

out of africa

INTERNATIONAL

JUNE-JULY 2003

KEEPING SOUTHERN AFRICANS IN TOUCH AROUND THE WORLD

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

**Wine and
fashion
shine at
annual
Nederburg
auction**

**Art keeps 'home'
alive for new
Austrian**

**Cruising in
Santa
Barbara**

Exposing the hunt cowards

The faces of out of africa international



EDITOR Tom Henshaw. Born in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, UK in 1943 as Adolf Hitler's Luftwaffe bombed towns in the area. Moved to Rhodesia in 1956 and attended various schools, including Chaplin, in Gwelo. Joined the Rhodesia Herald in 1960 and has been in newspapers ever since. After a stint in Zambia, moved to South Africa in the late 60s and worked for all the English-language newspapers in Durban at one time or another until the end of 1982. Emigrated with wife, Eileen and son Andrew to Australia in early 1983 - Brisbane, initially, but had already been seduced by Western Australia's pristine deserted beaches and moved to Perth at the end of that year. Still a full-time newspaper journalist and technology trainer.

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UK EDITOR Penny Willis. Emigrated with her parents to Southern Rhodesia in 1956, aged 2. She considers herself extremely privileged to have spent a totally secure and sunny childhood in Umniati, a small settlement halfway between Bulawayo and Harare. Penny was educated at Umniati Primary (approx 36 pupils) and Que Que High School, after which she moved on to the big smoke to work in the Public Health Labs and then Rhodesian Breweries. She then moved 'down South' to work for SAB in Joburg for 3 years before heading off on a working holiday to the UK.

She is still there 20 odd years down the line!

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US EDITOR Suzanne-Kelly. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa in the year voetsak. Family lived in Natal, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Schools: Bryneven Primary, Bryanston High, Epworth Girls High (in Pietermaritzburg) and finally at Hyde Park High. Has teaching degrees in all forms of performing arts and is a qualified nursery school teacher. Became a professional musical entertainer at 15 for PACT/ NAPAC / CAPAB - Musical and Opera departments and performed in many SA shows. Director of her own performing arts studio in Lonehill, Sandton and involved in many aspects of television. Lead entertainer on the QE 2 1991, where she met her future husband, David an American employed on the ship. After getting off the QE2 I travelled the US on my own first, and then settled (and eloped in Las Vegas) at the end of 1991. Many shows followed as well as a degree in television and radio broadcasting and production. Has two sons - Storm and Chase. Began doing inserts for SABC and M-Net, from Las Vegas and eventually started her own production company, PAL Productions - which produces entertainment television shows. Hosted TV shows in the US and "Behind the Scenes" of the Las Vegas and Los Angeles shows (Both T.V and Live Stage). Currently in addition to Entertainment Editor for OOAi, also in pre-production for numerous television shows as well as pursuing a degree in "Pilates".

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WINE EDITOR Monty Friendship has been involved with wine for 30 years, regularly travelling to all the major wine producing areas world-wide.

He writes wine columns for the newspaper The Independent and the National News and for several magazines including, Direct Report, the Institute of Directors Magazine, Hospitality, On Safari International, What's Cooking, Travel News, Traveller's Times, Africa Calls, Lifestyle and Skyhost. Monty lives in Stellenbosch, in the Cape, lectures at all levels for the Cape Wine Academy and presents wines for major importers within South Africa. He is Contributing Editor of World Wine Trader. He is a graduate of the Cape Wine Academy. He is past chairman of the Harare branch of the International Wine and Food Society, founded in London.

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Editor's corner

Cowards of the trophy hunt

THERE numerous arguments for and against trophy hunting. There are those who argue that killing animals can have an environmental benefit, and actually help the species being hunted, reducing the pressure on overpopulation of whatever particular animal is in the hunter's sights.

Whilst I can see the argument, I can't agree. Personally, I think killing animals for fun is a disgusting human habit.

"Canned hunting" is a fairly new concept in the hunting "industry", where, among other things, brave souls get their jollies by sticking the barrel of a rifle through the bars of a cage and killing their trophy.

Even the most hardened hunters must rail at such cowardly acts, but the habit flourishes in southern Africa.

Author Lynn Santer was so outraged upon discovering this practice, she joined forces with film star Tippi Hedren, mother of Melanie Griffith, and Meryl Harrison, chief inspector with the national SPCA in Zimbabwe to try to do something about it, inserting two undercover agents. After the 9-11 disaster in the US, they hit problems and Santer decided the best way was to write about it in a novel. Their story, written by freelance journalist, Kelly Denning, is in this issue.

Wine Editor Monty Friendship has come up trumps again with the inside goss on the annual Nederburg Wine Auction, held recently in the Cape. It was another extravaganza of wine, great food and fashion.

Artist Harriet Jameson Pellizzari loves the Cape, but decided she had to live in Europe. Today she calls Austria home but still maintains her links via her paintbrush. Some of her favourite "subjects" are the streets of District Six in Cape Town. Ann Mott followed her dream some years ago, leaving Somerset West for Europe and north America. Unsettled on her return, she headed back to the US, and the man she would marry.

Today, she and husband, Jeff, live aboard a yacht in Ventura Harbour, Santa Barbara, on the US west coast.

Former Zambian Tim Finneron and family live in the US also. A pilot, he is based in Burbank, California and says the lifestyle there has many similarities to his life in Africa. - *Tom Henshaw*



Cover picture: Nederburg wine auctioneer Patrick Grubb at work.

