

OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter, 2022



2022 FOUNDERS' WEEK

SPECIAL FEEDBACK EDITION

What a week.... It was filled with so much joy.
A lot of reminiscing. A lot of great conversations.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Neil Hamp-Adams**, Class of 1987, and his Dubai-based company, Driving Force, for their very very generous sponsorship of supplying all the design work for the Old Muirite Union, and specifically the 200 Year Founders' Week. Your commitment to the event is Second to None.



**The Old Muirite Union
would like to thank
all the Partners for
making the
200th Year
Founder's Week
a grand success !**



Airlink	Nelson Mandela University Alumni
Algoa FM	Neophytos Fast Food
Algoa Toyota	Nic Bakker
Alpha Pharm	OFT Holdings (Pty) Ltd
APL Cartons	OK Mini Mark
Boardwalk Hotel	Olivewood
Bruce McWilliams Industries	Open V Business Solutions
BUCO	Robert Meihuizen (the Earth Beneath our Feet wines)
Bukani Printers	Pro Shop
Café Neo	PSG
City Lodge	Rhodes University
Clayton du Plooy	Sovereign Foods
Collect a Debt	Spiros Quick Spar
Driving Force	Spar
Eastcape Midlands TVET College	The Spar Guild Eastern Cape
Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism	Standard Bank
East London Golf Course	St Francis Links
Express Petroleum	Sumatran Coffee
Goldberg & De Villiers	Sun Boardwalk
Goodyear	Tavcor Motor Group
Grant Wilkinson	The Courier Guy
Investec	Universal Equipment
Jullian Britz	Veldskoek
Kelston Motor Group	Vodacom
Lance Nelson	VWSA
Lumotech	VWSA & Kelston Motor Group
Kromberg & Schubert Eastern Cape	Wedgewood
National Convention Bureau	Welfit Oddy







OLD MUIRITES SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON FOUNDERS' WEEK 2022

Bill Stephens, Class of 1969



Hi Andrew and Wendy. I know that there were many others who worked tirelessly with you both to put together an incredible Founders Week celebration. But you lead the team from the front and delivered way beyond my, and I'm certain many others, expectations.

It was simply outstanding!

I'm at the airport about to fly back to C.T. Can't wait to rub those SACS noses in it!!

Hope you get a chance to put your legs up and chill.

You can be justifiably proud of both the content and manner in which you delivered the week's celebrations. I am a proud Old Muirite.



Joe McDaniel, Class of 1961



Jan and I have only just returned to our home in Colorado after an incredible three week visit to South Africa. The Muir Commemorative Events were exceptionally well done and the highlight of our visit. Imagine our surprise when we arrived at the (city formerly known as...) Port Elizabeth Airport to find posters advertising the 200th Commemorations in the airport baggage claim area and then passing a huge billboard on the road into the city.

The Muir celebration was a memorable week for me, having graduated 61 years ago. So many special memories. But the most important thing is that I have been able to maintain friendships for all those years, despite only seeing old Muir friends about once every two decades, and often failing to recognize them when I did. The school song now sticks in our heads. I regret that we couldn't attend the 62's lunch. The Gala Banquet was amazing and I had a lump in my throat as we walked into the Banquet venue, the way lined with present-day students, all wearing their white 200 Year sashes.

The high standards of Muir College have clearly been maintained for these last 61 years and I am so fortunate and proud to have spent my most formative years there.

The organizers did an amazing job. Wendy was superb in communicating everything so clearly and on such a personal level.

I don't know if I will have the chance to return to Kariega again. Tempus fugit. (Thanks to Snowman for that little bit of Latin) But if this was my last visit, then it certainly couldn't have been more special!

John Thompson, Class of 1963

I just want to take this opportunity to say WELL DONE and THANK YOU to you & your team for the amazing Founders Week / Muir 200-year celebrations.

It was a once in a lifetime event, which I feel very privileged to have been part of. Every event was truly spectacular, very special and professionally done.

I especially appreciated the finer touches like the welcome banner at the airport arrivals hall, which made me feel very special and welcome.

I look forward to seeing you soon for my next big reunion in 2023. Class of '63 turns 60.



Ron Dugmore, Class of 1948



How very privileged I was to be able to be part of the 200-year Celebration of Muir College. Unfortunately, there were no others from my class of '48 to share it with, and of course, the old red brick school building is no longer in use. But there was so much to stimulate my memories of what Muir meant to me –the Assembly, the School Song, the War Cry.

It was good to look back, but even better to look forward, to experience the vibrant atmosphere of the School today, with its wonderful new premises, open to everyone, the pupils immaculately turned out, and obviously very

proud to be part of the Celebration. Charles van Renen in his wonderful History of Muir made me realise that the School is what it is because of the individual contributions of so many people over the past 200 years. To Mr Stephenson, his Staff, the Old Muirite Union and the present Governing Body, thank you for all your hard work to make this Celebration such an unforgettable occasion.

John-Ross Headbush, Class of 2001

From the moment I noticed the social media buzz to the moment we flew into Port Elizabeth Airport, I was overwhelmed with pride and joy seeing my Alma mater's branding.

A founder's week so well organised that other external parties from across the country that witnessed it were truly inspired. This is also what I felt and surely shared with many other Old Muirites.

I took part in the Golf Day and the Gala Dinner and all I can say is that they were both organised at a standard that is second to none. This event truly made me want to participate and contribute more to the school and its activities.

Thank you once again OMU Committee for a well organised event.



Andrew Yeomans, Class of 1983

Muir Rocks the Classics – “Never look back”; “Life’s what you make it, don’t backdate it”.

Since matriculation from Muir in 1983 and completing a B.Pharm, Hons at Rhodes University, I have had the honour of traversing the globe & Muir has taught me to be open to new ideas and never look back, I have lived and worked on 3 continents and in 6 countries, a solid education and lifetime of learning has been my global passport, allowing me to experience amazing cultures and diversity.

My school, University and work ethic has taught me to appreciate that hard and dedicated work brings success and with this, one has so many more opportunities in life. We all make our own destiny, yet we should never be afraid to seek pastures new.

Always seek the best in people and never be drawn into negativity. No matter how great the challenge, one can prosper and prevail, with patience, dedication and a can-do approach.

My recent attendance at the Muir 200 year anniversary celebration allowed me to share life stories with an enlightened and wiser collection of Old Muirites & after nearly 40 years apart, an incredible bond allowed us to connect as if it was yesterday when we were at school together. I cherish many fond memories from our school where my motto in life, which came from a song, is as true now as it was back in the 1980’s – “Life’s what you make it, don’t backdate it.”



