



# FRIENDS OF FORT JESUS

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>

## NEWSLETTER – November - December 2018

Dear Friends,

Commemorations marking 100 years since the end of the First World War are being held in various parts of the world. In Kenya the armistice will be observed with a series of events in Taita Taveta County from the 23rd to 25th November 2018.

Remembrance services will be held at Voi CWGC, Maktau Indian Memorial and Taita Military Cemetery. There will be a guided walk at Salaita Hill, one of the battlefield sites and a military parade at Taveta. The official unveiling of the refurbished WWI Artefacts Exhibition at Taita Hills Lodge is scheduled for Friday 23rd November. FFJ are the sponsors of one of the panels.

If you are interested in attending you can get more details from: <http://www.tsavoheritage.org/> or <https://www.querillasoftsavo.com/>

FFJ are planning a group visit provided there is enough interest. Details are included below.

Entries to the essay competition titled 'Mombasa's Heritage' that we organised with NMK have been marked. The response from secondary schools in the Mombasa County was very encouraging. All the judges, comprising members of FFJ, Nabat Jamal, Debbie Wanje and Madhvi Shah and NMK's Raphael Igombo were unanimous that the essays were very impressive and they enjoyed reading them.

The essays show that the students have explored the significance of heritage. They provide a lively insight into the individual students' understanding and the varied interpretation of heritage.

The winning essays are:

Name	School	Position
Kreeshna Vivek Mehta	Oshwal Academy Mombasa	First
Kreeshi Rakesh Shavadia	Oshwal Academy Mombasa	Second
Hadijah Mwidau	Shree Swaminarayan Academy	Third
Swaleh Khalif Mwavumo	Allidina Visram High School	Highly Recommended
Aisha Amir Mohamed	Star of the Sea High School	Consolation
Davis Muteke	Aga Khan High School Mombasa	Consolation
Milton Wire	Allidina Visram High School	Consolation
Vanessa Eleri	Star of the Sea High School	Consolation

Our congratulations to the winners and the schools!

We plan to organise a prize giving ceremony soon after the schools reopen in January 2019. The date of the event, which will be held at Fort Jesus, will be communicated in due course.

Upcoming events of interest:

- Andrew McNaughton is a renowned artist who works with recycled materials such as plastics, driftwood, defunct boats and flip flops, collected from the beaches in Watamu to create unique works of art, sculpture and furniture. He has been closely involved with EcoWorld, the recycling center at Watamu where many of Andrews's pieces are on display. Andrew's work will be exhibited at Hemingways Hotel, Watamu from 17<sup>th</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019. His work is remarkable, acclaimed world over. Morris Foit, an African sculptor's comment on Andrews work: 'I love the way you breathe life and humour into dead objects'
- Winner of multiple international awards, the film 'Subira' produced and directed by Kenya based Sippy Chadha will be premiered in Mombasa at Nyali Cinemax on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Subira, filmed in Lamu, is a story centered on a young girl. The synopsis states; "Raised in an orthodox Muslim community in the remote island of Lamu, Kenya, her tyrannical mother wants her to follow tradition, learn household chores and aim to be a good wife, just lie all the rest. Subira, however, has other plans. She wants to live by her own rules no matter what people say. Thus searing family drama vividly captures the paradox and modernity versus tradition".

This is a combined newsletter for November and December. As always we will not have any activities in December as many members tend to be away.

This November and December is a period of festivities. Once again we wish our Hindu friends Happy Diwali and New Year that fall on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Seasons greeting and Happy New Year to all members. We wish our Christian friends a very happy and Blessed Christmas.  
(Taibali Hamzali, Chairman)

## PAST PROGRAMMES

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm at Fort  
**EGM and AGM**

The business of the day was went smoothly. The change of office bearers was ratified by all present at the EGM. At the AGM the chairman outlined the past years activities and thanked all who have helped in running the society.

The previous committee was elected again except for a change in the vice chairman's position. The new line up is:

Post	Name of office bearer	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Taibali Hamzali	Aslam Kasmaani	Mr Lazaar
Vice Chairman	Nabat Jamal	Madhvi	Selina
Treasurer	Carola Vergero	Taibali	Mohammad Abbas
Secretary	Madhvi Shah	Jamila Rajabali	Roseleen De Souza
Member	Doris Schaule	Madhvi	Nabat Jamal
Member	Debbie Wanje	Nabat Jamal	Selina
Member	Kalim Hassanali	Jamila Rajabali	Taibali
Member	Selina Uballa	Kalim	Aslam
Member	Hassan Mohammad	Taibali	Selina
Member	Essa Khediwala	Jamila	Madhvi

Congratulations to the new committee!

We ended the evening with screening of 'Haunt of the Fishing Owl' and delicious refreshments catered by our ever reliable Essa Khediwalla.

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Bird walk at Vipingo Ridge

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This time we asked for permission to start birding at the old mango plantation while daylight was still bright.

Several species were present in the dense vegetation to be identified by their calls. To mention just a few: Tropical Boubou, Red-capped Robin-chat, Tambourine Dove and Zanzibar Greenbul made their voices heard.