Out of Africa International is an Internet-based magazine published for those who have an interest in southern Africa and who are interested in how southern African emigrants have settled in other parts of the world.

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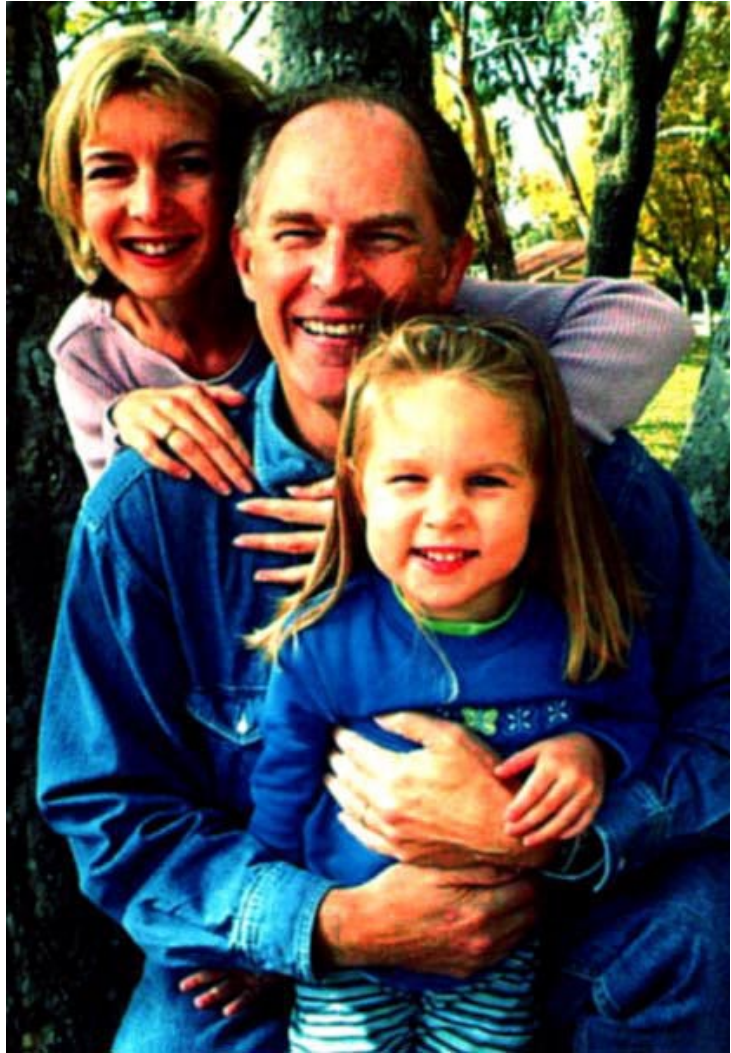
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Tim with wife, Valerie and younger daughter Sophie. He also has a daughter of 16 living in UK, who visits twice a year.

Falcon student finds life on the wing

Luanshya boy Tim Finneron is flying high in Burbank, California

I GREW up in Luanshya, Zambia, and went to Falcon College, Bulawayo, in the years 1962-1968.

In 1968, I went to the UK and joined the Royal Air Force via the RAF College, Cranwell, in 1969.

I flew in most parts of the world at peace and at war, and was privileged to work for two years with the Royal Family.

In 1990, I left the air force for corporate aviation flying initially out of

Heathrow for Seagram Distillers - then the owner of Universal Studios.

When the Heathrow operation closed in 1997, the company relocated me on a working visa to the studios flight department in LA. We were lucky enough to have the company obtain Green Cards for us, and we should have US citizenship in the next 18 months.

Since 1997, I have been based out of Burbank Airport just north of the city and am now working for an aviation

management company, which is more lucrative. It saddens me to see the plight not only of the Rhodesia we once knew, but also the Federation.

California, however, has many similarities to the life we had: sunshine, braai's, a frontier spirit, and even the vegetation is remarkably alike.

We should be thankful I suppose for the times that we had in old Rhodesia - our garden of Eden. Memories are still something they cannot rob from us!



Auctioneer Patrick Grubb, centre, in selling mode

Corker of a day!



Tradition in fashion: one of the designs modelled at the auction.

It rained on Nederburg's parade, but wine was the winner



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THERE are offices and there are offices, I guess. As I look out of the window of mine this Sunday morning, the sky is a bright, fresh and lovely blue.

The Simonsberg Mountains are right in front of me and between us are rolling hills covered with grapevines.

The Stellenbosch Mountains are visible to my right and Stellenbosch nestles in the valley below. It is a windless, early autumn day, cooler than of late, around 23C.

The harvest is mostly in now, with just a couple of brave souls waiting to get the absolute optimum out of their Cabernet Sauvignon. It should be another good vintage from the Fairest Cape In All The World.

I wish it had been like this yesterday.

But it wasn't. The 29th Nederburg Auction was quite wet. Not heavy rain, but persistent, light, soaking rain. It is certainly the heaviest rainfall that I have experienced at the Nederburg. Some of the old timers were saying that it had never rained when Stellenbosch Farmers Winery ran the auction, but now that it has been merged with Distillers Corporation into Distell, the rain has come. Obviously the Gods are displeased and sacrifices will have to be made to appease them.

