

Roy Baring Hindle (1926–2005)

Former director of the provincial Roads Department and then provincial secretary, sailor, tennis player, birdwatcher and community worker, Roy Hindle (79) died in August 2005.

Born in Pietermaritzburg in 1926, Hindle matriculated from Michaelhouse and graduated from the University of Natal with a B.Sc in civil engineering after a nine-month stint in the SA Engineer Corps during World War II. Joining the Natal Roads Department as an assistant engineer in 1947, he worked his way through the ranks to become its director in 1975.

In 1985, 38 years after joining the provincial service, he became provincial secretary (later titled director-general), the first professional to be appointed to a position previously occupied exclusively by members of the administrative staff. There he headed a staff of 40 000 with a budget of R800 million. Retiring in 1989, he was employed for a further four years as a consultant to the national Department of Transport.



Roy Hindle

Both before and during his retirement, Hindle was involved in a wide variety of activities and worked tirelessly for a number of community organisations. He was a member of the Henley Midmar Yacht Club and sailed a Fireball before graduating to a Soling, an Olympic class. He was chairman of the Pietermaritzburg and District Malnutrition Relief Organisation (Padmro) for more than 15 years until it was wound up. He was a member of Round Table and a long-standing and active Rotarian and the recipient in 1996 of that organisation's prestigious Paul Harris Award for service. He was a founder member, deputy chairman and then chairman (until forced to resign through ill health) of the board of governors of St Nicholas Diocesan School. He was an active worker for Hospice.

Retired Anglican Bishop of Natal Michael Nuttall, who worked closely with Hindle at St Nicholas, spoke warmly of his 'extraordinary range of achievement in public service, accompanied by great modesty and courtesy of character'. Chairwoman of Hospice Nancy Aucock said: 'Roy Hindle served on the Board of Msunduzi Hospice as treasurer for many years, serving on the trust as well as the executive committee. A dedicated supporter of the Hospice cause, his financial acumen and his wise counsel contributed considerably to the development and growth of our organisation. He will be remembered with gratitude and affection by the Hospice community.'

Hindle leaves his wife Doreen and three children from a previous marriage. His memorial service took place at All Saints United Church, Athlone, of which he was a founder member.

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