

In Memoriam

Clive Peter Marwick – Veterinary Biography



Dr Clive Peter Marwick was born in Cape Town, the second son of Cedric Marwick, whose profession was in Forestry, and Elizabeth (Bessie), a teacher. The family frequently moved, including Knysna, Umtata, Barberton, Sabie, Eshowe and Pietermaritzburg. Clive matriculated at Jeppe Boys High School in Johannesburg in 1963 and spent a year at the South African Air Force (1964) before commencing his university studies at the Pietermaritzburg campus of Natal University (1965-1966) and on to the University of Pretoria, graduating BVSc at Onderstepoort in 1972.

In 1973, he served as State Veterinarian in Durban, where he showed an early indication of his pioneering approach to populations rather than individual animals when he created a Kennel Health Programme for the South African Police Services Dog Unit.

He moved to Clocolan in the Free State Province in 1974 after marrying Hendretia Lombard on 15 December 1973. They had 3 children: Peter, Lizelle and Monique. Clive practised in Clocolan from 1974 to 2015 and was a pioneer in the preventive medicine approach rather than merely a reactive service to livestock owners, particularly in the dairy farming industry. His planned farm visits enabled regular monitoring of performance and identifying emerging problems that could be addressed and prevented or minimised. Appreciating the value of routine monitoring for mastitis, he recruited his clients for the Allerton Mastitis Scheme, overcoming the logistical problems of distance to the laboratory.

In 1981, he attended 3 Embryo Transfer courses in Denmark, Belgium and England to enable him to offer his clients this emerging technology for obtaining superior offspring. He quickly saw the potential of ultrasound evaluations for reproductive health and was a pioneer in this field.

Promoting the implementation of Herd Health and Production required much research, development and experience.

The accumulation of huge data sets in dairy herds led to the development of his computerised analysis programs, enabling accurate and rapid identification and quantification of the production situation in large dairy farms. His expertise was recognised by invitations to present lectures to farmer groups and radio interviews, as well as many presentations to vets at scientific Congresses. He also gave presentations in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Clive willingly mentored and guided many new veterinary graduates to the benefit of the livestock industries.

Further evidence of recognition is his appointment as Guest Lecturer in Preventive Medicine in Dairy Cattle (1983-1986) and External Examiner (1986-1989) at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort, and subsequently on the Faculty Advisory Board (2009-2016?).

In spite of the demands of his private practice, Dr Marwick found time to participate in and contribute to many veterinary organisations. His leadership role is evident in the many positions that he held over the years: He was the second Chairman of the Rural Practitioners Group (later LHPG and now RuVASA) from 1981 to 1985 and Chair of the Embryo Transfer Group (1984-1986), as well as a Founder Member of the Eastern Free State Branch of the SAVA in 1992, and its Chairman from 1996 to 1998. He served as an elected member of the SAVA Federal Council from 1983 to 1987, on its Executive from 2003-2009, as a Board Member from 2009-2011, and as President of the SAVA from 2007 to 2009. He also served as the SAVA representative on the SAVC from 2003 to 2007, and the International Veterinary Officers Council from 2007-2009, as well as Chairman of the Animal Health Forum from 2006-2011, and as a member of the SAVA Awards Committee from 2022-2025.

In 2009, he was elected to the Executive Committee of the SA Veterinary Council and served as a member and Chair of its Finance Committee from 2011-2016, the Inspections Committee from 2013-2015, the Food Safety and Security Committee in 2013 and as SAVC President from 2015 to 2019.

Internationally, Clive Marwick served in 2018 as an Executive Member of the African Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and on the World Veterinary Association as the Council Member for Africa 2011-2014, on its Finance Committee 2011-2016, as Chair from 2017, on the Constitution and Bylaws Working Group 2011-2013, and Congress Rules and Amendments from 2011 to 2014.

Clive made time to contribute locally as a Town Councillor in Clocolan for 16 years and as a member of the Finance Committee of the Setsotso Municipality.

His contributions were recognised by RuVASA's Ricky Wilson Award in 2015 and SAVA's President's Award in 2017. Over his professional lifetime, Clive showed a consistent attitude to everything he did – with vision, determination, thoroughness, energy and integrity. He worked with people with consideration, inclusiveness and helpfulness. If time allowed in his busy life, he enjoyed playing squash, going diving and doing carpentry.

In 2016, Clive and Hendretia retired to Jeffrey's Bay after a long and productive life of service, where he died at peace on the 25th of July 2025. He was deeply respected and is fondly remembered by his family, friends, colleagues and clients.

Prof Gareth Bath