



KNOW YOUR HERITAGE

Echoes of Selous



Frederick Courtney Selous was one of Rhodesia's most iconic colonial founders. A big-game hunter, naturalist, farmer, miner, explorer, author and soldier, C.J. Rhodes appointed him as Chief of Intelligence Staff and guide to the B.S.A. Company Pioneer Corps/column of 1890. He was employed by the Company until May 1892 on pathfinding missions in Mashonaland and Manicaland.

Yet alongside the more memorable associations with the two Rhodesian military units which bore his name, i.e. **Selous Scouts**, there are a number of other reminders which reflect his African legacy; such as the following:

The largest game reserve in our continent – at 54,600 km² (21,100 square miles) almost three times the size of the Kruger National Park – is named after **Selous**: he was killed in action on 4 January 1917 within its (modern Tanzanian) borders while serving as a 65-year-old British Army officer during the First World War. His “greatest desire was to die in Africa”; thus his grave may still be found in the northern bush of that Reserve, which is now a World Heritage Site.

One of the thirty-odd national place-names which survived the Zimbabwean government's 1982 *changes* was Selous – a village plus its nearby railway siding, some miles from Hartley (Chegutu).

Also to escape that ‘purge’ were the Selous Avenues in Salisbury (Harare) and Bulawayo. On that avenue in Salisbury was to be found the two-star Courtney Hotel.

But perhaps most significant for present-day Zimbabwe (2013) is the Zimplats-owned “Selous metallurgical complex (SMC) comprising a concentrator and a smelter, located about 77km north of the [Ngezi] mine and the Hartley Platinum Mine, situated at the SMC, which is currently under care and maintenance.”

Long live the spirit of Captain F.C. Selous, D.S.O. – as well as the history and heritage of Rhodesia!



MARY'S MEANDER



Over three months have passed since the previous issue of the *Msasa Mail*. The decision last year to extend the time between newsletters to quarterly was taken mainly to reduce John's and my work-

load. But we feel that it is too long, especially with regard to keeping our members informed of important matters, such as pensions. We would like to revert to bimonthly newsletters after the *Rhosarian* magazine, which is due for publication in October.

John and I have just returned from a lovely, relaxing holiday in Mauritius, where our eldest daughter, Yvonne, is living with her husband at present. It was wonderful for us to escape the coldest part of winter on the Highveld. For the five weeks we were on Mauritius, the temperature never fell below 20 degrees or rose above 26 degrees. For us it was like Paradise, as we stayed only a three-minutes walk from a lovely beach on the northwest coast of the island. John and Yvonne used to walk along the beach together most mornings, while I sat on a bench overlooking a coral lagoon reading, or just enjoying the atmosphere.

When we got back to the house, we would have breakfast and clear emails before doing whatever else was planned for that day. Shopping was fun for me as there were two large supermarkets in our area which were well stocked with a wide variety of goods, many of which are not found in South Africa. Much of the foodstuff comes from France and India, as Mauritius was once a French possession and most of the population are of Indian origin.

Although Mauritius is a member of the SADC and the African Union, it did not feel like a part of Africa to us.

Most South Africans who visit Mauritius stay in one of the many luxury holiday resorts on the island and do not experience much beyond the beaches and warm waters. We were fortunate that we had both the time and the opportunity to visit many of the less well-known places of interest, including the Helderberg Memorial, erected in memory of the 159 unfortunate passengers and crew of the SAA Boeing 747 that crashed into the ocean off the East coast of Mauritius in November 1987.

Although we were on holiday, we were able to keep up with some of our work routine, thanks to modern technology and **Christine Miller** from Stilfontein, who 'manned' the office for us while we were away. John actually completed the FLAG before we returned to Pretoria!

Our main concern was for our pensioners who were patiently waiting - some not so patient - for their Zimbabwe government pension, which was promised for July. Well, it was eventually paid into Standard Bank accounts on 13 August. We have asked the Pensions Office in Harare to provide us with a list of those being paid. Once we get the list of names, we will compare it with the applications we have already submitted. This will enable us to inform those concerned, and to chase up the Pensions Office in the case of those who have not yet been paid. More information is provided further on in this newsletter.

