

## THE NATAL SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS 1988–1989

**President** M.J.C. Daly  
**Vice-Presidents** H. Lundie  
S.N. Roberts  
Prof. C. de B. Webb

**Trustees** M.J.C. Daly  
Miss P.A. Reid  
S.N. Roberts

**Fellow of the Natal Society** Miss P.A. Reid

**Treasurers** Messrs Aiken & Peat

**Auditors** Messrs Thornton-Dibb, Van der  
Leeuw and Partners

**Director** Mrs S.S. Wallis

**Secretary** P.C.G. McKenzie

### COUNCIL

**Elected Members** M.J.C. Daly (Chairman)  
S.N. Roberts (Vice-Chairman)  
Dr F.C. Friedlander (resigned)  
W.G. Anderson  
Prof. A.M. Barrett  
T.B. Frost  
J.M. Deane  
Prof. W.R. Guest  
Prof. C. de B. Webb  
G.J.M. Smith  
Ms P.A. Stabbins (co-opted)

**City Council Representatives** Cllr. E.L. Bennett  
Cllr. P.C. Cornell  
Cllr. G.D. de Beer

### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF NATALIA

**Editor** T.B. Frost  
Dr W.H. Bizley  
M.H. Comrie  
J.M. Deane  
Prof. W.R. Guest  
Ms M.P. Moberly  
Mrs S.P.M. Spencer  
Miss J. Farrer (Hon. Secretary)

### *Cover Picture*

The end of the era: Lt.-Col. R.M. Ovens (seated 4th from left) and the officers of the 1st South Staffordshire Regiment. This photograph was taken on the steps in front of the corrugated iron Officers' Mess at Fort Napier.  
*(Photograph: Natal Archives)*

SA ISSN 0085 3674

# Contents

	<i>Page</i>
EDITORIAL .....	5
REPRINT	
Deux Ans à Natal .....	6
REPRINT	
The Journal of William Clayton Humphreys: Port Natal to the Zulu Country August–October 1851 .....	23
ARTICLE	
Pietermaritzburg’s Imperial Postscript: Fort Napier from 1910 to 1925 <i>Graham Dominy</i> .....	30
ARTICLE	
The Political Career of Mr Reid’s ‘Ten Wheeler’ <i>W.H. Bizley</i> .....	43
OBITUARIES	
Thomas George Vernon Inman .....	50
Howard St. George .....	52
Sushila Gandhi .....	55
Douglas Mitchell .....	64
NOTES AND QUERIES	
<i>Moray Comrie</i> .....	70
BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES .....	82
SELECT LIST OF RECENT NATAL PUBLICATIONS .....	91
REGISTER OF RESEARCH ON NATAL .....	93
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS .....	94

## *Editorial*

This year, collectors of *Natalia* will notice, the journal is somewhat thinner than usual. This might reflect, perhaps, a certain lack of vigour in an editorial committee which has held office unrelieved for a number of years. It certainly reflects the impact of the Human Sciences Research Council's SAPSE system on academic publishing. A well-intentioned bureaucratic attempt to reward and encourage the publication of learned articles has not benefited *Natalia*. Applications to get *Natalia* SAPSE-registered (and contributions to it, therefore, eligible for financial subsidy), have come to naught: the journal is not sufficiently 'academic' in character, it is not uni-disciplinary, it is not refereed internationally. So articles published in *Natalia* remain without pecuniary reward. It is understandable that academics should now prefer to publish in journals which bring financial recompense – if not to themselves personally, then certainly to their institutions and departments.

Thus, with no Natal Society Annual Lecture being delivered in 1989, we carry only two articles as such: that by Graham Dominy on the latter years of Fort Napier, and that by William Bizley on the political dimensions of a railway engine. The latter has its element of humour – a quality not often encountered in *Natalia* articles – as Edwardian politicians strive to debate a railway lavatory without actually mentioning that indelicate word.

An Obituary of Douglas Mitchell should have been published in *Natalia* 18. It was written and posted by Mrs Sheila Henderson from London, but never arrived. Mrs Henderson, however, agreed to recast her thoughts in the form of a personal memoir – which has the merit of telling us something about the writer as well as the subject! Dr Uma Mesthrie has also written interestingly about her grandmother, the late Mrs Sushila Gandhi, daughter-in-law of Mahatma Gandhi. More formal Obituaries are those of two ecclesiastical figures, the late Bishop Vernon Inman and Father St George.

But if articles as such are fewer, *Natalia* carries two unpublished pieces this year: Part II of *Deux Ans à Natal* by the mysterious M. Bourbon, and a carefully edited extract from the diary of William Clayton Humphreys.

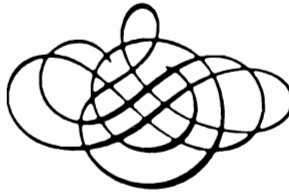
For the rest, the mix of Notes and Queries, Book Reviews and Notices, and Select List of recent Natal publications remains pretty well unchanged. We hope that our readers will continue to find it interesting fare.

