

# OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2023



## FOUNDERS' WEEKEND 2023



We're getting really excited about the forthcoming Founders' Weekend, which is to take place in August this year.

There have been several queries as to why the event has been changed from March to August. The reason is that last year the timing of the 200 Year Celebrations worked for all parties involved. The timing is perfect for the school as it's between exams, and it allows the school to have a Rugby Derby that draws in the crowds. Cricket is the main sport in March, and unfortunately only a few cricket matches can be played in one day due to the duration of the games, whereas rugby allows more games for all age groups throughout the Saturday.

The second weekend in August each year, when Muir College usually plays home games against traditional rivals Graeme College or Grey High School, is ideal. This year Muir College will be hosting Graeme on 12 August, and next year Grey (Muir College's earliest known rugby opponents) will be on the menu.

### PROGRAMME FOR FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

<b>Thursday 10 August</b>	12h00	OMU Golf Day, Walmer Golf Club
<b>Friday 11 August</b>	10h00	Muir College Founders' Assembly, School Hall
	18h30	OMU Annual Dinner, School Hall
<b>Saturday 12 August</b>		Muir College vs Graeme Rugby Derby (The Muirite Clubhouse will be open until 20h00)
<b>Sunday 13 August</b>	10h30	Remembrance & Thanksgiving Service, School Hall

#### BOOKINGS:

Please note that all bookings and payments must be done online

(<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/omu-reunion-team/>)

*NB - Please register for the free events too, as this will assist the organisers when planning seating and catering arrangements.*

# CLASS REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW

Our milestone reunion classes are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that their reunions are a success. We've interviewed the following class representatives:

## Brent Vermaak

(Class of 2013: 10-year reunion)

### *When last were you at the Muir College campus?*

I last visited Muir College during the 200th year celebrations, which were fantastic!

### *What is your favourite memory from your school days?*

I don't have a specific favourite memory, but I really loved going to watch the 1st XV play some good rugby on Saturdays. Saturdays were always filled with lots of tradition and good fun.

### *What are you most looking forward to during the 2023 Founders' Weekend?*

I'm looking forward to seeing some old school friends and also teachers who taught me back in the day.



## Andrew Binning

(Class of 1988: 35-year reunion)

### *When last were you at the Muir College campus?*

I'm on the campus on average once a week.

### *What is your favourite memory from your school days?*

One that comes to mind immediately is catching the train from Redhouse to Uitenhage every day – and hoping that we would arrive late on the days that hair inspection took place!

### *What are you most looking forward to during the 2023 Founders' Weekend?*

I'm looking forward to seeing my legendary school mates again, and also meeting Bryan Habana in person.

# CLASS REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW

## Mark Bakker

(Class of 1988: 35-year reunion)

### *When last were you at the Muir College campus?*

I was at Muir College on Friday 19 May for the opening of the revamped gym and on Saturday 20 May to watch the Muir College 1st XV take on Pearson.

### *What is your favourite memory from your school days?*

Without a doubt the years I spent in the hostel when we had all the water and electricity we needed ... !

### *What are you most looking forward to during the 2023 Founders' Weekend?*

Picking up from where the highly successful 200 year celebrations ended and meeting up with class mates for our 35th anniversary reunion.



## Arnold Niemand

(Class of 1973: 50-year reunion)

### *When last were you at the Muir College campus?*

My last visit was during the 200 year celebrations, when I encountered many old yet familiar faces, and had a great time.

### *What is your favourite memory from your school days?*

My favourite memory would certainly be of the group of friends we formed who are still regularly in touch 50 years on.

### *What are you most looking forward to during the 2023 Founders' Weekend?*

We will have a lot to chat about.

Written by:

**Wendy Knott-Craig**

OMU Manager



# OLD MUIRITE UNION CLOTHING & MEMORABILIA



This year we have various items available to purchase online,  
for collection at the school during Founders' Weekend.

Please visit (<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/omu-reunion-team/>) to place your orders.

Orders & payments to be done online by 15 July 2023.



Golf Shirts  
@ ZAR310



Caps  
@ ZAR100



Griffin Jacket  
Only 3XL & 4XL  
@ ZAR430



Men's Long Sleeve  
Small – 2XL @ ZAR310  
3XL @ ZAR350



Braai tongs  
@ ZAR130



Bottle Opener  
@ ZAR100



Water Bottle  
@ ZAR100



Socks  
@ ZAR120



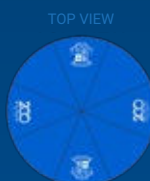
Mugs  
@ ZAR85



Ground Coffee @ ZAR70  
Coffee Beans @ ZAR70



Umbrella @ ZAR275



200 Year Commemorative Book,  
*Shout Till the Rafters Ring*,  
by Charles van Renen @ ZAR650





# THE MUIR FOUNDATION GIVES BACK: GYMNASIUM LAUNCH

*Written by:*  
**Wendy Knott-Craig, OMU Manager**

The launch of the upgraded gymnasium at Muir College took place on 19 May 2023.