It takes more than rain to mar the Nederburg Auction, however. It remains the leading social event on the Cape calendar and there were around 1600 invited guests who arrived around 9am and were able to make severe in-roads into endless plates of oysters and local

cheeses, washed down with limitless amounts of sparkling wine.

The guest speaker, who opened the auction this year, was Allan Cheesman, the wine “fundi” from the Sainsbury’s supermarket chain in England. Amongst what he had to say was:

“What you need to do - and are starting to do - is create a powerful and generic Brand South Africa initiative. It goes without saying that you need to define exactly what you wish to do competitively, communicate it effectively and work together.

“I often think that the South African wine industry’s greatest enemy and challenge is NOT the Australians, Chileans or southern French - NO, in my opinion it’s the South African wine industry itself. So do try and tackle the common goal - South African wine.

“Over deliver on quality. Think globally, act locally. All good stuff, I am sure you agree. The Australians had it sorted a decade ago. Let’s hope we can learn and put up a common front, before the Aussies rule the world.

“It is rumoured that they have one or two people who can play cricket, as well.

“Whilst I think of it, the teacher asked her class one morning what their fathers did for a living. The one child said: ‘My daddy’s a fireman’ and another, ‘My father is a banker’ and so on. Little Jimmy said: ‘My father is a transvestite stripper’.

“You can imagine that this caused some amusement and concern. After the class the teacher called Jimmy over and asked: ‘Is your father really a transvestite stripper?’ and he replied: ‘No Miss, he’s a Springbok rugby player, but I couldn’t tell them that!’.”

The charity auction, after the main auction finished, featured some rare wines, a bottle of 1867 Madeira, and an 1863 Ferreira Port for instance and some fine dining opportunities.

Generous buyers, wishing to give something back, raised R302,000 in aid of the Hospice Palliative Care Association, who have benefited from about R1,5 million in the last 12 auctions.

Lunch commenced with the normal cold starter. When you are feeding 1600 people simultaneously there is only so much you can do. In this case a mixed sushi plate with traditional sushi rolls and raw salmon and tuna, marinated in interesting dressings. The tuna seemed to have been soaked in dark soy sauce and then dried slightly.



Buying time: Representatives from 30 countries bid for wine on offer.



Sassy sashay: Earth tones make their mark.

Let's hope we can learn and put up a common front, before the Aussies rule the World

Accompanied with the pickled ginger this was a very interesting taste sensation.

A hot dish of lamb and roasted vegetables and a dessert of mixed fresh berries, meringue, and chocolate artistically crafted rounded up the affair. Of course there were several bottles of Nederburg wines to help it all down, whites, reds and Noble Late Harvest.

A wine I had not come across before was the Private Bin, which is a half bottle of sparkling Noble Late Harvest. Not at all sickly or cloying but wonderfully fresh and exciting and really splendid with dessert, including chocolate.

Whilst the assembled throng was captive, a celebrity auction was held. Basically the opportunity to spend some time with sports celebrities from rugby, cricket, clothes designers and celebrity chefs. This raised R116, 000 in aid of Mothers2Mothers, a programme that helps HIV positive women and their babies.

The fashion show was after lunch this year and was the normal extravaganza that the accompanying pictures will record for themselves. Very original and mostly quite wearable pieces.

A new idea was the establishment of a number of "lounges", large tents really, spread throughout the grounds. Each was hosted and decorated by a different designer magazine and had its own "in-house" celebrity chef from the major Cape Town restaurants providing nibbles of note.

The rain did put an actual, as well as a figurative, damper on these areas. Many of their displays and seating arrangements were obviously designed for outdoors use and trapped inside a dripping tent did not show things off to their best.

As to the actual auction itself. Buyers from 30 countries made their purchases, including one from Russia. I cannot recall them participating before but they bought about 6 per cent of what was on offer for R435, 000, so someone in Moscow must be drinking the stuff.

Makro and Pick'nPay supermarkets were the top buyers taking around 18 per cent between them and spending R1,3 million in doing it. The total value sold was R7,7 million, up a tad from the R7,3 million last year.

The highest prices? R500 a bottle for the 2001 Vin De Constance from Klein Constantia. R450 a bottle for the Vergelegen Chardonnay Reserve 1999. The 1966 Lanzerac Pinotage going for R2000 a bottle!

The prices are getting too high. The wines are good, but as in most auction situations there are too many people trying to get hold of limited amounts and the result is predictable. The fact remains that you can buy a lot of these wines before the auction for a quarter of the price.

762 cases remained unsold and 8558 were sold, so about 9 per cent didn't find a home. Either because it was too expensive or not a popular style.

The producers, generally, were well satisfied. The large supermarket chains wouldn't have paid what they did if they didn't think they could sell it on. My guess is it will all be more expensive again next year.



Holey moley!: a little air-conditioned number.



Auction manager, Bennie Howard.



Guest speaker Alan Cheesman.

Preliminary report to the Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Connection, to be held on June 14, 2003



FOR those with any connection to Zimbabwe, the last few years have brought disbelief, despair and anger at the atrocities being perpetrated against our fellow men and women, black and white.

Sadly, within the planning of despots, a calculated strategy is that the human psyche can only take so much before it starts to numb, to accept, or blank it out.

In July last year, a small group of us in Adelaide determined not to let this happen as the situation was unlikely to improve in the short term.

As desperation in Zimbabwe grew we became more concerned at how often emigrating families made rash and hasty business or other decisions which impacted adversely on successful settlement in Australia.

