

and earned bursaries to study music at various institutions, e.g. UKZN and DUT. One of his trainees who also got a bursary to study music at UKZN went on to get other bursaries that saw him obtain an Honours degree from the University of Western Cape. He is presently pursuing his MA degree at a university in the US.

Besides training soloists, Dr Radebe also trained and produced a number of conductors, some of whom went on to establish their own choirs, e.g. the Ulundi Choral Society, the Eyesizwe Adult Choir and Sounds of Joy.

From the year 2000 to 2009, after Dr Radebe's retirement, he worked with a non-governmental organisation called I-Africa Entsha, the chairperson of the board of which was the then MEC for

Health in KZN, Dr Z.L. Mkhize. His key responsibility was to ensure the development and promotion of music in Pietermaritzburg and its surrounding areas.

In his career as a conductor, Dr Radebe received numerous certificates and awards, e.g. Khabi Mngoma Award (2003), Creative Arts Award (2010), Indondo Award (2010), Lifetime Achievement Award (2014). In 1998 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the then University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg) for his tremendous contribution and dedication to choral music and community upliftment.

His wife predeceased him. He is survived by his five children – Andile, Vuyi, Dumisa, Ndumiso and Mpume.

ANDILE RADEBE

John Martin Sellers (1924–2014)

A FORMER editor of *Natalia*, John Sellers died in November 2014,* aged 90. He was born and educated in Pietermaritzburg, attending university there and graduating with an MA in history. After joining the Natal Education Department, he taught at various schools before being transferred from Northern Natal to a post at his old school, Maritzburg College. There he taught History and English, and was senior resident master in the boarding establishment, relinquishing the latter position when he married. After a brief period as a lecturer at the Natal Training College, he was appointed as lecturer in economic history at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.



John Sellers

John Sellers was co-editor and co-author of two books, *Enterprise and Exploitation in a Victorian Colony* (1985) and *Receded Tides of Empire* (1994), both dealing with the economic and social development of Natal and Zululand in the wider South African economy. He was the editor of *Natalia* from 1978 to 1980, and was a long-serving member of the *Natal Witness* leader-writers' panel. He was a lifelong collector of books and had an extensive private library, from which he made generous donations of books to the

Natal Society Library (now the Bessie Head Municipal Library).

He is remembered with affection by many of his colleagues, past students and pupils, and shortly before his final illness was delighted to receive a visit from representatives of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association on his 90th birthday.

John Sellers was married in 1957 to Kay Davies, who predeceased him. There were no children.

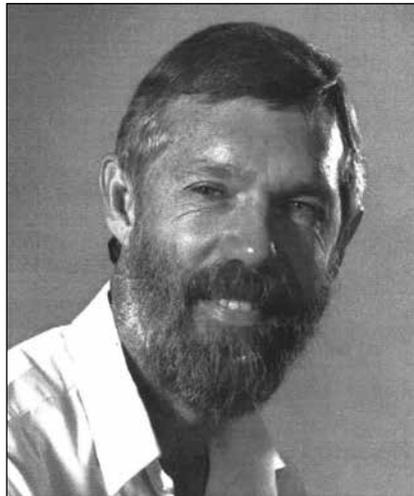
JOHN DEANE

**Natalia* 44 was already with the printers, and the inclusion of a timely obituary was unfortunately not possible.

Gilbert Peter Torlage (1948–2015)

GILBERT Torlage will be remembered as a prominent historian in the field of military history, especially that of the Anglo-Boer War, in KwaZulu-Natal. He passed away on 9 April 2015, a few weeks short of his 67th birthday, after a 15-month battle with cancer.

He was born in Greytown on 26 April 1948 and attended Deutsche Schule zu Hermannsburg and Greytown High School, where he matriculated in 1967. Gilbert's father, Erwin, a one-time member of the Umvoti Mounted Rifles (UMR) farmed outside Greytown before relocating to the town. It was in a Greytown High School magazine that this writer spotted a rare photograph of Gilbert without his trademark beard! It was a photograph of a school shooting team! This photograph was also strangely incongruous as, although he was primarily a military historian, he could by no means be personally associated



Gilbert Torlage

with violence. Gilbert was one of the gentlest of men. He was also a deeply religious man, with a deep respect for life and morality. During the years of his residence in Pietermaritzburg he worshipped at the City's Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Nativity. From