



ST STITHIANS
COLLEGE

Ken Havelmeier

17 November 1940 - 8 September 2020

Tributes to Ken Hovelmeier

I, unfortunately, did not have the pleasure of working with Ken but remember distinctly meeting him in my early years as Head of the Girls' Prep.

Although my interactions with Ken were few, I remember clearly his kindness, warmth, sharp mind and compassion. In reading the many tributes which have poured in, it is clear that Ken had an incredible impact on many boys. He certainly made a difference in their lives. A humble man, deeply loved and respected by his students.

Is this not the legacy that all teachers aspire to?

We are deeply grateful to Ken for his years of service to the College.

Celeste Gilardi

Past Girls' Prep Head and Rector



humanity, openness, sincerity in your voice.

Your voice stayed in my head. Then I came across to Saints to meet and you were blind. I had not picked that up at all on the phone, so began to think deeply about your listening skills, your amazing ability to understand people without seeing their body language, your sympathy with others, empathy, humility, your lack of worry about yourself, which made me always think that Myrna was so wonderful, the way she looked after you, and what an example your marriage was.

It was God in you, that made you have the ability to listen to the "prodigal sons" as they brought you their misdemeanours, lack of confidence, destructiveness, their total mistrust of others, abuse, no sense of being, no awareness of who they were or where they were; and the "older brothers" with a superiority, inflexibility, insensitive obedience to the rules. You listened, deconstructed issues, helped, and every person left your office with a sense of rediscovery, sensing a future, knowing a direction.

A request: during this lockdown I have been attempting to write a book, which is presently in my mind, named "All Schools Matter" about my last 12 years of "retirement", (a word which does not appear in the Bible); if I complete it and it gets published I want to dedicate it to you and to all my wonderful PAs.

This request is made because every single Principal that I've mentored in no fee-paying schools did not have a school counsellor and did not have a PA. There is no where where learners in those schools, apart from to some exhausted teachers, can go to unpack their anxieties, their lack of safety, food, water and all the things that Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which you and I shared, demands that they have, before they can find a sense of belonging: physiological, to psychological, to self fulfilment needs.

You know that "teachers touch eternity" and that you have built up so many of us to be able to live with ourselves and celebrate our lives that I just want you to know that I admire you hugely and will continue to celebrate you and your life.

Thankyou so much Ken for being in my life, for so much I have learnt from you and when you meet our son Robbie just give him a hug from his dad.

Yours in great sadness,

David Wylde

Past Head of Boys' College and past Rector of St Stithians

I was one of the people lucky enough to benefit from having Ken Hovelmeier as teacher. Ken had a massive impact on my life as he did on so many others. Our conversations about what I would study, what my life could be - indeed what the meaning of life is - played a significant role in my choices as a teenager. To state the obvious - that Ken was extraordinary - is necessary as he went about his life with no need or desire for recognition. Teaching,

serving, helping others be the best version of themselves is a gift not many are lucky enough to receive. Ken was lucky and used that luck to benefit so, so many others. And he always did so with the support and influence of Myrna, equally impressive. May we all continue to use our gifts and luck to benefit others in memory and honour of Ken and Myrna.

Carel Nolte

Class of 1998 and Chair of St Stithians Council

Ken was inspirational in the extreme. He had been a teacher in St Stithians Boys Preparatory School for many years, an outstanding educator and a keen coach of sporting teams. As a result of diabetes, he lost his sight almost overnight. Walter Macfarlane and I went to the SA institute for the Blind in Rosettenville to see what could be done for Ken. Their answer was to train him to be a switchboard operator or a basket weaver. Walter told them that Ken was simply not that sort of person. Later he asked me if I could not use him in the high school as a counsellor. The Governing Council agreed, and we used the robing room of the Chapel as his office, because it had a loo.

After some time, the Randburg Rotary Club offered to send Ken to the USA to study the latest trends in career counselling. He duly went across, only for me to receive reports from their top schools that he was far in advance of them. The dark little office had advantages. Ken could obviously not see who he was talking to, but he had developed an uncanny ability to recognize people by their voices. Sometimes, a boy would come to see him, distraught that he had been dropped from the Under 14a to the Under 14 b. Ken would listen patiently, and then say, "You know, when I lost my sight, I wondered why the Lord would inflict me with blindness. But, I have never felt as fulfilled in my life as I do now". Perspective instantly gained.

While signing reports and adding my comments on each boy, I would listen to what Ken had to say. After a full morning of this, I

08 September 2020

Dear Ken

I phoned Myrna this afternoon to find out how you were because OSA had let us know that you are back in hospital. Myrna told me that you passed away this morning. I cried and cried.

I will never forget your first phone call to me. I was the outsider, Senior Deputy from Pretoria Boys High School and had been appointed to the Headmastership of St Stithian's College. After the announcement you phoned and there was such genuineness,

would suggest that we break for the day and go to watch the first team playing cricket. Ken was delighted. That custom of the Head making comments on every boy was idiotic, but I had inherited it. How hypocritical to pretend that the Head knows every boy and can judge his performance. But, Ken could comment on almost everyone. He also paid me a compliment I remember to this day. He said that he had told me many things in confidence, but that I had never betrayed this. What a difference absolute trust makes in a relationship.

In paying tribute to Ken, I must also mention Myrna. As a teacher in the Foundation Phase at Saints she had come to know Ken, who she married and for whom she has been a pillar of support. In the way the world works, her aunt was my godmother, as charismatic as Myrna is. Both exceptional people.

I have no doubt that Ken will have been received as a good and faithful servant. Many, many boys and parents will be grateful to him, as I am.

One of the legends of St Stithians.

Mark Henning

9 September 2020

Myrna, I cannot describe what an incredible sense of loss I experienced when I received the news of Ken's passing. Ken was a truly great friend and colleague and he was an inspiration to me in so many ways. When I think of Ken the following words and qualities immediately come to mind. He was always humble, sensitive to the needs of others, sincere in his relationships, mentally tough and resilient, unbelievably capable in so many fields. I think here specifically of his hobby of restoring minis. A task that I would never dream of tackling. Courageous beyond belief. All the set backs he encountered during his life he accepted as challenges that were to be overcome and it was almost as if his motto was "Bring it on" I will not be defeated. He always appeared to be a person

with enormous energy and one could not but feel motivated when in his company. A true "Influencer" in the lives of all those with whom he came into contact and mentored. Whenever I have gone through some tough times, I have always thought of the positive attitude that Ken had to life and from this I gained the inspiration to move forward. What a privilege it has been for me to have known this LENGEND of Saints. He leaves a massive void in the lives of all of us. Myrna I salute you for the wonderful way in which you shared your life with Ken and may the Lord bless you and give you peace during this difficult time.

Piet van Tonder

Past Deputy Head at the Boys' College

Dear Myrna,

I am so sorry for your loss. Ken will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. He was an inspiration and role model to me and my family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Love from,

Mark de Buys and family

Teacher in St Stithians Boys' Prep

I worked so closely with Ken as a Psychology Lecturer when Ken was Director of Post Matric and then as an Intern Psychologist in the Student Affairs Department. I drove Ken to work every morning and we started each morning with the anticipation of a good day. Ken had many strengths but the one that drove him was having a positive attitude in all sets of circumstances. The absolute conviction that any obstacle could be overcome led him to assist many boys of all ages to overcome their own insecurities or problems and become the best version of themselves. His work on performance enhancement is legendary.

I so enjoyed the days I spent with Ken as no negativity was entertained. His blindness

opened a vision of the world uncluttered by visual imagery and he could plan any event without error. It seems incredible to me that Ken has finally succumbed to illness having fought off so many threats over nearly eight decades. As I contemplate the reality of death and the sadness it leaves behind I can only turn to the other reality that once we have life we can never be forgotten. We leave a footprint on this earth and Ken's legacy is one of extraordinary courage and dedication to the wellbeing of others.

He led a meaningful life. I do hope this legacy and all the happy memories will sustain you Myrna at this difficult time. Feel the love and support from all over the world. Memory is all that's left when we have gone and Ken you will be remembered by so many with so much love in the years to come. A life well lived. Rest well Ken and be blessed.

Sue MacKenzie

School Councilor 1993-2006

Dear Myrna,

My deepest sympathy to you. I have so many memories of Ken, I hardly know which to share. It seems like just yesterday when he was passing comments about various shots played on the squash court! Such happy times....

You have been so strong that I know you have the strength to cope with his passing and he was such an influence on so many lives that you are probably inundated with messages. I

want you to know that you are in my thoughts and I wish you all the best at this sad time and assure you that Life does go on....

Best Regards

Judy Dixon

Past St Stithians Staff Member

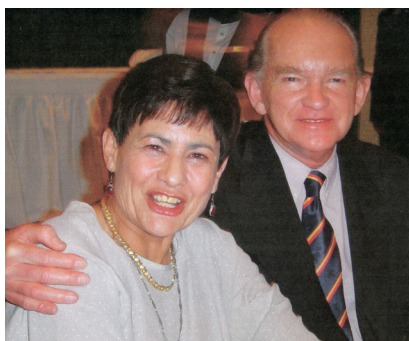
Dear Myrna,

How very sad I am that we have lost our lovely Ken. But how privileged am I to have had the opportunity to come to know both of you and start the wonderful journey of friendship back in 1993. A few paragraphs could never do our time together justice, but for the purpose of a short tribute, these are some of my fond memories...

My first memory of Ken was meeting him as a prospective boss in Saints Post Matric in 1993. He would go on to become the first meaningful mentor in my working life as he became Student Counsellor, teaching me valuable life and work lessons daily. Thereafter, when Ken left Saints in 2000, he and Myrna remained very good friends of mine – always remembering birthdays and sharing meals together.

As anyone who knew Ken would remember, he was very fond of sayings and mantras. The three that will always stick in my mind are, firstly, his answer when you asked after his health. 'Strong as a Lion!' he would say, loudly and positively. Woe betide you if you thought even for a minute you might decide





recognize everyone's voice and remember little details pertaining to each and every one was incredible. Following a squash match it was amazing how he was able to dissect your game and give you advice on how to improve. An amazing individual and a true servant of St Stithians College. He will be fondly remembered as an inspiration to many.

May he Rest In Peace.
Clive Thomson
Class of 1983

you were having a bad day. If this man with all his challenges to overcome was so together, you had better jolly well pull up your socks! His other lesson there, was that if someone else was having a bad day, you should NEVER allow it to dampen yours or bring you down. Secondly, if Ken called me on the telephone, his greeting more often than not was 'Hail to thee blithe spirit' a favourite quote of his, spoken with all the gusto as if he himself was on the stage performing it! There again, you knew that you had better be on your game, because if you weren't, he was sure to hear it immediately in your voice.

And lastly, Ken will always be remembered for his comment made during or following school meetings, where strategy, sports programmes or calendar were being discussed, with the usual issue of trying to fit in as much as possible. The conversation would cease, and someone would say 'Ken, what do you think?' And Ken, after a pause, would say three words... 'It'll never work'. And guess what?...if he said it wouldn't, it never did!

Dearest Ken, although you have left us, your light will never be extinguished. You will live on in our hearts and memories for ever. 'Once a Saint, Always a Saint'.

