

Springbok

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The South African Legion Executive 2024 is from left to right Lgr's Bryan Dore, Ray Nasset, Mark Louw, Debra de Billot and Maurice Paoli.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Here we are with the second last edition for 2024, and once again a bumper edition. September 2024 has certainly been a very interesting and exciting month. The South African Legion held its 88th Congress at Rosedale in Cape Town from 12 to 15 September. At the Congress, important decisions were taken and a new leader team was elected. On behalf of all readers, we congratulate the newly elected leaders and wish them success during their tour of duty. Read the report under the heading '88th Congress'. Then there is also the relocation of the National Headquarters from Johannesburg to Cape Town.

To the outgoing leaders, thank you for your work during your tour of duty. Also thank you for your support to the Springbok and on behalf of all the readers we wish you success with your future endeavours.

Then there was the 'return of winter' over the weekend of 21 and 22 September which brought heavy snowfalls to parts of KwaZulu-Natal standing hundreds of travellers in the Van Reenen Pass near Harrismith. Even up here in the North, the temperature plummeted to single figures on Saturday 21 September.

With the relocation of the National Headquarters to Cape Town we sadly also have to say goodbye to the Acting National Secretary, Izelle Potgieter. On behalf of all our readers Izelle, we thank you for your support over the years and we wish you well with your future endeavours. See the message that Izelle has sent.

21 September 2024 was the International Day of Peace as directed by the United Nations. Sadly very seem to have been made of the day and armed conflicts continued unabated. According to recent information, there are currently some 109 armed conflicts across the world involving more than half the world's nations. See the article on the International Day of Peace later in this edition. More than ever we need to pray for peace in the world.

May I kindly request all branches that hold remembrance day services in November to ensure that you send me your reports/stories and photos timeously for inclusion in the November edition of the Springbok.

88TH CONGRESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

CONGRESS REPORT

The 88th South African Legion Congress was held at Rosedale, in Rosebank in Cape Town on the 12th to 15th September 2024. This conference brought together various branch members from all over South Africa including the quest speaker from the UK, Dave Thompson. (RCEL)

The opening ceremony was a social event, where the National President welcomed and thanked all members for attending the Congress.

On Friday 13th, the Congress went into session after the opening ritual by the National President and a scripture reading and prayer preformed by the National Treasurer Lgr Padre Johnson.

The speakers focussed on providing attendees with information on the RCEL and National War Fund grants and how they secure funding for veterans. Discussions around the regional planning were done in groups with feedback on how they see the way forward for the SA Legion. The concluded emphasis was on the strategies to improve membership with collaboration from all regions and their respective branches.

The new National Executive Committee was elected, and the following Legionnaires are in their new roles:

- **Lgr Mark Louw** - National President
- **Lgr Ray Nasset** - National Vice President
- **Lgr Debra de Billot** - Branch Liaison and Membership
- **Lgr Maurice Paoli** - Promotions and Publicity
- **Lgr Bryan Dore** - Relief and Welfare

Additionally, the National Treasurer portfolio will now form part of the newly established National Treasury with the exact composition of this committee to be advised in due course.

This Congress highlighted the critical challenges that are facing the SA Legion and South Africa, however with the resources, recommendations and knowledge within the ranks, the SA Legion would be steadfast in implementing positive results together for the future.

The spirit of teamwork and support within the organization is truly inspiring. It was wonderful to witness all members so passionate about our mission and together making and aspiring to make a real difference in the veteran community.

CLOSING CHURCH SERVICE

The Rosedale gardens were decked out in the vibrant colours of spring on Sunday 15 September and formed the perfect backdrop for the address delivered by Chaplain Johan Johnson. The flag orderlies were Peter Bolton, Quartermaster, Western Cape branch of the Scottish Regimental Association, in



88th Congress Welcome and Opening Evening at Rosedale in Rosebank



Congress in Session (1)



Congress in Session (2).



At the Formal Dinner from left to right Lgr Brian Smith (outgoing National President), David Thomson (guest speaker RCEL) and Lgr Mark Louw (incoming National President).



Above and below: Handing over of awards during the formal dinner.



the Murray of Athol Kilt and the Red Hackle, and Abraham Ross, Sergeant-Major of Hotel Company 1 Parachute Battalion.