Please diarise future events. It's so easy to forget details, or mislay your newsletter when you want to know what's coming up, where and when.

Mary

"Keeping the Flame Alive"

COMING UP

THE VISCOUNT HUNYANI MEMORIAL SERVICE - TO BE HELD AT THE VOORTREKKER MONUMENT PRETORIA

12 NOON, SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2014

We extend an open invitation to all relatives, friends and supporters to pay tribute to the Viscount Hunyani victims who were killed on Flight RH825 on 3 September 1978 brought down by terrorists with a SAM-7 missile.

A brief and informal service will be conducted by lay preacher Alf Herbst prior to reading the names of those killed in accordance with our undertaking that

THEY SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

Please feel free to bring wreaths and flowers to express condemnation of this heinous act of terrorism, especially for the survivors who were bayoneted and shot to death at the crash site.

Please remember that the Viscount Hunyani was targeted as an onslaught on the Rhodesian population as a whole, and it is on these Memorial occasions particularly pertinent to keep and preserve our Rhodesian legacy of a proud nation that stood alone and fought against terrorism to the bitter end.

A map of how to locate the Viscount Memorial will be published on our websites newsletter page. Please see www.viscountdown.com.

Thank you.

Keith Nell on behalf of the **Viscount Memorial Team**

REMEMBRANCE DAY GATHERING

Sunday 2 November 2014

15:00 (3:00 p.m)

Voortrekker Monument Chapel, Pretoria

Refreshments will be provided after the Service, as well as the FLF Shop.

A buffet lunch is available at the Voortrekker Monument Restaurant. Booking is essential. **Please contact Mary before 31 October** if you wish to be seated with other Rhodesians.

MEMBERS' NEWS

MAIL BOX



Margaret AITKEN

wrote a letter to Mary in March: "I would just like to let you know that I am going to live in Botswana as my hearing and eyesight are failing and I'll be starting my 96th year in April. I am finding it a

little difficult to live on here by myself so my son and his wife decided to care for me, so kind and generous of them. I do want to thank you so much for all the kindness that you have shown me in the past. It was always gratefully accepted. May God keep you in his loving arms in the future. God bless. Best wishes. Margaret"

From **Rod GARDINER** in New Zealand: "Dorothy and I have been in New Zealand for eleven years now and consider ourselves as fully fledged Kiwis. Recently we held a fund raising exercise for the widow of our good friend Malcolm Francis, who along with his daughter Catherine was murdered on their Zimbabwe farm during May this year. We have always been most impressed at the generosity of New Zealanders but you cannot believe the support we have had for our drive!... I did a slide show of our five day trip to the Kruger National Park in 2007 and presented our best photos which received a good reception. ... We still have a quiz night to run before we send what we can raise to Annette, who will be joining her son and his family in Australia."

Wendy RADEMEYER writes from Knysna.... "Manie was paralysed in a landmine blast while on call-up during the Rhodesian war in 1976. Having been an

active person with one of his hobbies being rally driving, he finds his wheelchair extremely restrictive. He recently met a group of visiting Swedish paraplegics and was fascinated by their fancy wheelchair ensembles, which he studied closely for only 10 minutes or so. A few weeks later, after lots of head-scratching and trial and error, Manie had converted a 'Shoprider' into his 'Knysna Explorer'".

"The wheelchair detaches from the motor so he can easily access restaurants and shops using only his wheelchair. It also goes up hills and climbs a step, thus giving him more independence and mobility. Manie absolutely loves his "Knysna Explorer" as it has given him the freedom to get around, explore and be less reliant on other people."



CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences go to Members who have lost loved ones and friends.

CHARLTON, David passed away on 19 February 2014. He was serving as a magistrate in Harare at the time of his retirement.

COCHRANE, John Colley passed away in Cape Town on 28 April 2014 after a long battle with cancer. John attended Churchill Boys High School and was well known for his part in the family business, Cochrane's Engineering in Salisbury, and other businesses endeavours. He is survived by his wife Rose, his son Jeremy and daughter Caroline.

