

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE AND A TRIBUTE TO MY ANCESTORS

By Bruce Burley Copley May 2015



INTRODUCTION

This is where it all started for me, the marriage of my father Raymond Burley Copley to my mother Suzanne Johanna Van Den Berg on 21 Dec 1940, in the Church of the Province of South Africa in Pretoria, South Africa. The marriage officer was C R Runbret.

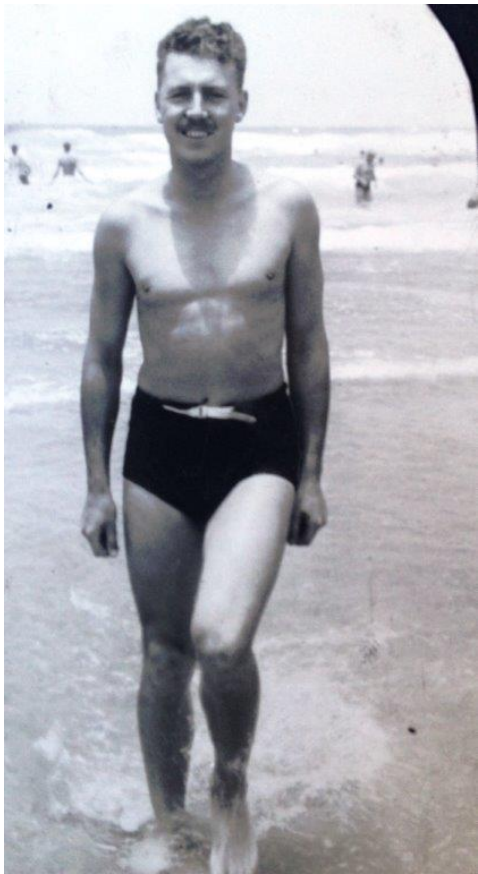
I was the second born, arriving on the 22nd March 1949 in the Welcome Nursing home in Pretoria, South Africa. According to a reliable witness, my mother, I created pandemonium in the delivery room because I would not start breathing for a number of minutes after being delivered head first into the world.



My paternal grandparents on the left and my maternal grandparents on the right. This photo was taken on the day of the wedding with the reception held at the Union Hotel in Pretoria

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA VOLLEDIGE HUWELIKSERTIFIKAAT (Uitgereik krachtens Wet 81 van 1963)		REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA FULL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (Issued in terms of Act 81 of 1963)	
G.P.-S.17339-1973-74-100-100 (R-S)		10175	
B-1 36			
Geskiedte 'n ware uittreksel uit die huweliksregister van: MAN-HUSBAND		Certified a true extract from the marriage register of:	
1. Identiteitsnommer Identity number	000000 0000 00 0	2. Van Surname	COPLEY
3. Volle voornamen First names in full	RAYMOND BURLEY	4. Huweliksstaats Marital status	BACHELOR
5. Bevolkingsgroep Population group	EUROPEAN	6. Geboortedatum Date of birth	Day - Month - Year
7. Land van geboorte Country of birth	ENGLAND	8. Permanente woonadres Permanent residential address	MILITARY COLLEGE ROBERTS MAGNIS
9. Identiteitsnommer Identity number	000000 0000 00 0	10. Noolnemen Maiden name	VAN DEN BERG
11. Huidige wetlike van Present legitimate surname	-	12. Volle voornamen First names in full	SUZANNE JOHANNA
13. Huweliksstaats Marital status	SANCTER	14. Bevolkingsgroep Population group	EUROPEAN
15. Geboortedatum Date of birth	Day - Month - Year	16. Land van geboorte Country of birth	SOUTH AFRICA
17. Permanente woonadres Permanent residential address	26 MURRAY STREET BROOKLYN PRETORIA	18. Datum van huwelik Date of marriage	Day 21 Month 12 Year 1940
19. Toestemming tot die huwelik Consent to the marriage given by (only in the case of minors):			
(a) Man Husband	OWN	(b) Vrou Wife	OWN
20. Huwelik bevestig te Marrage solemnized at: PRETORIA TRANSVAAL			
21. Op of sonder huweliksvoorwaardes By or without antenuptial contract: WITH ANTE NUPTIAL CONTRACT			
22. Hierdie huwelik is tussen ons volrek in die teenwoordigheid van die ondergetekende getuies: This marriage between us was contracted in the presence of the undersigned witnesses:			
R. B. COPLEY Man-Husband		S. J. VANDENBERG Vrou-Wife	
W. H. MANSERGH Getuie-Witness		I. VAN DEN BERG Getuie-Witness	
23. VERKLARING DEUR HUWELIKSBEVESTIGER-DECLARATION BY MARRIAGE OFFICER			
24. Hierdie huwelik is deur my bevestig op hede die This marriage was solemnized by me on this: 21 st day of DECEMBER 19 40			
C. R. RUNBRET Huweliksbevestigiger-Marrage Officer			
CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF S.A.			
DEPARTEMENT VAN BINNELANDSE SAKE PRIVAATSAK X114 PRIVATE SAK (Amptelike kantonnotariële) 16-1-1976		R2	
PRETORIA		786190..	
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		B. C. SINSLETON	