So the Zimbabwe Connection was born and now operates nationally.

We did not wish to become immigration or personnel placement agents.

Yet our conviction was that to find good compatible employment as soon as possible was a vital key to understanding the complexities of a new society - and that from this base, better informed business or employment decisions could be taken in future.

Together with carefully placed publicity, we chose to work closely with a few key immigration and personnel placement agents, as well as with State skilled migration departments.

Our role was to become that of a "concerned relative or friend" and this assumed two components:

- "Connecting" potential employers, largely in rural Australia, with Zimbabweans looking to immigrate.

- Providing "adopting" families of ex-Zimbabweans in Australia to make useful suggestions before arrival about everything from weather to schooling - then assuming a mentoring role for a period, once they arrived.

The result has been astonishing. In its first ten months of operation, the Zimbabwe Connection can claim to have been involved directly or indirectly in the following:

- Over 60 job, share farming or joint venture offers from Australians in rural areas nationally: from dairies, to

broad-acre cropping, animal management to agronomists, diesel mechanics or nurses to pharmacists and vets

- 86 Zimbabwe families on our register

- 23 matched job offers and acceptances, with visa applications in progress or completed and families settling, we believe more easily, into Australia

- Heart-warming reactions from Australians - from cash donations, to offers to pay airfares for a needy family, to city units or farm houses on a temporary or longer term basis, and extraordinary distributions of food and clothing.

- A regularly updated website full of useful information and contacts.

The load is considerable - all done voluntarily within a non-profit making organisation. We need help to keep it going, or we will simply "burn out".

We need new blood on the executive and in sub-committees - helpers to collect and distribute food and clothing (the more we get, the less often any one person is rostered) - and help with databasing and phone calls.

Please think about it and if you can play a part anywhere in Australia, contact me by e-mail on jill@zimbabweconnection.com

Jill Lambert : Chair

United Kingdom and Ireland Annual Braai

July 18 - 20, 2003 in the Cotswolds

All Zimbabweans, Rhodesians and South Africans welcome.

Contact: peter@hagelthorn.fsnet.co.uk for full details.

The event is being run by the RWAFF Trustees and all profits go to helping fellow Rhodesians/Zimbabweans who land in Britain with nothing.

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Life under sail: Ann relishes the freedom she and husband Jeff have with their yacht.

Cruisin' in Santa Barbara

Ann Mott followed her dream and found a husband and new life aboard a yacht on the American west coast

Finally, we decided we'd had had enough of the desert.

WHAT brought you to the States?, is usually the first question I am asked when people pick up on my accent and ask where I am from. My usual reply is "my husband!" Seriously though, I ended up in the States in quite a roundabout way.

I left the Cape Town area in June of 1982 to spend a year travelling overseas, something I had dreamt of doing ever since reading James Michener's "The Drifters".

Well, I had such a blast in Europe, that I was not ready to return after a year, so I ended up working in London to get some pocket money together, and then spent another year travelling around Europe, and six more months travelling in Canada and the States.

Three weeks before I was due to

return home to Somerset West, I met a wonderful man during a trip to Death Valley (of all places), California, and we spent about 10 days travelling around Arizona and Utah together before I left.

After an absence of 2 and 1/2 years I was very unsettled when I got back home, and could not adjust to living in the same little dorp I had lived for so many years, so I spent 10 months in Namibia with my sister, but was still very restless and unhappy.

All this time, Jeff and I stayed in touch, and finally he asked me to come back to the states, and sent me a return ticket.

I felt that I had nothing to lose, so I hopped on a plane and headed back over here, and we ended up living in Tucson for a year, where we eventually got



Ann and husband Jeff live aboard their yacht in Ventura harbour.



A decent 3 bedroom house in Ventura will set you back around \$375,000 to \$500,000, rents run about \$850-\$1200 for a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment/house.



married. That was a lot of fun, but summers were very hot, wages very low and I was experiencing a fair amount of turmoil about what I really wanted to do, whether I really wanted to be here, etc.

After all, my whole family, and all my friends were still back there in South Africa.

Also, having come from a sleepy little dorp, this big city life was really hard to adjust to, and Tucson, Arizona, really is not even that big of a city.

Still, it was quite an adjustment and driving on the right side of the road did not help! It took me ages to be comfortable driving around town, especially with so much traffic and people in such a big hurry.

Finally, we decided we had had enough of the desert and we ended up living in Santa Barbara for a year, which was absolutely wonderful.

We both got good jobs with fairly good pay, found a decent apartment near the beach, and suddenly life was good.

After a year, it got even better! We bought a sailboat (or yacht, as South

Africans say) and moved aboard in Ventura harbour, and 15 years later, we are still having just as much fun, with trips to the islands just off the coast, camping trips to Mexico and locally.

Things are pretty expensive over here, especially housing in this area - it is quite ridiculous, and that is one of the reasons we live on boat, even though that is not exactly cheap either.