T.B. FROST

## *Select List of Recent Natal Publications*

- ARDINGTON, E.M. *Nkandla revisited: a longitudinal study of the strategies adopted to alleviate poverty in a rural community*. Durban: Univ. of Natal, 1988.
- BALLARD, Charles. *The House of Shaka*. Durban: Emoyeni Books, 1988.
- BEGG, George. *The wetlands of Natal. Part 2. The distribution, extent and status of wetlands in the Mfolozi catchment*. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1988.
- BELL, Joy. *A taste of Durban*. Pinetown: Owen Burgess Publishers, 1988.
- BENDER, Colin. *Who saved Natal?* Durban: Privately printed, 1988.
- BENNETT, Ian. *Editor. Eyewitness in Zululand: the Campaign reminiscences of Colonel W.A. Dunne, C.B. South Africa, 1877-1881*. London: Greenhill Books, 1989.
- DUCKWORTH, J.G. *The St Mary's story; a history of St Mary's Catholic Parish*, Pietermaritzburg. Mariannahill: Mission Press, 1989.
- DU PLESSIS, H.J.J., *and* Spies, P.H. *The future structure and functioning of Natal/KwaZulu towns and cities*. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1988.
- DU TOIT, Welly. *God's Grace; the revival at Kwa Sizabantu*. Durban: Rowell & Sons, 1988.
- EDGERTON, Robert B. *Like lions they fought! The Zulu War and the last Black empire in South Africa*. Bergvlei: Southern Books, 1988.
- EVANS, R.J. *Blacks in administrative Natal; case studies in marginality*. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1988.
- GORDON, Ruth E. *The story of Deanery Lane; a brief history of its origin, growth and residents*. Pietermaritzburg: 1989.
- HOLLIDAY, J.D. *Dottings on Natal, as published in 1865, and Sundry titbits of colonial experience*. Reprint. Pietermaritzburg: Prontaprint, 1988.
- LAMBIRIS, Angelo. *Frogs and toads of the Natal Drakensberg*. Pietermaritzburg: Univ. of Natal Press, 1988.
- MÖLLER, Valerie. *Community reactions to the introduction of an educare programme at a home for black aged in KwaMashu*. Durban: Centre for Applied Social Sciences, Univ. of Natal, 1988.
- NATTRASS, N.J. *and* Natrass, J. *Small formal businesses in Durban*. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1988.

- PIONEER'S progress: early Natal, edited and presented by Bob O'Keefe. Hillcrest: Hilltop, 1988.
- RAW, Vause. Flares. Durban: King & Wilks, 1988.
- RYCROFT, D.K., and Ngcobo, A.B. *Editors*. The Praises of Dingana: Izibongo zikaDingana. Pietermaritzburg: Univ. of Natal Press, 1988.
- SHEPHERD-SMITH, Jack. Buthelezi. Pretoria: Hans Strydom, 1988.
- THOMAS, R.J. The geology of the Port Shepstone area. Pretoria: Government Printer, 1988.
- TOURISM in the Natal/KwaZulu region. Proceedings of a symposium/workshop held at Midmar on 6–8 October 1986. Pietermaritzburg: Regional Development Advisory Committee, 1988.
- VINCENT, Jack. Web of experience; an autobiography. Pietermaritzburg: Teeanem Printers, 1988.
- VAN KOTZE, Astrid. Organise and act; the Natal Workers Theatre Movement, 1983–1987. Durban: Culture and Working Life Publications, Univ. of Natal, 1988.



## *Register of Research on Natal*

This list has been compiled from individual submissions of subscribers to *Natalia*.

If you know of any current research which has not been listed, please fill in the slip which has been provided for this purpose so that the information can be included in the next issue.

**BRAIN, Prof. J.B. and Brain, Dr Peter.**

History of disease, health and medical care in Natal.

**LAMBERT, John.**

Africans in Natal, 1900–1913.

Teteleku KaNobanda.

**MACHIN, I.M.**

The levying of forced black labour and military service by the Colonial State of Natal.

**MINNAAR, A. de V.**

Early gold mining in Zululand.

Game preservation and nature conservation in Zululand.

Migrant labour in Zululand.

## *Notes on Contributors*

WILLIAM BIZLEY is a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Natal.

MORAY COMRIE is a Senior Lecturer at the Natal College of Education.

RICHARD COPE is a member of the History Department at the University of the Witwatersrand and a specialist in Zulu history.

JOHN DEANE is Deputy-Director of Education in Natal.

GRAHAM DOMINY is a graduate of the University of Natal and the National University of Ireland. He has worked as an archivist at the Natal Archives and as head of the Research and Museum Development section of the Natal Provincial Museum Service. In April 1989 he was appointed as the first historian at the Natal Museum. He is conducting research on Fort Napier for the museum and for a PhD degree.

T.B. (JACK) FROST is a Senior Lecturer at the Natal College of Education and Editor of *Natalia*.

BILL GUEST is Associate Professor of History at the University of Natal.

SHEILA HENDERSON, an Oxford graduate, is a veteran of opposition politics in Northern Natal.

DENIS HURLEY is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Durban.

NEIL JARDINE, a former Rector of Michaelhouse, is Headmaster of Kingswood College in Grahamstown.

UMA MESTHRIE is a former lecturer in the Department of History at UDW. She is presently a Teaching Assistant in the Department of History at UCT.

MICHAEL NUTTALL is the Anglican Bishop of Natal.

JULIE PRIDMORE, a graduate of the University of Natal, teaches History at Collegiate School and part-time at the University of Natal.

COLIN WEBB, first Editor of *Natalia*, is Vice-Principal of the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.