



### Greetings,

November brings all sorts of fireworks LEFPA's way. Firstly, we feature the eagerly anticipated arrival of the Black Hawk helicopter in Mbombela and secondly you can expect bangs and flashes in your neighbourhood round about the 5th of the month as people celebrate Guy Fawkes. Besides terrifying pets, fireworks present a real fire danger both in and out of town so please use with care. Better yet, don't use them at all.

Another bit of news is the unveiling of the revamped LEFPA website, which has been in the pipeline for some time now. Please take a look through it when you have a moment, [www.lefpa.co.za](http://www.lefpa.co.za).

Until next time.

### Contact Us LEFPA Nelspruit

Corné  
Office :013 752 6419  
Cell : 082 566 2728  
Fax: 086 515 3755  
[admin@lefpa.co.za](mailto:admin@lefpa.co.za)

### Permit Requests

Office: 013 752 6419  
0860 66 34 73  
[permit1@lefpa.co.za](mailto:permit1@lefpa.co.za)  
or  
[permit2@lefpa.co.za](mailto:permit2@lefpa.co.za)

## Duncan Ballantyne Retires from SAPP

LEFPA Chairman Duncan Ballantyne is shortly to take his well-earned retirement from SAPP. LEFPA would like to take this opportunity to thank Duncan for the commitment and dedication he has given the Association since 2001 and hopes that he will complete his current term at LEFPA (ending in March 2019.) Duncan has overseen various portfolios on the LEFPA Executive Committee, including Vice-Chairman and Secretary before being appointed 4th Chairman of LEFPA in April 2009 and he is the longest serving chair to date.



Duncan Ballantyne, a "True Gentleman"

Amongst the friendships forged during his tenure at LEFPA is one between the Scheepers and Ballantyne families, who have shared jokes, fishing outings and a couple of cold ones over the braai. Andre says that he, Ingrid and Maxie view Duncan's retirement as an opportunity to say THANK YOU rather than farewell. He sums up Duncan as a 'True Gentleman', citing a quote by Haruki Murakami in his book, *Norwegian Wood*, "A gentleman is someone who does not what he wants to do, but what he should do."

The LEFPA Board hosted Duncan at a special 'thank you' lunch on 26th October while at the annual end-of-fire-season function on 28th October Duncan was awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to LEFPA. The entire LEFPA team and members used the annual event to give him a rousing send off. Without a doubt, LEFPA is much the richer for Duncan's service. The Board wishes him well in his retirement - he will leave large shoes to fill and has an invitation to drop in for coffee at any time.

## Spectacular Aerial Activity at Ngodwana

Tuesday 17th October saw spectacular displays of flying skill by LEFPA pilots as they repeatedly took off and landed at Ngodwana runway. Five bombers dropped load after load, keeping the Ngodwana Loading Crew on their toes.

The pilots had to contend with a crowded airspace, runway and re-filling station and at one point there were four bombers on the ground while another circled to land.

Exciting stuff indeed and LEFPA salutes our daring airmen.



## Tremendous Excitement As Black Hawk Arrives in Mbombela



Reaching speeds up to 300 kilometres an hour and lifting three tons of water per drop (three times that of the Huey), the latest addition to the Lowveld aerial firefighting fleet is a Sikorsky UH-60A, popularly known as "Black Hawk". The US Army Special Forces aircraft made a name for itself in movies and computer games.

It's the first Black Hawk in Africa and only the second one ever to enter civilian service outside of the United States.

Mark Jackson, owner of Leading Edge Aviation at Nelspruit Airfield is one of the

The Black Hawk dwarfs LEFPA's Andre Scheepers and Duncan Ballantyne along with Mark Jackson of Leading Edge Aviation

most skilled Huey and aerial firefighting pilots in South Africa and all he could do when the Black Hawk finally parked in his hangar was to grin from ear to ear. It took over a year for Mark to import the aircraft into South Africa and during the wait his son Pieter and fellow pilot Tosh Ross underwent intensive flight training in the US to learn how to fly the Sikorsky. Mark will be trained by the US instructor in Nelspruit later this year.

The aircraft has a sleek, modern design along with many new safety features and will be assembled and painted at Leading Edge



Aviation. It will be painted in white and refurbished according to Mark's requirements. Mark loves refurbishing aircraft.

The specialised aircraft and skilled pilots will be used to increase the capacity and effectiveness of the existing aerial firefighting fleet.

## Elandshoogte Runway Revamp

Hannes de Klerk and his team deserve a huge round of applause for their hard work to upgrade the SAPPI Elandshoogte runway. LEFPA pilots will appreciate the excellently marked and surface runway which will assist in safer and faster take-offs and landings when they are most needed - fighting fires. Congratulations Hannes, we commend you on a job well done.



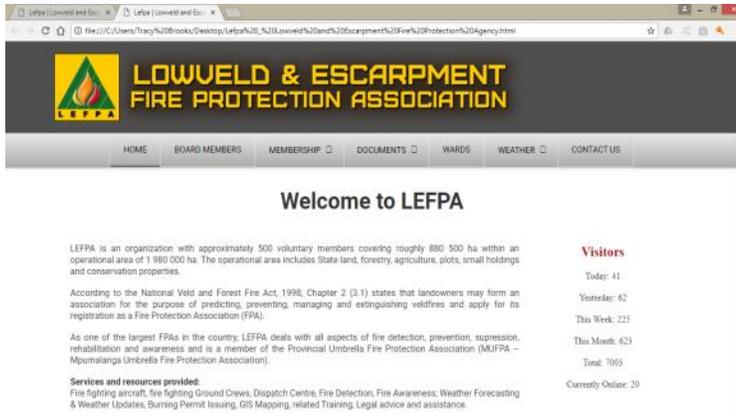
A cockpit view of the runway



## The New LEFPA Website Goes Live

The long overdue and much anticipated revamp of LEFPA's website has finally been completed and we invite all our members to take a look at the new site which retains the old address, [www.lefpa.co.za](http://www.lefpa.co.za). According to web designer Rian Groenewald, the new design offers easier editing enabling more frequent updates. This will ensure in a more dynamic site for users.

