



## Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter November 2006

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Web: [www.rhodesianservices.org](http://www.rhodesianservices.org)

Greetings

This will be the last newsletter of 2006. Let me wish you all a very relaxed Christmas and safe New Year on behalf of the Rhodesian Services Association committee.

### October 2006 RV

Just to let the newer readers of this newsletter know the background to this event I will explain:- The October RV was first held as a one off event in 2002 to recognise and honour Rhodesian soldiers. It was held at the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regiment HQ in Tauranga, New Zealand. The C.O., Lt Col John Dick was so impressed with the spirit of the event that he said that we could make a display of Rhodesian military history as part of the Hauraki Regiment's history room. The RV was such a success that it was decided to hold it again the following year.

The display was constructed and it was officially opened by Lt Gen Peter Walls in April 2003. The ensuing RVs were all very successful. A feature of the event from 2003 was the auction which was held to raise funds for the development of the museum display. Keith Kietzmann was the auctioneer and his quick humour raised many thousands of dollars from donated goods over the years. In 2005 the RV was changed to coincide with the 11th November. This was a one off. In 2006 the event reverted back to the Labour Weekend holiday in October affording people an extra day for travel etc.

In 2006 preparations had been taking place in the background for many months. A lot of work goes into each RV and many people are involved. One of the most strenuous jobs is the catering which is managed by my wife Diana. Diana keeps it all within a tight budget, which together with the generous donation of meat by Percy and Yvonne Purcell, ensures that we can keep the ticket price so low. This year's adult ticket price of \$25 also included, for the first time, a Lion & Tusk lapel pin with the year 2006 on as keep-sake.

We kicked off on Friday 20th October 2006 when people started to gather at the Garrison Club in the afternoon. That evening we ran a selection of movies. We kicked off with a 5 minute sound track from Green Leader. We then showed a DVD kindly supplied by Msasa Productions [www.rhodesianvideos.mazoe.com](http://www.rhodesianvideos.mazoe.com) entitled Face of Rhodesia. It was an RTV production from around 1974/5 with footage of the Salisbury Show and other material bringing back some memories. We then ran a video of rafting on the Zambezi, the recent Kevin Woods interview and finished off with a short piece of humour. A good turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves.

On Saturday morning the keen golfers, under direction of Greg O'Carroll, took to a local course. As a non golfer I am not fully understanding of the terminology but I believe that some played 'more golf' than others. As you can see from the photo the event was dominated in numbers by the SAS and RLI. Barry Morgan and Steve Kennedy made sure the RLI took the honours at both ends of the field. Steve made the most of the clubs he borrowed by playing the 'most golf'.

**Standing L-R**

Mark Hellam; Barry Morgan; Paul Nes; Greg O'Carroll; John Graham

**Seated L-R**

Butch Mawdsley; Steve Geach; Mel Clements; Danny Hartman; Steve Kennedy



*Photo from John Graham collection*

Mid afternoon saw the RV kick off with a welcome from the new C.O., Lt. Col. Warren Banks M.N.Z.N., E.D., J.P. Paul Nes, Chairman of the Rhodesian Services Association presented Lt. Col. Banks with an inscribed copy of 'Winds of Destruction'. Paul then went on to present your Secretary with a beautiful glass and granite trophy inscribed "For dedicated and devoted service to the Rhodesia Services Association". This was accompanied by a handy container which will no doubt be put to good use ensuring that the secretarial supply of rum goes under the radar of vigilant security guards at cricket and rugby grounds. President of the Hauraki Association, Des Anderson then informed us the bar was open which signalled the commencement of socialising.

This year we had a change of auctioneer with Steve Geach taking over the hammer (or blackboard duster in this case and you would be amazed at how much noise he could generate with it!!) from Keith Kietzmann. Steve combined his skills as a teacher with his unlimited humour to ensure the success of the auction. Steve put a huge effort in and was quite worn out come Sunday and had to absent himself from the De-Brief. We do not believe the rumour that his consumption of a certain pale Indian ale (which is brewed by an all woman workforce in Mangatainoka if you believe the adverts) was responsible for his early withdrawal from the De-Brief. Yeah right! (Sorry - local joke for overseas readers).

