

WONDERFUL WEEKEND

# Gone fishing

Izak Petersen, CEO of JSE-listed Dipula Income Fund, talks to Joan Muller about his love for road trips to nowhere, fishing and growing his own veggies

**T**aking road trips to explore SA's hidden, platteland gems is a favourite pastime. So on weekends and holidays my wife Rolanda and I load the children in the car and take off, often without a destination in mind.

We travel down to Hermanus in the Western Cape, where we have a holiday place, at least once a year. We like taking a different route every time. Recently we detoured through the Northern Cape. It took us five days to reach Hermanus.

We stopped over in fascinating little towns like Springbok and Port Nolloth, taking our time to soak up the local culture and sample traditional cuisine. It's important for our children to realize there's a lot more to SA life than Jo'burg.

I am passionate about real estate and as Dipula's focus is investing in shopping centres in rural areas, I also use these trips to look for potential investment opportunities — often to the annoyance of Rolanda. However, long road trips are becoming a bit trickier following the birth of our third child a month ago.

Rolanda and I also try to go overseas once a year without the kids. We love the Far East. But next year we're planning a trip to the US. I haven't been back there since I worked for Deloitte in Tampa Bay, Florida in the early 2000s.

If we aren't travelling over a weekend, I will be chilling at home with the family on a Friday night. Rolanda is a chartered accountant at Massmart so after a hectic work week for both of us we enjoy spending time with our children. The older two, aged four and five, are at an impressionable stage so we do a lot of reading and story telling.

Saturday mornings, Rolanda and I usually go for a run. We may go shopping later on. Though I am a typical male in-and-out shopper, as a retail property investor I am a keen observer of the dynamics that make shopping centres work.

Fishing is a passion, so Saturday afternoons are often spent at the Vaal dam with my *laaitie*. Afterwards, I will be watching rugby with friends or family. I was born in the Free State so I am still a huge Cheetahs supporter. I am also a Stormers fan, having studied at the University of the Western Cape and UCT.

I consider myself a very good cook so we entertain a lot on Saturday evenings. I am somewhat of a fish fundi so seafood is usually on the menu. I love exper-

imenting with new flavours and recipes but I believe simplicity is the secret to good food.

Or we eat out as a family at one of our favourite restaurants near our Bedfordview home like Fisherman's Plate at Bruma or Plaka at Eastgate. The latter serves beautifully prepared fish and Greek-style meze platters. For fine dining without the kids, we'll opt for Le Canard in Rivonia or Orient at Melrose Arch.

Sundays we will go to the gym or take a long, leisurely drive. Maybe we will take the kids to go swimming at Sun City for the day. Or we will relax at home reading the Sunday papers — I am obsessed with staying on top of the news. I also enjoy reading autobiographies and books on global political and economic trends.

I am busy with ex-Springbok rugby coach Peter de Villiers' controversial *Politically Incorrect*, which offers some fascinating insight into the politics behind the sport. A real inspirational read was Jannie Mouton's *And Then They Fired Me*. I am an entrepreneur through and through so could fully relate to his story.

Late Sunday afternoons you will probably find me pottering in my veggie patch and herb garden. There's nothing more gratifying than preparing a home cooked family meal with fresh ingredients picked from your own garden.

Arnold Pronto

