

# PARABAT VETERANE ORGANISASIE

5 JAAR



5 YEARS



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BYDRAES: PVO Canopies en lede van die PVO Nasionale Raad

# PVO BESKERMHEER

## OOM RONNIE CLAASSEN



As Nasionale Beskermheer is dit vir my 'n voorreg om 'n kort boodskap te lewer met die vyfde verjaarsdag van die PVO. Die stigtings vergadering van die PVO is vroeg in 2015 te Hartebeespoortdam gehou. Ek was genooi om saam met die manne daar teenwoordig middagete te geniet en het vroeg daar arriveer. Daar aangekom was die klompie afgevaardigdes besig met 'n lewendige bespreking.

Ek het nie aan die bespreking deelgeneem nie en het maar daar rond gestaan en 'n klompie foto's geneem terwyl ek met 'n halwe oor geluister het en na die (soms) uiteenlopende gedagtes wat gewissel is. Ek was nogal opgewonde, want ek het gevoel dat daar iets besonder aan die gebeur was. Dit was interessant om na die insette te luister en na die (soms) uiteenlopende gedagtes wat gewissel is. Ek het ook aangevoel dat daar met verloop van tyd persoonlikheidsbotsings in die toekoms kon plaasvind tussen lede van die komitee wat daar gekies is. Wat ek aangevoel het, het inderdaad ook later gebeur. Dit was seker te verwagte omdat daar manne was met sterk persoonlikhede. Ek gaan in elk geval nie ou koeie uit die sloot grawe en ou onsmaklike stories vertel nie.

Die belangrikste aspek is dat die PVO gestig is en van krag tot krag gegaan het. Die getal lede het mooi gegroei en 'n aantal "Canopies" is regoor die RSA gestig. Ek is natuurlik teleurgesteld dat ons valskermbroers in die Suid-Kaap, Wes-Kaap en Boland nog nie hul weg oopgesien het om voltyds by die PVO betrokke te raak nie. Dis baie duidelik dat ons ingeskrewe lede van die PVO nog altyd die behoefte gehad het om deel te wees van 'n organisasie waar Broederskap en Kameraderie die hoof gedagte is. Dit maak my regtig bly om te sien watter goeie gees onder die manne heers by vergaderings, parades en selfs begrafnisse. Die groot OMGEE is duidelik merkbaar.

Die RSA het 'n ekonomiese en finansieële krisis die afgelope paar jaar beleef en dit het ook 'n impak op sommige van ons lede gemaak. 'n Aantal van ons lede wat deur krisisse gedurende hierdie tydperk gegaan het, het aangeklop vir hulp by die PVO se hulpfonds en is deur die fonds bygestaan. The Enablement fund of the PVO is in itself a success story and has on several occasions helped members who needed help or support of some sort. I am not going to go into detail of the many good deeds done by the PVO Enablement Fund. You can read about this in this special edition of the BatChat.

I wish the PVO the best for the future. Members please support the national executive, the Canopies chairmen and committees and support each other.

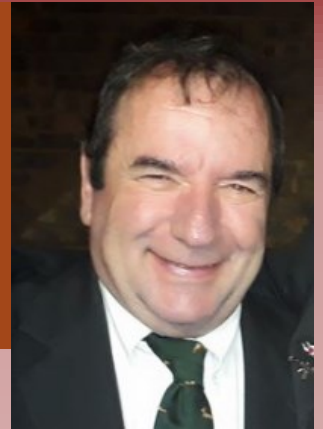
I am proud to be a PVO member and I hope you guys are too!

Regards / Groete

Oom Ronnie

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MIKE MCWILLIAMS



Fellow Parabats,

I have left this message for the last moment, not only because procrastination in the time of Covid is the norm, but because I was hoping to get more clarity from Angola on the possibility of crossing the borders , both ways without quarantine restrictions. This is of course so that we can repatriate Skillie Human's remains as soon as possible.

It is still unclear when we can do that, especially as it has to happen six times in order to get from SA through Botswana, into Namibia and then into Angola, then the reverse, hopefully bearing the remains of our fallen comrade.

This quest to Bring Skillie Home had its beginnings at one of the very early PVO meetings on March 5 2016 at the train in Voortrekkerhoogte. Kobus Human was Chairman of the PVO and Ronnie Claassen was a special guest at the meeting because the PVO was about to invite him to be the Patron of the PVO. I had recently received the news that someone had met with the son of Headman Cassinga and had witnessed the burial of a paratrooper just after the battle of Cassinga. This person could not remember where the grave was, but knew it was alongside the river. This was the first news we had of Skillie Human after nearly 40 years after he was last seen exiting his C130 over the Colonga River alongside Cassinga. I put a somewhat hair-brained plan together to visit the scene with metal detectors and below-ground radar to scour the banks with a team of volunteers until we found the grave. At that meeting, I put it to the PVO management that we should make this the first great PVO project.

This idea was enthusiastically endorsed by everyone present and the long and arduous road was taken to Bring Skillie Home. A little time later, we happily got the news that a historian from Namibia had in fact been shown the grave site by the man who had buried Skillie. We now had a GPS location and a picture of the grave. The massive job of convincing the SA government as well as the Angolan government to back the expedition was undertaken and money was raised from many different sources in order to make the trip a reality.

As you all know, we were ready to leave for Angola when the Covid pandemic shut Africa down.

We are again re-starting the process of lining up all the Angolan government functionaries who need to meet the exhumation party at Cassinga to find the grave and conduct the exhumation. Much of the paperwork needs to be renewed and we need certainty that the team can get there and back without hindrance. We are re-starting this process now, so I hope you will all wish us well in completing this long and often very frustrating task.

Enough of the past, what do I see in the PVOs future?

## **Feed the Truckers**

In the year to come, we were hoping to raise funds for the PVO while helping the country to cope with the Covid pandemic by raising funds through our 18A tax exempt not for profit company by spearheading a feeding scheme for the countries truckers.

This scheme was confounded by government emergency regulations that prevented anyone from doing this kind of project apart from the government themselves.

The big sponsors in the trucking world quite understandably pulled their support and the truckers went hungry. Fortunately, we did not lose anything in the process by a lot of time and sweat in the initial planning stages.



### **Parabat Verification Programme**

Over the years, it has become clear that a well-organized and documented system is needed to verify the qualifications of anyone claiming to be a Parabat.

The PVO has a very good system whereby our members are vetted on joining the PVO and we have a comprehensive record of all our members, knowing whether they are qualified, (have been awarded wings) and on which jump course.

Naturally, there have been a very few people who have managed to gain enough information so that they can claim full Parabat status without actually having earned their wings.

These people are usually quickly exposed and shamed.

We intend to publish on our website all of our members with their Jump Course details so that anyone can check whether someone that claims to be a Parabat is in fact registered with the PVO. We will make this service available to all Parabats with a small fee payable by non PVO members. We are exploring the possibility of compiling a gallery of all the Jump Course photographs on the website as well.

Keep your eye out on social media for the launch of this project.

### **The Mighty PVO and the men that make it the force it is in South African Veteran affairs**

Over the five years we have existed, the PVO has evolved from a basic Band of Brothers into a formally structured and comprehensive organisation, built to grow in stature by mutually supporting each other and our families and expanding our lines of communication to all Parabats around the world.

The people and structures we have put together to accomplish our aims include:

**WILLOUGHBY BRITS-VICE PRESIDENT,** Willoughby not only stands in for me at the functions I am unable to attend but is the chief ambassador for the PVO in the Pretoria area where our biggest concentration of Parabats live. Willoughby is always first at all wreath-laying ceremonies and always carries the PVO banner proudly at the many military ceremonies. His most important responsibility however is heading up the PVO Enablement Fund. This is the section of the PVO that helps and enables Parabats in distress. These may be financial, health or spiritual needs. Much of Willoughby's work is unsung because all our help provided to Parabats and other deserving people is confidential so as to spare the recipients unwanted public exposure.

Much of Willoughby's work is done in conjunction with Deon Benadé as Deon's portfolio, CMVO, DMV Veteran Liaison, works hand in hand to obtain help and funds when the need is too great for the PVO to bear on its own.

**DIRK VAN DE WALL-SECRETARY.** Dirk took over the Secretarial position from Deon Benadé and has brought valuable knowledge and expertise from his day job in labour relations to the onerous business of getting the National Executive Council organised and informed throughout the year.

**JIM HOLTHAUZEN-TREASURER.** Jim came to the NEC during a health crisis and has thankfully recovered completely. Jim's Finance portfolio is hugely important as it involves our lifeblood, the flow of money between our various portfolios, projects and members. The PVO has always, since its inception, had a positive balance sheet and always had unqualified reports from our auditors, both for the Pty Ltd as well as Non-Profit companies. Naturally, with the constant drain on our finances from our work in helping Parabats in need, we must strengthen our financial position wherever and whenever we can, and Jim is there to ensure that this happens in an ethical and business-like way.

**CHRIS POHL-COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA & IT.** Chris has been one of the great pillars that the PVO is supported by. He has instituted and run the electronic meetings that have saved tons of money for NEC members and the PVO coffers by ensuring that the NEC only have to meet physically if absolutely necessary. The rest of the time, we now meet on the internet by the ZOOM process that Chris has set up. Chris also is responsible for the smooth and professional running of the PVO website. This is no small task and the results Chris has maintained show in the smooth running of everything, from this Batchat edition to our bi-annual PVO elections.

**JUSTUS ROTHMAN-OMBUDSMAN.** Since the appointment of Justus to the Ombudsman Portfolio, the incidence of unsavoury public spats between Parabats and other organisations has virtually disappeared. This shows that the concept of "Visible Policing" really works.. Justus was tested in a recent arbitration case that stemmed from a notable difference in opinion between two senior ranking members within the PVO. Based on his findings, the case was concluded within the framework of an acceptable solution to which both parties agreed and, accepted the outcome.

**ANDY BODEN-EVENTS & FUNDRAISING.** Andy has recently come to us with a wealth of experience from our brother organisation, the MOTHS. This is invaluable to us, not only in the Events and Fundraising portfolio but as a source of knowledge from a much bigger operation than ours. The Covid Pandemic has put a damper on any Events and Fundraising projects at present, but I know Andy will come out fighting once the nation has regained its health.

**DEON BENADÉ- CMVO, VETERANS' LIAISON.** Deon is managing the CMVO-DMV portfolio with his usual management expertise and enthusiasm that brought some much-needed structure to the NEC during his stint as PVO Secretary. Deon's other duty is Chairman of the PVOs biggest Canopy, the Nomad Canopy. He has been largely responsible for growing the Nomad Canopy to what it is today.

**KRIGE VAN HEERDEN-SANDF LIAISON.** Krige has kept up our excellent relationships with the SANDF whether it be with 1 Parachute Battalion or the higher echelons of power in the Army. With last year's cancellation of the annual water jump, there was unfortunately little for Krige to do in that respect, but we hope that he could become very busy again this year if we are lucky enough to have a water jump again.

**BARRY OLIVIER-HERITAGE & MUSEUM.** Barry has taken on the task of developing a new and more appropriate Paratroopers Prayer for the PVO. This was not an easy thing as it had to cope with the many belief systems and differing religions within our membership. Not only did it have to satisfy all these differing needs, but it had to do so in two languages. Barry has done a superb job in consultation with religious practitioners and the common Parabat. As if a new Parabat Prayer was not enough, Barry took on the task of formulating a new and more appropriate Code of Honour for the PVO. As you will see in this edition of Batchat, Barry has excelled in putting this very important document together. The Code of Honour, together with the PVO Constitution tell the world our values and ideals.

**NAAS GROVE-STRATEGY & PROJECTS.** Naas recently joined the NEC and , together with Deon Benadé, brought the first PVO Bosberaad to fruition. This meeting took place at the Maluti Canopy in the quaint town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem was named for the three wise men who followed a star to a stable. The Bosberaad also brought a few wise men together to chart and formalise the direction the PVO should take in the future. While perhaps not as momentous an occasion as the original, our Bosberaad was a great success in that it managed to get all the PVO management from all over the country thinking along the same lines and striving for common goals.

**ANDRE VAN NIEKERK-MEMBERSHIP.** Andre has managed the difficult business of keeping our Membership database up to date. This database is the heart of our proposed List of Qualified Parabats and Andre's renowned attention to detail is going to prove essential if the list is going to be the Gold Standard of Qualified Parabats. Andre not only keeps the list constantly updated, but he also keeps tabs on who is a paid-up member and reminds Canopy Chairmen of Membership Subs to be gathered. In addition. Andre also keeps a list of all Parabats that died every year so that their names can be engraved by our irreplaceable friend of the Parabats, Manie Grove, onto the Wall of Remembrance at the Johannesburg War Museum. Andre keeps tabs on who should be awarded a 50 Year Cap and Certificate every year.

