

The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Rhodesian Services Association

Membership of the Rhodesian Services Association (RhSA) continues to grow at a steady rate and this newsletter is now sent out to over 2,000 people. While we truly appreciate this support, financial members make up only 28% of our total membership. Member subscription fees provide much needed funds that allow us to continue to preserve and document Rhodesian military history; they also make a vital contribution to the operation of the Lion and Tusk Museum. We are a registered New Zealand charity, our AGM is held in February and the minutes of the meeting, along with a profit and loss report, are sent out to all financial members in March.

Financial Membership is normally NZ\$25 for a full financial year, 1 October to 30 September, however from 1 June 2021 we have reduced this to just NZ\$12.50 for the balance of this financial year, for NEW members.

Subscriptions are payable via credit card, Paypal, or EFT (Australia, the UK, the US, Canada, and Euro-based countries only). If you would like to sign up for financial membership, please email the Secretary at thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org for details.

**** Paid-up members will receive via email, *Rhodesian Dispatches*, a new monthly RhSA publication, compiled by historian and researcher, Gerry van Tonder, that is proving extremely popular.**

NZ members who live locally - we are always looking for volunteers to work on roster, on the days The Lion and Tusk Museum is open: Thursday through Sunday, 10am - 3pm. Volunteers generally do five hours on a weekly, fortnightly, or monthly basis - some come in for shorter periods and share shifts. Volunteers can choose what suits them and are given full support and training. You don't have to be a history *fundi*, it's just about meeting people and chatting to them. Museum visitors are very easy to deal with. When there are no visitors, there are hundreds of books to read; videos to watch; two laptops available for your use, or you can just enjoy the peace and quiet. Please email us, or give Hugh Bomford a call on 027 545 8069, if you can help. Your input will have

a positive impact on running the museum. Please share this with anyone you know who may be interested in volunteering and who may not be on our mailing list.

From our Inbox:

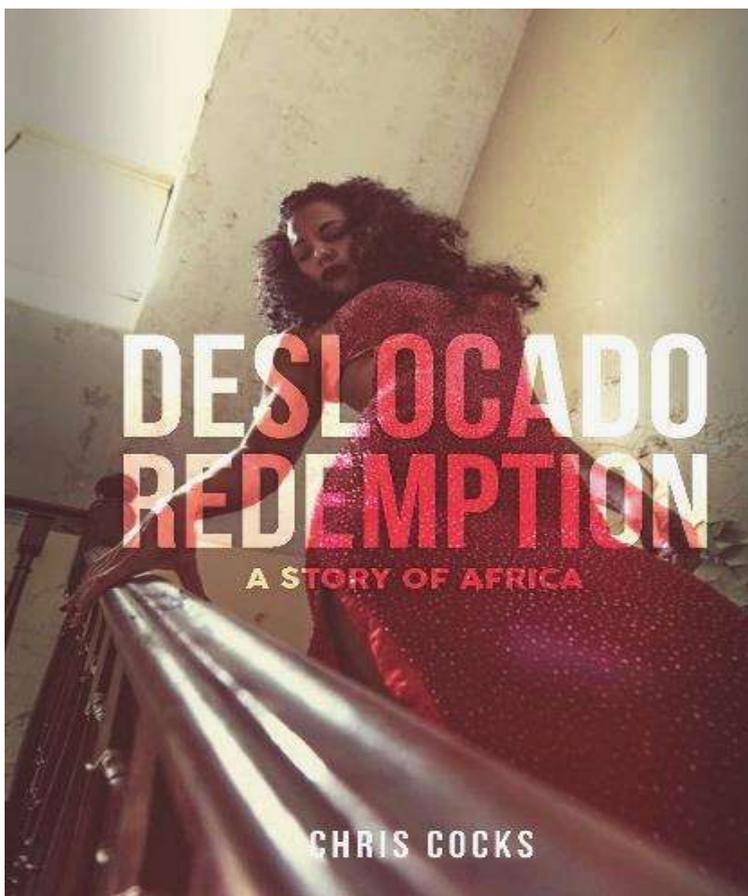
- Please note, there was a file conversion error in our April issue, regarding the number of names on our Rhodesia Roll of Honour; it should read 5,333.
- A book announcement from Lime Tree Press, a new online publishing house based in the UK. Lime Tree Press was established by Chris and Kerrin Cocks who have a lengthy association with us, reaching back to our inception.

