

Shayne Straker - My Journey since Matriculation at Northview High School

After Matriculation I worked for a year (1963) at the Departement van Gemeenskapbou (Dept. Community Development) in Johannesburg to enhance my very average Afrikaans skills so that I might write the supplementary examinations for University Entrance. My tenure in the job did not help greatly but I did learn to swear fluently in Afrikaans.

Thereafter I worked for Lever Brothers in Auckland Park and Exclusive Books in Hillbrow whilst pursuing partime business studies until 1967 when I left to spend a year working and travelling in the UK and Europe.



On my return in 1968 I re-located to Cape Town and began a banking career with Standard Bank of South Africa Limited (notwithstanding my suspect ability at Maths).

I married my English girlfriend in 1977 and we settled in Camps Bay where our two daughters were born.

In 1985 an opportunity arose for me to join Standard Chartered Bank in London (the parent company at the time of SBSA) which I accepted. We moved to England that year and bought our house in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. I served with the Bank for the next 20 years in the City and the West End until my retirement.

I keep myself occupied as a steward at a nearby stately home and as a volunteer with a Weald of Kent conservation group. I have also appeared as an "extra" in feature films and TV productions. In addition, we are blessed with three grandchildren who keep us active.

I was very saddened to hear of the news of the members of the '62 group who have passed away.

On the recollection front I remember arriving for Standard 6 in 1958 from Fairmount Primary to the temporary prefab units which were hot and airless in summer and cold in winter. The break times in the quadrangle in those early days were at times a bit lawless and I think I was caned twice by Mr Harrison for collective misbehaviour in class. Matters of course improved once we moved to the new building.

With very best wishes to you all.

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