



BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE
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BATTLECRY! FEBRUARY 2024

Hello to you All,

By the time you read this, February 2024 will have come and gone, though a man in a red and white suit was still seen to be on Fish Hoek beach with his feet up about a week ago.



Did you see the Annual Battledress Shellhole photographs of Moths, FOFR and Friends taken on 01 January? (below). Adjutant Moth Iain Groom had the photographs framed and both are now included in the Shellhole's Annual Photograph Gallery. They are reproduced in this newsletter for those who missed being in them, or seeing them.

“Beautiful young people are accidents of nature; beautiful old people are works of art.” – Eleanor Roosevelt.



Annual 01 January 2024 Photographs of Battledress Shellhole Moths, FOFR and Spouses.

With two months into 2024, what did/does the New Year have in store for you? Battledress Shellhole is already up and running with several activities already having taken place: the first Monthly Moth Meeting, the General Knowledge Quiz with Moth Alan Hopfeldt and the Moth Morning Market Fundraiser. In addition, the Border Boys Memorial Parade and Service was held at Dawn Patrol Shellhole, and memorials for lives lost on the SS Mendi, the SAS President Kruger and HMTS Birkenhead. Toasts to the lives lost and the survivors were made at Battledress Shellhole on its Valentine's dinner and music FUNCTION on 17 February. What a busy first month for the Committees.

Battledress Shellhole held a Call to Higher Service Memorial for the passing of Moth Craig Cruikshank during February.



In Memoriam

It was with deep regret that Battledress Shellhole lost a key Moth member with the passing to Higher Service of 19728 Moth Craig Cruikshank on 17 January 2024. Craig had been a member of the MOTH Order for 17 years, joining on 01 July 2006. He was a well-liked and enthusiastic member of Battledress Shellhole. Condolences were extended to Craig's sister, Jean Curtis, Her son, Dave Curtis, family and friends. Craig will be greatly missed by fellow Moths and FOFR.



**WE WILL
REMEMBER
HIM**



Birthday Greetings for March and April 2024

Happy Birthday wishes to everyone who will be celebrating birthdays in March and April:

March

- 02 FOFR Patrick Bruwer**
- 05 Moth Minaar Van der Merwe**
- 6 Moth Mark Wiley (Milestone 70th)**
- 10 FOFR (G/C) Chockie Herring**
- 14 Moth Eric "Pops" Fraser**
- 20 FOFR Diane Potgieter**
- 26 Moth Glyn Murrell**
- 28 MSS Helen de Wet (Milestone 70th)**

April

- 02 Moth Andy Howie (Milestone 60th)**
- 06 Moth Cindy de Kok**
- 08 Moth Darren Geldard**
- 12 FOFR Roger Farmer**
- 17 FOFR Theo van der Merwe**
- 17 Colleen Grove (wife of Moth Donald Grove)**
- 18 Moth Leonard Marais (Milestone 60th)**
- 21 Lisa Reel (wife of FOFR Robbie Reel)**
- 22 Moth Patrick O'Reilly**
- 24 Moth Robby Abrahamse**
- 24 Karen Cowan (wife of Moth Warren Cowan)**
- 26 Mothwa Tracy O'Reilly (wife of Moth Patrick O'Reilly)**
- 27 Moth Widow Marilyn Maloney**
- 28 FOFR Theo van der Merwe**
- 29 Moth (Life Member) Ena Burnett (99th Birthday)**
- 29 Moth Keith Galvin**



Many happy returns to you all and have a wonderful, happy and healthy memorable year ahead.

Snippet: 150th Birthday of Sir Winston Churchill



To commemorate the 150th birthday of Sir Winston Churchill, the Royal Mint is already printing coins to mark his upcoming 150th birthday in November this year. Working as a war correspondent covering military despatches in the 2nd Boer War, Sir Winston was captured on a train by the Boers. He was imprisoned as a POW but later escaped and made his way to Delgoa Bay before returning to England. He subsequently joined the British Army and returned to South Africa taking part in the relief of Mafikeng. The rest as they say, is history.