Marriage certificate... married for 18 years



Mom and dad on honeymoon Dec 1940

Dad's strikingly good looks and masculine physique are clearly evident from this photograph



My father Raymond Burley Copley's birth certificate

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON.

Application Number...*PAS. 46167/75/F...*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT <i>Stockport</i>										
<i>1917</i> . BIRTH in the Sub-district of <i>Stockport Third</i> in the County of <i>Stockport C.B.</i>										
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>450</i>	<i>Thirty-first October 1917 The Mount Reddish Road Reddish U.D.</i>	<i>Raymond Burley</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Burley Copley</i>	<i>Della Copley formerly Rihan</i>	<i>Captain Northern Ireland Instructors (Shoppers Continental Buyer)</i>	<i>Burley Copley Father The Mount Reddish Road Reddish</i>	<i>Twenty eighth November 1917</i>	<i>Edward Burrows Registrar</i>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

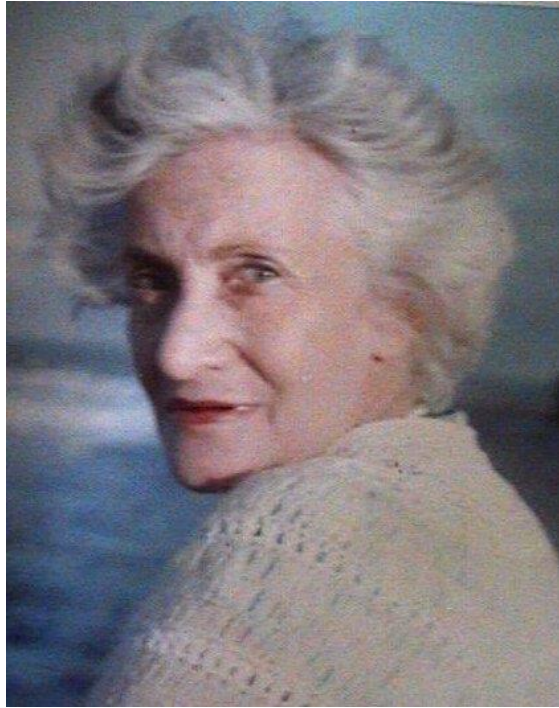
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *2nd* day of *June* 19*75*.

BC 886532

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953.
Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.
CAUTION:—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate, as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

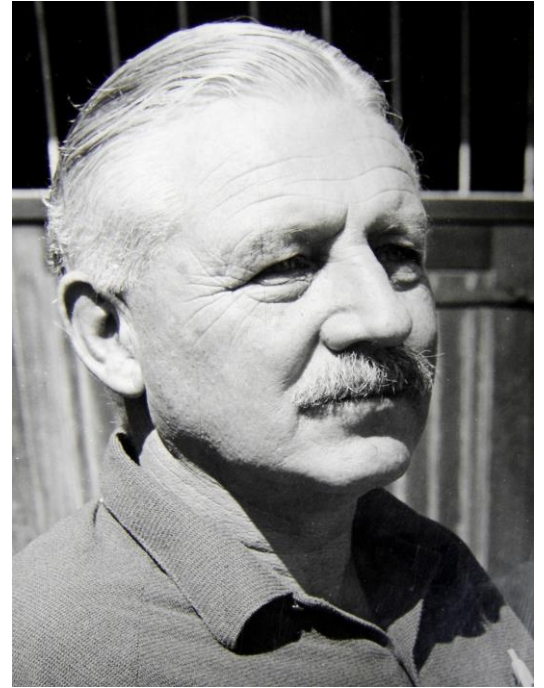


*See note overleaf.