Alan Mthokozisi Nyoni, Class of 2004



The very successful Founders' Week Celebrations brought back wonderful memories. It reminded me of how honoured, privileged and blessed I am, to have been and still be part of a school with such a rich history and tradition. This week was made more meaningful by the reconnecting and initiating of relationships with Muirites (Old & New) who have and will continue to add value to my journey in life #BrotherHood #ProudOldMuirite



OMU FOUNDERS' WEEK TROPHY – CLASS OF 1997

Reflections on Muir's 200 Celebration

by **Guy Wates**, Class of '97

I'm writing this as Wendy asked me to give an account on what we did as a class to become the first recipients of the Reunion Attendance Trophy. She was also keen to hear what the reunion meant to the class of 97. This was an easy piece to write as in the lead up to the reunion week, and since, we've discussed this meaning at length in our class WhatsApp group.



When I look at the settings in this WhatsApp group I see we created it on 25 May 2019 in excited anticipation of our 25th class reunion and Muir's big 200. WhatsApp was key to getting a large group from our class to the reunion week. I don't think we'd have had the same engagement via email. It's the frequent interactions that really matter - I think the reunion was more than just the 200. It was about assembling the class to reconnect before, during and after it.

The WhatsApp group slowly grew to its current number of 47. The class did an amazing job to help locate guys and add them over the years. We had 48 to find (Garrick Kunneke had sadly passed away). We managed to find 47 out of the 48 but decided to extend the invitation to guys that had been on their school journey with us but hadn't finished matric with us. We ended up with a total number of 52, with 47 in the WhatsApp group. We still have all 47 in the WhatsApp group.

Leon Loyson had this to say about the reunion: "For me the big thing was even though I didn't attend 8, 9 and 10 at Muir - all you boys made me feel as though I'd matriculated alongside you oakes, played in the same rugby team with you oakes in matric

- been there for everything. I never once was made to feel like an outsider or somebody that didn't finish schooling there (although the majority of my schooling was at College Hill, Muir Junior and Muir Senior). It was just really awesome - the brotherhood - I just find it second to none. I'm extremely proud to be a Muir boy and tell my son about it passionately. He's going to be 11 and if you can instil in your son the same kind of pride and joy that we had as young men at Muir it will go a long way."

Leon rejoining the group was part of a journey for all of us. I guess if I'm honest the journey started back in the 80s and 90s and maybe was just muted in the noughties and the tens. It has been very good to feel part of this journey again. When I set out to track down and organise the reunion, I thought it was going to be a chore. On the contrary, it was organic, natural, unforced and lots of fun! I'd say the key thing was to go "all in" when organising this and make it as fun and relevant to everyone concerned.

Here is a list of things we got up to in the lead up to the big week.

- We made the [class of 97 video](#); with strong connections to our matric mime concert and the school song. I think it's had more views than [AB De Villiers' congratulatory message](#).



- We got involved in other things as much as possible, e.g. the [war cry video](#) featuring a few from our class.
- In the run up to the deadline there was a [Vanilla Ice parody](#) to encourage the guys to book on time. In the week leading up to the deadline there were lots of funny, very relevant memes. A personal favourite - Sharon Stone 200.

- We created a simplified version of the programme that was class specific.
- We distributed lots of WhatsApp messages with reminders of what was happening when and where, some focussed on logistics.
- We shared all the OMU WhatsApp messages and content that came from the OMU with the group. Becoming friends with Wendy was an amazing part of this journey AND it helped a lot to have such close contact. At times it felt like we had a 24/7 support line!
- When chaps were tracked down, we needed to catch them up, so sent personal messages highlighting important things and sharing what we'd done so far.
- For some of the more adminy stuff like "are you coming?", and important information 1:1 messaging (although time consuming) was very effective. Otherwise, a lot of the stuff was lost in the rest of the WhatsApps
- We made sure as many of us sat together at the dinner. We booked the day it opened and 3 from the class put the cash up to ensure this. Collection of payment was a team effort
- And of course we challenged the rest of Muir to "[2 for 200](#)"



names on Milky, others needed encouragement aptly provided by another tequila. Milky is now in Plett on its way to Sedgfield where we hope it will be put on display above a much-loved maths teacher's mantelpiece!

This was just one story from a collection of many from the week we spent together. We don't have enough space in the newsletter to cover it all. The guys who were able to attend had a ball and streamed the week through 1000s of pics on WhatsApp. I hope those that couldn't be there felt close to the event from afar. I think they did as no-one's left the group yet...

Justin Palframan struggles to single out what the week meant to him: "2 or 3 lines could never sum up how wonderful it was to see my brothers of 1997. I can't and won't single out a single moment. The feeling that I all think we felt was the thing for me! The feeling that time has not robbed us of bonds formed all those years ago."

Sthera Magwaca said, "It was amazing to reconnect with the '97 matric class, even though we lost a few of our classmates. To step back after 25 years of leaving Muir College and have that warm embrace was priceless. I thank the guys for reaching out to me. That act of faith was godly. All love and peace to all the Class of '97. Salute to you gents."

I have equally strong feelings when reflecting on the reunion week. The 200 celebration reminded me what a privilege it was to have been schooled in Uitenhage at Muir. I fondly remember leaving through the valedictory gates with a sense of feeling like I was a rich man before I'd have to go out into the world and seek my fortunes. For 25 years I hadn't given that too much thought but being back really made me reflect on this. I came away from the reunion feeling very rich again and for the first time being able to articulate with this means.

I think Muir is an inclusive environment where no silver spoons are given out and hard work is encouraged.

Grant Wilkison, a legal professional known for his brevity,



Involving others in our journey helped with overall engagement. What most outside our class won't know is that the 2 for 200 challenge ended up being in part a tribute to Garrick Kunneke's life. The way this surfaced so organically was very moving for all involved and it was so great to have Grant and Garrick's son represent Garrick by sitting with us at the school assembly and attending our class event at the Barn and Barrel. Late into the night when most other patrons had left this fine establishment an old desk plank called Milky surfaced and was dusted off for one last performance. Milkies were distributed to those wanting their name to appear on Milky. Some didn't hesitate to immortalise their



summed this up when he said, "I've been having a few engagements on the transformation and employment equity front. One thing that I always tell people is that in 1997 in a little Karoo town called Uitenhage, race didn't matter. We were all brothers. For the week that we were together again, 25 years later, it was exactly the same. I know a few of us discussed that it's so sad that after that week we had to go back to the real world where race does matter, and we live in a very polarised society. For one magical week, what was nice was there were no hang ups - it was just lekker. We were back to being brothers. It was far better than I expected, and I know a lot of the guys expected and it was just lekker to see you guys again."

Muir certainly develops a high degree of humility among those that pass through it. This is the richness that I felt all that time ago. It's a great gift to have received as I believe it provides us with the ability to be inclusive, kind and loving. I'm also lucky to have had a group of guys to have shared this journey with. From those old school days, to rekindling relationships - firstly in a WhatsApp group and then in person was very special. Being able to keep this going after the reunion had passed, at least in WhatsApp for now, has been equally special. It's through these (almost daily) interactions, whether they be rememberings of the past, simple jokes to pass the time in the present or more philosophical debates about the future - that one thing is clear. The Muirites I "hang" around with are simply humble oaks. I'd predict that this characteristic isn't specific to one class but pervasive. I experienced evidence of this beyond the class of '97. Whether it is in thinking of my grandfather (class of '35), or in the time spent with my own father that week (class of '70), or in meeting Wates relatives for the first time, or in speaking to past teachers and other Muirites; the humility in the Muir family is a strong leading indicator. It's the great gift Muir gave us and continues to give. We can use it to make the world we live in a better place.

