



Commemorating 40 years

IMPACT REPORT 2020

2019/20 Financial year end & 2020 calendar of events



“Today is an opportunity to see something new or see something in a new way.”
Donald T Iannone, D.Div.



“



Esmare with her father Chris Burger



Esmare (Burger) Wells with Mum Riana Kley

As the daughter and only child of the late Chris Burger it is an honour and a privilege to be associated with the Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund.

I am immensely grateful and appreciative to the Fund and those who have worked tirelessly for the last 40 years to keep it going.

Over many years I have followed the progress of the Fund and witnessed the tremendous impact that it has had and still has on the lives of those in need and who have their lives made better as a result the Fund.

My father had compassion for people and always helped others in need.

The work this fund does allows for his legacy to live on!

My wish is for the Players' Fund to prosper, going from strength to strength and to continue to provide for those in need.

Esmare (Burger) Wells

**Esmare was 18 months old at the time of her fathers' passing*

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VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION:

Our vision is to be an internationally recognised organisation that supports the recovery and improves the quality of life of rugby players in South Africa who suffer serious injuries on the field, whilst promoting safer rugby.

MISSION:

When a serious rugby injury changes a life, we step in offering help and hope. Every aspect of the injured players' welfare is our concern.

VALUES:



CARING

The holistic care of each recipient is our focus.



DEPENDABLE

Our recipients and the rugby community can count on us to remain at their side.



STABLE

We have stood firm in our work and approach since 1980.



TRANSPARENT

We are open and honest about the work that we do and our processes.



APPROACHABLE

Help is only a phone call away.

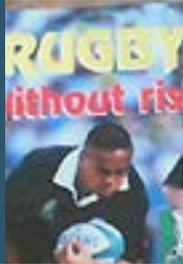


ACCOUNTABLE

If you entrust your support and funds to us, we are accountable for all the resources we apply to achieve a better quality of life for our recipients.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JEAN DE VILLIERS



There is no doubt that 2020 was a difficult time for the people of South Africa and our economies. The crisis around the COVID-19 pandemic has left no one untouched. The virus is not only claiming human lives — it is subjecting individual countries and the global political order to extraordinary stress rarely seen during times of peace. But these challenges only reinforce our resolve to continue working towards our vision – to be an internationally recognised organisation that supports the recovery and improves the quality of life of rugby players in South Africa, who have suffered serious injuries on the field, whilst promoting safer rugby.

For more than 40 years the Players' Fund's financial stability and expertise have enabled us to support our recipients through their own crises, and today this is no different. We have an experienced management set-up and all the necessary measures have been put in place to keep our essential operation running without interruption, while still protecting the health and safety of our employees and their families.

We are confident that we will continue to support our recipients in this crisis, thanks to input and expertise from my board of trustees, the concerted efforts of our management staff and the close partner and sponsor relationships that we enjoy. In spite of this great team effort, there is no doubt

that the future of the Players' Fund will rely on creativity, collaboration and resilience in order to power through this period of somewhat uncertainty.

Please be assured that *Rugby's Caring Hands* will continue to be the strong partner that our recipients, rugby unions and rugby community can rely on.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which reads "Jean de Villiers". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jean de Villiers

GENERAL MANAGERS' REPORT – GAIL BAERECKE



After reading through my 2019 GM message I realised how, even then, I struggled to describe that specific year. Here are some examples of the phrases that I used: *fast and furious, challenging, lots of ups and downs*, and even *manic* at times. Little did I know that 2019 was just the practice run for 2020! Thankfully we had flexed and toned our muscles, and were ready to run out onto the field and take on the COVID-19 pandemic with a vengeance.

Although not an easy year, the wonderful team effort from our board, management and recipients has made so much possible by the simple act of caring – caring for one another, caring for our environment and caring for our world. Isolation, restrictions, social distancing and the like have highlighted for many of us the need to do this together, pooling our resources, slowing down, reflecting on the important things in life and literally taking the time to smell the roses.

The wellbeing of our 106 recipients' during this uncertain time has been our focus as it gives us great pleasure to partner them along their journey of life. It has been far from easy for this special community, even more so being disabled and isolated from friends and family. In spite of many obstacles faced, it is wonderful to hear some of their stories first-hand.

So please do read on and learn more below about the lives of those within our organisation that we proudly serve.

We remain hopeful and trust that 2021 will bring about positive change, a slowing down and ultimately the eradication of the novel Coronavirus, abundant good health, wellbeing and world peace.

"Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible." *Helen Keller*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Baerecke".

Gail Baerecke

RECIPIENT STORY:

Adriaan Kruger

While on a family holiday in Hoedspruit in September 2020, Tori went through to Phalaborwa to visit Adriaan Kruger at his home where he lives with his Mum and Dad (Bert and Nellie).

Adriaan was injured on 27 September 1990 at the age of 18 while participating in a rugby practice at Frans du Toit High School in Phalaborwa. His injury occurred just a week after his matric farewell and the day before he was due to break up for school holidays.

Since his injury, Adriaan has embarked on many entrepreneurial ventures with his parents and more recently, together with his Dad, they have developed a wonderful business grafting Rosy Adenium with the local Impala Lily stems. The results are beautiful, and the plants are very popular with local property developers / landscape gardeners and lodges. Adriaan is fanatical about importing different species of plants to experiment with and the area around their home has been transformed into a productive nursery.