My mother Suzanne a few months before her death in Sept 1986

My father Raymond who most people referred to as Bob, while at Iscor in the late 60's or early 70's



Radiant Suzanne on the Margate beach in the early 50's



Suzanne and Bob on the Margate beach in the early 50's

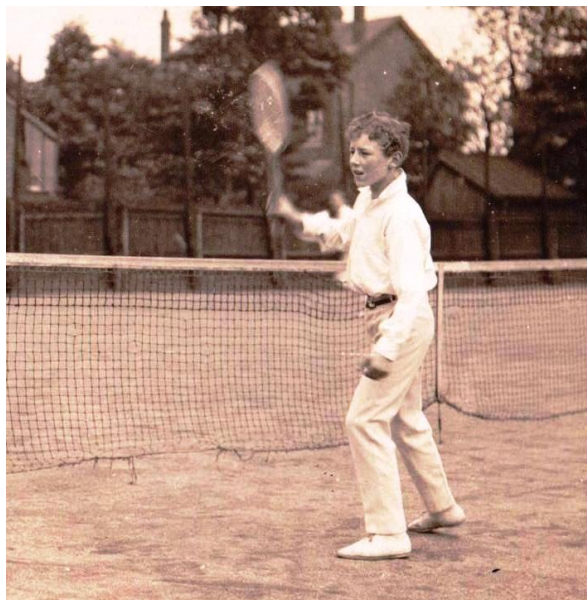


SOME CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

From all accounts of their 18 years together my parents who came from very different Afrikaans and English backgrounds, shared happy times in the early years of their marriage. Unfortunately Bob made the common mistake of allowing alcohol and extra-marital relationships to seriously and detrimentally impact upon his marriage and this is what led to their final separation in 1958 when I was nine years old. Their official divorce followed a few years later. What was particularly confusing and deeply disturbing for me as a young boy, was to witness the acts of violence towards my mother when Bob was drunk....I recall trying to intervene once and being thrown across the room landing against the wall, with the resolve to never attempt anything like that again. What was particularly confusing and hurtful was the fact that my father in the years that followed made no attempt to contact me or contributed in any way to our maintenance or education. In spite of the fact that my father fell very short of being a good husband and father, I never allowed these failures to tarnish the many wonderful memories of the exciting times I shared with him for the first 9 years of my life. He gave me the opportunity of getting up close and personal for many years with a large variety of animals, birds, snakes and insects. I have very fond memories of my interactions with a lion cub, crocodile, vervet monkey's, owls, many different snakes, bats, an ostrich and various small antelope. He taught me how to catch snakes, swim, and explore caves and potholes often dangling from a 30 meter steel cable ladder with only a small headlight to report back on what I was seeing. We also removed troublesome bats from house ceilings and most importantly my father taught me to fearlessly love nature and all creatures great and small. I made a point of telling him how much I appreciated what he had done for me in this regard when I saw him for the last time in his hospital death bed in 1972.

The burden of singly raising 4 young children aged 6 months and 6, 9 and 12 years was left solely to my mother. She did an almost unbelievable job of fulfilling this most demanding task and did so with great passion, purpose and determination and with a very deep commitment to love and care for all 4 of us to the best of her ability. She was an avid tennis fan who supported Suzanne was a highly efficient and capable secretary or personal assistant who was renowned for her exceptional typing speed and accuracy.....if I recall correctly she was able to type at the blinding speed of up to 180 words per minute on a manual typewriter with very few errors. To supplement her income and to ensure that we were able to continue living in our family house in the reputable suburb of Waterkloof in Pretoria, she took on extra part time work which involved typing assignments such as reports, manuscripts, theses and much work for the Provincial Council Hansard using a dictaphone. This almost always involved her getting only a few hours sleep before leaving for her full time, 5 day/week secretarial duties. I learned recently that she was Jan Smuts' personal secretary during the war and that she also transcribed most of the proceedings of the famous Rivonia court case trials in Johannesburg. Nelson Mandela was one of the accused and it resulted in a 27 year jail sentence.

I only saw my father once after he left in 1958 and that was in 1972 when he was on his death bed in a Pretoria hospital. To this day I regret allowing my loyalty to my mother to stop me seeing my father in my late teens because I had wanted to do so on quite a few occasions. My mother advised me strongly against having any contact with my father and I also regret never telling her before her death how difficult this had been for me. Hearing from my father on this death bed that he had closely followed my sporting and academic achievements reported in the local newspapers including those of Lauren's singing successes, was a bitter sweet pill to swallow.



