

# OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2023



## THE MUIR FOUNDATION GIVING BACK

### TIME TO GYM



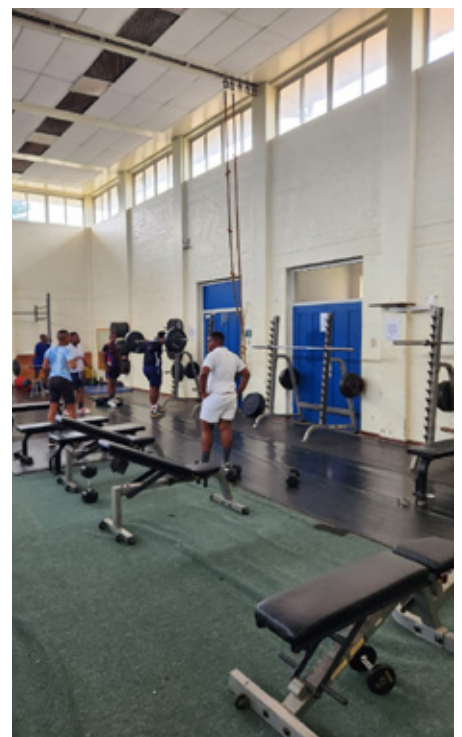
At the annual Welcome Back Tea for teachers and support staff on 16 January, former headmaster Neil Crawford, a director of the Muir Foundation, announced that the Foundation would match the R200k budget that Muir College had allocated for the renovation and upgrading of the school's Ingonyama Multi-Purpose Sports Centre, thereby increasing the total to R400k.

The intention is the creation of a modern, high-performance centre – both for sporting purposes and for the general well-being of learners. These days many top schools in South Africa provide such a facility, and this can influence the decision of learners and parents when selecting a high school.

#### *The project will include:*

- installation of automated entrance doors at various points
- replacement of the existing floor in the gym with two types of special artificial matting
- the provision of new exercise equipment
- creation of a new changing room with lockers for the Muir 1st XV
- installation of a new hot water system for the showers
- painting and general maintenance.

The project is to commence shortly, and should be completed within 6 weeks. (Watch this space in the next edition of the OMU Newsletter for photos of the completed project.)





*OMU President on a recent business trip to the Ivory Coast*

## OMU President's Message

Greetings to all Old Muirites and the broader Muir family.

With Muir's Bicentenary celebrations behind us, we now look to the future. The Old Muirite Union will continue to strive to achieve our two main objectives – supporting our alma mater and networking old boys wherever they may be.

The OMU would like to thank all past matric classes that are enthusiastically considering how they can support the school via the "Adopt a Classroom" project. This trial project is not a definitive one, but rather a request to classes to see what they can contribute – either through donations for the purchase of requested items or in using contacts to fulfil the requests. The aim is to see what old boys can contribute by the fourth quarter of 2023 in this trial project.

I would also like to take the opportunity in this message in early 2023 to thank all old boys who play a leadership role within the OMU. So many old boys have raised their hands and are contributing in various ways – class representatives, national & international reps, the Business Portal Advisory Board, the OMU Committee and, more recently – as you will see in this edition – reporters and writers of articles for our quarterly Newsletter. Many, many others contribute to and participate in regular projects, events and get-togethers – but the OMU would like to pay tribute to the over 125 old boys who make up the wider Old Muirite Union leadership team. Thank you, Gents. Your time, resources and commitment are acknowledged and much, much appreciated.

The OMU Leadership looks forward to connecting with many old boys at the Founder's Weekend in August, and especially

with the reunion classes celebrating "special" reunions. My own Class of 1988 will be there in full force as we celebrate our 35th Reunion. I can't wait!

OMU Manager Wendy Knott-Craig is doing a sterling job in updating the OMU Database and I encourage you to assist wherever you can so that more old boys can be kept "in the know" and receive our communications. Please also let her know should any of your contact details change. You are encouraged also to follow regular news that is posted on OMU's social media channels – by following the OMU on LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Finally, the OMU plays an active role within the Muir Foundation. Look out for some mega projects that are on the cards to be announced soon. The Directors of the Foundation have already agreed to contribute R200 000 this year towards upgrading the school gymnasium – look out for details in this newsletter. These projects will require not only time and resources from old boys but the willingness to reach out to foundations, funders and a broader network of potential contributors. Any old boys or stakeholders who would be keen to play a leadership, admin or management role in a particular project can contact the OMU. Some will say these projects are a big ask ... are you up to the challenge?

If you are, then you are truly *Nec Pluribus Impar*.

**Andrew Binning**  
Old Muirite Union President

# Headmaster's Report

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

– Helen Keller

The 2023 school year started not only with the normal pre-term meetings and classroom preparations by staff, but also with a welcome function for returning and new teaching and coaching staff, hosted by the Old Muirite Union.

This show of support by the Old Boys was greatly appreciated, as was news of several Old Muirite initiatives.

At this welcome function it was announced that the Muir Foundation and the school would be upgrading the school's indoor sports centre as a joint project. This will help to improve the conditioning of our boys in all our sporting codes, and will make the school more attractive to young sportsmen.

The teaching staff are also very appreciative of the effort that has been made by the OMU to fulfill their wishes for improvements to their classrooms. The OMU's "wish list" project is a great initiative from the Old Boys.

On this same occasion Mr Grant Mather donated a signed rugby jersey from each of Scotland's only two professional rugby clubs, both of which employ several South African players. These jerseys will be welcome additions to the display cabinets in The Muirite, and I would like to extend warm thanks to Mr Mather for his support.

Early in the first term a leadership camp for our senior prefects was arranged by Mr Jason Field and Mr Shane Elie, while Mr Lyntin Gouws arranged a camp for our primary prefects. These were both outstanding events and I thank all the staff who contributed to their success.

Extramural activities commenced in the first week of term with athletics and cricket taking the lead. The school's annual Athletics Day was very successful and it showed that Muir College has a lot of talent. Matthew Randall, a Grade 12 learner, has made it through to the East Cape Championships for the triple jump and long jump events. We wish him all the best.

This summer's full cricket season has come to an end, and has been enjoyed by all teams, most of which have performed well. The appointment of Mr Tim Whale as our new Director of Cricket has been a welcome addition, and it is pleasing to note that the improvements he is implementing have started to take effect. New Afrikaans teacher Mr Fritz Mynhardt is also showing his experience as a cricket coach and under his guidance the under 14A team is going from strength to strength. The support of the primary level parents at our cricket matches is very encouraging.



We recently held both the primary and senior annual swimming galas, and it was good to see that swimming at Muir is looking strong once again. I trust that we will continue to build on the current enthusiasm for this essential sport.

The rugby season started on 11 March with an away game vs Daniel Pienaar Technical High School, where we saw Muir 1st XV beat Daniel Pienaar 16 - 10. Our rugby teams will also be participating in the Graeme College Rugby Festival on the weekend of 24 March, and the 1st and U16A teams are due to play the touring Rondebosch Boys' High teams at home on Saturday, 1 April. The U13s will be taking part in the Lorraine Rugby Festival on 17 and 18 March, and the U11s will participate in the Clarendon Rugby Festival which will be held over three days from 30 March to 1 April.

We are sad to have to say goodbye to Miss Mishka Baderoon who is leaving us at the end of the first term. Miss Marè Prins will be taking her place in the classroom, while Mr Tim Whale will be taking over Miss Baderoon's place as coach of the First Hockey team.

Our debaters are once again doing very well, but we will only know the team placing when the league ends at the end of the term.

I wish to thank the Old Boys once again for their support of our school. We are truly privileged to have such a strong and motivated Old Boys' union.

**David Francis**

Acting Headmaster



# WELCOME BACK TEA(CHERS)

On Monday 16 January 2023, in accordance with a new tradition established three years ago, the Old Muirite Union hosted a 'Welcome Back' tea for all teachers and staff of Muir College.

