon, was a well organised event enjoyed and supported by a good crowd.

The Committee have approved this event as a permanent fixture on the Associations annual Calendar.

Simon Godley ex 2 Commando invited the committee to extend an invitation on his behalf to the members of the RLI Association to be his guests at his family’s restaurant. The Committee organised a dinner and Chat evening at Simon’s restaurant Frangelicas. Dave Scales was invited to host a talk on the combined cooperation between the RLI and Selous Scouts during the bush war. The event was well attended with everyone enjoying a good meal and a glass of wine which was donated by the BSAP Association.

The committee wish to extend their appreciation on behalf of the Association, to Simon Godley and family for their generosity and on going support of the RLIRA.

The year end Christmas Cheer party held at Dickie Fritz was an overwhelming success. Once again the generosity and support from our members and supporters was fantastic. The response to our call for donations of a Christmas gift and food items was well received, resulting in a deluge of gifts and food items some of which were made into hampers etc, and handed out as prizes during the afternoons raffle .

Due to positive feedback from a majority of members and supporters, the Committee plans an even bigger and better event for Christmas 2017. Raffle tickets for this event have already gone on sale.

Military Associations Memorial Parades

*The Delville Wood Parade and Memorial

- *The Rhodesian Forces Memorial Service at Dickie Fritz
- *The Dickie Fritz Shell Hole, Armistice Memorial Parade in November
- *The CEO attended the SS Mendes memorial in Soweto.

Attendance at these Military events remains voluntary for our members. It is always good to see our chaps dressed in full kit and on Parade.

Monthly Prayer Meetings

It was pleasing to note that our members and friends continue to support the monthly Prayer Meetings.

The camaraderie and relaxed vibes make this a popular event, and the Committee are constantly planning ways to improve this monthly get-together.

The RLI Association received requests from 32 Battalion Association and the BSAP Association to join us at our monthly get together.

Other functions and events organised throughout the year will be covered in the report back from the Gauteng Representative –Neil Swart.

Fundraising, Welfare , Donations : Challenges & the future

The primary objective for the committee during 2016 was to raise as much money as possible for the Welfare Fund-Africa.

It is evident that as each year passes, more members have fallen on hard times, and have reached out to the Association for assistance.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our members and supporters we managed to raise **R144K** for the Welfare Fund.

Despite the down turn in the economy, and the obvious negative impact this has had on a number of our members, we managed our commitments, and were able to “give a helping hand to those who requested it .**No one was turned away** .

The committee approved payments to 18 members totalling **R154K**

The treasurer Mark Taunton will expand on Welfare when he presents his financial report for 2016.

Welfare Fund -The Future

The Committee is very aware of the constraints facing us and the sustainability of the Welfare Fund, and we have identified a number of challenges:

- The RLI Association by virtue of its history is, and will remain, primarily a self funding entity, relying solely on the generosity of members and supporters within its own ranks.
- The lagging economy with resultant job losses and the soaring cost of living continues to have a negative impact on most members and a number of members have to dip into savings etc, just to survive.

- The age factor and declining health in some cases, is exacerbated by the deteriorating state of some Government Health Institutions, and the cost of private Health Insurance is for most, unattainable.
- A number of members do not enjoy an adequate pension, and a number are finding that due to the ever increasing cost of living, their pensions barely meet day to day living expenses.

The Committee is aware that the RLI Association CAN NOT be “all things to everyone”, and the Association’s ability to consistently assist its members financially, is entirely dependent on the availability of funds which are in the main , raised from membership subs and generous donations from our members and supporters.

Ultimately it is payment of annual membership subscriptions and the generosity of members that will determine the level of financial assistance the RLI RA can provide as an Association into the future.

Unlike most Veteran Associations we are unable to openly seek public donations. We are limited to the benevolence of “Friendly Forces” and the men from within our own ranks

To this end the committee is actively engaged in reviewing the options available to us, while proactively trying to manage the challenges we face. These options include:

Investments .Mark Taunton explained to the members present, the risks of investments in SA over the last 3 years. The Committee has agreed that for the foreseeable future we will not pursue investments as an option for the Africa Branch Funds.

“High Flyer” Fund Raising Events .Brian Lewis gave a number of examples that have been received from well meaning members with regard to raising funds .However in most cases this required an initial capital outlay which the committee felt was too costly .despite the promise of good returns . Brian requested members who wished to discuss Fund Raising ideas, to please come forward and make contact with a committee member.

Benefactor Commitment .

The chairman explained that the concept here was to identify a number of potential benefactors’ who would be approached by the RLIRA Africa Committee to consider committing to a annual stipend to the Welfare Fund.

He noted that there are a number of individuals, that currently make monthly contributions and when requested they give generously to the Welfare Fund.