Moth Leon Haralambous

At the QCM in November last year, a representative identified and agreed to by all 4 Chapters of the MMA was to be appointed and represent the MMA at future QCM forums. Moth Leon Haralambous was appointed with immediate effect as the MMA Provincial Representative for the remainder of the MOTH year.



Moth Mark Wiley

Became a grandfather to a baby girl named Zoe Rose Wiley in January.



Moth Neil Bright – 15 Year MOTH Service Tie

Many congratulations to Moth Neil Bright who was presented with his MOTH 15 Year Service tie.

... and still looking on the Bright side



Shannon Bright Initiative 2024

It is said that a person who feels appreciated - will always do more than is expected. Someone who epitomises that sentiment and who always exceeds Battledress Shellhole's standards is Shannon Bright (left), wife of Moth Neil Bright. At the Parade, some Sea Cadets fainted from heat, or lack of water or hunger. On hearing of their predicament, Shannon suggested to the MSS Play Bill, Helen de Wet that she would make sandwiches, provide water and some form of energy bar to the youngsters in future. A small group of members at Battledress Shellhole supported Shannon's Initiative to assist the Sea Cadets where possible. Word quickly spread to Karen Dickens, wife of Seagull Shellhole's Old Bill in Hermanus, and she too, will look at possibly assisting local Sea Cadets at local Parade functions. Commander Ricky de Wet and MSS Helen de Wet visited the Cadets on 24th February 2024 and now have more clarity on their needs. Watch this space!

SICK PARADE & WELFARE* from MSS Helen de Wet

A small number of Moths are struggling with ill health and of course some do not wish their names to be included in the newsletter, so their privacy is respected. Never the less, we wish them a speedy recovery and they remain in our thoughts and prayers. Those who can be mentioned are:

Moth Ena Burnett is recovering from a wound on her foot, just before Christmas Day, which required stitches. Ena is back in Kleinmond and a nursing sister visits her once week to dress her wound.

Sgt Major Moth Andy Howie was bitten by a spider or some other 8-legged insect but was recovering well – though there was no news of how the spider/insect is doing! Coincidentally, MSS Helen de Wet was also bitten by a spider – no need to wonder who won that fight, or how the spider is!

Moth Coral-Ann Viviers had a bad ‘turn’ whilst at Battledress Shellhole and CMR were called to attend to her.

Moth Tony Stopford is continuing to undergo treatment to which he is responding well.

Moth Richard Evans will be seeing a Consultant this month to see if there can be anything done to improve his current condition. Richard was visited by Commander Moth Ricky de Wet last month.

Moth Cindy de Kock underwent a procedure to resolve a slipped disc in her neck. FOFR Patrick Bruwer had a bout of pneumonia and he was being treated in Vincent Palotti hospital, but is now recovering at home.

Padre Moth Errol Sadler’s daughters Nadia and Tanya have both undergone medical treatments during the last couple of months but both are now recovering well.

Donna Abrahamse (wife of Moth Robby Abrahamse) attended the Birkenhead Commemoration Service at Danger Bay and is recovering steadily after breaking her shoulder.

Moth Widows are all currently doing well which is wonderful news. Their young at heart spirits makes up for the odd sore back and knees! They are always so grateful for the donation of magazines provided by Commander Moth Ricky de Wet, Moth Iain Groom, Moth Vanessa Chambers and Cheryl Howie.

*MSS Helen de Wet says, “Welfare is not just about looking after people, it is also about assisting those in poor health and the problems incurred, especially when there are few people to count on for support. It is also important that privacy and confidentiality are maintained when asked for by the person/s concerned. The welfare of others takes precedence, even over our own doctors and specialist appointments, when need be”.