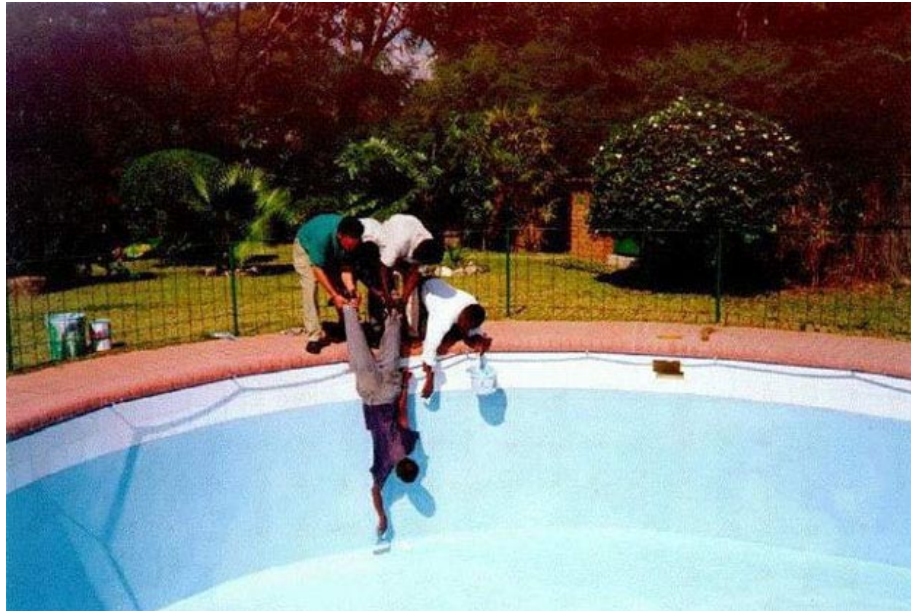
A decent 3-bedroom house in Ventura will set you back around \$375,000 to \$500,000, rents run about \$850-\$1200 for a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment/house.

Our boat rent and liveaboard fees run about \$840 a month, and that is for a 50ft slip, electricity and water.

Dinner for two at a decent restaurant costs about \$20-40, depending on whether you have drinks or not. Decent new cars, such as Hondas or Toyotas run anywhere from about \$20,000 to \$40,000 - quite expensive.

Salaries obviously vary tremendously, but range from about \$30,000 for entry level jobs to \$75,000 for mid-range jobs.

That's Africa!



Ag, I reckon next time we sommer jus' get a loooong pole and tie the roller to it . . . Photog: Unknown.

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*Harriet, with daughters
Pia and Nina*

Austria haven, but it's not the Cape

Harriet Pellizzari paints the things she loves - like the streets of District Six, in Cape Town



LIFE in Austria is very different from our colourful life we have in Cape Town. I really miss the cosmopolitan life style we had come accustomed to in South Africa.

I often wondered if it was me, but realise now that we expatriates are hungry to meet another one who has lived in South Africa.

I notice it here in Austria and on the Internet how strong a bond we have with each other. We need only give that look, the roll of an eye, a wink or just an email tells it all.

It is a larger view of just missing an individual. It is about missing a nation of all nations and people who have grown together with out realising it.

Ironically, on April Fool's Day in 1969 my joke was that I was leaving Scotland to emigrate to South Africa and this was prior to any knowledge of my parents' intent. My father, a naval architect, was needed to help design the South African fleet for the S.A. Armaments Board.

At 16 I was made aware of this move and vowed to never play an April fool's trick again detrimental to what I would wish.

I was too young to stay behind alone in Scotland to finish my higher exams at Westbourne School for Girls. Art was my major subject, with that and my portfolio I was accepted into U.C.T. Michaelis Art School in 1970 to study Graphic Design.

Later, I worked with fabrics and furniture, upholstery and decor.

My firm, Harriet's Design, did that and lots more, including paintings of

District Six in watercolour and “in vogue” art in acrylics on canvas, and can be seen and ordered on commission from my website at <http://www.surfvilla.de/harriet/index.htm>.

In Austria, I am unable to work in my field due to complications and regulations.

However, I am lucky that I have my paintings to sell. They hang in a lovely restaurant “Burgentube” here in Axams, Innsbruck like I had in Professor Barnard’s and Aldo’s restaurant “La Vita” in Newlands, Cape Town, where I sell my work all the time.

I give a few Aquarelle evening classes to supplement my income and have my villa in Cape Town to offer as self catering holiday accommodation, which I am currently promoting on the Internet for people Out of Africa to enjoy time out in Cape Town South Africa. That url is: http://www.erhomes.com/main_details.php?view=402

I feel free of the fear one has all the time in South Africa but can cope easily with it when I constantly visit the country.

My mother was a victim of murder in Camps Bay in 1990 so we left in 1991.

Being the only permanent resident to South Africa in my family of a husband and two young daughters it has not been made easy to stay or go back to our home and beautiful country with memories that I miss so much and portray in my paintings.



I am lucky that I have my paintings to sell. They hang in a lovely restaurant ‘Burgentube’ here in Axams, Innsbruck like I had in Professor Barnard’s and Aldo’s restaurant ‘La Vita’ in Newlands, Cape Town.



Views of District Six, in Cape Town are a favourite subject for Harriet’s paintbrush



*Durban beachfront:
Hard to leave behind.*

Emigration: not for me!

Roland van Rooyen, back home in Durban after two disastrous 'emigrations' to the US says: think long and hard before packing up and heading overseas . . .

ISN'T it sad, that everyone in South Africa is either in the process of emigrating, or contemplating it. While it may not be everyone, it sure does seem that way.

I am a 28-year-old South African, married with kids. All my high school friends have emigrated either to Ireland or the United Kingdom.

Being "left behind" made us start the whole emigration story.

And so we did some research, spent loads of money and within a year we were off to the United States.

