

5. EARLY MEMBERS

The following people are mentioned in the records of the early 1960s and played a role in the initial development of SAAFoST:

MR DAWIE BASSON

Dawie studied Food Science at Stellenbosch University and graduated with an MSc in 1964. During his Honours year he began lecturing to undergraduates and, later in 1966, joined the staff as a senior lecturer in the Department of Food Science. He has subsequently retired and is living in the Cape.

MR DSW BURROW

Donald Burrow was Mill Manager and a director of Tiger Oats Co Ltd. He served on the Cape Branch Committee and on the Council of the association in the early 1960s.

MR IZAK J BURGER

“Sakkie” Burger graduated from Stellenbosch University in 1927, worked in Australia, California and then at the Elsenberg College of Agriculture where he was Research Officer and lecturer. He joined the Western Province Fruit Research Station in Stellenbosch, later FFTRI and succeeded Dr Reuben Nel as Chief of the Institute. He lectured Food Science subjects to students at Stellenbosch University and had a special interest in dried fruit technology. We have on record in the SAAFoST archives a very detailed account of “Oom Sakkie’s” distinguished career at the FFTRI.

Interestingly he was the father of Johan Burger, who studied Food Science at Stellenbosch and then worked at Minute Maid at Letaba for many years. Johan was actually the first Food Science student to graduate in SA, as alphabetically he was the first in the class of 1955 to be capped ahead of Jan Hofmeyer who was the only other student to graduate in Food Science that year.

MR JAN DE WIT

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DR GUIDO DREOSTI

See section 9

MR LAZAR GINSBURG

See section 9

Mr N C GOOSEN

Mr N.C.Goosen (Nico) was an early Food Science graduate from Stellenbosch. He was a prominent member of the fruit canning industry for many years as Factory Manager of SA Preserving in Tulbagh. After a downturn in the industry in the 1970s he left and went north. He is thought to have subsequently left the industry and we understand he went into the restaurant business.

DR LIONEL GORFINKEL

Lionel Gorfinkel was a chemist who was a director of the Castle Wine & Brandy Company in the Cape and he served on the association's first working committee

MR JAN HOFMEYER

Jan Hofmeyer was one of the first graduates from the Department of Food Science in Stellenbosch and had a distinguished career with Metal Box Company in South Africa, retiring from the position of Deputy Head of Metal Box Research in Cape Town. He has assisted greatly in recalling details of early SAAFoST members for this publication.



DR BRIAN KOEPPEN

Dr BH Koeppen, was Senior Lecturer in Food Science at the University of Stellenbosch, and the first person to receive a DSc degree in Food Science from a South African university. In 1960, full time Food Science and Technology lecturing staff were appointed at the Stellenbosch University's Department of Food Science which was under the leadership of Dr. C. J. B. Smit who was South Africa's first Professor of Food Science. Brian Koeppen succeeded Chris Smit as Professor of Food Science but was tragically killed in a motor accident in 1980. The Brian Koeppen Memorial Scholarship was established in his honour.

MR GEOFF KNOCK

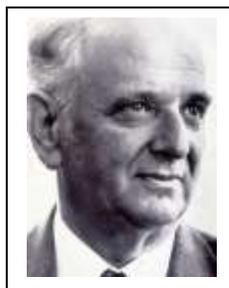
For many years he was the Head of Research and a director of The Metal Box Company of South Africa. He served on the first committee and was an active member until he settled in the UK after his retirement.

Mr Knock donated a sum of money to SAAFoST, which was used to fund the Geoff Knock Book Prize for the most deserving student in Food Technology in the Cape Branch.

MR MATHIAM (MICK) LAMPRECHTS

He was a UCT graduate, working as a research officer at the Metal Box Company and head of customer service at the time of joining SAAFoST in 1961.

MR TONY LEWIS



Tony was a Mechanical Engineer and, during his career, served the fishing industry with distinction at the Fishing Industry Research Institute and at Irvin and Johnson.

Tony was the first secretary of the association and was charged with the task of drawing up the first constitution. He served on the first

committee and remained active for many years. He was Chairman of the Cape Branch for several years and member of the Food Legislation Advisory Group (FLAG). He played an active role in that group.

MR PIERRE MALAN

Pierre was born in 1896 and completed his BA Hons in Chemistry in 1917. He worked for many years at J&A Buchanan Sweets & Chocolates and then for several years (until 1961) at Vitamin Oils & Agar Ltd.

MR STEPHANUS MALHERBE

“Fanie” Malherbe served on the Council in 1964/5 and had a long career with the SABS, retiring in 1986 as Director of the Biological Services Department. He was an active member of the Northern Branch Committee.

DR NIC (RJ) NACHENIUS

He was Dr Dreosti's protégé and followed him as director of FIRI. He was an early SAAFoST member and, later, Chair of the Cape Branch. On retiring, he set up the Fishing Industries Museum in Hout Bay Harbour and ran it virtually single handed until 2009 when it was closed. It has now fortunately been moved to Laaiplek on the West Coast, where many fish processors started.

