

## Yvonne (Kolbe) Droste

After completing a BSc at Wits in 1965 I did a teaching diploma at JCE.

For two years I taught maths, science and biology at Northview High School and then joined Klipfontein Organic Products as an Information Officer in their technical library. That is where I met my husband, Ted, a Chemical Engineer. We married in August 1970 and I went to teach at Parktown Girls' High. I was then seconded to JCE to lecture chemistry.

We built a house in Morningside Manor, Sandton where we lived for 40 years. Carolyn was born in October 1972. Jeannette was born in June 1974.



After Ted joined the Industrial Development Corporation we spent two years in Empangeni where Ted was Deputy Project Manager for Richard Bay Minerals.

We returned to our house in Sandton and Kevin was born in December 1979.

I started teaching at Sandown High School in 1983 and became Head of the Science Department as well as the Standard Head for the Standard Nine pupils. I was also responsible for the Prefects and setting up the Computer Department as well as installing and running the Reports programme. I set and marked Chemistry Papers for Matric for both the Transvaal Education Department (TED) and Independent Examination Board (IEB).

When I retired I became the Internal Moderator for the IEB Matric Chemistry Papers. I loved teaching and found it fulfilling and stimulating. I also filled in a term-at-a-time for colleagues so that they could take long leave. I thoroughly

enjoyed teaching at Wendywood High, St Peters' College, Redhill, Rodean and Sandown. At the same time I gave extra Science lessons from home.



My first grandchild, Matthew, was born in 2004, the year I turned 60. Two years later his brother, James, was born and I looked after them until Carolyn and Simon emigrated to Canberra, Australia in 2008. Carolyn is an Endocrinologist and Simon an Anaesthesiologist and Trauma Specialist.



Meantime Jeannette married Tim and lives in South West London with her two sons , Max (7) and Thomas (5). Jeannette is a physiotherapist with Nuffield and Tim is Head of Resourcing for BMI.

Kevin and Leslie live in Johannesburg with Conall (2 ½ ) and are expecting my sixth grandson in April 2014. Kevin did a BSc Information Technology and is contracted to Standard Bank to manage some of their IT projects. Lesley is Irish and is an Electrical Engineer with Mott MacDonald.



When Ted and I went on honeymoon we explored Mozambique for a month. We both love travelling which is just as well with Carolyn and her family in Australia and Jeannette and her family in the UK. At least Kevin and his family are in Johannesburg. Of course Carolyn and Jeannette and families visit from time to time.



Here I am with my British and Australian grandsons.

Ted is retired but spends quite a bit of time Consulting which involves more travel and takes him into Africa, the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

Over the years we have travelled extensively both overseas and in Africa. Each year we always manage to fit in at least three trips to the bush. Some of our more memorable trips were a safari through Botswana starting in the Central Kalahari; a trip to Kenya and Tanzania for my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday to see the Great Migration.

In 2012 we went to find the Shoebill in the Bangweulu Swamps, Zambia and three weeks later we were in London for the Olympics.

This year we camped in the Richtersveld and went to Australia to look after our grandsons while Carolyn and Simon ran the New York Marathon.

Last year I had a bilateral mastectomy with reconstruction and was very fortunate not to need chemotherapy or radiation.

In 2011 Ted and I moved to Waterfall Hills Estate – a mature living community/’vrek plek’. It is wonderful as we can just lock up and go. That is what we intend to do until our funds or health runs out.

We have been truly Blessed.  
Yvonne (Kolbe) Droste

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