



## Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

I was born in 1982 and started attending the DSP from Kindergarten at the age of 4. I spent my entire school life at the DSP where I matriculated in 2000.

With the intention of studying veterinary science, I was keen to achieve **good matric results** for entry into Onderstepoort. After matric, my desire to first go and see what lay outside the confines of my childhood and school, led me on a walkabout and a very different and fulfilling life path: I got a one-way ticket to London, with not much more than a bit of pocket money to sustain me frugally for a couple of weeks. I needed to find work, earn money and fend for myself. The first taste of the “real” world and financial independence. I did a **variety of different jobs** – from admin, to bar-tending to working in ski resorts, sailing instructor, training huskies, wilderness guiding etc. in various different countries (England, France, Norway, Svalbard, USA etc.) and quickly learned to be adaptable, flexible, and be ready and willing to work hard. Having grown up with 3 languages and learning a fourth, French, stood me in great stead. I often landed up working in areas, where **speaking more than one language** was required.



At the beginning of 2005 after 4 very enriching and diverse work/travel years in the northern hemisphere, I decided it was time to return home to South Africa. In Berlin at the time, bought a cheap, entry-level mountain bike, panniers and a whole lot of outdoor gear, and started cycling. Roughly a year later I arrived at Cape Agulhas after crossing **12 African countries** (Northwest, Central and Southern Africa), and after one of the most life-enriching adventures and years of my life! Then, decided, it was time to pursue my next great dream: to **sail the oceans**, and so embarked on a career as a **professional sailor**. First running the sailing school in East London, skippering boats along the South African coastline and doing a fair bit of single-handing, then later skippering newly-built catamarans on international boat deliveries from Cape Town to Caribbean, Europe, Hong Kong, Americas (north and south), Australia, New Zealand etc.

In 2010, I decided that I would enjoy an academic challenge and would like to discover more about the oceans I had spent so much of my time on: enrolled with UCT for B.Sc. in **Physical Oceanography and Marine Biology**. In spite of the 10 years that had passed since matric, thanks to the marks obtained in matric, I got admission and a scholarship for the first year. The first year took very hard work and a lot of catching up, but went very successfully, and got another scholarship to continue into second year. Unfortunately, I had a bicycle accident which incapacitated me sufficiently to make it necessary to take leave of absence from university. A couple of months after the accident, as a way to recover my strength, I went back to sea, where I remained since and have and continued with my **sailing career** instead.



In 2015, started working for “**Pelagic Expeditions**” for famous high-latitude sailor and adventurer, Skip Novak. I became the skipper of a 54-foot custom-built steel sloop on expeditions to Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, Falklands, Patagonia etc. with mainly film-crews from BBC and National Geographic.

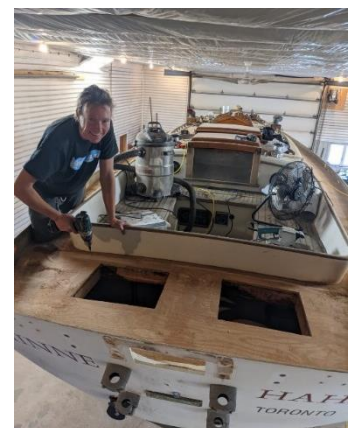


In 2019 I relocated “Pelagic” to the northern hemisphere, based out of Maine, USA, and subsequently entered for the **Golden Globe Race 2022**, a solo, non-stop, round-the-world, unassisted retro-style race, where boats need to be of an older design conforming to the era of 1968, when the first Golden Globe Race happened. This means no modern navigational technology like GPS -navigation by means of celestial navigation, no electronic auto-pilots, nor modern communication equipment and weather forecasting via satellite etc.

The route is France, down the Atlantic, passing Cape of Good Hope, east-about the Southern Ocean, Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and back up the Atlantic, ending in France, approximately 30 000 nm, 7 to 9 months or more at sea, alone, non-stop. I purchased a suitable boat beginning of this year, a Cape George 36, up in Newfoundland, Canada, and am currently in the process of refitting it on **Prince Edward Island**, in preparation of the start of the race in September 2022.

The GGR is considered **one of the ultimate challenges** for a sailor, in both sailing skills, seamanship, physical and mental endurance, and preparation. Currently I am one of two South African entrants, and the only female. This is a challenge that I am greatly enjoying and continue to look forward to – even through the tough times, starting with the financial risk and commitment involved. **Nothing ventured, nothing gained!**

I realised over my varied course through life this far, that having the foundations of a good, education, some essential principals of **good work ethics** (meaning, willingness to work very hard and diligently, no matter the task), **flexibility** and **adaptability**, and a good set of **people skills**, combined with **ambition** and **motivation**, are tools to achieving anything that lies within my own potential!





I am a strong believer of following my dreams and passions, because when I am on a mission to achieve my own goals, I work at my best and land up in the places where I can be most useful! I am not easily dissuaded from pursuing my dreams by social norms, general opinions, nor by fear! Stepping out of my comfort zone, time and again, is what drives me and continues my personal evolution through life.



We welcome alumni who share their experience, successes and knowledge with us.

If you are interested, please contact [alumni@dsp.gp.school.za](mailto:alumni@dsp.gp.school.za)

