

# COWAN HOUSE FOUNDATION



CHAPPS NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2020

## HELLO CHAPPS



Welcome to the first edition of our **CHAPPS** Newsletter for 2020!

We look forward to connecting with our past pupils and sharing news of where you are in the world, and what you are up to.

We have some exciting things planned for our Association and look forward to sharing these with you.

# MEET ROBYN GRUIJTERS

Robyn Gruijters joined the Cowan House team in February 2020 as the **Alumni and Foundation Coordinator**. Having previously spent 10 years working at Michaelhouse in the Heritage and Old Boys Office, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our school and the establishment of our own Foundation and Alumni Association.

We are excited by Robyn's innovative ideas and the energy she brings to the Foundation.

We welcome her to the Cowan House Family.



*Happy 72nd Birthday Cowan House*

# CHAPPS IN THE NEWS

## SHARKS SELECTION

Congratulations to Cowan House Old Boy, William Proudfoot (Class of 2015) who has signed up with The Sharks for the 2021 season. William currently attends Hilton College. Well Done, William!



## USA MEN'S U20 RUGBY ROSTER

Another Old Boy making waves in the Rugby world is Ty Nelson (Class of 2013) who was recently selected for the USA Men's U20 Rugby Roster.





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Grant Warren - uMngeni Relief Network | Cowan House 1978 - 1979

At Cowan House, I discovered a love for sport, nature (particularly birding), friends and mischief! I discovered myself. I discovered that teachers were not ogres with a mission to oppress but were there to mentor, support and build you. To my surprise, I discovered that studying and learning could be fun!

When I left Cowan House in 1979, I had only been there for 2 short years but I believe those years, in combination with my farm upbringing, set the foundation for my value system. For me, Cowan House was a place which valued experiences and relationships above material wealth. I have lifelong friends from Cowan House as do my 3 sons who all attended the same school.

I strongly believe that the measure of wealth or success should be in terms of the impact you have on those you encounter. In my capacity as the owner of La Petite France, I therefore value a positive, happy and respectful working environment which values each staff member and empowers them to contribute and add value to their work. I am proud of the long, and sometimes very difficult road, we've travelled together and I derive great joy from seeing how their families' lives have improved.

Although, the lockdown regulations have directly impacted on my business by abruptly cutting off the market I had in supplying the service industry, we have still been able to operate and survive. For this I am very grateful. I was also very glad to be able to contribute to the incredible uMngeni Relief Network feeding scheme by offering my barn, usually the venue for the Karkloof Farmers Market, as the distribution warehouse.

I was privileged and very fortunate to be able to attend Cowan House as well as to have the opportunity to send my children there. I would like to believe that all who have had that opportunity are aware of this and their responsibility be a positive influence on those around them.

Whatever the contribution, large or small, our society needs this!

# FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Past Pupils

I hope, by now, that your lives are returning to some form of normalcy. It is exciting to see Cowan House opening up again and to see the children once again being able to take advantage of and enjoy this wonderful space for learning.

It is in difficult times like these that we truly come to appreciate and understand the importance of family. Cowan House is no different and it is this school family that ensures that Cowan House continues to deliver the exceptional product it does. We are all a product of this wonderful school environment and it was here that we learnt lifelong values for which we need to be forever grateful. Having enjoyed the privilege that is a Cowan House education, and to ensure that it continues and endures, we need to support the school in whichever way we can.

It is essential that we have an up to date base and we have been working earnestly at getting this done. Contact with our past pupils is critical in order for us to create a network to serve them. Should you be able to assist us in making contact with Past Pupils from your own time at Cowan House, please do get in touch with Robyn on [foundation@cowanhouse.co.za](mailto:foundation@cowanhouse.co.za).

We would love to hear from you! Please share your news, achievements and successes, as well as births, marriages and bereavements.

Our Foundation website and Prospectus will be launched in the coming weeks and we look forward to sharing these with you. Both will provide insight to the work the Foundation is undertaking and projects going forward.

We look forward to connecting with you, and you to each other.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Peattie

Foundation Chairman & Past Pupil

**GET IN TOUCH**

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