

## John McInroy – One Of South Africa’s Most Influential Young Leaders

By Stephen Granger

History is likely to judge John McInroy as one of South Africa’s most influential young leaders.

It is not through his enviable talents that his influence will have been most felt. Nor through his extraordinary feats of endurance. Rather his lasting legacy will be his extraordinary passion which energised hundreds, thousands and tens of thousands of people in South Africa and the world to dare to live their lives to the fullest extent of their being and thus change the world.

Charisma and integrity are both strongly associated with John. It is not many able to move people to act outside their zone of comfort to bring about significant change for the better, as John does effortlessly.

“Comfort zone” is the antithesis of John, who regularly seeks new challenges and adventures in a quest to reach heights lesser mortals would seldom contemplate in fiction, let alone in the real world. But John’s deep desire to test his limits in physical adventure is more than matched by his driving passion to reach out to the vulnerable and needy, creating a new spirit of love and affection, respect and accountability.

Undoubtedly competitive, John wants to win. But more important to him is the spirit of fair play – in all facets of life. I believe that his personal integrity, the foundation on which his work is built, will not allow him to achieve desired ends through dubious means.

John’s unusually high degree of social intelligence, allows him to significantly influence and shape the minds and moods of others. People gather naturally around him, looking to him for friendship, support and leadership. He is equally comfortable leading an extravagant flash mob dance in a crowded station precinct as he is in weeping quietly alongside a hurting soul. He also crosses cultural barriers with ready dexterity, able to relate easily to people from a wide range of cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Following post-graduate studies in Ireland, John chose to return to South Africa to make a difference. Unogwaja and the Red Socks campaign, his creations, are powerful vehicles for social change and the Unogwaja Light Fund will undoubtedly grow in stature, affording hope to those people and organisations who have all but lost it.

There is a sense of destiny about John McInroy. A sense of a man who believes his time has come to fulfil that destiny.