**WILLOUGHBY BRITS-ENABLEMENT FUND.** Willoughby is the man to go to if you are in trouble. If he can't help, he probably knows someone who can. Seeing a need among our rapidly aging community, Willoughby managed to obtain a number of proper hospital beds from the Linkfield Clinic in Johannesburg. Our 18A Tax exempt status helped persuade the clinic to donate the beds to the PVO. These beds are used by our members, their family or friends and returned when no longer needed. This saves a family a lot of money instead of renting a bed from a medical supply company and is greatly appreciated by people who, because of the illness, are often financially stretched.

Of course, hospital beds are a small part of Willoughby's portfolio. It needs only to be said, that a Parabat truly in need never goes away empty handed from our Enablement Fund. Naturally, our resources are not great and we cannot take on the job of ongoing monthly support of Parabats in need. We try however to help everyone once.

**JOHAN CRONJE-MEMORABILIA.** Johan has recently taken over the PVO problem child portfolio. Over the years, the Memorabilia portfolio has not come up to expectations as far as sales volumes or profits are concerned. We expect Johan will improve on this contentious business in the year to come. Historically, individual Canopies have produced their own memorabilia and the PVO has been slow to offer their own five chosen items to the membership.

The items Johan will offer are Blazer Badge/Blazer, Golf Shirt, Cap, Tie and dress shirt. We believe that the previous problems we had with suppliers and design are now a thing of the past. If anyone can discipline our problem child, it is Johan. His enthusiasm is boundless and this together with a keen eye for quality, should get our memorabilia out to our members in numbers.

**Some people and project that must be recognised in addition to the Portfolio managers are:**

Our much-loved Patron **Oom Ronnie Claassen**. Ronnie has been our patron since the second PVO meeting. He has been a wise and invaluable counsel to all of us, especially in times of tension or turbulence. Ronnie is the epitome of a soldier-gentleman and has been so since I first served under him 50 years ago. Our communal thanks go out to Ronnie and we hope that you may be our figurehead for many years to come. Ronnie and Ysterman van Niekerk who now lives in the Cape, are the two surviving members of the initial 15 soldiers that went to Abington in the UK in 1960 to train as the core of the new SA Parachute Battalion to be formed a year later in Bloemfontein.

**Paul Els**, who tirelessly, together with **Chris Pohl**, puts together every Batchat magazine, producing a detailed and well-designed publication like clockwork. I know what a huge task this is as I did it for the first couple of editions and my efforts were not one small bit as comprehensive or professional as Paul's. Four cheers for Paul.

**The 50 Year Caps and Certificates.** These marks of recognition are eagerly awaited by any Parabat approaching his 50th Anniversary since qualifying for his wings. I know because I have been waiting for my cap and certificate for five years and am happy to say that I am still around to accept them this year. This 50 Year recognition project has had a few main contributors. **Llewellyn Fouche, Attie van Niekerk, Deon Benadé, Andre Van Niekerk** are people who get this off the ground and continue flying it.

**Manie Grove**, who year in and year out, at his own expense and time, updated the Parabat Wall of Remembrance at the National War Museum. Not only does Manie do the engraving himself on equipment bought especially for the job, he arranges the event himself with the War Museum management. He has kept up such a good relationship with the staff here that they have not increased the rates they charge for many years.

### Extension to the Wall of Remembrance at the Johannesburg War Museum

Over time and the sad fact that our Parabat brotherhood is being reduced one by one by illness, age and misfortune, the Wall of Remembrance at the Johannesburg War Museum has become filled with the names of Parabats who have gone to rest.

The PVO took it upon itself to source and erect an additional slab of granite to the wall to accommodate the ever increasing list of names added annually by the great friend of the Parabats, Manie Grove. We also took the opportunity to add the PVO name to the LAARSA, SAPA and Special Forces organisations heading up the Wall.

Grateful thanks to Llewellyn Fouche who organised the granite pieces, Attie van Niekerk who delivered them to me and of course Douw Peens of Marieba Granite for supplying the stone. This was all done from their own pockets and own time. What a super bunch of Parabats. Is it a coincidence that all are from the Nomad Canopy? The Canopy that doesn't hold meetings, but gets things done.

Thanks to all and Chemist the Builder who helped drill the holes and erect the slab, not an easy task at all.



No list of Parabats that keep the PVO flying straight and high over the drop-zone would be complete without mention of the men that run our Canopies.

WILLOUGHBY BRITS	PRETORIA CANOPY
LANCE KNEPSCHIEDT	KZN CANOPY
BARRY OLIVIER	BLOEMFONTEIN CANOPY
CRAIG RHEEDERS	WESRAND CANOPY
HERMAN MARAIS	SUIKERBOSRAND CANOPY
ANDRE VAN NIEKERK	BAY CANOPY
LOFTIE VAN DEN BERG	MALUTI CANOPY
DEON BENADÉ	NOMAD CANOPY
CORNEL VANCE	SPARTAN EAGLES

Thank you all for the exemplary way you have steered your canopies to success. I know the Afrikaans word for you is "Ysters", but for this Engelsman, you are all Aircraft Grade Stainless Steel. I thank you all for the magnificent support you have shown the PVO in the previous five years and I know that we will go from strength to strength in the next five.

Yours gratefully  
Mike McWilliams  
President  
Parabat Veteran Organisation

## Gebed van 'n Valskerm Veteraan



**Ons Vader** wat in die hemel is, ek loof en prys u naam dat ek verseker weet alles is in u hande, dat u my bewaar en elke dag seën met die keur van u seëninge. Ek dank u Heer vir elke makker rondom my wat met hul menswees, ervarings en deur toewyding betekenis aan ons lewens gee én wat mekaar ondersteun.

**Hemelse Vader**, baie dankie dat ek lid van hierdie instelling kan wees wat ons land, sy mense en my valskerm makkers eerste plaas, wat die welsyn en ondersteuning van lede voorop stel, en wat niemand in moeilike en uitdagende omstandighede aan hul eie lot oorlaat nie.

**Here**, ons dank u vir spesialis opleiding as valskermssoldate en dat u elkeen by die naam ken wat in die moeder eenheid opgelei is. Ons weet ook dat van ons makkers alreeds die finale prys betaal en hierdie lewe verlaat het. Ons is diep onder die indruk daarvan dat familie en vriende hul afsterwe steeds intens ervaar en daaroor hartseer is. Daarom bid ons dat u die leë plekke in hul geledere met liefde, genade, vrede en berusting sal vul.

**Wonderbare Raadsman**, omdat u alles weet, ken u ook die onverwerkte emosies, hartseer, woede én pyn van makkers wat steeds 'n swaar lewenslas uit die verlede dra en dáárom oorlaai en uitgeput leef. Ons bid vir mekaar en vra dat u elkeen wat geknel is, met liefde sal aanraak, genesing bring en vry maak van dít wat hul ookal mag bind.

**Ewige Vader**, ons bid vir elke aktiwiteit van ons veterane organisasie. **Lei** ons asseblief daarin om die toekoms met waagmoed aan te durf. **Seën** ons met insig, begrip en wysheid om die uitdagings van ons tyd te herken en doelgerig te bestuur sodat dit tot voordeel van elkeen in wie se diens ons staan, sal strek. **Skenk** ons die vermoë om nood raak te sien en om mekaar met omgee harte te dien. **Ons bid** ook Here vir moed, krag, ywer en deursettingsvermoë sodat ons die taak wat aan ons opgedra is, onbevrees kan deurvoer: **Dankie Heer!**

AMEN

## Prayer of a Parabat Veteran



**Our Father** who is in heaven, I praise your name because I have the assurance that everything is in your hands, that you keep me and that you bless me every day with the most excellent of your blessings. I thank you Lord for every paratrooper around me who, by their humanity, experiences and through their commitment give meaning to our lives and who support one another.

**Heavenly Father**, thank you so much that I can be a member of this institution where we place our country, its people and my fellow paratroopers first, one that places the welfare and support of its members first, and that leaves no one on his own during difficult and challenging circumstances.

**Lord**, we thank you for specialist training as paratroopers and for knowing everyone who have been trained in the mother unit, by name. We also know that some of our peers have already paid the final price and left this life. We are deep under the impression that their family and friends are still experiencing their demise intensely and are still sad about it. That's why we pray that you will fill the empty places in their ranks with love, grace, peace and acceptance.

**Wonderful Counsellor**, because you know everything, you also know the unprocessed emotions, sadness, anger and pain of colleagues that still carry a heavy burden of life from the past and therefore live an overloaded and exhausted life. We pray for each other and ask that you touch those who are afflicted with love, bring healing and release them from whatever may still bind them.

**Everlasting Father**, we pray for every activity of our veteran organization. Please **guide** us to face the future with daring courage. **Bless** us with insight, understanding and wisdom to recognize the challenges of our time and to manage it to the benefit of everyone in whose service we stand. **Give** us the ability to see each other's needs and to serve one another with caring hearts. **We also pray** Lord; for courage, strength, zeal and perseverance, and that we may complete the task assigned to us, fearlessly: **Thank you Lord!**

AMEN



## Valskerm Veterane Erekode



Ek **bevestig** hiermee dat ek

Onder die vaandel van *1 Valskerm Bataljon* as  
valskerm soldaat opgelei is, dat ek my  
springkursus geslaag, as valskerm soldaat  
gekwalfiseer het en dáárom my vleuels met  
toewyding, trots en waardigheid dra,

My diens verpligtinge voltooi het en nou 'n  
volwaardige valskerm veteraan is,

verbind ek my as lid ten volle tot die aktiwiteite  
en belange van hierdie instansie en sy lede

stel ek my makkers voorop deur hulle te dien,  
ondersteun, by te staan en te verenig binne ons  
*Kameraderie van Broederskap*

Ek **glo**

in myself

in my land

in die instellings wat na die belange van valskerm  
veterane omsien, en bo-alles,

ek glo in God!

Ek **beloof** as valskerm veteraan, in welke mate ek  
ookal daartoe in staat mag wees, om

My land, sy mense en my makkers eerste te stel  
en te alle tye met trots, toewyding en lojaliteit te  
dien en ondersteun

Die instelling van veterane met sy reëls, riglyne en  
waardes, soos vereis word, met toewyding te  
dien en respekteer, en om

Die ingestelde *insignia* van die instelling waarvan  
ek lid is met trots, onderskeiding en waardigheid  
te dra soos dit 'n veteraan valskerm soldaat  
betaam

Ek **onderneem** as valskerm veteraan om

in tye van nood die belange van my makkers  
vóórop te stel, alles in my vermoë te doen om  
verligting te bewerkstellig en gepaste hulp te  
verleen soos wat die omstandighede dit vereis,  
ongeag welke bydrae dit ookal van my in die  
omstandighede sou vra

Derhalwe **staan en val ek**

by die waardes, standaarde en norme wat tydens  
opleiding as valskerm soldaat asook gedurende  
die dienstydpêrk in my neergelê is:

***Ex Alto Vincimus***

## Parabat Veterans Code of Honour



I **confirm** hereby that I am

Trained as a paratrooper under the banner of  
*1 Parachute Battalion*, passed the prescribed  
jump training course, qualified as paratrooper  
and therefore I wear my wings with dedication,  
pride and dignity

Completed my conscription responsibilities and  
being now a fully-fledged paratrooper veteran,

I commit myself completely to all activities relat-  
ed to this organisation and its members, and

I place my buddies above all first to serve, sup-  
port, assist and to unite them within the midst  
of our *Airborne Brotherhood*

I **believe**

In myself

In my country

In those institutions that attend to the interests of  
paratrooper veterans, and above all

I believe in God!

I **promise** as a paratrooper veteran, to whatever  
the extent of my abilities may be, to

Put my country, countrymen and fellow para-  
troopers at all times first and to serve and assist  
them with pride, dedication and loyalty

Serve and respect the veteran institution that I  
belong to with due observance of its rules,  
guidelines and values, and to

Wear the instituted *insignia* with pride, distinction  
and dignity as expected of the behaviour of a  
veteran paratrooper

I **commit** as a paratrooper veteran, to

Place during times of need the interests of my  
buddies first, do anything in my ability to bring  
about change, alleviate destitution and render  
assistance as urged by circumstances, irrespec-  
tive of what it asks from me

Therefore, I **stand or fall**

by the values, standards and norms instilled in me  
during my training as paratrooper, as well as  
during my term of military service:

***Ex Alto Vincimus***



## INLIGTINGSTUK AAN VOORNEMENDE / NUWE PVO LEDE

### ***Wat is die PVO?***

Die **Valskerm Veterane Organisasie** (PVO) het formeel tot stand gekom in Februarie 2015 ten einde Parabats van oor die land heen te verenig en te verteenwoordig in een organisasie wat almal dien

Die PVO hou volle lidmaatskap van die **CMVO** (Council for Military Veterans Organisation) en word daardeur die gesanksioneerde nasionale stem van die Suid-Afrikaanse Paratroopers

Op grond van bogemelde affiliasie is die PVO die enigste valskerm organisasie wat tans volledig voldoen aan ver-  
eistes en riglyne van die **Wet op Militêre Veterane**

Derhalwe is die PVO in die posisie om ingeskrewe en vol-opbetaalde lede by te staan om op die Nasionale Vet-  
erane Databasis geregistreer te word ten einde vir bepaalde voordele oorweeg te word en moontlik daarvoor in  
aanmerking mag kom.

