

# South Africa: Pete and Savannah's story



Pete Knottenbelt, lover of folk music and life itself, and grand-daughter Savannah have added their voices from sunny South Africa, but that's only the tip of the proverbial iceberg in terms of a headline story.

Having miraculously survived a close encounter with a crocodile, in which he sustained life-threatening injuries and lost the lower half of his right leg, Pete, 71, has made a remarkable recovery. Throughout his ordeal he has remained amazingly positive and upbeat:

*'I'm determined to face the challenges ahead and to live life to the full. For me this means continuing to be as physically active as possible and to continue to develop myself and others through learning. Most importantly it means contributing to society, I'm especially keen to get back to the **Stairs Project** I set up 8 years ago in the university department I was working in. The aim is to foster not only physical fitness but also self-esteem and integrity in young people, and I'm hoping to work with schools and other institutions in order to broaden its scope'*

When invited to take part in the Rolling On project by his sister Maggie in the UK, Pete immediately jumped at it:

*'I've always loved singing and playing the guitar. I got into the British folk scene as a student in Cornwall in the 60s, and there's nothing I like better than getting together with friends and family in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA and South Africa, for a singsong. Both my wrists were badly broken in the attack so I'm currently unable to play properly but I'm itching to get back to it. So this involvement in Rolling On comes as a*

*very welcome bit of fun and light relief from my rigorous rehab programme. I also love the idea of connecting with music lovers and other folk across the world, especially those going through tough times'*

Savannah, his 19-year-old granddaughter who witnessed the crocodile incident, couldn't resist the chance to sing along with her beloved Gramps. Could this be the start of Rolling On going global?

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