

THEO DOHSE AT SIRI/ISCW

After obtaining his BSc (Hons) degree in Soil Science from the UOFS, Theo Dohse started work at the then Soil and irrigation Research Institute in the late 1960's. He remained there until his post-retirement contract expired in 2012, by this time at the ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water, having obtained his MSc in 1972. This period of almost 45 years involved a wide range of soil surveys, including many surveys for irrigation suitability and contributions towards the national Land Type Survey of South Africa.

Theo also made a significant contribution to the computerisation and digitising of the land type information, which has culminated in the excellent product that we have available today. He was latterly Deputy Director responsible for personnel administration and development, and as such, played an important role in the effective operation of the Pedology Division and ISCW as a whole. This was epitomised by the series of Pedology tours, to various parts of the South Africa, where our fellow soil scientists were able to meet, learn from one another's experiences and study the soils of the district.

Theo was also a well-loved father figure to many soil scientists and was much involved in a range of social events (including some memorable potjiekos days), with the result that the sense of togetherness of the staff at ISCW was always excellent. One memorable event was his initiative in organising a get-together of old pedologists at the Vanderkloof Dam resort on the Orange River.

Theo's legacy at ISCW is immense and will live on for many years to come.