Fiona Schwartz
St Stithians Staff Member and Friend

I remember Ken's great empathy and interest in all the boys of the College. His ability to

I was a teacher colleague with Ken at St Stithians circa 1967! This was before he lost his sight. A remarkable man then and through the years and I pass my thoughts to his wife at this time.

Regards,
Derek Kyle
St Stithians Staff 1967

Dear Myrna,
 As a young House Master/Director it was my privilege to meet with Ken every week over several years. What a mentor! He taught me so much about caring for boys, about listening to their stories.

I also appreciated the way Ken's face would light up as I walked in for our meetings. I am not sure that he always was really looking forward to it, but I was – and I hope he knew about the smile I had.

Peter Wright
Saints Teacher from 1996-2018 House Director, HOD & past Deputy Head at the Boys' College

My whole family was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Ken Hovelmeier. This was the impact this great man had on all of us.

I will always remember Ken as a wonderful teacher, and outstanding counsellor and at all times a gentleman in every sense of the

word. I watched his memorial service; it was brilliant and a fitting tribute to a giant of a man. The singing was particularly poignant. Myrna, Ken's soulmate, we grieve for you. What a special man you had in your life. He had such a positive influence on so many lives. He will be sorely missed.

Kind regards
Rose Diack and family
Past Boys' College teacher

Dear Myrna,
 I have just heard the news of Ken's passing. What a remarkable man you married all those years ago. But then Ken also married a very remarkable woman. Together you made an amazing team, building on each other's strengths.

I am sending much love to you at this time. It is a huge loss when a soulmate is no longer there. Ken left an amazing legacy and will long be remembered with fondness and admiration by many.

This comes with much love.
Joan Falkenberg
Past Parent of St Stithians

Dearest Myrna,
 While Ken is gone from our sight, he remains in our hearts. Thank you for the times you shared him with me and the Prep PR Boys. Wishing you strength and God's comfort.

Quinton Pascoe
Past Deputy Head at Boys' Prep

Good morning, everyone. For those of you who do not know who I am, I am Jenny Davies and my family has been friends with Myrna and Ken for over 30 years now. I feel very honoured to be asked to say a few words about this special man at this celebration of his life. Just before I say those few words I would like to thank you all on Myrna's behalf,

not only for being here today to show your support for Myrna and your love for Ken but for all the many messages and tributes that have been pouring in since Ken's death, from all over the country and all over the world. Myrna has been overwhelmed to see how many people cared for Ken and to see the esteem in which he was held. She feels your love and support and this has made it so much easier for her, so thank you.

When thinking about where to begin, I found it so difficult because what do you say about someone like Ken Hovelmeier. There are so many superlatives that can be used as we have heard and as we can see from all the comments on Myrna's whatsapp and all the tributes made on his facebook page. So I thought I would rather talk about a few personal memories as everyone here knows what an absolute success Ken made of his life, despite all the challenges he faced.

When we first met Ken and Myrna, my children were absolutely fascinated by Ken and when they first came to dinner, they watched him avidly. Gareth and Sian were about 13 and 11 then and when the Hovi's went home, both children were convinced that Ken was not blind! How, they said, could he eat with a knife and fork if he could not see what he was doing and he did it so well. Good question? Have you ever tried to eat with your eyes closed and pick up a piece of chicken, a few peas and some potato and get it into your mouth? It's a real challenge! The children were astounded as was everyone who ever had a meal with Ken. Wherever we went, Ken would just order whatever took his fancy that night and he dealt with sole, chicken on the bone, and no-one would ever have known that he could not see what he was doing. Just one of the many astonishing things that Ken could do as a blind man and that when you knew him, you just took for granted.

Ken, as you know, never did anything by half measures, and he said when he knew he was

losing his sight, he was determined to be as independent as possible and he was absolutely determined to be able to feed himself so he started practising. You all know his grit and determination when faced with a challenge!

We often went Christmas shopping together and this was one of the highlights of our year. Ken would have carefully typed out his shopping list and he knew exactly what he wanted and we had to find those exact items or he was not happy. We would go to Fourways Mall and do the rounds of the stores. Ken would stop when I found something on the list, feel it, smell it if necessary, listen to my description and then decide if it was suitable or not. If it was not the right thing, off we would go to look again! We never just made do with something – it had to be just perfect for Myrna.

When we got home, he would put all the treasures in his special cupboard in the study with his wrapping paper and labels and in his own time, he wrapped each present for Myrna, carefully and beautifully. You would not believe how beautifully each gift was wrapped, the corners all even, the cello tape all straight – a perfect job from beginning to end! Much better than you or I could do. Such was the measure of the man – no job was too trivial, nothing was rushed – he gave 100% to everything he tackled.

When we went on holiday, Myrna would take

him round the new apartment so he could walk the perimeter, feel all around the walls, the bathroom, the kitchen and then he had a picture in his mind. From then on, he could find his way around and did not ever need help. What an astounding memory he had! He would reel off cricket scores from 20 years ago, squash captains' names from 20 years ago, tell you what day the 20th September would be the year after next – you didn't need a diary with Ken around. He was the diary! Often when I was sitting chatting to Ken on the patio I would truly forget that he could not see. Such was the power of his personality and the sparkle of his conversation that you never thought about his disability. He spoke about "seeing" this and that or he would say "just look at that" or "you should have seen it". He made blindness his friend and honed his other senses so finely that he could get the best out of every situation. This made him a wonderful teacher, an outstanding counsellor and a true and empathetic friend.

You never had to say how you felt for Ken could hear how you were simply from the way you said "hello". He was a loyal friend who always had your back, always had time for a chat and who always stood up for what was right.

He was not afraid to speak his truth.

Ken delighted in dinner parties and he was such a gentleman, appreciative of everything

the hostess had done. He would always phone the next day to comment on how wonderful the evening had been and would add little details and would often tell me: "I just loved the way you put those little flowers all over the table. They looked so beautiful". He paid attention to everything (obviously always with Myrna's help.)

Of course, Ken could never have been the great man he was without a very special person at his side. Myrna was his strength, his soulmate, his source of help in times of need, she was his everything. Ken was very aware of how difficult it was for Myrna and he tried to lighten her load in whatever way he could, encouraging her to go out, to go to a movie with me, to join a bridge group. Myrna, we grieve with you today for the loss of this special person but we want to surround you with our love and support and to thank you for the wonderful, loving, caring, supportive role you always played in Ken's life. You made your vows nearly 45 years ago: 'for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part' and you stuck to them through thick and thin, through the good times and the bad and it was not always easy.

You were Ken's earth angel and we all recognize the wonderful role you played in his life.

Helen Keller: "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision".

Ken always had great vision – more probably than you or I. He was forever planning in his head. He made an impact on so many lives, left his footprint on so many hearts and so what he left behind is not what we see engraved on a stone plaque or written in a book but what has been written in the lives of so many people. What we once enjoyed and so deeply loved in Ken can never be lost because it has become a part of us. We will talk of him often and use his wisdom in our lives so he will always be with us.

These four lines say it all for me when I think

of Ken:

"You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;

You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;

I am strong when I am on your shoulders;

You raise me up ... to more than I can be."

This applies to all the hundreds of pupils and adolescents that Ken counselled and raised up to be more than they thought they could ever be and who went on to lead successful lives, and all because of Ken.

We will miss you, Ken but we promise to look after Myrna as you looked after her. We promise to keep a positive mindset as you always did. We promise to see challenges as a chance for growth. We promise to greet each new day as a new beginning.

Rest in peace, my friend. You truly deserve it.

Jenny Davies

Please could you convey my and my family's sincerest condolences to Myrna.

I knew Ken in his early years at Saints, I matriculated in 1966, and then served with him on the Old Boys committee in around 1974/5 when I got to know him better.

We were privileged to attend his and Myrna's wedding and I have never heard a better speech by a bridegroom.

In another chapter, he had a tremendous positive influence on our son Tony as he did on countless others. We will always be grateful for his commitment.

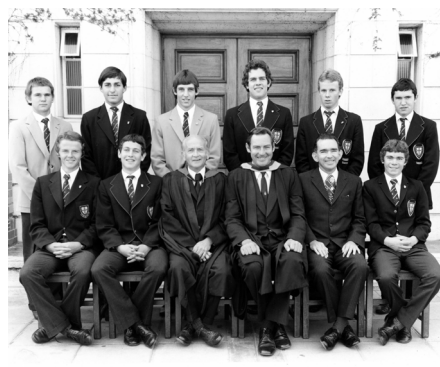
Ken's courage through adversity and passion for his calling will be an enduring example to us all.

Warm regards

Graham Fryer and Family
Class of 1966

Dear Myrna,

Ken had a profound influence on me, and I wanted you to know how much I admired him. My family has had a long association with you and Ken, and I know I speak for them too when I say Ken will be much missed.



Incidentally, you may not be aware of the influence Ken had on my career. It was through a contact of his (a former St John's schoolmate of his) that I got my first job in the UK at Sherborne School. All these years later, I am now a Head of a school in the UK and if I can have the same impact on my students that Ken had on those of us who knew him, through compassion and genuine interest in young people reaching their full potential, then I will be proud of continuing his legacy. Much love

Rick Clarke
Frensham Heights School, Farnham, UK
Saints 1978-1990

Dear Myrna and family,
I am so saddened to hear of Ken's passing. I remember him as a very smooth, suave man (his slicked hair and VW Carman Ghia!) who really made science come alive for me. We listened in class on the radio to the first men landing on the moon in 1969 (at least, I think it was 1969, but his memory would have been better than mine and I am sure he would have corrected me if I got it wrong). He never forgot my voice, and even many years after I left school and he was helping my kids with career guidance, he remembered who I was and always asked after my and my parents' well-being.
I know that he will be sorely missed.
Hedley Pougnet
Class of 1974

I wanted to extend to you my sincere condolences on the passing of Ken, he was an incredibly special man, but I am sure you know that.
He had a quiet, calming wisdom that really resonated with me when I knew him as a student counselor at Saints back in the 1970's (I graduated from Saints in 1979). As young, emerging adults it is a challenging (but exciting) time trying to figure out the best path in your future life going forward

and I remember Ken as being such a good friend and mentor in helping me through this process.
I have had a successful career and happy family life living in Canada for the past 32 years. I have such fond memories growing up in SA, attending Saints and all the great people, friends I came to know that have enriched my life along the way, and Ken was one of them. I will always remember Ken, I'm so glad that he had a full life, he has touched the lives and hearts of so many.
Best regards
Mike Thomas
Class of 1979

Good day Mrs Hovelmeier,
The Murray family would like to offer our deepest heartfelt condolences to Myrna. Mr Hovelmeier played such an integral part in my life and my brother's life during our tenure at St Stithians College. He left us with many fond memories and lessons.
Regards,
Scott Murray
Class of 2000

Mr Hovelmeier was an incredibly amazing human being who always inspired those around him, and left them better off. It's been nearly two decades since I left St Stithians, but his impact in my life "still endears".
My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.
Phomolo Rabana
Class of 2002

To Myrna and Family,
It is with great sadness than I learned that Mr. Hovelmeier passed away today. I had often thought about him as he had a big impact on my life. He was a kind, empathetic and trusting person. I will always remember his positive outlook on life despite his own

personal challenges. I knew Mr. Hovelmeier as my counselor and as my squash coach. He would listen to my concerns and provide me with advice as I navigated school life. He taught me to see what others could not. Above all else, he believed in my abilities when others did not and he urged me to try things that I might not have had the courage to attempt.
While I have not seen Mr. Hovelmeier since I left high school, he was often in my thoughts. May his soul Rest in Peace.
Best regards,
Clint Liebenberg
Class of 1988

