



the Generals VOICE

TIM LUKIN SHELLHOLE
NEWSLETTER



No: 01 of 2026

I'm a little bit older, a little bit wiser, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser.
Robert Paul

JANUARY 2026

From the General's Desk

Welcome back, members!

We're looking forward to a successful 2026, and if the year behaves itself, we'll make it to December without someone inventing a new cryptocurrency for houseplants. 😊

We're pleased to share our first, brief newsletter for 2026. From next month, we look forward to featuring a serialised story from one of our fellow Moths. So be on the lookout for it.

We hope everyone enjoyed a fantastic festive break, filled with good company, good cheer, and minimal overindulgence (although we accept that evidence to the contrary may exist).

The Executive team extended their best wishes and encouraged members to embrace the new year with renewed energy, enthusiasm, and perhaps slightly looser belts.

Our first meeting of the year saw 37 Moths on parade and one slightly outnumbered visitor. Fortunately, the visitor, Mark, proved he could hold his own and attended with the intention of joining as a member, which means he clearly knew what he was getting himself into...



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The Adjutant expressed mild disappointment that we had only one visitor, recalling the days when meetings attracted as many as twenty visitors. However, Moth Ian wisely pointed out that the drop in visitor numbers is largely because most of those visitors have since joined the Shellhole, which we will choose to interpret as a sign of success rather than declining popularity.

STEPPING DOWN

The Deputy Old Bill announced his intention to step down at the end of the current Moth year, after serving in the role for more than five years. He confirmed that he will remain an active member on the floor, where he will no doubt continue to provide guidance, support, and the occasional well-timed comment from the sidelines.



Members are encouraged to consider suitable candidates for the position. Should more than one nomination be received, a voting process will be conducted, democratically, respectfully, and possibly with mild lobbying over refreshments. Here's to a productive, enjoyable, and memorable year ahead.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Join us on 14 March at the Edenvale Bowling Club for a festive celebration of Irish craic that is guaranteed to boost your South African spirits.

Prepare for an adventurous journey along an Irish road through enchanted landscapes, folklore, and heroic tales, which will make perfect sense after a few Guinness.



Expect lively entertainment, a warm Irish atmosphere, and the sort of laughter that only good friends, family, and true Shellhole camaraderie can create.

A cash bar will be available to keep the cheer flowing in a responsible manner, or at least in a manner that sounds responsible when you explain it the next morning.

For table bookings & Banking details

Contact:

Colin Byrne: 063-753-0782

Veronica Snyman: 071-339-0162

R150.⁰⁰ per person (Includes Dinner, Dance Fun & Games)



COMING SOON – SHELLHOLE TALK: THE NYADZONIA RAID

Join Tim Lukin Shellhole on **1 March 2026 at 11am** for a fascinating and informative presentation exploring the Nyadzonja (Nyadzonya) Raid, one of the most debated operations of the Rhodesian Bush War.

Piet McNeilagh, our speaker will provide historical insight into the event, unpacking the background, military strategy, and broader context surrounding the operation. He will also examine how the raid unfolded, highlighting the tactics used during its execution.

The presentation will conclude with an interactive question-and-answer session, allowing members to engage and share perspectives.

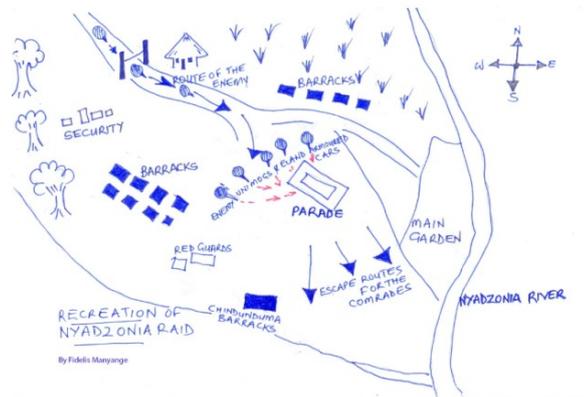


Figure 1: An artistic recreation of the Nyadzonja Raid by Rhodesian Forces on August 9 1976 Drawn by Fidelis Manyange

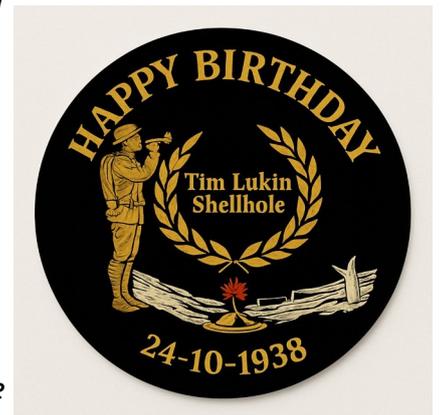
Make a Note of the Date: 1st of March 2026, 11am

