

Tom Joachim VORSTER

Curriculum Vitae

Born in Pretoria on 11th September 1959 and matriculated at Weston Agricultural College in Mooi River, KZN in 1977.

Thereafter I went on to study a National Higher Diploma in Building Surveying (quantity surveying) at Technikon Natal (now known as Durban University of Technology) and worked in professional practice as a quantity surveyor in Durban before moving into property development and facilities management of commercial and retail properties in Johannesburg.

In 2000, I chose to follow my dream and move to the Lowveld and into tourism. My first job was as a guide / assistant manager at a lodge in the Balule Game Reserve before being appointed as lodge manager in the Timbavati. Thereafter I briefly managed a luxury tented camp in the Masai Mara in Kenya before moving onto managing 5-star lodges in the Sabi Sands.

I moved from the Sabi Sands to Hazyview in 2005 and in partnership with my father, purchased a 28 roomed 3-star lodge in the Sabie Valley. I ran that until 2012 when a decision was made to sell it as the business was no longer sustainable.

In 2013 I was contracted to assist Kruger Lowveld Tourism, the tourism division of Kruger Lowveld Chamber and Tourism based in Nelspruit, to assist in the development content for their website and grow their social media presence. Over the years I have continued working in this organisation, primarily in marketing and regularly attend travel shows both domestically and abroad, promoting this region as a prime tourism destination. In addition, I have got to play a role, on behalf of the organisation, in several advocacies including tourism safety initiatives in the region; and assisting local tourism associations grow.

I currently serve on the executive committee of Kruger Lowveld Tourism.

I'm well connected with the tourism community in the Hoedspruit area and am regularly invited to participate in meetings and workshops in the area and with provincial and national government structures.

My family and I moved to Hoedspruit from Nelspruit in December 2018, first renting and then purchasing the house we currently live in on the Estate. I work from home but have to travel to my offices in Nelspruit every second week or so.

The reason why I wish to serve on the board of the HOE is that I selected HWE to invest my life savings in a home here because I wanted the safe and tranquil setting in a conservation area, yet convenient enough for me to continue to do the work I am passionate about. Since living here I have become alarmed by how some owners openly flout the Estate's rules, which in my opinion, degrades the value of all properties in the Estate and tarnishes its image, but feel that I cannot sit on the sidelines and merely complain and would prefer to play a more constructive role.

I feel that my training in construction and previous experience in facilities management and lodge management is best suited to the aesthetics / infrastructure portfolio.

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