

S. A. SAYS FAREWELL TO "AUNTIE MARGE"

Extract from the East London *Daily Dispatch* dated May 26, 2004.

South Africa had lost a woman who was a role model for all women involved in scientific endeavour when Dr Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer died, Environmental Affairs Minister Martinus van Schalkwyk said yesterday.

His department had sent a message of condolence to Courtenay-Latimer's family in which he said the country owed a lot to her and that her spirit would continue to inspire generations to come.

The funeral at St Alban's Anglican church in Vincent here was attended by about 150 people, including the entire Provincial Government Executive and Deputy Mayor, Desmond Halley.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Lorraine Rusch, who referred to Courtenay-Latimer as "Auntie Marge" throughout the service.

Family, friends and colleagues heard just how highly regarded and how hard working Auntie Marge was when local historian Brian Watson said her contribution to South Africa would never be forgotten.

She was both a scientist and a campaigner for the empowerment of women and her contribution to so much in



Marjorie with the dodo egg in 2004. (DNA analyses are required to verify that it is a dodo egg.)

Photo: Auriol Batten.



Marjorie at home with her dog, Cindy, 2003.

Photo: Susan Jewett.

Susan Jewett, Research Associate, Division of Fishes, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA, presenting flowers to Marjorie at the Coastal and Ocean Exploration Conference held in East London in October, 2003.
Photo: Susan Jewett.



Premier of the Eastern Cape Province, Nosimo Balindlela, with the Comoran Ambassador, Mahamoud Soilih, after the funeral of Dr Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer on Wednesday May 26th, 2004. The Premier delivered a tribute at the funeral service.
Photo: Daily Dispatch.

connection with South African museums and East London would remain as a legacy.

A meeting in Johannesburg yesterday of the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme was dedicated to the memory of Courtenay-Latimer.