The committee wished to acknowledge these men who give so generously and to Thank Them for their generosity and support.

RLI Association –The Future .

We believe that now is the time for open dialogue on the sustainability of the RLI Association as a whole. The UK and Australian Branches face a similar situation with regard to membership subscriptions, fund raising and maintaining general interest and awareness.

The Africa Branch is committed to assisting the Association in UK and Australia where possible after taking into account the weakness of the Rand and exchange control limitations.

We are also concerned about the long term sustainability in maintaining and managing the RLI Museum in the UK.

We believe the time is now for EXCO, to consider initiating open dialogue through the participation of all members in the respective Branches.

WE call for an open and frank discussion regarding the short and long term goals and viability of the Association.

To this end I am proposing that the Africa Committee initiate the dialogue on this topic, and a Committee meeting will be held in the next month to put together our proposals.

Despite the challenges we may face as an Association, the committee firmly believe that we must maintain a positive yet pragmatic outlook, and to this end we have vowed to continually seek opportunities to raise funds, to keep the RLI "Spirit" alive, the camaraderie stronger, and to meet the goals of the Association.

Welfare Funds

Requests for financial assistance

Your committee will seek to amend the perception and indeed the practise of providing financial assistance to non-paying members.

This will be introduced for full discussion, and be placed on the agenda for the Committee meeting to be held in July 2017, and if agreed will be implemented by August 30th 2017.

If passed this will mean that only members who have paid their subs in full and are regarded as members "of good order" will be eligible for financial assistance from the RLIRA –Africa Branch.

Accordingly the committee feel there is a need to review the criteria for approving requests from members for financial assistance, and this will finalised by the end August 2017.

The proposal is as follows-

- Only full members of good standing in the RLIRA –Africa Branch will be considered for approval for financial assistance. [Members of good standing are members who are **Full members**, and have **paid annual membership fees** to the RLIRA-Africa Branch].
- Review each case /request on merit and individual circumstances. Review lifestyle of person requesting funding.
- Investigate Family or Financial Support Systems available.
- Investigate Severity of the financial difficulty, i.e. is it short or long term.
- Set limits to financial assistance, i.e. duration and maximum level of financial assistance to be given.

- Provide proof of medical treatment required.
- Provide financial statements/invoices relating to request for financial assistance toward medical expenses.
- Consideration for financial assistance will only be considered for the provision of Medical related issues e.g. medication.
- Rental/Accommodation, Food clothing and general subsistence shortfalls [Limited to 3 months only]

Being a member of the RLI will not automatically qualify a man for consideration for financial assistance.

Therefore the committee urge all members to become a Full member of good standing of the RLI Association.

It should be noted that the committee approved a payment plan for those who are unable to pay their annual subs of R300.

Members who are unable to make a once off payment are urged to use the payment plan to remain a member of good standing.

Only under exceptional circumstances will non RLIRA members be considered for financial assistance e.g.

RLI men who reside outside of SA and who are facing dire health or living situations. Basically we are saying there is no real excuse for any RLI member NOT to pay his annual membership fee of R300 [Also has the option of the payment plan] , to remain a full member of good standing .

Calendar 2017

The 2017 Calendar of events planned by and for the Association-Africa has been published. In addition it is posted on FB: The RLIRA Group.

In the past our members and supporters have always generously supported these events and functions and we urge them to continue doing so.

We acknowledge that the 2017 Calendar is a full and busy one, and that some members may not be able to attend every one , we understand and look forward to seeing you when you are able to .Do however keep in contact .

Acknowledgements: Donors and Donations

We wish to acknowledge those who have contributed generously to our fund raising initiatives, and our request for donations throughout the year.

The committee is proud and humbled by the ongoing support we receive from members and supporters.

Those who request anonymity should know we are grateful for their ongoing support.

In addition some of these donors also make regular monthly donations to the Association.

Without their support and generosity we would not be able to effectively manage the Welfare arm of the Association.

Therefore today we pay tribute to you and we Thank You.

We acknowledge Gerry Cilliers and Derrick Rausch for their generous and significant contributions to the Welfare Fund.

Both Gentlemen hand crafted some wonderful, knives and knife sets which were either auctioned or raffled and the funds raised were donated to the Welfare Fund .

Tribute to members, supporters and friends:

“A big part our success last year was possible only because of the ongoing generosity and the tremendous spirit and support’ we enjoyed throughout the year from our members”.

This unflinching support is an inspiration for the committee members, who are constantly under pressure to increase efforts with regard to Fund Raising Projects’ Committee.

I wish to acknowledge members of our Committee whose hard work and dedication has significantly contributed to the success enjoyed by the Association during 2016.

In Particular:

Alan Strachan, the Events Officer, whose organising skills has been of the highest order.