Johan opened by saying he felt this, the 88th Congress of the South African Legion after 103 years in existence, will certainly go down in history as a watershed moment. “The decision had been made to broaden our welfare efforts in caring not only for indigent veterans, but also children and animals. In wearing the red poppy (people) and purple (animals), we honour their service – now we will also care.” He spoke about tightening up the Legion’s administration and making it more transparent, thus emphasising our stewardship of funds received for welfare and accountability in reporting.

He reminded us of the words of Paul the Colossians – to be kind to one another – “Remember, we are a work in progress: God is not finished with us yet neither as individual legionnaires nor the Legion as a whole.” This message echoed the Legion’s own motto *Not for ourselves but for others*. The flag and wreath-laying ceremonies then followed.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The following two messages were received from National Headquarters:

Closure of NHQ. Kindly note that the office will be closed on Monday the 23rd of September in preparation for the relocation of the National Headquarters to Rosedale Cape Town. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this time.

Newley elected NEC. We are pleased to inform you of the new members of the National Executive Committee, as elected at the 88th SA Legion National Congress held in Cape Town. Please join us in congratulating the following Legionnaires on their new roles:

- **Lgr Mark Louw** - National President
- **Lgr Ray Nessel** - National Vice President
- **Lgr Debra De Billot** - Branch Liaison and Membership
- **Lgr Maurice Paoli** - Promotions and Publicity
- **Lgr Bryan Dore** - Relief and Welfare

Additionally, the National Treasurer portfolio will now form part of the newly established National Treasury with the exact composition of this committee to be advised in due course.

We extend our best wishes to all the newly elected members, and we are confident that their leadership will be instrumental in advancing the mission of the Legion. We therefore urge all branches to offer their full support and cooperation as we work together to move the Legion forward.

Thank you for your support and continued dedication.



Scenes from the Sunday Church Service at Rosedale (1).





Scenes from the Sunday Church Service at Rosedale (2).



MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM LGR IZELLE POTGIETER.



It is with a heavy heart that I am sending my final message to you.

This is my goodbye, but I hope that our roads will again cross somewhere in the future.

As most should know by now, NHQ will relocate to Cape Town, and I was unfortunately not part of the new future for NHQ.

I am sending the message today as my last day is tomorrow the 30th of September 2024.

My road with the SA Legion started on the 1st of August 2008 and it was an honour and privilege to have worked with you through my 16 years of service to the SA Legion.

I did not only render a service to you but have also learned and received guidance from everyone and I thank you for the time that I was able to work with you.

I would like to thank everyone involved for the 16 years that I had to be part of your SA legion family; I will cherish the memories.

Best wishes,

BRANCH NEWS

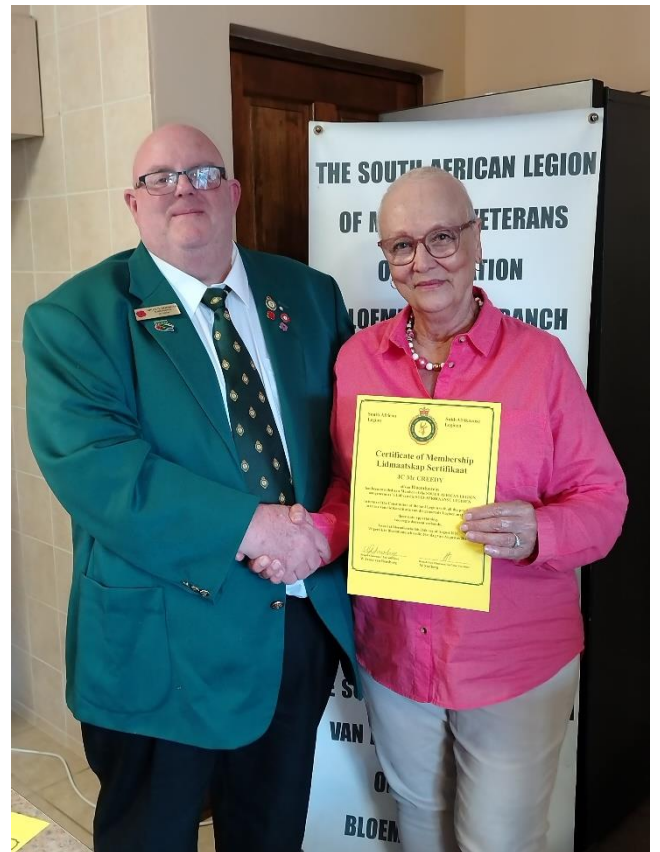
BLOEMFONTEIN

On 26 August 2024, the Chairperson of the Bloemfontein Branch, Lgr Janse van Rensburg, inducted three new members into the branch. These members are Lgr's W. S. Mc Creedy, J. C. Mc Creedy, and I. Stofberg.