DEVLIN, Phil, died in Milpark Hospital on the morning of 20 May 2014, after suffering from a severe pulmonary disorder. Phil served in the BSAP from 1956 to 1964, leaving at his own request, in the rank of Sergeant. Phil was a staunch member of the Transvaal branch of the BSAP Regimental Association for many years and was an example to many with his unflinching support of branch activities. Phil is survived by his daughter, Maureen, and to her, his family and his many friends, the Association extends sincere condolences. Gavin Soal Hon. Sec. Transvaal Branch, BSAP Regimental Association.

DU BOIS, Jacques Francois went to be with the Lord on 4 August 2014. Jacques was a land surveyor in the Rhodesian Surveyor General's Department and did his military service with the Rhodesian Intelligence Corps (RIC) where he was in charge of the Mapping Section. He was responsible for the production of military maps and models of target areas for certain cross-border operations. He worked closely with the Joint Services Photographic Interpretation Section (JSPIS) of the Rhodesian Air Force. Jacques was a keen sportsman and was awarded Rhodesian Colours for baseball. He was a past chairman of RASA Pretoria Branch and was well known for his hands-on involvement in various branch activities. He is survived by his wife Barbara and son Francois.

FERREIRA, Iona Jeanette Emma Ferreira (née Sinclair, formerly Goddard) passed away in Klerksdorp on 25 June 2014 after a short illness. In 1957 Iona married Alan Goddard. They lived in Bindura for many years, and Iona also lived in Swaziland. After her divorce she lived in Johannesburg, and worked at *The Star*. She married John Ferreira and they lived in the Klerksdorp area until John died, when Iona moved into a RASA cottage in Stilfontein. Iona is survived by her daughter Candice, grand-daughter Tamara, and siblings Jennifer, Douglas and Glenda. Iona was loved by all who knew her, and we all miss her.

GALLOWAY, Bill - also known as Wally - passed away in Norwich City Hospital on 6 August 2014 after a long struggle with cancer. Bill attended Churchill Boys High and served in the Rhodesian Air Force on 1,2,3 and 4 Squadrons. He is survived by his son Rob and daughter Helen.

HOSKING, Betsanne Elizabeth Anne Winifred - Betsanne to many, sadly passed away on 30 May 2014 after a painful and difficult illness with which she had persevered for some months. Betsanne was born in Salisbury and spent her early years in Umtali where her father Charles Milne managed the Farmers Co-op. Her younger sisters were Megan and Rosemary - the latter now lives in Cape Town. Betsanne married Peter Hosking 51 years ago and they lived in many parts of then Rhodesia where Peter was in the Army. They had four children namely Andrew, Lisa, Anita and James - apart from Andrew who is in Dubai, all now live in Johannesburg. Betsanne is greatly and sadly missed by her family and many friends.

MATHEE, George Francois was born in Gwelo on 26 May 1934 and passed away on 26 July 2014 after suffering a stroke. He did most of his schooling in Fort Victoria. He qualified as a Fitter & Turner in Salisbury where he worked most of his life, except for a spell on Bancroft Mine, Northern Rhodesia. He lived the last eight years in a RASA cottage in Stilfontein. George is survived by his loving wife Mavis, and children Mark, Sheree and Natalie, and their families.

POULTON, Florence May passed away in her sleep at the age of 92. She was born in London on 25 December 1921. During WWII she drove an ambulance and worked in a munitions factory. In 1966 her family emigrated to Rhodesia and while there she worked at Hatfield Town Council and in the transit lounge gift shop at Salisbury Airport. Her husband died in 1981 and Florence decided to move to South Africa with her son Steven. She had been frail for the last year. Florence leaves four children, one son-in-law, ten grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

QUESTED, Ian passed away in KZN on 25 July 2014. Born in Plumtree, Ian did his apprenticeship at the workshops on the Rhodesia Railways as a fitter and turner. Ian and his family left Bulawayo and moved to Secunda where he worked for Sasol for almost 25 years until he retired in 2009. He moved from Secunda to KZN at the end of 2013. He will be sadly missed by his wife Felicity, daughter Vivian and family.

