

# *In Memoriam*

**MARK CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS**

**17 APRIL 1950 -10 SEPTEMBER 2023**



*3 other classmates of 1973 attended Mark's funeral on 17 September 2023.*

The quality of the turnout of friends, family and admirers were a true testament to the love and respect everyone had for Mark Williams!!

The service was heart-rending and the messages from his 3 daughters : Bronwyn, Carmen and Gisela (Norway, Australia, South Africa), wife, Tilde, ex-wife, June, grandchildren and his lepidopterist friends left everyone with the succinct realisation of what a unique soul and intellectual has been lost to many that knew him. There was not a dry eye during the proceedings.

Mark grew up in Witpoortjie, near the origin of the Limpopo River, with his siblings and parents

As a pre-graduate he spent almost every weekend away from residence from Friday afternoon until 7pm Sunday night netting butterflies, many of which he sold to overseas collectors. Then he used to study from 7pm Sunday night until 3 am Monday morning,

sleep until 7 am, attend lectures from 8 am achieving near top-of-the-class status. He thrived with the subjects of histology and pathology. Mark pioneered the Lepidopterist Society of South Africa 40 years ago which currently boasts 300 members – a metier of butterflies and moths – his depth of interest in each species was unsurpassed. Mark pioneered the Lepidopterist Society's newsletter *Metamorphosis* and he recently completed an online encyclopaedia of 6,500 butterfly species!!!

Mark was a tireless scientist with a polymath of interests and an incredible memory even with speed-reading, always showed an interest in other people's ideas,. He was never critical nor dictatorial but found incredible amusement if someone like-minded came to the identical realisation of a ludicrous or veritable aspect of any topic.

After qualifying he became a renowned, dedicated veterinary pathologist who influenced others with his great teaching skills to understand, commit and follow this speciality. Mark was also a progressive musician and versatile music lover with his talent involved in being a bass guitarist and singer

He was an athlete, table tennis player of note, loved water skiing, an absolute gentleman, confidante to friends and family and always sought a balance to life

As a husband, father, uncle, brother and grandfather he was a terrifying trickster, narrator, with a diverse and often wicked sense of humour, a cook, a man of the wilderness and an unconditional mentor

Although he suffered from myasthenia gravis for 13 years, which affected his deglutition and vocalisation he dealt with it bravely and in a form of acquiescence.

Mark was inspirational and showed how passion can invade one's life and offer a *raison d'être*. Directly or indirectly, many people owe him this influence as he loved the gift of life and learning.

He had the innate qualities of always wanting to do his best and be the best; which he was.

*Melvyn Greenberg  
(classmate from 1969-1973)*