Like my father I loved tennis and here he is playing this great game somewhere in Manchester I imagine

Dad was a Safety Engineer at Iscor for many years



With my mom, dad and Carole at Margate in early 50's

I am very indebted to my father for developing in me at a very young age a love and fearlessness of all living creatures and in particular snakes.....here are some of my large 2.5 meter black mole snakes that I often used to scare people especially unsuspecting Africans who happened to be walking



past our house in Waterkloof, Pretoria. The story quickly spread that the naughty little white boy should be avoided at all costs

Dad also taught me to how fish and her is one of my first catches at Margate

My love of guns started when I was 3 Here I proudly hold my father's big and very noisy double barrel 12 bore shotgun. One of my favourite childhood photographs





Our beloved Zebediela holiday house in the Northern Transvaal. This is the only house that has ever really felt like home to me. It served as local church and school in the early years before we moved in sometime in the early 50's. Over the years we shared this magical place with many extended family members and close friends. I was very fortunate to be able to enjoy

many "solo" retreats there completely on my own between 1994 and 2013. Last year our family decided that given the radical changes in the area it was time to let go of this place which will always hold a special place in my heart

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
VERKORTE OORLAFINGSUITREKSEL
(Uitgereik kragtens Wet No. 81 van 1963)

47383

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
ABRIDGED DEATH CERTIFICATE
(Issued in terms of Act No. 81 of 1963)

Gesertifiseer 'n ware uittreksel uit die sterfregister van:
Certified a true extract from the death register of:

Identiteitsnommer
Identity number: 3156317 985

Van Copley
Surname

Voile voornams
First names in full: Raymond Burley

Geboortedatum:
Date of birth: Dag 31 Maand 10 Jaar 1917

Geslag Manlik Bevolkingsgroep Blank
Sex Population group

Huweliksstand Getroud
Marital status

Datum van afsterwe:
Date of death: Dag 22 Maand 02 Jaar 1972

Plaats van afsterwe: Pretoria
Place of death

Oorsaak van dood: Mesathelioma
Causes of death

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PRIVAATSAK X114 PRIVATE BAG 726
16-1-1976
(Official Pretoria)
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

M. M. M. M.
Sekretaris van Binnelandse Sake
Secretary for the Interior

O.P.S.

A Copley family meal at some or other function



Dad's death certificate
22 Feb 1972



The Copley family enjoying a swim at Groothoek in Zebediela

Carole and Bruce enjoying a bush tea in a place none of us are able to identify





Our Waterkloof house in Pretoria famously known as Wits End



We were real “bush kids” and picnics like this were common



My grandfather's citrus estate at Zebediela where we had much fun riding donkeys and playing games in the orange tree orchards.



Our much loved Chevrolet 1952 which felt like our moving home....always such a delight to travel in especially when this meant we were going to Zebediela.

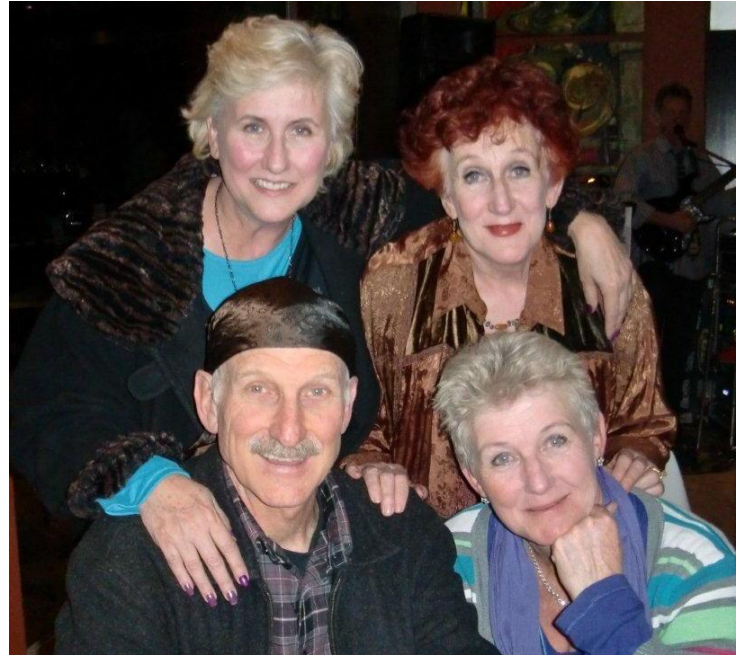


Bruce and Carole having fun in river mud somewhere at Zebediela





Carole, Bruce, Tamzon and Lauren at Scottburgh in the 60's



The Copley clan many years later around 2007...older and wiser

Carole with Derius van den Bergh my uncle(my mother's brother) He took the place of my missing father and taught me how to drive his VW beetle, shoot and catch fish. He never married and lived reclusively until his death in his mid 80's

