

Frank and Susan White

Frank was born in Cape Town on Easter Friday 1947. His parents were Greig, later to become a very well known Cape based Rotarian, Club President and Paul Harris Fellow and Ida, daughter of a well known confectioner in Cape Town with the surname of Humphries. Many of Frank's later school holidays were spent at Humphries Sweet Factory learning to make sweets of all shapes and sizes and of course learning the principles of mechanical and electrical engineering that stood him in such good stead in the years of study that lay ahead.

He attended Rondebosch Boys Preparatory and High Schools in Cape Town (also attended by Peter Kipps) and had 12 wonderful years having fun in sport (number one) and learning (a distant second). Many hobbies surfaced in those days, such as putting together electronic equipment, building racing carts and eventually cars, motorbikes and old airplanes. He qualified as a pilot as part of these hobbies.

After school, a stint in the South African ground and airborne forces, then into study for four years at the Cape Town Technicon, interspersed with four periods of six-month work experience. These were at John Thompson Africa, a heavy engineering company that built just about anything from steam generating plant of all sizes up to the huge six hundred megawatt power stations found in the highveld of South Africa and virtually anything else that could be made out of steel.

At the completion of the Engineering Diploma courses, John Thompson sent Frank to America in 1971 and continuing on to the UK the following year to study advanced fabrication processes. During the spell in the UK, he had to attend the Cambridge University Welding Institute to obtain the qualifications necessary for the company to bid for the upcoming nuclear power station to be built in Cape Town.

During the next ten years at John Thompson, Frank rose to the position of Works Manager responsible for 900 employees and ultimately Production Director just prior to leaving for Australia. The latter part of the 1980's was very difficult in the labour field in South Africa, as the emerging black unions were becoming very radical. Without going into any detail, suffice it to say that the decision to seek a future elsewhere was forced upon the White family.

With a couple of low intensity wars going on in Southern Africa, Frank spent a number of 3 month operational tours up in Northern South West Africa and Angola during the 1970's.

Susan White, born Deavin in Durban, was schooled at Durban Girls College where she excelled, becoming Dux of School and vice head girl. On leaving school, she went to America as a Rotary exchange scholar having a wonderful time both during that year and in many subsequent visits to her host families. She then went on to Durban University where she completed her B Commerce. She was offered a position at Arthur Young (now Ernst & Young) in Cape Town to complete her CA and on coming to the Cape, met up with Frank through mutual friends. They had a lot of fun together for a few years before ultimately getting married in 1978, thereafter both continuing with careers and much travel. Kate was born in 1981 and Lucy a couple of years later. Susan had by this stage joined a family business that was well established in wine farming and for the remaining 9 years before the move to Australia, she was the accountant for the very well known Klein Constantia wine farm in Cape Town.

Frank had taken up sailing during the late 70's and together with some friends built a Roberts 45 that they sailed to many of the islands in the Indian Ocean during the 1980's.

On arrival in Australia, Frank was employed by Transfield, then Lincoln Electric, then became Director of Manufacturing at Freedom Furniture and finally took up a similar position at Fantastic Furniture. In later years, Frank has been involved with large Industrial Property developments, with particular responsibility for maintaining tenant relations and building management.

Susan started her own practice in Accountancy ultimately specializing in installation and training of accountancy packages. Recently one of her clients, Businesswriters, found it necessary to employ a part time accountant and she took up the position but maintains her MYOB business on remaining free days and after hours and weekends.

Susan's mother Elizabeth (of market fame) and father Derek moved to Australia a few years ago to join their two daughters, son and numerous grandchildren. Derek passed away at Christmas 2004.

Kate completed schooling at Barker and completed a BSC at Sydney University studying Advanced Science and Mathematics. She then studied Veterinary Science at Brisbane University and is now practicing as a Vet on the Gold Coast. Lucy studied at Sydney University completing Health Business and Science and has been employed in systems implementation at the SAN Hospital for a couple of years. Whilst at Barker, she became the first girl School Captain in year 12.

The family love the Australian outdoors, spending many enjoyable weekends boating on an old Halvorsen that Frank has recently rebuilt, walking, flying, skiing etc.