One of the OMU's key objectives is the support of 'The Muir', and this includes the support of teaching and administrative staff. This event was the Union's way of thanking them for their commitment to the school during the previous year, and helping them to start the new year off on a motivated note.

Our thanks go to Old Muirites and committee members who joined in welcoming the returning teachers and support staff – and in welcoming several new teachers to the school. Special mention must be made of the presence of Allan Whitehead, Class of 1965 and a former teacher of Muir College. He clearly enjoyed seeing some of his old colleagues and some of his former pupils who are now Old Muirites.

Guest speaker Neil Crawford, a past Headmaster of Muir College, spoke of the importance of a school's impact on learners, especially the influence of their teachers throughout their school careers.

Grant Mather (Class of 1995), who lives in Scotland, took time out of his holiday in South Africa to join us at the event. He presented two signed rugby jerseys to the school – one from each of the only two fully professional rugby union teams in Scotland, each of whose senior squads include several South Africans. The Glasgow Warriors jersey was signed by brothers Matt and Zander Fagerson. Zander is already a British Lions player (he is officially Lion No 848) and Matt, who has already made 31 appearances for Scotland, will be joining the Lions for their next tour. The second jersey, which had been worn by former Blue Bulls prop Pierre Schoeman, was signed by all the members of the Edinburgh Rugby XV.



A large flat-screen TV donated by an anonymous Old Muirite was handed to acting Headmaster David Francis, to be installed in a suitably prominent location at the school. Mr Francis also received

four large canvas prints from the OMU: these comprised a variety of photographs taken during last year's bicentennial celebrations, and it is hoped that they will be placed in areas of the school where old and current Muirites, parents, visitors and friends of Muir can view them.

On behalf of the Union, OMU President Andrew Binning wished David Francis all the best in his role as acting Headmaster, and added that he was sure that the school would be in good hands until a new principal took office.





# WELCOME BACK TEA(CHERS)





# ADOPT A CLASSROOM

## An Old Muirite Union Project

The Old Muirite Union has commenced with the 'Adopt-A-Class' project.

Each teacher has drawn up a "wish list" for his/her classroom, that include educational tools to assist with their lessons.

The lists have been given to each Class Rep for the classes of 1974 to 2010, who in turn will raise funds / purchase the items / arrange donations from suppliers, etc.

This project is being coordinated by Acting Headmaster David Francis and the Old Muirite Union, and fulfils one of the OMU's objectives, i.e. providing support to Muir College.

### Wendy Knott-Craig

OMU Manager



# In conversation with ... Bun Hopley

**Muir College Headmaster, 2002 – 2015**



When he chose to pursue a career in education, avid sportsman **Nigel Carden 'Bun' Hopley** was responding to a suggestion from the Dale College 1st XI cricket coach, Adri Leurs, who told him that the enjoyment that he clearly derived from being with people and from being outdoors indicated that he would do well as a teacher – and as a sports coach. “So the seed was planted,” says Hopley. “If I were to be asked what career I would have chosen if given the opportunity to start afresh, it would definitely be teaching, without a doubt.”

The Bun Hopley story started with his birth in Queenstown in July 1955. He was the son of Carden Hillman Hopley who was the grandson of Cecil Carden, the manager of the 1906 South African rugby squad that toured England - and the man who, according to his letters to his family during the tour, proposed the name ‘Springboks’ for the national team, and chose the design for the first Springbok blazer badge.

Asked by me how he came by the nickname ‘Bun’, Hopley explained that Springbok manager Cecil Carden called his young grandson (Bun’s father) ‘Bungey’, and this stuck, although it was reduced to ‘Bun’ as he grew older. Then, “as traditional schools will have it, you often inherited your father’s nickname. My elder brother Brian was nicknamed ‘Bun’ whilst at school, and when I followed in his footsteps to Dale I graduated from ‘Scone’ to ‘Bun’ in my high school years. My son, Cuan Carden Hopley, was called ‘Crumb’ at Muir College, and is still called that by some of his closer friends.”

Hopley’s father (the first Bun) was a talented sportsman and had a significant influence on his son’s sporting development, teaching him ball skills from a very early age. The boy grew up in Cofimvaba, near Queenstown, and enjoyed a rural lifestyle – and even had his own horse.

“The village used to have water furrows leading to the residents’ homes for use on their vegetable gardens, and one of our favourite pastimes was catching crabs in the furrows. They were a nuisance and dug holes that caused problems with the irrigation system, so the man in charge of the furrows used to pay us a ‘tickey’ (2½ cents) per crab, and with that we were able to buy sweets.”

From Cofimvaba Primary School to Dale Junior and then on to Dale College, Bun followed his elder brother, and his father’s sporting footsteps. He confesses that throughout his school career his major (and, possibly, only) interests were “sport, sport and more sport”, and he had little time for other activities outside the classroom, finding that he was under constant pressure to live up to his father’s sporting achievements. He excelled in cricket, playing for the Dale 1st XI for three years, captaining the team in his matric year and representing Border Schools in ’72 and ’73. He also excelled at hockey, representing Border Schools in ’73, and played 1st team squash – with a bit of tennis on the side.







Given his sporting interests and the advice received from his Dale cricket coach, it was not surprising that Bun chose to register for a four-year diploma in Physical Education with History and Geography as additional teaching subjects – and to revel in the extensive sporting opportunities available to him at the University of Port Elizabeth where he played for both the cricket and the hockey 1st XIs, and later completed a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In 1979 he joined the teaching staff of Muir College – and never looked back. In selecting Mr N C Hopley to join the teaching staff, headmaster Paul Ellis had undoubtedly also been looking to the future of Muir sport, little realising that the applicant would one day sit behind the headmaster's desk.

With Piet Cloete and the legendary Godfrey Streso as his mentors, and with Nigel Wakeford keeping him on his toes in History, Bun was able to get off to a good start. Others who influenced him were that other legend, Tom Ferreira, while headmaster Paul Ellis encouraged Bun to continue to pursue his cricket and hockey playing careers. He was consequently able to keep wicket in several matches for EP "B" from 1980 to 1982, and in 1980 also represented EP Country Districts on the hockey field.

In his early years at Muir, Bun initially coached the U14A cricket XI, with Ellis standing in as manager/umpire for the team on Saturdays to allow Bun to play in the EP men's cricket leagues. Bun was soon coaching the 1st hockey XI, and he also coached squash, playing as part of Muir's 1st squash team when they participated in the men's leagues. In 1980 he took over the Gymnastics Club when Piet Cloete left the school, and he later also coached the EP U18A and B hockey teams and the EP Settlers, U18 and U19 cricket teams, serving as a selector for both sports at U18/19 levels.

Bun describes himself as a 'boarder brak', having been a boarder from the age of ten and thereafter having lived in or been associated with school and university hostels for 50 years. From the outset at Muir he was a hostel master at NC Dugmore House under Paul Ellis who, like several previous headmasters, was also in charge of the hostel. When Ellis decided to live off campus from

1982, Bun was appointed Superintendent, and when the move to the new Vane's Estate campus took place in 1987, he became Superintendent of the new Sir Thomas Muir House, serving in this capacity together with his teaching and coaching duties until the end of 2001.

In 1980 Bun had married Shelley Cawood, a farmer's daughter from the Graaff-Reinet area. Their three children all grew up in NC Dugmore House and Sir Thomas Muir House, and received their early education at College Hill Prep. Cuan, the eldest, then donned a Muir blazer while his sisters Michaela and Brigitta enrolled at Riebeeck College. Today all three are graduates – of UPE, UCT and Rhodes respectively: Cuan works in the financial sector in Johannesburg, Michaela and her husband are doctors at the Madwaleni Hospital near Elliotdale in the former Transkei, and Brigitta teaches Life Sciences at Rustenburg Girls' High in Cape Town.

Muir's move to the new Vanes Estate campus in 1987 brought with it many challenges, including the need to establish new sports fields as rapidly as possible. Bun says, "The boarders were the backbone of this operation, continually laying pipes for the sprinkler system which was going 24/7 under the watchful eye of 'PeeCee' (Ellis)." Hostel Superintendent Hopley, who by that stage was also Head of Department for History, Geography and Physical Education, played a central role in settling the school into its new premises.

