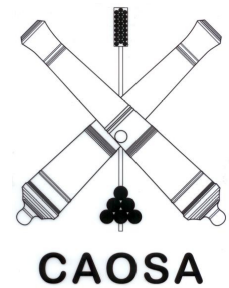


CANNON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
Gunners Room, The Castle of Good Hope
Cape Town.



NEWSLETTER No. 44 October 2012

A service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

CHANGES WITHIN CAOSA

The recent resignation of our Chairman, Fanus van der Merwe, came as a surprise to all. Fanus has left behind a re-invigorated Committee with new ideas and some new slants on existing arrangements. In his short term in office he has formalised the training documentation, made progress in getting CAOSA registered by the SAPS and initiated a project to upgrade and improve our constitution.

On behalf of all members we thank Fanus for his endeavours and wish him well in his new pursuits.

Patrick Shannon has been appointed caretaker Chairman until the next AGM.

THE 12 Pdr FINBANKER ON TYGERBERG (Durr 8)

The Friends of Tygerberg Reserve appointed me to refurbish the new gun, bring it into firing order and ensure its preservation. To this end Olivia and I have treated the rusty areas of the gun, painted the repaired areas with cold galvanising and painted the gun black. The vent has been drilled out and the front half of the bore cleared of rubbish, stones and sand. The carriage was strengthened with a bracing bar, sanded down and varnished with RUBOL. A rubber tampion (bore plug) has been made and fitted. Jurg Zimmerman will oversee the required proof firing.

THE CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE

Monday 24 September was Heritage Day and there were various activities at the Castle. The larger than expected crowds witnessed the usual hourly cannon firings, enjoyed conducted tours of the highlights of the Castle with guides in period costume, went on carriage and horse rides and invaded the newly opened CAOSA office where models and photographs were on display. Members of CAOSA also demonstrated and fired several cannon in the rear courtyard. A good time was had by all.

CAOSA, C/o Military Museum, Castle of Good Hope, P.O. Box 1, Cape Town, 8000 Email:
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EXCO: Patrick Shannon (Acting Chairman), Johan Brand (Secretary), John Farelo (Treasurer), Harry Croome, Patrick Jacobs

6 Pdr ON PERDEBERG (Durr 366)

Chris and Judy New are the custodians of this 6 pdr Finbanker which formed part of the old Dutch call-up system. Judy has been bugging me for years to clean it up, paint it and mount it on a carriage. Alfred Bangi and I cut all the wood for a simple carriage i.a.w. the Dutch specifications but did not assemble it. We took all the tools, generator, paints, fasteners, varnish, oils, lifting equipment and followed directions to the Sky House on the farm. We now understand the name of the house, it is well tucked away against the mountain somewhere in an area where the baboons wear oxygen masks.

The upshot is that Chris and Judy New now have a nice painted gun on a carriage standing below the house and Alfred and I are comparing aches and pains.

CANNON TALK

I was invited to address (in Afrikaans) the *Uitvlug – klub vir mans* in Durbanville on Thursday 20 September. This is situated north of the boerewors curtain and not a word of English was spoken. I was supposed to address a group of about 40 elderly gentlemen for around 15 minutes and then answer any questions that may arise. So great was the interest that the session lasted about an hour and a half and I left there with several gifts and a clear indication that I would be asked to expand on the theme at some later date.

ROYAL CAPE YACHT CLUB

Martin Venter, Peter Wright and Nadine Sheffield responded to a request to fire 10 shots with ¼ pdrs at Chavonne's Battery in support of the RCYC 100 year celebrations. The two guns were fired alternatively by invited dignitaries a few minutes apart.

BIRTHDAY AT KE-MONATE

Ke-Monate is a restaurant on the farm Hooggelegen in the Durbanville area. They have a 6 pdr Finbanker at the restaurant and several other cannon including one Dutch and three Spanish/Portuguese bronze guns.

The two year birthday of the restaurant was celebrated on 19 October with a special function which was begun with a chain of six cannon firing at one minute intervals. Erick Kellerman fired the 9 pdr RML in the rain and mist on top of Hoogeborg, Jurg and MJ de Wit fired the 6 pdr at his residence, Leon fired the 8 pdr, Johan Brand fired the Ke-Monate gun, John Farelo fired the 18 pdr and Fanus van der Merwe completed the chain by firing the 4 pdr Finbanker at the main house.

It all happened without any obvious disruption in rain, mist and cold, thus proving that our members are showing the grit and spirit of true gunners!

CAOSA WEBSITE

Readers are advised that upcoming events are publicised on our website

caosa.org.za

UBIQUE

Gerry de Vries Researcher