

# HISTORY



*The Late Tiens Kruger*

In the beginning...

The concept of Applewood School came about because a handful of parents, with the courage, drive and enthusiasm, shared their vision of establishing an independent school in the Elgin Valley. The final 'go ahead' to establish the school was received on 12 May 1997, and so began Applewood. The doors officially opened in January 1998 with 27 children, and 4 enthusiastic teachers. The then board of governors, chaired by the late Tiens Kruger, believed implicitly in the huge success that Applewood would achieve and so set a course that could be moulded and continued by future Boards and Heads.

Helen Briston was Applewood's first Head Teacher until the appointment of Alan Wyborn in 2000. Alan Wyborn left the school in 2002 to take a post at Somerset College and was replaced by Gareth Allman in the middle of that same year. After almost eight years at the school's helm, Gareth Allman moved to Elkanah House. Brendan Carroll, the current Headmaster, was appointed at the beginning of 2010.

From a small school located in a guest house, Applewood has now grown to 189 pupils, 22 teachers and assistants, 3 administrative staff and 7 support staff that ensure the smooth and professional running of the school. The Applewood infrastructure has developed over the years to include; the Linqenda Sports Oval, new classroom blocks, a school hall, music block, and an accelerated learning centre. These are all tastefully connected by catwalks ensuring a 'country-like feel'. We hope to continue this growth with some exciting future plans in the pipeline. Applewood's reputation is steadily developing as a secure, country school of excellence, instilling a good sense of moral value, Christian ethos and social awareness.