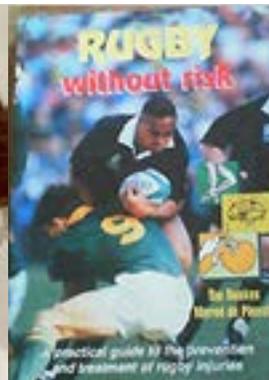
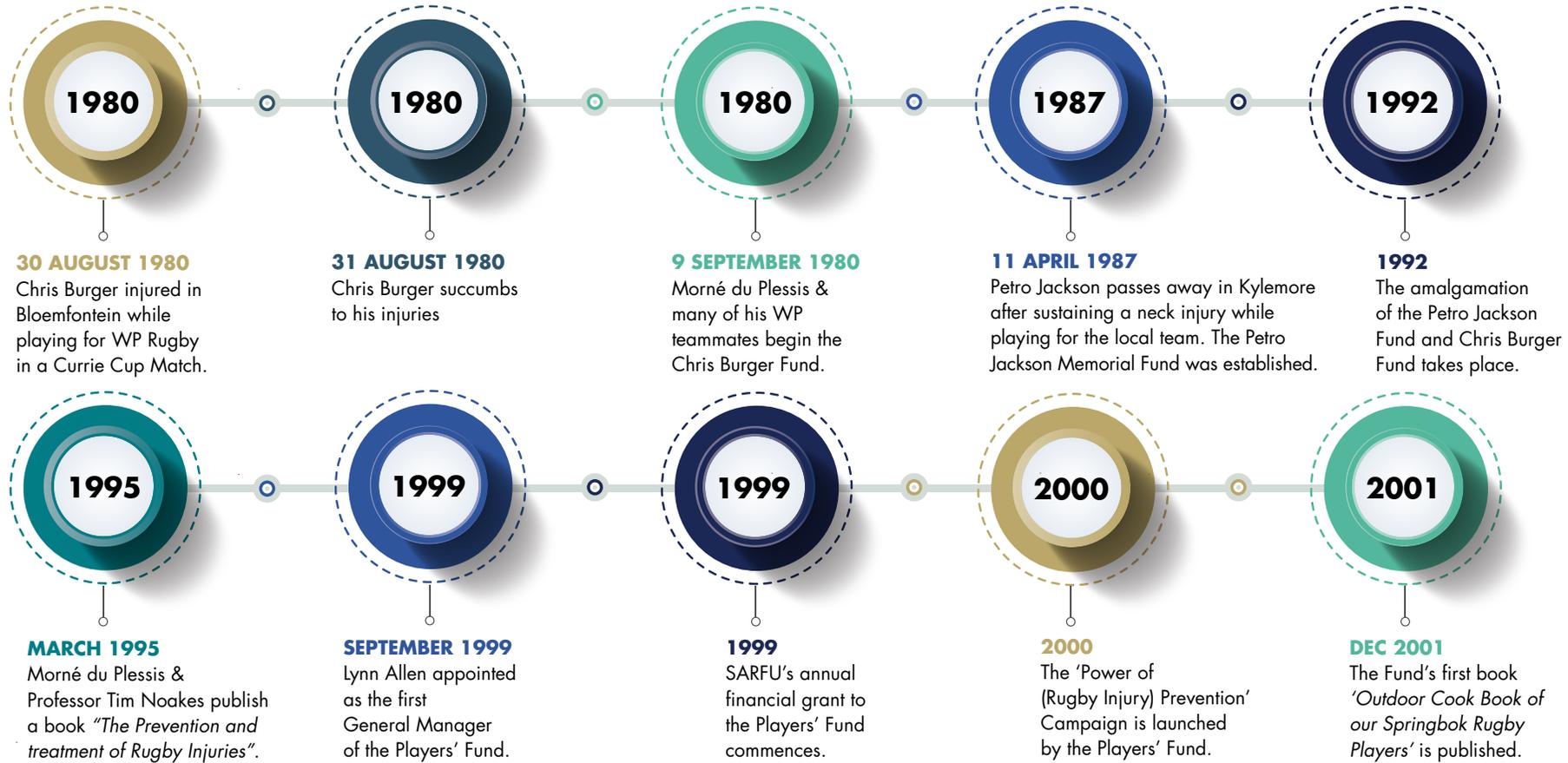
Adriaan is also employed on a full-time basis as a switchboard operator at one of the local mines, however at the time of Tori's visit he had been at home for six months to avoid the risk of COVID-19. He managed to keep himself busy by developing a website for the Rosy Adenium business which helps with the sales of their plants on a national basis. For anyone wanting to support a small and local business – please visit: www.rosyadeniums.co.za

Thanks to this home visit and getting to know the world around Adriaan, we were able to identify items in the Kruger home's attic that the Fund could "rehome" to other recipients. This has since been done.

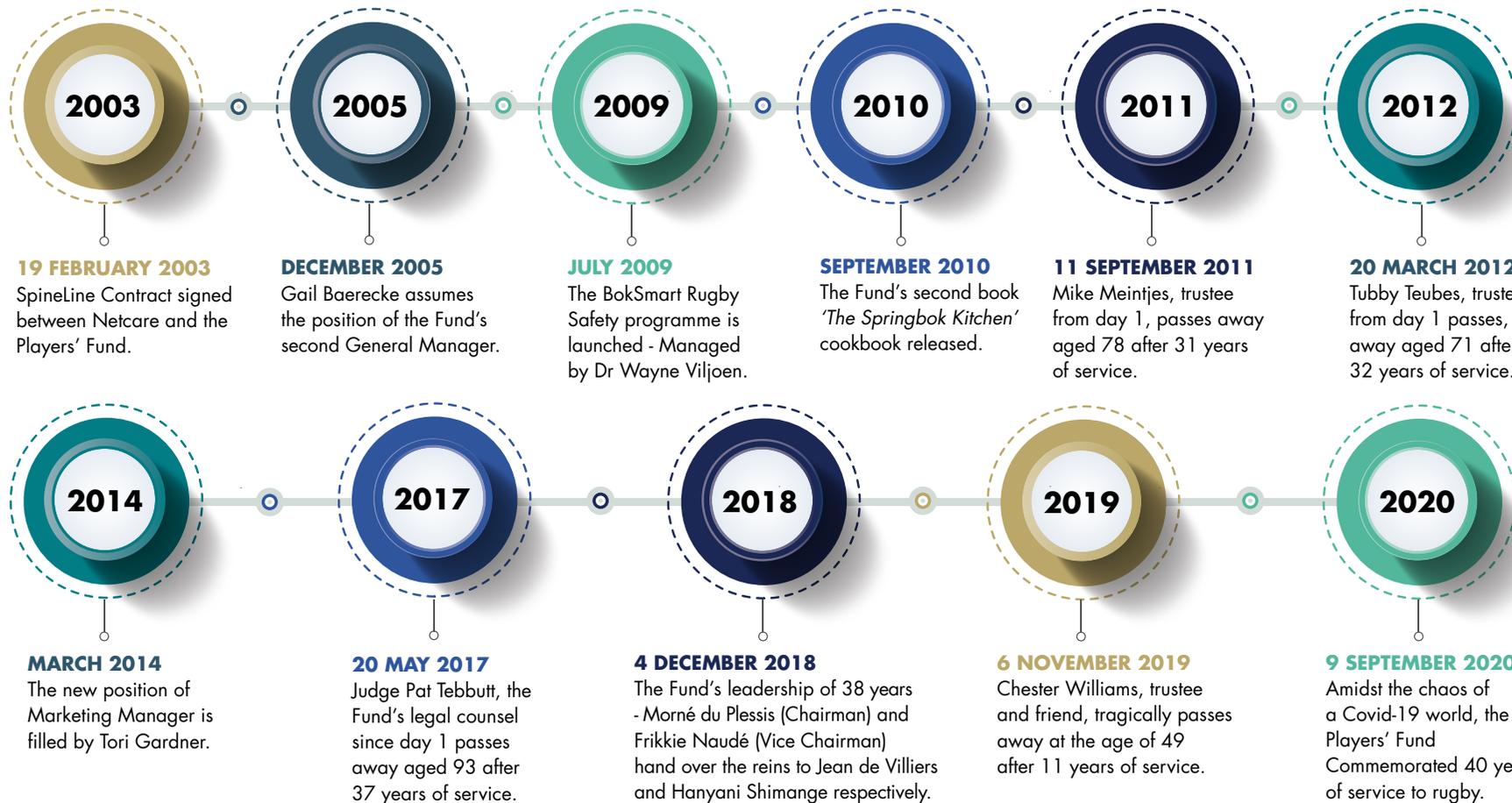
By visiting recipients at their homes and seeing their surroundings first-hand we are fortunate to be able to picture the environment around each recipient when they phone the office. In this way we can provide the best solutions for their individual needs.