I had left my job, sold all my assets for nearly nothing, lost money on the two new cars I had bought for my wife and I. But just because everyone else was doing it, we did it.

Within months I was desperately miserable and homesick. Family back home in SA did not understand this.

How could anyone be miserable in the wonderful US.

Now I realise I would be very stupid to think that life in the US would be like back home, and I didn't. But what I never anticipated was how much I loved Durban. My kids and their cousins would play with all the time - they missed that.

After much deliberation, we decided to return. After spending so much money setting up in the US, we cut our losses and went home, where we could be happy.

Once back in SA, routine set in fast, life got back to normal and I after a few

months started my own business, which flourished.

Now, here is the laughable part of my story. The company who placed me in the US previously, got in touch after about 18 months, with the most incredible job offer. Why, with this job I could save a million rand in under a year.

We did the unthinkable: we sold up again, spent thousands on tickets and relocation and yes, again lost money on our vehicles and in a very short time we found ourselves in Atlanta, Georgia.

I had a job with a really big IT company doing Network security, taking home the biggest paycheck I could ever have asked for.

But within months we were homesick, again, missing family, missing our home, rugby. And yes we did it - packed up, and came home again !

Now we are back, I have a really mediocre job. In fact, I am earning less than I have earned in many years, and I regret ever hearing the word emigration. I have lost so much, I have lost cars, my home, everything down to my garden hose and all in vain.

The moral of my story is this, I have travelled extensively and anywhere is amazing on a holiday, especially the US, what with DisneyWorld, Universal Florida etc.

But, don't be fooled. Life is the same everywhere, there is crime, there are problems with schools, the health care system and just about everything we in South Africa are always complaining

about. I reckon we need to stop complaining, we all need to go out and buy a South African flag and hang it outside our houses proudly.

We need to deal with this country's problems and love it for what it has, its natural beauty, rugby, biltong and the amazing beaches.

Our rand is improving all the time, our economy is turning over nicely, in fact I only sent my CV to eight companies when I got back and from that received two job offers.

I think it's about time we became a bit more patriotic, a bit more friendly, a bit more proactive against crime and government's delivery of services. It's our country, I am happy being back here, and I know I am home.

I don't want to scare people off emigration. But I hope anyone who reads my story thinks carefully about it.

As a single young person it's all fun. When you are uprooting your family and leaving old friends and family, it's not an easy thing to do, and there is certainly nothing amazing about the whole process.

It's a lot of work, its expensive and in the end you have nothing more than what you already had, but in a different country.

And that's assuming all goes well. Emigration is not for everyone, visualise yourself being away from your friends and family. Think hard and only do it if you are 100 per cent sure its what you want.

That's Africa!

Student wins by a long neck . . .

AN ostrich took on more than it could handle when it attacked a young woman out for a morning run - she strangled it.

Corlize Steyn (19), a second-year medical student at Stellenbosch University, was confronted by the feathered fiend whilst visiting friends on a farm near Touws River.

"I stopped on the dam wall to stretch and an ostrich came running up to me. I stood still. It also stopped and stared at me for a while before it attacked me," she told Die Burger newspaper.

The ostrich attacked twice and both times, she grabbed it by the neck in an effort to force its head down and prevent it kicking her.

"I thought that the closer I stayed to it, the less it could do to me. The third time it attacked me, I warned it: "I'm going to kill you!"

"It attacked again and I grabbed its neck and started strangling it. I have no idea for how long I strangled it. It felt like forever."

She said that she had acted instinctively. Apart from a few scratches and bruises, she escaped unharmed.

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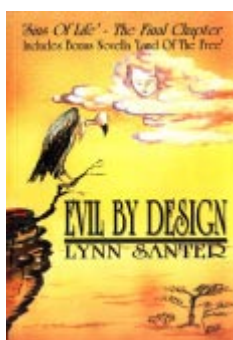
Meryl Harrison (right) and Lynn Santer (left) with Tippi Hedren, star of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* and now a big-cat conservationist.



Exposing the hunting cowards

Author Lynn Santer, US film star Tippi Hedren and Meryl Harrison, chief inspector of the National SPCA in Zimbabwe joined forces to tell the world about the horrors of big cat hunting in southern Africa.

By Kelly Denning, on the Gold Coast, Australia



Santer's latest novels. *Land of the Free* is included as a novelette in *Evil by Design*.



THEY say three's a charm and that was certainly the case for local author, Lynn Santer when she launched the final sequels in her long awaited trilogy at Dream World's Tiger Island on Australia's Gold Coast.

The first novel in the series, *Sins Of Life* was a best seller in the UK in 1999.

Santer's two latest novels, *Into the Fire* and *Evil by Design* complete the threesome.

But, its the bonus novelette *Land of the Free* that has created the most intrigue.

Land of the Free has all the makings of a fictional Hollywood blockbuster; secret footage and covert operations but for Santer, it was all too real.

"Around 70 per cent of the story is based on real-life events associated with my fund raising and awareness work for the big cats of Africa," she said.

For Santer, her reality started in 2001 when Meryl Harrison, chief

inspector of the National SPCA in Zimbabwe, outlined the atrocities associated with big game hunting.

Risking her life daily, Ms Harrison was awarded the International RSPCA award for Gallantry for her tireless work with the animals of Zimbabwe.

