

# RAFIKI

(“FRIEND” IN SWAHILI)



Since 16 June 1982

Hello Readers

May I extend a very warm welcome to you all in this the first IPA South Africa Newsletter of 2023. My name is Toni Billing and I have had the privilege of being appointed as your new National Editor on 11 March 2023. I must confess that it was very hard to compile this document as I was totally blown away by the extent of IPA South Africa’s activities. It was overwhelming, to say the least.

Being the “new broom”, I thought I’d jump in the deep end and give our publication its own, individual name, and so “Rafiki” (which, in Swahili, means “friend”) was born. Hate it or love it, let me know at 082 452 7311, I’d love to hear from you!

In the same vein, I’d like to encourage you to share **any** information pertaining to your IPA region with me. Be these successes, failures, birthdays, interesting snippets, photos, past or future events, deaths or births, educational material and courses as well as newsworthy information or statistics. In addition, suggestions or recommendations on how we can make this communication a pertinent and relevant read are welcomed. Let’s “make the circle bigger”!

So ... on to this year’s news ...

As a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the IPA enjoys recognition as an  
“NGO in Consultative (Special) Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations;  
in Consultative Status with the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States and UNESCO;  
and as an International NGO maintaining operational relations with Europol.”

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IPA SOUTH AFRICA  
A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION: 001 - 744

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The IPA International Newsletters were published on the IPA (SA) Executive Group for distribution to IPA members.

Both the April and May editions are now available.

They make for interesting reading and may inspire our regions to undertake some “different” projects.

While on the subject of “International”, I thought it would be interesting for our members to read about a famous Irish tradition

17<sup>th</sup> March - St Patrick’s Day



Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit

***Who was St. Patrick?***

*St. Patrick was a 5<sup>th</sup>-century Christian missionary credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.*

***Did St. Patrick really drive the snakes out of Ireland?***

*The legend of St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland has to do with the Christian triumph over pagan beliefs, not with literal snakes.*

*(Most Irish believe that he actually did drive the snakes out of Ireland and into the sea because the island doesn't have any native snakes.)*

***Was St. Patrick the first missionary to Ireland?***

*St. Patrick was not the first missionary to Ireland but he was the most effective and became the most famous.*

***What is the story of St. Patrick's Day?***

*St. Patrick's Day was originally a religious observance in Ireland, his Feast Day, honouring the day of his death. Irish immigrants brought the observance to the United States in the 19th century where it has since become St. Patrick's Day, honouring Irish culture and heritage.*

***Is St. Patrick the Patron Saint of Ireland?***

*St. Patrick is one of the three patron saints of Ireland along with St. Brigid and St. Columba, but he is the most famous of the three outside of Ireland.*



**ACTIVITIES - MARCH 2023**

On 11 March 2023, Gordon Billing received his IPA 30-year certificate of membership. Congratulations “Babes”.

Timour Hall hosted a gorgeous wedding in March 2023 - bear this in mind as a venue for those tying the knot.

Also, in March - the IPA West Coast District Cricket Team entered the SAPS Western Cape T10 Cricket Tournament. What an energetic bunch they are!



Cape Town IPA hosted a German tour group in March where they enjoyed “police coffee”. IPA West Coast then hosted them the following evening. Hope they survived two nights of IPA “hospitality”.



Kobus van der Westhuizen joined the ranks at Jacaranda IPA as a new Vice-Chairperson ... welcome Kobus, looking forward to hearing from you. How about a picture of the Committee for our Newsletter?

The West Rand IPA held a very successful “Bowls and Braai” function at the Randfontein Bowling Club with 30 attendees of which 24 were players. It was good to see a talented “boeremusiek” musician in action thanks to Oubaas and Co. Lucas Benecke was awarded his 10-year IPA certificate of membership - congratulations Lucas! The new West Rand IPA Gazebo, Flags and Banners certainly made a statement, and the function was mentioned in the Randfontein Herald. An invite was extended for all IPA members to enjoy a Friendship Cup with the West Rand.