***Deslocado Redemption*, by Chris Cocks**

"Atmospheric, evocative, taut and gripping. This is a real insight into an often-overlooked time in Africa's history. The sheer sense of place was impressive and reminiscent of Grahame Greene at his best." Reader's review. By the bestselling author of *Fire Force*, Chris Cocks, comes an "unputdownable" story of Africa. *Deslocado Redemption* is Cocks' first novel. *Deslocado* is Portuguese for 'displaced'. This is a story of redemption set in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique in the mid-1990s, a time of nervous energy, opportunity and fear, in a region that has only recently emerged from bitter colonial wars of independence and subsequent civil wars. The peace is delicate and rancorous, racial attitudes coagulate and retribution is borne on the wind of change.

"I didn't expect to find very welcome themes of anti-colonialism and anti-racism in a thriller most of whose central characters are white Zimbabwean ex-soldiers. But I did, and over and above that it's a great story of love and humanity shining through a divided and unequal world. Recommended." Reader's review.

Deslocado Redemption is available via all online retailers in paperback or eBook format and has been republished by Lime Tree Press www.limetreepress.com. Please subscribe via our website for news of new titles, or like and follow us on FaceBook and Instagram.



WAR AND REMEMBRANCE: TSANGA LODGE

At Tsanga (1976-1979)

pain is not black or white
pain has mutuality that threads its thorns
beyond the superficiality of colour and age

the war wounded and suffering disabled
had a commonality of understanding
that defined a special communion

damaged and partial, bodies without limbs
were challenged in the enormity of physical change
to find a unique resource in tragic adversity

Imagine being twenty and living in Africa
when a 'biscuit tin' explodes in your face.
You wake up in a medical centre to be
discharged with paralysis in the left leg
and a brain injury that causes stumbling.
How would you feel your future f*cked!
Welcomed at Tsanga; given-up by others
it's hard to accept your predicament
but you gradually improve
encouraged by staff and exercise
and the friendship of others
less or more afflicted.

Out walking the scenic bush-mountain track
you fall on your knees to confront the ground.
Dick Paget bends down and face-to-face enquires
'what exactly are you doing' – you reply
'just looking for my contact lenses, Sir'
and you smile as Dick laughs.
Then you break into laughter
and both of you can't stop laughing.
At the bar in the evening others hear
this story, they too break into laughter.
Laughter, laughter – laughter abounds.
And for the first time – a total acceptance.

Richard Scutter May 2017 (reproduced with permission)

Tsanga: Place of Reeds, Place of Healing, by Heather Powell

2015

Book extracts reproduced with permission of the author.

Available as an eBook from: <https://echobooks.com.au/our-books/tsanga/>

A\$9.95

Tsanga is a small river winding its way through the magnificent Inyanga Mountains of eastern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The name means 'place of reeds'. At an altitude of 2400 metres above sea level, Tsanga Lodge began its history in 1955. The land, belonging to Mr Charles Hanmer, a pioneer of the area, was put into Trust and the Lodge was built as a holiday resort for underprivileged children from Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Following the break-up of the Central African Federation in 1963 the Lodge was virtually unused for ten years and fell into disrepair.

In 1973 the Young Farmers' Club of Rhodesia took over the property and with very limited resources renovated the buildings and a conservation education centre was set up for schoolchildren. Due to the escalation of the war the centre had to be closed in 1975. Dick Paget, retired from the Rhodesian Army Medical Corps, was in charge of the centre when it was closed. The idea of using the building as a recuperative centre for wounded or stressed forces personnel was suggested by him. Charles Hanmer and his Board of Trustees readily agreed and the local senator set the ball rolling.

Tsanga Lodge was opened as an army rehabilitation centre in Inyanga in October 1976 and it proved to be a powerful and inspiring success story. Dick Paget became Commanding Officer and his wife and son, Anne and Rob, also played a key role; several former patients became members of staff. The Pagets' vision was 'a place of healing for all' and activities focused on the physical and emotional wellbeing and recovery of their residents: gym, volleyball, walking, running, canoeing, playing cards, or just talking. Laughter was the best medicine at Tsanga and it was an integral part of life there, particularly during the evening social hour in the pub! Heather Powell spent two years at Tsanga and started an art therapy programme for grievously injured soldiers. She soon became fully absorbed into the day-to-day life of the centre -

Here were all these men, strangers from vastly different backgrounds and from all parts of the country and globe, thrown together by the war and relaxing shoulder to shoulder. Some would recover and return to their former lifestyle only subtly altered, but others were so profoundly injured they had no option but to steer a totally different route for the rest of their life.