CAPE TOWN.

Rosedale – Fun Quiz. The third Fun Quiz for the year kicked off to a tumultuous start, so popular it became that there were 4 teams of 4 vying for first place. Once again, the 50-odd questions posed by quizmaster Ralph Kelly got the teams thinking and when they failed to come up with an answer, the question was put to the audience. Monitor John Dorrington kept watch over proceedings while Beryl Lategan assisted in deciphering the questions. Clive Jordaan, Liz Barker, Roger McLaren and Peter Bolton in the tie for first place. Gordon de la Chaumette, Don Stokes John Verster and David Brooks formed one of two teams who drew for the honours.

Rosedale – Raffle Draw. One of the many perks of being part of and supporting the Rosedale Social Club is the ability to participate in their raffle draws which take place regularly. Friday's draw had some seriously smiley faces, not least of which was Ray Nasset who won the first prize – a R1 000 voucher to Pigalle's Restaurant in Green Point. Lucille Byrnes won the second prize and third by Jenny Jewell, both residents at Rosedale.



Induction of new members of the Bloemfontein Branch.



Scenes from the Fun Quiz at Rosedale.





Left and above are the winners of the Rosedale Raffle Draw.



Spring day at Rosedale.

Message to Izelle Potgieter. The Cape Town branch of the SA Legion wishes to thank NHQ national secretary Izelle Potgieter for her many years of dedication and hard work. May the road ahead be smooth and the detours along its way easy to traverse.

Spring Day. Spring came a bit late this season when the little ones from Forres Preparatory School visited Rosedale on September 19. The Social Centre's events coordinator, Del Davies, welcomed and thanked the learners and teachers for their colourful posies of flowers, which were handed out to each of the residents to mark the occasion.

Preparation for Poppy Day Walk. The public holiday - Heritage Day on 24 September - saw a contingent of 21 diehards briskly step out from Rosedale, they aim to walk either 5km or 2,7km along a given route in preparation for the upcoming annual Poppy Day Walk initiated by resident John Gandy in 2023. With walkers or wheelies – even a resident with a guide dog! – they set out bubbling with enthusiasm, determined to show the onlookers 'We can do it' – and do it they did. There was no entrance fee; this was not a competition and therefore there were no prizes to be won. It was simply a group of like-minded folk out to have fun and pave the way for an even bigger event from Rosebank to Simon's Town, a 31km doddle, that will take place on Saturday 2 November this year. Your participation as a walker is welcomed, as is either an outright donation or sponsoring one of the walkers. Interested? Keen? Willing? Please contact John Gandy on 071 610 6002 or email servicecentre@salegion.co.za

DURBAN.

The SA Legion, Durban Branch were fully immersed in the vibrant tapestry of Scottish heritage as we embraced the spirit of the Highlands at the picturesque Fort Nottingham Highland Gathering. Surrounded by breathtaking scenery and steeped in tradition, we unleashed our inner Highlander, experiencing an unforgettable celebration of Scottish culture, history, and camaraderie. From the stirring sounds of bagpipes echoing through the air to the powerful displays of athleticism in traditional Highland games, every moment transported us to the heart of Scotland. The event was filled with colourful tartans, lively games, and the warmth of community as we joined in the revelry, savouring authentic Scottish food and drink. It was a day of pride, joy, and connection, reminding us of the enduring legacy of Scottish heritage.

PRETORIA.

The Annual General Meeting of the Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion took place at the MOTH Evenden House on Saturday, 31 August 2024. After the opening ritual, the meeting was constituted and the agenda was adopted. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 2023 were adopted. The Treasurer of the branch, Lgr Ray Cumming resented the Financial Report which was followed by the Chairperson's Report by Lgr Andre Le Grange. Both these reports were accepted with thanks. The subscription fees for the 2025 – 2026 are set at R 200.00.