FUND RAISING by MSS Play Bill Helen de Wet

It is the start of the second half of the 2023/24 Battledress Shellhole’s Moth’s and Social year and a busy start it has been, too. Fund raising to date include:

Christmas Cheer – Raffle R7	411
RNA donations	R1 000
Burger Sales	R1 570

Total	R9 981
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Thanks to everyone who made it a fun Christmas Cheer function last year, especially to Ellis - Father Christmas will never be the same again! Equally, the Bring and Braai on 16 December was a good reminder of what a close-knit ‘family’ Battledress Shellhole Moths, FOFR and Friends can be.

MOTH Morning Market



The first Moth Morning Market of the year was a very busy one. All vendor tables were fully booked. Both vendors and customers made the most of the after Christmas holidays to snap up bargains galore. In some instances, as can be seen above, it was enough to make your hair curl! Regulars and newcomers found bargains at almost every table, from Moth Kate Parr's olive, garlic and chilli selections to books, CDs and clothing.

JOKER JACKPOT DRAW

It was back to the "You have to be in it to win it!" when the February Joker Draw resumed on Friday, 09 February. The Jackpot Draw was not won so it will be rolled over to 08 March and it could be yours for the taking if you buy a R5 ticket.



Lucky ticket holders were Moth Iain Groom, Nicole Stopford, Moth Andy Howie and MSS Helen de Wet. Moth Coral-Ann Viviers was a winner of a bottle of wine.



BINGO!

Playing by the numbers for yet another fun evening, BINGO! is held on the 3rd Friday of a month and was back in full swing at Battledress Shellhole on 16 February. Be it "Knock on the Door – 24, Did You Score – Number 4"

Mind you, if you are feeling your age lately, you could always shout out "Staying Alive, Staying Alive" – 85!

DARTS – BULL'S EYE

The last Friday of each month is Darts night at Battledress Shellhole. The night when you need nerves of (Tungsten) steel in closing the game with a double 1. A fun night for everyone throwing those arrows.



South Africa's Border Boys Parade



The annual Border Boys Parade took place at Dawn Patrol Shellhole on Sunday, 04 February. As with wars before South Africa's Border War, or what some consider as South Africa's own "Vietnam", over 670 000 young men, many still in their teenage years, were conscripted into the SADF.



Memories, like those described in his book "Bush Brothers" by Steve de Witt, tell of camaraderie, buddies lost and lasting friendships after returning to "civvie street". There have been

numerous requests at Battledress Shellhole for stories about South Africa's Border War, but none have been forthcoming. Perhaps, like DDay, the general consensus is that it was another time, another place and interest has diminished. What were you fighting for, can you remember? Typical of the type of war fought, the psychological "hearts and minds" warfare was as important as the use of technically advanced military weaponry by both sides of the Border War – South African SADF military on one side and the Portuguese, Cuban, Russian and black forces on the other. The outcome? Both sides claimed victories but politics held the Ace.



On Sunday, 04 February the Border Boys Parade was held at Dawn Patrol Shellhole. It is always a moving Remembrance because you find your mind drifting to the 'what was' or the 'if only's'".

Whether what was fought for was truly for a better society or benefit. The 'Old Guard' will have their own version of events and outcomes but no one can dispute the importance of Cuito Carnivale for both sides of the war: the tactical withdrawal of the perceived forces of apartheid, or the resulting negotiation of peace for South Africa, Namibia and Angola for future independence? Win, lose or a stalemate, time will tell. Lives won, lives lost. War is Hell. Or as Edwin Starr sang in the early 1970's, "War! What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!".



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

BORDER BOY'S / VALENTINE'S MUSIC EVENING



What a scrumptious meal the Play Bill and her Kitchen Crew Volunteers provided for the first FUNCTION of the year. For only R60 per person, BBQ Chicken, rice, salad and ciabatta bread proved more than enough for even the hungriest who turned out for an evening of music, and laughter. Well done to Deputy Commander Moth Julie Denham who compiled a great music playlist, which everyone enjoyed.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to Moth Iain Groom and son, Malcolm, for fitting a new fridge into the kitchen which now allows much more space for the Play Bill, MSS Helen de Wet, and her trusted Kitchen Crew, Shannon Bright, Moth John Lamont and Commander Moth Ricky de Wet to assist with function requirements.

