

## Mr. Gerald Newlands

November 16, 1941 - May 26, 2022

Gerald Newlands of High River, Alberta passed away at the High River Hospital on May 26, 2022 at the age of 80 years. Gerald is survived by his wife Santa (Susanna) and his sister Edith Wolff of South Africa as well as several cousins in the UK and South Africa.

Gerald was born in Pretoria, South Africa to parents George and Sheila Newlands. He began his scientific career working in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Pretoria. Following that, he worked at the Transvaal Museum studying arachnology and the evolution of man. Gerald then became more interested in the study of Arachnids specializing in scorpions and spiders. This sparked him to take a position as a Medical Entomologist at the South African Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg. In 1983, Gerald returned to the University of Pretoria to teach medical students Clinical Entomology and science students Insect Physiology. In 1986 Gerald was awarded a PhD in the faculty of medicine of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, for his dissertation on necrotic arachnidism in Southern Africa.

Gerald and Santa immigrated into Canada in 1992 and in 1993 he joined the archeology department at the University of Calgary where he became an Adjunct Associate Professor and shared his expertise in scientific photography and microscopy. Gerald also indulged in artistic photography and

in May 1994 his photography work was showcased at the University of Calgary Art Gallery. Throughout his life, Gerald had written five books, over 50 scientific papers, and presented papers at 23 professional congresses worldwide, as well, three of his microscopy inventions had been patented.

A Celebration of Gerald's Life will be held on Friday, June 10th at 11:00 a.m. at Lyle Reeves Funerals Atrium in High River.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

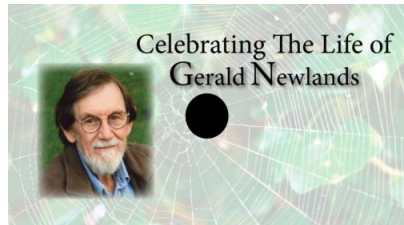
JUN **10**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Lyle Reeves Atrium  
140 6th Ave. SW  
High River, AB T1V 1A1 (CA)  
(403) 652-4242

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Gerald Newlands*



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**Lyle Reeves Funerals** - June 10, 2022 at 10:33 AM

AK

“ *Hi Santa. Sad news for me and many others. Hope you are coping with your loss, as I am with Meg's partial loss into frail care for Alzheimers. I Googled you and him while in Canada, but too inept to track you down. All my thoughts and admiration for you both, Alan*

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**Alan Kemp** - October 11, 2022 at 09:02 AM

WK

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Wendel Krook** - July 10, 2022 at 03:05 PM

“Gerry was a remarkable person in many spheres of interest. I first met him in Pretoria when we both worked in different departments at the University of Pretoria. Santa also worked there in the Merensky Library where they met..

We used to spend a lot of time together and I was always fascinated by Gerry's dry sense of humour and his curiosity about many things. I used to join Gerry on field trips looking for scorpions on which he was an expert. I remember one occasion where we were looking for scorpions that make a deep burrow under a rock. Every rock that Gerry turned over sheltered a scorpion while all the rocks that I turned over were uninhabited. Gerry just had this incredible ability to observe. At one time Gerry lived in a small apartment in Pretoria which he shared with about 100 scorpions living in glass containers on a shelf of his book case. Occasionally an adventurous scorpion would escape and Gerry and the cleaner would always make a successful recovery.

Gerry's knowledge of photography was legendary and every problem was an opportunity for Gerry to come up with a unique solution. Gerry was also a keen motor cyclist and had a powerful Triumph motorcycle. Unfortunately a lady in a car turned in front of Gerry causing him to injure his arm. Gerry always made me laugh when he would describe this incident and similar occasions where people behaved unpredictably..

Gerry has the honour of having a species of scorpion named after him. He used to spend a lot of time in the Namib desert looking for unknown scorpions that evolve on inselbergs in the desert. I recall one called *Hadogenes troglodytes* which is a very long and slender scorpion that has adapted to living in narrow cracks in the hot desert rocks seeking shade and cool habitat lower down.

Gerry was a perfectionist and was very knowledgeable about cameras and microscopes. He would make many specialist tools himself when these were not readily available.

Fortunately my wife Hengelene and I managed to visit Gerry and Santa in High River on 2 occasions where we exchanged many pleasant memories.

*It is with these memories that I say goodbye to Gerry. You will be missed my friend, but never forgotten. It was always wonderful to spend time with Gerry and listen to the amazing knowledge and experiences that he would share.*

*Santa our warm regards go to you and our deep gratitude for the unselfish way that you looked after Gerry. may you be blessed in all your future endeavours. Wendel and Hengelene. Totsiens Gerry..*

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**Wendel Krook** - July 10, 2022 at 02:47 PM

JP

“ *With quick wit, wry humour, brilliant intelligence and curiosity, Gerry sparkled with enthusiasm as he approached life as a loving husband, supportive colleague, dear friend and kind neighbour. We will all miss him in our lives. Blessings Santa,*

*Jo Parsons June 5, 2022*

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**Jo Parsons** - June 05, 2022 at 09:17 AM

DB

“ *With much sadness, I extend my condolences to Santa and family for their loss. Gerry was a remarkable story teller who used the medium of photography to share his view on the Natural World. I will always remember the light in his eyes when he was retelling a story, or adventure that he had been on, taking us back with him to that place in time. Through love and memories his light will keep shining.*

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**Dean Broadhurst** - June 03, 2022 at 12:41 AM

DE

“ *One of Gerry's multitude of photos - this experimental image is a circa 1930 BSA 500cc Sloper motorcycle. He was a keen motorcyclist iback in South Africa.*

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**Denis** - June 02, 2022 at 08:31 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Denis & Ansa Broadhurst** - June 02, 2022 at 08:24 PM

BK

“ The photo is Gerry photographing 13,000 year old horse and camel tracks at Wally's Beach, Alberta using an apparatus designed and built by him to take stereo pairs of images so they could be viewed in three dimensions.

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**Brian Kooyman** - June 01, 2022 at 04:30 PM

BK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Brian Kooyman** - June 01, 2022 at 04:26 PM

GR

“ We were saddened to hear of Gerry's passing and we extend our deepest condolences to Santa and family for their loss. Gerry was a wonderful man to talk to and we especially loved listening to his funny stories of things he did in the past. We pray for his eternal rest and strength and love to the family he's left behind.



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**Grant, Giovanna, and Rosa** - June 01, 2022 at 01:00 PM



“ Erin Lindsay lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gerald Newlands



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Erin Lindsay - May 31, 2022 at 06:23 PM

VE

“ Vera lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gerald Newlands



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Vera - May 31, 2022 at 12:01 PM

DB

“ With extreme sadness we extend our very special condolences to Santa and family on the passing of Gerry. He has now been blessed with eternal rest after enduring so many years of declining health. We remember Gerry as a dear friend and a person who has left a legacy of contributions in the realm of natural sciences. The bright light that always shone in Gerry's presence may have been dimmed for now but the memory of the occasions enjoyed in his company will always remain.



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Denis & Ansa Broadhurst - May 31, 2022 at 02:39 AM

JS

“ Jason Sloan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gerald Newlands



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Jason Sloan - May 30, 2022 at 09:18 PM

DA

“ Darrin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gerald Newlands



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Darrin - May 30, 2022 at 02:11 PM