The following officer bearers were elected for the 2024 – 2025 year:

- **Chairperson:** Lgr Jaco Lötter. *(He was elected in his absence. Lgr Lötter has subsequently indicated that he cannot accept the election).*



Scenes from the Preparation for the Poppy Walk.





Above and right. The Durban Branch at the Fort Nottingham Highland Gathering.



Left: Attendees at the AGM of the Pretoria Branch.

- **Deputy Chairperson.** Lgr Neil van Dyk.
- **Secretary.** Lgr Debra De Billot.
- **Treasurer.** Lgr Ray Cumming.
- **Welfare Officer.** Lgr Basil Kriel.
- **Ceremonial Officer.** Lgr Andr le Grange.
- **Communication.** Lgr Charles Ross.

The date for the 2025 Annual General Meeting was confirmed for 12 July 2025. The meeting was closed with the Closing Ritual whereafter members enjoyed refreshments and snacks.

COMMEMORATIONS

GUNNERS MEMORIAL SERVICE – DURBAN

Members of the SA Legion Durban Branch proudly attended the Gunners' Memorial Service, a deeply moving and respectful event. It was a solemn occasion dedicated to honouring and remembering the brave artillerymen who have served our country with unwavering distinction and valour. The ceremony was marked by heartfelt tributes, the laying of wreaths, and a poignant moment of silence to reflect on the immense sacrifices made by these gallant soldiers, who gave so much in the line of duty. The service brought together veterans, families, and supporters, all united in a shared spirit of gratitude and remembrance.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE CHURCH SERVICE

In 2001 the United Nations declared that the International Day of Peace would be annually observed on 21 September. The Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion, supported by the Council of Military Veterans Organisations of the Republic of South Africa, the Pretoria Memorial Services Council and the Council of the NG Kerk Raslouw held its annual International Day of Peace church service in the NG Kerk Raslouw on Sunday 15 September 2024. It was the ninth year that the service was held in this church. The service was concluded with the Last Post, two minutes silence and Reveille. This year the service was conducted by Chaplain Ben van der Walt from the SA Army. As usual, the service was very well attended and several veteran organisations attended and displayed their standards during the service.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GENERAL MEIRING

The South African Defence Force Association (SADFA) held a memorial service for the late General George Meiring, former Chief of the South African Defence Force and first Chief of the South African National Defence Force. The service occurred at the SADF Wall of Remembrance at the Voortrekker

Right: Members from the Durban Branch attended the Annual Gunners Memorial Service.



Scenes from the International Day of Peace Church Service (1).



*Scenes from the International Day of Peace Church Service
(2).*





Scenes from the Memorial Service for the Late General George Meiring. (1)





Scenes from the Memorial Service for the Late General George Meiring. (2)



Monument on Saturday 21 September 2024. The service started with a fly-past and included a 17-gun salute.

BATTLE OF SQUARE HILL MEMORIAL SERVICE – JOHANNESBURG

A Battle of Square Hill Memorial Service was held at the Ditsong Museum for Military History, Johannesburg, on Sunday 22 September 2024. The newly elected National President, Lgr Mark Louw, laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.

TS SERVICE CORPS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Annual TD Corps Memorial Service was held at the SANDF Wall of Remembrance at the Voortrekker Monument on Sunday morning, September 22, 2024.

BATTLE OF SQUARE HILL MEMORIAL SERVICE – EERSTERUST, PRETORIA

For the first time, a memorial service to commemorate the Battle of Square Hill was held in Eersterust, Pretoria, on Sunday 22 September 2024. The Council of Military Veterans Organisations of the Republic of South Africa (CMVO SA) took the initiative and started the planning in August 2024. The service was held in the Civic Centre in Eersterust. The CMVO SA brought the City of Tshwane on board who made the facility available. Poort FM, a radio station broadcasting from the Civic Centre, carried the service's message. The City also renovated some areas of the centre in the run-up to the service. Attempts were made to involve the local high schools, but due to the school holidays, it was not completely successful. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) provided all the support required to make the event a success. Commander Adeel Carelse (SA Navy Retired) whose grandfather fought at the Battle of Square Hill gave a talk on the event which was very well received. Captain (SAN) Charles Ross (SA Navy Retired) gave a talk on the International Day of Peace. This was followed by the Religious service, the Call to Remembrance, the Last Post, the two-minute silence and Reveille. Wreaths were then laid. Lgr Debra de Billot laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion. The service concluded with the signing of the National Anthem and a word of thanks by the City Manager of the City of Tshwane.

