

Editorial

LAST year's issue marked the end of an era with the retirement from the editorial committee of the editor and a previous editor, Jack Frost and John Deane. The first number of this journal appeared in 1971 with Professor Webb as its founding editor. Five years later he was succeeded by Dr John Clark, and two years after that John Sellers took over the editorial chair. It was in that same year, 1978, that the names T. B. Frost, J. M. Deane, and W. R. Guest were added to the editorial committee. Rather remarkably, those three gentlemen were still listed as committee members in *Natalia* 45, which appeared 37 years later in 2015.

T. B. Frost, Jack to his many acquaintances, having taken on the editorship in 1981, continued in that role – with short breaks – for 20 years. John edited two issues, and he and Jack were joint editors of another two. Through this long period they played a key part in sustaining the vision that the Natal Society has for its journal and in maintaining the reputation of *Natalia* as a publication of high quality and a source of well-researched and well-written articles on topics of relevance to the people of this province, as well as its sometimes idiosyncratic “*Natalia* style”. Now, after 38 years, their names no longer appear in the list of committee members. Their contributions have been of inestimable value.

During the past year another former member of the editorial committee, Bill Bizley, died. He served on the committee for 32 years and also contributed articles. His obituary in this issue pays tribute to his part in the history of *Natalia*.

In this issue Adrian Koopman continues the series he began last year of extracting from newspapers of 100 years ago amusing and instructive information about lifestyles of that era. We also republish a fascinating piece put together by David Lee about the activities of the early aviator, Albert Kimmerling, in Durban in 1910.

Feature articles cover a range of periods and cultures. Christopher Merrett and Mary Kleinenberg provide personal chronicles of events in Pietermaritzburg in the last two decades of the twentieth century: Merrett on life under the State of Emergency in 1986, and Kleinenberg on a grassroots women's organisation

that worked to empower women in the period of social reconstruction after the unbanning of the ANC. More on the recent history of Pietermaritzburg is added by Merrett's account of the Berg Street swimming pool and the obituary of the city's first Indian mayor, Omar Latiff.

We are grateful to Anil Nauriya for his extraordinary research into Mahatma Gandhi's activism in South Africa, uncovering shocking details of the injustices experienced by Indians in South Africa and Gandhi's indefatigable battles against injustice.

Moray Comrie and Adrian Koopman have brought together the histories of three cast-iron fountains in KwaZulu-Natal and one in Pretoria that had their origins in the catalogues of Scottish iron foundries. Duncan du Bois has provided the last in his series of articles on the economic history of the South Coast, and we also have a review of his book on the subject. Robin Lamplough's research into a feud between two Boer farmers in the mid-nineteenth century leads to an account of the legal system of the time and the judicial personalities involved. Alleyn Diesel applies her deep knowledge of Islam to an account of the pioneers of Sufism who built mosques and shrines in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Departing from the usual historical approach of our contributors, Stephen Gray has dug up the connections that the British novelist Angus Wilson had with South Africa. Wilson, once famous for his post-Second World War novels such as *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*, was a friend of the prominent member of the Liberal Party Randolph Vigne, who died in June this year. In his drily entertaining account, Gray captures Wilson's rather quirky relationship with KwaZulu-Natal.

An assortment of notes, book reviews and obituaries follows. Finally, we have the Select List of Recent Publications linked to KwaZulu-Natal, which Jewel Koopman has compiled for the second year running, having taken over from Shelagh Spencer. It rounds off this first issue of *Natalia* in many years to emerge without the guiding hands of Jack and John. Their traditions and standards have weighed heavily in its production.

ELWYN JENKINS AND ADRIAN KOOPMAN