TIMELINE FROM 1980 – 2020



TIMELINE FROM 1980 – 2020



RECIPIENT STORY:

Sikhosonke Mani

Sikhosonke (Siko) Mani was injured on 4 April 2009 at the age of 21. He was playing for the Gladiator Rugby Club in Port Elizabeth. After his accident the Fund arranged a sponsored four month stay at the Aurora Private Hospital where he received specialised spinal cord rehabilitation. His time and experience there set him up well and he returned home to live with his mother and siblings in the village of Kwanoxolo just outside of Port Elizabeth.

After a visit from Gail later in that year an option to move to a care facility was proposed to Siko, which he accepted. At the Cleary Park Cheshire home in PE, Siko thrived. As a resident of the Cheshire Home, he embarked on a training and skills development journey on a bursary from Dower College which saw him qualify with a National Certificate in Vocational Generic Management (NQF 2-4), a Public Management Certificate (NQF 4-6) and later a further Assessors Course (NQF 5).

In August 2020 and after 11 years in the Cheshire Home, he felt that he was ready to tackle an independent life and take full responsibility for his health and wellbeing.

Here you'll see Siko hard at work in his home office working towards obtaining a certificate in South African Tax which he is due to complete in May 2021. He has proven that he is not afraid of hard work and hopes to find an internship or graduate job in the near future.

We're incredibly proud of Siko's determination and encourage everyone to WATCH THIS SPACE!



WHAT WE DO

We are alerted of serious and life-altering injuries* through the BokSmart reporting progress. Following on-field care and during the acute medical care in hospital, the immediate needs of the individual and the family are assessed, and we step in to assist where necessary.

*These injuries include, but are not exclusively confined to:

- Spinal cord injuries with irreversible damage, resulting in dependence on mobility devices such as wheelchairs and walking-aids
- Head injuries that impair normal day-to-day functioning (inability to work/walk/talk etc.)
- Other life-changing injuries that may lead to visual impairment, irreparable damage or loss.

Prior to discharge from hospital and in consultation with the rehabilitation team, we assess the needs of the recipient and begin to provide support across eight pillars. Below are examples of care that can be identified within each of these pillars.



PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT

Once returning home from hospital after the acute medical phase of recovery, we partner recipients to ensure they have all they need to lead lives as independently as possible. In the 2019/20 financial year alone we purchased six new motorised wheelchairs at an average price of R73 321.00. We also facilitated repairs to 27 wheelchairs during the same time.



MODIFICATION TO HOMES

Before returning home from hospital or in the event of a relocation, we work together with local builders and suppliers to ensure that the recipient's homes are wheelchair friendly and safe. These alterations may also happen long after the initial journey home, like in the case with Franklin Prins who lives in Macassar in the Western Cape. The surface between his room and the rest of the house was regularly flooded, uneven and was difficult for him to navigate safely. With the help of a local builder, this area was leveled and smoothed with a ramp also built to enable him to get into his room with ease.



MEDICAL CONSUMABLE ALLOCATIONS

Through a partnership with Ysterplaat Medical Services in Cape Town we are able to assist all recipients, on a national basis, with medical consumables throughout the year. Regular orders on these lists are linen savers, urinary catheters, vitamins and dressings.



SECONDARY REHABILITATION

The importance of ongoing daily exercise for the physical and mental wellbeing of our recipients has become increasingly evident. By partnering with health professionals who specialise in rehabilitation and contributing to the costs of their expertise, we are able to encourage recipients to participate in regular physical activity. We have been able to develop a strong network of gyms and rehabilitation centres where there are professional trainers, well equipped to deal with spinal cord injuries. In total, 12 of our recipients were able to exercise safely in these environments in the past year. Here they are encouraged to set achievable goals, push their own boundaries, with each small gain improving their functionality and independence.

WHAT WE DO



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Where possible and appropriate, the Assistance Committee of the Fund approves the payment of a monthly subsistence allowance to recipients who are unable to support themselves. Financial support also extends to cover the rent of assisted-living facilities for those who cannot be cared for at home.



PARTNERING EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT JOURNEYS

Our focus is the holistic health and well-being of our recipients and to remain at their sides throughout their individual journeys. In 2020, as a result of a collaboration with Players 4 Players and 2U, a UCT Get Smarter Digital Marketing Course was gifted to Furlo Theron who recently launched an online business called Grace Adapted Clothes and Aid (www.clothesandaidfordisabled.com). The Players' Fund was able to provide Furlo with a laptop to enable his journey into the new world of entrepreneurship.



TRANSPORT FACILITATION

Wherever possible, we assist our recipients with transport for when urgent medical attention is required, for clinical appointments, or to reach academic institutions for their studies. In the absence of reliable transport for people living with disabilities, this is not always an easy task and it can be costly. Often our recipients are forced to purchase space in a private vehicle for their wheelchair, themselves and a carer. In the 2019/20 financial year we contributed an amount of R127 623.50 towards transportation costs for our recipients, either using informal taxis or contributions to petrol for family or friends' vehicles.



PERSONAL CARE

One of our goals is to try to improve the quality of life of our recipients, which means taking care of their essential needs as well as the softer touches that remind them that they are part of a community that will never forget them...

In 2020, while the world was quiet and we were all encouraged to remain at home as a result of the novel Coronavirus, we still aimed to commemorate our 40th Year in a meaningful way. We turned to one of our talented recipients, Quintin van Jaarsveld, who is an award winning journalist and online news editor. Over nine weeks he pulled together an impressive 40th anniversary media campaign, which was a win-win situation for both parties. It brought Quintin closer to the operations of the Fund and enabled him to earn an income during the lockdown months and it provided us with a bank of well-written articles that helped document the 40-year history of Rugby's Caring Hands. Quintin also presented the campaign to the board of trustees at the Annual General Meeting in August 2020, which was a special occasion to be a part of. (Please find the links to these articles later in this report.)

THE TEAM

2020 will be remembered as a year like no other. In August of 2020, in preparation for our AGM, we spoke to all of our trustees, asking them for feedback and memories that they will keep of the time during the national lockdown which was enforced from 26 March 2020.

Here is what they all had to say...



JEAN DE VILLIERS

"Lockdown was good for me, as I had the chance to spend more time at home with the family. It was by far the longest time that we have been together without me having to travel. I sharpened up on my bowling and in my two daughters I unearthed two very committed fielders and obviously my boy Luca, as the youngest, only wants to bat all the time!

Consistency in a daily schedule is something that lockdown forced upon us, it also provided me with an opportunity to start a fantastic training routine with my wife Marlie. I can proudly say that for the first time since my playing days I managed to get in 70 consecutive days of training. Dinner together every night as a family, more braais than ever and digging into my wine collection.

Being able to enjoy the fantastic autumn and winter weather that we had, seeing the snow on the beautiful Drakenstein mountains was also incredibly positive. We had time to enjoy the simple things in life and appreciate the beauty of the Cape."



HANYANI SHIMANGE

The Shimange family welcomed their daughter Sana Marang on 22 January 2020 and being locked down at home a few weeks later, provided the Shimange family the opportunity to really get to know their new bundle of joy.