A family gathering at Rietgat in Oct 1986 shortly after Suzanne died



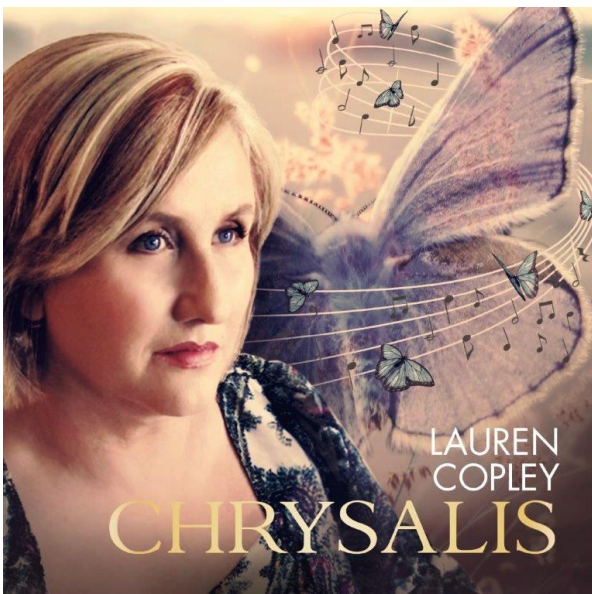


LP cover of Laurens' debut album, 'Seven years older than four' recorded at the tender age of 11.

The two gold discs Lauren won for her hit songs, 'Kentucky Blues' and 'It's too late now'



In the 1970s, Lauren Copley was a successful teenage singer and recording artist in South Africa, with several hits including Flower of Life and her 2 gold discs hits. She represented her country at age 15 at the 1973 Tokyo Music festival where she received the Cherry Blossom merit award for her performance of Terry Dempsey's song *Vicki*. Competing against other international artists



such as Olivia Newton John, Paul Williams, Lynsey de Paul and Mickey Newbury, Lauren recalls 'the thrill' of meeting guest stars Sammy Davis Jr and The Jackson Five (featuring fellow teenager Michael Jackson), who were guest performers at the event. But her dislike of commercial exploitation and continually being in the limelight made Lauren quit singing as a career at age 20, to the disappointment of her family and tens of thousands of her fans.

Lauren's 2015 CD Chrysalis with 14 tracks

Lauren has channelled her creative talents elsewhere becoming a respected professional journalist and editor for more than 30 years. As a single parent like her mother, she raised her two daughters Kerrin and Cara who she is very proud of.

Now after almost 40 years, Lauren has decided to start singing again and is wowing people with her liquid gold voice. Her CD Chrysalis, includes a number of golden oldie cover songs by artists she has greatly admired over the years

Here is a list of links covering Laurens' songs over more than 4 decades

(1973) : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8Gil1IKN1w&feature=em-share_video_user

(1989) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7InEnsO3as&feature=youtu.be>

(2015) : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic_rCu5BHYw

MY OWN FAMILY



Taken in our Johannesburg garden in the mid 90'sMarisa, Bruce, Donovan, Sharlto and Linda

I married Linda Mary Stocks in 1973 and we lived in Pretoria, Grahamstown, Johannesburg and finally in Cape Town for the 28 years of our marriage until our divorce in 2001. Linda was the daughter of Hugh Stocks who founded Stocks and Stocks construction in the mid 50's...this firm built UNISA in Pretoria and the world famous Sun City hotel resort north of Pretoria. We had 3 children Sharlto Brandon, Donovan Matthew and Marisa Genevieve. All three of our children have excelled in their artistic careers. Sharlto is a famous international Hollywood actor whose first movie District 9 in which he played the lead role as Wikus van der Merwe, was nominated for 4 Oscar and 7 Bafta(British equivalent of the USA Oscars) awards. Donovan is a celebrated musician, song writer and composer whose band Hot Water, has achieved much acclaim and success in South Africa and Europe. Marisa is a fashion designer and a leading belly dance teacher. There is a great deal of information available on the internet but here are some of my personal favourites : Sharlto's Nedbank advertisement which ironically conveys the message I constantly shared and practically demonstrated to all 3 of my children from a very young age <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ue5wiO08Ko&feature=email> Donovan's 2010 World Soccer Cup song Laduma which was a great hit with the fans <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4V9s9xQwTw> Marisa's tribal fusion dancing <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usFkIX53M0o>



Donovan on stage in Spain performing in front of a huge audience at the Womad festival



Sharlto's stunning performance in the lead role of Wikus van der Merwe(below) in the highly acclaimed Hollywood movie District 9, produced by Peter Jackson(Lord of the Rings fame), earned him this front cover accolade in this very prestigious Hollywood magazine.



