

Missing Person Event

Wednesday 12 February, 2014.

(Report Theo Alberda and Alan Young.

Photos by Jill Alberda and Corrie Liesching.)

Organisers: Theo Alberda and Alan Young

Meeting place: CMCN

Meeting Time: 10 00

Finding Frans Timmermans!

We recently had a very interesting e-mail request from an investigative reporter in the Netherlands. This is what he had to say;

"I have a very strange request, so let me first introduce myself; my name is Wessel Molenaar and I'm an investigative reporter. I work for a TV show called 'Missing' on the biggest public television-station in The Netherlands. 'Missing' ('Vermist' in Dutch) specializes in reuniting missing family members, when they lose touch for whatever reason."

Wessel went on to explain that he is currently working on the case of Frans Timmermans. Frans, his mother and stepfather immigrated to South Africa in 1966. Frans's own father remarried and, at some point, his step-mother gave birth to a baby girl, Frans's half-sister. Frans's sister however learnt of her brother and that he might still be living in South Africa. She approached the television company to see if they could assist in locating him. The TV Company agreed and Wessel was assigned to the case.

Wessel established that Frans's family settled near Witbank but in later years Frans relocated to Durban. They also discovered that Frans was an enthusiastic motorcyclist. With that in mind Wessel approached the CMCN to see if he could meet with us to see if we could help?

We were very touched by the story and most willing to help in any way possible. We agreed to meet Frans, and a film crew, at the club on the morning of 12 February. It was short notice but 12 February was the only window Wessel had. It was important that we get some of our members involved and, on the day, in spite of the short notice, and a working day, we had a great turn out. We were very impressed by the number who were able to make it and bring along their motorbikes to give that typical monthly club meet atmosphere. The list of members and their bikes is indicated in the table below

Year	Make & model	Rider
1928	Norton 500sv	Rob Wiles
1929	500 AJS	Hank Raatgever
1949	Norton ES2	Jill Alberda
1953	Matchless G3L	Winston de Kock
1956	BSA B31	Colin Flett
1964	Norton model 88	Alec Human
1975	BMW R80/7	Rod Thomas
1980	Honda CX500	Corrie Liesching
1980	Honda CX500	Theo Alberda
1980	Suzuki GS450	Alan Young
1983	Yamaha SR500/H	Graham Palmer
1984	BMW R65	Jock Adamson

In addition to the bikes above Stuart Millar, Toosie Hudson and June de Kock arrived in their cars.

Wessel handed out flyers with some details of the missing Frans and spoke to our members. Then he carried out a video interview with Rod and Theo to establish some of the clubs history and provide details on his progress at that point. Sadly, Frans was not a member of our club but club members present immediately started a phone around.

We understand that Wessel has now managed to narrow the search down to the Kingsburgh area. We will keep in touch and will make inquiries of our own. We will keep our members posted of any developments.



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The early arrivals.



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The final bike tally – a great and varied turnout



Jill volunteered to do the kitchen duty and supply the eats - sandwiches, sausage rolls, and milk tart to give a South African flavour!



Wessel interviewing Rod and Theo. Yes, that video camera was a bit off putting!



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MISSING

Frans Timmermans

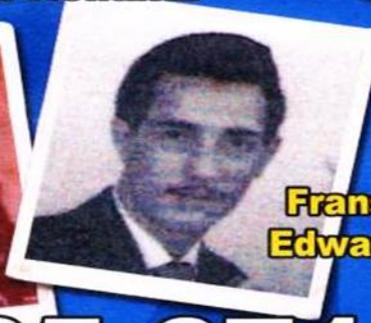
Frans is born in
The Hague, the Netherlands
in 1959.

Frans moved in the early
60s with his mother
and stepfather to South
Africa.

Frans is missed by his
halfsister in Holland.



Frans' grandfather



Frans' father
Edward Gideon

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The missing person flyer Wessel handed out to the members.