Shimmy also learnt how to bake, starting with banana bread and progressing to a chocolate cake for his wife Thateng's birthday.

He has been involved with SARLA's #RugbyUnites project which saw the coming together of many generous sponsors and rugby players to pack grocery bags to distribute to those in need.

In September, he joined teammates and friends Schalk Brits, John Smit and Butch James as they walked unaided through Verneukpan, a dry salt pan in the Northern Cape. They did this while pulling a heavily-laden cart for 200km to raise money for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the BrightRock Battle of the Sports Initiative.



MORNÉ DU PLESSIS

Lockdown for Morné will always be remembered fondly as it spanned over the last few months that he had his beloved Jenny by his side. Together they spent quality time in Hermanus where they rolled up their sleeves and became an essential cog in a daily feeding scheme called Food 4 Love, which operated out of the local township Zwilhe.

Before Jenny's passing on 5 November, they were able to enjoy close family gatherings and create memories that will never be forgotten.

THE TEAM continued



FRIKKIE NAUDÉ

2020 was a tough time for the wine industry, however good things came from the “down time” at Yonderhill Wine Estate. Renovations to the old farm house, which now functions as a guest house, was one such project. Frikkie feels that his team at Yonderhill are more united than ever before and ready to kick into action after a difficult time. The Ankole cattle that share his farm have also been happily multiplying and creating quite a reputation with regular farm visitors and can be seen from the road when driving along the R44 between Stellenbosch and Somerset West.



CLINT READHEAD

Clint turned 50 on 14 May and although missing out on a big party, he absolutely loved his “virtual birthday” which his wife Pippa arranged with messages from friends and family pouring in. He said it was such a nostalgic trip down memory lane for him and an opportunity to catch up with so many friends and family.



FC SMIT

While lockdown was limiting in many ways, it certainly had a silver lining. The quality time with family was amazing, we celebrated a 19th and 80th birthday, it was a privilege to all be together. I got involved in projects I’d been wanting to do for ages; developing a vegetable garden, which has been very rewarding and, as it’s grown, we have managed to share our produce with the surrounding Stellenbosch community. I spent more time at home over the lockdown months than I had done in years. I started making homemade bread, ginger beer and homemade pasta... all a labour of love. The dogs also thoroughly enjoyed having us all home, which was an ongoing source of entertainment. While I’m pleased to transition back to a ‘semi normal’, the memories of lockdown will be cherished forever.”



TIAAN STRAUSS

After 11 years as the GM of Rugby for Megapro, Tiaan resigned at the end of June and started his new role as GM for WC and Coastal Region for OUTsurance. He still remains involved with Premier Interschools Rugby as well. Tiaan sharpened his hunting skills during lockdown both in the Eastern Cape and Karoo.

THE TEAM continued



JOHN SMIT

John was very busy with all forms of activities. His family were reunited when they joined him in Centurion from KZN after almost a year apart. He then embarked on raising money for his charity, Barney's Army, through a national virtual cycle. Proceeds went to a children's feeding scheme in the Ceres region, which would have hosted one of the stages of the ABSA Epic. He then teamed up with SARLA in their #RugbyUnites programme where they partnered with Spar and recruited both rugby legends and current players to shop and pack food parcels for certain charities. He was also a guest on our own Lock Down Legends Webinar series and joined Hanyani on the Battle of the Sports trek across the Verneukpan in the Northern Cape, raising money for PPE.



WAYNE FYVIE

Wayne became the owner of a courier business called Fastway during lockdown. With many business's going online and being dependent on deliveries, this acquisition became a little gem and just at the right time.

Wayne and Gina's daughter Courtney also returned home from the USA for lockdown, after being away for only three months in the first year of her tennis scholarship in the USA. So, this was a special family time for the Fyvie family.



ANTON ENGELBRECHT

Lockdown was a daily learning curve for Anton. He found that as a person living with a disability, he had more access to services as businesses had to become more willing to deliver and provide online retailing. This attitude change from retailers was a unique benefit to him.

He also found that with companies now being geared towards employees working remotely and in their own space, obstacles like transport and accessibility in the workplace were no longer an excuse for not participating in the economy. This, he pointed out, directly increased the work opportunities for those living with disabilities.

The quality time that he and his wife Stacey had with their young family as they both worked from home, was also priceless, and something that they hope will never change going forward.



JOEL KRIGE

During lockdown, a mate lent him a mountain bike and this literally revolutionised his life. After two initial falls, he re-calibrated his risk profile and decided to be more careful, arming himself with elbow gloves and a good helmet. He slowly started gaining confidence on the bike and has explored the trails of the Table Mountain National Park both on the bike and on foot. He has used this new-found exercise method to get fit and healthier.

A second lockdown revelation was that he rebooted himself from thinking linearly on paper, to digitally online in order to argue cases in court. Just shows you, one is never too old or too smart to learn new tricks.

THE TEAM continued



KHAYA MAYEDWA

Being at home during lockdown meant that he was able to enjoy quality time with his family. He used the time to reflect on the meaning of life and what is really important to him. His foundation was very active and was tasked to help needy citizens with blankets and food during the lock down period. Khaya was also able to dedicate valuable time to studying for his PhD.



NEIL STRYBIS

Neil learned how to manage being house-bound, he tried his hand at housework and dealing with cabin fever and being tolerant of loved ones in close proximity 24/7. Another acquired skill was getting to know his way around his laptop and handling financial reviews online. Neil also celebrated his 60th birthday during lockdown.



JOWA ABRAHAMS

Jowa was very busy during the lockdown period and one of his really important roles was helping his wife Cass, as her health has been poorly of late.

He has also found this to be a fascinating time of self-reflection. He admits that although we don't have a perfect society, we do have a rich, diverse and caring one who have rolled up their sleeves and helped where help has been needed. As an active member on the board at the Claremont Mosque – he has been involved with assisting citizens in the townships with various feeding schemes.

During this time, he reread Pat Tebbutt's book *Samaritan of South African Rugby* as part of his rugby history research, and together with friends and colleagues from his rugby club, Primrose RC, they plan to publish a book in 2021 as the club celebrates 125 years.



PHATHO ZONDI

After four wonderful years in Cape Town, steering the Sports Science Institute into a new direction, cutting her teeth on the trails with her new-found sport mountain biking, and renewing her love for the winelands of the Cape, we and SSISA bid Phatho a very sad farewell in June as she returned to her family in KZN to start the next chapter in her life. We are thrilled that Phatho will remain a trustee of the fund and will join fellow Wayne Fyvie in KZN taking care of business there for us.

IN MEMORIAM – Those involved in the Fund who passed away in 2020



WILLIAM LAMONT
Recipient injured on 16 August 1980
4 January 1955 - 10 October 2020



JENNY DU PLESSIS
Beloved wife of founding Chairman Morné du Plessis
6 June 1951 - 5 November 2020



PHILLIP DE VILLIERS
Barman from Newlands Suite 301 and long-standing staff member at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa
14 November 1954 – 4 December 2020

COMMEMORATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY COMMUNITY

In lieu of the events that the office staff had planned for the 40th anniversary year, Quintin van Jaarsveld, recipient of the Fund and award-winning journalist was brought on board to write a series of articles about the Players' Fund in a 40th anniversary commemorative media campaign. The objective of the series was to highlight the relevance of the Fund and share insights into the decade that has passed since the publishing in 2010 of *The Samaritan of South African Rugby* which was researched and written by the late trustee, Judge Pat Tebbutt.