This upgrade project was a collaboration between The Muir Foundation and Muir College, with each contributing R 200 000 towards the project.

The launch saw an array of stakeholders attending, including the OMU Committee, Directors of the Foundation, teachers, members of the SGB, contractors and members of the current rugby 1st team.

Also in attendance were three well-known former Muir College sporting VIPs, namely Robert Blignault (Class of 1977), Mandla Busakwe (Class of 1996) and Runeshan Moodley (Class of 2002). (For details of their sporting achievements at Muir College, see Charles van Renen's commemorative history of the school, *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*.)

During the proceedings, Mandla read out messages of inspiration from various Old Muirites who have excelled in rugby and who could not be in attendance.

As part of the upgrade, new lockers have been installed for the 1st rugby team. A future fundraising initiative to raise funds for the purchase of more gym equipment will involve previous 1st team rugby players being invited to purchase plaques bearing their names and years. More information will follow soon.



**Ian Krain**

1962 - 1965

**Robert Blignault**

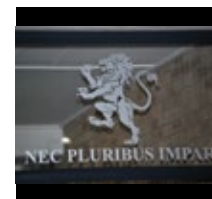
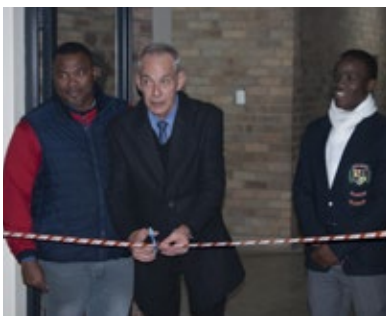
1974 - 1977

**Mandla Busakwe**

1994 - 1997

**Runeshan Moodley**

2001 - 2002





## OMU President's Message

Greetings to all Old Muirites and the broader Muir College family.

Congratulations to Jason Henman (Class of 1995) and Afrika Mlahleki (Class of 1999) on their election to the Old Muirite Union Committee – this at the recently-held OMU AGM. A record number of over 50 old boys attended the AGM at the Walmer Golf Club, held to elect the new OMU Committee as well as to hear from guest speaker Vernon Naidoo (Head of the Volkswagen Trust). Jason and Afrika join a well-balanced, enthusiastic OMU Committee whose members occupy a range of portfolios that assist OMU Manager, Wendy Knott-Craig. In addition to the President, the following are members of the new 7-person Executive Committee: Mark Bakker, Ryan Bhana, Vuyolwethu Dyan, Joel Katz, Phakamani Nesi and Thomas Terblanche.

The 2023 Founder's Weekend is around the corner and the organisers of the Special Reunion classes are all excited about gathering their classes together for a few days of fun, reconnecting and showing their support for Muir College. The OMU Annual Dinner – to be held on Friday evening, 11 August – promises to be one of the highlights. Guest speaker Bryan Habana will no doubt give his views regarding the Springbok's chances at this year's World Cup. We are sure he'll be more positive about the Bokke's chances than Richie McCaw! Tickets for the OMU Annual Dinner are available to any old boys, family and friends, and are obtainable on line only through a "first come, first booked" process.

Thank you to all old boys who have in some way supported the Muir Foundation, thereby enabling the Foundation to contribute R200 000 to the recent refurbishment of the school's gymnasium. The OMU Committee attended the launch function and hosted Ian Krain, Robbie Blignaut, Mandla Busakwe and Runeshan Moodley as VIP guests. This project – a joint one between the OMU, the Muir Foundation and the School Governing Body – is hopefully the first of many such projects.

Enjoy this edition of the OMU Newsletter in which we feature Old Muirites from various decades, now living locally and abroad, as well as feedback from the school, features on teachers (retired and still active) and much more!

Stay connected ... see you in August ...

*Nec Pluribus Impar!*

**Andrew Binning**

Old Muirite Union President



# Headmaster's Feedback

***"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success."***

*- Edward Everett Hale*

The opening of the renovated Muir College gymnasium and changing rooms on 19 May this year is evidence of the truth in the above quote.