#### **Our Vision**

To maintain the proud heritage of the South African  
paratrooper within the local and international  
veterans' communities

#### **Our Mission**

To promote, unite, assist and support all paratrooper  
veterans through a consolidated strategy within the  
PVO structures

#### **Our Values**

We will at all times recognise and remember the Code  
of Honour and Values of our mother unit and the  
training we received in upholding this.

We will at all times promote and maintain the unique  
South African paratrooper brotherhood, camaraderie,  
traditions and support of each other amongst all the  
South African Paratrooper Veterans and their families

We acknowledge the voluntary participation and  
uniqueness of our members.

We uphold core values such as but not limited to

- Belief in our Creator,
- Mutual respect,
- Uncompromised honesty,
- Peremptory integrity,
- Diversity, Courage.

#### **Ons Visie**

Om die trotse Suid-Afrikaanse Valskerm soldaat  
erfenis binne sowel die plaaslike as die  
internasionale veterane gemeenskap te handhaaf

#### **Ons Missie**

Die bevordering, vereniging, bystandsverlening en  
ondersteuning aan valskerm veterane met behulp  
van 'n toegewyde strategie binne die PVO strukture

#### **Ons Waardes**

Ons erken en onthou te alle tye die Erekode en  
waardes wat neergelê is tydens opleiding in die  
Moeder eenheid.

Ons promoveer en gedenk te alle tye die unieke  
Suid-Afrikaanse Valskerm Broederskap, onderlinge  
kameraderie, tradisies en ondersteuningsnetwerke  
tussen bestaande en verwante Valskerm soldaat  
families

Ons erken die vrywillige deelname en uniekheid  
van veteraan lede.

Ons handhaaf kernwaardes soos onder andere,  
maar nie beperk nie tot

- Geloof in ons Skepper,
- Onderlinge respek,
- Onbuigsame eerlikheid,
- Beslissende integriteit,

### ***In die visier van die PVO maatskappy:***

Die daarstel van die “Enablement Fund” (EF) ten einde Parabat veterane finansieel te ondersteun waar en soos nodig tydens krisis tye en situasies

Gemeenskap ontwikkelings projekte daar te stel deur middel waarvan behoeftige Parabats ondersteun kan word by wyse van self-help skemas, bemagtiging, vaardigheidsontwikkeling en kapasiteit bou, en Werklose persone in beskikbare opleidingskursusse te plaas ten einde sodanige persone met werksvaardighede toe te rus deur middel waarvan hulle vir nuwe werkgeleenthede in die arbeidsmag moontlik mag kwalifiseer

### ***Ondersteuning aan lede van die PVO:***

#### **Parabats in nood:**

Kontak die naaste aan jou bekende PVO Canopy

Voltooi die vorm Aansoek om Ondersteuning en handig dit in by die Canopy sekretariaat wat sowel die aansoek as die persoon in nood en die situasie sal verifieer

Registrasie van die versoek om ondersteuning by die EF / Canopy vind hierna plaas waarna hulp, soos die situasie dikteer, verleen mag word, en wat mag insluit

voedsel pakke, mediese bystand / medikasie, skuld berading, maatskaplike dienste, werkgeleenthede identifiseer, ensovoorts

**Beleid** tans is dat waar van toepassing, diensverskaffers vergoed word vir dienste gelewer en dat geen kontant aan individue beskikbaar gemaak word nie, byvoorbeeld ‘n munisipale rekening sal eerder betaal word deur die EF / Canopy as om kontant aan individue te oorhandig

### ***Hoekom aansluit by die PVO:***

**Jy kán**, uit hoofde van jou besondere agtergrond en ervaring as gekwalifiseerde valskerm soldaat:

Bydra tot die vestiging en uitbou van die waardes en norme van ‘n unieke groep veterane wat interafhanklik van mekaar lewe en mekaar ten volle ondersteun in welke omstandigheid en situasie ookal

Die PVO ondersteun, ontwikkel en uitbou tot die unieke lewensaar wat **RSA Paratroopers** vereniging onder een gesamentlike valskerm doek

As veteraan kan dit tot jou voordeel strek om as bevestigde, vol-opbetaalde lid op:

Die Nasionale Veterane Databasis geregistreer te word deur middel van PVO structure

Toegang verkry tot die SA Militêre Veterane Voordele wat in die regulasies daarvoor ingevolge die **Wet op Militêre Veterane** in 2014 afgekondig is, waaronder

basiese pensioen, medies, behuising, studie hulp, ensovoorts

Meer volledige inligting oor die PVO is beskikbaar by die web adres: [Parabat.org.za](http://Parabat.org.za)

## National Council 2019—2021

### Canopy Chairmen

Bay	Andre van Niekerk	andre.vanniekerk@parabat.org.za
Bloemfontein	Barry Olivier	baroli@mweb.co.za
KZN	Lance Knepscheldt	lanceknep@gmail.com
Maluti	Johan Cronje	johan@jccb.co.za
Nomad	Deon Benadé	deon.Benade@parabat.org.za
Pretoria	Willoughby Brits	willoughby.brits@parabat.org.za
Spartan Eagles	Cornel Vance	cornel.vance@gmail.com
Suikerbosrand	Herman Marais	hijmarais@gmail.com
West Rand	Craig Rheeders	craig.rheeders@gmail.com

### Committee Chairmen

CMVO, Veteran Liaison	Deon Benadé	deon.benade@parabat.org.za
Comms & Media	Chris Pohl	chris.pohl@parabat.org.za
Enablement Fund	Willoughby Brits	willoughby.brits@parabat.org.za
Events & Fundraising	Andy Boden	andyboden00@gmail.com
Heritage & Museum	Barry Olivier	baroli@mweb.co.za
Info & Technology	Chris Pohl	chris.pohl@parabat.org.za
Memorabilia & Apparel	Vacant	
Ombudsman	Justus Rothman	polygraph@polytruth.co.za
SANDF Liaison	Krige van Heerden	kvh@netactive.co.za
Strategy & Projects	Naas Grové	naasgrove@worldonline.co.za

## National Executive Committee 2019—2021

President	Mike McWilliams	mike.mcwilliams@parabat.org.za
Vice-President	Willoughby Brits	willoughby.brits@parabat.org.za
Secretary	Dirk van de Wall	dirk.vd.wall@parabat.org.za
Treasurer	Jim Holtzhausen	jimholtzhausen@gmail.com
Additional member	Johan Cronje	johan@jccb.co.za
Additional member	Attie van Niekerk	cnd.pumps1@gmail.com
Additional member	Deon Benadé	deon.benade@parabat.org.za

# PVO Committees (2020)



Naas Grové: Chairman Strategy & Projects

## The Strategy & Projects Committee

The Strategy & Projects Committee is a standing committee with the purpose of assisting the National Council to formulate strategies, explore, formulate and monitor new initiatives in conjunction with the PVO National Council in order to realize the Vision and Mission as defined within the Constitution of the PVO.

A highly successful *Bosberaad* was held between 28 February 2020 to 01 March 2020 in Bethlehem. The output of the *Bosberaad* is a 90-day incremental plan for each portfolio which will form the building blocks taking the organization to the next level of excellence.



Chris Pohl: Chairman Communication & Media Information & Technology

## Communication, & Media, Information & Technology Committee

The committee provides oversight, guidance and strategic direction to the PVO on matters related to communication, technology and the usage thereof. This includes, but are not limited to – communication, media, website, networking, telecommunications and associated computer technology.

The committee review and make recommendations on or for electronic information sharing and architectures and establish standard procedures and governance on usage of PVO related systems and applications.



Barry Olivier : Chairman Museum & Heritage Committee

## Museum and Heritage Committee

This committee endeavours to act as custodian of memorabilia, striving to create the means that will contribute to the preservation of the history, culture and experiences of South African Parabat Veterans.

In order to put these goals into motion, the committee could by means of various inputs and contributions, develop a Parabat Veterans Code of Honour that blends with the current constitution, vision, mission and values of the PVO as organisation, as well as with the situation veterans find themselves in as parabats. Using this same methodology, the committee could also work on and complete an applicable Prayer of a Parabat Veteran that addresses the situation, needs and their dependency upon our Father Almighty.



Andre van Niekerk Chairman Membership Committee

## Membership Committee

This committee Issue PVO numbers to Paid-up members of the PVO and are members of a Canopy.

When a Canopy confirm that the applicant is a qualified jumper. The committee will issue a number to him, That number will never be reused again.

SA trained paratroopers will be	Ordinary A Members
Other countries trained paratroopers	Associate B Members
Honorary	Honorary H Members
Supporter	Supporter S Members

## 50 year Club Committee:

Control the awarding 50 YEAR Club caps and certificates



*Deon Benadé:  
Chairman CMVO,  
Veterans Liaison*

## **CMVO, Veterans Liaison Committee**

The committee chairman acts as liaison between the PVO and the Council of Military Veterans Organizations (CMVO). The PVO-membership of the CMVO allows participation in discussions on matters relevant to south African military veterans in general and allows the views of the PVO members to be represented.

The PVO affiliation to the CMVO was approved at the CMVO AGM held on 7 May 2016. The PVO has participated in memorial services arranged under the auspices of the CMVO and has received assistance in support of members in need.

The committee ensures that information relevant to PVO-members are distributed via the PVO's affiliated Canopy structure.



*Justus Rothman:  
Chairman Ombudsman  
Committee*

## **The Ombudsman Committee**

The Ombudsman Committee is a standing committee assisting the PVO leadership to formulate strategies and realize the vision and mission within the PVO Constitution. Bring about and accomplish peace and harmony between PVO members in any dispute, quarrel or misunderstanding between them and failing that, make recommendations about measures to be taken in that regard. Bring about and accomplish peace and harmony between a PVO member or PVO entity and outside persons or outside entities and failing that, make recommendations about measures to be taken in that regard; and Provide legal advice and legal guidance in all matters that the PVO leadership deem necessary. Several confidential issues were solved within the PVO and that provides harmony and brotherhood within the PVO



*Willoughby Brits  
Chairman Enablement  
Fund*

## **Enablement Fund**

Die PVO Enablement is 'n sukses verhaal binne die PVO wat nie wyd uitgebasaan word nie. Uit die aard van die saak is baie van die gevalle waarmee die Komitee werk sensitief en vertroulik.

Tot en met die einde van 2019 het die PVO makkers gehelp met ongeveer R400 000 deur kontant , dienste en goedere. Lede het ook borge gekry wat groot bydraes gemaak het vir projekte, soos onder andere vir die droogtehelp projek. Baie dankie vir almal se bydraes.



*Andy Boden  
Chairman Events & Fund-  
raising*

## **Events & Fundraising**

The Committee tracks events that the PVO and other Paratrooper organizations arrange, ensuring that all members are aware of such events so as to ensure that regular Paratrooper get togethers happen. The platforms provided by Communication, & Media, Information & Technology Committee will be used to inform fellow Paratroopers.

The Committee will also provide guidance and advice within the PVO to ensure that fund raising supports the "Operation of the PVO" and their charities that need funding, rather than simply increasing membership fees



*Krige van Heerden  
Chairman SADF Liaison*

## **SANDF Liaison**

Liaises between the PVO and the SADF to communicate and coordinate activities



## PVO Makker Hulp / Enablement

Valskerm soldate het reeds tydens opleiding gewys dat hulle swaarkry kan vat! Veterane kan dit nog steeds doen, maar deur die jare is daar sommige van ons wat onvoorsiene probleme ondervind soos siekte, ongelukke, werkloosheid en 'n gebrek aan geld om kos en ander noodsaaklikhede te koop. Dis hier waar die PVO Enablement fund spesiale hulp verleen aan ons makkers wat ingeskrewe lede is van die PVO Parabat Veterane Organisasie.

Die PVO Enablement is 'n sukses verhaal binne die PVO wat nie wyd uitgebasuin word nie. Uit die aard van die saak is baie van die gevalle waarmee die Komitee werk sensitief en vertroulik.

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Die PVO Enablement Fund staan op twee bene  
Binne Canopy verband - PVO Canopies help lede binne canopy verband.  
PVO Nasionaal – Hulp aan lede en/of projekte.

As gevolg van beperkte hulpbronne en fondse word lede eenmalig finansiële gehelp. Om hulp te bekom moet die lid in nood 'n aansoekvorm invul. Lede moet na hul Canopy gaan vir hulp en sal dan na die Enablement fund verwys word. Lede word ook gehelp om aansoek te doen vir hulp by DMV.