BIRTHDAYS — JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

Happy Birthday to our Moths:

- 🎉 **Bruce O'Hare 08th January:** Bruce, we hope your birthday marched past in perfect formation, with a celebratory drink or two that didn't break ranks!
- 🎉 **Cliffed Byrne 16th January:** Cliffed, may your year be filled with good health, great friends, and absolutely no one asking you to explain your first name again.
- 🎉 **Hilton Humby 16th January:** Hilton, another year older and still checking out later than the rest of us. Hope your birthday was five-star all the way!
- 🎉 **Corrie Jansen 19th January:** Corrie, may your birthday have been like a good parade — well organised, full of cheer, and ending with refreshments!
- 🎉 **Colin Watson 24th January:** Colin, another candle on the cake means another excuse to sit down and supervise while others do the work. Enjoy it!
- 🎉 **Sue Voorhout 24th February:** Sue, wishing you a birthday filled with laughter, joy, and enough cake to count as a balanced diet!

🍷 **Cheers to all — and thank you for keeping the spirit of MOTH alive and thriving!**



GUEST SPEAKERS WANTED FOR 2026

(WARNING: AUDIENCE MAY LAUGH, LEARN, OR CRY)

Got a cracking story to tell?

Know something fascinating, obscure, or oddly useful?

Can you hold a room hostage, like in a good way, for 20–30 minutes?

Tim Lukin Shellhole is on the hunt for guest speakers to keep our 2026 meetings lively, enlightening, and only mildly unruly.

If you've got tales of military history, unusual adventures, or specialist knowledge we never knew we needed (but now can't live without), step forward.

Don't be shy! The floor is yours and we promise to listen...

Interested? Contact Moth Martin on 084-371-8120.

We'd love to hear from you!



In Closing...

For the month of February we have found a few flavoured dose of beautifully unreliable reality:

1. **The Parade That Wouldn't Dismiss**

One February evening, a MOTH parade was called to attention and clearly dismissed—yet no one managed to leave. For nearly an hour, veterans stood politely chatting in formation, later agreeing the Sergeant Major's voice was heard after he'd already gone home.

2. **The Shellhole Bar That Served Yesterday**

At a coastal Shellhole, Moths ordering a round in February were repeatedly handed drinks they remembered ordering the night before. The barman denied everything, though the till reflected sales made "during operations, circa unknown."

3. **The Bugle Call Nobody Sounded**

Just before sunset one February, a perfect Last Post echoed across a memorial garden with no bugler in sight. Every Moth present removed his hat automatically—several insisting the call was sharper, cleaner, and somehow disappointed in them.

4. **The Clock That Refused the 14th**

On a single February 14th, a town hall clock skipped the day entirely, leaping from the 13th to the 15th at midnight. Couples celebrated anniversaries that technically never happened, insisting the love still counted.

5. **The Valentine's Dance Where Nobody Blinked**

Attendees at a lavish February 14th ballroom reportedly noticed, about halfway through the evening, that none of the musicians had blinked once. When the music stopped, the band simply packed up and left in perfect synchronisation, while guests discovered their dance cards had been filled in with partners they did not remember meeting—but strongly suspected they had married.

Editor's Note:

All events above are, of course, recorded exactly as remembered—never as they actually happened. Any resemblance to real Moths, Shellholes, buglers, or sentient braai fires is purely coincidental and should not be raised at the bar unless you're buying the next round.

USEFUL & INTERESTING LINKS

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[MOTH Beginnings](#)

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[Tim Lukin Shellhole Official Page](#)

[MMA's Facebook Page](#)

[Military Veteran Websites to Visit](#)

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JOIN THE MOTHs - WE NEED YOU!

Ever wondered what happens behind those Shellhole doors? It's not all parades and poppies, there's plenty of laughter, friendship, shared stories, and good-hearted banter too!

Whether you're a veteran or simply someone who values camaraderie, service, and remembrance, you'll find a warm welcome in the MOTHs. We're always looking for good people who believe in *True Comradeship, Mutual Help, and Sound Memory*. These are the values that hold our Order together.

Curious? Come see for yourself!

If you'd like to learn more or attend a meeting, reach out to your local Shellhole for details.

For information on how to join TIM LUKIN MOTH Shellhole Contact: Deputy Old Bill Jose: 082-561-2990