The School Governing Body and the Muir Foundation worked together in making the upgrade of the gymnasium a reality. OMU members like Joel Katz gave a tremendous amount of their time and expertise to help make this happen. I would like to extend my warm thanks to all the parties involved for their help and support in this project, which ultimately benefits the learners of our school. With the continuous support of the SGB, The Muir Foundation, and the OMU, our school will go from strength to strength.

I wish to thank the Old Boys once again for their support of our school. I believe that schools like ours are in a fortunate position to have strong organizations, like the Old Muirite Union, helping in our various endeavours. During the second term this year the school's extramural activities have been dominated by hockey and rugby. Many of our rugby teams are going from strength to strength with some excellent results, and must be commended on their performances.

Our U13A rugby team is doing exceptionally well, and by the end of May they were unbeaten after 7 matches. During the midyear vacation the U13A squad will be participating in the Union High School Sports Festival which is to be held in Graaff-Reinet from Friday, 23 June to Monday, 26 June.

The following boys deserve special mention for their outstanding achievements:

- **Ntandazo Mboniswa** (centre) and **Lyle Meintjies** (fullback) who have been selected for the Eastern Province High Schools Rugby Association's U18 Academy Week team;
- **Ethan Constable**, who was selected for the EP U13 Craven Week team;
- **Dalin Pillay** and **Kungawo Zito** who will be representing the EP U13B team at a National Youth Week tournament during the June/July school break.



*Ntandazo Mboniswa*



*Lyle Meintjies*



*Ethan Constable*



*Dalin Pillay*



*Kungawo Zito*

Both the U11 and U13 hockey teams have been unfortunate in their respective Eastern Province Friday hockey leagues: due to bad weather and exams, many of their matches have been postponed this term. Nevertheless, the U14A hockey team has had a very successful term, notching up several victories in their league matches. Jibraeel Mohamed and Nehemiah Vinqi-De Bruin were selected for the Nelson Mandela Bay Regional team that played at the Provincial Winter Games in East London. From this tournament, Jibraeel Mohamed has made the Eastern Cape squad to compete at the National Winter Games in Benoni from 3-7 July.

Furthermore, **Bambihlelo Mjana** has been selected for the EP U14B team that will participate in the U14 Regional North-South Tournament which is to be held at Kearsney College in Natal from 23 to 28 June.



*Bambihlelo Mjana*

The 1st Hockey Team has grown from strength to strength over the course of the term. The team has managed some positive results with two draws and a few narrow losses against strong opposition. The team was also very fortunate to receive a sponsorship for new playing kit for the season. The school would like to thank Mr Claude Smith of Claude Smith Attorneys for the sponsorship of both the Muir College hockey and tennis teams.

Congratulations also to **Matthew Botha** who was selected for the EP Schools U19B squash team. Matthew will compete in the SA Schools U19 inter-provincial tournament in Stellenbosch from 24 to 28 June.

The school choir participated in the National Choral Celebrations Festival that was hosted at the Feathermarket Centre in Gqeberha on 12 May 2023. They performed three songs and at the end received a standing ovation.



*Matthew Botha*

This term it was time for the junior debaters to showcase their skills. Two junior teams participated in the Uitenhage/Port Elizabeth debating league, performing extremely well. At the end of the league, the Muir College 1st team was ranked 5th. Muir College 1st, being made up of more experienced debaters, won 4 out of their 5 debates.

Mention must be made of Luvuyo Sityi who was Best Speaker in 4 of the 5 contests. The Muir College junior team also qualified to participate in the Eastern Cape provincial debating competition which will be held in Makhanda in August. This competition also serves as a trial for the selection of the Eastern Cape debating team that will participate at national level.

Good luck to Zukhanya Mboya, Luvuyo Sityi, Mafu Mhletwya, Caleb Liebenberg and Miguel Ferreira, the debaters who will participate in provincials.

Two of our senior debaters, Thabang Dilika and Esilisipho Jacobs, have recently written their adjudication accreditation tests. Both scored well and qualified as debating adjudicators. Both learners were also awarded their team blazers.