Dear Myrna,
Although Ken taught in the lower classes when I was at Saints in the 60s at High School, we always enjoyed an amicable relationship. He was a man to be admired for rising over his disabilities with admirable calmness. Please accept my condolences.
Regards,
Alan Keevy
Class of 1964

Dear Myrna,
I am truly saddened by the passing of Ken. He was a wonderful man whose wise council, guidance and encouragement played a huge role in my life, and so many of the boys lives at St Stithians College. He was absolutely instrumental in the huge success that St Stithians enjoyed in the sport of squash in the late 70's and the 80's, and with your help, took our school to the top of school squash in the country during that time. His ability to read a game from the gallery of the squash court was simply remarkable, giving advice on tactics and strategy to his players in between games. He personally inspired me early on in my College years to take up the sport of squash and, as you know, I developed a strong bond with him. His passion for the game was infectious and he encouraged and drove



all his players hard; to practice more, train harder, and achieve success. Ken set me on a path of a lifetime of enjoyment, incredible memories and special friends from the game of squash.
He has left a strong mark on my life, for which I am eternally grateful.
I am so sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you over this very difficult and sad time.
Kind regards,
Neil Wilson
Class of 1983

Dear Myrna,
My deepest condolences on the passing of Ken.
He was one of the finest people I have ever met and left an indelible impact on me during the many hours I spent with him at Saints. May he rest in peace.
Kevin Green
Class of 1991

Dear Myrna,
I was sad to hear of the passing of Ken and send you love and prayers.
Ken had a profound impact on my life though I seldom spoke with him. I attended the college in the 80's and it was suggested to me

that I pay Ken a visit as I needed guidance on what career journey I should take. I had no idea what I wanted to study (and in fact there were some teachers who felt university was not an option for me). I was a conscientious student and studied hard though my grades did not reflect the effort.

It was the first time I had spoken with Ken, though had always been in awe of his ability to live a full life, build cars and move around the school with ease. In the meeting his gentle voice (he had such a good, kind voice) was very soothing. I felt as if he knew me well. I was intrigued. I since realized it was his deep care and empathy for people that made us feel very known. After some conversation, he suggested I follow a small inner voice that was suggesting teaching. I had not mentioned this to anyone before. You didn't attend St Stithians to become a teacher, after all. Needless to say, I did become a teacher and 10 years later returned to St Stithians to teach at the prep school. I sought Ken out to re-introduce myself and thank him for his advice all those years ago. There was no need to say

who I was. I simply said "Good morning, Mr Hovelmeier." He replied, "Hello Peter. Nice to have you back at Saints." What a gem!

So, many years have now passed. I have taught and led schools around the world. I am currently in the USA and I have a doctorate in educational leadership. I run a non-profit in South Africa that builds day care centres and classrooms in Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Myrna, Ken played a small but significant role in my life, and I wanted you to know my gratitude for him.

Peter Dry
Class of 1985

Dear Myrna,

My very sincere condolences on Ken's passing. I remember when you and he first got together and what a wonderful companion and soulmate you have been. I wish you strength and courage as you face the tough time that lies ahead. I am recently widowed and know that it is hard but that time eases

grief.

Ken was a very special man and my memories of him go back to before his blindness, when he coached soccer, cricket and gymnastics in the 60's. I recall camps being held at his mom and dad's home in Bryanston and the challenges he set for us as young men. I revered him then and was grateful for his advice and counsel when he was a guidance counsellor in the college during my matric year of 75.

The best we can do in the time we have in earth is to touch the lives of others. Ken has made a difference to thousands of lives and for that we are all so very grateful for his special gift of life.

In sorrow and gratitude,
Steve Woodward
Class of 1975

Good day, I heard the very sad news about Ken's passing and would like to send a message to Myrna (I was their flower boy at their wedding).

Ryan Falkenburg
Class of 1989

I was very sorry to read this evening to read this evening of the passing of Ken Hovelmeier. I remember him and Myrna well and with deep fondness. He was an utter legend and did so much in squash and outside to bring enormous value to the school.

He built the school into an extraordinary squash force and through the system came great players who I remember well like Gavin Pohl, Roger Koep, Derek Nitch, Neil Wilson, etc and he really inspired many.

Not only did he do so much for the school and the many whose lives he touched but he had quite one of the most wonderful senses of humour and I am still not sure I did not break a rib laughing in some conversations with him.

I am so sorry to hear of his passing but I know that I am but one of many that will forever

remember the great immediate the wonderful "Hovvy" had on our lives. He was a very special man.

Please pass on my deepest condolences to Myrna if you have her details.

Regards,
Kieran Clifford
Class of 1986

May he rest in peace. I remember Mr. Hovelmeier very well, such a kind gentleman and great mentor to all of us.

Regards,
Peter Fang
Class of 1996

Dear Mrs Hovelmeier,

I was saddened to hear of your husband's passing. My family and I send our thoughts and best wishes at this difficult time. I vividly remember how incredibly welcome you made me feel on my first day at St Peter's back in 1991 after my arrival from the UK. Similarly, your husband's visit to our class shortly after this to talk about the loss of his sight is etched in my memory. Fortunately for me, this wasn't the last time that he made an impression during my education as I attended St Stithians after leaving St Peter's. I am incredibly grateful for all of the efforts that you have both made to enrich the lives of young people. Ironically, I have followed a similar path and, alongside my photography, I work as an associate lecturer in Marine and Natural History Photography at Falmouth University in Cornwall. The course is based on the Penryn campus, just down the road from the village of Stithians.

Once again, I thank you and send my very best wishes.

Sincerely,
Neil Aldridge
Class of 1999



Dear Myrna,
Oh, my goodness what sad news. Ken was one of, if not the most formative teachers I had at Saints and in Post-Matric. I spent many hours chatting with him and was always amazed at his abilities and I still tell stories of his coaching our squash team! I am so sorry we lost touch and I wish you Gods peace and him a speedy journey into Gods light where a special place awaits him for sure!
Lots of love,
Denis Corin
Class of 1990 and post matric 1991

Ken was absolutely passionate about children. His passion transcended any imperfection he may have had. He did not allow anything to stand in the way of advancing a child's potential in achieving goals that he dreamt for them. I was a pupil who matriculated in 1976. Several years after I had qualified and received my degree I returned to the school to watch a rugby match. I had the privilege of sitting next to him. Having not seen or heard from each other since I matriculated, I greeted him. Immediately he recognised me from my voice. I was absolutely astounded. How many children had he had contact with? How could he recognise me just based on my voice?



He thoroughly enjoyed his rugby. I cannot remember who was giving him commentary, but he was absolutely passionately involved in the game.
I am privileged beyond belief to have met and known a man of his calibre. My sincerest condolences accompany this epitaph. May you know that he rests in peace and that his memory will never fade in the minds of so many children whose lives he touched.
Brendan Jeoffreys
Class of 1976

Dear Myrna,
As a young teenager at Saints what a gift Ken was to the boys and the school. I can honestly say Ken kept me going after the early passing of my father with his counselling sessions next to the chapel. He really became a friend and someone who listened and cared deeply for his fellow human beings.
What an amazing man we were all so lucky to have spent time with.
My thoughts are with you and your family.
Grant McLeod
Class of 1987

Please pass on my deepest sympathies to Myrna, and my appreciation for a person



that helped form the man, father and lifelong student that I am.
sincerest regards
Bradley Snaith
Class of 1985

Dear St Stithians and Myrna,
I just wanted to say that I was at Saints from 1989 till 1993 in Collins House and Mr Hovelmeier was a wonderful tutor to me. I remember sitting in his office on many occasions with his unseeing eyes seeing straight through me! One couldn't tell a lie to him because he would know! I always felt comfortable telling him my problems.
He was always kind and understanding and his guidance and wisdom helped me through my turbulent teenage years.
It saddens me greatly to hear that such a humble yet great man has passed. My deepest respect and condolences.
Kind regards,
Nicholas Taylor
Class of 1993

Good Day Myrna,
With great sadness I read the email this morning of Ken passing away.
I remember when I came to Saints back in early 1990's fresh from Germany Ken was one of the first people I met. His compassion and empathy made him a unique individual. His ability to connect to me and am sure to many many students over the years made him a pivotal part in my upbringing and my development as a young Adult.
I cannot express enough the impact Ken made on my life.
I be keeping you and Ken in my prayers at this time.
God Bless.
Sven Schafer
Class of 1994

Dear Myrna,
Ken – my champion against bullying. I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ken (Mr. Hovelmeir). He was a truly wonderful man that impacted my life in such a positive way.

As a teenager in 1983 he spent time generously helping me and coaching my squash game. I realised then that Ken was an exceptional listener. He didn't judge, he had a gentle guiding hand and he genuinely cared. When I was bullied and left confused he was the first person I reached out to. He had wisdom, compassion and he provided a safe refuge.
I remember you and he arriving on the motorbike each morning and his familiar routine was always accompanied by a warm "good morning".

He taught me so much. And 37 years on I am now a medical doctor in Melbourne, Australia and the proud father of two teenagers. I have taught my 15 year old son how to play squash and I have proudly instilled in him that bullying of any kind has no place in our society. In truth, I have taught my son these things, very much with the wise words of Ken always in my mind and close to my heart.

I celebrate Ken's life and I send you my heartfelt condolences. I hope that my short note expressing my gratitude provides you with some comfort, in much the same way that Ken did for me back in 1983.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Treagus
Class of 1983

Dear Myrna,
I was terribly sad to hear about Ken's passing. I have always carried such fond memories of "Hovvy" for all my life. He may not have known it but he had a huge impact on me and particularly during my high school years between 1978 and 1982. He offered such guidance & inspiration during that period and for a long time afterwards as I oft referred to him when raising my two boys as an example of what one can achieve when faced with the unexpected challenges that life can

throw at you.

I naturally had a special relationship with him because of my passion for squash and will always be grateful for the time and dedication he committed to not only my game, but the school and province too. I remember those provincial squash tours to Natal like it was yesterday, driving in the old Kombi with you both and the many fun times we had while you and he built up Saints squash to become the envy of all other schools countrywide for so many years. I'll always remember you and he arriving outside the chapel each morning on the motorbike with his white cane in hand and greeting us all with a beaming smile as he disembarked.

But the fondest memory of all for me were the one-on-one moments that we spent together whenever I walked him arm in arm up to the squash courts after school for practise every week. He was always so positive about life and people. I will never forget that. He really was an amazing man! I must also pay huge credit to you for always being his eyes and his support - and with that I send you my sincerest condolences.

Best regards,

Peter Carr

Class of 1982

I am sorry to hear this sad news. He was very good to my brother and I.

With best wishes,

Renier Myburgh

Class of 2001

Dear Myrna,

It is with great sadness that I hear of the passing of Ken.

I met Ken in 1967 and he had a big influence on us young boys. He could still see then and was a great character. His advice that he gave many boys later in his career was very sound and helped establish many a young career.

It is so strange that only last week I was telling my children about a teacher who had lost his

sight but was down on the sports field listening to the boys chatter as they were lining up to run a 400m trial. Ken commented that they sounded too close together at the staggered start. Once the race was run a teacher got out a tape measure and Ken was right. No one had thought to comment that the guy on the inside track always won.