In 1997 Hopley became Deputy Headmaster of Muir College and, in addition to his History teaching, his coaching and his hostel responsibilities, his new position kept him very busy – and exposed him to the complexities of day-to-day school management. Then, following headmaster Neil Crawford's decision to take on the headship of a younger school further south, from the beginning of 2002 the School Governing Body entrusted the headship of Muir College to Bun – and thereafter lies a further story ...

Bun has shared with me many of his insights and his views regarding the defining characteristics of Muir College, the challenges he faced as headmaster, and his post-retirement involvement in the work of the Eastern Cape branch of FEDSAS, a school governing body association, but at this time we must allow him to retreat to the Kromme River at St Francis Bay with his family, his fishing rod and those elusive "little white balls" with which he seems determined to make an acquaintance in his retirement.

"Môre (or, perhaps, the next edition) is nog 'n dag!"



**Rob Sharman** – Class of '71

**PS** - Bun Hopley's contributions to Muir College and the fortunes of the school during those halcyon days with Bun at the helm are recorded in more detail in Charles van Renen's bicentenary commemorative history, *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*.



# HOWZAT!

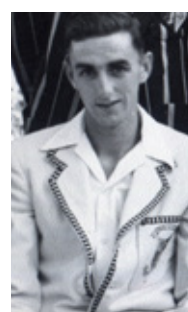
## Some facts, highlights and oddities in Muir cricket



Until the mid-to-late 1940s, schoolboy cricketers in the Eastern Province participated in the men's leagues, meaning that teaching staff were eligible to play for their schools. One of these was Robert Ivor 'Drop' Edwards, who joined the school in 1922. Fifty years later he was doing his last stint of relief teaching at Muir – though no longer bowling 'donkey drops' onto the cricket pitch! Four headmasters also played for the school: WM Scott, NC Dugmore, HO Skillicorn and PC Ellis – the last two well into the post-war era when, from time to time until the early 1980s, the Muir College 1st XI was entered into one or another of the open men's leagues.



Progress from the early 1890s was steady, and in 1905 Muir and Port Elizabeth were joint league champions. In 1911 the 1st XI won the Third League Championships and in 1916 the Second League. Muir's first Nuffield cricketer was Tommy Hartzenberg, in 1948. Soon the school's 1st XI was becoming known for its destructive bowling attacks: in 1953 Clyde Bradley took four wickets with successive balls, ending with 9 wickets in 5.5 overs for a mere 3 runs! Victoria Park was the victim on that day. Neville Mallett won his Nuffield cap in 1954, 1955 and 1956 – a special kind of hat trick in school cricket. Mallett's last year saw the arrival of professional coach Tom Dean, who later moved to Grey High School, where he began coaching a promising young cricketer by the name of Graeme Pollock.



Did a Muir cricketer really once play for a Wilf Isaacs XI after being picked to play against them? And in the process, did he replace Springbok wicketkeeper Denis Lindsay who could still bat but not keep wicket because of an injury during the match warmup? He did, and it happened in 1965, when wicketkeeper and 1st XI captain Ian Krain, Brian McNicol and André Niewoudt (a future Western Province player) were selected to play for an EP Invitation XI against the Wilf Isaacs outfit which included the likes of Lindsay, former Springbok Hugh Tayfield and the fearsome 'Chaka' Watson. Cricket being the gentlemen's game, how could Ian refuse the polite request from his opponents to help them out?

Several Muir cricketers won their Nuffield caps in the succeeding decades, but how could it be that a boy who played for Muir would go on to become the current Irish cricket captain? An arrangement with Leinster Cricket in Ireland from 2003 brought promising young players to Muir during the Irish off-season each year, one of whom was Andrew Balbirnie in 2006, presently the Irish cricket captain across all formats.



A few years later Chris Lukuzo and Darren Wates represented their province in a T20 competition in Hyderabad, India. Meanwhile, Sisanda Magala, today recognised as a canny ODI bowler for the Proteas, set a new batting record of 132 at the Cape Schools Week in 2009. In 2017 it was the turn of the 55-year-old Muir 1st XI opening partnership record of 176 to be broken – by almost 70 runs. Wongalethu Hobo (126\*) and Logan Henman (109\*) scored an unbeaten 244 at the Cape Youth Cricket Festival that year.



### Charles van Renen

*(For more information on the extensive history of Muir cricket, see Charles van Renen's bicentenary commemorative book, SHOUT TILL THE RAFTERS RING, copies of which are still available from the School.)*



# WE DON'T LIKE CRICKET, WE LOVE IT!



Biokineticist, wellness consultant and Old Muirite **Runeshan Moodley**, a member of the Muir Class of 2002, is to be the strength and conditioning coach for the Proteas during the Betway Test Series against the West Indies, taking place in South Africa from 28 February to 11 March 2023.

Moodley says "Having been in the cricket system for some time now, it was pleasing for me to progress from the SA U19 team to franchise level with the Warriors and now to be with the Proteas. I am currently on duty with our inbound tour against the West Indies that includes two Betway test matches, three 1-day internationals and three international T20s. We will be playing at various venues around the country. It has been a whirlwind start to the year"

Runeshan, who has been the biokineticist for cricket and hockey at Nelson Mandela University since 2015, was also the strength and conditioning coach for the Sunrisers Eastern Cape Team that won the inaugural Betway SA20 competition that took place in South Africa in January and February this year. This competition involved six global franchises, with 102 local and international players taking part in 33 matches in six South African cities. It was quite a competition!

The OMU congratulates Runeshan on his achievements.

Congratulations are also due to Old Muirite **Sisanda Magala** (Class of 2009), who played for the winning team, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, in the recent SA20 competition. Sisanda has represented South Africa in several ODIs and T20Is, and on 27 January contributed 3/46 to the Proteas' 27-run defeat of England in Bloemfontein in an ODI that saw former Brandwag paceman Anrich Nortje take 4/62.

## Wendy Knott-Craig

OMU Manager



*Runeshan with Old Muirite (Class of 2009) & Eastern Cape Sunrisers player, Sisanda Magala*



*Runeshan with West Indian cricket legend, Brian Lara*



# SHOUT TILL THE RAFTERS RING

Earlier this quarter OMU President, Andrew Binning, met with the Nelson Mandela Bay Chamber. While he was there, he gifted them with a copy of the 200 year commemorative book, Shout till the Rafters Ring. Pictured with Andrew are Lunga Majoda and the NMB Business Chamber CEO, Denise van Huyssteen.

Many Old Muirites are members and actively involved in the NMB Business Chamber and these old boys were thanked and acknowledged by Denise. Denise was also one of the guests who attended the 200 Year Business Breakfast in August last year.

Copies of these books are still available for sale at R650 each.

Please contact the school directly to place your order.

## Wendy Knott-Craig

OMU Manager



# TEACHER INTERVIEW

## Lyntin Gouws

*Head of Department: Primary Phase,  
and Superintendent of Sir Thomas Muir House*

***Tell me about yourself, where were you born,  
where did you start school?***

I was born in Uitenhage in 1980 so I'm one of the original "Hagers" from the good old days. We grew up with the Bible and the belt – making sure we didn't step out of line. I started at Muir in 1990 as a podgy grade 4, still wet behind the ears and eager to learn.

***What are your passions in life aside from teaching?***

Sport is a big passion of mine. I'm passionate about giving all those the opportunity to get involved in some sort of sport, but mainly a team sport as this creates a different dynamic to doing individual sports: the discipline, camaraderie, belief in the person next to you and knowing that you can be part of a success story.

Being able to watch boys grow from not being able to catch a ball to one day being a 1st XV player kicking the winning conversion or a 1st XI cricketer hitting the winning runs or taking the last wicket to win a tight fought battle for his team.