Lede is die afgelope 5 jaar gehelp met –

Kos, Medisyne, Dokters, Speelgoed, Skool sake, Klere, Geld, Werk, Akkomodasie, Aftree oorde, Hospitaal beddens, DMV registrasies, DMV medies, DMV studie beurse, Medaljes

Die PVO het ook toegang en kan lede help met berading, PTSD en ander emosionele bystand.

Verlede jaar het die PVO 'n groot projek aangepak om spesiale hulp te verleen aan boere om hulle veteran valskerm soldaat broers, wat erg swaar gekry het in droogte geteisterde gebiede. Met die samewerking van valskerm organisasies soos LAARSA, Rooiplaas, die Cape Canopy en andere asook groot borge uit die privaat sektor is tonne voer aan boere in die gebiede soos Calvinia afgelewer. Dit was 'n duur onderneming, maar met die samewerking, hulp verlening en skenkings deur organisasies en individue het hierdie projek gorrt verligting gebring. Ons valskerm broers was besonder dankbaar hiervoor en het ons laat weet dat dit hulle 'n hupstoot en moed gegee het om langer vas te byt.

Sien beeldmateriaal van die projek hier –

<http://parabat.org.za/wp-content/PVOapp/DroogteHulp2019-11-07.mp4>





## PVO Membership

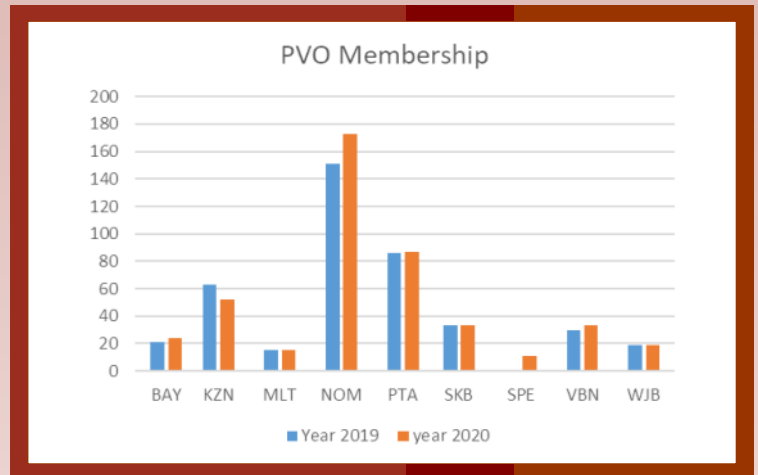
544 PVO numbers were issued, of which 83 were transferred to the Z file, as follows:

44 - no reason recorded;  
7 – passed away;  
6 numbered were duplicated (one member issued with more than 1 number);  
25 - not in good standing;  
1 – identified as a wannabe.

### **BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVE MEMBERS**

Life Members	183
Ordinary Members	266
Honorary Members	6
Supporter Members	2
Life Supporter Members	3
Affiliate Member	1

There are a few members who belong to more than 1 canopy and their canopy numbers are linked to their PVO number, which is issued for life.



### **Dual canopy membership**

GCC BAY 1  
GCC NOM 1  
SKB NOM 1  
SKB GCC 1  
SKB PTA 1  
VBN NOM 1  
WJB NOM 1  
SPE NOM 1  
PTA NOM 3

### **Recruiting new members:**

A high percentage of members who joined the PVO between November 2019 and February 2020, was those who earned their wings more than 50 years ago.

Main draw card was the 50 YEAR CLUB cap.

If there is a request to join PVO's Facebook page, as an admin I send them a message on messenger asking them if they would like to join the PVO.

If they answer in the affirmative I send their details to the canopy nearest to them so that they can contact him and do all the admin.

Andre van Niekerk  
Chairman Membership Committee.  
0836529825  
Email Address: [andre.vanNiekerk@parabat.org.za](mailto:andre.vanNiekerk@parabat.org.za)

## 50 YEAR CLUB

The 50 YEAR CLUB was established on 1 April 2019, and is now 1 year old, Members who earned their wings between 1961 and 1970 and are paid-up members of the PVO qualify to become members of the club.

In 2019 the club had 47 members and this year 19 new members join this exclusive club. Due to the lockdown and our business not being classified as essential services, we are not permitted to post the caps to the various canopies. The best I could do was to email the 50 YEAR CLUB certificates.

### List of 2019 members:

PVO00001	Ronnie Claassen	1961	PVO00293	Stompie Coetzee	1967
PVO00003	Ken Viljoen	1967	PVO00298	Christo du Toit	1967
PVO00007	Martin Jansen van Rensburg	1969	PVO00313	Eugene Pretorius	1969
PVO00008	Johann Strauss	1969	PVO00314	Ysterman Van Niekerk	1961
PVO00030	Piet Parabat Coetzee	1967	PVO00315	Johnny Kieser	1961
PVO00048	Gideon Roets	1969	PVO00328	Adrian Glanvill	1964
PVO00066	Pierre Van Rooyen	1969	PVO00334	Ricky Roberson	1962
PVO00090	Jaap Bronkhorst	1963	PVO00351	Edward John Cox	1967
PVO00095	Kiewiet Bronkhorst	1964	PVO00356	Pikkie Du Preez	1962
PVO00102	Piet Jordaan	1968	PVO00357	PL Myburgh	1964
PVO00112	Jaco Botes	1967	PVO00360	Morne Coetzer	1963
PVO00114	Jim Holtzhausen	1968	PVO00366	Louis Botha	1964
PVO00121	Anton van der Merwe	1967	PVO00382	Jimmy Sloane	1963
PVO00122	Ken Nosworthy	1966	PVO00387	Ockie Venter	1964
PVO00123	Paul Oppel	1966	PVO00391	Ewan Daubermann	1967
PVO00125	Snakes Snyman	1964	PVO00393	Attie van Niekerk	1968
PVO00171	Spook Oberholzer	1969	PVO00407	Koos Moorcroft	1962
PVO00172	Barry Olivier	1966	PVO00412	Fanie Vosloo	1968
PVO00179	Vic Theron	1964	PVO00428	Matt Pavkovich	1963
PVO00230	Jan Moulder	1965	PVO00432	Jakkals de Jager	1962
PVO00242	Anthony Bartlett	1969	PVO00469	Japie Keet	1962
PVO00244	Llewelyn Fouche	1967	PVO00509	Erich Lamprecht	1963
PVO00259	Mike Ethell	1963	PVO00520	Dirk van Niekerk	1967
PVO00288	Louis Muller	1967			



Koos Moorcroft, Ronnie Claassen en Morne Coetzer



Louis Botha



Johann Strauss, Jaap Bronkhorst, Kiewiet Bronkhorst, Pieter Jordaan



Willoughby Brits oorhanding Klub 50 keps aan Jimmy Sloane



Japie Keet oorhandig aan sy Pa sy Club 50 pet en sertifikaat



Andre van Niekerk oorhanding Snakes Snyman se Klub 50 keps





Klub 50 Pette: Neels Kieser (seun van Oom Johnny) Barry Olivier (1966), Spook Oberholzer (1969), Martin van Rensburg (1969) en Vic Theron (1964)



Oom Johnny Kieser se Klub 50 Pet en sertifikaat word postuum deur Mike McWilliams aan sy seun Neels oorhandig



Vic Theron ontvang sy Klub 50 Pet en sertifikaat van Mike McWilliams



Chris Koen oorhandig Jakkals de Jager se klub 50 keps



Left: Ysterman van Niekerk, Jan Moulder, Ken Viljoen en Pieter Coetzee



Llewellyn Fouche en Attie van Niekerk



Left: Ricky Roberson (RIP), Mike Ethell, and Adrian Glanvill, with Gavin Moultrie

### List of new members (2020):

PVO00004	Mike	McWilliams	1970
PVO00232	Bill	Belson	1970
PVO00342	Buckey	Symons	1970
PVO00480	Johan	de Villiers	1962
PVO00483	David	Roos	1970
PVO00187	At	Vorster	1962
PVO00174	Albertus	Opperman	1970
PVO00531	Bryan	Muller	1963
PVO00532	Burgert	Naudé	1969
PVO00533	Cobus	Maré	1970
PVO00535	Coen	van der Merwe	1970
PVO00525	George	Erasmus	1966
PVO00516	Guy	Gardner	1968
PVO00440	Dave	Swanepoel	1970
PVO00527	Chris	Meyer	1963
PVO00522	Pano	Nicolopoulos	1965
PVO00508	Mielies	Schoeman	1966
PVO00526	Niel	Lambrechts	1968
PVO00539	Dudley	Searle	1967

Congratulations to all of you.

Andre van Niekerk  
Chairman 50 Year Club  
083 652 9825

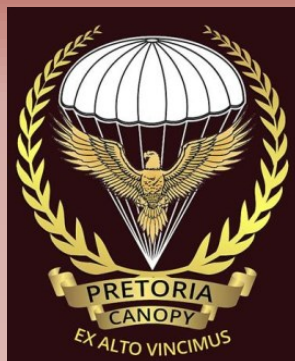
# The PVO CANOPIES

EX ALTO VINCIMUS





# PRETORIA CANOPY



<b>Canopy Naam</b>	Pretoria Canopy
<b>Stigtings datum</b>	12 Desember 2014 - Pretoria Canopy is 5 jaar terug gestig. Nog altyd n PVO Canopy, Ons het n goeie bestuur en daar is vrede en harmonie binne in Canopy
<b>Kommittee lede</b>	Willoughby Brits - Voorsitter Krige Van Heerden – Onder Voorsitter Roche Vermaak – Sekretaris Wynand Erasmus – Tesourier Wynand Fourie – regs konsultant Johan Le Roex – Gasvryheid Ashley Carr – Nuwe lede Chris Pohl - Kommunikasie
<b>Kontak besonderhede</b>	Willoughby Brits - 0797490019
<b>Lede getalle</b>	90
<b>Makker Hulp</b>	Ons help ons makkers gereeld, soos bv met droogte hulp. Ons het mede makkers gehelp met meer as R100 000.
<b>Canopy Vergaderings</b>	Ons het byeenkomste 12 keer n jaar en woon baie ander geleenthede by

Pretoria Canopy vergader maandeliks - Gewoonlik elke 2de Vrydag van die maand. Ons het gewoonlik 'n spreker wat 'n praatjie en aanbieding doen dan braai ons en verkeer gesellig. Pretoria Canopy se manne is 'n lekker klomp , 3 Spitbraai gehou, Baie betrokke by St Michaels aande, 3 de Verjaarsdag van PVO 24 Feb

**Canopy Vergaderings Adres** Centurion Moth, Evendon House, 139 Glover avenue, Die Hoewes, Centurion

<b>Ander geleenthede byge- woon</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CMVO</li> <li>2. Koevoet</li> <li>3. SAP Tin</li> <li>4. 32 Bn</li> <li>5. Savate</li> <li>6. Paratrooper , Cassinga dag</li> <li>7. Intelligensie Veterane dag</li> <li>8. Arnhem , Nederland</li> <li>9. Normandy Frankryk</li> <li>10. Armistice 11 Nov</li> </ol>
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## Sosiale Media

Whatsapp - Kontak Willoughby Brits

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1551376968418448>

## Sprekers en besoekers

Genl. Constant Viljoen

Oom Ronnie Claassen

Oom Koos Moorcroft

Les Rudman

Andre Bestbier

Roland de Vries

Hans Moller

John Heyes

Dirk Gouws Spoorsny

Kaas v der Waal

Joffel v d Westhuizen

Blikkies Blignaut

Morne Coetzer

Louis Du Plessis

Dr Anthony Turnton

Paul J. Els

Kallie Roos

Wynand du Toit

Jan Bierman

en ander.....