Ken made a big contribution to our lives and will be remembered as an example of what you can do despite setbacks.

May he rest in peace.

Lance Coogan

Class of 1978

Dear Myrna,

Ken will always have a special place in my heart – here is my fond memory:

- Ken played a strong role in my career choice, in the many discussions I had with him, starting as early as when I was in Standard 8 (Gr10).
- He introduced me to the world and profession of Psychology.
- Over my remaining years at Saints, he nurtured my interest in the subject, which lead to me enrolling for a Sports Psychology degree at university.
- I always loved our career guidance related discussions – he had such a special way of piquing your interest and helping you navigate to get the best information.

Sending love to his family.

Jonathan Dicks

Class of 1998

Dear Mrs Hovelmeier,

I write to you to express my heartfelt condolences at the passing of your husband. Nothing I write below could possibly be news to you, but I feel compelled to try to bring you a touch of solace.

Mr Hovelmeier was a remarkable man, in every way. To me, he was the embodiment of everything good about Saints. He was

kind and courteous, neat and punctual, but also self-critical, witty, and at times downright hilarious. Moreover, he was a man of principle - whether in extolling the virtues of commitment and honouring your word (there's an anecdote about a Saintsboy, long before my time, who made good on a promise of delivering letters by getting on his bike, that I will never forget), to his personal commitment to community service, not to mention the thousands of young men that passed through his office for guidance, practically, emotionally, psychologically.

Meeting Mr Hovelmeier is, I suspect, my first memory of Saints. Sometime before term started, certainly before the grade 8 camp - it may even be towards the end of my std 5 year - all boys were invited to meet with him. How strange - this blind, warm-hearted sage, like something out of a novel – delightful and quite intimidating. After this meeting (which was a friendly orientation), he never forgot my name, evoked simply at the sound of my voice. I think this is true of just about everyone else in my year. Extraordinary. He made every boy feel acknowledged. His love to each was genuine, and his presence made Saints a much, much better place.

Mr Hovelmeier was ever-present during my years at Saints. He was involved in the administration of squash (where I had fun,

but ultimately turned out quite terrible), at the activities of the Interact club (where I was involved), and with the PR society (I still not only remember his speeches, but can actually quote some of his advice to this day. "How you respond, Mr Bekker, to a prospective parent asking 'Does Saints have a drug problem?' – I can also recite his answer). I can equally recall some of his advice regarding career choice (Study in SA undergraduate, overseas postgraduate; study and do well and any career is open to you; never pad your CV). I remember his clever use of acronyms as mnemonics in speeches. Did he once deliver a speech about K.I.S.S.I.N.G.? He spoke about the "skills in your toolbox". He told stories about Dave Mathews in days of yore.

And of course I remember you. Always by his side. Always laughing along, telling him what food is in front of him, always... making things... work. I admire you greatly, and I know, now, that Ken was who he was because you are who you are. For this, too, I honour you, and thank God for giving Ken to you, and to us.

I live with many regrets, and have now had to add to these the fact that, except for a glowing reference letter that Ken wrote to me, possibly twenty years ago (he used words like "advisedly", did I ever thank him?), I have not made contact with this utterly remarkable





man, the memory of whom I will always treasure.

May our Father give you comfort. You will see him again. We all will. There is so much left to say.

Yours in love and sympathy,

Martin Bekker

Head Boy, Class of 2000

Mrs Hovelmeier,

Please accept our most sincere condolences on the passing of your dear husband. Our 2 sons and then our daughter attended St Stithians from 1990 to 2005. Ken was an inspiration to us all. His positive attitude, inspiring life lessons and sense of humour will always be remembered. We send our fondest love to you and all your family.

Yours truly,

Marshall and Lesley Walford,

Gareth, Craig and Michelle

Thank you for the sad news. May His Soul Rest in Peace. Our prayers and thoughts are with Myrna and Family.

Patrizio Urzi

Class of 1985

Dear Myrna,

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember Mr Hovelmeier with a deep fondness and respect. I am sorry for his passing.

He was kind to me in a way that cannot be expressed in words. I have since trained as a clinical psychologist and practice in Australia. It was just this Monday past that I quoted him to a university student who is a client of mine. His reach was far and his influence profound. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

With fondest regards,

Graham du Plessis

Class of 1999

My name is Steve Crossland from the matric class of 1980. I can't believe it's been 40 years!

I decided to leave Johannesburg and move to New Zealand 22 years ago to raise a family.

I am saddened by the news of Ken passing and felt a strong need to share my experiences of what Ken and Myrna meant and did for me. Some of the things that I remember quite clearly is Ken rebuilding a mini and it passed the roadworthy test first time. A huge achievement.

His bravery for coming to school on the back of a motorbike with Myrna driving. Not being

able to see when riding pillion is very scary. Myrna used to get on the court and bash a ball around with me when I was alone practicing. The way he could follow a game of squash from the gallery, all he needed was to be told who was serving.

Ken must have seen some ability in my squash and carefully gave me the confidence and consistent encouragement for me to achieve what I never thought would be possible.

I played for Transvaal for two years which is one of my proudest achievements. I was also sponsored by a private individual after school and was in line to start Springbok trials. Unfortunately the hours you have to put in at that level was effecting my studies to become a Civil Engineer. I decided to give my career priority but often think I perhaps could have worn the green and gold.

When I reflect on my life I firmly believe that Ken's encouragement and coaching had a huge effect on my life and taught me to never give up.

We used to say at squash training: When you reach the point that you feel you can't go on everything after that makes you stronger and fitter, so push past it.

That lesson in life I applied to my military service and became an officer for my effort and served in 10 Artillery Brigade. 4th field regiment and served in Angola and was part of the South African withdrawal at the end of the war after 18 years. We lost friends in the war that were with us in 1980 at St Stithians and Stephen Hoare was a very sad loss for us all.

I think without Ken's involvement in my life I would be a very different person.

Rest in Peace Ken,

Steve Crossland

Class of 1980

Dear Myrna,

Ken played a major part in my ability to transition into a boarding house environment

from Standard 6 (1986).

I battled with many factors and Ken was always available to counsel me in his special way.

Ken played a role in shaping me to be the happy person I am today and I appreciate everything he did for me.

I regret not sharing this with him first hand and wish for you to know this.

Kind regards,

Greg Beadle

Class of 1990

My deepest sympathy to you and your family on Ken's passing. All strength and sympathy to you.

Dave Whitcombe

Class of 1969

Mr Hovelmeier, Sir.

You taught me so much about life. You taught me to be humble. You taught me to be kind. You taught me not to run away even though you were blind.

I am now blind in an eye but you assist my path

I am diabetic. I look back on you for you, my insulin.

I am now 55 yrs. This is in no small part you

Pete Bain

Grade 10 1980

Dear Myrna,

I was devastated to receive the news about Ken.

Ken has had the most profound impact on who I am today and, was singularly the most influential and pivotal person I met during my journey through St. Stithians College between 1988 to 1992.

He was more than a guidance counsellor and Master in charge of Squash. He was my friend, mentor, confidant and role model. He one taught the value of hard work, dedication and determination to achieve goals rather than relying on talent or, natural ability. He

taught that setbacks were inevitable and, that failure went hand in hand with success. He did more than pontificate these principles, he demonstrated daily that we can all overcome any challenges that life may throw at us. He practised what he preached and equipped others with the life tools necessary to follow in his footsteps.

Ken, I always smile and think fondly of our trips to Wanderers to watch International cricket, to chew on on fat and, generally put the world to right.

Thank you for everything.

Matthew Henning

Class of 1992 and Captain of Squash 1992

Dear Myrna,

My condolences on the passing of Ken and my thoughts are with you in this time of mourning.

As a previous student under his counselling, I must say it was a formative moment for myself to have been guided by his advice to me and my parents. The availability and use of such a counsellor with such a strong insight towards the human condition is something that I now seek in a future high school for my own future children.

Also, such emotive intelligence insight is something that I now seek daily in not only my colleagues but also in myself.

His insistence that you always arrive 10 minutes before a meeting still resonates with me today and I do my utmost to stick to the time schedule still to this day. I also try to impress that upon my own students when the opportunity arises.

Thank you so very much for caring for Ken and all the best for what lies ahead.

King regards

Jonathan Chan King

Class of 2001

Myrna,

So sorry to hear of Ken's passing. I was a student at St Stithians in the early to mid

1970's and Ken was always patient and kind. He always challenged you to think of how to better yourself and approach life's challenges in new ways. Ken is the teacher who got me into hockey and we went on to win the Aitken Cup in 1975. A great memory for me which I have always attributed to Ken talking me through my choices.

My condolences to the entire family.

Patrick Heywood

Class of 1975

Ken was an incredible person, and his kindness, dedication and willingness to always help students in need of a chat or support, shall never be forgotten.

I am sorry I missed the memorial, I only noticed your email this morning due a pretty stressful last week attending to urgent matters.

Best regards,

Patrick Laverty

Class of 1989

Good Day Myrna,

It is with great sadness that I received this mail regarding the passing of Ken. The earth has truly lost an inspirational man and role model.

Ken helped me through the darkest days in 1986 when my mother committed suicide and truly guided me through the minefield of emotions. I cannot imagine the pain that you must be experiencing with the loss of a life partner - but knowing Ken and his wisdom, I know his spirit will guide you through these dark days.

If there is anything I can help with or assist with, I am here for you and your family should you need anything.

Kindest regards

Thomas Carter

Class of 1990

Dear Hovelmeier Family,

I was in about Standard Four at Saints when Ken arrived at Saints around 1966.

I can clearly remember his arriving at cricket practice in the nets when he walked down from the Chapel perfectly groomed in full white cricket uniform with a bright blue blazer, and a white spot of sun cream on his nose ! This was the start of an incredible relationship that not only I but all the Boys at Saints had with Ken.

I played in the 1st Teams for Cricket and Soccer for him, totally dedicated and inspired by him, and privileged that my three sons went through this hands in the later years as well.

I also remembers a special sports and motivation camp we had at his home in those early days (1967?), and this demonstrated how his selfless spirit was dedicated to his students.

Our Families all have fond memories of this special man, and are so sad to know of his passing, but his spirit lives on, and we cherish that.

Love,

Allan Tatham

Class of 1972

Dear Myrna,

I matriculated from St Stithians in 1992 which seems like a lifetime ago. I am sorry to hear of Ken's or "Hovi's" passing. He was an exceptional human being that pushed past his disabilities and continued to enjoy life.

He was inspirational to the boys he came in contact with and was always ready to assist with advice when asked. He was a great squash coach and never let his disability get in the way. If I recall correctly he rebuilt a Mini and wrote a book in the years that I was at Saints. Once again, I am sorry that Hovi has passed away, but his legacy will live on!

Regards,

Dave Sinclair

Class of 1992



Hello Myrna,

I wanted to send my condolences on the passing of Ken. He was such a wonderful man and he will be sorely missed by many.

It is many many years ago since I was at St Stithians (1990 -1995) but I remember my interactions with him with great joy and fondness. He had a calmness about him at all times and dispensed such wonderful well thought out advice to us boys, what a brilliant mind he had.