One of my favourites....Donovan with his 2 son's and my first 2 grandchildren, Hugh Mason Copley on the left aged 8 and Murray Robin Copley aged 8 months

Like father like son



LIFE WALK : FAST FORWARD

Schooling : Brooklyn and Waterkloof Primary Schools and Pretoria Boys High School

University studies : Pretoria, Unisa, Wits, Simon Frazer in Canada and San Diego State in the USA : Obtaining 6 university qualifications from 1968 to 1985

Work positions :

Lyttelton Manor High School in Irene : 1971

Pretoria University lecturer 1972-1975

Rhodes University, Grahamstown lecturer and Director of the Sports Science Institute 1975 -1987

Professor and Head of Human Movement Studies at Wits University 1987-1989

Educational and Business consultant(edutainer) 1989-2013

2013 to current.....ReFired elder of leisure and pleasure with time to spare, adventures to have, travels to make, relationships to create and deepen, music to play and money to spend



I have been hugely blessed in my relationship with my heartner, Barbara Kennedy who more than anyone else in my life, has taught me about love. Here we are at the Cavalesi Ski Resort in Italy in Feb 2010. This wonderful holiday was a real family affair which we enjoyed with Carole and her husband Peet Pretorius and Tamzon and her husband Theo du Plessis

Barbara is a celebrated South African cellist and pianist and for many years we have performed together at functions and events all over the worldhere we are playing at a wedding that took place at in a remote Kokerboom forest on the West Coast of South Africa .



IN CONCLUSION SOME OF MY OWN NOTEWORTHY MILESTONES



Receiving my PhD awarded by the Faculty of Science at the University of the Witwatersrand in Dec 1980. I was privileged to be under the supervision of the world famous Professor Phillip Tobias arguably one of South Africa's most prominent scientists and academics. My thesis involved a very comprehensive morphological, physiological and biochemical study of amateur and professional tennis players the results of which were published in numerous scientific and popular journals all over the world.



Being awarded the prestigious British Association Medal from the CSIR for outstanding scientific research in July 1982

Top South African scientists honoured



Top awards — one posthumously — were presented to prominent South African scientists by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, in Pretoria on July 5. They are, left to right:

Professor D M Joubert, rector of the University of Pretoria, the South Africa

Medal for his outstanding contributions in the field of animal production.

Dr Bruce Copley, head of the Sports Science Centre of Rhodes University, the British Association Medal for outstanding individual research achievements by a scientist under the age of 40 years;

Dr S Meiring Naude, one

of South Africa's most eminent scientists, an honorary life membership; and

Dr S H Haughton, FRS, posthumous award of honorary life membership. A distinguished geologist and palaeontologist, he died in May at the age of 94. South Africa's tribute to him will be accepted by his son, Mr Leslie Haughton.



Representing South African Universities, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Province as a tennis player

Discovering that it is possible to ignite an ember in the Australian didgeridoo by playing a particular note....a world first



Pioneering Corporate Drumming in South Africa which resulted in a nationally televised broadcast in 1994. Tens of thousands of people discovered to their delight that they were both rhythmical and musical.



If music be the food of love play on(W. Shakespeare)

Sang in my school choir and in 1990 learnt to play the African djembe drum followed by the Australian didgeridoo in 2007. In 2005 I started learning to play the blues harmonica and then the flood gates opened. I am now a passionate multi instrumentalist joyfully learning to play my 117th instrument.



The Australian didgeridoo has been my greatest teacher and here I am playing 2 of them simultaneously on the Noordhoek beach in 2004



The Scottish Great Highland Bagpipe is the most physically demanding of all the instruments I play....everything crawls out of the woodwork when these 4 blended pipes on steroids start sounding(130 decibel sound volume)

Some of weird and wonderful ancient and modern instruments I play from all corners of the globe.....Hang, Djembe & Tarbuka drums, ocean basket, monochord, karimba, ocarina, melodica, shakuhachi, lyre, etc,