Pretoria Canopy – Eerste vergadering 2014-12-12















# NOMAD CANOPY



<b>Stigtings datum</b>	3 September 2015 - datum waarop die Nomad Facebook-blad geskep is.
<b>Ere-lede</b>	Daan "Ysterman" van Niekerk Koos Moorcroft
<b>Kommittee lede</b>	Deon Benadé - Voorsitter Dirk Conradie – Onder Voorsitter en Tesourier Naas Grové – Sekretaris Attie van Niekerk - Lidmaatskap Dave Swanepoel - addisionele lid
<b>Kontak besonderhede</b>	Deon Benadé - deon.benade@parabat.org.za
<b>Lede getalle</b>	175
<b>Makker Hulp</b>	Hulp verlening aan Nomad lede asook bydraes vir fonds-insamelings ten bate van droogte hulp.
<b>Canopy Vergaderings</b>	Geen
<b>Canopy Vergaderings: Adres</b>	Geen
<b>Ander geleenthede bygewoon</b>	Bywoning van gedenkdienste binne paratrooper veterane omgewing en die breër veterane omgewing
<b>Sosiale Media</b>	Whatsapp - Kontak Deon Benadé - Slegs ingeskrewe Nomad lede, per uitnodiging Facebook - Slegs ingeskrewe PVO lede



**Eerste verkose bestuurspan – 16 April 2019**



TB in Ermelo – 25 Mei 2019



TB in Koster – 31 Augustus 2019



St. Michael Dineë – 29 September 2019



Fuller-slangvel ontvangs – 19 Oktober 2019



## Nomads in Suid-Afrika en Namibie se verspreiding



Buitelandse lede in Australië, Engeland, Dubai, Nieu-Seeland, VSA

# MALUTI CANOPY



<b>Stigtingsdatum</b>	01 Julie 2018
<b>Stigtingsvergadering</b>	13 Junie 2018
<b>Belangrike besluit .....</b>	Wie mag bywoon ?
	Slegs gekwalifiseerde paratroopers sal as lede kan deel wees van Maluti Canopy; asook volledig gekwalifiseerde soldate van ander internasionale eenhede.
<b>Johan Cronje</b>	Voorsitter (Verhuis en Loftie waarnemend tot met ons Alg. Jaarvergadering)
<b>Kommittee lede</b>	Johan Cronje - Voorsitter Loftie van den Berg - O/Voorsitter (waarn. voorsitter) Herman Marais - Tesourier Gideon Knobel - Sekretaris Enslin van Blerk - Addisionele Lid
<b>Kontakbesonderhede</b>	Loftie van den Berg - 082 375 0277
<b>Ledegetalle</b>	Aktiewe lede : 18 Lede in omgewing : 46
<b>Canopy Vergaderings</b>	Elke 1ste Dinsdag van elke maand
<b>Vergaderings Adres</b>	Moth Club, Bethlehem
<b>Geleenthede aangebied</b>	Mike McWilliams - Praat oor PVO Nasionaal, Skillie Human Projek Callie Bonthuys - Wildman (praat oor wapens) Pierre Lundberg - Oud Spesmagte Soldaat - SANW Bosoorlog aan Angolese Grens Wynand du Toit - Wynand du Toit boek Charl Naude - Recce Aand MC Gesinsnaweek - Babersbaai Bethlehem
	PVO Bosberaad 2020 - Moth Klub Bethlehem (28 Febr 2020 tot 01 Mrt 2020)



## MALUTI CANOPY LEDE



LINKS NA REGS: Johan Cronje, Pieter van der Merwe, CT van der Merwe, Gert Venter, Herman Wessels, Tienie Greyling, Hans Nel, Gideon Knobel, Job van Eeden, Herman Marais

## PVO Bosberaad 2020 by Maluti Canopy





# BAY CANOPY



## Established

In August 2015 Bay Canopy started by Pete Laubscher in consultation with Ken Viljoen while the PVO was being formed.  
Not having any idea of any other chaps in Port Elizabeth and surrounds that were qualified Paratroopers the initial forming of the Canopy problematic.

Pete then decided to post a request for all Port Elizabeth Parabats on the 1 Parachute Battalion Facebook site requesting the chaps to make contact. The initial response was slow as many chaps were not on Facebook. Word and mouth then did its usual spread and contact was made with approximately 16 qualified Parabats residing in the City. Initially the first meeting was held at a private home where an initial core of 8 Parabats attended.

## Committee Members

Chairman: André Van Niekerk  
Vice Chairman: Renton Atkinson  
Secretary: Clint Rieder  
Treasurer: Clint Rieder  
Memorabilia: Ken Nosworthy  
Entertainment: Jan Volschenk

## Contact Detail

André van Niekerk - 083 652 9826 / 041 372 2338.

## Members

24 Qualified Paratroopers as paid up members  
3 Honouree members. Mrs Rachel Human (Skillie Human's widow), Jackie Marlow (Derek Marlow's widow), Mark Taunton RLI

## Canopy Meetings

We meet every 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Outspan Shellhole and enjoy a few noggins prior to and after our meeting.

## Canopy Meeting Address

Off Kraga Kama rd, left at the Railway line.

## Other Functions Attended

- 1 Parabat Church Service( 4th May)
- 2 3 Ship church Service
- 3 3rd Generation parade.
- 4 South African Air force Church Service
- 5 Delville Wood Memorial Parade
- 6 Battle of Britain Memorial Service
- 7 Battle of Square Hill parade
- 8 10/10 Dinner PAG
- 9 Water jump
- 10 Rhodesian day family day, and parade
- 11 Tin shake for SA Legion
- 12 Poppy run Placing poppies on all known serves men's graves in PE
- 13 Outspan 's Remembrance parade
- 14 Civic Remembrance Parade
- 15 Grey high school trooping of the couloirs'.
- 16 Jewish Ex-service league Memorial Service
- 17 Wreath laying Bangkok. In November 2019 representing the PVO

## Social Media

Whatsapp - Contact André Van Niekerk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1539509879653248/>

Initially we met at independent pubs or clubs but this was found to be a problem in that we were unable to sit down and have a proper meeting. After four months one of our Brothers put me in contact with some MOTH's from Outspan Shellhole and a meeting was arranged to discuss the possibility of Bay Canopy meeting at their Shellhole monthly. We agreed on all the issues and now had a home for Bay Canopy.

## History

Pete Laubscher was the first Chairman for a year followed by the late Noel Laurie. Noel served in this position for two years and sadly passed away 2 weeks after standing down as Chairman. Our current Chairman Andre van Niekerk was elected to lead us when Noel stood down and has served the Canopy and its members with enthusiasm and energy for the last 2 plus years. Andre, at the same time joined the MOTH's and does a tremendous amount of work for them at the same time.

Bay Canopy has been in existence for four years now with great camaraderie amongst the 24 winged members. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Outspan Shellhole and enjoy a few noggins prior to and after our meeting.

We have on occasions held our meetings at other venues. On two such occasions we have met for a Dop and a Chop at the home of Anton and Faye van der Merwe. These were splendid evenings indeed.

Once established at the MOTH Outspan Shellhole and got to know all the MOTH's we found a few RLI, Rhodesian Regiment, Selous Scouts and SAS ouens (as they refer to themselves) and fostered a great relationship with them. We have been invited to attend their monthly Prayer meetings on a number of occasions and also the annual Rhodesian Remembrance Parade held at the Outspan Shellhole.

## History—Continue

Bay Canopy has an open invitation to the Rhodesian contingent to attend our meetings and social get together's which they have done to our delight.

One of the RLI and Bay Canopy member, Mark Taunton was the master thought behind the "Buy Skillie a drink" fund raising effort that raised a sizeable sum for the fund raising effort. Mark has now sadly moved to pastures anew but remains an honouree member of Bay Canopy.

The men of Bay Canopy attend most Remembrance Parades held by the MOTH's, SA Legion and the SA Jewish League. Important parades that we all try and attend annually:

The Cassinga Memorial service which is conducted by one of our Brothers and a Cassinga Veteran is delivered by Archdeacon David Grobbelaar. With the COVID 19 pandemic lockdown this May, David kindly held the service on Whatsapp

The annual Remembrance Day parade at the Port Elizabeth cenotaph.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Remembrance Parade.

Besides the Remembrance Parades, members also attend MOTH funerals where the deceased Veteran is known to members of the Canopy.

We have unfortunately attended funerals of our own Brothers over the last few years.

Some notable events within the Canopy are:

- An annual beach walk in remembrance of the late Noel Laurie is held. This involves a walk of approximately 10 kilometres with participants camping at the ending point.
- Bay Canopy winning the Best Canopy award. A great recognition for us given the hard work put in by all members.
- The awarding of PVO caps and a Bay Canopy 50 year certificate when paid up members achieve this milestone.
- Each member receiving a face mask displaying Bay Canopy's emblem on it.

A further honour bestowed on two of our members was the Order of St Michael. These awards were presented to Mark Taunton of the RLI for his dedication and introduction of the “Buy Skillie a drink” fund raising effort to repatriate our Brother back home. The other recipient was our Vice Chairman Renton Atkinson for his very generous gesture in manufacturing the Bring Skillie Home collection boxes. Two awards to two well deserving Brothers.

### History—Continue

We members of Bay Canopy would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mike McWilliams and his NEC members for the sterling work they are doing and thank them all for their visit to Bay Canopy in 2019.

We Salute our Brothers of the PVO and extend an invitation to visit us at Bay Canopy when in the Eastern Cape.

We pray that you and your families stay safe at this trying time in our lives. God Bless You All. Ex Alto Vincimus.



The first meeting:

Left to Right: Pete Laubscher, Snakes Snyman, Elroy Jonck, late Noel Laurie, Kokkie Smith, Jan Volschenk, Clint Rieder



Attending the RLI prayer meeting



The Annual Remembrance Day parade at the Port Elizabeth Cenotaph



# FS BLOEMFONTEIN CANOPY



## Stigtingsdatum

Die stigtingsdatum van die **FS Bloem Canopy** is in 'n bondig en kriptiese notule aangeteken as **29 Januarie 2015**.

Dit is egter interessant om daarop te wys dat in die argief aanloop dokumente tot die stigting van die Canopy, daar in een dokument verwys word na Rooiplaas-Vrystaat Canopy onder die opskrif Suid-Afrikaanse Valskermssoldatebond, terwyl daar in 'n ander dokument verwys word na die Vrystaat Bloemfontein Valskerm Doek. Ongelukkig vir rekord doeleindes is nie een van hierdie dokumente genommer, onderteken of met 'n datum op geliasseer nie, derhalwe kon die relevantheid daarvan nie bevestig word nie!

## Kommittee lede

Voorsitter	Barry Olivier.
Onder Voorsitter	Johan de Bruin.
Sekretaris	Albertus Opperman.
Tesourier	Vakant
Regsoffisier	Vakant
Werwing\ Komm. Beampte	Johannes Conradie.
Memorabilia	Johan de Bruin.
Beplanningsbeampte	Martin van Rensburg
Distrik Verteenw. Oos Vrystaat	Kobus Breytenbach
Distrik Verteenw. Suid Vrystaat	Izak Wessels
Distrik Verteenw. Oos Kaap	Thero Wink

## Kontak Besonderhede

Barry Olivier	083 725 2228
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## Lede Getalle

Die huidige boekjaar-ledelys het 41 name op waarvan 20 lede lewenslange lidmaatskap van die NPVO hou, terwyl 16 lede hul jaarlikse lidmaatskap aan NPVO hernu het. Nuwe lede word by elke moontlike geleentheid gekontak asook gemotiveer om by die organisasie aan te sluit.

Die Canopy poog ook om aan elke nuwe navraag, nie net aansoek om lidmaatskap vorms uit te stuur nie, maar ook ons inligtingstuk in te sluit wat die PVO in 'n neutredop saamvat en wat aandui waarvoor ons staan en wie ons is.

<b>Makker Hulp</b>	<p>As Canopy poog ons om makkers wat nood ervaar by te staan soos wat ons by wyse van ons grondwet én Erekode onderneem om te doen. Verskeie makkers is reeds in die verlede gehelp op verskeie maniere, terwyl daar in die jongste verlede ondersteuning gegee is en skenkings gemaak word aan 'n kospakkie projek tydens die Covid-19 inperking seisoen.</p> <p>Tans word reëlins getref om 'n suurstof masjien in die komende week aan 'n gesinslid (wat chemo-terapie ontvang) van een van ons lede in Bloemfontein, beskikbaar te stel.</p>
<b>Canopy Vergaderings</b>	<p>Ooreenkomstig die Canopy se Jaarbepanner word daar ses-weekliks vergaderings gehou wat plaasvind by Horizon Stables, Toring laan 4, Groenvlei, Bloemfontein. Aangesien verskeie Canopy lede in die platteland woonagtig is en nie vergaderings geredelik maklik kan bywoon nie, word hulle op hoogte van Canopy sake gehou deur middel van 'n Inligtingsbrief wat aan al die lede gesirkuleer word.</p>
<b>Sosiale Geleenthede</b>	<p>Lede kuier graag gesellig saam by Horizon Stables elke tweede Vrydag aand van die maand. Die geleentheid word meestal verpak in momente van skouer skuur, glasies klink, staaltjies en gebeure opdiep en somer net mekaar vermaak met al daai lekker "onthou jy nog" oomblikke van toe ons nog jonk, jeukerig, sterk én mooi was, want nou is ons nog net ..... flippen mooi!!</p>
<b>Ander geleentheid bygewoon</b>	<p>Canopy lede kom gereeld bymekaar tydens gedenk parades wat saamval met SAWV, Klub Omuthiya, die Valskerm Moeder Eenheid, asook by funksies wat aangebied word om spesiale geleentheid te herdenk</p>
<b>Sosiale Media</b>	<p>WhatsApp: Kontak Johannes Conradie (083 487 2636) wat betrokke is by die werwing van nuwe PVO lede</p>
<b>Spreekers en Besoekers</b>	<p>Die Canopy bied jaarliks minstens twee funksies aan wat deur makkers, vriende van die Canopy, asook meningsvormers vanuit die gemeenskap bygewoon word. Die volgende twee geleentheid staan gedurende 2019 uit:</p> <p>Die Funksie op 18 Mei 2019 rondom die instelling van die Klub 50 Pette wat oorhandig is deur die President van die PVO en gasspreker vir die geleentheid, Mike McWilliams.</p> <p>Onder die eregaste was Tannie Mossie wat weer aan ons veterane geskenkies oorhandig het om "die ou-dae te herdenk"</p> <p>Die Funksie op 8 November 2019 het Franco Smith spesiaal vir ons, Currie Beker en al, kom kuier en 'n inspirerende en motiverende toespraak gelewer. Sampie Stofberg was ons eregas vir die aand en het ook as spreker opgetree</p>