These thoughts are a short summary of a WhatsApp voice note I sent the class after the reunion. Late in the reunion week I'd made a deal with Wayne Kallis that I'd share what the reunion meant to me in exchange for a [cover of Somewhere Out There](#), especially

recorded after the week. It's hard not to think of your Muir brothers when you hear Wayne sing this.

Quite unsurprisingly it turns out Muir talent is everywhere you look. When I asked the class of 97 to send in some anecdotes or thoughts of what the 200 meant to them, Ross Lange sent me this poem he wrote (Mr Hart and Mr Cloete would approve). It was aptly preceded by a picture of him holding up a glass of cratur (from Ireland). To all reading this the class of '97 holds up a "parting glass" to you and your loved ones; until we meet again.

*Young boys left behind what men they became.
A great name to remind, they shared all the same.*

*Laying paths years alone, reunited in glee.
They sang their old school song together you see.*

*Hearts lifted with joy, once again became boy.
Shared laughs over beer and even a tear.*

*No fear in their eye, bar bidding farewell.
To 200 years of the best memories by far.*

Inevitably so, it's Nec Pluribus Impar.





OMU President's Message

Greetings to all Old Muirites as well as the broader Muir family.

What a year it has been! Three years of planning and the Muir family could not be prouder. The incredible turnout from old boys and the media and social media campaign which brought huge coverage and a stream of congratulatory messages from far and wide has made 2022 a year to remember.

Well done to all those who travelled from abroad – there were many highlights for me – but one of them must be the Assembly procession in which Old Muirite representatives from 24 countries carried the flag of the country in which they now live. Goosebump stuff.

The photo collage of the 2022 Founder's Week in this Edition is a summary of the Muir College 200 year celebrations – please do also visit the OMU page on www.muircollege.co.za where all photos and videos – from the build-up, during and post the celebrations are loaded. Thank you to the many old boys who indulged their alma mater and our requests to participate in promo videos – these are all listed on the website – feel free to view and share on your social media platforms – they are all brilliant.

Thank you too to all old boys who shared their feedback – this has been collated into a Report- with the link also in this Edition.

A big congratulations to the Class of 1997 – the first recipients of the OMU Annual Reunion Class Award for the best attendance. A new tradition has been started in Muir College's 200th year and the OMU's 103 year of existence.

The Union is indebted to OMU Manager, **Wendy Knott-Craig**,

who mostly behind the scenes kept things together and without whom the 200 Year celebrations would not have been possible. Thank you, Wendy. A huge thank you too to School Headmaster, **Robin Stephenson** and all staff for hosting us on the campus – an extended Founder's period meant a lot more work – but all efforts were much appreciated.

Many individuals have been asking "What's next?" – well – it's a good question to ask – and rest assured, the Old Muirite Union, together with the school and the Muir Foundation have some big plans going forward and these will be shared soon. All ideas and suggestions are appreciated – so keep these coming too.

School Headmaster Robin Stephenson has announced his retirement and we wish him and the family well as they plan for the next chapter in their lives. The OMU has worked well with Robin and the Muir College Team since his arrival at Muir and are appreciative of his support and participation on the OMU Committee.

Our sincere condolences to past OMU President, Ian Krain and family on the passing of Ian's son Ewan, Class of 1996. The Union's thoughts & prayers are with you.

All the best for the remainder of the year and thank you for supporting your alma mater in the work it does to network old boys with each other and support Muir College.

Nec Pluribus Impar

Andrew Binning

Old Muirite Union President



Headmaster's Message

It gives me great pleasure to report on an amazing term.

When one reflects on our incredible Founders' Week, we can only conclude that we witnessed something special.

On behalf of the College, I extend a warm thanks to Andrew Binning and his OMU Committee, members of the Muir Foundation and numerous Old Muirites who contributed to the success of the week. A special thanks to Wendy and her team for all the administrative work. Thanks also to everyone for sacrificing so much to come to visit their alma mater. It meant a lot to the boys, staff and parents.

Clearly, we need to build on the momentum created and I sincerely hope that we will maintain a positive attitude towards the future.

On the sporting front, we had some notable achievements. At the Hirsch Shield, for example, the 100m race was won by our own Isa Marola – no mean achievement. Overall, the rugby season went well, while our cricketers have had mixed success. A positive development has been the improvement of our Primary cricket teams, as well as the parent support, which I am very happy about. I am also pleased to announce that Liam van Aardt and Sachin Cornelius have been selected for the EP u13 team.

We are preparing for the Prize Giving and the Valedictory Service, where the OMU will once again be very much involved. After that, the focus will be on the exams.

Finally, I wish you and your loved ones well as you move towards the end of the year. Thank you again for your support of our great school.

Robin Stephenson

Muir College Headmaster

In conversation with ... Basil Blumrick

(Muir Headmaster, 1993 – 1997)

Basil Blumrick led Muir College through two major transitions: the re-unification of the primary and secondary schools, and the administrative changes that followed close on the heels of the 1994 democratic elections in South Africa.



Basil was born in Butterworth in 1943. His parents owned the general dealer's store in the small village of Kentani, where the young Basil was one of only 20 pupils at the local primary school which, like the Uitenhage Free School 200 years ago, had only one teacher. Living next door to the school, Basil could hop over the fence when the school bell rang each morning to join his classmate (in a class of only two!) wearing only a khaki shirt and shorts – footwear was not compulsory.

He later enrolled at Butterworth High School where he was a boarder, excelled in athletics, cross country, rugby and cricket, and was a hostel and school prefect. It was there that he met his future wife, Helen Smith, two years his junior. He loved the outdoors, and during his holidays he spent time fishing on the Wild Coast with his dad.

After matriculating in 1960, Basil went to Rhodes University where he majored in Geography and History, participated in cross country, played scrumhalf for the 1st XV, captained the EP Midlands U/20 XV and played for the EP "PUGs" (Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage-Grahamstown XV) against the Natal Duikers.

Armed with a University Education Diploma and a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in Geography, Basil joined the staff of Cambridge High School in East London, where he taught Social Studies (History & Geography) and English, coached rugby, cricket and athletics, and was involved in cadets. He also became a member of the Cambridge 1st XV, represented Border for three seasons during which he played against France in 1967, and somehow found time to woo and marry Helen, who had become a qualified nursing sister & midwife.

Asked why he chose to become a teacher, Basil responds, 'I enjoyed working with young people and knowing I'd helped them to become the best versions of themselves. I recall meeting a past pupil of mine at a Selborne reunion function and he introduced me to his wife. She asked him what I'd taught him and he replied, "He taught me how to think." Goal achieved!'

