

advertisements, the magazine was almost entirely in black and white.

Thereafter I became a regular contributor and, in 1988, I was invited to join the full-time editorial staff. I am open to correction, but I think I am the longest-serving author still writing for *Magnum*, and have put in more years of service than any other editor, staff member, or contractor since the magazine's inception. Not that any of this is important; I mention it to illustrate the many changes I have witnessed the magazine undergo during this time-span. I recall when the staff still used typewriters, and many contributors' manuscripts were written in longhand and had to be 'captured' (copy-typed). During my early years as a staff editor, we still used the physical 'cut-and-paste' method of layout.

The firearm and hunting world has vastly changed during this time. I watched the safari and game ranching industries grow from next to nothing in the 1980s to unprecedented heights. Violent crime in SA also burgeoned, and as a consequence of both of these phenomena, the firearms industry grew exponentially, and with all this, *Magnum* likewise grew – the 1990s and 2000s were the glory decades.

Of course, life's pendulum perpetually oscillates. The world economy took a dive. Anti-hunting sentiment heightened, as did anti-gun politics. Ever-more draconian firearms legislation took its toll. *Magnum* also changed. Most of the older lifelong professional hunters and game rangers from the 'golden era' of hunting in East, Central and Southern Africa, who shared so many of their adventures and experiences with *Magnum* readers, have passed on. Fresh interests arose, such as the many new shooting sports disciplines. America's wars with Iraq (and resultant movies) stimulated interest in 'tactical' quasi-military rifles, sniper rifles and ultra-long range target shooting. Firearms, scopes, ammunition and other equipment have advanced as never before.

For many years, *Magnum* was SA's only dedicated hunting and shooting magazine. In time, other local publica-

tions appeared; some have disappeared, but we're still here, and we remain SA's premier fieldsports magazine, albeit in a time when competition from the Internet, coupled with the 'Covid economy' has devastated the entire print-publication industry.

Magnum has played a pioneering and leading role in educating readers about firearms, ammunition, ballistics, firearm safety, and the importance of ethical, walk-and-stalk hunting. I think we have also exposed many readers to various aspects of local history which they might not otherwise have absorbed. *Magnum's* goal has always been to provide authoritative information on a wide variety of subjects, and, of equal importance, to entertain. It has proved a winning formula. May it long continue. – **Gregor Woods**

JACQUES JANSEN VAN VUUREN

23 August 1975 – 21 July 2021



Our shooting friend and team member, Jacques Jansen van Vuuren, lost his battle to Covid-19 on 21 July 2021.

Jacques was a black powder enthusiast for many years and a member of the Black Powder Shooting Union of South Africa and the South African Bisley Union since 2009. His dedication and enthusiasm were contagious, and over the last decade he didn't miss many club-, provincial- or national championships.

Jacques attained Protea colours in 2014 when he participated in the Short-Range World Championships in Spain, and again in 2016 and 2018 in Hungary and Austria. Jacques had already qualified to represent South Africa in the next Short-Range World Championship in Pforzheim, Germany, in 2022.

Jacques thoroughly enjoyed his sport and was meticulous about preparing for competitions. He won numerous medals at Provincial, National and Pacific Zone Championships, but one of the highlights of his shooting career was the bronze medal he won in Sarlóspuzsta, Hungary, as part of the Frontiersman team (Military Rifle) in 2016.

Jacques had a heart of gold, was honest and sincere in everything he did and was devoted to his wife Yolande, who was incredibly supportive and involved in his endeavours.

At the time of his passing, Jacques was involved in the management of Transvaal Muzzle Loaders, Mariette Black Powder Shooting Club, Gauteng Black Powder as well as the Black Powder Shooting Union of South Africa. His contributions will be missed dearly. – **Corena de Beer**

NEW MAGNUM TELEPHONE NUMBER

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