

In Memoriam

Dr Nadine Pappas



Nadine qualified in 1981 and initially worked in Johannesburg for 18 months. She went to work in the UK for a year and returned to South Africa in 1984 to get married.

After working in Middelburg and Pietersburg, she moved to Pretoria in 1987 and co-founded Menlyn Animal Clinic in 1988. During this time, she also studied for her honours degree and took many post-graduate courses, becoming an external examiner at OP for many years. During this time, the practice thrived by offering a very high-quality clinical service to the community.

During 2007 her health deteriorated, and she was forced to take a 2-year sabbatical, after which she returned to full-time practice.

Nadine was a keen sportswoman, and when her ill health made it difficult for her to jog, she took mountain biking passionately. She took part in many multiday events, visiting out-of-the-way places throughout SA and enjoying nature as well as our country's more rural communities. Although being on chemotherapeutics for the last 15 years of her life, she never let her difficulties show, always being cheerful and making the most of what she was still able to do.

In 2014 she realized a lifelong dream: together with her family, she purchased a portion of a property in the Waterberg, which became a gazetted nature reserve in 2018. After transferring the practice to her three colleagues in 2017, she spent more and more time in the Waterberg, moving there permanently in 2019. The enthusiasm she had shown for her work and life, in general, transformed her hobby of botany, zoology, and photography into a full-time vocation.

Even though her health steadily deteriorated, she could often be found walking in the mountains, lying on the ground photographing the tiniest of plants or animals or taking school children from local communities around the bush, imparting her knowledge and filling them with enthusiasm for nature.

She never came to terms with humanity's rush for material goods or the disdain humanity shows for the natural environment.

She leaves behind a husband and life partner, two sons and their partners, two grandchildren and her mother, but also the many clients she touched, vets and para-vets she influenced by her extremely high standards of care and empathy. She taught many young (and older people) to be inquisitive about the natural world and to respect nature as the only resource we humans have, should we want to survive as a species.

She leaves Swebeswebe, her most loved nature reserve, as a legacy to the world.

Dr Pieter Vervoord

In Memoriam

We honour and remember the contributions made by our colleagues who recently passed away.

Dr Schalk Willem Janse van Rensburg: 16/04/1972 – 22/05/2022

Dr Nadine Elizabeth Pappas: 28/06/1957 – 24/07/2022

Dr John Duncan Prinsloo: 24/12/1947 – 30/07/2022

Dr Peter Frederick van der Merwe: 10/09/1966 – 31/07/2022

Dr Gregory Leo Shear: 14/09/1956 – 16/08/2022

We honour their contribution to our profession and society in general and pray that their families and loved ones will find the strength to carry them through these times of bereavement.