OTHER STORIES

BIOKINETICS PARALYMPICS 2024

Legionnaire Abraham Ross is proving that the skills he acquired in the past are still of value. He was invited to the Biokinetics Paralympics 2024 at 2 Military Hospital in Wynberg on 11 September 2024, where he related his experiences as a coach for disabled sport at a time when he also assisted in ball games. Having earned his Northern Transvaal colours in his younger years, Abraham now fully appreciates the opportunity to put back into the community once more. Then, as part of National Arbour Week, he was also involved in the planting of trees at The Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town on Saturday, 7 September.



Lgr Abraham Ross at the Biokinetics Paralympics 2024 at 2 Military Hospital.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2024

Conflict is as old as human civilisation, shaping societies and influencing global events. The earliest conflicts were tribal skirmishes over resources or territory. As civilisations developed, so did the complexity of conflicts. In ancient times, conflicts were often between emerging city-states and empires. During the Middle Ages, conflicts were often driven by territorial expansion and religious fervour. The early modern period saw the rise of nation-states and colonial empires, leading to conflicts over territories around the world. The 19th century was marked by the Napoleonic Wars, driven by Napoleon Bonaparte's expansionist ambitions across Europe. The 20th century saw two world wars which were unprecedented in their scale and impact, leading to massive loss of life and profound geopolitical changes.

Globalization, technological advancements, and complex political dynamics influence modern conflicts. Efforts to resolve conflicts increasingly involve international diplomacy, peacekeeping missions, and humanitarian aid, reflecting a growing recognition of the need for collaborative solutions to global challenges.

Over the years humans also attempted to stop conflicts and to bring peace to conflict areas. As early as 1795 Immanuel Kant wrote about the concept of a peaceful community of nations. One of the earliest forums established for disarmament and peaceful settlement of disputes through arbitration was the International Hague Convention of 1899 and 1907. It was also referred to as the Hague Confederation of States. It sadly failed to prevent World War One.

The Paris Peace Conference accepted the proposal to create the League of Nations on 25 January 1919. The League was established by Part One of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919 and the Charter was signed by 44 states of which 31 had participated in World War One. At its first meeting in London on 10 January 1920 the Treaty of Versailles was ratified, officially ending World War One. The first general assembly of the League was held in Geneva on 15 November 1920. As with the International Hague Convention, the League was unable to prevent World War Two in 1939.

Following the end of World War Two, the United Nations was established in 1945 with the Charter being signed on 26 June and coming into effect on 24 October. In the Preamble of the United Nations, we read **'We the people of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind'**. In Chapter One, Article One we read **'To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace'**.

As wars start in the minds of man the United Nations established the United Nations University in 1972 and the University for Peace in 1980 with the main aim of promoting peace through education. At the sixth meeting of the International Association of University Presidents in 1981 the declaration of a peace year, a peace month and a peace day was again mooted.

The 77th plenary session of the General Assembly declared on 30 November 1981 that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as the International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

In 2001 the General Assembly of the United Nations decided that in future the International Day of Peace would be observed on 21 September. This date had to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace.

- the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the Day;
- All Member States, organisations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organisations and individuals to commemorate, appropriately, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and cooperate with the United Nations to establish the global ceasefire.

The theme for 2024 International Day of Peace is ‘CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PEACE’. It marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. In that declaration, the United Nations’ most inclusive body recognised that peace **“not only is the absence of conflict but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation.”**

In a world with rising geopolitical tensions and protracted conflicts, there has never been a better time to remember how the UN General Assembly came together in 1999 to lay out the values needed for a culture of peace. These include respect for life, human rights and fundamental freedoms; the promotion of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation; commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts; and adherence to freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations.

