



# the Generals Voice

TIM LUKIN SHELLHOLE  
NEWSLETTER



No: 09 of 2025

*Life is not a fairy tale.  
If you lose your shoe at midnight,  
You're drunk!*

## NOVEMBER 2025

### From the General's Desk

Welcome to the 35th edition of our newsletter, quite a milestone since we first launched back in November 2022. Some of you may remember those early days when it was known as *The Outpost*. Since then, our publication has grown, evolved, and found its true voice, hence the fitting name, ***The General's Voice***. All 35 issues are available for download from our Facebook Page, [Tim Lukin MOTH Shellhole](#). On the MOTH webpage they only keep the last 6 issues.

Starting with this issue, we're continuing the spirit of change introduced in October. You'll notice a fresh layout and a new rhythm to the pages. No longer will the adverts, birthdays, "dates to remember," useful links, or Shellhole Charter dates be tucked away at the bottom, instead, they'll appear throughout the newsletter, woven between the articles.

The idea is to make for a more engaging and enjoyable read, something that feels alive and conversational, rather than simply a noticeboard.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the new format.



### 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**

***After all, this newsletter is your voice.***



## SHELLHOLE NEWS

As with all our newsletters, we start off with a little Shellhole news from the coalface. At our penultimate meeting of the year, we were delighted to see 32 Moths on parade – a fantastic turnout that really shows the strength and spirit of our Shellhole as we head towards the end of 2025. We were also privileged to welcome 9 visitors who joined us for our guest speaker and social.



Figure 1: After each meeting, we raise a glass To True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory

Our guest speaker was Ken Schwartz, who shared an engaging presentation that sparked plenty of conversation and reflection.

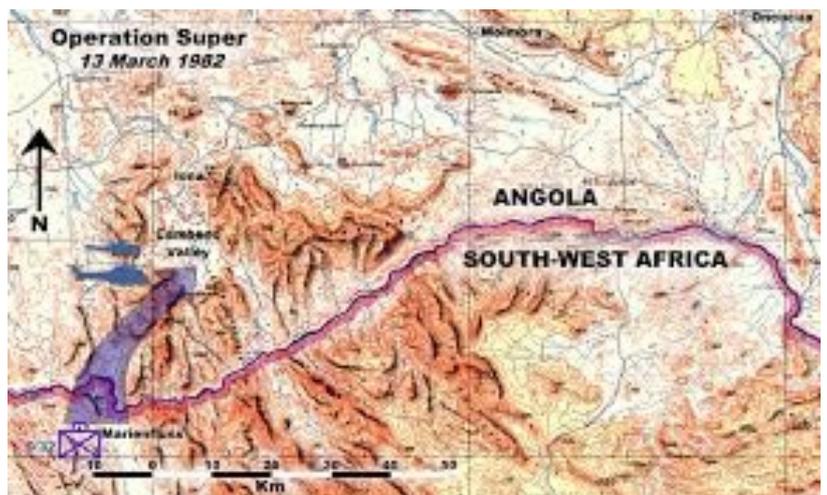
Unfortunately, we currently have 4 Moths in sick bay. Our thoughts are with them and their families during this time, and we wish all our members a full and speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing them back on parade soon.

### **GUEST SPEAKER: KEN SCHWARTZ – OPERATION SUPER**

We had the privilege of hosting Ken Schwartz, a veteran of 32 Buffalo Battalion, who delivered a compelling presentation on *Operation Super*, one of the lesser-known but strategically important engagements of the South African Border War.

#### **CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW:**

In March 1982, South African forces initiated Operation Super to stem the infiltration of SWAPO guerrilla units moving through the remote Kaokoveld region into what was then South West Africa (now Namibia). From the South African perspective at the time, the operation formed part of a broader effort to secure border communities, maintain territorial control, and disrupt the operational reach of insurgent forces.



Ken's presentation explored the historical setting, strategic objectives, and outcomes of the operation, while also offering insight into the realities faced by those on the ground. His talk provided a valuable understanding of how Operation Super fitted into the wider conflict, highlighting both the operational challenges and the human experiences behind the headlines of that era.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS WANTED FOR 2026**

Tim Lukin Shellhole is looking for guest speakers to share interesting talks or presentations during our 2026 meetings. Your talk will be around 20–30 minutes in length.



If you're interested in presenting a chat, please contact Moth Martin on 084-371-8120.

*We'd love to hear from you!*

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## **NOVEMBER – WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

⊗ *November stands as a time of remembrance. A month when we pause to honour those who served, suffered, and sacrificed so that others might live in peace. We remember the men and women who stood their post with courage, who answered the call when duty required, and whose journeys ended far from home, family, and familiar ground.*

⊗ Their stories, though sometimes quiet or unspoken, live on in the hearts of those who served beside them and in the communities they helped protect.

⊗ We honour their memory not only in ceremonies or silence, but in how we choose to live, with integrity, loyalty, and compassion for one another.