Debbie Huxham, the QM sergeant for her hard work in setting up the QM stores each month at our Prayer meetings.

Debbie introduced the debit card system, which has most definitely contributed to an increase in the sales of QM stocks.

Debbie has also introduced the RLIRA –Africa QM Face Book Group, which has reached a world wide audience.

Regular updates of stock availability, prices together with colour prints of various items are published on this FB Group.

For the first time the RLIRA attended the Military Fair at Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria, which was made possible by Gerry Cilliers , who introduced the committee to the possibility of greater exposure by displaying and selling our stock to the general public. Debbie’s hard work on the day realised some R9000 in sales.

Charlie Norris the Welfare Officer who was kept very busy during the year responding promptly to numerous requests for assistance.

Charlie has handled each request with quiet diplomacy and a high degree of confidentiality ensuring the dignity of those with whom he dealt.

Neil Swart the Gauteng Rep, who seized the reins and ran with a number of successful initiatives, which have contributed to the Welfare Fund raising initiatives . Neil will expand on this a little more in his report back later this morning.

Mark Taunton our Treasurer is also the Associations Rep for the Eastern Cape.

Through his efforts Mark has raised the awareness of the RLI Association in PE and Surrounds, taking their membership from 2/3 to some 8/9 members. They meet once a month for a prayer meeting, and take part in most Parades and events hosted by other Associations .

I am happy to report that the word is spreading and from the “mists of time” we have seen Old Soldiers from the RLI rise to join the ranks of the Association.

Bob Howard and John Callahan just to name a few now join the Ouens on a regular basis.

Bucks Theron, the Secretary for his willingness to assist whenever called upon. For keeping tabs on our new members by sending those welcome letters and reminding those to pay their annual subs. Bucks also ensure that you our members receive regular update regarding functions and events .Well Done Bucks Thanks for your dedication.

I would like to make special mention too of the work being done for the Association by Maurice Gabriel in Cape Town.

In particular Maurice has personally taken it upon himself by ensuring that one of our old soldiers Louis Van Zyl, who is bedridden and is unable to care for himself, receives the help he needs on a daily basis.

Maurice continues to maintain constant comms with the Ouens in the Cape Region, by hosting Potjie, Ox tail and various other dinners /lunches.

Through his efforts, and those men who form his internal sub committee, Maurice has significantly raised the profile of the Association.

WE would like to encourage all RLI members living in the Cape to support Maurice and the RLI Association by attending as many events /functions as they can.

I thank the Committee members for their loyalty dedication and support and for the many personal contributions they made to the success of the Association and the Committee during 2016.

The committee wish to acknowledge and thank Billy Wiggill our CEO for his role in ensuring that the Cheetah Magazine gets published, and for his recent work on updating the RLIRA webpage .It is no easy task keeping the Associations records up to date, and we are aware of the many hours Bill spends behind his computer ensuring that our membership is kept fully informed.

Current and Ongoing Projects

Facebook

RLIRA –Africa and the QM-Africa FB Groups are proving to be a popular and are an instant method of easy communication with members and supporters.

The Associations use of FB is seen as complimenting the RLI Webpage.

The Committee will look at ways to implement and manage a FB Group as a means to raise funds for the Association.

The committee have noted the success achieved by Gerry Cilliers using FB to generate sales of his much sought after knives.

Photographic Archive

This project has been carried over from 2016. A number of Battalion and Commando Photograph albums are held in storage by the committee. It is sad to

note that some of the albums appear to have been looted over the years, and in some cases damage has been caused by clumsy attempts to remove photos etc from the albums. It is hoped to be able to repair and digitalise these photographs, and to display these at certain events or functions in the future.

The committee plan to have a number of these photos reproduced and offered for sale to all interested parties, via the QM stock of memorabilia.

The Committee will plan to have a Photographic Memorabilia Day, an event where all the historical old photo albums will be on display, and members will be asked to bring along their old RLI photos to share with everyone. It is hoped that prints of the photos can be put up for sale.

Commando Memorial Day

2017 sees the implementation of "Commando Day", with 1 Commando members hosting an event to honour Col Dave Parker [The Big Red] with a Charity walk called "A Walk with the King".

This will be followed in every two months or so with each Commando being challenged to host a Themed event in memory of their respective Commandos and the men who served in them.

Nominal Roll

The committee have identified the need to update the Africa Association Nominal Roll. To this end Mark Taunton and Bucks Theron will be asked to head up a project commencing in August –October, to work with Bill Wiggill to update our Nominal Roll records.

We urge all members to support requests to supply updated details such as contact Numbers /addresses etc.

RLIRA membership : Memorial Services

The committee is currently reviewing the possibility of offering our members the benefit of a Memorial Service Plan.

