

North West

Contributed by **John Stander**

Blackie's catamaran

In the April edition of *Advocate* I wrote that our yachtmaster Blackie Swart SC and his wife Karin had finally launched their ocean-going catamaran and were berthed at the Royal Cape Yacht Club harbour prior to setting sail for the Caribbean island of St Martin. During the course of their forty-day voyage over the Atlantic they planned to stop over at harbours on the islands St Helena and St Vincent. At the time Blackie had indicated that he would provide an article on the yacht which they christened "Injabulo" (Happiness) "sometime". Well, "sometime" hasn't arrived yet and since this is my last contribution to *Advocate*, I did a little research myself on the building of *Injabulo*.

Blackie, who is a qualified Yachtmaster, and his wife Karin, lived on a farm at Buhrmansdrif 20 or so kilometers from Mahikeng - which is around 900km from the Natal coast. Blackie's lifelong passion has been sailing and building his own boats and as retirement age neared, he and Karin embarked on what was to become a three year project to build *Injabulo*. The catamaran, wholly constructed on the Buhrmansdrif property, is built to the Quest 50 design by Du Toit Yacht Design of Cape Town. It is 15m long and weighs 15 tons. It has the capacity to carry 50 day passengers and the 6 cabins accommodate 12 persons overnight in comfort. It was completed in November 2017 and launched at Richards Bay on

3 January this year. After the fitting of the mast, *Injabulo* was taken through her seaworthiness trials which included the voyage along the southern coast during February to Cape Town. Blackie and Karin sailed for St Martin early in March and we trust that their voyage was safe. Blackie is now partnered with his son at St Martins where the yacht is available for charter.

Bar council

A new Bar Council was elected. Johann Pistor SC resumes the Chair with Morongwa Moagi as his deputy. Keitumetse Mongale remains as Secretary and Zelda Williams takes over the purse. The two additional members are Ernest Mmolawa and a new (returned after nearly 20 years) member, Okgabile Yvonne Dibetso-Bodibe.

Arrivals and departures

As noted, Yvonne has returned to practise at our Bar after some twenty years. She served inter alia as Chief State Law Advisor in the North West Province for some of that time. Janette Henzen-Du Toit, who has long practised in the North West, has been granted Associate Membership. Blackie Swart has bid us his farewell and so has Lawrence Lever SC who acted as judge in the Northern Cape for quite some time. Lawrence has resumed practice at the Kimberly Bar. Joy Mongala has also left.

Au revoir

In the April edition of *Advocate* I observed that I penned my first contribution to *Bar News* in early 1998. In the intervening years I enjoyed a close working relationship with the late Hennie Mellet and later with Philip van der Merwe. More recently, I have had occasion to exchange e-mails with our new editor Franny. Yet once again the friendly professional relationship emerged. However, I am also going on semi-retirement in November this year. I was originally admitted in 1980 and then practised as an advocate in Zimbabwe after several years as a prosecutor and magistrate in the former colony of Rhodesia. Our Bar Association has thoughtfully made provision for this type of practice so I too will join the ranks of Associate Members. But I also intend brushing up on my back cast (I presume you are all familiar with fly-fishing terms ...) and catching up on those little (and some not so little) things that I never quite got round to doing in the last 65. It seems appropriate therefore that another of our members should take on this responsibility - which has never been onerous. **A**