Snippet: Who Was St. Valentine?



W-a-y back in Roman times when Claudius II was Emperor, he decreed that Christian couples could not marry. Enter a young priest and physician who performed secret weddings to those being persecuted. Claudius had him arrested, imprisoned, tortured and on 14 February, he was decapitated. Talk about losing your head for love!

The Catholic Church made Valentine a Saint for his sacrifice and each year held a feast in his honour. Over the years, couples of every religion across the world celebrate Valentine's Day with gifts of love – flowers, chocolates, cards and even jewellery - such as an engagement ring. Hopefully you all enjoyed St Valentine's Day – without losing your head!



HMTS Birkenhead Commemoration Service



“Stand fast ... women and children first!” was the order shouted as the troop ship HMTS Birkenhead (right) began sinking off the coast of Danger Bay in 1852. Immortalised in Rudyard Kipling’s poem ‘Soldier



and Sailor, Too’ each year, Battledress Shellhole is invited by the Overstrand Municipality to participate in the commemoration service and the laying of wreaths in the memory of the 450 men, women and children lost in the disaster. Birkenhead Sea Cadets were on parade with buglers playing The Last Post and Reveille. Moth Commander Ricky de Wet, Moth Robby Abrahamse and Moth Vanessa Chambers represented Battledress Shellhole at this year’s Commemoration Service (left).

SS Mendi and SAS President Kruger

The SS Mendi (right) sank in 1917 after being rammed in the dark by the SS Darro. The passengers were mainly volunteers of the South African Native Labour contingent who had been recruited to support



British troops stationed in France during WW I. The Reverend Isaac Wauchope said to the men “ ... be quiet and calm, my countrymen ... we are drilling the death drill ... let us die like brothers”. More than 600 lives were lost in the disaster. Moth Commander Ricky de Wet, Moth Alan Green and Moth John



Lamont attended the SS Mendi Memorial Service (above left).

“Out of the storm came courage” was a newspaper headline of the news that the SAS President Kruger had sank on 18 February 1982 after it had been rammed by its replenishment ship the SAS Tafelburg.

Commander Moth Ricky de Wet and Deputy Commander Moth Julie Denham led toasts to those lives lost and to the survivors of all three naval disasters at the previous evening’s function (below).



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

SA Sea Cadets (SASC) by Moth Malcolm Alexander



Moth Malcolm Alexander gave an enlightening and motivational talk on the SA Sea Cadets at the Moth Monthly meeting this month. The following is a synopsis of the work he and his organisation, the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) is involved in with the SASC. Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) in partnership with the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) is driving Operation Phakisa (the Government's initiative for oceans economy) and has implemented a partnership to not only fund the SASC but also to grow the SASC Project which started in 2022 and an excellent example of its growth in coastal areas with multiple Training Ships (TS).

Moth Alexander says "The rationale of the Project is to offer our youth an alternative to drugs and gangsterism, which is a cancer eating away at our society and our familial future". He considers himself lucky to conduct the monitoring of the Project by attending different units and seeing first-hand the transformation of the youth who now have a future and who are learning various skills sets, including leadership and accountability.

TS Woltemade in Lakeside led by Commanding Officer Lt (SC) Gaylene Jacobs is a real flagship in this Project; "I recommend a visit to attend an end of year parade with drilling, silent drill, gun run, cutlasses and bunters (that's flag signalling for the landlubbers). Some of the cadets saved lives during this project and at least 3 received medals for their actions (one medical and one fire related). Training is the way forward". Moth Alexander added, "An increasing number of children in families within our country are generally from poor households, thus emphasising the need for support in providing uniforms and catering which are critical elements for success. Some families do not eat every day, or do not eat enough. Gifts and donations are always welcome."