The idea is to arrange in conjunction with the family and MOTH Dickie Fritz an open air memorial service for deceased RLI members.

The options include an open air memorial service conducted in front of the Troopie Statue, followed by a wake at the Ridgeback bar, or a memorial service conducted in the MOTH sanctuary at Dickie Fritz Shellhole.

Once the plan has been finalised, details will be published to all members.

Membership and Subscriptions

The Chairman stated that he could not understand the topic of payment of membership subscriptions evokes such a negative response from some of our members.

That being said, the committee have noted an increase in members paying their annual subs during 2016, and we raised R 21K which was slightly higher than 2015. To those who have paid thank **you** for the support.

It is important that we get the message out to all our members –The payment of annual subs is vital to the on going viability of the Association, without this source of income we simply will cease to exist as an Association - Please do pay your annual membership subs ,which are R300.

There really is no excuse for non payment, because your committee have implemented a payment scheme for those who simply can not afford to make a one off payment at the beginning of each year.

*A Payment Plan of R100 over three months.

Our Treasurer and Secretary will give a bit more detail on payments and numbers etc, a bit later .I would however like to highlight this point -

*Of the +- 407 FULL members on our nominal roll, only 65 paid their 2016 annual subs.

If all members FULL members paid their subs this would generate an income of approximately R113K for the Welfare Fund per annum. .

Footnote .

I am happy to report that since January this year 2017, we have witnessed a vast improvement in the payment of annual subs.

Our income from membership subs YTD 2017 has doubled that of last year and our income from subs so far sits at some R48k.

This is a vast improvement and we would like to thank all who have made an effort to pay their subs.

We appeal to those who have yet to pay, to do so soon, your R300 contribution each year is of extreme importance to the ongoing viability of the Association.

Your subs would ensure that our commitments to the Welfare of our more needy members are met and reduce the need to send out letters of appeal.

Nominal Roll –Africa

Our nominal Roll needs some work, and as alluded to earlier, a project will be undertaken to work with our CEO to update the Nominal Roll records.

In conclusion our appeal to our members who have not paid their annual subs yet

“PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBS –IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

Treasurers Report

It is my pleasure to hand over to our Treasurer Mark Taunton to present his Annual Financial Report to us.

Mark Taunton presented his financial report for 2016.

Proposed: Rob Marsh

Seconded: Stu Grover

(Financial Report appended hereto at the end of these Minutes)

Welfare Report

Charlie Norris

See end of AGM minutes

Secretary Report

Bucks Theron.

See end of AGM minutes

Regional Representatives Reports

- Gauteng : Neil Swart
- Cape Town. Maurice Gabriel
- Eastern Cape. Mark Taunton

See end of AGM minutes

Awards

There were no awards for 2016

Election of Office Bearers

All Office Bearers have agreed to continue serving in their current positions for a further 12 months, and I sincerely thank them for their dedication and continued loyalty.

Ladies and Gentlemen your RLIRA-Africa Branch Committee for 2017/2018:

Chairman: B.Lewis

Secretary: Peter 'Bucks' Theron.

Treasurer: Mark Taunton

QMS: Debbie Huxham

Welfare Officer: Charlie Norris

Events Organiser: Alan Strachan

Gauteng Rep: Neil 'Swarty' Swart.

KZN Rep: 'Skippy' Skipworth Mitchell.

Eastern Cape: Mark Taunton

Western Cape/Cape Town: Maurice Gabrielle.

Other Business

Alan Strachan requested that the committee consider providing Welfare Assistance to two members who are in need of a helping hand. Their names were made known to the committee.

Alan Strachan stated that he had received a number of requests from members for the committee to review the recent decision NOT to allow drinks to be consumed in the presence of the Troopie Statue as a toast to the fallen, after the reading of the Roll of Honour.

After brief discussion the Chairman called for a show of hands for those in favour of allowing the "Toast" to be done with a drink [as per usual] after the reading of the Roll Of Honour .

An overwhelming majority in favour prompted the Chairman to note that he was not in agreement with the majority; however the decision will be to allow the Toast to be done with a drink.

Carol Doughty offered to conduct a series Book Raffles to reduce the excess stock of books held; in particular the leather bound copies of Africa Commandos'. This was accepted, and Carol Thanked for her kind offer.

This concludes the business for the AGM for 2017 Thank You for your attendance and support .Enjoy the 2 Commando Day.

SECRETARIES REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence between other associations and RLIRA took the form of Invites to functions as well as requests for welfare for members who served in the RLI and moved to other Units. Letters of thanks were received for other units who attended our 56th birthday celebration.

Committee meetings were held at times to discuss merchandising and welfare requests.