*May we never forget their sacrifice.  
May their courage guide us forward.  
Lest we forget.*



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## **BIRTHDAYS — DECEMBER**

Happy Birthday to Moths:

⊗ Lynette Brockway	12 <sup>th</sup> December
⊗ Tokkie Weinmann	17 <sup>th</sup> December
⊗ Rocky Beyleveld	23 <sup>rd</sup> December
⊗ Neville Boner	23 <sup>rd</sup> December
⊗ David Harris	23 <sup>rd</sup> December
⊗ Frida Holland	25 <sup>th</sup> December
⊗ Ronnie Botha	27 <sup>th</sup> December
⊗ Debbie Purvis	27 <sup>th</sup> December



*Wishing you all the best on your special day.  
May it be filled with joy, laughter, and wonderful memories!*

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## **WHAT IS FAST FASHION?**

*(Written by Moth Kira Sparrow)*

Fast fashion is a business model focused on rapidly producing high volumes of inexpensive clothing that replicates the latest catwalk trends and fads around the globe. It is all about turning catwalk trends into cheap clothing — fast.

**The problem?** Millions of garments are made each week, most worn only a handful of times before landing in the bin.

### **FAST FASHION: THE HIDDEN CRISIS IN YOUR CLOSET**

That R99 top you bought last week? It's costing South Africa more than you think. Every year, South Africa dumps over 300,000 tonnes of textile waste into landfills. To put that in perspective,

## Thrift Shop & 'FUN'draising for Animal Welfare

Supporting animal rescue organisations  
and initiatives through:

- ✓ Pre-loved & new item sales
- ✓ Donation drop-off point  
*A convenient spot for donations.*
- ✓ Event setup & coordination  
*Hassle-free fundraising support.*

NPC number: 2025/368391/08  
www.sparrowwings.co.za

079 291 1367 // hello@sparrowwings.co.za  
Shop 3, North Road, Eastleigh, Edenvale



we're filling 1,400 Olympic-sized swimming pools with discarded clothing annually. And it's getting worse.

### **THE SHEIN EFFECT**

The explosion of ultra-fast-fashion giants like Shein has turbocharged our throwaway culture. With rock-bottom prices and thousands of new styles dropping weekly, we've been conditioned to see clothes as disposable. Wear once, photograph, discard. Repeat.

### **THE BRUTAL TRUTH**

Over 90% of textile waste in SA

goes straight to landfill. Only a tiny fraction gets reused or recycled. But here's what most people don't know: those "donated" clothes you feel good about? Many are such poor quality they can't even be resold. They're shipped to other African countries, where they either become waste or get down-cycled into industrial rags—which eventually hit landfills anyway.

### **WHY FAST FASHION IS A WASTE DISASTER**

The problem isn't just what happens when you throw clothes away. It starts at production, where 10-15% of fabric becomes scrap. It continues when polyester garments shed microplastics with every wash. And it ends when those synthetic fibres sit in landfills for 200+ years, slowly releasing toxins into our soil and water.

Meanwhile, South Africa lacks the infrastructure to recycle textiles at scale. Mixed fibres (polyester-cotton blends) make recycling complex and expensive. Our landfills are choking, and cheap imports are crushing local manufacturers who maintain higher standards.



### **GOOD NEWS ALERT**

Local initiatives like The Clothing Bank are training unemployed people to repurpose donated clothing, while upcycling brands are turning textile waste into new products.

### **YOUR 5-MINUTE ACTION PLAN AND WHAT YOU CAN DO**

There is hope. Local initiatives like The Clothing Bank are training people to repurpose waste, and a growing number of upcycling brands are turning trash into treasure. Critically, the government is exploring *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)* policies, which would hold brands financially responsible for managing their products' end-of-life.

As consumers, our choices are powerful. We can:

 Buy less, choose better – Quality over quantity wins

-  *Go local* – Support SA brands with ethical standards
-  *Thrift it* – Second-hand shopping is treasure hunting
-  *Learn to mend* – YouTube has thousands of repair tutorials
-  *Recycle right* – Find textile-specific drop-off points



### ***YOUR ACTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE***

Join our mission to reduce textile waste and support animals in need. Your next donation and or purchase at our charity shop, *On the Wings of a Sparrow*, makes a world of difference. Together, we can divert clothing from landfills and create a more sustainable future.

By changing our habits and supporting positive initiatives, we can help shift the fashion industry away from waste.

*The question is: what will your closet say about you?*

### ***TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY AT THE TIM LUKIN SHELLHOLE CHRISTMAS PARTY!***

Join us on Sunday, 7 December after our last meeting of the year from 11 AM at The Ridgeback for a festive day guaranteed to lift your spirits. If you'd like to join us for our meeting we start at 10 sharp.

We're firing up a adventurous spit braai, featuring beef infused with garlic and bay leaves, savoury marinated chicken, and herb-rubbed pork — all served with roasted veggies, fresh bread rolls, and the South African king of desserts: malva pudding with sticky sauce. Come hungry; leaving magie vol, ogies toe.

There'll be live entertainment, a warm Christmas atmosphere, and the kind of laughter that only good friends, family, and Shellhole camaraderie can produce.

A cash bar will keep the cheer flowing — responsibly, of course... mostly.

***Spit Braai – R200 p/p***  
***Contact Colin Byrne: 063-753-0782***

**End-Of-The-Year Christmas Party**  
 Join Tim Lukin Shellhole for a festive Christmas party at the Ridgeback (115 Dickie Fritz Ave, Dowerglen, Edenvale)  
**December 7th, from 11 AM**  
 Spit Braai - R200 per Person (EFT to RSVP)  
 Friends & Family Welcome!  
 Live Entertainment  
 Christmas Theme  
 Cash Bar  
 Contact Colin Byrne: 063-753-0782

*Let's wrap up the year with great company, great memories, and the kind of Christmas spirit you definitely won't find in a shopping mall.* 🎄🍷

### ***USEFUL 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](#)