I hope this finds you well. I'm sure the last time I saw you it was with Ken whilst I was at St Stithians those many years ago, but funnily enough I still remember being in your classroom at St Peters like it was yesterday ... again many happy memories, I can't believe where the time has gone.

My mom (Linda), dad (John) as well as Tom my brother all send you their best and condolences.

Sending you best wishes from London.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Wetton

Class of 1995

Dear Myrna,

What a nice surprise to be reminded of Mr Hovelmeier, and what a sadness to hear he has

gone. I matriculated in 1977 and remember him as knowledgeable and insightful in his career advice. In the years before that, the way he just kept on going at the school despite losing his sight, was a kind of convincing example, without any trumpet-blowing, of perseverance and determination in the face of enormous obstacles. Thanks to him for that. Myrna, thanks for taking care of him.

Best wishes
John Pallett
Class of 1977

Dear Myrna

On behalf of the Pouroulis family please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of our dear teacher and friend Ken. We heard the news with great sadness. May his soul rest in peace.

Thinking about Ken automatically brings a smile to our faces. All of us who knew him were touched in some special way. The Greeks have a word called "Philotimo", the essence of which calls upon each person to honour not only the truth in oneself, but the truth in all people and in all things. It is a word that demands each individual do the right thing at the right time, all the time. When we think of Ken, his teachings breathed "Philotimo". He inspired us to be better people and strive to do the right thing all the time.

When we learnt that Ken had passed, many of us started relaying stories about him and our own personal experiences. There were countless accounts of the times he lent an understanding ear to those who were going through trying times. The times when one had a burning issue and needed a sounding board, he was there to listen. There are stories about him counselling us on our various choices in life. He asked if we were fulfilling our full potential and whether we were following our true purpose in life. Did we demand of ourselves the best we could be in life, in play, in sport, in education, in friendship and in sharing.

Never once did I ever hear Ken complain about the fact that he could not see. He just

got on with things and lead by example. He was legendary in remembering people's names, voices and even their footsteps. Those of us who had the privilege of having both of you as our squash coaches still recall how he could "hear" whether you were playing well or not; were you short, loose and did you play length on the ball. Many boys at the school used Ken's inspirational teachings to strive for more and achieve greater heights because he knew you could do it and indeed, he let you know in his own way of you were falling short.

Teachers play one of the most important roles in our lives. After all, as parents, we entrust our most valuable assets our children, for over a decade to schools, where we hope our kids come out the other end as well-rounded individuals. Ken was one of those outstanding teachers who mentored, motivated and made us all better people. It was our honour to have him as a friend and teacher and the St Stithians community will surely miss him. Saints was lucky to have someone like him for so many years.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said
"Successful is the person who has lived well, laughed often and loved much, who has gained the respect of children, who leaves the world better than they found it, who has never lacked appreciation for the earth's beauty, who never fails to look for the best in others or give the best of themselves."
This is how we will remember Ken Hovelmeier.

With deepest sympathies and respect,
Adonis Pouroulis Class of 1987
Phoevos Pouroulis Class of 1992

Ken was truly an incredible man. I did not fully understand how amazing he was when I was younger, but as I have grown older, I have often found myself reflecting on his life and the positive impact he had on my life.

I still remember being asked to be a flower boy at Ken and Myrna's wedding, and feeling very proud to have been asked to play a role in their wedding. As I grew older, I remember



being coached by Ken, and being quite stunned by Ken's uncanny ability to know where I was (and more often, was not) on the court. His blindness did not mean he did not see. In fact, he seemed to be far more attuned to what was going on around him than most sighted people. And while I never felt the need for personal counselling, I remember the times I did spend with Ken in his office next to the chapel. He was so warm and kind to me. He was always interested in what I was doing, and was quick to encourage and praise. I always felt better for having spent time with Ken.

When I left Saints, Ken wrote a referral for me. I still have it. It was such a kind letter. He made me out to be far better than I really was, but that was exactly the point. He did it to give me a leg up in the world – to encourage some unknown stranger to take a chance on me. He didn't need to do it, yet he did it because he again could make a positive impact on my life.

I regret never having thanked Ken for his kindness and love. And so, I wish to thank him in this tribute. He was so brave. He never let his blindness hold him back. He had such a positive and enduring impact on so many of our lives, and I am very grateful he touched mine in such a kind and thoughtful way. Thank you Ken. I really appreciated everything you did for me. You will be missed by so many people. Thank you for touching my world with such kindness.

Kind regards
Ryan Falkenberg
Class of 1988

I received news of the passing of Ken Hovelmeier. In the world of squash, this man was nothing short of legendary. As a coach he was unparalleled, and he fined tuned many a good player into many a great one through his ability to listen. His hearing was so keen that he could decipher a well struck shot from a poor one and he could deduce the faint placing of footwork through his ear drum. He relied heavily on this sense because he was

blind.

He saw nothing yet missed even less. He had no sight, but extraordinary vision. He took a finite disability and lived an infinitely meaningful life.

Hovvy, as he was affectionately known, rebuilt a Mini's engine, knew every member of staff by the way they walked down the corridors of Saints, and by the time any schoolboy had spent a few months in the College, he knew most of them by their voice.

He lives on in the infinity and in the legacy of memory.

RIP Hovvy - As an infinite player you opened many eyes through your sense of Humanity. P.P.S in the last 12 hours Our class WhatsApp group has been alive with stories of this man's influence. Our school days were finite, and they were over a long time ago. What we learned about ourselves, our relationships together, and the world around us lives on. The world is both finite and infinite – it just seems there is more significance in being an infinite player.

Steve Hall

Class of 1987

So sad to hear the news. Would you please pass on my condolences to Myrna. Ken had a huge positive impact on me, as with many others. I was truly blessed and honored to know Ken as a teacher, mentor and friend.

Sincere sympathies

Vaughn Goodbrand

Class of 1973

Please accept my heartfelt condolences. Ken was so influential and a wonderful mentor during my formative years at St. Stithians. Ken was always so supportive and kind, a breath of fresh air. I am now 62 years old and live in Newport Beach, California.

I have never forgotten Ken and think of him often. What a wonderful man and teacher! Myrna, I know that you miss him dearly. Please know what a positive influence he

was on me and countless others during his remarkable tenured career!

God bless you !

Garth Blumenthal

Class of 1975

Dear Myrna,

In 1981 I arrived at college in Std 7 a year younger than my peers, and after most had formed their friendship groups, so the early months were tricky. I'd met Ken prior to coming over to Saints and he'd suggested I try squash, a sport I hadn't played before, and the two of you coached me. Ken was also on hand as a refuge for a safe chat about how things were going at any point.

Ken was a beacon of hope and humaneness for me in an otherwise medieval set up! He made high school bearable, and not only that, he himself was so good at dealing with adversity that it inspired us to overcome the much smaller obstacles that came our way. Ken was a real gentleman, a true inspiration, and a friend to thousands of us during our school years. He was an exceptional man.

I am so sorry for your loss, and so grateful he was a part of my life for those years.

Bruce Hetherington

Class of 1984

Dear Myrna,

I remember my master with the greatest affection. Ken had a huge influence on my life, as you know and I always remember his positivity whenever feeling down. I remember vividly our trip together to England, then America and finally Brazil when Ken fortunately chose me as his guide when he went to visit his sister in Lewiston, New York.

Not only this, but you may remember, when our daughter Katherine was aged 16 and about to take important school public exams and she was really struggling, Ken was kind enough to speak to her on a few occasions and help her on her way. Katherine is now a newly qualified junior doctor at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth, UK.

Myrna, our hearts go out to you and we send

you so much love and prayers. You were his love and his rock.

Andrew and Alexandra Irwin

Class of 1977

Dear Myrna,

So sorry to hear about Ken and my deepest condolences to you and your family.

I have only fond and fun memories of Ken. For me his standout quality was his calm demeanour that always shone through especially during those turbulent mid 80's.

Whilst we were under pressure especially during our matric year (1985) he was able to guide us with an insight and grace that is extremely rare.

What I learnt from him certainly helped shape and guide my life's experiences.

Kind regards

Mark Rowand

Class of 1985

Dear Myrna,

Terribly sad to hear of the passing of Ken. I met him in 1967 as a Grade One boy who was instantly inspired by his attitude to life. His attention to detail, particularly in the sports

arena, was something I have remembered and passed onto my kids. He once told me an anecdote which he said exemplified St Stithians, but I believe said more about his leadership at the school: His chauffeur drove him to a junior cricket match and promptly told Ken that St Stithians was fielding. Ken asked how on earth did he know. His reply... because the fielders all have their socks pulled up ! It was wonderful to keep in touch despite my having been gone for 45 years. RIP Hovvie!

Best regards,

Clive Coombs

Class of 1978

Dear Myrna,

My deepest condolences for your loss. What a great man Ken was, and I know he left an amazing legacy.

He made a huge impression on me in my final two years at Saints with his kind and patient wisdom.

Sincerely,

Graham Vercueil

Class of 1984



My deepest condolences to Myrna at this time. I remember Ken Hovelmeier for many things, who would have thought of a blind man standing above a squash court guiding and coaching school kids by sound alone!!

I remember him sharing what it's like to live in a world without sight and how amazingly capable he was.

But it was his outlook on his world that was so powerful. Upbeat, up for a challenge, disciplined and committed to making a difference in so many students lives.

Regards,

Grant Godsell

Class of 1994

Dear Myrna,

I would like to send my deepest condolences to you and your family with the recent passing of Mr Hovelmeier.

Mr Hovelmeier had a profound impact on my life. He kindly took me under his wing and spent many hours coaching me. I still use many of his lessons to this very day. He was a giant of a man who invested heavily in the lives of young men. I remember reaching out to him in the midst of a personal crisis a few years after school. He met with me at short notice and helped me process the changes I was going through. I am truly grateful for having known him and being able to learn from him. I thank God for his life, for you and his family who supported him throughout and the positive impact he had on so many.

Kind regards,

Nic Williams

Class of 2001

Dear Myrna,

We are so deeply saddened by the passing of Ken. Greg, Trent and I were so blessed to have met Ken and he was incredible in the way that he coached Trent. He truly made a huge

difference in Trent's life and that will forever be with him. Ken was so knowledge, caring and genuine and in all that he did and said.

Myrna please know we wish you love and strength in this difficult and trying time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

God bless.

Warm regards,

The Krugers

Dear Ken,

When my son Ben heard the news of your passing his response was immediate. "What a legend". And that "Sir" sums it up.

You made the impossible possible. I remember with fondness how one day you said to me that you enjoyed the way I looked at you when we spoke. Go figure that one everybody. HaHaHa. I'm in awe of your courage. You made the extraordinary look ordinary. Could you really tell how a squash player was playing by the sound the ball made as it hit the front wall. Could you really tinker with car engines? Hmmm. Maybe you really were a Super Hero from a galaxy far, far away. HeHeHe.

Ken, when my mum passed I wrote a poem. In it I used the words, "A big tree has fallen". Ken, so many have blossomed in your shade, so many. Rest now, in the knowledge that you were treasured and loved. That you were blessed to have your Myrna and that you lived a remarkable life of great meaning. That you were the epitome of "Once a Saint always a Saint". That for us who remain, a big tree has fallen.

With much affection.