There were no resolutions this year.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2016 we had 509 members we gained 26 new members between 2016 and 2017. 14 full members, 11 associated members and one legacy member. This brings the Africa Branch Membership to 535 members of which only 137 have paid their subs And are members in good standing. The subs for 2017 are R300 for full members and R150 for associated and legacy members. Please we need as many members to pay Subs as soon as they can as the welfare bill is climbing.

IN CONCLUSION it has been a good year and thanks to all that attends the Prayer meetings on a regular basic

Gauteng Region Report

2016 saw 3 important events topping off a most successful year both for the continued camaraderie of The RLIA Africa branch members and for the all important fundraising for RLI welfare.

1. 55th RLI Regimental Parade and celebration (Feb 2016)
2. Patrons day dedication & Operation Uric Memorial Parade (Sept 2016)
3. Christmas Cheer Fund raiser (Dec 2016)

All 3 events attracted well over 100 members and family to pay their respects to the RLI, its wonderful history and importantly to those brave Saints who lost their lives during the Rhodesian war.

On all occasions, the organizing committee has worked extremely hard as a cohesive unit to provide the expected high quality both on the parade square and at the after party celebrations.

These 3 events have found a permanent place on our events calendar moving forward and ensure that The RLIA Africa branch remains strong and committed to keeping the RLI history and legacy alive.

The unveiling and permanent home of the statue of "The Troopie", the RLIA uniform complete with Vellies and the implementation of "The Legacy members" with their own uniform continue to show our commitment to our proud unit and serve as

inspiration to all our members around the world. A fact that we must cherish and be proud of.

Other events that proved popular and well supported were the prayer meetings that at the last AGM were unanimously voted to take place monthly.

RLI welfare fund raising took center stage at all prayer meetings with our members showing great generosity with the various raffles, 50/50 draw and auctions. A highlight of the year saw over 60 prizes being donated by our members to the Christmas Cheer fund prayer meeting which must rank as one of the most festive of 2016.

The RLIA Africa branch members have also been active on "External operations" with members joining SAS, Selous Scouts, Viscount Memorial, Rhodesian Forces Memorial and Delville Wood Memorial functions showing great support for other unit Associations.

So on to 2017 and after a 2 month break, the committee got stuck into preparations for the 56th RLI Regimental Day featuring Next of Kin and remembrance Parade.

An emotionally charged Parade saw and heard selected next of kin reading out the Roll of Honor which set the scene for yet another successful RLI Regimental day.

Guest singer, entertainer and artist Fraser Mackay set up a magnificent atmosphere at the after party celebrations and helped raise much needed funds for Welfare.

The balance of 2017 will focus around themes for the remaining prayer meetings.

There are 4 Commando days allocated to 1, 2, 3 and Support.

In March The 1 CDO Big Red day was dedicated to Colonel "The King" Parker and was celebrated with a 3 km walk and a lamb on the spit braai to raise funds. Dawn Losper who was the Next of Kin representative for the day, read out an emotional next of Kin poem to continue the NOK theme for 2017. Another successful day shared by all our members with all food being donated allowing for maximum takings from the lunch.

With the large amount of public holidays scheduled in April we saw quite a large drop off in attendance at our Prayer meeting. None the less we still received some very generous donations to keep building our Welfare fund.

So on to Mays Prayer meeting where we provided Butternut soup and rolls to our Ouens at R10, thanks to the generous donation of soup from Simon Godley. To keep the warmth moving, the band The Spillage People played for us for free thanks to one of our great supporters in Andy Dyer. A record 5 x 50/50 boards were sold as our member numbers grew back to what we are used to seeing. We used this opportunity to further market the 2 CDO day to our members for June and we are anticipating a very high turnout wearing blue in support of 2 CDO.

2017 Events:

- Saturday February 4th – RLI Birthday
- Saturday March 4th – Prayer Meeting (1 CDO theme day)
- Saturday April 1st – Prayer Meeting
- Saturday May 6th – Prayer Meeting (Band - Spillage People)
- Saturday June 3rd – Prayer Meeting (2 CDO theme day)
- Saturday July 1st – Prayer Meeting
- Saturday August 5th – Prayer Meeting (3 CDO theme day)
- Saturday September 2nd – Patrons Day & Op Uric Memorial parade
- Saturday October 7th – Prayer Meeting
- Saturday November 4th – Prayer Meeting (Support CDO theme day)
- Saturday December 2nd – Prayer Meeting (Christmas Cheer Fund)

Special thanks to all committee members for their help and support during all functions as well as the many members donating various elements such as prizes, catering, printing and time and effort.

Eastern Cape Report

New Membership

We are delighted to have uncovered another RLI member. John Callaghan otherwise known to his friends as "Slim". Slim was one of the original members of the RLI having started his career in the Kings African Rifles before joining the RLI in 1961. We also uncovered Phil Raath another one of the "Originals" .