***What made you come back to your Alma Mater?***

Teaching was not my first choice as a profession. I wanted to become a chef, but then, after having a sit down with my sister who is in the hotel industry, I had a change of mind.

I then went into Sales and Marketing and did a diploma in that – and that is when it all changed.

To make a bit of pocket money, I was asked to help coach sports teams at Muir. I absolutely loved working with the boys, even though they were not the best in their respective sporting code, as I was given the U11B cricket side and the 3rd rugby team. Working with them, and then one afternoon having a chat with Mr Neil Crawford started a little fire inside me which I could not stop thinking about. Coming from a traditional boys' school with years of tradition I could only see myself working at a school that would have the same values and morals. So, when I had an opportunity to do my learnership at Muir in my 4th year of education I didn't turn down the offer.

I was disappointed when, as I was coming to the end of my 4th year learnership, Muir could not offer me a position. So I did what a normal person would do and applied for openings at other schools. I received two offers, Victoria Park and Woodridge, but my heart was sore as they are not really where I wanted to be. Then in November all that changed... I received a call from Mr Hopley, telling me that I could have an interview with the current SGB if I was interested. Without a second thought I said "YES" to the interview and whatever position they were willing to offer me. Since then, I've not looked back.



***Grant Kunneke – Class of 1993***



# SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to **Matthew Randall** who was placed first in the U/19 triple jump at a recent Metro athletics meeting and has been selected for the High Schools Metro Athletics team to compete in the provincial championships.



*Matthew Randall*

Congratulations to **Ethan Constable** who has qualified to compete at the Primary Metro Athletics Meeting in the U/13 100m event.

**Luniko Ndim** and **Hayden Fleurs** were the youngest Muirites to successfully complete the Men's Mile at the 99th annual Nelson Mandela Bay River Mile, held at Cannonville on the Sunday's River, and sponsored by aQquellé. Can we challenge some old boys to join them next year?



*Ethan Constable*



*Luniko Ndim and Hayden Fleurs*



Congratulations to the following Muirites who have been awarded Academic Colours:



**Daniel Beckley**

**Matthan Slambee**

**Eshaan Prag**

# SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

## Mr Shane Elie



The Herald, the local newspaper in Gqeberha, is holding a competition “Nominate your favourite teacher” and Muir College’s **Mr Shane Elie** has been nominated by Old Muirite Rowan Duke Wesso (Class of 2021). To follow is the article which was featured in The Herald on 16 February 2023:

Making an indelible mark on the holistic growth of children is what sets a good teacher apart from a great one.

So when the pupils at Muir College Boys’ High School open their pencil bags and books in Shane Elie’s maths classes, they tend to listen a little more attentively to the 52-year-old’s advice, which expands way beyond algebra and angles.

While the maths literacy and mathematics teacher has more than 3 years of teaching experience and acquired 100% pass rates for most of his classes over the years, the Kariega resident has been dubbed a partial life coach by his former pupils.

Since joining the 200-year-old boys’ school in 2009, Elie has donned many hats including that of teacher, mentor, sports coach and, in some respects, father.

“As teachers, we are not here to just drill information into a child,” *Elie said.*

“I believe we have a responsibility to make them better human beings at the end of the day, a functional and productive member of society. And as a teacher, my greatest reward is seeing my former pupils going on to make a success of their lives.”

He said on occasion the conversation and topics touched on by the curious minds in his class saw them discussing life issues for the majority of the class period.

“I have been very fortunate to have taught at Muir and other schools prior to this where they realise that as teachers we need to instil life skills in our pupils. Their development and growth goes further than academics and in most cases they are eager to learn and better themselves. So when they invite you to be part of that development, it is very rewarding. And this type of acknowledgement as well, being nominated in the competition by a former pupil, feels fantastic, to know that I had an impact on who he is today.”

The senior phase teacher was nominated by former pupil Rowan Wesso who described Elie as a passionate and loving teacher who takes his responsibility of moulding young minds seriously.

“Shane Elie is not only a mathematical literacy teacher but a motivational speaker towards his students. He strives not only for academic success but to instil courage and guidance in his students to fully reach their potential. Throughout his lessons, he educates his pupils with mathematical literacy but also guides them to succeed in not only school, but in life as well,” *Wesso said.*

“He not only educates and inspires his students, but also shapes them into becoming gentlemen. I would not be the man I am today without him.”



# ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

**D. D. Francis**  
Acting Headmaster

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Fax: +27 41 961 0187  
dfrancis@muircollege.co.za  
secretary@muircollege.co.za



Muir College Boys' High School,  
P.O. Box 231, 15 Sir Thomas Muir Drive,  
Vanes Estate, KARIEGA 6230  
[www.muircollege.co.za](http://www.muircollege.co.za)

March 2023

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Muir College is pleased to present the following advertising opportunities

The school is placing a full colour, hi resolution LED television in the reception area. The screen will be filled with images and graphics showcasing the life of the school. This serves as an opportunity for advertisers to make contact with those entering the school. Should you wish to advertise on the screen, the rates are as follows:

Reception Screen Advertising (per annum)	Rate
Video (soft sound)	R5 000
Still Graphic	R4 000

Each year Muir College produces a striking digital year book filled with the fun and achievements that have taken place over the past year. It is professionally designed, printed and distributed to school families, extended family and friends. Our school draws pupils from the entire Nelson Mandela Bay region as well as a broader Old Muirite network. Advertising rates are as follows:

School Magazine Advertising	Rate
Cover Pages	R4 000
Full Page	R3 500
Half Page (landscape)	R2 000
Sponsored Page	R200

As a school, we look partnering with your business to help you reach your potential clientele.

Should you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Minter

# TREVOR WINER BURSARY

**Trevor Winer**, of the Class of 1955, presents an annual bursary that covers the cost of a Muirite's tertiary education for four years.

**Oyintanda Gqomo**, Head Boy of 2022, is the worthy recipient of the 2023 Trevor Winer Bursary, and is now studying Pharmacy at Rhodes University, where he is in Centenary House.

Since 2009, nineteen such bursaries have been presented, to the following:

YEAR	NAME
2009	Jade Williams
2010	Jason Barker
2011	Euan Klassen
2012	Kevin Flanagan
	Jethro Strauss
2013	Kyle Dawson
2014	Milan Gajjar
	Shaheel Kooverjee
2015	Mylan Jonas
2016	Sean Burger
	Vuyolwethu Kwindla
2017	Trent Burness
	Takatso Radasi
2018	Athenkosi Hlonyane
2019	Sibabalwe Mbini
2020	Lyden Human
2021	Darius George
2022	Tristan de Kock
2023	Oyintanda Gqomo



Trevor Winer's generosity has been greatly appreciated by the recipients, and has made a significant difference to each of their careers.



# BREAKING RECORDS

During the recent Inter-House Athletics at Muir College, the following records were broken:

Event	Previous Record Holder	Previous Record	New Record Holder (2023)	New Record
u/15 Triple Jump	A Badat (2018)	8,61m	M Vawda	10,23m
u/14 Triple Jump	A Minnie (2018)	9,40m	L Lukwe	9,67m
u/12 Discus	P Frew (1985)	9,20m	J Blou	16,09m

Congratulations both to the old and to the new record holders!



*J. Blou*



*L. Lukwe*



# SPORTING PICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

These 2 photos, which were posted by Muir College on social media channels, caught the attention of the Old Muirite Union. What caption would you give the cricket photo?

Remember the crowds and support for the Muir College rugby teams at the 200 Year Muir College Rugby Festival? Check out the action on the edited video clips at <https://muircollege.co.za/omu/about-the-omu/>



# MUIR COLLEGE HEAD BOY 2023

## Head Boy Eshaan Prag responds to questions from the OMU

*Eshaan, what are you most looking forward to during your term as head boy?*

Bringing back past traditions and the school spirit that Muir lost during lockdown.

I'm excited to implement some changes into the school that my team and I have been preparing for the last couple of years.