Dave Ryan

Ex Deputy Head...half of the "Two Dave's"

Class of 2006

Myrna, you were Ken's rock, as much as you always said he gave you strength. We all have



ATHLETICS TEAM, 1969

Front: C. Anderson, S. White, G. Cominos, J. Kingsley, C. Waterson, K. Dalton, G. MacKenzie, K. Huskisson, R. de Vries.
Second Row: C. Jury, M. Last, R. Matthews, G. Crichton, C. Clark, M. Webb, A. Oberholzer (Capt.), K. Hovelmeier, Esq., R. Cox, J. Abbot, T. Hargreaves, G. Mann, S. Woodward, G. Meatchem, R. Irwin.
Third Row: P. Stevens, J. Woods, S. Vernede, G. Pyne-James, J. Stephen, R. Johnstone, G. Billis.
Back Row: R. Dodds, E. Hayter, J. Stephen, G. Slabbert, R. Tobias, R. Kennealy, N. Munday, N. Wilkinson.
Absent: M. Tickton.

such happy memories of Ken. Stuart said that Ken was such a wise man, who gave him great career advice and who recognised so many students by their voices while exchanging a "Good morning, Sir," walking down the school corridors. Joanne remembers him as an amazing man who taught us all so many life lessons. Of course Myrna, you and I teaching together, always enjoyed his annual visits to St Peter's Prep when Ken would educate and entertain our young classes as to how blind people cope in the world and how the children could make life easier for a blind person by showing them the back of the chair, giving their name when they said hello and opening the car door for them so did not try to get into the back seat. Ken always made them laugh while teaching them life skills they would never forget. Sad times but such wonderful, happy memories we can all hold onto.

Love from Carol, Jeremy, Stuart and Joanne Cowan

A true legend. I remember Ken very well; how he would coach squash sessions, tell us about about the films he had recently "watched" and how he was building an AC Cobra. I remember how he navigated that school, even after major relocation of buildings and offices, better than most of us. And I remember him knowing, just from my voice, who I was and what I was up to. This morning, he was the topic of my morning message to my Year 11 tutor group here in Lusaka – Mr Hovelmeier was a man of great dedication and resilience. (Wearing my Saints tie today as I teach online.) May he rest in peace.

Christopher Smith

Dear Mrs Hovelmeier,

It is with deep sadness that I learned of Mr Hovelmeier his passing away. As a young boy joining Saints in the second half of 1978 he was of tremendous support to me.

My background is not South African and coming over to South Africa (from South America) as a 14 year old pupil with parents living in Mozambique I needed a lot of help in adjusting my life in a completely different environment.

He was probably the most important adult around at that time to navigate me through the dense fog and getting me on the right track.

I am very grateful for his influence in my life. After all those years, his passing away still came as a shock to me. I hope you and his dear ones can find the strength to carry on during the coming dark period.

Thank you for your support in Ken and god bless.

Kind regards,
Kurt Geilert
Class of 1981

Devastated to hear that, he was a great man. Please can you let Myrna know that Tristan Swart and I send our love and fondest memories. Thank you for letting me know.

Julia Swart

I was 12 when I first met Mr Hovelmeier at his home in Fourways. I remember almost everything from that first encounter, even what we were both wearing, such was the impact he first made on me. I left Saints Prep for the midlands but when my Dad became ill Ken was instrumental in arranging for me to come back to Saints in the second term of Standard 6. One's first year of the College is tough as one navigates a new way of working from imposing hulks of matrices who shave, to teachers who treat you as adults, to a whole influx of boys from other schools injecting fresh new sporting talent and academic prowess. The big pond of Prep had suddenly become a lake.....

My transition back to Saints was virtually seamless and this was almost singlehandedly managed by Ken. From visits to him in the



school holidays before term started to his contagious enthusiasm about me joining the squash club, I arrived back on campus feeling confident and prepared. I recall reading my Std 6 novel to Ken, at his request, over a period of a few weeks and him being genuinely rivetted by its contents. Of course, he just cared about me (and all his boys) and a novel was the crack in the door to pry open. My father's health deteriorated quickly that year so that by the beginning of the third term he had passed away. By then, I had found my feet again at Saints and this was largely through multiple sessions with Ken in his office below the art room, at a busy junction near Mears Hall. His office was perfectly appointed to listen to boys chatting at break and conversations between periods as we rushed past to the biology labs. I was so grateful to be able to pull the ace from my sleeve whenever times got tough to tell a teacher that I had an appointment with Mr Hovelmeier. This, of course, was regardless of whether I actually had one..... I could just pitch up and he would make a plan. As far as I was concerned, these sessions weren't counselling but just a fantastic opportunity to discuss sport, particularly national and provincial cricket, the latest car he was repairing – multiple mini's if I recall, squash, squash and then past pupils of the school. I had a fascination with reading back issues of school magazines and could quote from them 10 years back which, of course, took him down memory lane as they were real people to him.

As I moved through the College, these sessions continued and developed more into a friendship or favourite uncle than a teacher pupil relationship. I distinctly remember when an Old Boy had whispered in his ear about some undesirable behaviour of mine and he "called me in"... by this time he was Director of Post Matric. Any visits now had a double highlight as you had to navigate through the post matric common room

which contained that mythical creature called a “girl”. One generally arrived flustered, with a raised pulse having run the gauntlet only to settle in very quickly and be gently guided by his wise words.

Along with “Hovi’s” incredible memory for names, events, everyone’s personal history and circumstances, which endeared all to him, I recall his immense determination to turn his disability into ability. He never spoke of his lack of sight but enthused about the latest brail technology and I remember when his electronic typing machine arrived from the states – a world first, cutting edge tech – and the hours spent calibrating this to voice recognition. He demanded excellence from us and demonstrated this, immense perseverance and simply found a way around every obstacle. He was not afraid to ask for help but did so in the most positive fashion, quick to find humour and distract from any challenge he may have. I actually doubt he even thought he had a form of disability such as his overdeveloped other senses including an EQ off the charts.

One event that stands out was when he volunteered, probably requested David Wylde but gave him no option to decline, to run the College prize giving – akin to master of ceremonies. For most mortals this is a tough job getting the order of events, pronouncing names, sensing when the audience should applaud, keep to time, navigate a podium, guest speakers etc. No problem at all for Hovi..... through meticulous planning and a bold approach he pulled it off without a glitch and made that role his.

Ken was only a complete package when you added Myrna. Quietly in the background but with an incredibly strong presence, the image of her arriving to pick him after school or squash, exactly on time in their 3 series BMW stands out. Myrna knew all about us and asked poignant questions. When I was struggling with my backhand, Ken sensed this and said he had a solution. The next afternoon in pops

Myrna in her squash kit and starts backhand drills with me. We also enjoyed Myrna’s fashion sense keeping Ken firmly in the 70s style of ties, dress shirts and tracksuits as we carved our way into the 90s thinking we were super cool. Ken adored Myrna and spoke of her often in his stories. Our hearts go out to her as he constant companion is physically no longer here.

Not only did Hovi inspire the scholars at Saints but opposition schools were in awe of him. Later in life there have been countless people I’ve met who attended other schools across South Africa who either experienced or know of him. They incredulously ask how he did it. Not only was he extremely talented, knowledgeable and passionate but he convinced us, without us knowing he was doing so, to have a self-belief that no one could break. Along with impeccable morals and sense of fair play he inspired us to heights we would never have attained without him. His loyalty to Saints, his friends and pupils was unbreakable despite our frequent stumbles or poor choices.

In the past few years where, shamefully, my contact with him was sporadic. He remained or, if it’s even possible, grew in positivity despite even further physical setbacks. Getting off a phone call with him one felt invigorated and light on one’s feet. He was a man one sensed would live for ever, a man who remained relevant to us and society despite the years rolling on. What a great loss but what an incredible legacy that he leaves for us all.

Craig Lewis

Class of 1994

In life’s journey, there are always people who affect our path and development, but if we are very lucky, we find someone whose influence lasts forever. Ken Hovelmeier was this for me – and all these years later, my wife and

children know about him and what he meant to me.

I count myself extraordinarily lucky to have had Ken in my life as a mentor and guide. I arrived at St Stithians Prep in 1968, a rather withdrawn and unhappy new boy. Ken had a hugely positive influence on me, which I think stemmed from his remarkably positive attitude towards all things, and to his kind and caring nature. He was the sort of rare teacher who built confidence and epitomised the teaching ideal of encouraging one to be the best one can be. I know he had this effect on all of us. I ended the year a different child. We’d all try to get to school early and make our way to his classroom to talk about soccer formations and the best way to hold a cricket ball to get it to swing. We were all very proud to play the game for a coach we all admired. He was also our science teacher and way back in 1969 introduced us to exciting concepts like building computers. We built primitive calculators – well, more of an adding machine -with switches and small lights in series and parallel wiring, very helpful to a boy who couldn’t do arithmetic! Another exciting project was learning about the break- up of white light through a prism into the colour spectrum. I think Ken had an incredible ability to bring out the best colours in all who came into contact with him. He left behind a wonderful legacy.

A truly remarkable man.

(S.J.) Simon

Class of 1973

Ken coached me at King Edwards in 1964 and at the end of the season presented me with this book with my bowling figures inscribed. He also presented me with the kookaburra cricket ball with which I got a hat trick against St Stithians.

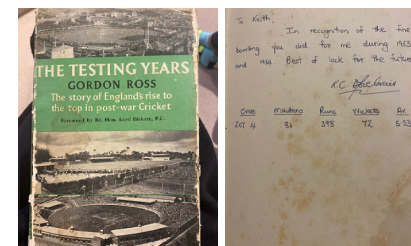
I have lived in many parts of the world and

been in Sydney for nearly 40 years and this book is one of the few that has travelled with me and I still treasure. I have thought about him often over the years but did not know what had happened to him until someone I have not seen for many years emailed me yesterday about his passing.

I think Ken would have thought it a good result that Keith Miller ended up living in Australia. He often spoke to me about the Keith Miller Australian all rounder who played in the Bradman era and a bit later. I would have loved to tell Ken that I met Keith Miller here in Sydney in the eighties.

Best wishes

Keith Miller



Dear Myrna,

It's ages since I saw the two of you, but I can still vividly remember the many hours that I would sit chatting with Ken in his little office next to the chapel during lunch breaks, with you often popping in...

I can also fondly recall assisting Ken, (who was a selector at the time!!) by commenting for him at one of the Transvaal Nuffield Cricket Trials that were being played at the Wanderers.

He made a lasting impression on all who met him, and I was certainly very privileged to have known him.

My deepest condolences to you.

Mark Berger

Class of 1978

Dear Myrna,

We were surprised and saddened to hear about Ken's passing. Our hearts go out to you, we are going to miss him so much. Ken was a mentor to me and he had a profound impact on my life. He was my truest and greatest friend. It is going to take time to get over the shock of his loss, but our family will be here for you all the way. Words fall short of expressing our sorrow for your loss. We are truly, deeply sorry. We can't imagine the sadness you must be feeling from your loss. May the love of those around you, help you through the days ahead.

Ken was truly an inspiration and one of the great men of the world. His passion and kindness inspired not only me, but everyone with whom he connected. He touched so many lives and truly made the world a better place. Our family holds you in our thoughts and prayers. Ken Hovelmeier was one of a kind, he will be sorely missed and will be in our hearts forever.