For the first time since 2019, we again held a Roar Talent performance to showcase the vast amount of talent here at Muir College. The winners are as follows:

**1st place** : Likhaya Loyiti (Dance)

**2nd place** : Mihle Mandela and his group (Singing)

**3rd place** : Brian Mujana (Poetry)

## David Francis

Acting Headmaster

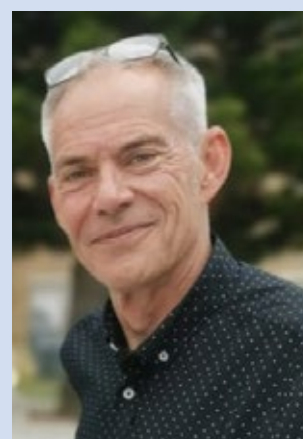
**David Francis** is one of the longest-serving members of staff in the long history of Muir College, having commenced his career there in 1989, teaching Geography and coaching rugby, cricket and squash. Having been a pupil at Hoërskool Adamantia in Kimberley, and armed with a BA degree in Education and an Honours degree, both from the University of the Free State, the newly-appointed teacher soon found that he had the strong support of 'the legendary Tom Ferreira and Allan Whitehead', mentors whom he credits with having played major roles in moulding him into an effective schoolmaster – in the classroom, on the sports field and in the hostel.

David was a resident master at Sir Thomas Muir House for several years before his appointment as hostel superintendent in 2000, a position he held until 2010. It was possibly because of his reputation as a firm but fair disciplinarian both at school and in the hostel that David was appointed Head of Department responsible for discipline under new headmaster Neil Crawford in 1997, at a time when corporal punishment was being phased out.

In 2007 David was promoted to the position of Deputy Headmaster under headmaster Bun Hopley. When Robin Stephenson retired at the end of 2022 David was appointed Acting Headmaster, and has since then held a steady hand on the reins of the South Africa's oldest boys' school.

Having served under five successive heads at Muir College, David is well placed to be able to comment on them, and, as mentioned in Shout Till the Rafters Ring, he credits each with having done a sterling job in maintaining the ethos of Muir College. 'I can safely say that we have the same high values and discipline as when I started at Muir College.'

David and his wife Lillian have two adult children, Carmen and John, and when not attending to his responsibilities at Muir College he likes to spend quality time with his family, or reading, gaming, collecting music, playing social squash, going for long walks – or practicing karate.





# OMU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Old Muirite Union held its AGM on 30 March 2023.

Approximately 50 Old Muirites were in attendance, which is the highest number we have had in person at an AGM in many years. Next year we hope to see at least 100 Old Muirites attending.

The OMU Committee sadly bids farewell to George Yerolemou (Vice Chair) and Riaan Claassen, after many years on the committee. Fortunately, they will both remain Directors of The Muir Foundation.

We welcome two new committee members, namely **Jason Henman** (Class of 1995) and **Afrika Mlahleki** (Class of 1999).

Treasurer Joel Katz presented an overview of the Union's finances and explained that, although the Union's finances seemed sound, regular annual Voluntary Contributions from members were essential to ensure the continuity of operations and ongoing support of Muir College.

Guest speaker Vernon Naidoo of Volkswagen SA, spoke about VW's Corporate Social Investments in the local community, in particular in education, which include bursaries from which some current Muirites are benefitting. The Union's thanks were expressed for the generosity of VWSA.



*Jason Henman*



*Afrika Mlahleki*

After the meeting, an informal Happy Hour allowed for much networking, and was enjoyed by all present.

*Written by:*

***Wendy Knott-Craig***

*OMU Manager*



# OMU COMMITTEE & EXECUTIVE

At the AGM we welcomed both Jason Henman and Afrika Mlahleki to the committee.

The following portfolios have been allocated to committee members who will work alongside Wendy Knott-Craig, the OMU Manager:

<b>Andrew Binning</b>	OMU President
<b>Mark Bakker</b>	Secretarial / Database
<b>Vuyo Dyan</b>	Secretarial / Database
<b>Joel Katz</b>	Treasurer / Finances
<b>Phakamani Nesi</b>	Treasurer / Finances
<b>Ryan Bhana</b>	Social Media
<b>Thomas Terblanche</b>	Newsletter / Communication
<b>Clayton du Plooy</b>	Clothing & Memorabilia
<b>Mark Manlee</b>	Branding
<b>Afrika Mlahleki</b>	Branding
<b>Jason Henman</b>	Muirite Clubhouse
<b>David Francis</b>	School Alignment
<b>Lyntin Gouws</b>	School Alignment
<b>Leo Doria</b>	Trustees / Governance
<b>Ricky Wedderburn</b>	Trustees / Governance



After the 1st committee meeting of the new term, the following members were appointed to serve on the Executive of the OMU:

- Andrew Binning
- Mark Bakker
- Joel Katz
- Thomas Terblanche
- Ryan Bhana
- Vuyo Dyan
- Phakamani Nesi

On behalf of all the OMU members, our thanks go to these gentlemen for their strong commitment to the OMU.