*What are your goals and aims for the year?*

Ultimately, I have many goals for this year, but my most imperative aim is to create a legacy not only with my prefect body but with our entire matric team. My aim is to leave behind an ineffaceable legacy that will inspire the generations that come after the class of 2023, because in a crowd filled with hundreds of students there are younger versions of many leaders at Muir who need guidance and someone to feel inspired by, in order for them to become the best versions of themselves.



*Tell us a bit your strengths and challenges / weaknesses.*

One of my greatest strengths is my public speaking and the way I articulate words in such a manner that gets the crowd enthusiastic and motivated. I know how to lead a team and take initiative. I am an optimistic and exuberant individual that always puts my everything into all my duties and responsibilities.

One of my weaknesses that I am working on is that I sometimes take on too much work and too many duties instead of delegating efficiently. I sometimes handle the majority of the prefects' work instead of handing over the work to the rest of my team. However, after some successful communication with my team I've established an effective system where the workload is being divided more efficiently.

My biggest challenge is my time management. Besides my academics and head boy duties, I have other responsibilities to fulfil in sport, on committees, as a sensei and helping the community.

*If you could change anything at Muir College, what would it be?*

Bringing back the exuberance of the school. The school is currently facing a dying school spirit. My prefect body and I have worked on projects to help uplift the school spirit. Another vision I have for the school is spreading more light on accolades that the education system doesn't recognise. We are living in a world where children's worth is determined by school and their grades, when the truth is it is your dreams and the kindness you put out into the world - that is what truly defines your soul. Muir has eximious artists,,athletes, musicians, businessmen and many other achievers that don't receive any recognition and are being told to abandon their dreams and only focus on school work. My vision is to create a harmonizing home at Muir where all achievements receive recognition to inspire the younger generations to never give up on their dreams, even if they are unorthodox.



***What do you love most about Muir?***

What I love the most about Muir College is the sempiternal brotherhood. During the December holidays I spent time visiting schools in Johannesburg, Jeffreys Bay, Gqeberha and Kariya, and the single thing that stood out was that there was no school that had a bond as strong as ours. Having brothers that are these dazzling stars that light up the sky making the cloak of darkness around oneself seem fragile is truly a heaven-sent gift.

***What is your message of encouragement to the Matrics and leaders of 2023?***

You have to be willing to make sacrifices for your dream, or your dream becomes the sacrifice. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams and are willing to do what 90% of the world aren't.

***What are you planning to do after matric?***

My goal is to study Mechatronics at university, with my backup course being Computer Science.

***Are any of your family members affiliated with Muir College?***

Yes, Amesh Prag and Shahil Kooverjee.

***Who is your role model and why?***

Kobe Bryant because he is an inexhaustible phenomenal treasure that is willing work harder than anyone else. While growing up I never had any unique talents and while everyone would have fun and enjoy life, I would work hard on developing my skills, and for this specific reason I relate to him profusely. He is a prominent example that hard work can beat talent and inspired me to work hard and overcome my stuttering problem and become Muir's current best speaker. "Rest at the end, not in the middle.", Kobe Bryant.

***On a weekend, where would we usually find you?***

On the weekend I'm usually at home studying or training at my karate dojo.

*The OMU congratulates Eshaan on his appointment as Head Boy, and wishes him and the entire senior prefect body well as they navigate their way through their final year at The Muir.*



# Tales from the 50s - a letter from New Zealand

Contributed by **Kevin Clark**, class of 1956,  
currently living in New Zealand

Here are some memories of mine that were stirred up by newsletters covering Muirs 200th anniversary.

I did my entire schooling at Muir College and matriculated in 1956. Those were the days! Do teachers still have nicknames? I remember *Jas Scheepers*, *Jarrah Alberts*, *Donkey de Preez* and *Skilly Skillicorn*, our Headmaster. He wasn't a large man, and to mitigate this he wafted about the campus in his flowing academic gown.



I remember fights ('Fireball!') in the shooting butts with the baying crowd packed around the fence (The shooting butt is the area where shooting practice took place). A local stray dog (an indeterminate brak) had made its home at the school, being well fed on unwanted lunches and left-overs. One day he tried to jump over the fence and caught and ripped his scrotum on a barb of wire. The howls were ear splitting. One of the senior boys, a farmer's son, obviously familiar with castration procedures on farm animals, whipped out a pocket knife and completed the surgery while two guys held down the in-shock quivering dog. The eunuched dog duly recovered and continued to do the rounds at lunch breaks for his handouts. He was known as 'Minus'. He was still hanging out in the playground when I finished school. Is there anyone around from that era who still remembers Minus?

But back to the break-time bare-fisted fights in the butts. I recall one such *fireball* that was interrupted by the appearance of our PT master, *Donkey du Preez*, who broke up the fight and frog-marched the two combatants off, followed by a jeering crowd. We assumed he was taking them to *Skilli's* office for a caning – it was called 'getting cuts' back then. But no, he took them into the gym, fitted them out with boxing gloves and let them settle their differences under his supervision. A very creative solution. *Donkey's* credit rating soared. The veranda roofs on the sides of the gym creaked under the weight of the mob as we jostled for views of the fight through the high-level windows.

Those were the days!

My claim to fame at Muir was music. I started on various instruments at an early age, and at school was Bugle Major in the marching band. Our street route marches often went past Riebeek College on the corner of Church and Canon Streets. Funny, that! The stirring sounds and sights of testosterone-pumping young men in uniform proved too much of a distraction and we were asked to 'go and march somewhere else'. I also played the trumpet in the school dance band, directed by a freshly minted music teacher, a comely young Boeremeisie. There was a surge of interest in music classes from the senior boys. She played the piano and piano-accordion, and taught us a whole bunch of Boeremusiek classics, many of which have stuck with me all these years.

She booked me to play in her band at a Saturday night dance at a local wool-washery, put on for the local farmers. This was my first paid 'professional' gig. I was 16. At the dance, a young farmer started hitting on our bandleader during the breaks, and plying her with grog. Her playing became ragged and in a break we saw the two of them disappear through a side door hand in hand, never to return. The band was stuck. The crowd grew restless, calling out for more music. I was out of my depth in this situation, but we were saved by some guy who saw our predicament, said he had a guitar in his bakkie and that he could play and sing. He joined the band and we somehow got through the rest of the night and got paid. The drummer took the money and divided it up with those of us left on the bandstand.

On Monday at school, she never said a word to me. Nothing. Nada. Niks. I recalled this episode in a book published in NZ some ten years ago, *From the Bandstand*.



I left SA in 1963 after graduating BArch at UCT, and ended up in New Zealand in 1967. Have a look at YouTube - Kevin Clark, South African Jazz.

### *Post-Muir:*

I finished matric in 1956 at 16 years of age. Graduated BArch at UCT in 1963 and went to London, worked as an architect, travelled widely, an adventurous ride with a mate on an old motorbike across Europe and down to Baghdad through the middle of an Arab-Kurdish war. Mucked around the Middle East, a three-day desert crossing and somehow we got the ailing bike back to London. Published a book here in NZ - *'Baghdad or Bust'*.

Married a Kiwi in London and moved to New Zealand in 1966. Soon set up an architectural practice, joined up with others, grew to a large firm with offices in New Zealand and Brunei. Elected a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Architects in 1994.

Have adventure travelled widely with a dual career with music. Acquired a BMusHons and quit architecture in 1997 and carried on with music – mainly jazz. Five albums, radio and TV appearances, tutored at a university, won three awards for music. Published a book, *From the Bandstand*. Still performing at concerts and festivals. I'm still in original condition (although not necessarily 'mint') and am also an active glider pilot and instructor.

We live on the waterfront, fronting directly on to a beach, in an absolute paradise 25km north of Wellington, New Zealand.



*Kevin Clark*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Lance Dodd**, *class of 1984*, who lives in Australia, has joined the OMU Newsletter committee and interviewed a few old boys from the late 80's backwards. Read below to find out more.



