



Class of '61 – Reunion

October 2021 – Bulletin 52



Hi Guys,

It is with sadness that I report that Rob Bartel has passed away.

I phoned Shirley, Rob's wife, this afternoon and had a chat with her. It appears that Rob died on Wednesday after suffering with health issues for some time.

I passed on our condolences to the Bartel family – and assured Shirley that our thoughts and prayers were with them at this difficult time.

For your information I have included the information that Rob supplied me for his entry in our Yearbook:

BARTEL:- Robert Edwin (Rob) Bartel of Berea, East London, passed away peacefully on 27.10.2021 at the age of 77 years. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his loving wife Shirley, children Adrian & Bronwyn, Lauren & Mike, grandchildren Shannon, Morgan, James, Colby & Cody. Due to the pandemic the service and cremation will be private. Arrangements by Stones Funeral Home. Phone 043-7269828.

ROB BARTEL



After my years at Selborne, I headed for Rhodes University, where I divided my time between studying Natural Sciences and visiting my girlfriend at Grahamstown Training College. I came back to East London with a degree and plans to marry my life partner Shirley, which I achieved two years later. Professional Registration had to wait a while before the appropriate National body was established and the relevant Act promulgated.

I considered myself fortunate to be able to combine the income-producing part of my time as Manager of several local Laboratories, with the privilege of being invited to serve on numerous professional Steering Committees based in Pretoria (inter alia CSIR, Water Research Commission, and SABS).

It was here that I was able to provide input into the direction of Water Quality Research on a national basis; also, into the revision of existing and the development of new SABS Standards for Water Quality, as well as research into the development, testing and approval of new National water quality analysis methods.

After nearly four decades I was happy to call an end to my working career on 31 December 2004, and am now, amongst many other interests, a contented home handyman and gardener (strictly non-professional).

Shirley and I were blessed with two children, Adrian (also an Old Boy), and Lauren (a Clarendon Old Girl). We are the proud grandparents of two granddaughters and a grandson.

2016 – Rob has suffered with health problems over the past couple of years. On the 15th of October 2016 he wrote "I had to undergo surgery this week and this will prevent me from joining the Class of '61 at Founders Day this year. All went well; I came home yesterday but am confined to home for a while. My best wishes to all who attend - just hang in there and we'll make it a good one in five years' time !!!"

Unfortunately, he could not make it to our Reunion lunch. May he rest in peace.

Kind regards

Werner