

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



*Dave van der Spuy*

03 November 1950 - 31 July 2022

## REMEMBERING DAVE

Photos of David Francois van der Spuy, aka Dave, when he was in his nappies show a person born to a mission: wearing his characteristic expression of inquisitiveness coupled with his action pose: Dave's hallmark was 'doing'. Starting life in 1950 at Old Nectar farm outside Stellenbosch, Dave never stopped 'doing' for the next 71+ years, on a limitless array of diverse missions. Dave's approach to his allotted time on Earth was hands-on and urgent. Gregarious and extroverted, Dave made lifelong friends with those who shared his positive and unconventional outlook. Dave's missions included breeding rabbits, harvesting and bottling 'Old Nectar' honey, doing the engineering thing at Stellenbosch university - too much talk and too little action for him though - scramble-biking through the Maluti mountains, becoming an aviator in the early 70's pioneering days of what is now the Stellenbosch Flying Club, being a 'suit' for Plate Glass, building and sailing dinghies on the Vaal dam, air rallying, rebuilding and owning and piloting a variety of light aircraft semi-commercially, creating a restaurant. In the late 1980's Dave designed and built his bushveld house surrounded by bushveld trees he had planted on his 10 hectare property less than 3km from Randburg's Northgate Dome, followed by designing and building the home for his family on the same property in the early 2000's. Dave was also active on a variety of property developments with an aviation angle. With his Vaal Dam sailing mates he participated in the building of a boat on a shoestring budget for the Cape to Rio race which they won on handicap.

Dave was very much into nature and, along with his family, was well versed in the birds and trees of the warmer regions of southern Africa, including in the Waterberg where he was a founding partner in building one of the first lodges in the Welgevonden private game reserve in the mid-90's.

In 2000 Dave created the 'African Aero Safari' enterprise which has provided incomparable self-fly wildlife safaris throughout the southern African region for international aviators; he also created the popular 'Wildebeest Wings' flying safaris which were tailored to meet the pockets of local aviators.

In 1992 Kitty came into Dave's life and together they created a life partnership and two daughters, Saskia and Jemma, now adults. Over the last 30 years Dave and his three ladies journeyed together far and wide in southern Africa, pursuing their creative adventures as a tight-knit family in the sea, on land and the air.

In 2014 Dave and the ladies left Gauteng to create their new home and start new enterprises from a smallholding outside Stellenbosch and across the vineyards from Somerset College where Saskia and Jemma completed their schooling before pursuing tertiary studies at Stellenbosch University.

Central to Dave's being has been his family; the three ladies he loved and cherished above all else. He never ran out of drive, energy or positive fun, notwithstanding the lymphatic disorder that had afflicted him since 2008 and which caused his untimely end on July 31, 2022.

Dave will be remembered as positive, warm hearted, creative, fearless, unbound by convention and a crusader for worthwhile causes in the communities in which he spent his life.

By Peter van der Spuy

## HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climber, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, Up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, not even eagle flew-  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space  
Put out my hand touch the face of God

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