RHODES, Bernard passed away in Ramsgate on 6 June 2014. He was well known in the agricultural communities of Northern and Southern Rhodesia during the 1960s and 70s. He first worked at Grasslands Research Station, before moving to Northern Rhodesia as Chief Animal Husbandry Officer. From 1967 he lectured at Gwebi Agricultural College, where he was appointed Principal from 1970, a post he held with distinction until his retirement in 1976. Bernard was then recruited by the South African consultancy, Loxton, Venn & Associates, to be Project Manager for the development of the Keiskamma Irrigation Scheme in the then Ciskei. He was appointed Regional Manager for the Eastern Cape in 1980, a post in which he was able to find employment for several Rhodesians from the agricultural sector when they left Zimbabwe. Bernard retired in 1988, when he and his wife moved to the Natal South Coast. He is survived by his second

wife Joycelyn and his daughter Lindsay, who can be contacted by e-mail on lamr.robinson@gmail.com. Dave Donkin, East London

ROWE, Natalie Grace passed away peacefully at Amberfield in Howick, KZN on 31 March 2014. She is sadly missed by all her friends at Amberfield. Mike Rowe

SMITH, Ernest Davidson passed away 22 July 2014. Born on 29 April 1920, Ern is deeply mourned by his wife Mary, daughter Bernice and Grandchildren.

STUART-STEER, Rhoda Mona (née Meintjies) passed away on 6 July 2014 after a long illness. Mona, as she was better known, was born in Rhodesia on 28 May 1930. She married Con Stuart-Steer, who was serving in the Rhodesian Army Corps of Signals, and she played an active role in the welfare of troops under Con's command. They moved to Johannesburg after Zimbabwe's independence and were foundation members of RASA Pretoria in 1983. Mona is sadly missed by her husband, her son Raymond in Cape Town and daughter Deirdre in Perth, Australia.

TROTT, David passed away on 22 June 2014. He had been ill for some time with cancer, and is now at peace and pain free. Dave came to Southern Rhodesia in 1952, with the family to farm in Chakari. He schooled in Kadoma area, and also at Bulawayo Tech. He then went on to join Lonrho, mining, and was very successful in his career. He retired 12 years ago, and moved to Port Alfred, Eastern Cape. We have two sons, both of whom are in Australia, and David managed to see them both, and the four grand-daughters before he left us. Kate Trott.

WALKER, Vanda passed away on 5 May 2014 in Johannesburg. Vanda was the widow of BSAP Field Reservist Colin Walker, former BSAP Regimental Association (Tvl) Branch Treasurer.

WALLACE, Ian Ansley who was well known to those of the banking fraternity, especially The Standard Bank Group, died of a heart attack in Port Alfred on 1 July 2014. Having been born in the Eastern Cape on 10 March 1933, he was a direct descendant of the 1820 Settlers to that area. Ian was a role model Banker and saw service in Standard Bank Ltd in Northern and Southern Rhodesia. It was in Gwelo that he and Althea met and married. Ian was Regional Manager Bulawayo, where he covering Standard Bank business from the Victoria Falls to Beit Bridge, before his move to SA. Standard Bank SA soon had him in harness again in Johannesburg and put Ian in charge of their Jan Smuts Avenue Branch. Ian and Althea had the great sadness of losing their son Steven, a Durban barrister (sic), to a brain tumour several years ago and then Ian lost Althea two years ago to cancer after being together for 55 years. Fate sent Ian off in the direction of his roots where he met a childhood flame of his in Port Alfred and he and Gift married 15 months ago to enjoy a very happy partnership together. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Gift and Ian's daughter-in-law Leo and grandsons in the Cape, and Felicity and Quinton Lyon and three granddaughters in Canada. Felicity can be contacted on quinton.lyon@gmail.com. Brien & Lise Rookan-Smith, Germiston