The International Day of Peace has always been a time to lay down weapons and observe ceasefires. But it now must also be a time for people to see each other’s humanity. Our survival as a global community depends on that.

Since 1948 the United Nations has deployed more than 70 peacekeeping missions worldwide. Since 1999 the South African National Defence Force has been involved in several United Nations Peace Missions worldwide. These include deploying formed units, military observers and staff officers. These deployments were in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Liberia, Nepal, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The South African Police Service has also been deployed in some of these missions.

The African Union has also been involved in several peacekeeping missions. These include the Organisation of African Unity Liaison Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia, OLMEE, and later the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB).

“We as military veterans, worldwide, who saw the devastation of war, today urge you as the younger generation to become a light bearer of peace. We think and remember today every soldier who went to fight for peace. May we each one make peace with our family, our friends, our neighbours and strive to be the torch bearer where we are and where we can make a difference.”

RED SOCKS FRIDAY – PART 3

John wears his heart on his feet

January 19 2012 at 12:30pm By Justin Nurse

John McNroys Red Sock Friday initiative has become a vehicle for other people to have fun and raise money for causes they are passionate about. Since its official launch in April 2010, nearly 13 000 pairs of socks have been sold to over 50 different countries.

John McNroy was born in Cape Town, but grew up in the UK. After one too many summer holidays in South Africa visiting family, the pull of Africa became too great and John enrolled as a boarder at Bishops for his final two years of school. Thereafter, while studying at UCT, he made his debut as a Springbok hockey player and ended up playing hockey for South Africa until 2006. He then played club hockey while working in Ireland in 2007.

“It was in Dublin where the Red Sock thing emerged. A good friend of mine, Ian Symons (“Symmo”), was also working in Dublin at the time, and we spent an amazing year together. By the end of the year he was due to return to SA to get married; we didn’t know when next our paths would cross again, and we wanted something to remember each other by. Something to share on a regular basis.

“Symmo shared a story from his school days in Grey High, Port Elizabeth, regarding its memorial day for people who died in the wars. Symmo would sit in the front row of the chapel, watching an old fellow, Sydney Feinsen, who, year after year, would lay a commemorative wreath while wearing red socks. The red socks became a talking point; something he and his mates had to get to the bottom of.

“Eventually they found out that it was a pact between him and two friends that were prisoners of war in an Italian concentration camp: that if anyone made it out of there alive, they would wear red socks to remember each other by. Symmo and I agreed that we would do the same, and wear red socks every Friday, as Friday is the day to do crazy things like that.

“I’ve worn red socks every Friday for the last four years, during everything from surfing to job interviews. When you wear red socks, you can’t just drift through the day. Something changes, you get noticed. Over the years more and more people have started noticing, and more and more people have joined in. At first it was a spark, something different. A vibe of something bigger than just us as individuals; a camaraderie. It’s something positive, something simple.

“I hadn’t thought of doing anything with it, it was just something fun. But I distinctly remember the night I woke up with a vision of a map of the world, covered in red socks, spreading energy, uniting like-minded people. I saw Obama wearing red socks, addressing millions at that spot in Washington Square where Forrest Gump speaks, and since that night I’ve been working on Red Sock Friday for as much of my time as I can.

"I officially launched Red Sock Friday on the April 9 in 2010 with a disk dance flashmob at Cape Town station. We had random people rocking up, wearing their red socks and being part of the vibe. At the end of it we all joined arms and sang the national anthem. It was a poignant South African experience and an awesome, surreal moment to be a part of.

"To date we've sold nearly 13 000 pairs of socks to over 50 different countries worldwide. So slowly but surely my dream of a map of the world covered in red socks is coming true. Red Sock Friday is an affair of the heart though; it's not a commercial enterprise as that undermines the essence of what it's about.

"Via Twitter and Facebook people contact me and I will mail socks personally. Corporates such as Brandhouse and Avis have also bought our socks, and the proceeds all go to charity. An example of which is 'Help Hanna Hear', which raises money for a cochlear implant to help a young girl in Port Elizabeth hear.

"The red socks have become a vehicle for other people to have fun and raise money for causes they are passionate about."