Chris Abrey ex 3 Cdo joined our ranks and his brother John Abrey who resides in Cape Town joins our prayer meetings when he is in town.

Other new members hailing from Port Alfred are Maj. Don Price. Gordon Morris and Ken Bothma

This brings our RLI Eastern Cape membership to 15.

We have a few other Rhodes military ouens join us at our Prayer Meetings as well and a few 32 Bn as well as a Recce.

Events

55th Anniversary

Jimmy Jameson, Mark Snelgar and I came up for the 55th Anniversary and would like to compliment the committee on a very well-run and professional parade. The Troopie statue is simply magnificent and it was a great honor for me to be one of the guards to the Troopie and I must express my heartfelt gratitude for allowing me the privilege of guarding the statue on such an auspicious occasion.

Brian's Visit to Port Alfred

Pete Gombart, Slim Callahan and I drove through to Port Alfred for a RV lunch with Brian and Marion Lewis, Jimmy Jameson and Don Price. We felt we could not miss the chance of seeing Brian and Marion whilst they were down here.

BSAP Kowie River Cruise

The RLI was invited to spend the day with the BSAP on the Kowie River. It proved to be a great day spent with a bunch of great Rhodesians.

Third Generation Parade

Pete and I attended the Third Generation Parade held at Comrades Shellhole and laid the RLI wreath.

The keynote speaker was Major General Roland de Vries.

For his exploits and astuteness, Roland de Vries has rightly been called the 'Rommel of the SADF'.

Prior to the parade he approached Pete Gombart and myself and said how pleased he was to see the RLI represented at the parade. He said that he had been so impressed by the RLI and Fireforce when he had commanded Task Force X-Ray in the Sengwe TTL in 1979-80.

When he made his speech he spent the first five minutes talking about the RLI and what an impression they had created. I must say it was very humbling and gratifying having one of South Africa's most revered Generals singing our praises.

I have subsequently bought his book The Eye of a Firestorm and it was a fascinating read.

Delville Wood Parade

The Delville wood parade hosted by Aloe White Ensign Shellhole was really well attended by the RLIRA EC with Pete Gombart, Bob Howard, Slim Callahan, Mark Snelgar (who just back from Afghanistan) and myself.

BSAP Dinner

The BSAP invited Bob, Pete and I to their Annual Luncheon, Really great afternoon with our Police buddies. Fantastic talk was given by Digby Pocock. Despite our history the cops have turned out to be reasonably good ouens.

Patrons Day

My wife Jean and I came up to Johannesburg for the Patrons Day at Dickie Fritz. We attended the civic Remembrance Day Parade in November and laid the RLI wreath.

Rhodesian All Forces Parade

We put on the Rhodesian All Forces Parade in December. This was a huge success and we raised R5,000 for the RLI Welfare Fund and R10,000 for Linda Schultz's Zimbabwe Pensioner Support Fund

Golf Shirts

We took the decision to have golf shirts done in the style of the 50th anniversary shirts. They look really great and we often get complimented on them.

Conclusion

The Eastern Cape is very active with monthly Prayer Meetings, Weekly Coffee meetings and a number of dinner evenings as well as Saturday morning breakfasts . The ouens here in the Eastern Cape have a close bond and the spirit is alive and well.

Cape Town Report AGM 2017

Greetings from the drought stricken Cape.

We are busy preparing for the fund raiser on the Saturday the 8th of July, with the pledges coming in .Louis is still giving his career a hard time , so that means he is still fighting on .

What we have found is that in the Cape we have been networking with a number of associations, BSAP, ORAFS, C COMPANY PARA, RHODESIAN ARTILLERY, MOTHS, and RHODESIAN OFFICERS etc. So you can imagine the support we will receive for our first fund raiser.

Considering that we can only muster thirteen Owens, it is a must.

Congrats on the posters , they have been done very well. We will make sure that you get plenty pics of the fund raiser..

KZN AGM 2017 REPORT

As suggested before, I do not know what information the nominal roll for the Assoc contains and feel that information is changing all the time ie, e mail addresses, contact numbers, members moving province/country. What system is in place to ensure that information regarding our data base is accurate or updated regularly? Kind Regards, Skippy Michel the RLI caps that I brought down from the 56th sold like

hot cakes and I shall be depositing the funds shortly once I get my last payment in. We continue to hold our Monthly prayer meetings at the NMR Officers mess, and the Saturday meetings are enjoyed more than Fridays by those that attend.

Functions

The GFL (Get Fired Lunch) was held, as it is annually, at Stokers Arms in November and the usual miscreants were in attendance and supported now by a few from “other” units. RASA Annual Golf Day – Amanzimtoti. RLI were represented by the usual 4 ball consisting this year of Mick Walters, Roy Matkovich, Arthur Kegel and Vernon Prinsloo. SAS RA Annual Remembrance Parade – Flame Lily Park, Queensburgh. Once again RLI RA were requested to be a part of their parade by standing sentry at the plinth which I had the honour of doing. Robin Tarr, as usual, laid the wreath on behalf of the Regiment.