In 1969 Basil moved to Selborne College to teach Geography, History, English, Vocational Guidance and Youth Preparedness, while studying part-time for a postgraduate degree at Rhodes. He was awarded his BED in 1972 and thereafter rose through the ranks to become Deputy Headmaster, and for several years was also the Geography examiner for the Cape Senior Certificate. His extramural involvement included rugby (coaching the First XV from 1973 to 1979, and the Border Schools' Craven Week Team), cadets (as commanding officer, in charge of the Founders' Day Ceremonies, the Ceremony of the Key and the Retreat), tennis, cricket and cross country. Old Muirite Max Norman (Muir Class of '71), who has recently retired from Selborne after a 42-year career teaching maths, recalls that Basil was a much-valued and admired colleague, and was a stickler for accuracy.

In July 1993 Basil Blumrick was appointed Headmaster of the oldest boys' high school in South Africa, Muir College. Although he didn't teach any examinable subjects at Muir, he taught Youth Preparedness to the Matric classes to maintain contact with the senior boys, and he coached junior rugby.

As Charles van Renen puts it in *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*, 'Apart from the usual educational priorities, Blumrick emphasised awareness about reaching out to the less privileged and the value of courtesy, self-discipline, love of reading and the pursuit of knowledge ...'. The same book mentions that it was during Basil's tenure at Muir that a decision was taken to disestablish Cadet Detachment No 29 at the end of 1994 due to 'political sensitivities at a local level with the dawning of a new South Africa ...'. By the time he left Muir, 'Basil Blumrick had played a vital role in steering Muir College through some broad and momentous changes and challenges', and '... through his determined focus, he was able to leave a tidy ship for his successor.'

Basil continues to believe in Muir as 'a fine, traditional boys' school, with a very proud history, a committed staff and very supportive parents.' Asked to list the most defining characteristics of the school, Basil identifies 'respectfulness, consideration and general decorum of the young men attending Muir. They were incredibly proud of their school.'

He considers his greatest challenge while he was Headmaster of Muir to have been the amalgamation of the senior and junior schools, and he vividly recalls a road trip to Cape Town in the company of Peter Ramsbottom, Chairman of the Governing Body, and Winston Riggs, Governing Body Member, to meet with the Cape Superintendent General of Education to finalise the move of Muir Primary School to Vanes Estate.

Unfortunately the transfer of the Education Department to Bisho after 1994 meant that it took much longer for decisions to be made and implemented, and the frustration Basil endured with the Department's inefficient administration contributed to his decision to take early retirement 1997. Nevertheless, he pays tribute to the Education Department's District Manager for Uitenhage, Mr Elliot Kani, who was very supportive.

Basil cherishes his memories of the camaraderie and spirit of Old Muirite reunion weekends, the annual 'Operations' involving staff and boys, the tremendous spirit generated by the Muir 175 celebration and his close working relationship with the heads of local high schools – Natalie Stear of Riebeek College, Deon Goosen of Hoërskool Brandwag and Peet Vermaak of Daniel Pienaar Technical High. (Peet's wife, Cheryl, was the music teacher at Muir where their son, Pierre, was a pupil.) A young man who made a lasting impression on him was Mandla Busakwe who was in the 1st XV, represented the EP schools' rugby team as a front ranker and was a member of the SA U/19 Rugby Academy; Mandla was also a talented member of the Eastern Province Youth Choir and the College choir, where he was often a solo vocalist.

Asked about memorable staff members, he mentions Barry Buckley who was much admired by staff and pupils alike, and adds, 'Alan Whitehead, my vice-principal, was a fantastic sounding board; having been both a pupil and a longstanding staff member, he was aware of the traditions that are a part of the Muir history. Bun Hopley (assisted by his wife Shelley) was the head of the hostel. He ran a tight ship and I knew that he could be relied upon to keep order amongst the hostel boys, while providing a "home away from home". Baby Ferreira (wife of Tom), was my ever dependable school secretary, for whom nothing was too much.'

He lists among his achievements at Muir the creation of the very active "MoM's" (Mothers of Muir) Group, ably led by Mrs Madelaine Mantell, that undertook catering for visiting teams, relieving the school's lady teachers of this responsibility, and also the introduction of a staff development programme and a weekly test programme for the pupils. 'These, I believe, contributed greatly to the success of the Matrics in the future 100% pass rate from 1994 to 1996.'

Basil highlights the supportive role that his wife, Helen, played while he was Headmaster. In addition to her assisting at a pre-primary school in the town (where her being fluent in the Xhosa language was a huge advantage), she not only hosted staff gatherings and visiting guests, but also attended all social, sporting and academic functions at the College. In the process she established close friendships with several parents, with some of whom she is still in contact 25 years later.

Like his predecessor and his successor, Basil remained an active sportsman throughout his professional career. He was a founder member of the Oxford Striders in East London, he represented Border Veterans at the SA Championships in the marathon, half-marathon, 15km and cross country events, he completed two Comrades marathons and he participated in 16 Two Oceans Marathons – the last one in Old Muirite colours.

Wishing to provide support and encouragement to their children and grandchildren, all of whom had relocated to the Western Cape, Basil and Helen retired to Somerset West where daughters Michelle and Belinda both teach at Beaumont Primary School, and son Craig, an Old Selbornian, lives nearby. Basil soon became a trustee (and, later, chairman) of the sectional title complex in which he and Helen live. He also joined the Somerset West Probus Club, played golf (until his shoulder rebelled), and remains actively involved in the Helderberg Bowls Club as a player, selector and member of the greens committee. Through his involvement in bowls, he has encountered several Old Muirites, including Bruce Scott and Aubrey Nell.

Basil says that one of his greatest regrets in relation to Muir is 'that I wasn't part of this special educational institution for a longer period of time.'

Written by Rob Sharman – Class of '71

(For more detail on the Blumrick era, see Charles van Renen's bicentenary commemorative book, *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*, currently available from the School.)

BLUE HERITAGE PLAQUE FOR MUIR COLLEGE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

During Founders' Day Assembly, Ms Sigi Howes (Coordinator: Blue Plaque Schools Project) awarded Muir College Boys' High with a Blue Heritage Plaque. This Blue Plaque Schools Project is supported by the Heritage Association of South Africa

There are 6 categories for the awards and Muir College qualified in the category: **Age of the School**. The only criteria for this category is that the school must be over 125 years old, and must be able to substantiate this in a brief motivation by the school. There is no selection process, only an application by the school, whereafter an Adjudication Panel will consider the merits – in the case of Muir College, the adjudication was done by the Historical Society of Port Elizabeth, in consultation with Ms Howes.

Since this project's inception in 2015, fifty five schools in the Western Cape have been awarded the Blue Plaque and one in the Eastern Cape, namely Muir College Boys' High School. Two Blue Plaques have been awarded to schools that no longer exist but made an important contribution to education. These 2 schools are: a school chapel in Constantia, Cape Town, as well as the Old Grammar School in Port Elizabeth.