The auction and raffle combined to raise around \$2,000.00 this year which is a fantastic result demonstrating the generosity of those donating the goods and the buyers. Good effort folks - many thanks.

## Steve Geach emphasises the quality of goods on offer



*Photo from Terri Logie collection*

There were approximately 70 people attending this year and they came from all parts of New Zealand including the South Island. The RV is not restricted to people who served in the Rhodesian forces. We endeavour to encourage anyone interested and of all ages to attend. This year saw a good mix of ages and backgrounds.

Sunday morning had a good turnout to clean up then everyone moved to the Classic Flyers Museum, venue for the AGM (which we prefer to call the De-Brief). The caterers again swung into action feeding the approximate 40 people attending with a good solid brunch. The display that was about 80% complete met with everyone's approval. Also on display, with engine running, was a WWII Mustang which had arrived for a visit.

The De-Brief was opened with an explanation of the background to the Classic Flyers Museum by the Classic Flyers Trust Chairman, Andrew Gormlie. Andrew was presented with a copy of 'Pride of Eagles' for their library as well as a certificate of appreciation by the Rhodesian Services Assn. signed by Ian Smith.

The meeting re-elected the current committee and discussed the future of the Association. You will be informed of the various changes as they happen in the new year. There is a lot of exciting things to look forward to in the future of our Association. Make sure that you are with us and be sure to make plans for the next RV which will be over Labour Weekend 19 - 22 October 2006. I suggest that you book your accommodation well in advance as it is a busy weekend in Tauranga.

### **Christmas gift suggestions**

We have a wide range of items suitable for Christmas gifts. You can view what we have on the website on this page link <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm> You just need to email me for your order and I will give you the full price including postage. Our shirts and caps are easy to send overseas and can be sent direct so as to save on postage, but you had better hurry so they get there on time. Profits from these sales goes back into the Association.

I have a quantity of books for sale (this is my own hobby and not for the direct benefit of the Assn.) listed on this page link <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm>

We have our supporters and sponsors links at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Links%20to%20our%20supporters.htm> which also have some great gift ideas.

You may also look at a subscription to the Rhodesians World Wide magazine which at NZ\$34 (and that you can pay by personal cheque) makes a great gift.

### **Rhodesian Air Force Association in NZ**

John Pringle is looking at setting up a branch of the Rhodesia Air Force Assn in New Zealand. Please would all Blue Jobs in NZ contact John by email [PRINGLE.JP@xtra.co.nz](mailto:PRINGLE.JP@xtra.co.nz)

Good luck John - don't forget that the Rhodesia Services Association is 'non denominational' so we hope that you will affiliate with us and pass this newsletter on to anyone new who pops up.

### **Rhodesian Archives in the UK**

Many of you will have seen the reports last month regarding the 423,000 pound grant to the University of West England to research and catalogue the archives of the Rhodesian Army. While we all acknowledge the need for this work to be done many people have voiced their concern as to what point scoring is to be done in the process.

Project leader Dr Diana Jeater is quoted as saying "For forty years, the wars of liberation in southern Africa had a profound impact on the region. Amongst those opposing African majority rule, the Rhodesian Army has been mythologised as a formidable fighting machine. This archive offers for the first time an opportunity to test the folklore surrounding this force, and to situate it in its time and place."

Let us hope that truth and fact prevails.

### **Missing persons**

Normally I do not have time to chase up people's email addresses when they change. However there seems to be a large number of ihug addresses that have suddenly gone off. If anyone is in contact with the following people please let them know that my mail is not getting through to them and they need to contact me if they wish to continue to receive this newsletter.

Cindy Davel

Hilton & Janine Johnson

Neil Cawood

Duncan Miller

Joyce Brayshaw

Rob & Peggy Pike

Ian Graves

Bruce & Liz Fieldsend

Vern Conchie

Go well

Cheers  
Hugh Bomford

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*PLEASE NOTE:- This newsletter is compiled by Hugh Bomford secretary of the Rhodesian Services Association. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.*