

## **Christopher Harison Edwards (Espin 1962 – 1965)**

Knysna property developer, former mayor and keen yachtsman, Chris Edwards, died at his Leisure Island home on Sunday 14 November 2010 at the age of 62 after a long battle with cancer.

Born in Pretoria, Chris was educated at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown and studied engineering at Wits. He obtained a Master's degree in Traffic and Transportation Engineering from Northwestern University in the US. After working there and in Canada he returned to Pretoria and joined his father's business, VKE, as associate partner.

In 1979 he started his own engineering business in Pretoria, specializing in traffic and transportation. He developed and registered a worldwide patent for traffic counting. In 1987 Chris and his family moved to Knysna for a year's sabbatical - and never left. He served as deputy mayor and then two terms as mayor. He also worked with the transitional local council and he helped to start the independent Oakhill School 18 years ago. He planned, developed and ran Woodmill Lane shopping centre, the town's first shopping mall, on the site of the former Geo Parkes sawmill, retaining much of the mill's original features. He also developed Hunters Village, a retirement village, the gated Hunters Estate, and the Knysna Private Hospital site.

Following the footsteps of his ancestors (his mother was a Thesen), Chris started a wooden boat factory, Haiku Woodencraft, in the 1990s. Many of these works of art still sail the Knysna lagoon as well as the Italian coast. He also served as commodore of the Knysna Yacht Club.

Chris is survived by his wife Anouk, their daughters Katherine and Elizabeth, and his brother Johnty.