John has an engaging nature, a bright mind, and itchy feet, which he also put to good use raising money for charity by running for The Pink Drive (a breast cancer charity), driving in the Put Foot Rally, as well as cycling from Cape Town to Pietermaritzburg in 10 days, and then running the Comrades Marathon the very next day, in what is called the Unogwaja Challenge.

By mobilising charity projects and working hard at getting sponsors on board, John has come to understand how sponsorship and social media can work well together, and the importance of brands needing to work with social media such as Twitter and Facebook in order to develop themselves.

"The thing with the charity events that I get involved in is that the relative cash injection required from a sponsor to make the event a success and get a return on your investment is bugger all.

"People get excited in the story and want to share about it. The association with the cause and the people involved really works.

"Working on this (social media-driven charity events) has given me the experience and ability to build other social media campaigns for other brands which I can generate an income from doing.

"This helps take the pressure off Red Sock Friday to survive so that it can just be about covering the cost of the socks and then getting them out there. I don't want to make any money off it. I should have to work to sustain my own existence, just like everybody else.

"It's Red Sock Friday that should be allowed to just be."

John is still striving to find that balance between making Red Sock Friday sustainable, taking on new charity projects, and paying his rent. So to survive financially, he also does some motivational speaking, MCing and acting.

"Outsourcing the production and distribution of the socks has helped with his workload, and John is also in talks with a major retail partner about becoming a Red Sock stockist.

"The beauty of the Red Sock Friday story lies in its simplicity, and how it has touched so many people's lives without much artillery.

"I've pretty much been a one-gunner with my little pellet gun, doing my best. It's now in a position where someone could come on board and see the potential of it from a CSI and marketing point of view, and give it the next spark that it needs. That would be a great way to get the socks out to more South Africans, and I'm quietly working on that.

"Red Sock Friday is a great story, and it's more than just an idea. It's something that I have done. The way that I see it is that I don't want to spend 80 percent of my time doing something I don't like, to enjoy 20 percent of my time. I want to try and apply myself to something that I really love as much of the time as possible, and I know that this is something worth hanging on to.

"I don't know whether or not I am a leader. That's for other people to decide. The best thing that I can do is to follow what I believe in.

"And that's what I've done with Red Sock Friday. I didn't start it thinking that I could be the next Mark Zuckerberg. It's something that I felt, and felt compelled to do it. And by following all of those moments in your life, which are sometimes difficult to do, I think you'll end up hopefully inspiring other people to do the same."

You can contact John via e-mail: iwearredsocksonfridays@gmail.com or you can visit his Facebook page at: facebook.com/iwearredsocksonfridays

OBITUARIES

No obituaries were received.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



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SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION STRUCTURE

Patron in Chief: President of the Republic of South Africa

Past President for Life

- Lgr Chris PC de B Venter.

Honorary Life Past President

- Lgr Brian Klopper.

Honorary Life Vice Presidents:

- Lgr Arthur Blake.
- Lgr Bazil Kriel.
- Lgr Rick Andriès.
- Lgr Quentin Gibson.

National President: Lgr Mark Louw.

National V/President: Lgr Ray Nessel.

National Treasurer: Vacant.

General Secretary: Lgr Enrique Forbes.

National Promotion and Publicity: Lgr Maurice Paoli.

National Branch Liaison & Membership: Lgr Debra De Billot.

National Relief and Welfare: Lgr Bryan Dore.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION,

reception@salegion.org

Branches:

- Alexandria
- Benoni
- Bloemfontein
- Brakpan
- Cape Town
- Johannesburg - Central
- Witwatersrand
- Durban
- East London
- England
- Europe
- Grahamstown
- Kagiso-West Rand
- Kimberley
- Kroonstad
- Lower South Coast
- North Coast
- Pietermaritzburg
- Port Alfred
- Port Elizabeth
- Pretoria
- Scotland
- Soweto
- Strand
- Zululand

Outposts

- Midlands (England)
- Southern (England)

Regional Chairmen:

- Eastern Cape: Lgr Brian Klopper.
- Free State: Lgr Willie Janse Van Rensburg.
- Gauteng: Lgr Maurice Paoli.
- Kwa-Zulu Natal: Lgr Steve Leahy.
- Western Cape: Lgr Ray Nessel
- United Kingdom: Lgr Russel Mattushek.
- Europe: Lgr Andrew Bergman.