'n Foto wat geneem was tydens een van die eerste vergaderings van die nuut gestigte FS Bloem Canopy:

VLNR: Albertus Opperman, Martin van Rensburg, Arend de Villiers, Nico Beneke, Cobus Maré, Ben van den Berg, Vic Theron, Chappies van Zyl, Onbekend en Johannes Conradie

Vrydag aand 14 Februarie 2020, saamkuier by Bobbiespark net voor die grendelstaat afgekondig is: Bryan Muller (1963), Vic Theron (1964), Wesley de Beer (1965), Barry Olivier (1966), Burgert Naudé (1969), Albertus Opperman (1970), Nic Staal (1980) en Johannes Conradie (1983)



Vrydag aand 10 Julie 2020, selfs Eskom kon die Bloem manne se saamkuier by Horizon Stables te midde van grendeltyd nêe demp nie: Voorste ry: Oom Johan de Villiers (1962, Kursus 6V) en Bryan Muller, Agterste ry: Nuwe lid John Campbell (1968), Albertus Opperman, Johannes Conradie, Hendrik Kotze, Johan de Bruin, Barry Olivier, Wesley de Beer, Nic Staal en Chris Richter (1979)





Gaste in gesellige luim tydens die funksie op 18 Mei 2019



Trotse Makers rondom 'n spog beker tydens ons funksie van 8 November 2019



Van die gaste wat die Huldigingsaand bygewoon het. Tannie Mossie staan in die derde ry, derde van links



Barries Barnard en Wesley de Beer in druk gesprek tydens die Huldigingsaand



Bloem Canopy Manne in gesellige en "gelukkige" lym tydens 'n funksie in November 2019



# WESRAND CANOPY



<b>Stigtingsdatum</b>	Die eerste Westrand vergadering was November 2014 en kort daarna was die Canopy op die been gebring	
<b>Kommittee lede</b>	Voorsitter	Craig Rheeders
	Sekretaris	Gerhard Kotze
	Tesourier	Ernst Botes
<b>Kontak Besonderhede</b>	Craig Rheeders 0832662197	
<b>Lede Getalle</b>	35 opbetaalde lede	
<b>Canopy Vergaderings</b>	Die manne kom bymekaar op die laaste Donderdag van elke maand. Oor die tyd het ons n aantal gassprekers onthaal sowel as ons "open door " polities tee- noor alle militere veterane maak elke byeenkoms n ervaring en die manne kuier tot laat aand met stories en n song of twee. Ons het n paer tradiesies om die valskerm brotherhood te versterk en te bewaar soos die inhak met die lees van die Valskerm gebed en Code of conduct.	
<b>Canopy Vergaderings Adres</b>	Warrior Shellhole off the N14 (old R28) in Muldersdrift.	
<b>Ander geleenthede by- gewoon</b>	Die canopy neem deel aan n aantal parades en gedenk dienste sowel as militere mark dae.	
<b>Sosiale Media</b>	Whatsapp - Kontak Craig Rheeders	







**JHB WESTRAND CANOPY**  
IT'S A GO!!!

ROLL CALL: 26 FEBRUARY 2015  
TIME: 19H00  
VENUE: MOTH - WARRIOR ARMS  
CONTACT: FREDDY ADAMS  
MOBILE: 083 2679 963

off the N14 (old R28) in Muldersdrift  
26° 25'4 16"S 27° 50'32 18"E



ROLL CALL: 25 JUNE 2015  
TIME: 19H00  
VENUE: MOTH - WARRIOR ARMS  
CONTACT: FREDDY ADAMS  
MOBILE: 083 2679 963

**6th MEETING**

VR DIE MANNE WAT NIE HULLE GATTE  
MET N' POFADDER AFVEE NIE!







# SUIKERBOSRAND CANOPY



<b>Canopy Naam</b>	Suikerbosrand Canopy
<b>Stigtings datum</b>	15 Februarie 2015 - Suikerbosrand Canopy is 5 jaar terug gestig. Nog altyd n PVO Canopy, Ons het n goeie platelandse atmosfeer waar vergaderings meestal informeel gehou word met 3 Formele vergaderings deur die jaar. Voorsitters: Jannie Kotze stigter 2015-2016, Herman Palm 2017-2019, Herman Marias 2020
<b>Kommittee lede oor die tydperk</b>	Onder voorsitters: Herman Palm, Anton Beyel, Jannie Kotze Sekretaris: Herman Marias Tesourier Johann Strauss Disziplinere Officier: Kiewiet Bronkhorst Gasvryheid: Johan Stroebel
<b>Kontak besonderhede</b>	Jannie Kotze-0823863244, Herman Marais- 0739376086
<b>Lede getalle</b>	32
<b>Canopy Vergaderings</b>	Ons het byeenkomste 12 keer n jaar en woon baie ander geleenthede by. Suikerbosrand Canopy vergader maandeliks - Gewoonlik elke 1ste Dinsdag van die maand by die ou Gaul. Soms het ons 'n sprekere wat 'n praatjie en aanbieding doen dan braai ons en verkeer gesellig.
<b>Canopy Vergaderings: Adres Ander geleenthede bygewoon</b>	Hoek van Jordaan en Ueckerman Straat Heidelberg Gauteng  1. Salomon van Ass Herdenking 2. Paratrooper , Cassinga dag 3. Normandy Frankryk 4. Armistice 11 Nov
<b>Sosiale Media</b>	Whatsapp - Kontak Jannie Kotze Facebook Suikerbosrand Canopy
<b>Sprekers en besoekers</b>	Wynand Du Toit Oom Ronnie Claassen Jack Greef Pierre Lundberg Mike McWilliams



## Anton Beyel se jaarlikse Familie Braai in Vereeniging by Vaal rivier



Oom Kiewiet Bronkhorst, Johan Stroebel en sy seun



Kobus Human en Johann Strauss

## Cassinga Herdenking



Gerry Ferrera, Jannie Kotze,....., Anton Beyel, Herman Palm, Herman Marais

## Suikerbosrand Golf Dag



Anton Beyel, Herman Palm, Tommie Ankiewicz, Kiewiet Bronkhorst, Micheal Theron.







Jack Greef Praat oor Operasie Kerslig



Johann Strauss, Anton Beyel, Jack Greef, Herman Palm, Wynand Pretorius, Pierre Lundberg



Johann Strauss



Mike McWilliams



Salomon Van Ass herdenking





# KZN CANOPY



<b>Inauguration Date</b>	Monday, 02 February 2015	
<b>Committee Members</b>	Chairman	Lance Knepscheld (2019 - current) Gavin Moultrie (2015 - 2019)
	Secretary	Kevin Rhodes
<b>Contact details</b>	0813714081	parabnkzn@yahoo.com
<b>Members</b>	Total: 69 Life Members: 51 Members: 11 Deceased: 3	
<b>KZN Canopy Honourary Members</b>	Maj. Genl Chris Le Roux, Padre Robert Moore, Jack Greef (HC), Paul Engelbrecht (HC)	
<b>Canopy meetings</b>	1st Monday of each Month	
<b>Meetings Held at</b>	Highway Shellhole, 2 Montrose Ave, Hillcrest, Kwa Zulu - Natal	
<b>Other Meetings we attend</b>	Highway Shellhole, SASFA KZN,	
<b>Members Assistance</b>	Foodparcels: Currently assisting 8 members with monthly food parcels Financial: Have assisted individual members, outside our Canopy with financial assistance	
<b>Social Media</b>	Whatsapp—Contact Kevin Rhodes 0813714081 Facebook—KwaZulu-Natal Canopy <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/512955828843105">https://www.facebook.com/groups/512955828843105</a>	
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	Genl. Roland de Vries Maj Genl Chris Le Roux Col. Steve Bekker Wynand du Toit Jack Greef Chris Snyman Chris Hoare	





**Member Assistance:** South Coast member had a stroke and required assistance. Secured Mil Vet pension and Medical. Renovated living quarters, as he was living in a small outside room, without electricity and a secure door.

### **Guest Speakers :**

**Project Nehemiah-** Genl Roland de Vries and Afri Forum discussed the way forward to assist with not only Farm Watch , but also within our own communities.

**The SADF Paratrooper:** Maj Genl Chris le Roux spoke about the small size of the SADF vs the enemy forces and the tenacity of the Paratrooper



**“To jump or not to jump, that’s the question”** - Col Steve Bekker (SAAF) Ret spoke about his days of flying days on both the Kudu and Dakota, as well as the conversion of the Dak, to the Turbo Prop Dak

**Ops Amazon** - Jack Greef had a full house, when he presented a informal presentation on Ops Amazon. This was the attack on the harbour facilities in Lobito, Angola.



The Recces destroyed two fuel storage facilities and a cement factory.



**Mad Mike’ Hoare, the legendary mercenary** - Chris Hoare gave a talk on his book that he has written, with regards to his father's exploits.



**Ops Firewood** - Chris Snyman gave a talk on Ops Firewood, from the perspective of the 101Bn involvement. Fred Wollentine and a few other Delta and Charlie members, at the presentation were able to assist Chris, with regards to the Bats involvement as well.



**Eston Dropzone** - KZN Canopy is fortunate to assist Ian Douglas with descent and drift assessment, for Aerodyne Industries. With 15 round static line parachutes available, we always had an excellent turnout of ready jumpers. These days were held every month and family members enticed to join with a braai after the jumps. These jumps put the KZN members, still on strength with 3 Para Bn, as current jumpers. Under Ian's guidance (former RhAF PJI) and three qualified Despatchers, all safety measures were adhered to. Unfortunately, due to insurance liability around the aircraft and the DZ licence holders, these jumps had to be stopped. Some of the Canopy members have since gone onto jumping square chutes.



**LeapFest** - Over the last 10 years, members of KZN Canopy have participated in Leapfest, an International Round Canopy competition, hosted by the 56th Troop, Rhode Island National Guard, USA. Each team has 4 x jumpers and each jumper is timed, from the time they land to the time they touch the indicator crosses, laid out on the DZ. Each individual member's time is added together and the team with the least amount of time delay, are the winners. This event is part of the 56th Troop Annual Parachute Training Exercise. There are approx 10-14 International Countries that participate, and with the USA Teams make up around 400 Military Static Line Jumpers participating. At the end of the competition, there is a Foreign Wings exchange, jumping under control of a foreign JumpMaster. For three years running, 2017 -2019, the KZN Canopy Team have won the International Team Friendship Trophy.





**Comrades Marathon** - Since our move to the Highway Shellhole, we have made an effort to promote our Canopy, by selling breakfast buns or wors rolls to the spectators. We also ensure that we encourage all the runners, especially our Para Veterans that are participating in the Comrades run. 2018 the KZN Canopy Exec arranged a Branding Fundraiser, to enable the Canopy to purchase a Gazebo, fencing banners and Flagpoles, with the KZN Canopy branding. We certainly created awareness, with many of the runners cheering us on and plenty of them stopping to greet us and tell us when they where at 1 Para Bn.



**Spring Ball** - The SANDF - KZN Reserve Office has a Spring Ball, every year, which is taken in turns, by the Local Reserve Units or Veterans Afilations. KZN Canopy have always well supported this event. In September 2015, B Coy, 3 Para Bn and the KZN Canopy hosted this event, with approx 180 people attending. This was the biggest support, that the Spring Ball has ever had. KZN Canopy had 63 participants alone, out of the 180 attendees. We were honoured to have Maj Genl de Goede as our guest for the evening.



**Year end Function** - The KZN Canopy have a year-end function either at Eston Skydive or at one of the Members' houses. This is normally a bring and braai or a spitbraai. The wives arrange to bring salads or puddings. This is also used as a format for presentations or awards, to members.

**Memorial Eagle** - Adrian Mullan was a member of B Coy, 3 Para Bn and part of our informal Monthly Meetings. Held at Highway Command and Durban Light Infantry. He unfortunately sucumbed to Cancer, on his 39th birthday. Adrian owned a swimming pool construction company and discovered this statue of an eagle, at one of his clients. As Adrian was, he struck a bartering deal with his customer and he donated this, as a Memorial for all the KZN paratroopers. Adrian's name was the first to be secured to the plinth, and each year, at our Cassinga Day Parades and St Micheal's Dinner, the names of our Brothers whom have passed on, are unveiled. The eagle has been moved four times, due to the KZN Canopy not having a permanent home. The current postion, is where the Memorial Eagle, shall rest, as the Highway Shelhole has graciously welcomed us and provided the KZN Canopy with a permanent home.





