



# DR PETER HENRY BUNTON

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Peter Henry Bunton was born on the 22nd of March 1922 and grew up on the farm ELIM near ADDO in the Sunday's River Valley in the Eastern Cape. He began his education at the local farm school, riding there every day on horseback. In 1934 he was admitted to St Andrews Preparatory School in Grahamstown, later to St Andrews College. He was an active rugby player at the college, having been a member of the Rugby XV. He matriculated at this college in 1939. His first year in the BVSc course at UCT was interrupted by the outbreak of WORLD WAR II. As a result, he enlisted in the SA Artillery (5th Field Brigade), seeing action in the Battle of Alamein, in which he sadly lost his brother.

He was later transferred to the Gordon Highlanders as an Officer; he was wounded in Italy and later repatriated to South Africa in 1945. He resumed his Veterinary studies at Onderstepoort in 1946, graduating with a BVSc in 1949. He returned to his homestead in ELIM Farm in ADDO, building up a Rural Veterinary practice in the area for over 67 years. Besides his work, he was also an active member of the ADDO POLO CLUB, coupling that with a robust Equine Veterinary practice in the area. Peter was an ardent believer in "Game Conservation" and served for several years as the "FIRST PRO DEO VETERINARIAN" and sitting on the board of the ADDO ELEPHANT PARK. He was an active participant in the translocation and release of various wildlife species, including RHINO, BUFFALO and Elephants.

Despite his busy Veterinary practice, he still managed to get time to take care of his various hobbies, including breeding Waterfowl, Mute and Black Geese, and many other types of Geese.

He was a founder member of our own SAVA East Cape & Karoo Branch and remained a royal member for many years until his retirement.

Peter has always been a true gentleman and colleague with integrity within the veterinary fraternity. He has always been an example to all of us.

SAVA national, the EC & KAROO Branch, all colleagues and friends wish Peter the best of health on reaching this milestone of 100 years on earth on the 2nd of March 22.

## Dr Bunton 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

The board of SAVA wished Dr Bunton a very 100th birthday with a congratulatory letter and a basket of goodies. Prof Brough Coubrough attended this extraordinary birthday and handed over a book from SAVA called "A day in the life of a South African Veterinarian."

*Dr Peter Henry Bunton*  
*By Veterinary History Society*





**Peter Henry Bunton's father, Henry Arthur Bunton and his mother, Grace Isabel Gilfillan, started farming citrus on the farm 'Elim' in the Selborne district of Uitenhage in 1923. His father died in July 1927 when Peter was 5 years old, and his mother Grace continued with the citrus farming. Peter's elder brother, John Gilfillan Bunton, was killed in 1942 during WW2, and Peter inherited the farm.**

**Peter was born on the 2nd of March 1922, possibly in Port Elizabeth, where his parents were living at that time before they moved to 'Elim'.**

**Peter Bunton matriculated from Espin House, St Andrews College in Grahamstown at the end of 1939. During his high school years, he was awarded colours for both rugby and boxing and had been a school prefect and corporal in the Cadet Corps.**

**He was also a keen polo player and represented South Africa in this sport. St Andrews College lauded him in May 2021 as their oldest 'Old Andrean' at the age of 99.**

**He was accepted into the veterinary faculty in 1939, and his student number (40005420) indicates that he started his first year in 1940. He interrupted his studies during WW2, and**

**after the end of the war, he returned to Onderstepoort and completed his degree, qualifying in 1950. He returned to the family farm 'Elim' in the Addo area, where he practised as a veterinarian, managed the large farm and played polo.**

**He also promoted the development of game ranching in the 1970s and put it into practice on his extensive farm, becoming one of the leaders of this new form of farming.**

**For many years, Peter worked as a wildlife veterinary specialist and an honorary veterinarian for Addo Elephant Park. He was active in the Addo area all his working life, getting deeply involved in conservation and the development of the Addo Elephant Park. Peter is part of the Addo Park's history.**

**He was reluctant to have lions introduced into the Addo Park in late 2003 since the Addo Park animals had never previously had any large predators. The first year that the lions were resident in the park confirmed his fears as the whole Disease-free Buffalo calf herd was wiped out. Thankfully the animals quickly learnt to live with these predators and defend their calves.**

**Today, Dr Peter Bunton is a Formosa Garden Frail Care Centre resident near Plettenberg Bay.**