Our deepest sympathies

John, Alta, Jonathan and Ethan Argyle
Class of 1968



Tributes

from St Stithians Social Media

One of the giants on whose shoulders we stand #RIP x

Carel Nolte
Chair of Council

Very sad news. Our thoughts and prayers go to Myrna. Ken made me feel welcome as a new member of staff to Saints, having just retired when I arrived. Special man.

David Knowles

MHSRIP (May his soul rest in peace).

Ntombi Langa-Royds
Deputy Chair of Council

He was always an inspiration. What a wonderful man and significant life. The most amazing man.

Ruth Everson

Such a sad day for the St Stithians community. He was loved and admired by all who met him. I thank him for the love and care he showed my parents, Vernon and Margaret Clegg over the many years of their wonderful friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time Myra.

With love,
Anne Bredenkamp
Past Boys' College teacher

Condolences to Myrna. Rest In Peace Ken. Such a privilege to have known this selfless, brave man whose contribution to so many is immense. Ken was inspirational in so many ways and will be remembered by so many for his wisdom and braveness. Thank you, Ken – travel well in peace.

Pauline Dickson
What sad news! I have many happy memories of Ken during my years at Saints. Lots of love and condolences to Myrna.
Patricia Warren
Den Warren's widow

Ken was an incredible man. He was an inspiration to all with whom he came into contact. My deepest condolences to Myrna and family.

Jen Smith
Past Girls' Prep Deputy Head

Ken was a remarkable colleague and human being and I have fond memories of our time together at Saints. RIP.

Hendrik Jansen
Past Boys' College teacher

So very sad. He was a remarkable man. Love and strength to Myrna xx

Kim Turnbull
Past parent

I met Ken in 2008 when he was assisting our grade 7's with leadership training. Seeing him engage with young boys on an incredibly difficult concept such as leadership did not just shape the boys but also the staff involved. I learned so much about servant leadership by observing him and Myrna during these sessions. Holding you in our thoughts and prayers Myrna.

Jakes Fredericks
Boys' Prep Head

My condolences to Ken's wife and family my prayers and thoughts are with you a true legend who inspired and positively enhanced my own sons lives! Thank you.

Lesley Simmonds
Past teacher and parent

What an incredible legacy Ken has left behind him. I pay tribute to him as a close colleague, brave and inspirational man and good friend. Sending love to Myrna and all who knew and loved Ken.

Sue MacKenzie
School Councilor 1993-2006



A remarkable man. My mother Sue Kroning taught at Saints with Ken. My condolences to family and friends.

Lynne Parrymore
Past parent

Very sad news. Ken was an extraordinary man who was always positive and was an amazing role model for pupils and colleagues alike. We hold Myrna in our thoughts.

Dave Gear
Past Boys' College teacher

I am so very sorry to hear this news. Ken was an amazing man. Sending you love and strength Myrna. Xxx

Kim Turnbull
Past parent

A wonderful and highly intelligent man that was a friend to everyone and a great role model. Rest In Peace Ken, you certainly made your mark!!

Alistair Calver
Class of 1992

The world has lost a remarkable man. So sad. Our thoughts and prayers are with Myrna and the family.

Don and Joan Hean
Past Boys' College teachers

Ken Hovelmeier. Not many people who passed the gates at Saints will forget such an amazing person who showed us all the power of positive thinking. Ken, you really

lived every day by what you taught. You'll be missed. RIP.

Rob Conroy
Class of 1996

Fond memories of him as a student. The music at Ken and Myrna's wedding in the chapel was provided by my mother Hilary Davies; then a music teacher in the prep. It was wonderful to see them both fairly recently because of Ken's involvement in Dainfern College. RIP.

Matthew Davies
Class of 1984

Very sad to hear. Mr Hovelmeier was a wonderful person and wise mentor. He was also amazing demonstration of someone that did not let their disability constrain their impact. I had immense respect for him.

Michael Bean
Class of 1999

Devastating news. Mr Hovelmeier is one of the most incredible and remarkable people I have ever met. An incredibly gentle, patient and talented man, I can't imagine my time in high school without his help and guidance. Rest in peace now sir, thank you for everything. Sending deepest condolences to Mrs. Hovelmeier and his loved ones.

Ruairi Sheridan
Class of 1995

So sad. Ken was such an exceptional human who made a deep and meaningful impact to my life. College memories are intertwined with his authentic lessons and wise insights. He will be missed. Much strength to Myrna and the family.

Matthew Jankelow
Class of 1990

Ken is a legend.
Nicholas Young
Class of 1984

My deepest condolences on the loss of this iconic man. He leaves a legacy of real inspiration – the measure of a truly meaningful life.

Craig Herbst
Class of 1986

Condolences to Myrna and the rest of Krens family. A true legend who touched so many lives, making a difference to one and all of them. I still often make reference to Ken and how he made things happen. RIP.

Wally Shave
Class of 1980

It was always a joy and a privilege to know Ken as a friend and professionally. Thank you for being the example you were Ken. My love and thought are with you Myrna.

Denise Kunstler
Past Boys' Prep Teacher

What sad news. There's not been a year since I left Saints where I haven't thought of and been thankful for Ken Hovelmeier. He anchored many ships and set many on a happy and surefooted course. RIP Sir.

Doug Place
Class of 2000

A true legend. I remember Ken very well; how he would coach squash sessions, tell us about

about the films he had recently "watched" and how he was building an AC Cobra. I remember how he navigated that school, even after major relocation of buildings and offices, better than most of us. And I remember him knowing, just from my voice, who I was and what I was up to. This morning, he was the topic of my morning message to my Year 11 tutor group here in Lusaka - Mr Hovelmeier was a man of great dedication and resilience. (Wearing my Saints tie today as I teach online.) May he rest in peace.

Christopher Smith
Class of 1994

Lovely man and wonderful to have had him at Saints.

Francis Irvin Luker
Class of 1990

It seems like just yesterday we heard Ken's voice utter words that shaped much of our

lives. What Ken taught us will live on. Very few leave a legacy that endures and is passed onto so many generations. Not only did you lead an extraordinary life, you help create so many more. Mr H, we miss you, Rest in the Peace you so deserve.

What an incredible person who had such a positive impact on so many lives. Our thoughts are with Myrna and the family.

Rob McFadzean
Class of 1995 and professional squash player

What an incredible person who had such a positive impact on so many lives. Our thoughts are with Myrna and the family.

Jo Haswell
Class of 1999

Ken was wise and quietly effective but also inspirational. While advising others on careers, he forged his own unique path when unable to teach. Memories include an





eventful trip with him and my father to the Kruger Park, and he rebuilding car engines, sometimes with my brother, Rob, allowing for no limitations to be imposed on him.

Always positive and sensible, he left his mark on many boys at the school through sport, chats and advice, and influenced other people outside, becoming a sought-after speaker and author. He leaves fond memories.

Love and condolences to Myrna.

Peter Macfarlane

Class of 1981, son of Walter Macfarlane



A true Saints Legend! He was such an inspiration for us all, having overcome his setbacks to make a success of his life and impacting so many other peoples lives. I will never forget him coaching many of the top Squash players from our year (Class of 94), many of them going on to play provincial squash. My Condolences go to his family and friends.

Mark Greenfield

Class of 1993



I am so terribly sad. Ken shaped my life and my career when I needed guidance. Thank you. Rest softly in peace sir, you will be dearly missed. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Mike Lacey-Smith

Class of 1980



Such an inspirational man! I have found myself often thinking about Ken the last few years and his positive attitude to life and the challenges he had overcome. You will be missed but not forgotten! RIP.

Steven Kohary

Class of 1996

An exceptional gentleman... Hovi ... battling to find words to express the influence he had on my (and my family's) life. How one man could take such a keen interest in everyone's circumstances with such care, humour and humility was almost super-human. Playing squash (and destroying the opposition) against other schools was a highlight more because our opponents were so in awe of our "coach" who subliminally inspired and motivated us just trying to emulate the way he faced life. To the end, despite what us mortals would consider severe setbacks he remained so positive and curious as to how we all were, never thinking of himself.... One & All remember....

Craig Lewis

Class of 1994

Very sad news, I still remember the day I met him prior to starting Std 6. An incredibly inspirational man. My condolences to the family.

Alistair Clifton

Class of 1994

The positive impact Ken had on my years at Saints College is beyond measure. The way he overcame his own disabilities was (and still remains) an inspiration to so many of us, and my world is a far richer place for having had the opportunity to spend so much time with him. My thoughts go to Myrna during this trying period, and I hope wherever Ken's spirit is now, he's enjoying being back behind the wheel.

Roy Michael

Class of 1994

I recall before our official acceptance to the

High School, as a Saints Prep lad we all had to come up with a funny joke to share with Ken in his office. If the joke was deemed funny, we would have a clear passage, but if not... the stakes were high!! My joke was not very funny but he belly laughed in appreciation anyway Such a deep well, a true legend. Rest In Peace Ken.

Gavin Welsh

Class of 1995

I was sent to his office once for have a brief chat, as special kid, he accommodated me with his great humility and impeccable sense of humor. A true gentleman. My deepest sympathy.

Linda Mgcina

Grade 10 class of 1993

Wow, what a Legend - RIP Mr Ken Hovelmeier - you shaped my life in such a positive way on and off the squash court.

Tim Steenhoff

Class of 1996

A brilliant man who was 100% accurate re my career choice. It was only much later that I realized he was spot on. At St Stithians Mr and Mrs Hovelmeier were all about kindness and compassion.

Patrick Boltzler

Class of 1992

What sad news. Ken was one of, if not the most formative teachers I had at Saints and in Post-Matric. I spent many hours chatting with him and was always amazed at his abilities and I still tell stories of his coaching

our squash team!
I am so sorry we lost touch and I wish Myrna Gods peace and him a speedy journey into Gods light where a special place awaits him for sure! A great man. RIP.

Den Corin

Class of 1990 and Post Matric 1991

A giant in the Saints community who will be missed but never forgotten. Condolences to Myrna.

Rodney Caruana

Class of 1979

What a Saints legend, who inspired so many. I have so many memories of Ken, the one influence he had in my life that still challenges me is to remember everyone's names, I really mean everyone, what a talent and what a privilege to have known Ken, my sincerest condolences.

Brett St Clair

Class of 1992

He was a source of peace and focus in a fast-paced and robust school life. Rest In Peace.

Tim Keegan

Class of 1985

Only appreciation and respect to the man. Just thankful he was there during my years at Saints. You will be missed but never forgotten.

Steph Burger

Class of 1991

I believe my first real experience with Mr Hovelmeier was during my very first squash lesson in Std 6. I was on the court with Brent Wyborn and making a mess of my backhands, and Mr Hovelmeier called out from the stands, "Mr Mulder, try not to hold your racket double-handed on your backhands."

Brent and I just stood there, completely gobsmacked!

I was very privileged to continue to get to know this great man, all through my time at Saints, including having him as Sixth Form director in '92.

I have far too many fond memories of him to recount here, but suffice to say he will be sorely missed. Thoughts are with his family at this time.

Ross Mulder

Class of 1991

Inspirational man , who guided so many of us. The family are in my thoughts.

Steuart Rorke

Class of 1989

A truly inspirational human being who reached countless students!

John Ball

Class of 2002

An icon.... Rest In Peace.

Warren Hickinbotham

Class of 1995

This is devastating news. The world seems a poorer place now.

