

# Ngoanyana

## A South African Story

by John Nieuwenhuysen

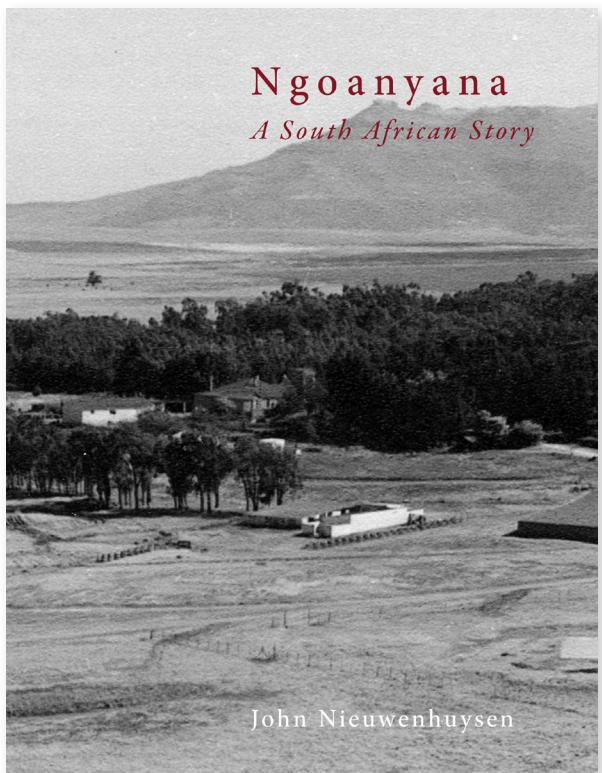
*Ngoanyana: A South African Story* is a vivid portrayal of growing up White in apartheid-era South Africa.

John Nieuwenhuysen's privileged upbringing on a South African farm as the grandson of a prosperous Irish-born 'potato king' contrasted starkly with the impoverished lives of the property's African and 'Coloured' workers and their families. His story combines love and nostalgia for a place and country of great beauty, with sadness and remorse at the cruelty and discrimination of the harsh practices of apartheid, and customary White farmer rule.

Combining one man's personal history with that of his nation, *Ngoanyana* is a poignant story, honestly told, with lessons for us all about political power, the problems still faced by South Africa, and reconciliation.



African workers on Ngoanyana, sifting wheat, 1970. Standing third from left is Jonas Mosiwe, whom I befriended. We corresponded after the ruination of the farm, when he spent his last days in the settlement camp of Onverwacht. Photo by John Nieuwenhuysen



### The author

John Nieuwenhuysen AM is an emeritus professor of economics at Monash University in Melbourne, and a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia. He holds the degrees of MA (Natal) and PhD (London School of Economics). Born in South Africa in 1937, he emigrated to Australia in 1963, where he began his academic career, working for twenty-six years at the University of Melbourne. Currently a board member of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, and chair of the board of the (Monash Prato) Bill Kent Foundation, his many earlier roles have included deputy chancellor of RMIT University; visiting professor at King's College, London; chief executive of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA); foundation director of the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements; and foundation director of the Commonwealth Government's Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research.

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