Dick explained his philosophy. There is ALWAYS SOMETHING that can be done. We would try one thing, and if it did not work, then we would try something else, on and on, until we found the best possible solution for each individual.

Tsanga Lodge tipped many an orthodox recovery theory on its head. Some people believed that fun and laughter indicate a lack of reverence or concern for a person or issue. At Tsanga Lodge the reverse was demonstrated. Medical personnel visited. All were intrigued and looked for the secret that resulted in the high number of success stories - many despite a hopeless prognosis. But to find clues you would need to be there, not for a few hours, but for a few months. You would need to see the patient arrive and witness his delight on seeing the cosy fire burning in the lounge and in his chalet; his amazement at the fantastic food and lack of army formality; be there to watch Dick Paget spend the necessary time listening to the story from this new patient, hear the answers to questions asked of him and the challenges presented to him. Then to be there during the planning of an appropriate exercise routine and various adjustments; to watch the various personal problems arise and be forthrightly tackled! You would need to be a fly on the wall in the pub and laugh at the day's mishaps and successes and see many a shame or disappointment dissolved by the evening's companionship and fun.

Tsanga Lodge became quite famous throughout Rhodesia and overseas. One reason was a film that was made about the place. The title song 'Tsanga' was written and sung by the very popular Clem Tholet. Derry MacIntyre, long-time friend of the Pagets and now Chief of Staff, commissioned Tony de Villiers to make the film. It highlighted the war; the beauty of the Inyanga area; the Pagets and the story of two patients (cast in their own roles) who had made spectacular recoveries at Tsanga Lodge. One was a courageous English lad called Jim who had his lower leg amputated as a result of an explosion working in the ghastly minefields. The other was the African who had been nicknamed Atlas. Atlas was riddled with bullets from an ambush and not expected to survive. However, he made an amazing recovery and became an invaluable member of the Tsanga Lodge staff. The film was an instant winner.

When the clinic was set up for the patients at Tsanga Lodge Dick obtained permission from the army to extend its services to all the locals in the area. Full credit must be given to those in the army who agreed. Called the Hearts and Mind Clinic, it became a life-saving asset, as prior to its inception sick and injured Africans had to make the tedious or dangerous journey down to the Inyanga Village Hospital.

There were of course excellent rehabilitation centres in Salisbury and Bulawayo, but what made Tsanga Lodge different was the many stories of 'no-hopers' who returned from there with new-found spirit to tackle life, and patients, told they could never do this or that again, who defied their original prognosis. These achievements helped raise the spirits of the beleaguered little nation, and no one was better able to relate them than Dick Paget. His humour and enthusiasm for the efforts of patients, staff and fundraisers was inspiring.

Dick believed that adversity, if it must come our way, reveals our unrealised strengths and creative abilities. The number of patients who entered the gates of Tsanga Lodge before the Pagets left was six hundred and twelve. There were never more than 16 patients there at any one time.



Image credit: Peter Badcock, Rehabilitation, from Shadows of War

The Pagets left Tsanga Lodge in 1981 and returned to England in 1996.

Dick Paget wrote the full story of Tsanga Lodge in his book, *Paget's Progress*:

<https://www.authorhouse.com/en/bookstore/bookdetails/263622-paget-s-progress>

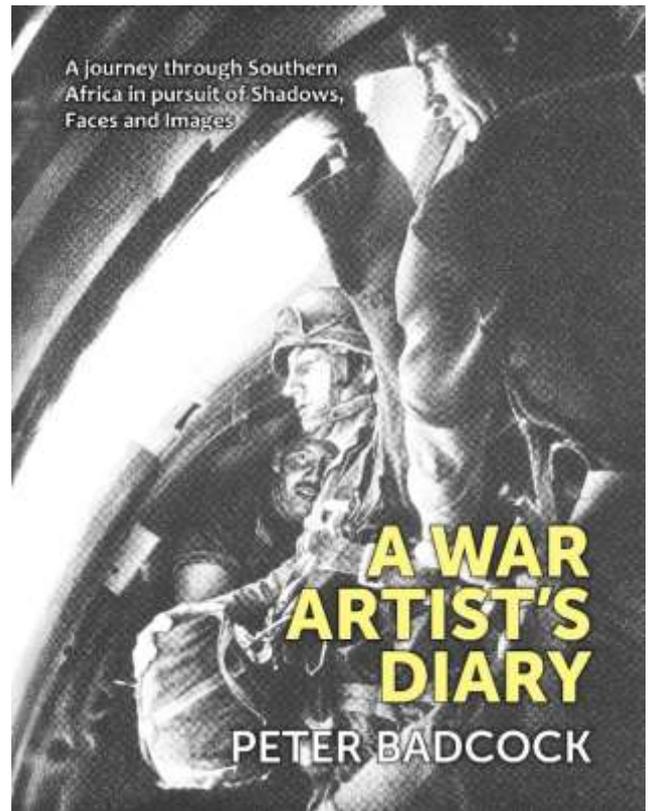
Peter Badcock, the artist and author of *Shadows of War*, *Faces of War*, and *Images of War* has published a new book –