Later in March, Timour Hall once again hosted the Earth Fair Food and Craft Market from 09h00 to 15h00 with live music from 12h00. There is a new Kids Corner Craft section with the added attraction being Daisy, Donks and Holly, 3 rescued donkeys. Further activities at the Hall include a weekly Car Boot Market and the Animal Welfare Society of South Africa’s Adoption Day. Please make your way to this wonderful venue if you can!

Members of the IPA West Rand also attended the “Geesfees” in Potchefstroom between 24 - 26 March. It seemed like a blast.

The Johannesburg IPA Region was no slouch either. A kind donation by IPA Member Deon Kruger, consisting of numerous essentials was distributed to the less fortunate. Wonderful gesture gentlemen.



The **closing date** for the **Arthur Troop Scholarship** was **31 March** and I hope that many of you applied for this incredible opportunity. Past winners rave about the experience.

**Meeting of the International Executive Board (“IEB”)  
of the International Police Association (“IPA”)  
Durban - 28 May to 3 June 2023**

The IPA’s IEB has honoured IPA Africa by selecting South Africa for its final physical meeting of 2023, before the IPA World Congress in Athens during October 2023. This will be the first meeting of the International Executives on the African Continent and we appreciate their noteworthy gesture by travelling all the way from Europe to Africa.

The IEB members will arrive on Sunday 28 May with meetings being held on 29 to 31 May. Thereafter there will be excursions for the group on 1 to 2 June, in and around Durban. Some of the members will depart for Europe on Saturday 3 June.

In addition, three IEB members and their spouses will extend their visit by undertaking a 2-night safari trip to Northern Kwazulu-Natal. Thereafter they will spend a few days in Cape Town. Whilst in Cape Town they will be hosted at Timour Hall Villa one evening.

Furthermore, from 29 May to 2 June IPA representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Kenya, Mauritius and South Africa will also attend their own IPA Africa meetings, during which the delegates will meet with the IEB.

IPA South Africa is excited to host the IEB members, their spouses as well as the representatives of the other African Sections and we look forward to fruitful discussions with positive outcomes for the IPA

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## INTERESTING TIDBIT - BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

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You've probably heard the soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar in William Shakespeare's play of the same name: "Beware the Ides of March." Not only did Shakespeare's words stick, they branded the phrase—and the date, March 15—with a dark and gloomy connotation.

It's likely that many people who use the phrase today don't know its true origin. In fact, just about every pop culture reference to the *Ides*—save for those appearing in actual history-based books, movies or television specials—makes it seem like the day itself is cursed. But the Ides of March actually has a non-threatening history. *Kalends*, *Nones* and *Ides* were ancient markers used to reference dates in relation to lunar phases. *Ides* simply referred to the first new moon of a given month, which usually fell between the 13th and 15th. In fact, the Ides of March once signified the new year, which meant celebrations and rejoicing.

Yet when heroes in movies, books and television shows are faced with the Ides of March, it's always a bad omen. Several television shows have had episodes named "The Ides of March." And it's never good news.

One example was in 2011 when Columbia Pictures released *The Ides of March*, a movie about an idealistic campaign staffer who gets a harsh lesson in dirty politics while working for an up-and-coming presidential candidate. The movie involves quite a bit of figurative backstabbing, but it's a pretty clear allegory for the death of Caesar. Again, death and destruction loom.

Did the death of Caesar curse the day, or was it just Shakespeare's mastery of language that forever darkened an otherwise normal box on the calendar? If you look through history, you can certainly find enough horrible things that happened on March 15, but is it a case of life imitating art? Or art imitating life?

Perhaps it was Julius Caesar himself (and not the famous playwright) who caused all the drama. After all, he's the one who uprooted Rome's New Year celebration from their traditional March 15 date to January - just two years before he was betrayed and butchered by members of the Roman senate.



### ACTIVITIES - APRIL 2023

Membership cards were delivered to Timour Hall for collection by the Garden Route, Kannaland and Central Cape Regions - thank you Jakkie.