Each week for eight weeks a story was researched and interviews held with key role players at the Players' Fund in order to get a unique angle of the Fund to share with our online audiences.

We encourage you to read through the articles below:

1. **Tragedy & Brotherhood:** <https://playersfund.org.za/tragedy-and-brotherhood-1of8/>
2. **Bok Kinship & Tackling Injuries:** <https://playersfund.org.za/bok-kinship-tackling-injuries-2-8/>
3. **Impact Players:** <https://playersfund.org.za/impact-players-part-3-8/>
4. **Big Trees of the Boardroom:** <https://playersfund.org.za/big-trees-of-the-boardroom-part-4-8/>
5. **Gail Force:** <https://playersfund.org.za/gail-force-the-players-funds-mvp-part-5-8/>
6. **Sorrow to Success:** <https://playersfund.org.za/sorrow-to-success-players-fund/>
7. **Game changing Gardner:** <https://playersfund.org.za/game-changing-gardner-the-players-funds-playmaker/>

8. **Back to the future:** <https://playersfund.org.za/back-to-the-future-from-bok-captain-to-players-fund-chairman/>

For the full downloadable copy can be found here: <https://playersfund.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CBPJ-Players-Fund-40th-Anniversary-Media-Campaign-FINAL.pdf>

In addition to this media campaign David Isaacson, journalist from the Sunday Times, also raised awareness of the Fund by writing a series of articles that were published in the Sunday Times and on their online websites.

Albeit in a different format to what was planned, the above campaigns provided a conduit for the public to commemorate the past 40 years along with us and the 500 + players whose lives have been changed by the game.

On 2 December 2020 a small event was held to commemorate this anniversary which was hosted by long-term and loyal sponsors Tsogo Sun at their Southern Sun The Cullinan Hotel in Cape Town. It was a poignant end to a difficult year that forced us to approach life differently and allowed us time to reflect over the past four decades. Guests included the late Chris Burger's wife Riana and daughter Esmare (Burger) Wells, Professor Tim Noakes, former and current trustees of the Fund, members of our rugby family, staff and sponsors.

The overwhelming motive for both the media campaign and year-end event was to recognise and thank the team behind our organisation and acknowledge that to survive the next forty years, collaboration and teamwork will continue to be essential.



FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS – Within a global pandemic

Despite very little rugby being played and face-to-face fundraising events sparse, the needs of our recipients remained constant and in some instances the dependence increased due to the financial strain that the national lockdown had on many households. As a team, we had to adapt...

As the world was told to stay apart, we put our heads together (virtually) and innovated. When we were told to stay indoors, we went online. When we were told to mask up, branded masks were made. When the world had so much to deal with, our loyal support squad took our calls and answered our pleas for help.

Here are some of the 'COVID-adjusted' initiatives driven by the Fund in 2020:

In conversation with rugby legends

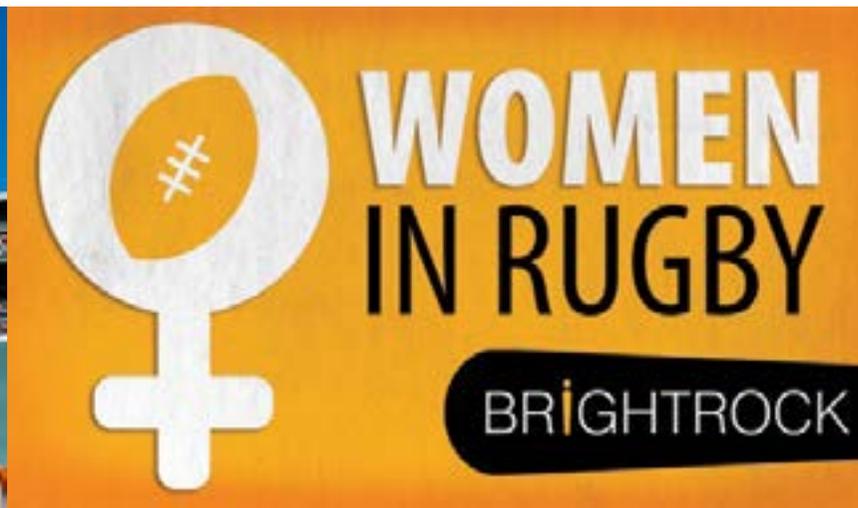
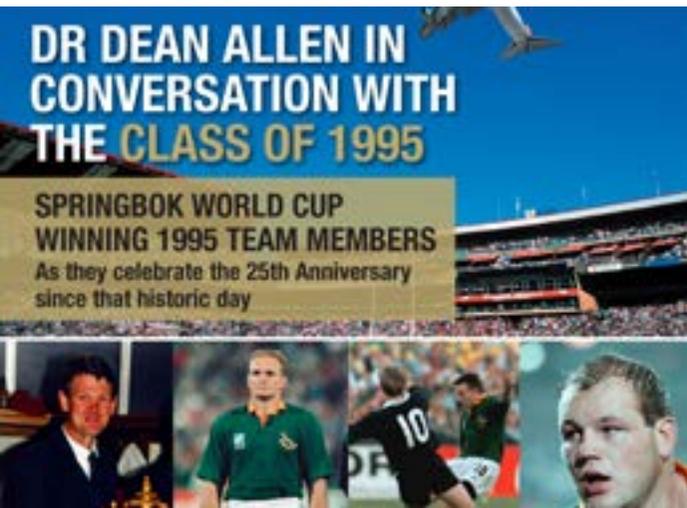
In May we worked with Dr Dean Allen to produce an unforgettable series of zoom-based webinars, entertaining starved sports fans with heartfelt and genuine conversations with rugby greats who were welcomed into the homes of over 700 people around the world on eight consecutive Thursday evenings. The list of world-renowned guests included; Jean de Villiers, John Smit, Bryan Habana, Victor Matfield, Beast Mtawarira, Schalk Burger (Jnr), Francois Pienaar, Morné du Plessis, Os du Randt, Joel Stransky and Jake White. This series of conversations with rugby legends helped us raise R100K during a time when we most needed it.

Women in Rugby Webinar Series

The first series of webinars led to a follow-on edition called the Women in Rugby Online Webinar series, which were presented through zoom for four weeks in August, being Women's Month. Our friends at BrightRock generously sponsored this initiative and helped us raise R40K as we told the stories of women involved in the game, both on and off the field. Our interviewers included Jeremy Harris, Cato Louw, Xola Ntshinga, Jean de Villiers and Phatho Zondi and our guests were Babalwa Latsha, Zintle Mpupa, Zelda la Grange, Anne Lee Murray, Bridget van Zyl, Janine Habana, Saskia Snyman and Layla Kolbe.