Santer also enlisted the help of fellow big cat lover and movie star, Tippi Hedren. Santer had devised a plan to secretly obtain video footage exposing big game hunting particularly in Zimbabwe and after both Hedren and Harrison agreed, planning began.

Distance became problematic in planning as Harrison, Hedren and Santer lived on separate continents and due to the top-secret nature of the operation, could not discuss the operation openly.

"We were being terrible paranoid about it. We wouldn't talk openly on the phone or by email about it," said Santer.

"So I knew I had to get us all together in the same country at the same



Santer with Reg Dickason, left, and his partner, former SAS operative, Dave Woodman.



Santer with the painting she donated to the World Wildlife Fund.



Tiger Island tigers relax in the shade.

time.”

She recruited the help of security expert Reg Dickason and his partner, former SAS operative, Dave Woodman.

Despite the need for relative anonymity in their jobs, both Mr Dickason and Mr Woodman were present at the book launch, enthusiastically lending their names and faces to the event.

“We wanted to corroborate what was in the book,” said Mr Dickason.

“The fact is, all this really happened.”

Driven by their mutual concern for animal welfare, the group continued to spend months labouring over every detail of the operation which involved the two men going under cover into Zimbabwe as hunters.

However, the plan came to an untimely end when the incidents of September 11 brought about an unexpected change in the global climate.

“So, we just decided some months later, that the best was to get the story out would be through the book,” Santer said.

Eventually, some footage was obtained by a South African current affairs program and was aired there.

Santer has this footage, which shows in sickening detail, dogs being used to hunt big cats and a canned hunt where, big cats are left in small cages and hunters shoot them at point blank, through the bars.

Present at the launch to accept an oil painting from Santer was, the World Wildlife Fund’s Sonya Lesic.

The painting, worth \$20,000, is to be auctioned as part of their 25th anniversary with 25 per cent of the proceeds going to Tiger Island for them to donate to a charity of their choice.

For Santer, Tiger Island was an obvious choice for the launch. “They do a fantastic job, whenever I have asked them to support me, they have always been extremely forthcoming and helpful,” she said.

Setbacks aside, Santer remains positive and focused on the massive task ahead.

“Our objective is to try and stop the suffering now at this time, at this place, in this lifetime before we lose some species to this planet all together.”

Santer’s novels are only available online from <http://www.equilibriumbooks.com/santer>.

From the Press

Cape Town : A 50-year-old Cape Town resident has bungee jumped his way into the Guinness Book of World Records by completing 101 jumps off the Bloukrans River Bridge in 14 hours.

SABC radio reported that Guinness officials had said they would recognise a world record if someone managed 100 jumps in 24 hours. But Bill Boshoff finished the jumps in just 14 hours. The Bloukrans Bridge in the picturesque Tsitsikamma area of the southern Cape is the highest commercial bungee jump bridge in the world, standing at 216 metres above sea level.

Pretoria: A senior magistrate has been earning a salary of R250 000 per year for three years even though he does not have a post after the director general of justice transferred him from Pretoria to Umtata.

Magistrate Joy Ngubo refuses to return to the Pretoria magistrate's court unless the department agrees to pay for his relocation and temporary accommo-

modation. A former chief magistrate, Heinrich Moldenhauer, asked Justice Minister Penuell Maduna in 2000 to transfer Ngubo after he allegedly broke down because of conflict with white magistrates at the court. Ngubo claims he was transferred to the Eastern Cape for medical reasons.

Johannesburg: A black man who fell in love with a tall, slender Afrikaner woman found out the outlawed Immorality Act - which prohibited love across the colour-line - still exists as far as his employer is concerned.

Johannes Montoedi of Wolmaransstad said he was fired from Buisfontein Safari Lodge, where he was employed as a

driver, because of his affair with a white woman. Montoedi is in love and lives with Helene Weyers in the conservative North West town. He alleges that when his employer, Johannes de Beer, who insists on being called "baas", learned he was living with a white woman, he tried to get rid of him. Apparently troubled by the thought of a black man being in love with a white Afrikaner woman, De Beer finally snapped and asked Montoedi's supervisor, to fire him.

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Questions, questions . . .

Is it safe to run around in the bushes in South Africa?

These questions about South Africa were posted on a South African Tourism website and were answered by the website owner.

Q: Does it ever get windy in South Africa? I have never seen it rain on TV, so how do the plants grow? (UK).
A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them.

Q: Will I be able to see elephants in the street? (USA).
A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

Q: I want to walk from Durban to Cape Town - can I follow the railroad tracks? (Sweden).
A: Sure, it's only two thousand kilometres. Take lots of water . . .

Q: Is it safe to run around in the bushes in South Africa? (Sweden).
A: So it's true what they say about Swedes.

Q: Are there any ATMs (cash machines) in South Africa? Can you send me a list of them in JHB, Cape Town, Knysna and Jeffrey's Bay? (UK).
A: What did your last slave die of?

Q: Can you give me some information about koala bear racing in South Africa? (USA).
A: Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific. A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe which does not . . . oh forget it. Sure, the koala bear racing is every Tuesday night in Hillbrow. Come naked.

Q: Which direction is north in South Africa? (USA).
A: Face south and then turn 90 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

Q: Can I bring cutlery into South Africa? (UK).
A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA).
A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country

bordering Ger-man-y, which is . . . oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Hillbrow, straight after the koala bear races. Come naked.

Q: Do you have perfume in South Africa? (France).
A: No, WE don't stink.

Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in South Africa? (USA).
A: Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.

Q: Can you tell me the regions in South Africa where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy).
A: Yes, gay nightclubs.

Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in South Africa? (France).
A: Only at Christmas.

Q: Are there killer bees in South Africa? (Germany).
A: Not yet, but for you, we'll import them.

Q: Are there supermarkets in Cape Town and is milk available all year round? (Germany).
A: No, we are a peaceful civilisation of vegan hunter-gatherers. Milk is illegal.

Q: Please send a list of all doctors in South Africa who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA).
A: Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca, which is where YOU come from. All South African snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.

Q: I was in South Africa in 1969, and I want to contact the girl I dated while I was staying in Hillbrow. Can you help? (USA).
A: Yes, and you will still have to pay her by the hour.

Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA).
A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first.

SA club contacts

United States

The Springbok Club of Northern California

Website: <http://www.saclub-cal.com>
Email: <mailto:julipetals@yahoo.com>
President: Juli DeKock

Indaba Midwest (Chicago)

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Contact: Alastair Robertson- President
Phone: 630-858-0522 - home, 630-858-0822 - work, Fax: 630-858-0520

SA Colorado

Website: <http://www.sacolorado.com/>
Email: <mailto:nicky996@cs.com>
Contact: Nicky Zaayman
Telephone: (303) 604-6363

The South African Club of Atlanta

Website: <http://www.saclubatl.org>
Email: <mailto:webmaster@saclubatl.org>
Director: Les Kraitzick
email: <mailto:elkay@mindspring.com>
Telephone: 770-399-5933
Postal address: Les Kraitzick & Associates, 1729 Mt. Vernon Road, Atlanta, Georgia 3033

Orange County

Email: <mailto:Archie van der Byl <archie@fuller.edu>>
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New York/New Jersey Springbok Club

Email: <mailto:nynjspringbok@usa.net>
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Contact: Jerry Weitsz Tel: 201-507-5109

South African Association of Indiana

Website: <http://www.saindiana.org/index.phtml>
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9465 Counselor's Row, Suite 120
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Fax: (317) 582-1762

Spain

South Africans Staying Alive

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Benalmádena Pueblo
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Beverlee Deller 687 296 353

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Protea Club (Edmonton)

Website: <http://plaza.v-wave.com/protea/index.htm>
Email: <mailto:protea@powersurfr.com>
Telephone: (780) 489 - 3080

The Protea Club Edmonton is a non-profit, social organisation promoting social events and activities among local residents of South African origin and among all those who are interested in South Africa.

South African Canadian Club (Calgary)

Website: <http://members.home.net/saclubcalgary>
Email: <mailto:riboezaard@yahoo.com>
Chairman: Irene Rik Boezaard

South African Society of BC

Website: http://www.sacbd.com/sasbc/index_en.html
Email: <mailto:azibarras@home.com>
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West Vancouver, BC V7S 4W1
President: Anna Azibarras

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The South Africa Club of Western Australia
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Australia
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South Africans in Sydney

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Website : <http://www.internetmktgworldwide.com>

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Postal address: 7141 Crosstimbers Trl, Roanoke, VA 24019

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The Rhodesian Association (Western USA)

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Springbok Southern Africa Club - Phoenix Arizona

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E-Mail : <mailto:107775.3667@compuserve.com>

Contact: Cécile Robson (602) 926-6859

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1000 Club: Mary Sawyers

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Scotland - Karen Minchin

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The Rhodesian Association of WA

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Postal address: 1 Byron Court, Kallaroo, WA 6025, Australia.

News South Wales

Sydney Rhodesian Society

Co-ordinator: Alison Jones (02) 9481-9717

Northern Territory

Ron Janson in Darwin is the contact for informal Rhodesian get-togethers.

Email: <mailto:ronjan@ozemail.com.au>

Queensland

Africa Club of Queensland Incorporated

President: Eddie Pratt

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GPO Box 2129, Brisbane, QLD 4001

Telephone: 0500 540 122 (from anywhere in Australia)

Website: <http://www.africaclub.org.au>

Tasmania

Colin and Maureen Stevenson - Launceston, Tasmania

We are the contact for the Tasmanian Branch of RWW.

Email: <mailto:Maureen.Stevenson@admin.utas.edu.au>

Victoria

Victorian Rhodesian Society

President: Mike Foley (03) 859 6985

Rob Hodes - Social Contact

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RW/RAA

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Pretoria Branch (serves members countrywide)

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Secretary: Mary Redfern

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PO Box 95474

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Email: mailto:rasa@iafrica.com

Highveld Branch

Chairman: Conrad Steyn

Tel: (017)6108132 (office hours)

Postal address:

PO Box 1632

2302 Secunda

Email: mailto:conrad.steyn@sasol.com

Western Cape Sub-branch

Chairman: Lewis Walter

Secretary: Gus Kingma

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Postal address:

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Durban Branch

Chairman: Stuart Gillman.

Secretary: Lynne McKenzie

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Pietermaritzburg Branch

Chairman: Quentin Gibson

Tel: (033)3942994

Postal address:

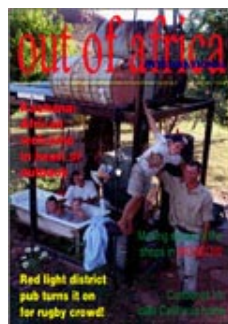
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