Another category that Blue Plaques have been awarded in is **Survival under Difficult Circumstances**. Several Schools in Cape Town that were active during the Struggle for Freedom and in the school boycotts of the 1970s and 1980s have received plaques in this category. One school in Swellendam has received a plaque for surviving the Forced Removals under the Group Areas Act.



The balance of the categories include:

1. An architecturally significant building
2. A past learner or educator who has distinguished themselves (must no longer be alive)
3. The school's particular exceptional service to the community. This award is not easily made.
4. A school that has closed but nevertheless played a significant role in education.

The Blue Plaque Schools Project is run on a shoestring budget and the sniff of an oil rag. There is no staff allocated to this and there are no funds to sponsor Blue Plaques for schools – they have to pay for the plaque themselves, although a heritage body will pay for the plaque when requested. This was the case of Muir College as it was a special occasion given that the school turned 200 years. The plaques cost between R2000 and R3000, excluding transportation.

TALKING RUGBY

DID YOU KNOW?

Written by **Charles van Renen**, Class of 1963

On Saturday, September 16, 1893, the Grey Institute won a match against the Muir Academy of Uitenhage in a curtain-raiser on the PE Cricket ground. The report on this match was the first known reference to competitive rugby at Muir, so Grey became Muir's earliest rival in this sport.



Rugby was played on the Swifts Football Club junior ground, described as 'an old dirt track'. From 1937 a proper playing field was at last available. Muir's rugby fortunes improved greatly in the following decade. The first XV of 1944, coached by Ben Raubenheimer (pictured in sketch), was unbeaten. In a match against Grey that year, matters were so tense that one spectator was reported to have suffered a heart attack as Tren Robey kicked a dropped goal to clinch the game for Muir in the dying moments. Muir ended the 1945 season top of the log. In 1947 and 1948 Muir were joint log leaders with Grey, and in 1950 recorded two good wins against Grey 'A'.

In 1961 Neville Meyer (pictured in sketch) became the first in a line of scrum-halves from Muir to represent EP Schools/EP Craven Week. Sports columnist Stan Terblanche noted in 1983 that Meyer was followed by Ian Krain, Theo Swanepoel, Brent Robey, Garth Wright (future Springbok) and Gary Niemand. In just the next nine years another four achieved this distinction: Eddie Baker, Wayne Venter, Shaun Wright and Zarrin Zehmke.



1963 saw a one-off in Muir rugby: the only match ever played by Muir's first XV in a home game against Grey College from Bloemfontein, which ended in a 6-6 draw (pictured).

Muir rugby in the 1990s and beyond has produced numerous achievements at representative level. Many of these are detailed in the Muir 200 Commemorative book Shout Till the Rafters Ring.



Mandla Busakwe,
SA Schools Rugby
Academy 1996



Sicelo Tole,
SA Schools vs England, Italy
and Wales 2016



Kudzwai Dube,
EP Schools 2017,
SA U/20 World Cup 2019,
Blue Bulls U/21 captain 2020

Stop press: Lyle Meintjies and Oyintando Maseti were selected for the 2022 EP Craven Week team.

MUIR RUGBY ANTHEM

by Jacques Botha, Class of 1991



Most Old Boys would not have heard the **rugby anthem** before.

("Men of Muir our flag is flying high, the Rampant Lion ...")

I was teaching at Muir College when Brenton Krain penned these words to the French national anthem when he was in Standard 9 (grade 11) in 1999.

In context: I had been teaching at Queen's College in '96 and '97 and at the time Queen's adopted the Welsh hymn re-write (Do you hear the kudu roar? ... with a piano carried to the grandstand to teach the boys on site; I believe that Mr Crawford had a hand in the lyrics) and Selborne used the Irish sports anthem (... together, standing strong). I may be biased, but the words penned by Brenton are really good ... the original is, of course, not even in English!



Click here to watch the Muir College Rugby Anthem

<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/video-gallery-200-year-videos/>

Rugby Article as Featured in the August Edition of the SA Rugby Magazine

SA RUGBY MAG.CO.ZA

Written by Robert Sharman, Class of 1971

MUIR COLLEGE, 1822 - 2022

The spirit and reputation of many a prominent school are closely linked to sporting traditions, and in South Africa it is rugby that rules the roost at most traditional boys' schools.

It is therefore not surprising that a **schools' rugby festival** is to be included in the activities associated with the **bicentenary celebrations of Muir College**, the oldest boys' high school in Southern Africa.

Although outdoor games were probably included in the school's curriculum from the earliest years, Muir's rugby legacy dates back to 16 September 1893, when the Muir Academy played the Grey Institute in the first official match for either school, on the "Port Elizabeth cricket ground".



Muir's historic First XV in 1923 after rugby was reintroduced

At that time there were not many schools in the Eastern Cape that could field a rugby team, and there were no school leagues, so the Muir First XV played in the open leagues, against grown men. In spite of the challenges, in 1931 the team recorded nine wins and two draws in 14 matches, showing that Muir College rugby had finally arrived.

In 1981 an Old Boy recalled that in the early 1930s the school's rugby field was 'an old dirt track' behind the Swifts Rugby Club. Owing to the sparseness of grass, 'We played in clouds of black dust that made us look like coal-miners on a dry day and like tarred and feathered specimens in wet weather.' And yet, 'it was surprising how many provincial and senior players learned their basic skills there.'

In 1937 Muir College inaugurated its own full-sized (and fully-grassed!) field with a pavilion, in what was to become a large sports complex. Having its own fields near the school seems to have paid dividends, and in 1940 Muir, now playing in formal school leagues, was able to notch up First XV victories against both Grey and Kingswood. The team was unbeaten in 1944, emerged top of the log in 1945, and was the joint log leader with Grey in 1947 and 1948. Two years later, it was the fate of Graeme College, PE Marist, Pearson, Union High, St Andrews and Grey to lose to the Muir – the last on three separate occasions in the same year!



Muir on the charge past Grey in a recent U16 match

Unfortunately, rugby failed to gain a permanent foothold at either school. According to the Grey High School website, "By 1897 Grey were entered into the men's third league, but then went into the doldrums as Association Football or Soccer enjoyed prominence until 1908." Likewise, after a promising start, rugby gave way to soccer at Muir in 1897 when Jock Sutherland became headmaster, and it was only when his successor, FH Barnes, took the reins in 1923 that rugby returned to 'the Muir'.

In 'A Brief History of Rugby at Muir College' in the 1999 school magazine, there is a reference to the unbeaten Muir 1st XV of 1944: 'According to reports the situation was so tense in the dying stages of the game against Grey that one of the spectators was said to have had a heart attack as Tren Robey put over a dropped goal (then worth 4 points) with less than a minute to play to clinch the game for Muir.'

