

Archibald George Norval 1944.10.19 – 2021.01.11

Archibald George Norval was born in Florida, Gauteng and completed his schooling in 1962 at Helpmekaar High School in Johannesburg. After school, he served for a year in the Naval Gymnasium at Gordon's Bay in 1963 before starting his studies at the University of Pretoria in 1964 and going on to Onderstepoort in 1965. He was an avid rugby player, mostly as scrum half.

Archie qualified in 1968 and spent his entire working life in Namibia. He was appointed as the State Veterinarian of Otavi in 1969 and moved to Grootfontein in 1972. He became the Chief Veterinary Officer of Namibia ten years later in 1982. He retired to his sheep and Boer goat farm between Marienthal and Stampriet in 2004 but carried on working for the Meat Board of Namibia in various capacities, first as a board member and later as the Vice-Chairperson until his death. He was the Chairperson of the FAN Meat Scheme, a Namibian initiative for all owners of stock as well as those working in allied industries, such as abattoirs, auction houses and feed manufacturers. Archie initiated improvements to the meat scheme and obtained additional funding for it from the Directorate of Veterinary Services, to maintain Namibia's access to markets.

Apart from his administrative work, he spent his career doing clinical work on farm animals as well as companion animals and was involved with game capture. He also helped international bodies with the thousands of Angolan refugees flooding into Namibia during the liberation of Angola.

As a classmate, he was serious about his studies and always exhibited a desire to get on with the job. He frequently livened things up in class with a naughty twinkle in his eye. He kept his feet on the ground and had no patience with anyone showing pretentious airs and graces.

He married Limmie in 1971 and had two daughters and a son, who gave them 7 grandchildren. Classmate Dot Meyer married Limmie's sister, and Dot and Archie remained firm friends and colleagues. His hobbies included fishing, especially during family Christmas holidays at the coast. His passions included organized agriculture, farming with Dorper and Meatmaster sheep, as well as Boer goats.

His sudden death was due to a heart attack.

Submitted by Maryke Henton