Financial Report

For the Period 1st Jan to 31st December 2016

Attached are a full set of accounts including Income Statement and Balance Sheet and supporting documentation.

Profit Year to date

All transactions up to and including 31st December have been processed and reflect in the Income Statement.

The Profit for the year was a very impressive R104, 110.43 which also is reflected in the improved cash and bank accounts.

Income

Our income is generated from five main sources, these being; subscriptions, welfare donations, events, fund raising and sale of memorabilia.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions generated an income of R21, 381 which was slightly up on the prior year but was still very disappointing as only 99 out of a possible 514 of our membership paid up.

2016 Analysis of Subs Paid	Nominal Roll	Subs paid	% Subs paid
Associate Member	23	4	17%
Full Member	407	65	16%
Affiliate Member	19	0	0%
Honorary Member	42	6	14%
Legacy Member	2	0	0%
Not On Nominal Roll	13	13	100%
No Payment Details		9	
Total	506	97	19%

The Nominal Roll is neither perfect nor up to date but it still gives an indication of the work that still needs to be done as well as the potential of raising more funds.

Membership subscriptions for the next year will be receiving much greater focus and follow up.

Welfare

The poor subscriptions were more than adequately compensated for by remarkable donations of R144, 200.

This was R88, 000 better than the previous year. R56, 000 was raised on the auction of the Gerry Cilliers knife alone. The winning bid was R30, 000 and the next bid of R26, 000 was very generously donated to the welfare fund.

A very big thank you to these remarkable men and to Gerry for the donation of his knife.

There are a number of superstars that have made a big difference by making a monthly donation to welfare. Thank you.

Sale of Memorabilia

Sale of memorabilia raised R119, 303 with a profit of R38, 777. Inventories valuations and analysis will be done in the Balance Sheet discussion. A big thank you to Debbie Huxham for the amazing job she is doing.

Regimental Day 55th Anniversary

The Regimental Day raised R41, 755 and with costs of R43, 528 making a small loss of R1, 773.

Patrons Day

The first Patrons day held in September raised R13, 330

50/50 Raffle

Neil Swart's monthly 50/50 raffle raised R35, 025 in the year. Well done to Swartie for a job well done.

Xmas Lotto/Party

Funds were raised during the course of the year and together with a R2, 000 donations funded the Xmas Party in December.

Frangelicas Restaurant

Simon Godley, who served in 2 Commando, generously offered his restaurant as well as a meal to the RLI RA to raise funds for welfare. By all accounts this was well attended and successful and raised R3, 140. Our thanks and gratitude to Simon.

Other Income

Other income of R12, 148 are the proceeds we get from 30 Degrees South who sell our book Africa Commandos on 30% commission.

Interest Receivable

We received R21, 768 on our investments over the year.

Expenses

Welfare Payments

The need for financial assistance has grown dramatically this past year and we paid out R153, 662 in the year to 16 RLI veterans experiencing health and financial difficulties. In the previous year we spent R51, 250 so this year we were up some 300%. This is a trend that is likely to continue as we continue to age and employment becomes increasingly more difficult to obtain.

Troopie Statue Base

The Troopie Statue was relocated to its new permanent position and a base and plinth was constructed. The cost was R10, 000 which was covered by a single donation for that purpose.

Troopie Statue Bonus

The committee decided that in recognition of the amazing work done on the statue a bonus of R5, 000 would be paid to the manufacturer Mr J Van Niekerk.

Yoko

The Yoko costs of R1, 995 were for the procurement of the Yoko bank transaction system to be able to facilitate card payments for the payment of merchandise sales.

Bank Service Costs

Bank fees were R5, 565 of which over R2, 000 was for cash deposit fees.

Fraudulent Bank Transactions

Last year we were a victim of some cyber-crime with small transactions being processed onto our Bank account. Once I realised that this was happening I monitored our account daily and each time we had a transaction against us I had it reversed by the bank. I'm pleased to report I have won this battle for now and the criminals have moved off to target less vigilantly monitored accounts. Unfortunately we had R396.00 I was not able to recover.