A WAR ARTIST'S DIARY

This book brings together 100 of the most remarkable pencil drawings from Peter Badcock's three runaway and much sought-after bestsellers on the bitter turbulence of conflict in Southern Africa. *Shadows of War* (1978) and *Faces of War* (1980) captured the raw emotion of the Rhodesian (Zimbabwean) Bush War, while *Images of War* (1981) explored the escalating devastation of the South and South West African (Namibian) Border War.

A War Artist's Diary chronicles war in Southern Africa's last colonial summer, which thrust tens of thousands of young men of every colour into wars not of their making. For some, these wars were about survival; for others they were wars of liberation. Either way, *A War Artist's Diary* offers a haunting take on those savage days in which young men fought old men's wars, in pursuit - as it turns out - of very little.

One of the last war artists of the twentieth century, Peter Badcock traces his accidental journey into drawing and writing about conflict, with disarming honesty and wry humour. This is no ordinary book: it *is* about war, but it's also about art and it features some of the most extraordinary pencil drawings of men at war yet published. But most importantly, it is about the men who faced and often fought these Southern African wars, willingly or not, and the civilians who endured. It is their eyes that burn through *A War Artist's Diary* and give it soul.



A War Artist's Diary can be ordered from 1 July 2021 as an Ebook on Amazon.com (Tags: History/ Military History/Rhodesian Bush War/South African & South West African Border War) at US\$19.95.

ADVANCE BOOK ORDERS: Publication date 30 August 2021

A War Artist's Diary is 200 pages long and features new and extensive text, in addition to 100 drawings from *Shadows of War*, *Faces of War* and *Images of War*, with their accompanying verse. Contents include Peter Badcock's personal take on the Southern African context; an overview of war art and poetry; his drawing technique; notes to the drawings; introductions to the three books consolidated here; and his accidental journey into war art below the 15th parallel.

A War Artist's Diary standard-edition is available direct for door-to-door delivery within South Africa, at R495, plus

R100 courier cost. For regional and international orders, price is the country equivalent of US\$40, plus courier costs. Details and order forms can be found at www.peterbadcock.com.

DELUXE EDITION:

150 *only* quarter-bound, signed and numbered Deluxe Editions of *A War Artist's Diary* will be published in November 2021. Publication details, price, and advance order forms can be found at www.peterbadcock.com. This *very* limited Deluxe Edition will sell rapidly, so order early to secure your copy.

SIGNED PRINTS NOW AVAILABLE:

Individually signed *giclée* prints of the 100 drawings in *A War Artist's Diary*, on museum-quality 305gsm matt Hahnemühle fine art paper, 440mm x 340mm, are available to order. Your print selection can be made from the gallery of 100 drawings at www.peterbadcock.com. Price and door-to-door delivery within South Africa is R700 each, plus courier cost of R85 for 1 to 4 packaged prints. For regional and international delivery, price is the country equivalent of US\$55, plus courier costs.