WILSON, Archibald Oliver Garfield (Air Marshal Archie), passed away on 5 July at the ripe old age of 93, at the RSL Care in Pinjarra Hills, Queensland, Australia. Archie's early operational flying was with 237 (Rhodesia) Sqn in the Middle East in the early phases of the Second World War. The Squadron moved northwards right into what today is called Iraq and Iran. He was B Flight Commander with the rank of Flight Lieutenant at round that period. Ian Douglas Smith also joined the squadron when it was in that theatre. Archie was a thoroughbred Rhodesian embodying all the most admirable characteristics you could possible put under that heading. Archie's

initials, AOG, also stands – in air force parlance – for Aircraft on the Ground. Meaning the aircraft is unable to fly until technical assistance (or spares) beyond the scope of the unit involved is made available. Air Marshal AOG Wilson would have all the plugs pulled out to ensure the swift return of such an aircraft to airworthiness. He retired on 15 April 1973 after 32 years of Air Force service – stretching from service with the allied forces in the 40s to Commander of the Rhodesian Air Force in defence of the Rhodesian way of life.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of **Ronald Gordon MACKENZIE** (Felix), who passed away on 22 June, 2013 after a year's long struggle against cancer at St. Margaret's Hospice, Bishop's Hull, Taunton, Somerset, England. Felix the youngest brother of Tony and Noel was born in Southern Rhodesia on 25 February, 1950 and attended Guinea Fowl School near Gweru. We (Louise & Noel Mackenzie) recall with great love Felix and join with Felix's widow Val in the UK, and his son Angus (in Sydney, Australia) and daughter Liza (in Melbourne, Australia) in remembering our dearly beloved Felix. Felix will always remain an indelible part of our lives. Noel Mackenzie, Thesen Island, Knysna.

ANNIVERSARIES

Ted and Muriel CHAPMAN celebrated their DIAMOND WEDDING anniversary on 5 September 2013. They were married in Marandellas (now Marondera) and have two children, Graham (in RSA) and Allison (in Botswana) and four grandchildren. Ted celebrated his 90th birthday in May this year. The Chapmans are now living in the UK and can be contacted by phone at 01768-867302 or by writing to 48 Lonsdale Court, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 8LD. *[May the Lord spare you for many more anniversaries together - Ed]*

THIS N THAT

Zim Government Pensions Better late than never

We hesitate to tell pensioners with a Standard Bank account when the next payment is due. The December 2013 payment was made on 6 January 2014. Then we were told that future payments would be half-yearly and the next payment would take place in July 2014. As it happened, payments were made on 13 August to most of those whose applications we had submitted to the Pensions Office in Harare.

We are waiting for a list of those who were on the July payroll, as promised by the Director of Pensions. Once we get it, we will compare it with the list of applications submitted to the Pensions Office. We will then do what we can for those who have missed the boat this time.

To put matters in perspective, Government has said it cannot guarantee fixed pay dates for civil servants, given the economic hardships the country is facing, and employees will continue to receive pay slips without pay dates.

Crocodile Attack

We, the owners of Gache Gache Lodge, are sorry to report a tragic accident in the Gache Gache River on the afternoon of the 6th July. Mac Bailey was taken by a crocodile whilst on shore, pulling his yacht further up the bank. ... The Baileys and their friends were not staying at the lodge, but came in for help after the incident. Ray was in Harare but he sent out a professional team from the lodge to look for the croc yesterday evening and to recover the body. The team located the crocodile which was approximately 14ft long, and shot it. Our sincere condolences go to Jenny Bailey at this sad time, she was on the yacht when Mac was taken. ... Please let this be a serious wake up call to everyone who goes to Kariba. The crocs are brazen and follow boats, even houseboats. We hope that as there are plenty fish now, that they don't need to attack people, but don't tempt fate. It happens, as seen yesterday. Take a bucket with water in it on the boat to wash your hands in, do not lean over and wash them in the river/lake. Be vigilant... It's just not worth it. Thank you, Pat Townsend info@chapungusafaris.co.zw

SADF Memorial Service

Voortrekker Monument 25 May 2014

The following Rhodesians participated in the annual Service at the SADF Wall of Remembrance:

John and Mary Redfern - RASA and RAR
Peter Gleeson - RhE

Alf Herbst – RLI / RhE

Graham Peak – SAS

Luiz Figueredo – 2 Cdo, RLI

Charlie Norris – 3 Cdo, RLI and Toni Floyd

Rob Marsh – 2 Cdo, RLI

Alan Strachan – 1 Cdo, RLI

Carol Doughty – SAS RA

Gary Huxham – 1 Cdo, RLI and Debbie Huxham

Len Beechey – 1 Cdo, RLI





OM Indigenisation Shares

In April 2012, as part of the indigenisation legislation response agreed between Old Mutual Zimbabwe and the Government of Zimbabwe, a special award of shares in OM Zimbabwe was granted to those pensioners who acquired a Pensions Plus pension or an Emerald Managed pension from Old Mutual Zimbabwe.