Balance Sheet Commentary**Cash and Investments**

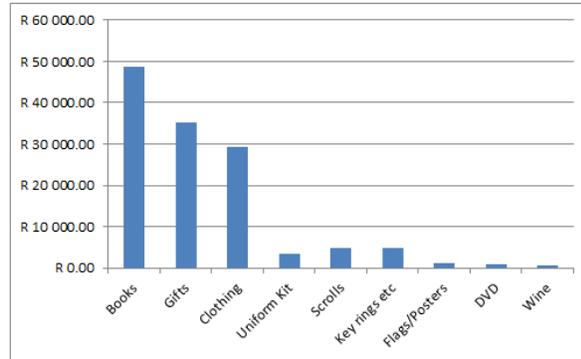
	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
Cash at Bank and on Hand		
FNB 7 Day Notice Account	352 343.16	205 574.00
FNB Transaction Account	85 331.46	103 542.00
FNB Memorial Account	769.00	1 443.00
 Total Cash at Bank and on Hand	 438 443.62	 310 559.00

Our Cash position has improved by R127, 884 for the year and I have transferred money into the 7 day call account earning 6.9% and have left sufficient funds in the transaction account to meet our immediate needs.

Inventories

The inventories are R128, 910 which is R29, 000 lower than the prior year's closing stocks.

Books	R 48 813.00	38%
Gifts	R 35 120.00	27%
Clothing	R 29 333.70	23%
Uniform Kit	R 3 402.00	3%
Scrolls	R 4 740.00	4%
Key rings etc	R 4 921.00	4%
Flags/Posters	R 1 200.00	1%
DVD	R 870.00	1%
Wine	R 510.00	0%
Total	R 128 909.70	



From the above graph there is a huge predominance of Books 38%.

We have nearly R50, 000 invested in books and many of the books are not moving which is a concern as well as the fact some of the titles have a limited appeal.

I suggest we identify these books and sell them at cost to release the cash tied up in them.

In the Gifts category there are 33 Troopie Statuettes making up most of the category. Of concern it seems we have not sold one in quite some time.

Current Liabilities

We have no current liabilities apart from R3, 200 being prepaid subs. All suppliers have been paid and we have no creditors.

Tax Registration

We need to get the Association registered as a non-profit organisation for welfare. I started the process last year but we must push to get it done. We will not be liable for tax but we have to be registered.

Conclusion

This last year in my opinion has been truly amazing and very successful. Not only have we spent a record amount of almost R154k on welfare we have managed that whilst growing our bank account by R128k. This is a truly remarkable achievement. When I accepted this role last year I did it with some trepidation and misgivings. However on reflection it's been such a privilege and honour to work with this amazing Association and Committee. It's opened my eyes to the plight of some of our brothers and makes me realise how important the role of the Association is and the impact we can make on the lives of those RLI ouens that are truly struggling financially and with their health.

It is also very humbling to see how many are stepping up and making a big difference to the welfare programme. To the Ouens of the RLI and the RLIRA committee I salute you all.

Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association
Profit & Loss Statement

As At : **31 December 2016**

Income

Sale Of Memorabilia	119 303.01
Welfare Donations	144 200.73
55th Regimental Day	41 755.00
Annual Subscriptions	21 381.00
Xmas Lotto	6 120.00
Raffle 50/50 Proceeds	35 025.00
Donation Sale of RLI Cap	800.00
Dinner Frangelicas	3 140.00
Donations Troopie Base	10 000.00
Patrons Day	13 330.00
Interest Receivable	21 768.60
Other Income	12 148.35
Total Income	428 971.69

Expenses

Cost Of Sales Of Memorabilia	(80 525.60)	GP 32.6 %
Welfare Payments	(153 662.21)	
55th Regimental Day	(43 528.87)	
Garden Benches	(3 248.99)	
Troopie Base	(10 000.00)	
Troopie Statue	(5 000.00)	
Bank Service Costs	(5 565.81)	
Postage	(3 593.54)	
Xmas Party	(6 000.00)	
Royalties	(6 920.24)	
Yoco	(1 995.00)	
Awards and Gifts	(3 025.00)	
Fire Force Painting for Auction	(1 400.00)	
BANK FRAUD	(396.00)	
Total Expenses	(324 861.26)	

Net Profit For the Year

104 110.43

Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association Balance Sheet

As At :	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Memorabilia Stock On Hand	128 909.70	157 947.00
Furniture	1 439.70	
Total Other Current Assets	130 349.40	157 947.00
Cash at Bank and on Hand		
FNB 7 Day Notice Account	352 343.16	205 574.56
FNB Transaction Account	85 331.46	103 542.03
FNB Memorial Account	769.00	1 443.00
Total Cash at Bank and on Hand	438 443.62	310 559.59
Total Current Assets	568 793.02	468 506.59
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Payments in advance	-	5 494.00
Prepaid Subs	3 200.00	1 530.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	3 200.00	7 024.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS	565 593.02	461 482.59
Capital and Reserves		
Surplus Available for Welfare	461 482.59	337 932.00
Profit For Year	104 110.43	123 550.59
Shareholder Funds	565 593.02	461 482.59