For all other enquiries and information go to info@peterbadcock.com

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Lance Corporal Chamunorwa S.*

Silver Cross of Rhodesia, awarded 8 September 1978

Citation:

"Since February 1976 I-Cpl S. of B Company 1RAR has been involved in a number of contacts with terrorists. At all times he has displayed outstanding determination to close with and eliminate terrorists, first as a private soldier and since 1977, as a lance-corporal. He has led by example throughout this period, inspiring those around him with gallant and aggressive acts in the face of the enemy. On 2 April, he was one of a small group of soldiers undergoing specialized training at a base camp in the operational area. The sub-unit normally resident at this base camp was out on duty. The soldiers were all volunteers under training for special tasks, and in addition, they protected the camp. At approximately 2100 hours the sentry reported possible terrorist movement to the south of the camp. While occupants of the base camp were in the process of moving to stand-to positions, approximately twenty terrorists opened fire on them with mortars and small arms. All the soldiers took cover immediately except for the platoon commander and L/Cpl S. who ran to firing positions close to and overlooking the terrorist position. Armed only with a sub-machine gun and one full magazine of ammunition, L/Cpl S. closed to within 100 metres of the terrorists. With complete disregard for his own safety he continually exposed himself to enemy fire under very hazardous circumstances in an attempt to direct aimed bursts of fire at the enemy. In this position a terrorist mortar bomb exploded approximately 20 metres behind him and he was wounded in the shoulder and leg with shrapnel. The wounds did not stop him from continuing to return fire at the terrorists until he had expended all his ammunition.

Throughout the action he shouted abuse at the terrorists and challenged them to come closer. Finally deterred by the fierce reaction of the base camp occupants, the terrorists took flight. Despite his wounds, L/Cpl S. assisted his officer in re-organising the other soldiers and re-issued ammunition before he sought medical attention. As soon as possible after recovery from these wounds, he returned to the operational area.

On 27 June 1977, along with other members of his platoon, he was a passenger in a vehicle in the operational area. At approximately 1600 hours the vehicle came under effective fire from an estimated group of forty terrorists who were in a well-sited ambush position. The initial enemy fire wounded nine of the eleven passengers in the vehicle, and having sustained mechanical damage from the terrorist fire, the vehicle came to a halt well within effective range of the terrorists' weapons. L/Cpl S. was one of the two passengers who escaped injury and, seeing the plight of his wounded comrades attempting to take cover, he took the only machine gun from a wounded man and proceeded to provide effective covering fire for his comrades. He did so from a completely exposed position and kept up his covering fire while the other uninjured passenger assisted the wounded off the vehicle and into cover. Despite their numerical superiority and their superior fire power, the terrorists soon abandoned their efforts and withdrew, which must be attributed to L/Cpl S.'s courageous display of aggressiveness.

Since this incident, L/Cpl S. has been engaged in further contacts and wounded again with a gunshot in the leg on 13 January 1978, since when he has made a strenuous effort to become fit enough to return to operations. These examples of this NCO's gallantry and leadership coupled with his complete contempt for the enemy and his aggressive determination to eliminate them have been, and continue to be, an example and inspiration to his fellow soldiers."

*Full name withheld to protect this soldier's identity.

Corporal LENGU

Military Medal (MM)

Awarded to NCOs and men of the Army for individual or associated acts of bravery.

Recommendation citation as endorsed by General Charles Keightley, Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces:

"Corporal LENGU has shown exceptional keenness, efficiency and offensive spirit in operations against the Communist Terrorists in the period covered by this report (January to May 1957). He has always proved himself to be a courageous and resourceful NCO, always willing to undertake the most hazardous of operations.

On the 16th May 1957, in the Segamat District of Johore, Corporal Lengu was in charge of a patrol. His leading scout stopped, indicating that he had heard voices ahead. Corporal Lengu ordered the patrol to halt whilst he went forward to reconnoitre. He crept forward silently until he came to a small clearing where he saw four armed Communist Terrorists. These terrorists were obviously suspicious and on the alert with their weapons at the ready. Realising that there was no time to call up the rest of the patrol, and make an organised assault, Corporal Lengu decided to attack them himself. To make his attack he would have to cross the clearing in full view of the terrorists at a range of about ten yards. With complete disregard for his own safety and fully realising that he could expect no help from the members of his patrol who were some distance behind, Corporal Lengu charged straight at the Communist Terrorists. As soon as they heard the sound of his assault two of the terrorists took cover at the jungle edge to cover the retreat of the remaining two who turned to engage Corporal Lengu with rifle fire. The suddenness and speed of Corporal Lengu's assault so disrupted the terrorists that they were unable to return his fire and he killed the two in the clearing. The two remaining terrorists, seeing the deaths of their comrades, turned and ran, pursued by Corporal Lengu. He followed them for some distance, but lost their tracks and was forced to return to the clearing where he collected the rest of his patrol.

This extremely brave, gallant and single-handed action by Corporal Lengu against four armed Communist Terrorists is an example of personal bravery which has inspired the rest of the Battalion."



