

### **ALF AND VALERIE BARRY**

The Barry family built the Lucky Strike Motel in 1971 after selling their garage in Standerton. The original cost to build the motel cost them R60 000.00. By September the construction was in an advanced stage and Valerie contemplated to accommodate the first guests by September of that year, she was solely responsible for the decoration of the motel and at the same time, took control of the kitchen and the preparation of the food. Water was a big problem for Witsand. Rain water was collected in tanks. Every night, after closing the bar, Alf drove his lorry to Heidelberg to fill the two 500-gallon tanks with water and drove back to Witsand, then he filled the tanks for use in the motel. Water for the toilets were obtained from Rhenosterfontein, about 8km from Witsand. After 10 years of managing the motel, Alf and Valerie decided to sell the motel to the Landman brothers.



### **JOHN AND TRIE LANDMAN**

In mid-1981 an advertisement was placed in the newspapers that the Lucky Strike Motel was for sale and the two brothers, John and Bill Landman bought the motel for R240 000.00 in the name of W.A. Landman Investments.

### **DREW AND LIZ HUNTER**

Drew and Liz had a successful property agency when they took over the management of the motel. During the first 18 months they made various improvements and changes to upgrade the motel from a one star to a two-star establishment. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1990, the whole community of Witsand was invited to celebrate the change of the name from the Lucky Strike Motel to The Breede River Lodge.



### **RELAIS HOTEL GROUP**

The owner of the Relais group, Alan Romburgh, learnt that the Hunters were in financial trouble. He involved John Kark, a property developer and established the company BRL Investments. The grounds, 7,000 square meters, was bought for R3,14 million. The Hunters kept a 15% share of the company. The plan was to upgrade from a 2-star motel to a 4-star hotel.

In April 1998 the doors of the hotel were closed to upgrade the main building and the accommodation section, the cost amounted to R17 million. The new infrastructure included the enlargement of the harbor, a new restaurant, dining room, lounge, conference facilities and a swimming pool. The doors were opened in September 1998 under the management of John Cowan for the Relais Group.

### **OTHER OWNERS AND RENTERS**

Various owners and renters followed rapidly.

Johan Van Der Watt bought the hotel early 2004 and shortly thereafter sold to Sevenstone Investments 118 with Derek Erasmus being the owner. The company struggled with liquidation and in July 2007 Roelf Loubser and partners in the company Sevenstone Investments bought the Lodge.

Since February 2009, Jack Walsch rented the buildings and managed the Lodge with his family. During April 2012 he and his family withdrew from the Lodge.

In May 2012 Roelf sold the restaurant and bar to Arnold and Anette Mentz. Unfortunately, they withdrew in April 2013.

In May 2013 Roelf sold the restaurant and bar to the Pili Pili group of which Neels Swanepoel and Craig Robinson are partners. As a sectional title complex, units are purchased for investment purposes. Some owners rent their units out themselves and some owners make use of agents renting the units on their behalf.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015, the then developer, Seven Stone Investments, invited Laritha to take over the rental business from Rawson Properties after the passing of Leon. The company Breede River Lodge and Fishing Resort (Pty) Ltd was established and in due process, the reception/administration office was purchased from the developer. The trustees of the Breede River Lodge Body Corporate requested that the name of the registered company must change as it was in conflict with the body corporate's name. A name change was made and the company is now called **WitsandCom BRL** (Pty) Ltd. A new logo also was designed as the old logo apparently belongs to the Breede River Lodge name. Doerie and Laritha is at the head of the company with 2 receptionists and 3 cleaning staff, the business is going for their 7<sup>th</sup> year.

2015, the



Information obtained from well-known author Jan Langenhoven