John Huggett

Class of 1989

Such sad news... What a great man who made such a difference to so many of our lives.

Ian Broekhuizen

Class of 1996

Ken Hovelmeier is a Saints legend, he will be missed. He saw more in us than most able sighted could ever see. I still remember sitting through the careers advice session in his Chapel annex office wondering how he managed to rebuild a car without sight. RIP Mr H.

Craig Astfalck

Class of 1986

MHSRIP (May his soul rest in peace).

Linda Mgcina

Grade 10 class of 1993

Sending heartfelt sympathy at this difficult time.

Carol Heath

Past Girls' Prep teacher

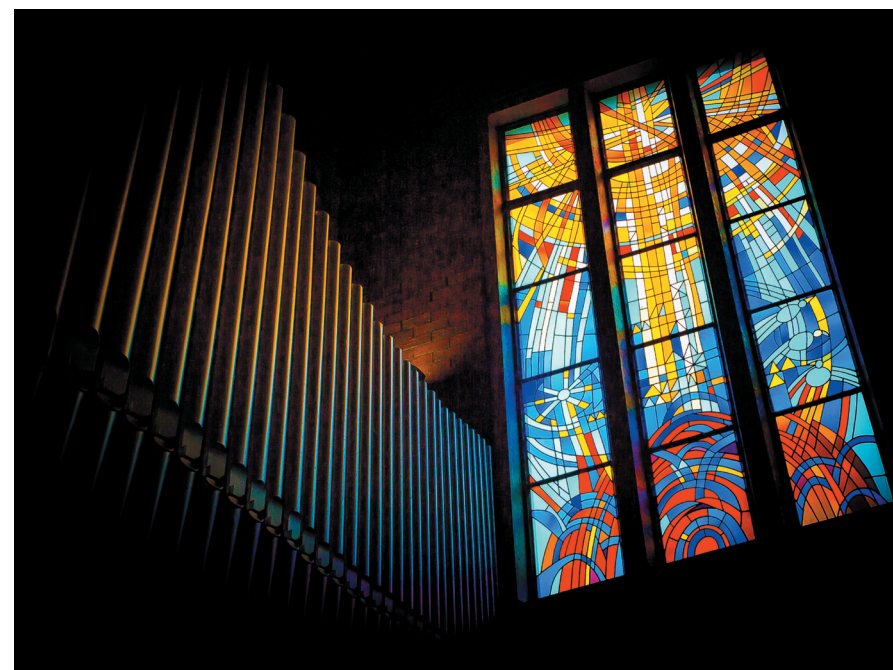
Amazing man. Taught me squash when I was in std 6, as a blind man. In particular, to lob, which i still do 35 years later.

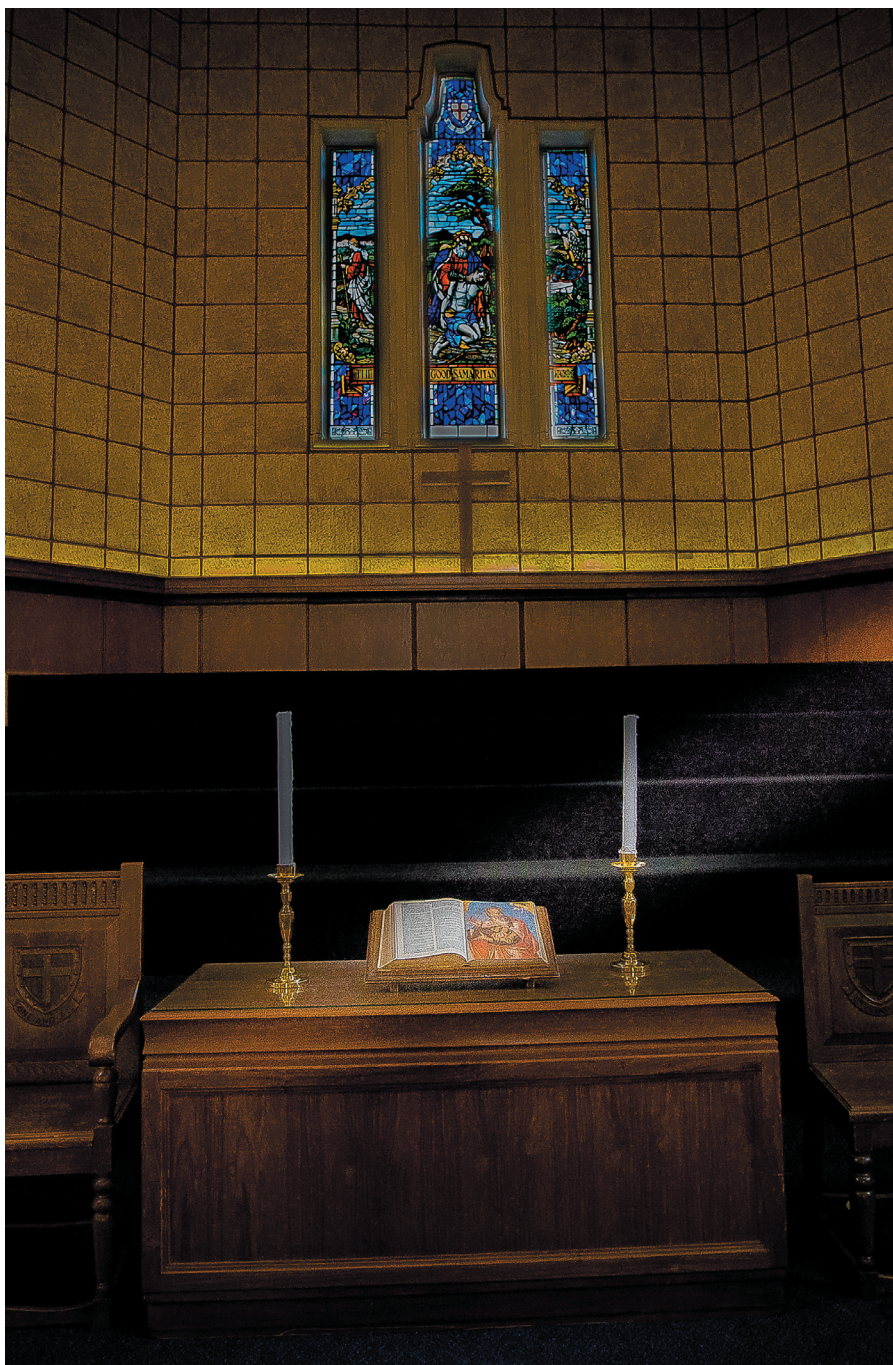
Doug Cornish

Class of 1990

Such a True Legend , an inspirational Mentor who made such an impact in my life and many others. Always there when you just needed to chat. You will be missed. Was a privilege to have been apart of it. Condolences and prayers go out to Myrna.

Craig Hart





Ken was such a wonderful mentor in my life while I was at Saints. His door was always open for a chat. We chose him to sit on our matric final dinner table as he was such a great person in our lives. (Class of 1985 Rob Townsend Rowan Ditcham and Andrew Tarrant where the other matrices on our table)

Justin Hawes

Class of 1985

Ken Hovelmeier must of helped so many young teens on their way to success throughout the years. He was so great to chat to and always took time out his schedule to truly listen. God Bless and our prayers are with Mrs Hovelmeier and family.

Matthew Elson

Class of 1990

I remember him well, an incredibly humble man.

Murray Giggins

Class of 1985

Many good memories of Ken and his Karmann Ghia, the holiday gym camps at his home and swimming in the neighbour's pool as part of the obstacle course in mid-winter. RIP, Ken.

Colin Windell

Class of 1969

Ken was an amazing man. A huge influence in my early years at Saints (from 1965). Thank you for being real. Thank you, Sir, you lived your word, always building people up. RIP.

Ray de Vries

Class of 1978

Ken was an incredible human being. I am what I am today because of his shaping and support. Thank you very much Ken. May your rest in power, Sir.

Tswelo Kodisang

Class of 1990

Sad to hear about Mr Hovelmeier loss. He was a true inspiration and a gentleman of the school.

Ryan Weaver

Class of 1996

Very sad news. What an amazing man.

Ryan Kerr

Class of 1989

A man who believed in his students despite all adversities.

David Bradbury

Class of 1995

Thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Rob Horne

Class of 1979

Ken was a wonderful man, a mentor and someone who always took the time to listen. We were all blessed to have Ken in our lives. Legend, Sir.

James Michael Johnson

Class of 1994

Very sad news! Ken was a great man and an icon in the Saints community!

Andrew Bradford

Class of 1989

So sad to hear Mr Hovelmeier has died. My Mom and I send our condolences. Mr Hovelmeier was such an incredible inspiration and support to Stephen Hoare. RIP.

Susan Hoare

Ken made an impact on every life he touched. Each word he spoke was transformative. May he Rest In Peace.

Patti Blackhurst

Ken Hovelmeier was one of the greatest teachers I ever had. A real mensch with a remarkable memory and a gentle touch on all who passed through his hands. RIP Sir - you will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Anton Oberholzer

What a remarkable human being. RIP.

Lynne M Turner Robinson

In our thoughts and prayers.

Shirley Needham

So very sad! What a remarkable man! Left a positive and loving imprint on the lives of many. Rest in Peace dearest Ken. Condolences to all his loved ones. Thinking of Myrna in this sad time.

Lindy McMahan

Our deepest condolences to Myrna and the family, we wish you strength during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are

with you.

Senatra Maistry

Singularly one of the most amazing men I've ever known. He never ceased to astound me. RIP Mr Hovelmeyer. The world is truly a better place for your being in it.

Andy Kmr

Ken and Myrna are in our thoughts and prayers. What an incredible human being that has been instrumental in Trent Kruger's life. So incredibly sad. Ken was a truly great man. Our thoughts and prayers go to Myrna.

Sonja Kruger

Amazing man and very sad news to hear. Sincerest condolences to Myrna and the family.

Chris Pearson

Extremely saddened to hear this news. Ken was such a big part of all our lives and an inspiration to all who knew him. RIP.

@aconstantirritation

What a good man Ken was, a sad day indeed. He will be fondly remembered by me for the support he gave me during my time at Saints.

@brucetupholme

Huge respect and love for an amazing person.

Alan Stapleton





Ken and Myrna are true servants who encouraged the lives of so many. Thank you to you both for your generosity of spirit and for encouraging us to be kind, strong and caring. Ken, you spoke hope into us young men and played a massive role in our life journeys. Thank you for your selfless service – my life is far richer thanks to the Hovelmeier team.

@pepemiller

My cousin Ken was an inspiration to so many.

Wendy van Rooy

Terribly sad to hear this news. Myrna. Ken holds such a special place in my heart. Squash brought me closer to you both and I consider it an honour to have shared those special times with you. Thank you for being such wonderful and positive role models. Ken's legacy will live on forever.

@happyhippofy

Deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Hovelmeier. As a coloured boy from Eldorado Park, Ken guided me and helped me adapt to a new world and opened me up to new possibilities. I enjoyed our weekly chats, some very deep and at times teary, while others were filled with humour. My ship was anchored in Collins House and my course was set by Ken. I am because he was! Thank you for everything. My sincere condolences to Myrna and the family. May his soul rest in peace.

@jmd_cricket

RIP, Sir.

Malcolm Wilford

*Rest in Peace,
Ken.*



ST STITHIANS
COLLEGE