NEWS FROM THE LION & TUSK MUSEUM

~ Hugh Bomford

At The Lion and Tusk Museum we often give names to our mannequins. These names just “happen” as we are working on them and usually relate to the person whose uniform is being used or someone who we know. Our original mannequin is “Trooper Trevor” (pictured below). He has been with us for nearly 20 years and has had a few adventures and changes of uniform. Currently he represents a Selous Scout. His well-worn hat has a few tales to tell.



We also have two Rhodesian Air Force mannequins:

Flight Lieutenant Bill (Jelley)

Bill Jelley reached the rank of Wing Commander, but we only have Flight Lieutenant rank insignia. Bill passed away in January 2009 and his obituary is below.

Of interest are the leg restraints that Bill is wearing. These were kindly donated by Rob Hilton. These leg restraints were used to protect a pilot's legs in the event of him using the ejector seat. In Australia they are called "bowyangs". The origin of this word it thought to have originated from times when farm workers only bathed once a week and the bowyangs kept the dust and dirt from going up the legs and so helped keep the wearer clean.



Air Lieutenant John (Michalakis)



Our latest recruit is **Private Lionel (Naidoo)**, pictured displaying the Rhodesian Defence Regiment uniform.



Ave Wing Commander William (Bill) Paterson Jelley, July 1935 to January 2009

~ John Pringle

Bill attested into the Southern Rhodesian Air Force March 1954, not long before it was re-designated as the Royal Rhodesian Air Force. He was awarded his Wings on February 26, 1955 and retired from the Air Force of Zimbabwe at the rank of Wing Commander soon after the end of hostilities.

I first met 'Boss Jell' in 1966 when I was a very junior SNCO on the technical team of No 2 Squadron operating Vampires. We switched between the roles of 'Advanced Flying Training' and an 'Operational Conversion Unit' while also maintaining aircraft at operational readiness. I am pretty sure that we were the first squadron Bill commanded and it is a measure of the man that I distinctly remember his arrival and the quiet and resolute way he took control of a very difficult job.

It was interesting to note in *A Pride of Eagles* describing Op Cauldron, "Air strikes were carried out by No 2 Squadron Vampires flown by Squadron Leader Bill Jelley and Flying Officer Prop Geldenhuys using squash head rocket projectiles and 20mm canon. This was the first occasion that No 2 Squadron had fired a shot in

anger and after years of training and innumerable stand-bys, the squadron was glad to have been blooded."

The job did not get any easier for Bill and he was awarded the DMM for his performance as Officer Commanding Flying Wing New Sarum, a post he held between 1972 and 1975. This period was notable in that Bill frequently had to act as Station Commander while continuing to encourage the highest standards of discipline and efficiency from the squadrons under his command. One of those squadrons was No 7 Squadron, Alouette helicopters, well known for performing sterling work while operating throughout the country and always at the sharp end. The others were No.3 (Transport) Squadron and No.5 (Canberra) Squadron. From New Sarum he was posted to headquarters as Staff Officer Training, a role for which he was eminently suited.

Boss Jell: Officer, gentleman, leader, inspiration, and latterly, a respected friend. Thank you, you made the world a better place.

THE CQ STORE



Our green and white Rhodesian flags are something that people around the world are always after. Our stocks, described below, can be viewed on these pages of our CQ Store website:

<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/assorted.htm>

and

<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/berets---badges.htm>

We have polyester flags in four sizes (all prices in NZD):

- 3 feet x 5 feet (approx 900mm x 1500mm), comes with brass eyelets for hanging @ \$40, plus postage.
- 2 feet x 3 feet (approx 600mm x 900mm), comes with brass eyelets for hanging @ \$30, plus postage.
- 12 inches x 18 inches (300mm x 450mm), comes with a 24 inch/600mm stick @ \$20, plus postage.
NOTE: Can be sold without the stick, in order to reduce postage costs
- 6 inches x 4 inches (150mm x 100mm), comes with a plastic stick and base standing 12 inch/300mm high @ \$10, plus postage. NOTE: Can be sold without the stick and base, in order to reduce postage costs.