*Jamie Wates*

## JAMIE WATES – Class of 1988

**James (Jamie) Alexander Wates** is a born and bred Uitenhager, who matriculated from Muir College in 1988. He admits that at school his interests were friends, sport, girls and music = but not necessarily in that order.

His passion for baseball saw him being selected for the SA under 16 All Stars. He also played first team rugby and cricket and second team tennis, as well as golf and a few other sports. Believe it or not, Jamie still managed to find time for other activities. He joined a few of the school's cultural clubs and really enjoyed going to discos and watching live sport with his friends and listening to music.

After school Jamie completed his BCom (Economics) at UPE (now NMU) and then an MBL through UNISA. He is currently working as a consultant to the Nebula Group, specialising in supply chain and inventory analytics.

After many years in Port Elizabeth, Jamie and his Polish South African wife, Monika, moved to Luxembourg in 2021. They have one daughter, Jeanne, who is married to an American and lives in Connecticut. Jamie and Monika have a holiday house in Katberg (close to Queenstown) and they try to get there from Europe at least once a year.

Jamie still works in SA so he travels back every two to three months for work (those frequent flier miles must be stacking up) and gets to catch up with family and friends. If you look at Jamie's Spotify playlist you're likely to find Coldplay, One Republic, Pink, Parlotones, Imagine Dragons, Taylor Swift and plenty of music from the 80s!

Jamie has three nuggets of wisdom to share with current and old Muirites:

***The harder you work the luckier you get;***

***Life is better with Faith;***

***Your true friends from school will remain your true friends for life.***

***Lance Dodd*** – Class of 1984



*Jamie Wates with his family*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## MICHAEL VINCENT – *Class of 1977*

Many Old(er) Muirites will have fond memories of the prefect's room up the rickety stairs above the main entrance at the old red brick building. That's one of the things **Michael (Mike) Vincent** remembers well about his years at the school. Mike, who matriculated in 1977, was born in the Transkei and his early years were spent there and at Komga, where he attended farm school.

The dusty farm roads eventually led to Muir College, where his parents, Lex and Maureen, had met in the 1950's when they both started their teaching careers at the school. Lex Vincent went on to become a well-respected and much-loved principal of Muir Primary.

At Muir Mike took part in rugby, athletics, cross country, the dramatic society (he played Perchik from Kyiv in Fiddler on the Roof!) and the SCA. After finishing school, Mike obtained a BA and HDE at Rhodes University. He also received his MBL from UNISA and a CfD from the University of Cape Town.

After starting out in 1996 as a teacher in Johannesburg for two years, Mike joined the Unilever Graduate Management Programme before moving to Deloitte as a Management Consultant in 1990. After six years at Deloitte Mike formed a BEE consortium with some Transkei friends and bought Algoa FM from the SABC. He became the MD and commercialised the business before buying a shell on the JSE and listing a whole lot of media assets in what became African Media Entertainment. Mike exited the business in the year 2000 and worked for himself as an investment banker until re-joining Deloitte in 2006 where he became a Partner and retired in May 2022.

That's not the end of it though. As Mike says, he doesn't have the metabolic rate to retire, so he's currently consulting to Deloitte for half his time and has created his own new age management consultancy as well as starting up a private equity business. Instead of slowing down, Mike says he is speeding up! "As Clint Eastwood said: 'Don't let the old man in!'"

Mike is happily married to Susie and they have three grown children. Edward lives in London and twins Annabel and Oliver live in Johannesburg, where Mike currently resides.

Reading the above, you'll not be surprised to know that Mike currently has a copy of *A Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren, on his nightstand. Katherine Jenkins is currently on high rotation on his Spotify playlist, but Mike also enjoys Bruce Springsteen, Coldplay and U2.

So what does someone with such a long list of accomplishments attribute their success to?

Mike says: "Life is not about how much money you made, how many toys you have or how much press coverage you got. What will define you as a person is your family, your friends, and your beliefs – and this requires effort!"



*Michael Vincent*

## *Lance Dodd – Class of 1984*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## JENS KALRAIT – Class of 1984

School did not motivate **Jens Kalrait** and he was not an achiever, which made life at Muir College difficult. But not being a team player (he never participated in team sports) made him a strong individual who never came to rely on group effort. Jens, however, does not suggest others follow his example and he strongly encourages others to “partake in school life”.

Jens grew up in Uitenhage and matriculated from Muir in 1984. After school he attended UPE and UNISA where he studied Business Economics.

He moved to Germany in 1989 where he worked for, among others, Volkswagen and Lufthansa. He is currently the CEO of X-ACON Fair Construction, a company that specialises in trade fairs and exhibitions. He also organises Germany’s biggest craft drinks fair. In between the beers and fairs, he finds time to be a life coach too.

Jens has been married to Andrea for over 26 years (“the best wife in the world”) and the couple live in Nuremberg with their two sons Yannick and Finlay.

The Kalrait family loves travelling, and Jens says his favourite destinations are “anywhere with my family and friends”. He’s also pretty keen on “resting in France, skiing in Austria, braaing in South Africa, enjoying the nightlife in China and Hong Kong, shopping in the USA and chilling at home.”

His current reading material includes Handelsblatt, Financial Times, Program Code, etc.

His taste in music is varied, too. He enjoys Deep House music, current Top 20 and most things from between 2010 and 2020.

Jens does have several fond memories from his days at Muir. His favourite recollection is that of head boy Antonie Van Der Hoek saving his ass – more than once – after arriving late for school.

As a life coach Jens has several words of wisdom for Old (and current) Muirties.

**1: Stop! Check! Operate!** – That is my motto and that I taught my kids. If you heed and live by this motto, you will omit about 95% of all things in your life when looking back, you could say were unwise or mistakes. You can use it on investments, intimacy, friendship, losing weight etc. etc

**2: Your biggest financial decision will be ... marriage.** Fifty per cent of marriages end in divorce and another 25 per cent of couples stay together because of kids and/or financial reasons. So, aim to think of your partner and their needs first. If you BOTH do this, no one needs to be selfish and think of their own needs. Stop-Check-Operate and find that partner. Such a partner will be a true friend and good life companion. You will accumulate happiness and wealth.

Good call Jens! Here’s to happiness, wealth and good health.



*Jens Kalrait*

## **Lance Dodd** – Class of 1984



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## WARREN DICKSON – *Class of 1989*

**Warren Dickson** would love to go back in time to his hostel days at Muir College. Warren, who matriculated in 1989, was a proud boarder. “Compared to today’s rat race, everything was so simple and easy, and we were well cared for by the staff too,” he says.

Like many of us, Warren reckons he spent “too much time in PC’s office”.

At school his interests were Riebeek girls, rugby, tennis, water polo and triathlon.

After matriculating, Warren studied marketing and sales at PE Technikon, which is now part of Nelson Mandela University. He lives in Port Elizabeth with his wife and three daughters and is self-employed in the car repairs and parts industry.

His free time is spent on holiday anywhere the sun shines overseas (if he can afford it) or otherwise at St Francis Bay, off on his bike.

Warren is currently reading *Slumdog Millionaire* and hanging out for some new music by U2, one of his favourite bands.

Reflecting on a recent milestone birthday (50), Warren says there is only one bit of advice he can offer: “Keep busy getting things done. The years go by too fast.”

They sure do...



*Warren Dickson*

## *Lance Dodd – Class of 1984*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## VUYO DYAN – Class of 2007

When **Vuyo** was approached to be interviewed for the OMU newsletter, his comment was “I didn’t shine at school, I didn’t participate in much. I don’t think I even watched a rugby match when I was there.”

It seems that Vuyo may be overly modest. He was a boarder in Grade 8 because his family lived in Port Elizabeth – and we all know that boarders are the backbone of the school because they so easily become involved in extramural activities. In Vuyo’s case, he was an active member of Roar Fax, the media club at Muir, and he admits that he did a bit of acting and a lot of swimming, although largely recreational.

Teachers he recalls vividly include Margaret Hicks (English) and Messrs Francis and Hopley, both of whose History lessons helped him to decide upon a career in law.