Although Muir College is somewhat smaller than its traditional rivals, as a boarding school it has attracted many a farmer's son – good stock upon which coaches could build.

While much of the public focus has been on First XV successes over the years, today Muir College regularly fields fifteen teams from Under 11 upwards, with players in the junior ranks honing their skills, inspired by the performances of their elders.

As a school with a proud rugby tradition, often punching above its weight, Muir has a proud record of success, with significantly more wins than losses in almost every season since records began. This achievement has, however, been based upon joint effort typified by fierce enthusiasm and team spirit, rather than the prowess of individual players.



*Fred Smollan,
1933 Springbok flanker*

The first former Muirite to play international rugby faced the visiting Australians in all three test matches in 1933. Uitenhage-born Fred Smollan received his primary education at Muir College and completed his schooling at Grey, and his appearance in a Springbok jersey was a source of great pride for both schools.

Shortly after the Second World War, rugby journalist Mel Channer, at that time in the RAF, was twice selected to play for England, but the school had a long wait until 1986 to see another Old Muirite in a Springbok jersey.



Old Muirite Garth Wright in green and gold (Getty Images)

Springbok Garth Wright was one of a remarkable number of top-rate scrumhalves to come out of Muir College. In 1983 *Weekend Post* columnist Stan Terblanche commented on Muir's propensity for producing provincial scrumhalves. "It seems that Muir College has some sort of machine which is capable of producing scrumhalves of quality," he said, listing six who had represented EP Schools since 1961. Over the following decade, four more were added to that list.

The school magazine of 1947 reported that Muir's School Dux of 1899 (at the age of 15), AJ 'Sport' Pienaar, 'now holds the double portfolio of President of the South African Rugby Board and also of the South African Cricket Union.' Later generations of Muirites were to become familiar with the Sport Pienaar rugby competition in South Africa. Pienaar's 26-year tenure at the helm of South African rugby was eventually surpassed by former Springbok scrumhalf, Dr Danie Craven.



Muir College on the warpath

While the school's moves to 'Model B' in 1992 and Model C' the following year have inevitably led to changes, not least of which has been its current semi-private (and only partially state-funded) status, the school's traditional ethos and air of pride and respect that typified the Muir over many generations are firmly entrenched on the new campus with its vast array of sport fields and other facilities overlooking the entire town.



Sicelo Tole in action for the First XV

Over the years, numerous Muir College players have been selected to represent Eastern Province schools at various levels, and many have gone on to wear the senior EP jersey or to represent other provinces.

In 2016 Muir College's Sicelo Tole was chosen to represent South African Schools A against England, Italy and Wales, and in the following year Kudzwai Dube was selected to represent Eastern Province at U18 level. Two years later Dube represented SA at the 2019 U20 World Cup in Argentina.



Kudzwai Dube, who matriculated at Muir College in 2017, played for South Africa U20 in the 2019 World Cup in Argentina and captained the Blue Bulls U21 team in 2020. He is currently playing for Griquas.

Lyle Meintjies and Oyintando Maseti were selected for the 2022 EP Craven Week Team.



Lyle Meintjies flanked by EP U18 Academy players Ntandazo Mboniswa and Oyintando Maseti

After the disruption of sporting activities at schools during the 2020/21 Covid-19 pandemic, normal rugby activity has returned to the Eastern Cape. Indications are that the game has been fully resuscitated at Muir College, with the First XV notching up five wins in its first seven matches in 2022.

Current master-in-charge of rugby, Lyntin Gouws, having commenced his coaching career at Muir College while still a student more than 20 years ago, is today concentrating on the junior players to strengthen the foundation of Muir's rugby future, while director of sport Gert van Wyk focuses on the seniors.

Muir College can not only look back on its 200-year history with some satisfaction, but the school's twelve current rugby coaches can draw inspiration from the achievements of their legendary predecessors Ben Raubenheimer and Tom Ferreira who found that coaching rugby was a rewarding addition to their teaching and other responsibilities as schoolmasters at 'The Muir'. (Largely adapted from *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*, the recently-published history of the school, written by Charles van Renen.)



A study in concentration: the future of Muir College rugby.



Lyle Meintjies and Oyintando Maseti, flanked by Ernie Trennery and Headmaster, Robin Stephenson



Muir College v Brandwag, 2022

OMU 200 YEAR GIFT TO MUIR COLLEGE

The OMU wanted to donate something unique to the school on its Bicentennial celebrations. The idea is that the structure will remind current learners and teachers of the world out there and the fact that boys who matriculate at Muir College end up in all sorts of occupations and careers globally, taking the good name of the Muir with them. Do not be afraid to think big, think global and go and make a difference wherever you may be.

Mosaic structure

The base of the structure, which is a beautiful mosaic depicting South Africa, Muir College and 200 years, was commissioned and installed by Natalie Stroberg of Mosaic 4 Africa, located in Gqeberha for the past 15 years.



Natalie was approached by OMU President, Andrew Binning, early in June to run with the project. The brief was discussed and the final design was proposed incorporating the various elements briefed. She was given 2 weeks to measure the area, scale the various elements to size, tile and install as the installation could only be done once the basework and pole were completed, thus the tight timeline.

Approximately 7 days of 10 to 12 hours a day, were spent in studio preparing the pieces, cutting and doing what could be done indoors. The actual onsite installation took 4 days with terrible weather conditions (cold and windy), with Natalie working on her hands, knees and bum as each piece had to be cut to size and then stuck in place. For the final 2 days Natalie was struggling to walk and was on painkillers but "I had my earphones and music and a happy attitude, which pulled me through."

"I loved the project! It was such an honour to be selected for this and loved incorporating various elements and design styles to highlight certain areas. Thank you for choosing Mosaic 4 Africa."

Approximately 44 sheets of tiles were used, which amounts to about 6 000 individual tiles.



Directional Sign

Meco Engineering cc, in Uitenhage, were the suppliers of the directional signage part of this project. This business is owned by Paula Ferreira's husband and his business partner. Paula is the current PTA Chairlady at Muir College and has a lot vested in the school.



The material that they chose for this project was stainless steel & laser cutting to ensure that the sign post lasts another 200 years.

Because this sign post was extremely heavy it was quite an engineering process as it needed to be properly anchored into a reinforced concrete base to withstand all weather conditions. The upright post is designed to pivot down for easy maintenance.

Meco Engineering is very passionate about Muir College and they enjoy sponsoring various rugby teams and school activities.



TRAVELLING FAR & WIDE – FRANK HELLMAN

Frank Hellmann (Class of 1979) and his wife, Eli, have lived in Germany for many years. At the beginning of 2022 they both decided to give up their professional careers in order to travel around the world in a VW Camper Van.

In April they started their trip in Germany and have no end date nor destination. Their route has taken them from the European mainland to Iceland. After 3 months in Iceland, the camper van was shipped from Reykjavik, by container, to Halifax in Canada, arriving early in September.

They would like to travel through Alaska, Canada, the USA and Mexico, but it depends on how they feel. They might even continue travelling to South America as well.