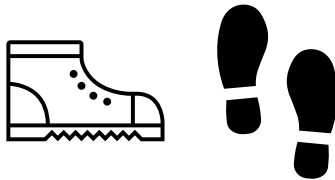
IPA North West also featured prominently in April when the Region's AGM was held at the Algo Hotel. A new Committee was elected and we welcome everyone to the fold. A 30-year certificate was awarded to AM Venter and a 10-year certificate to AG Joubert - congratulations gentlemen! On 15 April Johannesburg IPA held a Mashu Golf Day where they collected second-hand clothing. The donated items were handed to SAPS Elderly Care Fund for distribution to the needy. Donations were gratefully received.

French Toast, a Parisienne-styled restaurant in Hartebeespoort was the venue for a West Rand IPA Committee meeting. The mock Eiffel Tower background really sets the scene for the French toast-inspired menu.

The West Coast IPA enjoyed another energetic experience when they completed the 5km Newlands Forest hike up Table Mountain with the guidance of Marcellino. Carla provided transport and much-needed refreshments for the active group.



It seems the rest of us need to give these folk some competition - let's get those tekkies on!!



**Easter** (Christian), **Pesach** (Jewish) and **Ramadan** (Islam) were celebrated during April and we wished all our members well during the practice of their faith.



A very smart IPA Kannaland met at the K9 canteen in Oudtshoorn to photograph their new turquoise blue IPA shirts - what an uplifting colour! Their plans for the year include a "Rolbal Aand" and helping various identified charities. Retha Louw was the winner of the lucky draw and she won a stunning microwave oven donated by one of the members, "Oom Jan". It's good to see how this Region is growing - well done to all!!



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## THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR 2023

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## JOHANNESBURG REGION 2023 NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The date for the NCM has been confirmed as 2 - 5 November at a venue in Pretoria.

Full details as to costs and venue will be available soon and all indications are that the prices will be close to those of last year's meeting.

Thanks to Claude Malan and his team for their hard work this far. We look forward to a great event.



Our “energiser bunnies” a.k.a. the IPA West Coast celebrated Freedom Day by taking part in a “fun” sports day (*seems like an oxymoron to me* 😊). They took the opportunity to introduce new Constables and new members to the IPA.



IPA North West and the ACE Motorcycle Club conducted a fabulous charity run and Family Day in support of Amelia Care Centre in Potchefstroom, a residential and daycare facility for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities. The event was held at the Workshop in Carletonville and was attended by over 200 people. I drooled over the motorbike photographs, much to Gordon’s dismay!



The proceeds (R10 000 for the home and R3 000 for the “Dart-Club”) were subsequently handed over to the grateful home and its residents.



**PLEASE LET ME KNOW ABOUT IPA BIRTHDAYS**

BIRTHDAYS



**Gordon** - Johannesburg (my hubby so I have to remember the date!) - 29 March

**Harold** - Johannesburg - 28 April

**Tessa** (our esteemed IPA secretary) celebrated her special day on 30 April

**Jakkie** - West Coast - 3 May



On 2 May we received a message from the **IPA International Administration Centre** with a **plea for appropriate content** to promote the Association's **Social Media** channels. Essentially the request is for **one or two good quality photographs** with a **couple of lines of description**. The aim is to increase "likes" and hopefully membership. The following monthly topics are still to be addressed:

June -	Police at National Monuments
July -	Summer Policing (not in the Southern Hemisphere!) e.g. water units, police boats
August -	Police on wheels e.g. motorcycles, bicycles
September -	Police horses
October -	Police cars and vans
November -	Uniforms, badges and hats
December -	Police buildings and architecture



We also received a reminder from the International Body about the 3<sup>rd</sup> worldwide Children's Painting Competition. Members, please urge your children (or grandchildren) to participate. They have a creative spirit in all of them and it should be nurtured wherever possible. Details can be obtained from your Regional Committee.

