

sunspots

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**MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO
ALL AT SOUTHERN SUN**

1969

Sol Kerzner was approached by South African Breweries to form a Company which would create a national chain of hotels. On the 1st of April 1969 Southern Sun Hotels was born.

In that year the Company operated six hotels



PINE LAKE INN



SABI RIVER BUNGALOWS



UMHLANGA ROCKS

The first Southern Sun Newsletter was published in August and familiar names appear.

- Sol Kerzner — Managing Director
- Johann Mostert — Group Accountant
- Brian Paterson — Marketing Manager
- Karel Herle — The Blue Marlin
- Harvey Rodber — The Victoria
- Bob Peasley — Sabi River Bungalows
- Maeve Changuion — Public Relations (Durban).

These early pioneers are still with us but Brian is now the Managing Director of Grosvenor, Karel is now General Manager of Hotel Bugerspark, Harvey of Sunnyside Park, Bob of Zululand Safari Lodge and Maeve P.R.O. at The Landdrost.

And the Company continued to grow.



BEVERLY HILLS



THE VICTORIA



THE BLUE MARLIN

1970

Early in 1970 Southern Sun took its first decision to expand beyond the borders of the Republic of South Africa when the Botswana Government granted permission for the building of a luxury game lodge at Chobe.

Gordon Hood, previously with S.A.B. became General Manager of Southern Sun. The 1st of March 1974 marked the 20th anniversary of Gordon's association with the Breweries.

The historic Sunnyside Park Hotel, once the official residence of Lord Milner was acquired.



SUNNYSIDE PARK

With the acquisition of GROSVENOR CAR HIRE & TOURING, Southern Sun entered into another facet of the tourist business.



GROSVENOR CAR HIRE

September 1970, saw the official re-opening of The Victoria by Leon Malan, Director of the Hotel Board. Built during the gold rush days of 1896 "The Vic" is a landmark in South Africa. In those days 8/- secured a good room, the use of the public bath and free early morning tea or coffee. After its R1 million rand face-lift this hotel still offers outstanding value for money.

New wings were added to Pine Lake Inn and Sabi River Bungalows.

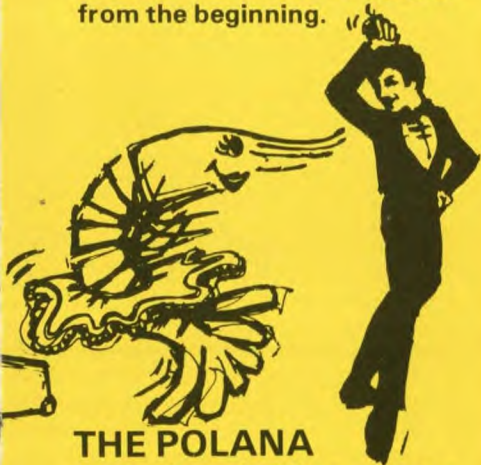
1971

The arrival of Don Buch from overseas led the invasion of top management from the World's finest hotel groups.



ELANGENI

A milestone was reached on the 1st of June with the opening of the Elangeni, the first completely new hotel built by Southern Sun. This "place in the sun" has been a winner from the beginning.



THE POLANA

Apart from building exciting new hotels, Southern Sun has been particularly adept at revamping established ones and The Polana at Lourenco Marques is a good example. Originally built in 1922 and designed in Colonial style by the South African Architect, Sir Herbert Baker, it was given a complete overhaul. The Polana Mar, a magnificent structure on three levels, was added along the cliff side at the end of the beautiful Polana gardens.

1972

Peter Venison, General Manager-Operations and Jonathan Ray, Group Marketing Manager, arrived from London.

In March Southern Sun concluded its take-over deal with Cape Hotels and acquired



THE PRESIDENT



THE ELIZABETH



THE EDWARD



ZULULAND SAFARI LODGE



MALIBU

Durban holiday makers welcomed another Southern Sun Hotel, the Malibu. It offered fun, excitement and music-hall entertainment.

Adele Lucas, our first woman executive was appointed Group Public Relations and Promotions Manager.

Another woman in the news was Pat Lloyd-Jones who came from the Elangeni to become Manager of Central Reservations.

And the first issue of SUNSPOTS appeared.

Southern Sun infiltrated the United Kingdom and Europe with the appointment of David Benning as Marketing Manager for those areas.

A magnificent site on Mauritius, the Belle Mare peninsula on the North East coast of the island, 20 miles from the capital, Port Louis, was purchased.

Southern Sun's first documentary film "The Holiday Makers" was a resounding success and was shown throughout the country on the Ster circuit.

The Elangeni opened its Ilanga Centre—the ultimate in convention comfort.



BEACON ISLAND

Beacon Island, lashed by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, surrounded by white, sandy beaches, caught the imagination of the public. Surely the most beautiful hotel in Africa, Beacon Island has become world renowned for its unique setting.