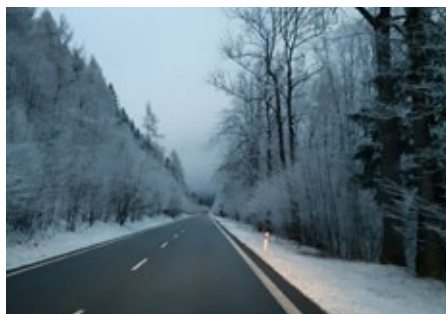
Frank & Eli did something similar in 1991/1992 when they travelled from Europe through Africa to South Africa, by road, in a VW Combi.

Please feel free to follow their trip via their blog: www.eway24.de

The blog is in German but does have an English button. The photographs will make you wish you were with them.



one click on the map and our current route can be seen in detail



HERITAGE DAY FUN

Heritage Day falls on 24 September each year in South Africa and is also known as National Braai Day.

This year the Old Muirite Union in the Nelson Mandela Bay area hosted a fun day at the Walmer Golf Course for Old Muirites in the region.

A very serious game of golf between the Old Muirites and the Streso Allstars took place, with the Old Muirite team, lead by Ryan Truelove (Class of 1998) taking the win.



The golf was followed by an evening of braai'ing and supporting the Springboks as they took on Argentina.



The Old Muirite Rugby Legends Manager, Robert Blignault (Class of 1977) and Assistant Manager, Eric Tuck (Class of 1975), facilitated for their jerseys as well as Garth Wright (Class of 1981) and Darron Nell (Class of 1998) jerseys to be framed. Thanks to Garth for doing the framing of these jerseys. This is another piece of history that can be added to the Muir College story.

Accepting the frame on behalf of Muir College is Headmaster, Robin Stephenson, watched on by OMU President, Andrew Binning (Class of 1988) and Vice President, George Yerolemou (Class of 1987).



Streso All Stars

The Streso All Stars was started in 1970 by Godfrey Streso, former teacher of Muir College Junior School. Mr Streso wanted to start an Old Boys' Golf team to play against Muir's second team on an annual basis, during Founders' Week. In order to become a member of this golfing team, you need to be invited by the Captain based on the following traits and values: sportsmanship, camaraderie, strong Old Boy ethos and the ability to have fun and consume a beer or two.

There have only been four captains in the past 52 years, namely: Godfrey Streso (30 years), Brian McNicoll (5 years), Mervyn Niemand (2 years) and Joel Katz (15 years & current Captain)



BRAKING FOR NOTHING

Gus van der Leij, class of 1964, sent the following article to us and we thought we would share it with you:



I am an old Muirite, class of 1964, and deputy head prefect of N C Dugmore Hostel.

I failed English in my Matric year and went back to N C Dugmore hostel to attend English class and passed with a B.

I was called up to go to the army in 1963 but I was in std 9 (grade 11) so could not go. I wasn't called up in Matric, but instead went to Rhodes University to study medicine and then to Cape Town University to continue. Unfortunately my parents could not afford for both my brother and I to attend university, so I went for an aptitude test and Medical was not on the chart at all. I then applied for a Technician training program at Ford and never looked back.

I joined Ford Motor Company as a trainee Technician for 4 years, working in the Engine plant, then continued going to CATE in Summerstand 4 nights a week after work, for 12 years. I eventually became a Full Member of the South African Institute of Mechanical Engineers, which is the same as a BSc Mechanical Engineer.

After 14 years, Ford decided to move to Pretoria, and I was employed by ATE Brake Systems in Boksburg and was there until I retired in 2014. I was the Product Engineering manager for 34 years, responsible for brake design, first on a drawing board and then on Auto Cad 2D. A company from Australia approached me to design a brake system for a trailer using disc brakes and a mechanical handbrake. I delivered and the system was approved by SABS, ATE Germany, Australia and New Zealand. I also designed 4 pot racing calipers Halo, plus many more items. I became the only person in South Africa who could design a complete brake system for motor cars and trailer on the road and racing cars and have them approved by SABS, ATE Frankfurt, Australia and New Zealand.

My years at Muir College groomed me to become the person I am today.



PROF. JUSTIN JONAS ON CAMPUS:

"From Muir to MeerKAT"

As part of the 200 Year Celebrations, Muir College was incredibly privileged to host old Muirite, Professor Justin Jonas (Class of 1975), Chief Technologist: SARA0, Professor & Director: RATT, Rhodes University earlier this year.

Over 100 Science learners from across the Nelson Mandel Bay Metro attended the lecture titled; "From Muir to MeerKAT" where they were taken through his journey to being a leader in his field.



Justin was educated at Muir College and Rhodes University with all his degrees being obtained at Rhodes, culminating in a PhD in Radio Astronomy in 1999. During his master's degree, he mapped part of the southern sky using what was South Africa's only major radio telescope at Hartebeesthoek. "I steadily carried on mapping the sky for my PhD, recording the Milky Way's radio-emissions. Although I could have obtained a PhD theses within three years, I elected instead to do a complete survey of the southern sky, which took 15 years." This data has been used extensively by radio-astronomers globally.



Prof Jonas has been very instrumental in researching, motivating and building the MeerKAT, which is a group of 64 dishes equipped with highly sensitive receivers and is streaming data to the world. "Few other telescopes in the world have been turned on at their inauguration, let alone delivered a fantastic image of the galactic centre," says Jonas.

To read more about this fantastic instrument and Prof Justin Jonas's career, please follow this link

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-08-17-eavesdropping-on-the-sky-the-backstory-of-meerkat-and-ska/>



HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT

The Honorary Life Vice President title is bestowed on an Old Muirite who has been out of school for at least 30 years and actively involved in the OMU for at least 20 years. The OMU Committee identifies and votes on candidates, who are then announced at the AGM.

This year we awarded 2 such awards to Old Muirites: **Riaan Claassen** and **George Yerolemou**, both from the Class of 1987.

RIAAN CLAASSEN



Riaan became involved in the OMU in about 1993, i.e. 6 years after matriculating and after completing his studies at UPE (now known as Nelson Mandela University). He started off on the PE Committee under his mentor Alan Giese, organising many OMU functions over the years. Thereafter he joined the Mother Union as a PE Representative and then served as a general committee member for many years. Between 2013 and 2018 Riaan took a break and was convinced to join the committee by the current President, Andrew Binning, with the eye on the 200 year celebrations. Riaan is currently on the Executive Committee of the OMU as well as a Board Member of The Muir Foundation.

Claassen's highlights of being on the OMU Committee is serving under several amazing leaders, like Godfrey Streso, Winston Riggs, Ian Krain, Ivan Beaumont, Ricky Wederburn... to name a few. Other highlights include the successful annual Golf Days where Riaan, along with Alan Giese, had to source 120 prizes. The Annual Gala Dinners and being part of the formation of the Muir Striders Running Club in the nineties also feature highly with Riaan, and not to mention this year's 200 Year Celebrations.