PROF. R I NEL

Dr Reuben Nel was head of the Fruit and Vegetable Research Station at Stellenbosch. It was he who advanced the idea to have a Food Science graduate course at Stellenbosch University. In order to get support and funding, he accompanied then Rector, Bobby Wilcox, in visiting the main food industry companies in SA in early 1950s. The new Food Science building commenced in 1952. The first lectures were given by Dr Nel's staff at the then Fruit Research Station on Marais Plein. Amongst them Mr Burger and Dr Ben Nortje.

DR BAREND K NORTJE

Ben Nortje was one of the research scientists at the Fruit Research Station and spent his whole career there. He studied under Professor Chris Smit at Stellenbosch and did his Ph D there with Prof Brian Koeppen as his co-promotor. His son, Dr Ettienne Nortje, also later graduated in Food Science from Stellenbosch. Ben served as Cape Branch Secretary for a period.

DR LAWRENCE NOVELLIE

Lawrence Novellie served as Northern Branch representative on the Council during 1964/5. He studied at Natal University and was head of the Sorghum Beer Unit at the CSIR. He followed Jan deWit as head of National Food Research Institute in Pretoria.

MR KARL A OETTLE

Karl was a Mechanical Engineer (UCT) who worked at the Low Temperature Research Institute, at Imperial Cold Storage and then as Technical Manager at Irvin & Johnson.

Jan Hofmeyer remembers him as a refrigeration expert who later became an industry refrigeration consultant.

MR JACOBUS SCHOONENS

He was a Dutch engineer and initially Works Manager of Langeberg. He later became Production Manager and a director of the Deep Freezing and Preserving Company, which was a leading food company in the Cape and was situated (at the time) at Firgrove near Somerset West. He served on the first committee and was involved in the programme's sub-committee.

MR ELI. SHAPIRO

Eli Shapiro studied at UCT and did an MSc with Dennis Wright. He attended SAAFoST meetings regularly and had a long career at Brooks (Lemos & Oros), retiring as technical Director.

PROESSOR CHRIS SMIT

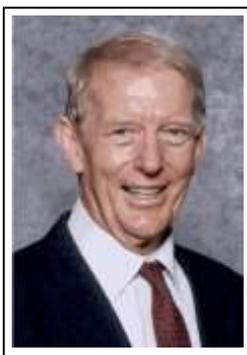
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MR HERMAN VAN DER MERWE



He completed his MSc in Food Science at Stellenbosch University in 1958 and was one of the 45 people who attended the meeting at the University of Cape Town when the idea of a Food Science & Technology Association was first discussed publicly in early 1961. He served on the Council during the 1970s and early 1980s and was Chairman of the Northern Branch from 1974 to 1982 until his relocation to Cape Town where he took up an appointment as Associate Director and Head of the Department of Food Technology at the Cape Technikon. He is now retired and lives in Gordon's Bay.

PROFESSOR GERARD VAN NOORT



Gerrie attended Stellenbosch University and graduated in 1955 prior to going to the USA where he obtained his PhD at the University of California, returning to South Africa in 1962. He served as Northern Branch Chairman, and on the Council, organised the 1979 Congress and was Vice President and Chairman of the Executive Committee for many years. He worked at the Premier Milling Company in Johannesburg for a period and then for several years he was Professor of Food Science at Stellenbosch University.

DR PIETER VAN TWISK

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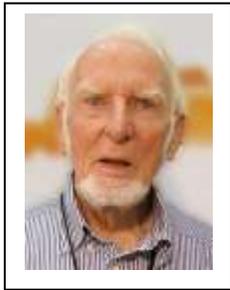
DR. ARNO C VISSER

See section 8

DR SYBRANDUS WIECHERS

He trained in Holland and worked at the TNO there before coming out to South Africa. He joined the CSIR in Pretoria and worked there for many years. He also worked in industry for a period on product development at Hind Bros & Co Ltd in Durban during the mid-1960s. He returned to the CSIR in Pretoria where he worked at the National Water Research Institute. He and his wife were familiar faces at Northern Branch meeting over many years.

DR DENNIS WRIGHT



Still strong and living in Fish Hoek (and very helpful with his memories as a founder member of SAAFoST). He is an MSc graduate and worked at Duens bread and Baumann's biscuits as Chief Chemist in 1960, having joined them in 1955. In 1962 he joined Moir's as Factory Manager, changing in 1968 to R & D Manager.

In 1975 the family relocated to Springs where he worked for the Kellogg Company of South Africa until 1988 when he left to work as a consultant. After doing various projects for a number of companies, he worked full time for Nutritional Products [now Sunspray Food Ingredients] from 1992 to 1996 when he retired to Fish Hoek.