The new site runs on a completely new content management system, which provides a better menu structure, mobile friendly layouts and better search engine (SEO) integration, amongst other benefits. What this means for you is a more user friendly site which is easier to navigate, especially from mobile devices.



Please take the new site for a 'test drive' and let us know your thoughts, if you have any problems with the new site or think that we have left out information you'd find useful.

The website is the portal through which LEFPA reaches out to its members and the general public. Having a dynamic, user-friendly and relevant site which is actively used is important for both members and management.

The new home page

## Fireworks in Residential Areas

Part 4 of our series of informative articles presented by Jaco Badenhorst takes a look at the use of fireworks over the Festive season, as South Africans close 2017 with a bang.

The improper use of fireworks is illegal and it is important to remind residents of the strict fireworks regulations and their rights to demand Council action against illegal firework usage. There are designated open places or spaces set aside for members of the public to discharge fireworks in many city centres and other areas around the country, so investigate these in town.

A few facts about fireworks in Gauteng, which should be applicable everywhere -

- Unless special Council authorisation has been applied for and granted, there are only 11 days annually when residents may "light or ignite" fireworks.
- Except for New Year's Eve, the only permissible time for igniting fireworks on these days is between 19h00 and 22h00 (7 to 10 pm).
- No person may light or ignite fireworks in any place where animals are present, including domestic homes.
- No person may allow any minor (child) under his or her control to "use, light or ignite" fireworks. No exceptions to this rule.
- No person may use fireworks on **any** agricultural holding or at any school or senior citizens' residence without special Council authorisation. This authorisation must be sought well in advance of intended day.
- No person may use fireworks within 500 meters of a petrol depot or petrol station without special Council authorisation.
- **Areas where fireworks are to be discharged must be at least 100m from buildings, roads and railway lines.**
- **Areas where fireworks are to be discharged must be at least 20m from telephone and power lines, trees or other overhead obstructions.**
- No person or organisation can "present a fireworks display" unless formally authorised to do so by the Council (at least 14 days' notice before the display is required by Council to consider such an application). Authorisation is also required from the Civil Aviation Authority and the Chief Inspector of Explosives.
- At such a display (should permission be granted) both a pyrotechnics and an SA Police Services explosives expert must be present.
- No person may deal in fireworks (sell or make available) unless they hold a fireworks license in terms of the Explosives Act as well as the written authority of the Chief Fire Officer.



The reign of terror afflicting domestic pets in residential areas when people indiscriminately (and often criminally) ignite noisy fireworks seems to increase every year. Firm enforcement of the by-laws will assist in reducing the noise and panic levels while allowing people to plan for "noisy" periods and producing a quieter, safer environment for all concerned. This concern for pets, children and the elderly is in addition to the very real potential for fire, injury and other safety risks that the improper use of fireworks may bring about. The fire risk is especially high in plantation and bushveld.

Use fireworks legally and responsibly.

## Boven Team Assist in Search for Missing Child

LEFPA has received grateful thanks from Captain AHP Louw, Station Commander Waterval Boven, for the assistance given by the Boven team recently in the search for a missing child. Waterval Boven covers a daunting area of landscape and the firefighters were a tremendous asset to the search. Once again, LEFPA has shown willingness to step beyond fire protection and respond to a need in the community.

**SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIEDIENS**



**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE**

*LETTER OF APPRECIATION: ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO THE POLICE: MISSING PERSON SEARCH: WATERVAL BOVEN*

*Herewith this station wishes to convey our appreciation to your organization.*

*A mentally disabled child, Lunga Simelane, was reported missing at Waterval Boven Police. He was last seen at the FET College in Waterval Boven.*

*Due to the vastness of the terrain surrounding the college the SAPS requested help from Community volunteers in order to search the veld around the college. The group of Firefighters in Waterval Boven joined the search.*

*Without the help of your team, this would have been a daunting task.*

*Please convey our gratitude to all personnel who assisted.*

## LEFPA Rules And Minimum Regulations Booklet Now Available

Good news - the LEFPA Rules and Minimum Requirements booklet has been updated and is available to members. Pick up a copy from LEFPA's offices in Canary Walk Office Park, 8 Bester Street, Mbombela.

The booklet is updated every few years and is packed with useful information as well as the extensive rules and requirements pertinent to land owners residing in the LEFPA area.

The September 2017 version includes a handy table of contents on page 3 so that readers can easily find what they are looking for. All the contact details for LEFPA are on page 2.

Keep this useful guide close at hand at all times - there is nothing more frustrating that desperately searching cluttered drawers to find relevant information needed urgently.



## Activities for the Month - November

- Keep monitoring FDI.
- Plan weed control operations.
- Attend LEFPA meetings regularly.
- Close manual lookouts if weather permits.
- Study weather systems and check forecasts on the internet.
- Slash burning allowed if weather permits-get a burning permit from LEFPA.



### Important Note:

- Basic Firefighting Training is available to LEFPA members. Interested parties can contact the LEFPA office.
- FDI weather emails and SMSs are available to LEFPA members, contact Corné for more information.
- **SUCCESS** cannot be spelt without **U**. Attend and participate - we need your contribution!