



## **SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION**

(CAPE TOWN BRANCH)

PBO 93000796

### **CAPE TOWN BRANCH NEWS JULY 2020**

There is no doubt that winter is here. As I write this newsletter it's raining and the temperature is around 11° which by Cape Town standards is cold.

Covid-19 and the lockdown continue to impact on the activities of the branch with meetings and social events on hold. Just as lockdown regulations are eased and we think that life may return to some form of "normal" they are changed again. With second waves predicted and reoccurrences of the virus in regions that had been identified as being clear, it is apparent that our lives are going to be different for some time to come.

Add to that load shedding, which most of us thought (or hoped) was a thing of the past, and life in SA is never dull!

#### **Branch By-laws**

Attached to this newsletter are the proposed Branch By-laws. Usually a Special general meeting would be called to consider the By-laws but given the lockdown and the restrictions on meetings this is not possible.

Members are therefore being called on to vote on the proposed Branch By-laws as set out in the attached document. Please follow the procedure as set out in the document and adhere to the deadline.

#### **New Members**

Welcome to Michael Maher and Tommy Thompson. The list of members to be inducted continues to grow and we look forward to the day when lockdown permits us to gather again.

#### **Dame Vera Lynn**

I am sure that most members are aware that the Forces Sweetheart passed away on 18 June 2020 age 103.

Vera Welch was born to working class parents and began performing in public when she was seven. She adopted her maternal grandmother's maiden surname as her stage name when she was eleven.

She was active in the music industry for 96 years and is remembered for songs like “We’ll Meet Again” and “There’ll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover”. In 2017 three days before her 100th birthday, a new LP entitled *Vera Lynn 100* was released. The album set her original vocals to new re-orchestrated versions of her songs, and by October 2017, she was the best-selling female artist of the year in the UK.

Member Ian Campbell remembers:

I have just been watching TV tributes for Dame Vera Lynn – the Forces Favourite – who has died at 103! One of the tributes was from The Royal British Legion.

My personal tribute dates to my flight by Dakota in March 1945, a five-stop flight to Cairo via Bulawayo, Malakal, Juba and Khartoum.

At Khartoum we were entertained with an open-air film of Vera Lynn which I have never forgotten. No flying was allowed in those days after 15h00 in central and east Africa!

### **Rosedale News**

Rosedale has not been untouched by Covid-19 with six residents contracting the virus and Gill McLaren sadly succumbing to it. We extend our condolences to Gill’s husband, Andrew.

Early evening on Thursday 11 June there was a fire in the staff quarters leaving two rooms and a bathroom severely damaged. Thanks to the quick response of several residents, the fire was extinguished before it could spread, and the arrival of the fire department. Fortunately, no residents or staff were injured.

### **Welfare**

Our welfare efforts have continued during lockdown albeit on a reduced scale. If you know of a veteran who is battling, they are welcome to contact the Branch for possible assistance. While funds are limited, we do our best to assist.

### **Poppy Day**

Normally Poppy Day planning is in full swing by this stage but given the lockdown and the uncertainty around the situation this important aspect of our welfare work is currently on hold.

Key to the success of Poppy Day is our collectors. On the assumption that the Covid19 pandemic is still with us in November would you be prepared to assist with collecting on the day?

Please let me know [david@salegion.co.za](mailto:david@salegion.co.za)

And to end on a lighter note

**COVID-19 MILITARY TRAINING UPDATE AS RECRUITS CONTINUE TO BE TRAINED REMOTELY AT HOME**



**"AT YOUR TARGET IN FRONT, GO ON!"  
AFTER THAT, GO TO YOUR ROOM AND THROW YOUR SHOES  
AND BEDDING OUT OF THE WINDOW FOR ME THEN GO ROUND  
THE BACK OF THE SHED AND PUNCH YOURSELF A FEW  
TIMES FOR FAILING THE MORNING INSPECTION.**