A lowlight was the 5 "dark years" of the OMU, between 2013 and 2018, as it grappled with survival.

A fond memory that Riaan has from his school days was being the first matric class in the new school building and the transfer of the values and traditions from the Red Brick building. And of course, being part of the last First XV Rugby team to beat Grey High school in 1986.

GEORGE YEROLEMOU



George's involvement in the OMU started in 1989, 2 years after matriculating. He was the "youngster" on the committee, while also studying at UPE (Nelson Mandela University).

George is currently the Vice Chair of the OMU Committee as well as a member of the Executive Committee and a Board Member of The Muir Foundation.

Yerolemou's highlight over the past 33 years has to be the 200 year celebrations this year. He also loves watching Old Boys come back each year at Founders' Ceremony, or the Dinner, and not recognising each other at first and the expression on their faces. As Riaan has mentioned above, George has fond memories of being around the legends of Muir College in the 1990's and realising that Muir and the OMU is more of a community organisation than just an Old Boys' association.

George's lowlight during this time was the 5 years that Riaan mentioned, when the OMU struggled with minimum support and capacity and could not provide adequate activities to the members.

A school memory (may be not so fond) is being dropped into the drain by the Matrics in 1983, at the old school Matric fields, as part of initiation. He was at the bottom of the pile and being claustrophobic with cockroaches running over him in the dark, was a memory he won't forget easily.

Being the first Matrics in the new school in 1987 was challenging as they had to get the gees going in the new building, a building that didn't hold the same memories as the old one. But the awesome Matric class led the school during this transition.

SOLAR PANEL PROJECT



In April 2021 the Muir Foundation launched the Solar Panel project for Muir College. This project entailed the purchasing and installation of solar panels on the school roof, with The Muir Foundation selling off these panels to Old Muirites, to classes, to companies, etc.

To date 264 of the solar panels have been sold. We would like to thank all the individuals, the classes and companies that purchased panels between April 2021 and June 2022. A plaque has been erected in the school's foyer listing the classes and individual names.



WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

We would like to remember Old Muirites and Friends of Muir who have passed away since April 2021. Our condolences go to their family, friends and loved ones.

If you hear of a classmate who has passed on, please contact Wendy Knott-Craig (oldmuiriteunion@gmail.com) with the information.

Theodore Donald
1954

Colin Hartman
1955

John Millson
1959

Roy Shamley
1960

Christopher Abbott
1961

David Hayes
1962

Christian Venter
1963

Dave Cooper
1963

Bruce Gillmer
1964

Clive Shamley
1964

Lionel Prinsloo
1965

Richard Hargreaves
1966

Rowan Swinnerton
1966

Allen Schultz
1983

Carl Hahn
1987

Wayne Venter
1987

Ewan Krain
1996

Thulisa Ncholu
2003

Nkosi Yamntu Gawe
2015

Keegan Stokes
2015

Abongile Kula
2016

Bunny Seaford

Neville Niemand

BACK PAGE

Message from the OMU Manager

Founders' Week has come and gone! Wow!!! What a week. I met so many wonderful Old Muirites and their families and would like to thank all of you for making me feel so special and welcome in a "man's environment".

2023 Founders' Week

A date has not yet been set for this event, but we are looking at pushing it out to the middle of the year vs the usual month of March. The purpose is to continue with the new tradition of a very successful Rugby Festival.

The classes that are celebrating their milestone reunions in 2023 are:

Year	Class	Class Rep
10 Year	Class of 2013	Brent Vermaak
20 Year	Class of 2003	Craig Ross
25 Year	Class of 1998	Lyntin Gouws Robbie Scheepers
30 Year	Class of 1993	Patrick Cawood
35Year	Class of 1988	Andrew Binning Joel Katz Mark Bakker
40 Year	Class of 1983	Jurie Swart Robert Meihuizen
50 Year	Class of 1973	Arnold Niemand
55 Year	Class of 1968	Lloyd Thomson
60 Year	Class of 1963	To be confirmed
70 Year	Class of 1953	Wendy Knott-Craig

We look forward to seeing all of you in 2023.

Future Get Togethers

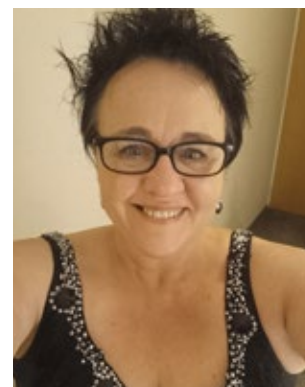
Following on from the 200 Year Celebrations, we would like to continue hosting regular get togethers for Old Muirites in various centres. Watch out for communication via our usual channels:

- Email (bulk emails are sent out via our online system, Alumnet)
- Facebook (Old Muirite Union – OMU)
- Instagram (Old Muirite Union)

Photos, Videos, DVDs.....

Don't forget to log onto our website to enjoy the photos from Founders' Week

- www.muircollege.co.za go to Old Muirite Union and then to Founders' Week 2022 – on the left of the page is a list of each event, click there to enjoy the photos (<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/200-years-founders-week/>)



We have also loaded a lot of videos that were posted on social media building up to Founders' week. These are on the same page as the photos above – on the left of the page, towards the bottom of the page, you will find the videos.

And finally, there are 3 feature videos from Founders' Week:

- 2 minutes
- 18 minutes
- 1 hour 20 minutes

These can be found on www.muircollege.co.za – go to Old Muirite Union, then click on “About OMU” and click on “Oldest Boys School in SA” (<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/oldest-boys-high-school-in-south-africa/>)

Happy watching

Founders' Week Feedback Report

The Old Muirite Union has put together a lengthy document with the feedback from Founders' Week 2022.

Go to www.muircollege.co.za, to Old Muirite Union, Founders' Week 2022 and just above the Siya E'Khaya video is a “click here to read the full Feedback Report...”

<https://muircollege.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FEEDBACK-REPORT-MUIR-200-YEARS-FOUNDERS-WEEK-1.pdf>

Next Newsletter

Don't forget, if you have any information you'd like to share with the OMU, or articles you'd like featured in the Newsletter, please do get in touch with me.

Thanks gents..... till next time

CONTACT DETAILS:

For any queries, please contact

Old Muirite Union Manager:

Wendy Knott-Craig

Email: oldmuiriteunion@gmail.com

Cell : +27 (0)76 355 2171

Old Muirite Union President:

Andrew Binning

Email: andrew@inkanyezi.co.za

Cell : +27 (0)82 372 9247

Old Muirite Union Secretary:

Mark Bakker

Email: markbakker@bmiza.com

Cell : +27 (0)83 227 3496

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Old Muirite Union on social media platforms:



The Old Muirite Union – OMU



The Old Muirite Union



The Old Muirite Union



The Old Muirite Union



Typesetting and Design proudly sponsored by:

Driving Force Advertising, Dubai, UAE | www.d4rce.com