# CANOPY OF THE YEAR TROPHY AND THE ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL

## Canopy of the Year Trophy



Raymond Kramer of G Coy has most generously donated a floating trophy to the PVO.

The trophy was built to honor his parents and given to us to award on an annual basis to the most deserving Canopy in our judgment.

At the meeting in the KZN Highway Canopy, the PVO committee, in conjunction with all the members present, decided the conditions under which the trophy would be awarded.

Our first decision was to ensure that all airborne organisations in SA should be eligible to win the award. PVO Canopies, Independent Canopies, Rooiplaas and LAARSA should be included.

We felt that the winner should be voted for at the next AGM of 2018 and that all canopies should nominate their choices before the AGM so that the list could be publicised before the event.

Some Canopies were mentioned as front-runners so far in the year and they were: PVO Bay Canopy for their Buy Skillie a Drink Collection Box initiative that has gone worldwide and has been very successful in collecting money for the Bring Skillie Home Fund.

Suikerbos PVO Canopy for their unique, fully sponsored Skillie Project caps that have brought in substantial money to the Bring Skillie Home Fund.

Rooiplaas for their quick and effective purchase of a motorized wheelchair for Nick de Jager down in the Eastern Cape.

Both LAARSA Canopies have been tireless and generous donors to the Skillie fund too.

The Bay Canopy was eventually voted Canopy of the Year and the two driving members, Renton Atkinson and Mark Taunton. Renton for building and manufacturing the boxes at his own cost and Mark for developing the idea and getting the men of the Bay behind him in launching the project.



Both these men were the first recipients of the Order of St. Michael for their service above and beyond to the Parabat cause.

The next year, 2019, saw the Nomad Canopy being awarded the Canopy of the Year Trophy for its many initiatives, not least as the fastest growing Canopy in the PVO stable. Attie Van Niekerk and Llewellyn Doubel were not only the fathers of the 50 Year cap but also were the men , together with Douw Peens, who managed to get the granite slab for the extension of the Wall of Honor at the Johannesburg War Museum. Attie is also the Ambassador at Large for the PVO, recruiting new members wherever they can be found throughout the land.

Competition for the Trophy of the Year is hotting up for 2020 and a number of Canopies are vying for the laurels.



## The Order of Saint Michael

While the Canopy of the Year honors the organisation that does extraordinary things for the Parabats, the Order of St. Michael, was designed to honor those individuals who have excelled in their own capacity as Parabats.

Saint Michael, an Arch Angel, meaning a prince of angels, is the Patron Saint of Paratroopers. Not only did he have Wings, but it fell to him to fight the war with Satan and eventually cast him out of heaven.

Since Satan's defeat, St Michael guards the gates of heaven, preventing RTUs, Panzers and Jam Stealers from entering. This is the great example that potential recipients aim for in order to earn the highest award the PVO can bestow.

Some of the recipients have been: **Kobus Human, Llewellyn Fouche, Attie van Niekerk, George Riekert, Ivy Thiart , Johan Thiart, Renton Atkinson, Mark Taunton, Ken Viljoen, Jannie Kotse** and a posthumous award to one of our early members, **Johan Landman** and of course the late great **Johnny Kieser**. **Mike Cronje** of the In His Honor charitable organisation has also been awarded an Order of St Michael, but has not yet been presented with it yet.

There is no time restriction on the awarding of the Order of St Michael and it is awarded as and when deserving Parabats are nominated.

Yours in admiration.

Mike McWilliams

President

Parabat Veteran Organisation



Mark Taunton	Bay Canopy	2019	Ivy Thiart	3 Para BN	2019
Renton Atkinson	Bay Canopy	2019	Johan Thiart	3 Para BN	2019
Attie van Niekerk	Nomad Canopy	2019	Kobus Human	Past Chairman PVO	2019
Llewellyn Fouche	Nomad Canopy	2019	Ken Viljoen	Past Secretary PVO	2019
George Riekert	Nomad Canopy	2019	Herman Palm	Past National Council member	2019
Mike Cronje	In His Honour Foundation	2019	Jannie Kotze	Past National Council member	2019
<b>Posthumous:</b>					
Johnny Kieer		2019	Johann Landman		2019



# WATERJUMPS

















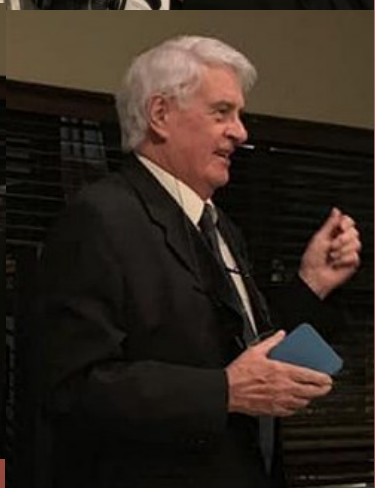


PATRON OF PARATROOPERS

# Saint Michael









LEST WE FORGET — All gave some..... Some gave all

## MEMORIAL DAYS AND FUNERALS



















**PVO MEETINGS**

**THE FIRST 5 YEARS**

**National Meetings 2015 - 2020**



**First General meeting of the Parabat Veterans Organisation, held on 21st February at Schoemansville Resort Hartebeespoort @ 10.00 hrs**

**Present:**

Sakkie Marais	Chair
Kobus Human	Hoëveld
Mynhardt Marais	Cape
Mike McWilliams	LAARSA
Jannie Kotze	Suikerbos
Wit Willem Pretorius	Pretoria
Mark Boullon	Pretoria
Thinus van Staden	Boland
Francois Marais	KZN
Alwyn van Wyk	Noord Wes
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Gary Ferrar	Westrand-JHB
Theo Kleinhans	Cape
Martin van Rensburg	Bloemfontein
Gavin Moultrie	KZN
Bob de Kramer	Westrand-JHB
Fred Adams	Westrand-JHB
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria
Alf Hockly	Hoëveld
Herman Marais	Suikerbos
Willie vd Walt	In His Honour Foundation - In Attendance

**Executive Committee meeting of the Parabat Veterans Organisation (PVO), held at Shute Systems, 49 Du Plessis Ave, Langehoven Park, Bloemfontein, on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 11:15 hrs**

Kobus Human (Chair)  
Ken Viljoen  
Mynhardt Marais  
Martin van Rensburg  
Nico Beneke  
Theo Kleinhans  
Mike McWilliams  
Jannie Kotze





PVO NEC at the first Bloemfontein meeting. Back row, L-R Jannie Kotse, Ken Viljoen, Mike McWilliams, Kobus Human, Martin Van Rensburg. Front row, L-R. Theo Kleinhans, Nico Beneke, Mynhardt Marais.

**National Council meeting of the Parabat Veterans Organisation (PVO), held at the Conference Centre, Tempe Golf Club, Papa Brits Street, Tempe, Bloemfontein, On Thursday 26th November 2015 at 14:45 hrs:**

Present:

Kobus Human	National Chairman
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Mike McWilliams	Communications
Martin van Rensburg	Memorabilia
Wit Willem Pretorius	Membership Sec
Robert de Kramer	Westrand-JHB
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria
Lood Pepler	Pretoria
Herman Marais	Suikerbos
Alf Hockey	Hoëveld
Albertus Opperman	Bloemfontein

*By Invitation:*

Sean McDonough	LAARSA
Brandon Morris	LAARSA

**Joint First Board meetings of the Parabat Veterans Organisation Services (Pty) Ltd and Parabat Veterans Organisation NPC, held at the Conference Centre, Tempe Golf Club, Papa Brits Street, Tempe, Bloemfontein, On Thursday 26th November 2015 at 16:00**

**PRESENT:**

Kobus Human	National Chairman
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Mike McWilliams	Communications
Martin van Rensburg	Memorabilia
Wit Willem Pretorius	Membership
Robert de Kramer	Westrand-JHB
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria
Lood Pepler	Pretoria
Herman Marais	Suikerbos
Alf Hockey	Hoëveld
Albertus Opperman	Bloemfontein

*By Invitation:*

Sean McDonough	LAARSA
Brandon Morris	LAARSA

**Parabat Veterans Organisation Services (Pty) Ltd held at 101 Air Supply Log Support, Waterkloof Street, Pretoria, On Saturday 5th March 2016 at 14:00 hrs**

**PRESENT:**

Kobus Human	Chairman
Theo Kleinhans	
Mynhardt Marais	
Mike McWilliams	
Martin J van Rensburg	
Willem(Wit) Pretorius	
Jannie Kotze	
Willoughby Brits	
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Manie Grove	
Ronnie Claassen	

**First Annual General Meeting of Board Members and Directors of the Parabat Veterans Organisation Service (Pty) Ltd held at the C Coy lines, Fort iKapa, Cape Town, on Saturday 20th August 2016 at 11h30**

**PRESENT:**

Kobus Human	Chairman
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Mynhardt Marais	
Martin J van Rensburg	
Mike McWilliams	
Willem(Wit) Pretorius	
Willoughby Brits	
Johann Strauss	

**In Attendance:**

Jannie Kotze  
Noel Laurie



**National Council Meeting of the Parabat Veterans Organisation (PVO), held at 4 Toring Ave, Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein, on Saturday 25th February 2017 at 11:30 hrs**

Mike McWilliams Chairman

KV Viljoen Secretary

Johann Strauss Treasurer

Theo Kleinhans Cape Canopy

Willem Pretorius Pretoria

Jannie Kotze Suikerbos

Craig Rheeders WestRand

Ben vd Berg Bloemfontein

Willoughby Brits Pretoria

Johannes Conradie Bloemfontein

Albertus Opperman Bloemfontein

Koos van Heerden Bloemfontein

Johan de Bruin Bloemfontein



**Third Annual General Meeting of Members of The Parabat Veterans Organisation (PVO), held 4 Toring Ave, Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein, on Saturday 30th September 2017 at 10:45 hrs**

**PRESENT:**

Ronnie Claassen	Founding Patron
Kobus Human	Chairman
Mike McWilliams	Vice Chairman
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Johann Strauss	Treasurer
Jannie Kotze	Suikerbosrand Canopy
Barry Olivier	Bloemfontein Canopy
André van Niekerk	Bay Canopy
Herman Palm	Suikerbosrand Canopy
Herman Marais	Suikerbosrand Canopy
Albertus Opperman	Bloemfontein Canopy
Craig Rheeders	WesRand Canopy
Jan Joubert	Cape Canopy
Willie Swanepoel	Suikerbosrand Canopy
Ben vd Berg	Bloemfontein Canopy
Johan de Bruin	Bloemfontein Canopy
Mynhardt Marais	Cape Canopy
Martin v Rensburg	Bloemfontein Canopy
Renton Atkinson	Bay Canopy
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria Canopy
Theo Kleinhans	Cape Canopy
Johan McAlpine	G-Coy Canopy
Koos van Heerden	Bloemfontein Canopy
Derek Woods	LAARSA- JHB Wing
Justus Rothman	KZN Canopy
Francoise Marais	KZN Canopy

**National Council**





**Board meeting of the Parabat Veterans Organisation Service (Pty) Ltd held at the MOTH Highway Shell-hole, 2 Montrose Avenue, Hillcrest, on Saturday 14th July 2018 at 13:00hrs**

**Directors in Attendance:**

Mike McWilliams	Non – Executive Chairman
Willoughby Brits	CEO & Memorabilia Director
Johann Strauss	Financial Director
Theo Kleinhans	Non-Executive Director
Ken Viljoen	Director & Secretary



**Fourth Annual General Meeting of Members of The Parabat Veterans Organisation (PVO), held in the C Coy lines, Fort iKapa, Cape Town, on Saturday 13th October 2018 at, 13:00hrs**

**PRESENT:**

Mike McWilliams	President
Ken Viljoen	Secretary
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria Canopy
Herman Palm	Suikerbosrand Canopy
Jannie Kotzé	Suikerbosrand Canopy
Theo Kleinhans	Cape Canopy
Andre van Niekerk	Bay Canopy
Deon Benadé	Nomad Canopy

**National Council & National Executive Committee, held at the MOTH Outspan Shell hole, Lorrain, Port Elizabeth, on Saturday 23 February 2019 at 11:00**

Mike McWilliams	President
Deon Benadé	Acting Secretary, Nomad Canopy, CMVO, Strategy & Projects
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria Canopy, Enablement Fund, Memorabilia & Apparel
Johan Cronje	Maluti Canopy
Jannie Kotzé	Heritage & Museum
Barry Olivier	Bloemfontein Canopy
Herman Palm	Suikerbosrand Canopy, Membership
Craig Rheeders	Wesrand Canopy
Andre van Niekerk	Bay Canopy
Wynand Erasmus	By proxy, Treasurer
Chris Pohl	By proxy, Information & Technology
<i>Apologies received</i>	
Mynhardt Marais	SANDF Liaison
Justus Rothman	Ombudsman

