

Obituary – Francis Edward Ray Hawks (1 Nov 1943 to 11 August 2017)

Frank passed away in Johannesburg after a short illness while visiting his daughter. He is survived by his son Josh, his daughter Mandy and grandchildren Sofia, Megan, Kate and Anna.

Frank was born in Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape where his father was the Vice-Principal of Healdtown, the mission school famous for having Nelson Mandela as one of its alumni.

Frank spent ten years at Bishops (G52 - 61) where he was a noted chorister, played violin, won the Imperial Challenge Shield Badge Medal for shooting, a prefect in Gray House and was awarded his half colours for rugby.

His first job after school was in shipping with Ellerman and Bucknall in Cape Town. He left in 1963 to join De Beers Consolidated Mines as an administrative staff course trainee with fellow OD **Mac Bissett (G51-60)**. This included a six month stint underground with learner miners and led to Frank's enrolment at UCT where he completed a BA B.Ed and Secondary Teachers Diploma. To help pay his way through university he worked for African Car Hire driving tourists and various luminaries including chaperoning Sir David Lean during his time in Cape Town filming for Ryan's Daughter.

He met and married Margaret Richards in 1969 and had two children Josh and Mandy. He initially taught in England at Shrewsbury House and Kings College in Taunton. Upon returning to South Africa he spent ten years at RBHS where he taught English and History, coached rugby and cricket, was the master in charge of squash, a senior house-master and directed, produced and performed in The Mikado, Trial by Jury and The Gypsy Baron. He sang part time professionally in Cape Town during this period for CAPAB and was a member of both the Owl Club and the Western Province Cricket Club where he was a regular for sixty years.

He left teaching at the end of 1983 to join Anglo Americans Central Training Unit at Maccauvlei on the Vaal River where he was a Training and Public Relations Manager. He studied further through UNISA obtaining a MDP (AAC) He was also the President of the Rotary Club of Vereeniging 1994-95 and managed various Education Centres. In his retirement he continued doing some freelance training as far afield as Khartoum but his passion was in helping set up a cricket academy for disadvantaged children in Napier where he had moved to soon after the death of his wife twenty years ago at

the behest of his good friend **Pieter Albertyn (S52-61)**. There are now a host of young budding cricketers in Napier and facilities that did not exist before. If you'd like to find out more or donate toward the completion of this endeavour please e-mail Mandy at: porterm@forbes.co.za.

Frank was a warm, generous, kind man who helped many, was unwavering in his support for his family, had a quick sense of humour and was a great raconteur. He had a keen interest in history, politics, cricket and rugby and never had a bad word to say about any of the people he knew. He was a rarity and shall be sorely missed.