



# THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

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### A New Poppy

A plastic-free Remembrance poppy partly made from coffee cup waste has been launched.

The Royal British Legion unveiled the makeover of the iconic poppy which is now completely plastic-free and easily recyclable.



The new poppy made completely from paper will no longer have a single-use plastic stem or centre and was created to help reduce the charity's use of single-use plastic.

[January: Single-use plastic items banned \[in UK\]](#)

The Royal British Legion has been developing the plastic-free poppy with experts for the last three years to make it more environmentally friendly.

It marks the biggest change to the design of the poppy since 1995.

The poppy has been created from red and green paper, produced from responsible sources, 50% of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The charity worked with scientists at University College London to assess the environmental impact of the new poppy and ensure its sustainability. The findings revealed that the new poppy's production carbon footprint is 40% less than its predecessor.

Andy Taylor-Whyte, Poppy Appeal director at the Royal British Legion, said: "After years of work and collaboration with our partners designing a new poppy, creating new paper and machinery and road-testing it for durability and colour-fastness, we have been able to eliminate single-use plastic and create a poppy that is an enduring symbol of respect and remembrance as well as being more planet-friendly."

The revamped poppy will be available for this year's Poppy Appeal from October.

The poppies already in circulation that contain single-use plastic can be widely recycled at Sainsbury's stores.



### THE AGM!

That time of the year is coming round again when the Branch holds its AGM. This is THE most important meeting of the year for the Branch. It is where you elect or reelect the EXCO to run the Branch for another year and a time to ask questions and air your gripes if you have any. But more importantly it is also a time to test your volunteerism, the EXCO would dearly like to hear from you if you wish to be involved in the running of the Branch, new blood brings new and fresh thinking. If you would like to be part of the decision making structure please contact the Chairman of the Branch, Terry Patterson on email [terry2@mweb.co.za](mailto:terry2@mweb.co.za) or on his cell phone at 082 772 4920

The AGM this year will be held on the **7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11:00** at the Maritime Club.



### Sad Times for the SANDF

Sixteen uniformed SA National Defence Force (SANDF) officers are suspended and earning full salaries along with two civilian Department of Defence (DoD) employees.

Twelve of those are "senior officers" with the remaining four "general staff officers", Democratic Alliance (DA) shadow defence and military veterans minister Kobus Marais was told by Minister Thandi Modise.

His request for details of names, ranks, units, places of work, duration of suspension as well as reasons and/or charges was not responded to.

Modise's written reply indicated the information Marais asked for is available in the DoD "but the

department is not at liberty to release it, as cases are still subjects of investigation”. An earlier response came when he wanted similar information regarding the suspension – seemingly since 2020 – of deputy Surgeon-General, Major General Noel Ndhlovu. The two-star was reportedly suspended for apparently refusing to sign off on the Heberon acquisition and, again according to reports, is on full pay. (Defense Web 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023)



### Something for the Not-so Young!

Brakpan Airfield was the location for the Elders Flight 2023, an initiative to get hundreds of elderly people and military veterans into the sky.

The first edition of the Elders Flight took place at Rand Airport in November 2018 and was followed by another event in November 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic put paid to it and much other aviation-related activity. The third edition, once again organised by the energetic Felix Goshier, was held on 22 April at Brakpan Airfield, and saw approximately 300 underprivileged elderly people and military veterans fly – many for the first time. In comparison, the 2019 Elders Flight flew just over 100 elders.

Around 90 pilots flew in to Brakpan on Saturday, with dozens of aircraft arriving to fly elders and veterans throughout the morning and into the early afternoon. One of the highlights was Menno Parsons taking up retired Lieutenant Piet Visser in his P-51 Mustang ('Mustang Sally') – 70 years after he flew the type in the Korean War. (Defense Web 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023)



### Something for the Sailors.

SAS ASSEGAAI MUSEUM SUBMARINE Preservation Progress.

Further progress has been made over the last month and Damen has almost completed the mounting frames which are currently being fabricated in a Dockyard shed and will hopefully be welded on to the submarine later this week as soon as the South Easter abates a little. At the same time, the ex-SAS Adam Kok has now been cut up and all the metal removed thus allowing the submarine to be moved onto the hard from which she can be moved to the site. At the same time Assegaii has had a 'bottom clean' where the welding-on of the frame will be done – thanks to Atlatech and the Naval Dockyard.

All this work has been under the constant supervision of the very dedicated Kevin Watson. As far as finances are concerned, we are still getting donations but still in dire need of a major sponsor to enable the critical move to the site. This will require a sponsorship of R1.2 million (or £60 000 sterling). Whilst we have had reports that one sponsor is considering this amount and another is adjudicating a grant of this amount, we wait nervously (NOASA Western Cape Spindrift March 2023)



### Winter

Indeed winter has descended upon us early this year and I fear it may even get more intense – Climate Change they call it! But Mark Twain had something to say about it:

"I know the look of an apple that is roasting and sizzling on the hearth on a winter's evening, and I know the comfort that comes of eating it hot, along with some sugar and a drench of cream... I know how the nuts taken in conjunction with winter apples, cider, and doughnuts, make old people's tales and old jokes sound fresh and crisp and enchanting." — **Mark Twain**

Take care and be warm as the cold descends.

Regards  
The Editor

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