

BIO – UMTHELELE EPWORTHIAN AWARD

It is with much appreciation and humility that I am honored to be nominated for the Umthelele Epworthian Award.

My journey has been one of learning, courage and purpose – educated not only through formal study but also through lessons of real-life experience. I have always believed that you never know who you might meet or where a single encounter may take you.

I attended Epworth as a day scholar from 1988 to 1993. I played many sports, and worked hard to fulfil my goals! I went on to study in the fields of horticulture, the arts and design.

Post studies, I spent two years overseas, working and travelling, and experiencing all that was worldly. I returned home to begin my career, married in the beautiful Epworth Chapel and grew our family.

I currently run my own creative studio business including my original art and design, handmade ceramics, fabrics, décor, and landscape design. My artworks are featured in galleries, and commissioned in South Africa as well as abroad.

From coaching sport and interacting with art at schools over the years, to nurturing a love for nature through garden projects for communities, schools and churches, I love to share my knowledge.

I contribute to art fundraisers in community outreach initiatives.

I present at garden clubs, landscape design, and proudly serve as a founder on the board of Blackwoods, grown to be one of South Africa's leaders in retail plant nurseries.

I am also privileged to represent as a director and trustee in business.

Each of these roles are about more than just plants, art, or design. They're about growth and connection, where I seek to uplift others and inspire creativity in all areas.

Something that is very important to me in a tough world.

Epworth instilled discipline, perseverance, and balance in me. A belief in positivity to see the light even through challenges. Epworth gave me the values of structure and discipline, in abundance. It afforded me the foundation to live a life that encompasses both hard work and joy. These, along with Epworth's values of faith, compassion and courage, continue to shape the way I live, lead and love.

Looking back, I realise that Epworth's ethos has quietly guided me all along.

I hope my journey inspires future generations of Epworthians – especially my two daughters, nieces, and cousins who have walked and continue to walk through the same school grounds – to pursue their dreams with faith, compassion and courage. May they always follow their happiness, knowing that even the smallest actions can make a profound difference.

Rayne Hampson (nee Howells)

Class of 1993