Springbok Supporters Face Masks

In June we were honoured to have been selected as the chosen charity for a campaign spearheaded by the 1995 Rugby World Cup winning Springbok team in commemoration of 25 years since the first Springbok victory. Pick n Pay produced 150 000 Springbok Supporters face masks that were sold throughout the country. As a result, R1 million was raised for the Fund, which was a life-line during a challenging time. This cheque was handed over to representatives of the Fund on 2 December at the Cullinan Hotel at a 40th Anniversary Commemorative luncheon.



FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS continued

#Kit2Care Online Auctions

#Kit2Care was an online auction initiative, where rugby personalities select items from their playing days to put up for auction. All of the funds raised were used to support the efforts of the Players' Fund. Each item was open for bids for a period of four days with shipment to the highest bidder as soon as possible.

The following items have been sold through #Kit2Care since March 2020:

- Jean de Villiers 91st Springbok Test jersey
- John Smit jersey with three Rugby World Cup Winning Springbok captain's autographs on an a photo with Madiba's signature
- Pieter Steph du Toit 2015 Rugby World Cup Training Jersey
- Red 2017 Springbok match jersey signed by the full team which was worn on 26 August 2017 in Salta when the Springboks beat Argentina 41-23 (Donated by Anne Lee Murray)

- adidas boots signed by Siya Kolisi
- A bottle of Kloovenburg Eight-Foot Red wine signed by Pieter Steph du Toit
- Picnic under the poles of DHL Newlands, an experience for two families of eight

This initiative brought in R192 250 for the Fund during 2020.

Wine with Heart

Our friends at Hartenberg, whilst also trying the weather their own storms, chose to support the Players' Fund by donating 25% of sales made through their website using a special coupon. This campaign ran from 10 November – 15 December.



OUR #SUPPORTSQUAD

In our time of need, our Support Squad remained just a phone call away - true South African dedication with a knack for adapting.

Below are some of the highlights where other organisations and individuals loyally answered our calls for support.

SA Rugby

In a year with very little rugby being played and the repercussions of that on their own business, the custodians of South Africa Rugby remained true to their commitment to the Players' Fund. Helping support our recipients during the difficult times as well as reaching out to their own sponsors to ensure that we were able to deliver the essentials to our men around the country.

BDO

Remaining transparent, accountable and stable requires the guidance and regular auditing of our finances. This service is generously sponsored and performed by BDO which sets the Players' Fund apart from many other local charity organisations.

DHL Stormers Fundraising Dinner

This will be remembered as the last event held in honour of the Fund before the changes to our normal lives were brought on by COVID-19. On 11 March 2020 Kelvin Grove, in their usual friendly and professional manner hosted the annual fundraising dinner with the DHL Stormers. Recipient of the Fund JP Lugt and his wife joined Tori and the team at this wonderful event. R107 420 was raised through this event.

Barbarians Charitable Trust Donation

In the brotherly spirit of rugby, we were grateful to receive a donation from our friends the Barbarians, whose trustees

approved a donation to the value of £10 000 to the Fund in January 2020.

The Barbarian's Charitable Trusts' objective is to provide or assist in the organisation or provision of facilities in any part of the world which will enable persons to play, administer and further the game of rugby union football, who by reason of their social economic circumstances have need of such assistance.

Rise Coffee with Purpose - R2 from every bag donated to the Players' Fund

Ollie Terblanche is a recipient of the Fund who was injured in 2015 while participating in the South Western Districts trials. In 2019 he and his wife Chanel launched Rise - Coffee with Purpose out of George in the Western Cape. A distinct and inspiring coffee brand which has been shaped around Ollie's incredible story overcoming his injury. Generously Ollie has committed to donating R2 from every bag of coffee sold to the Players' Fund. By the end of 2020 an amount of R5 878 was donated to the Fund with Rise Coffee now being sold at Checkers stores along the Garden Route.

Tsogo Sun

Our long-term partners Tsogo Sun have truly delivered, even during a time when their own business was having to survive stormy seas. On two occasions we were grateful to have been able to utilise our bed-night allocation for two travelling recipients and their families as well as visiting guests for our 40th Anniversary event.

Southern Sun The Cullinan Hotel also hosted the 40th Anniversary event on The Pool Deck on 2 December with generous discounts applied to the catering and beverages, allowing us to commemorate four decades of service to rugby. A truly memorable occasion hosted impeccably well.



OUR #SUPPORTSQUAD continued

South African Golden Oldies

The South African National Golden Oldies Association hosts an annual Festival of Rugby for which the Players' Fund has been nominated as charity of choice for the last two years. In 2020 the festival, which was due to take place in Bloemfontein, was cancelled due to the risks of COVID-19 transmissions. However, Peter Kluge and his organising committee stuck to their commitment and joined forces with one of our longtime friends from The Wanderers Club (Dave Hansen) to host a golf day on 6 November. This was a new format for the team, but with the support from former professional players, Ray Mordt and Pieter Hendricks, a phenomenal R75 000 was raised.

Porsche Loftus Club Picnic

The annual Porsche Loftus Day was not feasible within the lockdown restrictions this year, so a picnic was planned by Cilliers van Niekerk and his organising team at Monte de Dios on Sunday 20 September. An informal get together for the Porsche community in Pretoria where recipient of the Fund Dyllan Beneckhe and his family were invited to accept a cheque for R25 000 for the Players' Fund. This truly shows the commitment to our cause, especially given that no money was raised like it normally is at the traditional Loftus events.

MyPlayers Benevolent Fund

R70 000 was donated to the Players' Fund by professional players themselves. Damian Willemse handed the cheque over to recipient representative Dano Swart who was visiting Cape Town for specialised secondary rehabilitation in October.

Barney's Army

Trustee of the Players' Fund John Smit, through an initiative driven by his own charity Barney's Army, completed a virtual ride in lieu of the 2020 Cape Epic. This event helped raise a substantial amount of money of which R160 000 was donated to the Fund.

Lionel Johnson Memorial Golf Day

Despite the annual golf day not being held, this loyal member of our support squad still donated R10K towards the Fund. Here's hoping this very popular event in KZN can once again happen in 2021, bringing a strong group of friends and good people onto a golf course in support of our fallen heroes.

Players 4 Players

The annual fundraising dinner was replaced by an online raffle and auction where the four loyal ex-Shebeen Boys (*a Rugby Team of UCT players who participated in the informal league in 2003 at UCT and later moved the team to Villagers*) reached out to their contacts and pulled together an impressive list of prizes with raffle tickets being sold for R50. A total of R63 000 was raised through this digital raffle and auction which reminded the team's large database that their yearly commitment is of huge importance to the Fund and the recipients who rely on it.

Our Active volunteers

Dan Lombard and Gerhard Swarts, both recipients of the Fund, took to the roads in 2020 in preparation for the 94.7 Cycle Race and in the build-up, raising money for the Fund. Dan was to be towed in a chariot by a friend and Gerhard was going to cover the distance using his hand cycle. With the 94.7 Cycle Event cancelled and unfortunate health challenges, the goal of covering 80kms was not achieved in 2020. However, the Mind Warriors fundraising campaign and story helped raise R16 900 through Givengain. The determined warriors will be looking to cover the 80kms distance during the course of 2021 either within the formal event, or on their own.