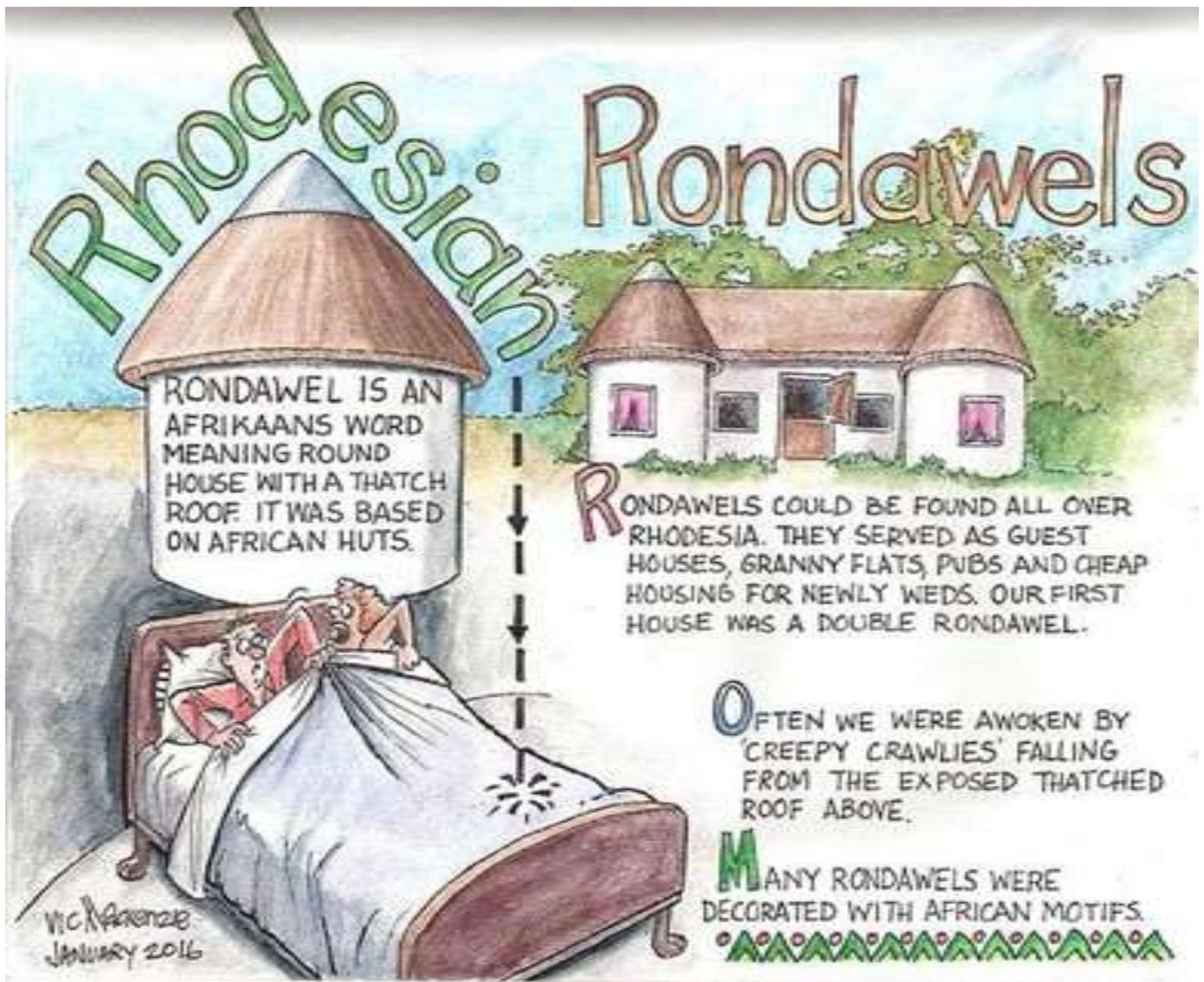
We also have them in three sizes of adhesive sticker:

- Large 350mm x 175mm @ \$10
- Medium 140mm x 70mm @ @ \$2.50
- Small (flag is 55mm x 25mm and there is a 60mm post) @ \$2.50

In addition, we produce an embroidered sew-on flag measuring 120mm x 55mm for \$35.00.

To order anything from the CQ Store, email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org and please remember to supply your delivery address, so that we can quote fully.

REMEMBER – when you buy from the Rhodesian Services Association CQ Store, you are supporting the preservation of Rhodesian history through The Lion and Tusk Museum.



This newsletter is compiled by Jackie Jackson for the Rhodesian Services Association, jackie@rhodesianservices.org

The views and comments expressed may not reflect those of the Association, or its Committee.

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