



the Generals VOICE

TIM LUKIN SHELLHOLE
NEWSLETTER



No: 04 of 2026

"When I hear somebody sigh, 'Life is hard,' I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'" Sydney J. Harris

MAY 2026

From the General's Desk

Old Bill Colin opened the May meeting at 10:00, welcoming Moth Members, MOTHWA, past Executives, Friends and Visitors, with 33 members on parade and 19 visitors, 9 apologies and 6 members on sick leave.

Moth Veronica conveyed a message on behalf of Deputy Old Bill Jose. He wishes to thank all members who phoned, contacted, or sent messages to him. He sincerely appreciates the support and kind gestures. We wish him a speedy recovery and find healing with each and every day!

REMEMBERING OUR FELLOW MOTH

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear fellow Moth, Clive Richard Prince—Moth Membership No. 202508-194911-0324-27201.

Clive joined Tim Lukin Shellhole on the 3rd of August, 2025, and though his time among us was brief, the bond of brotherhood he shared with us will endure far beyond this earthly life. He is gone, but never forgotten.

In his honour, a plaque bearing his name will be unveiled at Dickie Fritz at the Wall of Remembrance on the 14th of June, 2026, at approximately 11am, following Tim Lukin's meeting; a fitting and lasting tribute to a Moth who, like so many before him, answered the final call.

May he rest in eternal peace.

We will remember him!

Once a Moth, always a Moth.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

CLIVE RICHARD PRINCE

Born
02 NOVEMBER 1949

Passed away
07 MAY 2026

*A life well lived,
a heart of gold,
forever loved,
never forgotten.*

VENUE
Duckies Fritz moth Hall

DATE
14th May - Thursday

TIME
11am

*Cash bar,
platters provided*

This month we continue Moth Athol's account of his years in the BSAP. A career that took him across Rhodesia during some of its most turbulent decades, and transitioned into Zimbabwe during the uneasy calm that followed independence. Parts Five and Six pick up where we left off: a brand-new constable, barely a week into his first rural posting, boards a bus in full uniform, strikes up a conversation with a stranger, and through nothing more than sharp eyes and sharper instincts sets in motion a remarkable discovery.

Parts Seven and Eight, the final chapters of Athol's BSAP story, will appear in the June edition. We are grateful to Moth Athol for sharing these memories with such candour and detail, and we look forward to bringing his account to its conclusion next month.

PART 5: THE CONSTABLE WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE'D FOUND

A remarkable arms cache discovery in post-independence Zimbabwe, late 1981

By late 1981, Zimbabwe had been independent for just eighteen months. The liberation war which had pitched ZIPRA forces, aligned with Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU, against the Rhodesian Security Forces across Matabeleland had formally ended with the Lancaster House Agreement in December 1979.



Figure 1: Constable on bicycle patrol

Rhodesia became Zimbabwe on 18 April 1980. But peace, as anyone who served in that region could tell you, was more a declaration than a condition. The countryside still held its secrets.

I was stationed at ZR Police Filabusi, in the Gwanda district of Matabeleland. One of the first things I had reinstated when I arrived was rural bicycle patrol a solitary constable on a push-bike, riding out into what we still called the Tribal Trust Lands, which were in the process of being renamed Communal Lands. The job was straightforward enough: visit the headmen and chiefs, check trading store

licences, call on schools, look in on the kraals of wanted persons. The time spent varied depending on what was happening. Nothing about it sounded dramatic. It rarely was.

A fresh constable had just arrived at Filabusi, straight out of depot. I won't use his real name; let's call him Constable Dube. He was clearly a bright lad, and the Sergeant Major decided, after perhaps a week, that it was time he learned the area the old-fashioned way on a bicycle. Section Officer G, a sharp and experienced man who had risen through the ranks of the BSA Police before transferring to the Zimbabwe Republic Police, gave Dube his briefing. Then Dube was off.

In those days, police officers travelled by bus at no charge an arrangement that seemed to function on the unspoken understanding that the officer would not make note of how drastically the vehicle was overloaded. The buses operating in the Filabusi area, Matabanudzo and Shu-Shine, were 64-seater that routinely carried far more than that. The roof racks were something to behold: goats trussed by their legs, chickens in baskets, suitcases, sacks, and occasionally a passenger who hadn't found room below. Dube stowed his bicycle up there, found a seat inside, and settled in.

PART 6: THE CAN OF ENGINE OIL

Following a directive from Police General Headquarters, members of the force were now required to travel in uniform as the war was over, and the visibility of law enforcement in the communal areas was considered important. Dube was dressed accordingly, which meant his travelling companion, whoever he turned out to be, had no illusions about who he was sitting next to. Dube told me afterwards that as the bus made its way through the bush, he got to talking with the man beside him. Conversation, for a new constable on his first patrol, was part of the job. But something didn't sit right. The man's story had gaps in it. Inconsistencies. And then there was the five-litre can of engine oil sitting at his feet.



Dube asked about it. The man said he was heading to Filabusi to service a vehicle. It was a reasonable enough explanation on the surface, but when Dube pressed further, the account started to unravel. The fellow couldn't quite hold his story together. Dube was barely a week out of depot, but he had good instincts, and the instinct told him something was wrong.