On the way back towards the gate, some of us spotted a Grey-headed Kingfisher and on the nearest fairway we could see an African Pied Wagtail busily foraging on the ground.

Birding closer to the gate we noticed overhead a Black-chested Snake Eagle and later a Great Sparrowhawk and a Black Kite.



**Black-chested Snake-Eagle**  
Photo: @Wikimedia

Barn Swallows were the only palearctic migrants we recorded on this particular bird walk (more species have reached by now!)

This pleasant bird walk came to an end all too soon when the sun approached the horizon. We had 27 awesome species on our list; all duly recorded for the Kenya Bird Map project.

Our appreciation goes to Messrs' Duncan Mitchell and Fred Okoko for facilitating yet another exciting FFJ-bird walk at the ridge.

(Doris Schaule)

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October

Outing: Rabai Cultural Festival for 'Mwaka Muphya'

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On arrival at Rabai at 10.00am our group of 8 received a very warm reception from the curator Julius Mambo and his staff. We were served *madafu* as we tried out the FFJ donated benches which sit snugly in a quiet corner under the shade of a tree. While waiting for the event to start, we had a guided tour of the Rabai church and Krapft Memorial Museum. This was particularly interesting for members who had not been to Rabai before.



**Trying out the benches.**  
Photos: Taibali Hamzali



**Rabai traditional dance.**

We were looking forward to a full dose of Rabai culture, a day of vibrant entertainment, traditional food and craft stalls, fashion shows, etc. but sadly this years' festival lacked the lustre of the previous New Years. The anticipated chief and other guests from Kilifi County who were to grace the occasion had not arrived by the time we left and this upset the programme for the day.

However, while waiting for the dignitaries to arrive, we did manage to see some dancing, listen to a few speeches from the Kaya elders and we were invited to partake a delicious late lunch. We left soon after to negotiate the Macupa Causway traffic jam en-route to Mombasa.

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October

### **Book Launch and Talk by Judy Aldrick on 'Sir Ali bin Salim and the making of Mombasa'**

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This book generated a lot of interest even before the official launch which was a very successful event with a record attendance that included HE the Governor of Mombasa, Hassan Ali Joho, his Deputy HE Dr. William Kingi, the publisher, Shel Aaronson of Old Africa Books, members of the Busaidy family and FFJ members.

After a welcome address from FFJ chairman, the Governor spoke briefly, emphasising the need to record our history more fully. Judy gave an excellent talk on how the book came about and outlined the political and social scenario at that time. Sir Ali bin Salim whose philanthropy is legendary influenced the development of the Mombasa and the coastal region. He encouraged children to enroll in schools and gave generously towards their education.

The talk was followed by book signing and sales while guests enjoyed delicious refreshments graciously served by Essa and Rehana Khediwalla. A number of members have requested for a copy of this book via FFJ. We have asked Judy to avail us some copies to sell. As most of the books were sold at the launch more copies have to be ordered from the UK. We expect them in a weeks' time.

### **FUTURE PROGRAMMES**

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November

### **Bird Walk at Msumarini, Kikambala**

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This month's walk is near the Msumarini School and nearby sea front. For ease of directions meeting point is at Elite Bar, Mtwapa at 2.15pm. Doris will lead the convoy for the 20 minute drive to Msumarini.

For more information see our Facebook page or contact Doris Schaule  
Tel: 0722 277752. Email: [dorischaule@gmail.com](mailto:dorischaule@gmail.com)

Friday - Saturday, 23-24<sup>th</sup> November

### **Trip to Taita and Voi**

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This trip, which is still at planning stage, will combine attendance at the opening of the upgraded War exhibition on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> at around 6pm at Sarova Taita Hills Game Lodge and visits to a few places of interest nearby. Accommodation will be at Tsavo Lodge, Voi. We are trying to arrange visits to a Bee Keeping Centre and Orange Farm near Voi and will try to include some scenic drives through Taita-Taveta. More detailed itinerary will be circulated by next week. The approximate cost will be 6,000/= per person, yet to be confirmed. It will cover only transport and accommodation for one night on BB basis. To register your interest please confirm with Kalim Hassanali:  
Email: [kalimhassanali@gmail.com](mailto:kalimhassanali@gmail.com) or by SMS 0735 209 814.

### **In the pipeline – January 2019**

### **40 year celebration and launch of publication: FFJ Story**

Our plan was to have a special function to celebrate 40 years of FFJ in December but we have decided to postpone this event to January 2019 as December may not be convenient to all members.

Marlene's book on FFJ's story is with the printers. We will launch this book at the event and every member will receive a free copy. To offset some of the printing costs we have a limited number of pages for advertisements. The rates are: Back page, 15,000/=, Inside front and back, 10,000/=. Full page inside at 7,500/=. Half page at 4,000/=. If you are interested please contact Kalim Hassanali at the earliest.

### **DIARY FOR NOVEMBER**

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November

### **Bird walk at Msumarini, Kikambala**

Friday, Saturday, 23-24<sup>th</sup> November

### **Trip: To Taita and Voi**

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