

# TERESA 'TESS' MARY PETTIQUIN

## Presently Warden at Hawequas

Tess (nee Procter) was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) on 28 July 1960. At the age of 3, her parents immigrated to South Africa, settling in Parow in the Western Cape. Here she attended Parow Primary School until the family moved to a farmhouse in Port Elizabeth. Says it was an old fashion house with no electricity and no inside flush toilet - real rough. Here they stayed for 5 years before returning to Parow. She has an older brother Tommy and sister Jenny.



Her father was a Cabinet Maker and gave her full reign of his workshop. If she wanted a bedside lamp, she had to make it. Her father was always willing to give advice, even later in life when she had a car, he would advise and she would fix the problem. She was inspired and very influenced by her father who strongly believed that if you wanted something done or made, then you yourself had to make a plan to get it done. At the age of 9 her father and mother divorced which now forced her to become more self-reliant, independent and a 'jack of all trades', from an early age.

On return to Parow, attended Tygerberg Commercial High and College, following a secretarial course. For some reason, she just never got the hang of typing, which made job hunting very difficult. She did succeed as a half time secretary, but this did not last. Later she worked as an admin clerk for the aged, was not happy in this line of work and went into the maintenance business, painting, renovating, bricklaying, roof repairs and bathroom revamps, which she enjoyed tremendously. Says she was never cut-out for office work in the first place and liked being outdoors.



Alwyn

Tess had known her husband Alwyn, born 29 October 1954, for many years before they eventually married. He was one of her brother's friends and that's how they met. After the marriage in 1987, they moved around a lot, depending on Alwyn's work as an auto electrician and eventually opened a café in Kuils River.

They have two daughters, Bronwyn born 4 April 1991 who likes art and being creative and Samantha born 5 February 1993 who likes music and sport. Both attend LA Rochelle School in Paarl and are members of 1<sup>st</sup> Paarl Scout Troop.

How did she get involved with Hawequas? A friend of hers, also a friend of a Hawequas Committee member, told her about the 'job' of Honorary Warden becoming available. At the time, the family were staying in a cabin at the Wellington Caravan Park, with Alwyn working in Paarl, once again as an auto electrician, which is an asset to us now as well. She accepted the 'job' and moved onto Hawequas Scout Ranch on 1 October 1999. The job of Warden is not a 'paid job' as such, merely a return for free board and lodgings.

Tess has a wide range of duties to perform on the Ranch, from hiring and controlling of casual labour as required or doing the work herself for a small remuneration, the cleanliness of all buildings, overseeing users to the Ranch, seeing that everything runs smoothly and reporting any damages or problems that may arise. On many occasions she has performed beyond her appointed duties by keeping our weir clean, hauling out blocked water pipes and replacing them and repairing damages to buildings and property.

She likes cooking, fabric painting, baking and building - the swimming pool at the Wardens house was built by her. Tess is a thinker and will plan something out before tackling a project, stopping only once the task is complete. She is not afraid to ask for advice, and through this has built up an excellent friendship with our neighbour Otto Schmidke, who loves giving advice. She can tackle virtually any task with ease and has succeeded, with the assistance of a small Maintenance Team, in keeping Cape Westerns prime property in excellent shape.

So, the next time you go out to Hawequas, notify and report to the Warden on arrival and departure, complete the necessary forms and assist us all in making Hawequas Scout Ranch a Ranch to be truly proud of.



Bronwyn



Samantha