After four years at Nelson Mandela University, Vuyo did his articles at law firm Rushmere, Noach and Partners, and was admitted to the bar in 2014. He now practices as a labour law consultant.

Vuyo has become a very active member of the Old Muirite Union Committee and gives a lot of his time and energy to the Union. He was a class rep for the 2022 reunions, and was the South African flag bearer during the Bicentenary Founder’s Assembly, which means that he got to lead the procession. It was Vuyo’s turn to shine!

In his spare time, when not watching motorsport – especially Formula 1, of which he is an avid fan – Vuyo can be found on the beach, a legacy of his many hours in the hostel and school swimming pools at Muir. He is currently reading *Leading at a higher level* by Ken Blanchard, and his playlist mainly includes hip hop music.

Life lesson to be shared: ‘Feel the fear and do it anyway.’

## Robert Sharman – Class of 1971



*Vuyo Dyan*





# Old Muirites - where are they now?

## *A Sportsman, an Influencer and a Financial Whizz*



**Fenner Barnard**, *class of 1998*,  
and who lives in Port Elizabeth, kindly interviewed  
the following gents from his class.

### DARRON NELL

A venerated Old Muirite, Darron enjoyed a storied first-class career as a professional rugby player, making over 170 first class appearances in both Europe and South Africa. His professional career took him first to the Free State Cheetahs, where he enjoyed winning two Currie Cups – in 2005 and 2006. A two-year stint at Castres Olympique in the French Top 14 followed, before he returned home as part of the resurgence of rugby in the Eastern Cape, representing the Kings until his retirement in 2014.

A member of the class of '98, Darron attended Muir College from grade 4 to grade 12. Interestingly, his grade 7 class was the last group of boys to finish their primary schooling in the old red-brick buildings in Park Lane, before the 1994 amalgamation of Muir Primary and Muir Senior on the new campus in Vanes Estate.

Darron looks back on his time spent at Muir with great fondness, and believes that the greatest value Muir College provided for him was a good education, as well as teaching him the value of fighting against the odds to be successful. He credits former headmasters Neil Crawford and Bun Hopley as making positive impressions on him, while staff he regards as being influential on his path to success include primary school teachers Mr and Mrs Barnard and Mrs Hartley. Darron feels that Mr Peter Stevens, Mr David Francis and Mr Rowan Cloete also had positive influences on him during his high school career.

Based in Gqeberha, Darron currently divides his time between his business interests and coaching the 1st XV at Grey High. A keen golfer, Darron loves the outdoors and spending quality time with his two sons, Blake and Chase, and his wife, Lisa-Marie.



### MIKE ELOFF

A boarder throughout his high school years, Mike matriculated in 1998 before studying PC Engineering at Varsity College. Since graduation, Mike moved to Cape Town and his work in iGaming has seen him living in Ireland, England, Malta and Costa Rica.

In 2013 he decided that working for himself and doing what he loved doing most – taking photographs and creating memories through the lens of his camera – would make for a much better life. Since then, Mike and his long-term girlfriend (they have been together for 20 years and share their home with two cats) have been based in Cape Town. They work for themselves and travel around the world taking photographs and making videos for many notable hotels and commercial brands. A Sony Alpha Ambassador since 2018, Mike finds being referred to as “an influencer” amusing, but creating content is what he does for a living, and he describes his lifestyle as being incredible, with many perks.

Mike has interests in trail running, time-lapse photography (his Instagram page @LifeOfMikeZA has some tremendous images and videos) and 4x4 adventures when he isn't working. Mike believes that his time at Muir College taught him respect, discipline and integrity and he will never forget the life lessons learnt in David Francis's class!



## RYAN TRUELOVE

Another of the 25-year reunion class, Ryan was born in Uitenhage and spent his entire school career at Muir College from Grade 4.

A sojourn overseas was his first step after matriculation, before studying Financial Planning at the then NMMU. Ryan established himself in the world of Finance during the 11 years he spent as part of Standard Bank's Financial Consultancy Division. He then joined Adviceworx in 2013.

While it is hard for Ryan to single out any of his teachers as he feels the class of '98 "had a number of gems", Ma'am Rita Lingwood will always have a special place in his heart, as well as legendary English teacher Mr Rowan Cloete.

An avid golfer, triathlete and a raconteur of the highest order, Ryan is engaged to Nicole and has two sons: Josh (2) and stepson Max (8). Ryan firmly believes that the traditions, discipline and camaraderie he experienced during his high school career have been assimilated into his values and have positively impacted upon his life.

Ryan is proud that he has maintained friendships with many of his classmates. "Having our children play together is truly something very special." Ryan is a proud supporter of the Old Muirite Union and believes that Andrew Binning and George Yerole mou deserve congratulations for awakening a sleeping giant that is the O MU, for what was a truly magnificent 200-year celebration in 2022.





# BUSINESS PORTAL INTERVIEWS

**Roland Cox** (Class of 1987) spent time asking two of the companies listed on the OMU Business Portal more about themselves.

To register and list your company on the Business Portal, please visit [www.muircollege.co.za](http://www.muircollege.co.za) and follow the links to “Old Muirite Union” and “Business Portal”.

## SAVOA

(Craig Ross, Class of 2003)



### *What's the elevator pitch for your business?*

SAVOA Voice and Production Agency is the premier training and representation agency for voiceover talent in Africa and beyond. Our mission is simple: to grow human potential. We offer professional training to help our artists hone their skills and elevate their careers, providing a platform for African voiceover talent.

### *Are you local, national or international?*

Our business operates on an international scale, representing voiceover talent from all over Africa and beyond. With a global network at our fingertips, we've worked with clients from various continents and countries, ensuring our services are accessible worldwide.

### *When was this business founded?*

In 2014 we set out to address the lack of representation and development opportunities for African voiceover talent. Our goal was not only to provide professional training and representation, but also offer a full end-to-end production service from recording to final mix. Simply put, we aimed to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity.

### *What do you love most about this business?*

We love working with incredibly talented voiceover artists from all over Africa. Seeing them develop their skills and succeed in their careers is both fulfilling and inspiring.

### *What advice would you give to other entrepreneurs?*

Our advice is never to give up on their dreams, even when faced with challenges and setbacks. Persistence and determination are key to success. We believe that if you have a passion for what you do and if you work hard, success will follow.

### *What is the 'secret sauce' of your business?*

Our secret sauce lies in our unwavering passion for developing and representing African voiceover talent. We provide our clients with the highest quality training and representation services, taking pride in our work and the success of our artists.

### *If you could do it all over again. What would you do differently?*

We would have invested more in marketing and advertising early on, in order to reach a wider audience more quickly. We've learned the importance of marketing and advertising in growing a business, and we'd prioritize it from the start.

# BUSINESS PORTAL INTERVIEWS

## *Who would play you in a film about this business? And why?*

We'd love to be played by someone like Lupita Nyong'o, a talented actress and proud African. We believe she'd embody our spirit and mission perfectly.

## *Which well-known business personality do you admire, and why?*

Oprah Winfrey, a successful businesswoman and philanthropist who uplifts and empowers people around the world. She's a role model for entrepreneurs everywhere.

## *What is your leadership philosophy or approach?*

Our leadership philosophy is to lead by example, with transparency, honesty and being open to feedback and new ideas. We foster a culture of collaboration and communication, ensuring everyone feels valued and supported.

## *What's been your most exciting/rewarding project over the years?*

The development and representation of our voiceover talent and seeing our clients succeed in their careers brings us immense pride.

## *What are you curious about over the next two decades, for your business or sector?*

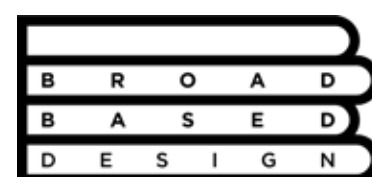
How technology will continue to shape the way we work and connect with clients and audiences. We're always learning and adapting to stay ahead of industry trends.