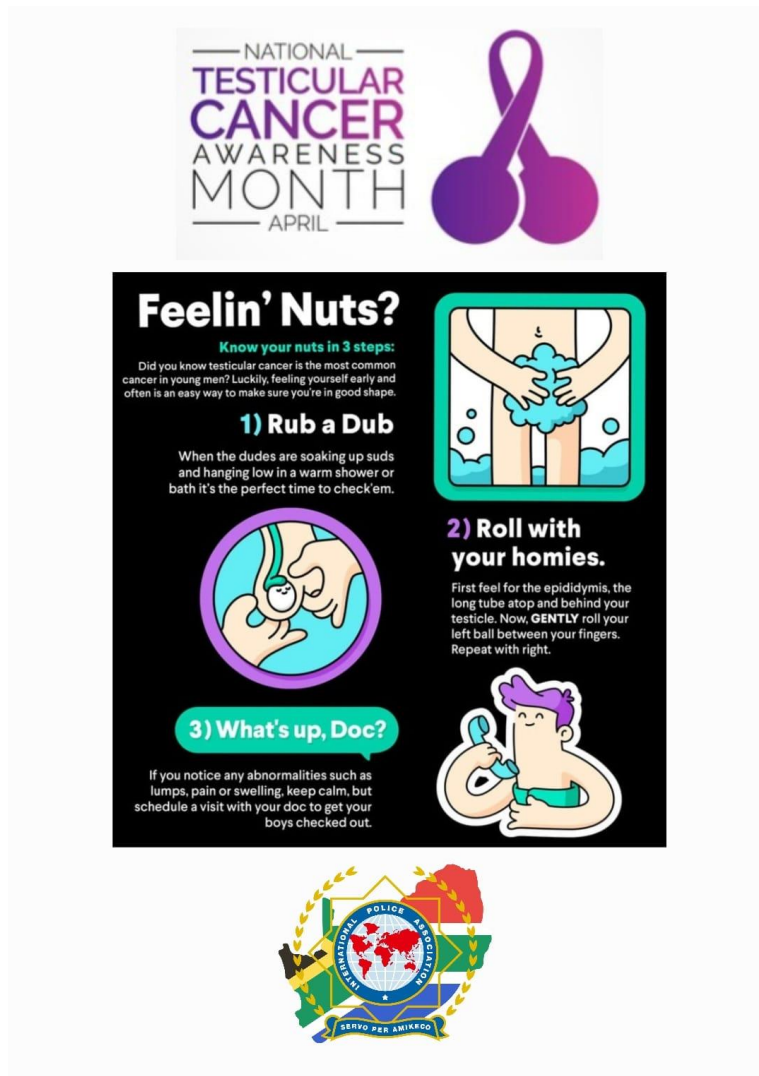
As IPA South Africa we need to contribute as far as possible to showcase our commitment to the IPA so please send us any relevant submissions for the International Body.

IPA South Africa now has its own Instagram page as well, so I urge you to follow it and share appropriate information for posting locally and abroad. The address is *ipasouthafrica* - please let me know if you experience any problems accessing the account.

We received a podcast from Gimborn Castle, the IPA's Education Centre in Germany. Ulrike Neuhoff is the Education Officer who introduces listeners to the Castle, which is seen as one of IPA's flagships. Speak to your Committee if you'd like to listen to the podcast or obtain further information on the Centre.

Elbie Gore, the IPA National Chairperson for Social Wellness and Welfare issued a request that all regions participate in a "Nappy Run". The idea is to combine the normal June "youth" activity with the November "disability" activity in an enjoyable way, to benefit children living with disabilities. So, organise a fun run (that's you West Coast) or a walk (can I join THAT one please) in your region during June and raise cash or provide nappies for a pre-identified organisation in your Region. Use your own initiative to make the event fun yet meaningful by dressing up, sharing a meal, setting up competitive "pit-stops", or whatever works for you. Send us photos and articles.

Unfortunately, I missed Elbie's April initiative which dealt with Testicular Cancer, so here is her lighthearted poster addressing a very serious topic. Gentlemen, please take care of yourselves.



**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH - WE URGE YOU ALL TO TAKE CARE**

### ACTIVITIES - MAY 2023

On 6 May IPA Jacaranda hosted a Bowls Day at Sunnyside Bowling Club. The entry fee included a tasty dinner.

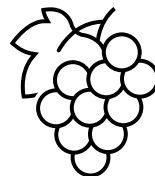
IPA Cape Town Timour Hall hosted a "Bark 4 Bingo" on 13 May. The cost included burgers and proceeds went to a worthy cause.