He made a decision. He produced his handcuffs, manacled the man, called to the driver to stop, and the two of them got off the bus at the side of the road. Dube retrieved his bicycle from the roof rack, took possession of the oil can, and waited in the sun for the next bus back to Filabusi.

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When he marched the man into my office, stood to attention, and gave me a very crisp salute, his words were something I have never forgotten. 'Sir, I've arrested this man. I don't know what he's done, but he's done something.' I told him to go and see Section Officer G. About half an hour later, Section Officer G reported back. The arrested man was a former combatant, a ZIPRA fighter who had passed through one of the Assembly Points set up after the ceasefire in the Silalachani area of Filabusi, part of the process by which former insurgents were to be integrated or demobilised. He had not, however, surrendered everything. He had hidden away his personal AK-47 somewhere out in the bush before reporting to the Assembly Point. Now, with independence well established and the formal structures of law enforcement reasserting themselves across Matabeleland, he had decided to put that weapon to use by robbing buses. The engine oil was for the rifle. He needed to bring it back into service.

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**

Moth Athol Estment served as Officer in Charge, ZRP Filabusi, from late 1980 to late 1981.

BIRTHDAYS — MAY 2026

Happy Birthday to our Moths:

🕒 Irene Blaikie	05th May
🕒 Heath Fourie	09th May
🕒 Ian Weinmann	09th May
🕒 Cecilia Brittle	10th May
🕒 Hayley Fourie	16th May
🕒 Mark Mocca	19th May
🕒 Sven Smuts-Muller	21st May
🕒 Athol Estment	24th May
🕒 Jonathon Maylon	25th May
🕒 Jose Coimbra	28th May



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

Venue: Edenvale Bowling Club
Address: 172 6th Avenue, Edenvale
Date: 27-June 2026
Time: 6pm for 6:30
Dress: Rocky Horror Theme
Cost: R180/person **(Includes Meal & Music)**
(Payment secures your place. No tickets sold at the door)
Contact: Veronica: 071-339-0162
Jean: 083-442-3771

TIM LUKIN'S THE ROCKY HORROR EVENING.

Come on over to Tim Lukin's Rock Horror Evening!

**GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO ABSOLUTE PLEASURE,
A NIGHT OF DARK DELIGHTS BEYOND ALL MEASURE.**

**PULL ON YOUR FISHNETS, YOUR CAPE, AND YOUR TIGHTS
COME, LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN TONIGHT!**

**SO DRESS TO THRILL AND JOIN OUR CELEBRATION!
! SEE YOU SHIVER WITH ANTICI.....PATION!**

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(Includes Meal and Music by Mark G)

Payment secures your place

(NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR)

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In Closing...

Chappies "Did You Know" wrappers provided great entertainment providing fun facts and trivia. The feature became so popular that the Chappies brand had captivated 90% of the South African market share by the late 1970s.

Chappies the Google of our youth!

Here are 5 outrageous facts that you possibly did not know.

Did You Know?

1. Australia Declared War on Birds — and Lost (1932)

The Australian military was deployed to cull a plague of emus ravaging farmland. Armed with machine guns, they fired thousands of rounds. The emus scattered, regrouped, and carried on. The army withdrew in defeat. The emus remain undefeated to this day.

2. A Dead Jockey Won a Race (1923)

Frank Hayes suffered a fatal heart attack mid-race at Belmont Park, New York — yet his body stayed in the saddle long enough for his horse to cross the finish line at 20-1. He remains the only jockey in history to win a race posthumously.

3. Boston Was Flooded with Molasses (1919)

A massive industrial tank in Boston burst, sending a tidal wave of molasses surging through the streets at 35 miles per hour, killing 21 people and injuring 150. Residents reportedly claimed the area smelled of treacle for years afterwards.

4. The Americans Bombed Oregon with a Whale (1970)

Oregon's highway division decided the most sensible way to dispose of a beached whale was to blow it up with explosives. Blubber rained down on spectators. No one, apparently, had thought to ask a marine biologist first.

5. The Battle of Los Angeles Was Against Nothing (1942)

Following the attack on Pearl Harbour, the Coast Artillery Brigade fired anti-aircraft shells and machine guns into the Los Angeles sky for hours after radar detected an unidentified object. No enemy aircraft were ever found. The official explanation was "jittery nerves." The aliens, if any, were unharmed.

USEFUL & INTERESTING LINKS

[Visit M.O.T.H. Home Page](#)

[MOTH Beginnings](#)

[Tim Lukin Shellhole Facebook Page](#)

[Tim Lukin Shellhole Official Page](#)

[MMA's Facebook Page](#)

[Military Veteran Websites to Visit](#)

[East Rand District Dugout](#)

[Platinum Provincial Dugout](#)

[MOTHWA Home Page](#)

[Moth Roll Of Honour](#)

GUEST SPEAKERS WANTED FOR 2026

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

Got a story worth sharing?

Do you have knowledge that's fascinating, unusual, or surprisingly useful?

Can you capture an audience's attention for 20–30 minutes (in the best possible way)?

Tim Lukin Shellhole is looking for engaging guest speakers to help make our 2026 meetings lively, interesting, and memorable.

You can speak about military history, unique experiences, or specialised knowledge we didn't even know we needed, we'd love to hear from you.



Step Up! Don't be shy! The floor is yours, and we'll be all ears.

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