Here we go plummeting into yet another year. Your Committee met yesterday evening to plan our years’ functions.

I would like to thank Ed, Alan and Basil for their input and commitment to our Regimental Association. Bearing this in mind I sincerely hope that all members commit to attending and making our meetings this year events to all enjoy and remember😊.

Please pencil in your diaries the following dates:

1. Port Alfred Visit. This will be on Sunday the 6th March and will be a bring and braai at a venue to be confirmed. We will lunch at either Lala Lapa or the Ploughman’s Pub which is in Bathurst. The numbers going will dictate the venue so please let Ed know soonest. Lifts and sharing of transport can be arranged.
2. The 13th June has been diarized for our popular curry lunch. Alan is arranging the venue and we’ll let you know in the next newsletter.
3. Our annual and formal lunch will be at the German Club Lorraine on the 28th August.

4. 27th November heralds our Christmas Braai at Outspan Shell Hole. Our Combined Forces friends will be joining us on that day.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

Another year is well on the way and before we know it the first function of the year for 2016 will be upon us. We had a committee meeting last week, when the provisional dates for the functions to be held in 2016 were decided. Like most organisations the date are flexible especially if they clash with something important. We like to make every effort to accommodate all the members as far as possible, so it is important for everybody to speak up and let’s see what we can do to accommodate.

It is so vitally important that everybody should make the effort to attend, as this is the reward that Committee members get for their efforts and make it all worthwhile on doing what is seen most times as a thankless job that nobody wants.

The Committee is not an exclusive club or group and we would encourage anybody who would like to attend to join us even on an ad hoc basis to help with the organisation of the next function. All very simple with nothing complicated.

As you may see the function venues have not all been finalised as we are trying this year to make sure we have a suitable venue with good access, value for money and conveniently located. To this end you will remember that we have done away with subscriptions to save costs to the individual members as the Rand continues its downward spiral in value. In respect to venues we are ALWAYS open to suggestions and recommendation.

As we all get older and less mobile this is becoming an important consideration to ensure that we are all accommodated and do not feel left out.
The other issue that I would like to mention is that I have received a “new” draft Constitution and Administration Rules for we had a Committee discussion last week, and for which I am drafting a “comment” document to send back to the Central Committee.

In a nutshell this is a wonderful document, if you are a large branch with lots of members and “oodles of boodle” but hardly befitting a small social branch such as ours who are only focused on having a small amount of savings in the bank, no financial records as such and no cumbersome meeting minutes, which are left to never be read again.

Last year we took a decision to be a small branch where the main object was to have quarterly social gatherings.

In ending I would like to raise an issue which was raised last year by our Committee and has come up in the new Constitution and that being the widows of deceased members of the Association who appear to disappear soon after the death of a member. It is not commonly known that they have the possibly to remain members of the Association in their own right.

I would appeal to members who have contact with widows to share and encourage them to remain having contact with the association and where possible to attend functions.

Remember that transport locally can only be a call away to a Committee member or a member of the Eastern Cape branch and they will be assured of a warm welcome to the gather. I would especially like their support at the annual luncheon.

Cheers

Ed