There is a long relationship between the MOTH Order and the SA Sea Cadets who take pride and support in many MOTH activities, not least of which is the Battledress Shellhole Remembrance Parade & Service each November.



"I am in awe of the management team under Captain (SC) Paul Jacobs. No matter the



organisation, there will be one or two persons who deliver every time, on time and with integrity". The Project looks to areas to spread the opportunity to as many youth as possible. Youth development while critical and fundamental needs to be integrated into the larger eco system and through developing partnerships with the SA Navy and various institutions for bursaries and placement into the fishing or merchant marine fleet, including tourism and the hospitality industry (cruise ships and super yachts). Some partnerships are stronger than others but all show promise. Development of the youth must include opportunity for employment and having a Mariner give a career talk at a cadet base is a powerful role-modelling platform. Separate to the SASC, 62 rural or township schools are also sponsored and this provides a broader stage for cadets and other mariners to talk to, inspiring the

youth and giving them achievable goals. Linking logistics is complicated but mandatory to keep this amazing and resilient youth positive. Just look at the pride in the wearing of their uniforms – clean and ironed and worn with pride.”

If you are interested in finding out more about the SA Sea Cadet development contact:

TS Woltemade tswoltemade@gmail.com

Gaylene Jacobs Lt (SCC)

Commanding Officer

TS Woltemade

South African Sea Cadets



Thank you to Moth Malcolm Alexander for the informative and motivating article and photographs.

MOTH and Social Events in March

(26 February) Anniversary of HMTS Birkenhead, Danger Point

01 March Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus / Happy St David's Day 

01 March Music Quiz at 1900, the Founders Room, Battledress Shellhole

04 March Exco and Sub Committee Meeting at 1730, Battledress Shellhole

07 March Moth Monthly Meeting at 1900, Battledress Shellhole

08 Joker Jackpot Draw at 1900, the Founder's Room, Battledress Shellhole

15 March Bingo! at 1900 at Battledress Shellhole

16 March Battledress Shellhole Birthday & St. Patrick's Day Celebration

17 March Gunners Memorial Parade at 1100, Company Gardens

17 March General Botha Cadets Memorial at 1000, Jubilee Square in Simonstown

21 March (Public Holiday) Human Rights Day

22 March Darts at 1900 at Battledress Shellhole

29 March Good Friday Battledress Shellhole will be closed.

“The time has come” the Walrus said “to talk of many things...”

In case you were not at the last Moth monthly meeting, I announced that I will be stepping down as Rag Bill at Battledress Shellhole at the end of this MOTH calendar year. It has been fun, and I have enjoyed writing the newsletters for you during the last six years, but now it's time for a new Rag Bill to step up. Will it be you?

As this February's newsletter comes to a close, I wish the very best for you all, stay well, stay happy and keep a smile wherever you are, whatever you are doing. Thank you for reading this newsletter, or perhaps you found another use for it!

What is life without a sense of humour!

Vanessa

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Vanessa Chambers

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Website: www.moth.org.za



**Do take note of the new Bar Hours for the Founder's Room
from 01 February 2024.**

FOUNDERS ROOM OPENING TIMES

Wednesday 17h00 -22h00

Friday 17h00-23h00

Saturday 14h00 to 23h00

Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day Closed

Other Public Holidays as for Saturdays

**Last rounds are called one hour before closing times,
or at the Bar Manager's/Barman's discretion. Monthly Quiz
on the first Friday of the month (General Knowledge and
Musical Quiz is held on alternate months)**

Joker Draw on the second Friday of the month

Bingo on the third Friday of the month

Darts on the last Friday of the month

Weekend braais

**The above are normally held every month except in
the month of January when the Shellhole functions
are on a break, but may change, as and when needs be.**

**SPORT VIEWING TIMES ARE ON THE SHELLHOLE
NOTICE BOARD**

Approved opening times will be adjusted for certain events,