The award is due to any pensioner who was entitled to receive these types of pension payments between 1 April 2009 and 1 January 2012, both dates being inclusive. In 2013, all former and current OM pensioners were allocated a tranche of Indigenisation Shares. OM should have notified all those entitled to these shares but evidently not everyone received such notice.

If you would like to know if your name is on the list of shareholders, please contact John on 012 4602066 or email your full names to rasa@iafrica.com

If listed, you will be required to complete and submit a form with a certified copy of your ID and Zimbabwe bank statement, or that of a third party authorising you to deposit money into their Zimbabwe bank account. It may take up to six weeks for the issue of a Share Certificate, after which you may sell your shares and receive the proceeds into the specified bank account. OM indigenisation shares were valued at US\$1.40 each and unpaid dividends about US\$200 each in mid-May 2014.

Brain Teaser

Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can.

I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulaclyt uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oerdr the lttteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is that the frsit and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseaethe huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ipmorantt!

Can you meet this challenge?

If you could read with the letters out of order, this time try it with numbers. If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind.

7H15 M3554G3 53RV35 7O PR0V3
H0W 0UR M1ND5 C4N D0 4M4Z1NG
7H1NG5!

1MPR3551V37H1NG5!

1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG 17 WA5 H4RD
BU7 N0W, 0N 7H15 LIN3 Y0UR M1ND 1S
R34D1NG 17

4U70M471C4LLY W17H0U7 3V3N
7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17. ONLY C3R741N
P30PL3 C4N R3AD 7H15. B3 PROUD!

PROMOTIONS

Viscount Down

Keith Nell, author of **Viscount Down**, and his wife Shirley will be promoting his book and DVDs along the south coast of KZN, commencing 25 August 2014 at the Galleria Mall, Amanzimtoti. For further information, please contact Keith on 076 6048110.

Inspired by the Zambezi

We are happy to promote and help sell the book **"Inspired by the Zambezi"**, by David Whitehead.

Gavin Barnett, who wrote *Like a River Glorious* said: "Anyone who has grown up and lived on the great Zambezi River will inevitably have a heritage of beautiful and powerful memories. The river itself has such a profoundly interesting geographical history, its pristine beauty and startling scenery is unsurpassed. The river in days gone by was the gateway to Barotseland. Its influence on the Whitehead family and the author's own boyhood has been powerful and memorable. All this has combined to clamour for a record binding them together. This collection of memoirs is the result of that clamour and of the strong urge the author has felt to ensure it does not all fade into the mists of time. A competing connection is made between the river and the life of the author".

The book is obtainable through the FLF at **R220** including postage within South Africa. Please make payment to the following bank account:

Flame Lily Foundation
Account No.: 1500680799
ABSA Bank Brooklyn Court Branch
Branch code: 335345

Send proof of payment to rasa@iafrica.com with your postal address. The author will post the book to you when notified of this by the FLF, who will enjoy R50 commission for each sale.

OPPORTUNITIES

ACCOMMODATION

At present one vacant Flame Lily Foundation **garden flat at Stilfontein** (near Klerksdorp), is immediately available.

Suitable for person/s over age of 60.

Must be self-supporting and independent.

Rent is based on applicant's income.

Interested persons please phone Mary Redfern on 012 4602066 or write to

PO Box 95474,

Waterkloof, 0145 or

email: rasa@iafrica.com

BOOK WANTED

"Next Year will be Better" by Hylda Richards is a classic about farming in the early days near Salisbury. Anyone with a copy to sell please contact **Ivy Bennett** at spahawk@gmail.com

KNITTING MACHINE

Going for free.

If interested please phone **Wendy Mills** on 053 9640702.