## *What's the best thing South African businesses can do for the wellbeing of all citizens?*

Prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion in hiring practices. We believe creating a more just and equitable society will enable us all to thrive and succeed together.

## BROAD BASED DESIGN

(Mfundo Magongo, Class of 2005)



## *What's the elevator pitch for your business?*

Broad Based Design is an ideas company, connecting people through humane architectural solutions.

## *Is you're a local, national or international company?*

We are a South African based Architecture Design Studio.

## *When was this business founded?*

Broad Based Design was founded in 2010 by a team of ambitious young professionals determined to make their mark in design and the built environment.

## *What was the main driver behind starting this business?*

It was built around dignity, integration, sustainability, community, affordability, culture and creativity. We aim to make our mark in the design and architectural industry through sustainable, innovative urban design and project management, utilising our combined skills and experience from residential to commercial environments.



# BUSINESS PORTAL INTERVIEWS

## ***What do you love most about this business?***

Collaborating with different professionals across various disciplines. We enjoy problem solving on projects with tight constraints as this helps us to highlight our creativity on projects with tight budgets.

## ***What advice would you give to other entrepreneurs?***

'Mind the Money', 'Be of Service' and 'Add value'. These are three principles we have learned over the years. Cashflow is king, so be sure to never do the work for less than you can afford. Provide the same quality of service on every project whatever the scale as every client deserves the best. Add value to every project and person – this has positive side effects.

## ***What is the 'secret sauce' of your business?***

Our secret sauce is being Great Designers.

## ***If you could do it all over again. What would you do differently?***

Focus more on building better relationships as they are more valuable to the longevity of the business, implementing efficient systems early on that enable us to do our work better and provide better service.

## ***Who would play you in a film about this business? And why?***

I don't have a specific actor in mind, but I love movies that recapture such historical events as the storyline of Harley and the Davidsons who created the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycle.



# BUSINESS PORTAL INTERVIEWS

## ***Which well-known business personality do you admire, and why?***

I would say Steve Jobs for his impact and his influence on how Apple products were/are designed and produced. – who was influenced by the Bauhaus school of architecture and design that emphasised the importance of objects being aesthetically pleasing as well as functional.

I have also been inspired by the resilience of local individuals such Richard Maponya and Herman Mashaba who fought all the odds by establishing successful businesses.

In terms of architecture [works by]:

- Diebedo Francis Kere
- Sir David Frank Adjaye
- StudioMas

## ***What is your leadership philosophy or approach?***

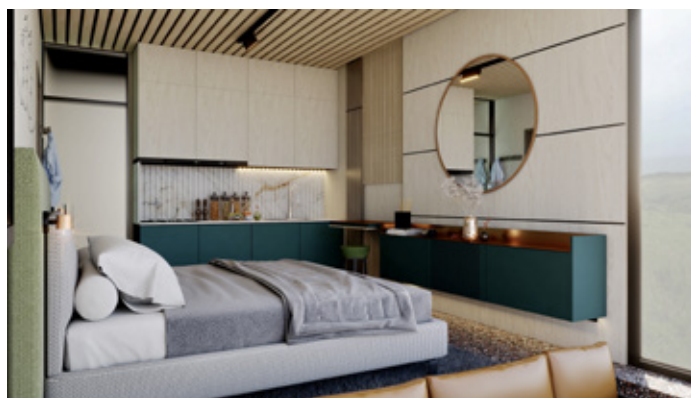
To always work as a team, to maximize on each other's skill sets. There's strength in unity.

## ***What are you curious about over the next two decades, for your business or sector?***

Architecture in our nation stems from the rudiments of segregation; and one would love to see architecture/property development [at its full potential] as a catalyst for sustainable growth and productivity - a landscape driven by good design and progressive/inclusive infrastructure.

## ***What's the best thing South African businesses can do for the wellbeing of all citizens?***

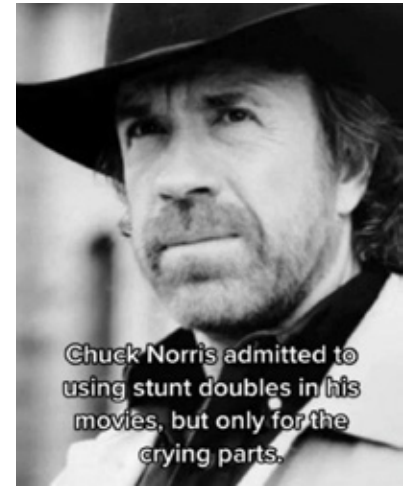
- Play a critical role in job creation. I believe government can at best foster policies that allow for economic growth, while the innovation for job creation and productivity lies in the minds of entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Fair employment practices.
- Innovation around products and services that are accessible and affordable. Including those that address pressing social issues such as access to healthcare, etc.





# MEMES

1970's Barbershop Haircutting guide



Spoil her this Valentine's Day with a pair of moppers 🤖🤖



Me: can you pass me the Rooster sooster sauce?  
Him: the what?  
Me: the Warsha chester sire sauce.  
Him: are you having a stroke?  
Me: the Worst sister shire sauce.

Friend:  
What was that noise?  
ME:  
My shirt fell.  
Friend:  
It sounded a lot heavier than that.  
ME:  
I was in it.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

By **Craig Ross**, Class of 2003

Take time to invest in yourself.

Self-care is important and often overlooked, but it can make a huge difference in feeling better on a daily basis. Make sure you are getting enough rest, eating healthy meals and snacks throughout the day, exercising regularly, and taking time to relax and destress with activities that bring you joy.

Additionally, strive to learn something new every day, surround yourself with positive people who lift you up and motivate you, find ways to give back to your community or the world at large, and don't be afraid to think outside the box when it comes to expanding your horizons.

Taking these steps can help ensure that you are living life to its fullest potential and can also help boost self-confidence and enhance your overall wellbeing over time.





# WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Our condolences go to the families and friends  
of those we have lost in 2023.

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

**Albert Boliter**  
1947

**Alwin La Trobe**  
1956

**Roger Meyer**  
1957

**Denis Pinnock**  
1961

**Kevin Smith**  
1963

**Johan van Rooyen**  
1964

**Peter Butlion**  
1967

**Bryan Erasmus**  
1970

**Alan Kees Jenner**  
1973

**Mike Sinclair**  
1974

**Mark Crane**  
1985

**Simon Groves**  
1986

**Bretton White**  
1989

**Akhona Baliwe**  
2009

**Shaun Jonga**  
2022

# BACK PAGE

## Message from the OMU Manager

Welcome to the first edition of 2023. The year has started off with a bang and seems to be gaining momentum.

You might have noticed that we have a few new contributors to this newsletter. A newsletter committee has been formed and I would like to thank the following gents for agreeing to join the team:

- Charles van Renen (Class of 1963)
- Robert Sharman (Class of 1971)
- Lance Dodd (Class of 1984)
- Roland Cox (Class of 1987)
- Grant Kunneke (Class of 1993)
- Fenner Barnard (Class of 1998)
- Curtis Young (Class of 2005)



I've been rather busy updating the database, which is quite a project to undertake. We currently have 5 472 Old Muirites on our database. These names date back to 1929 and include those who have deceased along the way. According to my calculations, we have approximately 3770 Old Muirites who are still alive, and of these we have 2347 email addresses. This means quite a few email addresses are still missing. If your details have changed at all, or if you know of any of your classmates who aren't receiving our correspondence, please contact me.

Another project I've been pretty busy with is increasing our social media reach. We would love for all Old Muirites (who are on social media) to please follow us (see details below). Over the first 2 months of this year, we saw an increase of 93 new followers across our platforms, and hope to see this number grow even further.

Don't forget that I'm just an email, phone call or WhatsApp away, so please do make contact if you have any queries, suggestions, ideas etc.

***Till Next Time***

**Wendy Knott-Craig**  
OMU Manager

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### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Old Muirite Union on social media platforms:

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 The Old Muirite Union

 The Old Muirite Union

 The Old Muirite Union



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