Shonee Cornelissen, an avid swimmer and supporter of the Fund, swam the 7.5km distance between Robben Island and Big Bay in December – all in support of the Fund. This phenomenal achievement took her just under two hours to complete and during her fundraising campaign, also run through Givengain, she raised R11 007.





9397 coaches and referees were trained and BokSmart Certified by attending BokSmart Cycle 6 courses in 2020.

Since 16th March 2020, however, all standard BokSmart operational activities were shut down indefinitely due to COVID-19, as a result of rugby not being played.

Four Scientific papers and reports were published in local and international medical journals during 2020:

Impact of concussion and severe musculoskeletal injuries on the onset of mental health symptoms in male professional rugby players: a 12-month study

Özgür Kilic, Phil Hopley, Gino M M J Kerkhoffs, Mike Lambert, Evert Verhagen, Wayne Viljoen, Paul Wylleman, Vincent Gouttebarga (2020)

BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine 2019;5:e000693. doi:10.1136/bmjsem-2019-000693

Ankle osteoarthritis and its association with severe ankle injuries, ankle surgeries and health-related quality of life in recently retired professional male football and rugby players: a cross-sectional observational study

Liam D. A. Paget, Haruhito Aoki, Simon Kemp, Mike Lambert, Clint Readhead, Keith A Stokes, Wayne Viljoen, Gustaaf Reurink, Johannes L Tol, Gino M M J Kerkhoffs, Vincent Gouttebarga (2020).

BMJ Open 2020;10:e036775. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-036775

The Currie Cup Premiership Competition Injury Surveillance Report 2014-2019

Starling, L., Readhead, C., Viljoen, W. and Lambert, M. (2020).

S Afr J Sports Med 2020;32:1-43. DOI:10.17159/2078-516X/2020/v32i1a8560

SARU Youth Week Injury Surveillance Report 2019

Paul, L., Readhead, C., Viljoen, W. and Lambert, M. (2020).

S Afr J Sports Med 2020;32:1-28; DOI: 10.17159/2078-516X/2020/v32i1a9257

- BokSmart crossed the mark of 50 papers published in 2020, and is very proud of this achievement. Being an evidence-driven intervention, it is critical that decisions are based on sound research.
- 'The Currie Cup Premiership Competition Injury Surveillance Report' and 'SARU Youth Week Injury Surveillance Report' are two of the biggest longitudinal rugby injury surveillance studies out there.
- SportsCap is now the Official Software Partner of BokSmart and will help this world-class programme move into the digital space, where people will have access to online certifications.
- On 4 March 2020 a License Agreement was signed between SARU and the Ghana Rugby Union, which enables them to use and cobrand any relevant BokSmart materials for use in their country and within the rugby structures affiliated to the Ghana Rugby Union. This was done to assist our African Rugby

fraternity in Ghana to take from what we have learnt and developed, and for them to use the information to improve rugby safety standards in Ghana, as part of the establishment of an "EagleWise - Safety Through Wisdom" programme.



INJURY REPORT

This very different year was also reflected in the injuries that were reported to us. Obviously, the lack of rugby being played contributed to a considerable reduction in the number of incidents on the rugby field. We are, however, grateful that no player sustained a disabling injury this year that would cause him to become a long-term recipient of the Fund.

Early in the season in February, a club player Bongisi MacKensie (22) from Hamilton's Rugby Club in Cape Town, sustained a neck injury for which he was briefly hospitalised. With conservative treatment, he made a full recovery and thankfully, as a result of the relatively "mild" nature of the injury, he is expected to return to the rugby field.

Sadly, two weeks later this was followed by the death of Ansley Joseph (39) from Coronation RFC in the Boland. He experienced chest pain whilst playing a match and suffered a cardiac event thereafter.

The further untimely death of Vizicelo Zondani (25) from King Williams Town EC, as a result of a head injury, was reported to us in October. Unfortunately, the match was played illegally and directly against SARU's COVID-19 Guidelines published on October 15, 2020.

Rugby's Caring Hands were in a position to assist both families of the deceased players with a small contribution towards funeral costs.



RECIPIENT STORY:

Okkie Anker

While the world was adapting to lockdown, Okkie Anker and his wife Lumé were adapting to the world of parenthood. They welcomed their daughter Esme into the world on 23 March 2020.

Okkie was injured on 14 May 2011 at the age of 16. He was playing hooker for Hoërskool Zwartkop in Centurion at the time. Gratefully he was able to walk post-injury, but has had to make adjustments to his life in order to cope with day-to-day living. He is a qualified electrician who has his own business and is also a national wheelchair rugby player who is known as a pesky defender and aggressive attacker on the court.



2020 IN NUMBERS



THANK YOU

When it comes to charitable giving, the generosity of those listed below who give with care and commitment, has a direct impact on our sustainability, be it a once-off donation, valuable time, a grant, a sponsorship agreement, value-in-kind, discounts, products or expertise and advice.

adidas	Carin Gracie	DHL South Africa
Adriaan Kruger	Carmen Lerm - The West Coast Way	DHL Stormers / WP Rugby
Alan Bennett	Caroline Wyatt	Diederik Smit
Alan Dunn	Cato Louw	Dirk Opperman
Alan McKelvey	CE Mobility	Dr V Wilson
Alessia Olevano	Cecilia Jean	Dylan Jack
Amalia & Thys van Niekerk - Thali Thali	Chairman's Industry	Elize Swarts
Andre du Toit	Chris Rood	ER24
Andrew & Serena Salmon	Chris Wishlade	Erick Senekal
Andy Colquhoun	Cilliers van Niekerk	Erin Rae
Angela Lorimer - Century City Hotel	Claire Lowden	Esmare (Burger) Wells
Anne Lee Murray	Clint Readhead	F C Smit
Anthony Coombe	Clinton van der Berg	Francois Pienaar
Anton Engelbrecht	Cobus Smit	Frikkie Naude
Ari Seirils	Colin Garrett	Furlo Theron Benefit Trust
Babalwa Latsha	Corrie van den Houten	Gary Fouche
Barbara Buxton	Craig Ventre	Gavin Lewis
Barney's Army	Cristel van Staden	Gavin Varejes
BDO	Dalene Swart	George & Dale Rautenbach
Belinda Glenn	Damian Willemse	George Visser
Ben Rabinowitz	Dan Constandse	Gerhard Swarts
Beshara Ornellas	Dan Lombard	Gilbert South Africa
Bev Commerford	Daniel Constandes	Graeme Meintjies
BokSmart	David Entwisle	Gravit8 Information Technology
Brett & Caryn Burnill	De Jongh Borchardt	Gus Enderstein
Bridget van Zyl	Dean Allen	Han Marsh
BrightRock	Debbie Greeff Birthday Appeal	Hanneke Roelofse
Bryan Habana	Denise Blake	Hanyani Shimange
Burger & Wallace	Derek Pead	Hartenberg Wine Estate