**PVO AGM held at The Stables Guesthouse, Bloemfontein, on Saturday 5 October 2019 at 10:00**



Some of the attendees, posed for a quick picture prior to departure: From L to R: Herman Palm, Willoughby Brits, Mike McWilliams, Justus Rothman. Back L-R : Jannie Kotse, Andre van Niekerk, Deon Benadé, Chris Pohl and Dirk van de Wall



Mike McWilliams	President
Deon Benadé	Acting Secretary, Nomad Canopy, CMVO, Strategy & Projects
Willoughby Brits	Pretoria Canopy, Enablement Fund, Memorabilia & Apparel
Johannes Conradie	Observer, Bloemfontein Canopy
Johan Cronje	Maluti Canopy
Johan de Bruin	Observer, Bloemfontein Canopy
Jannie Kotzé	Heritage & Museum
Barry Olivier	Bloemfontein Canopy
Albertus Opperman	Observer, Bloemfontein Canopy
Herman Palm	Suikerbosrand Canopy, Membership
Chris Pohl	Information & Technology
Craig Rheerders	West Rand Canopy
Kevin Rhodes	KZN Canopy
Justus Rothman	Ombudsman
Dirk van de Wall	Observer, Nomad Canopy
Andre van Niekerk	Bay Canopy
<i>Proxies received:</i>	
Morné Coetzer	Communications & Media
<i>Apologies received:</i>	
Jim Holtzhausen	Treasurer
Lance Knepscheldt	KZN Canopy
Krige van Heerden	SANDF Liaison

## **NASIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – HELP ON 28 OKTOBER 2019 AT LERIBA LODGE**

Mike McWilliams	President
Willoughby Brits	Vice-President
Dirk van de Wall	Secretary

### **Additional Members:**

Johan Cronje  
Attie van Niekerk  
Deon Benadé

### **Co-opted Members:**

Clive Long  
Chris Pohl

### **Absent:**

Jim Holthausen      Treasurer

### **In Attendance:**

Andre van Niekerk

# BOSBERAAD

## Die Eerste PVO Bosberaad.

Die Nasionale raad en Nasionale uitvoerende raad vergaderings is gekombineer met die geleentheid – 28 Februarie – 1 Maart 2020.



### MOTH SPRINGBOK SHELHOLE, Commissioner Street, Bethlehem

A highly successful *Bosberaad* was held between 28 February 2020 to 01 March 2020 in Bethlehem. The output of the *Bosberaad* is a 90-day incremental plan for each portfolio which will form the building blocks taking the organisation to the next level of excellence.

#### PRESENT:

MIKE MCWILLIAMS	PRESIDENT
WILLOUGHBY BRITS	VICE PRESIDENT
DIRK VAN DE WALL	SECRETARY
JIM HOLTHAUZEN	TREASURER
JOHAN CRONJE	ADDISIONELE LID NUK
DEON BENADÉ	ADDISIONELE LID NUK
CHRIS POHL	COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA & IT
JUSTUS ROTHMAN	OMBUDSMAN
ANDY BODEN	EVENTS & FUNDRAISING
DEON BENADÉ	CMVO, VETERANS' LIAISON
KRIGE VAN HEERDEN	SANDF LIAISON
BARRY OLIVIER	HERITAGE & MUSEUM
NAAS GROVE	STRATEGY & PROJECTS
ANDRE VAN NIEKERK	MEMBERSHIP
WILLOUGHBY BRITS	ENABLEMENT FUND
WILLOUGHBY BRITS	PRETORIA CANOPY
BARRY OLIVIER	BLOEMFONTEIN CANOPY
CRAIG RHEEDERS	WESRAND CANOPY
HERMAN PALM	SUIKERBOSRAND CANOPY
HERMAN MARAIS	SUIKERBOSRAND CANOPY
ANDRE VAN NIEKERK	BAY CANOPY
HERMAN MARAIS	MALUTI CANOPY
GIDEON KNOBEL	MALUTI CANOPY



LOFTIE VAN DEN BERG  
DEON BENADÉ  
CORNEL VANCE  
MARK TALBOT

MALUTI CANOPY  
NOMAD CANOPY  
SPARTAN EAGLES  
SPARTAN EAGLES

#### APOLOGIES

CLIVE LONG  
LANCE KNEPSCHLDT  
KEVIN RHODES  
GERHARD KOTZE  
ATTIE VAN NIEKERK  
NICK J.V. VUUREN  
ROCHE VERMAAK  
JOHANNES CONRADIE  
CLINT RIEDER

FINANCE (CO-OPTED)  
KZN CANOPY  
KZN CANOPY  
WESRAND CANOPY  
ADDISIONELE LID  
MEMORABILIA & APPAREL  
PRETORIA CANOPY  
BLOEMFONTEIN



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## PARABAT ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

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**ARMC**



**LAARSA**

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## PARABAT AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

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**RMVO/CMVO**





# **THE AIRBORNE RIDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **(ARMC)**

The Airborne Riders Motorcycle Club, ARMC is a motorcycle club whose membership is restricted to members of military airborne units, past and present, who have qualified as paratroopers and are entitled to wear the parachute wings of their unit.

ARMC acts entirely independently of any other motorcycle club and does not receive any sponsorship from any commercial or political group nor any airborne or other veteran's organisation.

We are associated with the Parabat Veterans Organisation (PVO) and LAARSA and many of our members belong to one or both groupings and as such we support activities of these groups. We support all Airborne related activities such as memorial services, parades and social functions such as the Parabat reunion annually.

The Club was founded (31 October 2010) by Founder Members: Kennie Boonzaier, Jean-Marc Degueuldre and Gustaaf Trichardt, all originally qualified paratroopers of 1 Parachute Battalion, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Our first President was Mike McWilliams, elected at our first AGM held on 5 April 2012. He was followed by Willie Opperman (RIP)

The purpose of ARMC is to bring qualified members together for the common interest of promoting responsible, non-political, family orientated, safe riding of motorcycles for leisure and for the pleasure thereof and as such our motto is "Regroup".

The current committee of the Airborne Riders are:

President: Johan Kruys

Vice President: Louis Strydom

Dispatcher: Marius Ellis

Head Road Captain: Andre van Staden

Treasurer: Riaan De Beer

Founder: Jean-Marc Degueuldre

Sergeant Major at Arms: Pierre Lundberg

Quarter Master: Anton Oosthuizen

We have various chapters (Sticks) across the country and each stick has a Stick leader, a Road Captain and a Sgt at Arms as regional officers. We also have international members in Germany, The Netherlands and the USA and our membership currently stands at about 97 current members with military ranks ranging from Rifleman to General.

Webpage: [airborneriders.co.za](http://airborneriders.co.za)

On this the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PVO the ARMC wishes you well as the ARMC also celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> year of existence!

REGROUP and AIRBORNE.

Kind regards, Johan Kruys

President: ARMC



## LAARSA

Greetings Airborne Brothers!!

A hearty and sincere congratulations to the PVO on their 5th Anniversary. As anyone would know who has engaged in setting up an organisation would know is not an easy task....an even a harder task to lead such an organisation. We at LAARSA wish you all the success and growth in the coming years and will support PVO where and when possible. A lot is said in the Parabat community about the various organizations and their existence in parallel and even question the validity of the various organisations. Bottom line is they all serve the Airborne community and their various needs and wants... and in my humble opinion that is all that counts. There have been various attempts since the early 80's to bring the Airborne brotherhood together under a single canopy. As simple as this may sound it harbours huge complexities and of course the stubbornness of Airborne soldiers, which is an embedded DNA does not make this task simpler. So various organisations have existed, were created, flourished, died and have had mixed successes.

One of our original LAARSA members Aulf Pettersen has helped put together a timeline of the various surviving Canopies a lot of this is dependent on memory so apologies up front to those he got wrong and or omitted...

### **SA Para Association: "Valskerm Bond"**

A brief ramble over some "facts" / "events" which may be of interest?

Due to the passage of time, some "facts" may prove to be a little less than factual, if so, please accept my apologies! For spelling of names, and other inaccuracies as well!

This may serve to illicit response from others with more/ better information.

Will start with a "National meeting" at the Drill Hall in the early 80's.

Attended by +/- 75/150 Paratroopers.

Presided over by Brig Du Plessis (I think?) – the one known (in jest) by the troops as "Dom Dup".

Issues discussed were the Constitution of the "Bond" and participation at a gathering of "Free world" paratroopers in Israel (Mat Loots/ Morne Coetzer, inter alia, could elaborate on this). This I believe was the beginning ..

### **Cape Canopy**

At least one, if not both Wiley brothers were present. I think AO1 Loftus was also there (Cape Canopy) along with Andrew Standish-White (a Rhodie I think?), whose claim to fame on his business card, apart from being an arms dealer and initiator of insurrections, coups etc, was that of a "Non artificial insemination expert"

The taller Wiley (not Mark?) made some strong observations about the constitution (with suggestions in the alternative) and the way forward in general.

At that point, there were Canopies in Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town.



It subsequently transpired, some years later that, apparently due to the proximity of high-ranking serving persons in Bloemfontein and Pretoria, and the associated formal nature of proceedings, troops appeared reluctant to become actively involved in these Canopies?

In Johannesburg, we met at the President Hotel (opposite Park Station), then at Wits command (near Jack Mincer parking facility) and then at the "Old Fort" in Braamfontein.

In 1986/7, I was transferred to the Eastern Cape by my employer, and the Late Kevin Beck succeeded me, on an interim basis(?) as Chair of the Jhb Canopy.

Over the subsequent years the "Canopies" folded one after each other. The sole survivor being the Cape Canopy who has since continued independently and continues still.

### **LAARSA (Legion of Associated Airborne South Africa)**

In 1986 that there appeared to be some Airborne guys who wanted to start their own association, and that a meeting/s was to take place at the Mudhoek Shellhole in Springs (Shellhole now defunct).

I attended one meeting at this venue when up on business from the Eastern Cape.

Unfortunately, several persons involved at that point are no longer with us however Geoff Wade, Liefie Van Vuuren, Matt Loots, Hans Human and Dave McVay, inter alia, may be able to shed light on this (apparently Monty Brett was also supportive of this initiative).

Upon my return from the Eastern Cape in 1990, Laarsa was already established 1987, and meeting in Benoni.

The Johannesburg Canopy at this point were meeting at Old Johannian's, where Kevin Derek and John Parkin – I am not sure in which order, had succeeded Kevin Beck as interim Chairperson.

The Johannesburg Canopy ceased to function at a point, and in the early 2000's John Parkin arranged with Peter Manderson for the assets and funds of the Jhb Canopy to be transferred to LAARSA, by virtue of LAARSA, being well established with strong local support and many country members. LAARSA was also similar organization covering the Jurisdiction that the Jhb Canopy had covered as well as nationally and internationally. LAARSA also embraces all Nationality's qualified Paratroopers as full members on providing the necessary proof of Qualifications.

So, my fellow Airborne brothers, the challenge we face is to keep these various Airborne Associations going and the only way to do it is with your support. The Associations are there to serve the Paratrooper and we at LAARSA welcome any Qualified Paratrooper to join us in Brotherhood, join us at our meetings and see old faces, have a beer, enjoy the time with like minded people. Even better, join us at any one of our many social get togethers and events. Look forward to seeing you when the Covid Pandemic eases. We are a dying breed so don't put it off. Stay safe look after yourselves and each other. Remember our fallen at all times.... and never forget our brothers that never came home. God Bless!!

Airborne Greeting!

Mark Tapson

Jumpmaster

LAARSA



## CMVO/RMVO

### MESSAGE FROM CMVO CHAIRMAN TO THE PVO

It is my pleasure and honour to congratulate you as paratrooper veterans on the fifth birthday of your veteran organisation. As loyal members of the Council of Military Veteran Organisations your inputs at various occasions were and remain valuable. You and your representatives have acquitted yourselves very professionally and it can be seen in the creative and inspirational way you conduct your organisation's business.

Like most soldiers, but especially those members of the teeth arms who participated physically at the sharp end of operations, the paratroopers formed unique bonds based on what one can only call soldierly comradeship. "Soldierly comradeship" develops due to tough training and sharing hardships that those who never were soldiers, cannot fathom, nor understand. It is also there because you saw and experienced phenomena during battlefield situations that creates a special tie among each other due to various circumstances; members supporting each other spiritually and physically in a way only soldiers can, tenacity and acts of bravery - of which many went unnoticed and unrecognised, and pride of being part of and able to contribute to something bigger than the individual itself.

I wish that you will continue into the future in the same spirit you are exhibiting now. Enjoy your comradeship and be proud that you were and still is part of a very selective and unique community.

Genl Lawrence Smith