Timour Hall has also had an amazing facelift!! Jakkie and his team have worked very hard to restore the old girl to her former glory. If you've never stayed there, go and enjoy the revamped accommodation - it's so central to all the attractions that the Cape has to offer.



We received a fabulous invite from IPA New Zealand for the Young Police Officer Seminar and the Strategic Young Person Forum. The event will be held near Wellington in November and will focus on community policing (in the New Zealand context) with further emphasis on technology and innovations. The course will be in English at a cost of £200 per person. This includes accommodation, training and meals as well as transport to and from the airport. It doesn't include flights or travel from outside Wellington. Our young members who are interested in registering can get further details from their Committee and we urge you to register early.

John Rissik Guesthouse in Pretoria was the recipient of a special bottle of wine from Chunky, a target shooting champion from KwaZulu-Natal. Sadly, it appears to be for display purposes, according to the information received.



Johannesburg IPA donated a food parcel, linen, blankets and duvets to an IPA member and his son as well as clothing to the Elderly Care Fund for Retired Police Officials.

They also hosted an event at the Silverstar Barnyard on 4 May. It was a remarkable success being attended by 53 members including a contingent from IPA West Rand, as well as friends and family.



Mondray van Eck, from IPA Garden Route, was awarded the “Best Detective performing office in the Western Cape” and “7<sup>th</sup> in South Africa” for the 2022/2023 financial year. Hearty congratulations Mondray!!



Biscuit Icing Competition ... now that's a new one for the IPA! Johannesburg and West Rand IPA members joined the Moths at their Chilly Trench Shellhole - our congratulations to the brave men who attempted THIS one.



The Roodepoort Record featured the annual Braai Master competition which took place at the Shellhole and IPA West Rand's "baby" braai team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Congratulations to the de Bruin boys and their partners. We are creeping up the ranks! Last year 3<sup>rd</sup> ... next year FIRST. Congratulations to the newbies - IPA Johannesburg - who made their debut and received the "Best Meat of the Day" award.

**A quick "thank you" to the husband and wife duo who "manage" IPA South Africa so well ...**

Dirkie Vos - Chief Administrative Officer

H. (Vossie) Vos - President IPA South Africa



**I hope to feature other IPA Executive Committee Members in due course, so please send me your photos as soon as possible. Thank you.**

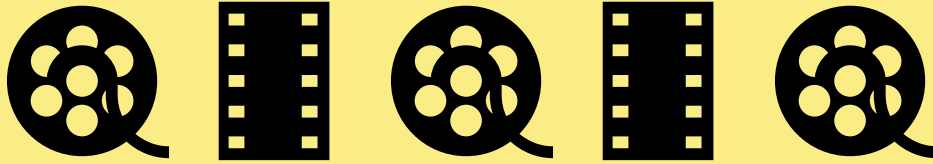


We wish those IPA members who have been ill, a swift and easy recovery.

We remember those who have passed during the last few months with fondness. Someone who comes to mind is a stalwart IPA East Rand member, Ken Southcott, who sadly lost his battle with cancer on 15 March 2023. Rest in peace Ken and our condolences to all your loved ones.

Please remember to let us know how our members are faring. We are a close and caring community who are there to help our members as well as those less fortunate.

## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS



West Rand IPA is planning a Women's Day luncheon on 9 August 2023 at the Vette Mossel in Hartebeespoort from 12h00 to 16h00. The cost is R350 per person and 30 seats have been booked. IPA members and family (including the men in our lives) are welcome but there'll be extra spoils for the ladies! There are prizes for creative outfits so pretend you're on the West Coast and take a barefoot walk on the restaurant's beach. There'll be a delicious 7-course meal and there's a cash bar, although for R100 extra you can bring your own cooler box! Please contact Natasha Calitz directly at 082 399 9915 for further information and payment arrangements.



To our other Regions, please keep me posted on "Forthcoming Attractions" in your area. You never know who is visiting and might wish to join your Region for a meet-and-greet.

I look forward to sharing news from IPA regions around the country in the next RAFIKI.

Please keep the updates coming, we want to know what you've been up to!

Take care and *Servo Per Amikeco*