HUMOUR

Vellies

I'm obviously talking about the velskoen. Let's also make one thing very clear right from the start. It is *velskoen*, hey. Not veldskoen. The whole teapot-shaped spot we lived in was veld except for the Barbour's tearoom *kuchana lapaside Bamba Zonke* and us Rhodesians do not like stating the obvious. We left that to the Poms who called their version the veldskoen, pronounced felt-skoo-when. Our velskoen is so named because it is made from leather, which is vel in Afrikaans, as any good Rhodesian will tell you, it is pronounced vellie to rhyme with smelly, which it usually was.

When I was a when-we, every *oke* I knew had a pair. Vellies came in one colour - beige - had two lace holes each side, with colour-coordinated laces and a long tongue that always faced off sideways no matter what you did.

Breaking in a pair of vellies was maning indaba. You always got a blister on your heel, always. I don't care who you are. A blister that popped and rotted and seeped and oozed. But you just had to when-we your way through it with a dab of red *muti* to help, until you could pick off the piece of hard skin and chew on it thoughtfully. Eventually your feet got used to the vellies, never the other way round.

"Why are you limping Steven?"

"Gorrablister ma."

"A what Steven?"

"A blister ma."

"How did you get a blister?"

"My new vellies ma, it's eina hey?"

"Have you thought of wearing socks my boy?"

"Socks ma? With vellies? No ways man. Who wears socks with vellies?"

"Normal people Steven."

"Not in Rhadeezja ma, nowadays - I'm telling you."

"Is that your feet I can smell?"

"No ma, it's not my feet, it's my vellies."



"Didn't I tell you to wear socks?"

"Ja ma, you did, but no-one wears vellies with socks. I alredditoljoo."

Those broken in soft-as-slippers vellies were stupendous man. If you wore your vellies with shorts you looked like a farmer or a big white hunter. If you wore your vellies with your Lee jeans, you looked so smooth you could slide up the kopje. But if you wore your vellies with your speedos, you just looked like a *doos*. That's what slip-slips were for.

These days you can buy vellies in every colour under the sun. I just want a pair of vellies in original beige, made from the outside of a *mombi*, thick sole stitched on, with two holes in each side for the matching laces. They'll last me until the end of my days or at least until my memory goes, whichever comes first.

Extracts from Wankie Friends Newsletter, with apologies to bloganoceros

Observant

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband standing around with a fly swatter "What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," he responded.

"Oh. Killed any?" she asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone".

From the Word

Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God’s best blessings. Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.

Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)

TAILPIECE

Vintage Bamba Zonke

Did You Know...? that in 1963 there were about fourteen towns, cities and islands named Salisbury situated in various parts of the world (in seven countries), but Salisbury in Rhodesia was the youngest and yet the largest of them all *. In June 1975, the capital’s mayor, Cllr Tony Tanser, declared: “I consider my city, Salisbury, the finest in the world.” Known as “City of Flowering Trees” and “The Sunshine City” Salisbury’s name was changed to Harare on 18 April 1982.



Salisbury's Coat-of-Arms

Ichabod! (“Where is the glory?”)

1 Samuel 4:21-22

* - Central Africa Handbook, 1963 p.234

Contributed by Phil Garbett

CONTACT PERSON

Secretary: Mary Redfern
Tel: 012 4602066 (during office hours)
Fax: 086 6484794

Postal address:
PO Box 95474
0145 Waterkloof

E-mail:
rasa@iafrica.com
www.flf-rasa.org / www.flf-rasa.co.za

OBJECTS

To promote, further and secure the interests of former residents of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and their descendants.

To provide or facilitate residential accommodation for persons over the age of 60, in particular for those former residents of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe who have settled in the RSA.

To give help in particular to the aged and the disabled.

To preserve the history and heritage of Rhodesia.

MEMBERSHIP

Rhodesians and South Africans over the age of 18 who subscribe to the objects of the Foundation.

Single: R70,00 - Couple: R85,00

1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Life: R1 250,00 per individual and spouse.

EDITORIAL

John and Mary Redfern

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily shared by the Editors or the Management of the Flame Lily Foundation.