THANK YOU continued

Heather Ridley
Hennie Heymans
Hillie Roelfse
Howard & Debra Cleland
Howie Kahn
Ian Kennedy
Irma Mouw
Isma-eel Dollie
Jaco Malan
Jake White
Jan Newman Family
Jan Venter
Janet Christy
Janine Habana
Jean de Villiers
Jeanette Clark
Jenna Smith
Jenny M Designs
Jeremy Harris
Jeremy Wiley
Jessica Mgidi
JHC Consultancy
Jilly & Peter Storrar
Joel Krige
Joel Stransky
Johan de Beer
Johann Blignaut
John O'Sullivan - Bargain Books
John Smit
Johnnie Roelofse
Jonathan Ackerman

Jonathan Palmer
Jowa Abrahams
JP van der Spuy
Julian Barnard
Jurie Roux
Justin Durandt
Kayleigh Karsten
Keith Dismore
Kelly Stewart
Kelvin Grove
Keon Daniels - Hylton Ross Tours
Khaya Mayedwa
Kirsten van der Hoven - Bidvest Car Rentals
Kloovenburg Wines
Kobus Potgieter
Laurens Cornelissen
Layla Kolbe
Lee Cornell
Lee-Anne Diab
Leisure Group
Lindsay Brown
Lindsay Neil
Lizel Swarts
Louis van Pletsen
Louise Kennedy
Louise Roher - Double Tree by Hilton
Luzell Coetzee
Lyle Barreiro
Lyn & Graham Elliot
Marc Dury
Marcel du Toit

Marcel Groenewald
Marelise Badenhorst
Mariesa Nock
Marius Cornelissen
Mark Alexander
Mark Greenslade
Mark Kritzinger
Mary & Avison Carlisle
Matthew Pearce
Max Baise
Megan Collincos
Michael Allin
Michael de Vries
Michael Maytham
Michaela Strachan
Michele Gouws - The Commodore Hotel
Michelle Andrew
Michelle Moxley
Michelle Whitehead - Mountain Manor
Mike Schweitzer
Mila Moreano
Monique Bassi - The Vineyard Hotel
Monisha Andrew
Morne du Plessis
MTN
Murray Turner
MyPlayers
Nabila Cassiem - Southern Sun Newlands
Neil Strybis
Nicky Coenen - The Last Word Hotels
Ollie Terblanche

THANK YOU continued

Os du Randt
Oscar Lubido
Peter Kluge
Petra & Christian Mailey
Phatho Zondi
Phillip Bornman
Pick n Pay
Pieter Steph du Toit
Players 4 Players
Porsche Loftus Committee
Powells Auctioneers
RAIN Shared Services
Raymond Godfrey
Red Carpet / Ermna Human
Richard Keet - SunSquare Gardens
Rise Coffee with Purpose
Rob Barnett-Harris
Rob Rayner
Robert Coombe
Roslyn Schmidt
Rugbytots South Africa
SA Rugby
Sally Estcourt
Sam Sterban 80th Birthday Donation Appeal
Sarie Swarts
Saskia & RG Snyman
Schalk Burger
Shanil Mangaroo
Shaughn Rousseau
Shonee Cornelissen
Simon Borchart

Simon Cahill
Siya Kolisi
Skål International
South African National Golden Oldies Rugby Association
South African Rugby Legends Association
Springbok Class of 95
Steed Richardson
Stefan Huggett - Spier Wine Estate
Stefan Terblanche
Stephanie Muller
SuperSport
Suzanne Stevens
Tank Lanning
Tendai (Beast) Mtawarira
Terry Bantock
Terry Winship
Thato Monale
The Barbarians Rugby Charitable Trust
Tiaan Strauss
Tresia Viljoen
Trish Neill
Tristan Lory
Tsogo Sun
Vaughn Brooker
Victor & Mimmo Franco
Victor Matfield
Vodacom Blue Bulls
Wade Bromfield
Warren Leitao
Wayne Fyvie
Wayne Viljoen

Wayne Ward - Blaauwberg Hotel
Wenda Nel
Wentzel Barnard
Xola Ntshinga
YMS
Yonderhill Wines
Zach Lamprecht
Zelda la Grange
Zintle Mpupha

JOIN OUR #SUPPORTSQUAD

The Players' Fund is a registered Non-Profit (003-140) and Public Benefit (930012744) Organisation. To honour the position of being recognised as the official charity of SA Rugby, an annual grant is bestowed to the Fund. The rest of the annual budget is funded entirely by voluntary donations and fundraising activities.

As players continue to sustain serious and life-altering injuries, it is vital that we continue to strive for sustainability and necessary growth. We are looking to increase our activity and grant-giving so that we can help as many people as possible. But we can't do it alone – we need your help.

Become part of our #SupportSquad in any of the following ways:

- **DONATE**

We have numerous ways to donate to our charity which include; EFT, SnapScan, Zapper, Givengain and PayFast. Please visit our website <https://playersfund.org.za/get-involved/> or contact our office on contact@playersfund.org.za so we can assist you.

- **MOBILISE YOUR RUGBY COMMUNITY**

If you are involved in rugby and looking to give back to the game, get in contact with our team to see how we can work together for the love of the game.

- **CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES AND DONATIONS**

As a registered Non-Profit Organisation and Public Benefit Organisation with Section 18A approval we are able to provide tax incentives on donations made. Whether your company is looking to launch a new product, strengthen brand identity, or just build team relationships, a charity partnership with us can help meet your marketing, client, staff and corporate social investment (CSI) objectives through a wide range of opportunities.

- **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

If you would like to help raise money to assist Rugby's Caring Hands, we welcome your support. Please download a copy of our Authority to Fundraise Form from our website, complete and return to events@playersfund.org.za or fax to (021) 659 5653. With this information we'll be able to recognise the event and assist where possible. Thank you in advance for your support of the Players' Fund.

- **LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL**

If you care about our cause and are considering investing this can also be done through a bequest in your will – exempting it from estate duty.

DONATE NOW



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

Looking ahead would not be possible without looking back at the year we have all just made our way through... whether the stories of lockdown and 2020 are told with a grimace or a sense of nostalgia, there were lessons learned while we adapted and adjusted to a different world. Our worlds were shrunk and put into slow motion, we were taught to juggle and to be innovative and at the Players' Fund we learned that without our #SupportSquad we would not be able to make such a positive difference in the lives of our recipients.

We've learnt how resilient South Africans are and that in times of crisis there is a bond between us all which unites us and especially within our networks, how the common tie of rugby still brings the best out of people. Whether we look at our regular donors that stuck to their commitments to our cause despite their own challenges or more broadly the SA Rugby Legends #RugbyUnites Feeding Drive or the BrightRock Battle of the Sports Race – we are surrounded by incredible people.

We start 2021 cautiously, we are looking at it creatively and we will continue to lean on all of the phenomenal people we get to work with. Every person reading this can help us as we try to navigate tricky roads ahead, reminded daily by our heroes who we serve that with determination, a positive attitude and a solid team – anything is possible.

Be it with a shared idea over a coffee, a monthly donation, a fundraising project or an adventure, we look forward to working with you all again soon.



Tori Gardner





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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