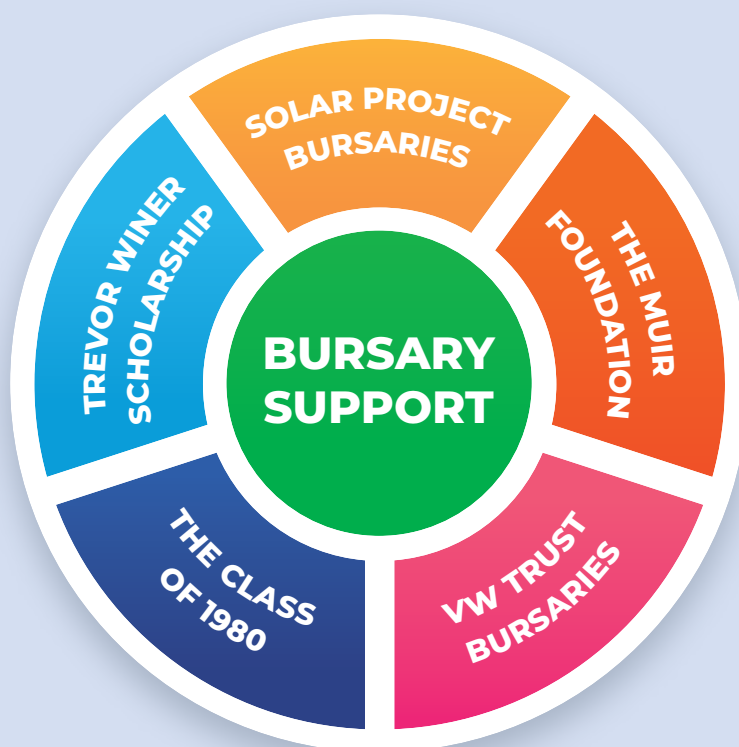
*Written by:*

**Wendy Knott-Craig**  
OMU Manager



# SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Various bursaries are available to current Muir College scholars as well as potential Muirites. These bursaries have been funded by The Muir Foundation as well as other contributors. The Old Muirite Union, the school, The Muir Foundation and the SGB play a strong role in facilitating the funds and contributions received.



01

## SOLAR PROJECT BURSARIES

- The Scholarship Committee to propose a number of boys that meet the policy criteria
- Amount given is determined by each individual's needs

02

## THE MUIR FOUNDATION

- The Scholarship Committee to propose a number of boys who meet the policy criteria

03

## VW TRUST BURSARIES

- The VW Trust will provide names of prospective learners who will be enrolled from Grade 8
- The school will allow space for 3 to 5 boys in both the school and the hostel
- The Scholarship Committee, representative of the Muir Foundation and the VW Trust, will select the recipient/s
- The scholarships will be received through The Muir Foundation

04

## THE CLASS OF 1980

- For prospective learners to attend Muir College and become "well-rounded" Muirites
- The Scholarship Committee to propose recipients
- Recipients will be enrolled in Grade 8 and will be sponsored through to Grade 12

05

## TREVOR WINER SCHOLARSHIP

- Funded by Trevor Winer, Class of 1955
- Open to matrics of Muir College
- The Winer Foundation selects the recipient
- Funds are given to cover the recipient's tertiary education for 4 years
- Nineteen Muirites have benefited from this scholarship since it's inception in 2009

*The Muir Foundation would like to thank the Class of 1980 for investing a contribution towards the solar panels, which now provides an ongoing bursary to a deserving scholar. Classes who would similarly like to have a bursary allocated in their class name are to please contact The Old Muirite Union for further information.*



# MUSIC AT MUIR COLLEGE – A LONG AND WINDING JOURNEY



*A Sing-Song item: 'Village Fire Brigade'*



*A scene from Paint Your Wagon*

When the practice of community singing started in 1931 under headmaster NC Dugmore, singing at school assemblies had already been part of Muir College tradition over many decades. Dugmore also instituted annual musical revues known as Sing-Songs, which proved to be highly popular. The 1930s therefore saw new and vibrant progress in the cultural life of the school.

Little is recorded about Sing-Songs during the war years (1939-1945) and from the late 1940s, and through the '50s and '60s, more attention was given to straight drama society offerings. 1971, however, saw a revival in musical productions with the staging of *Paint Your Wagon*, directed by Neill Hoare, a member of the teaching staff. Vice-Principal Mike King was the musical director, as he was for several more shows in the future directed by Hoare. *Paint Your Wagon* signalled a new tradition of full-scale musicals in which girls from Riebeek College joined Muir College boys, either as cast members or backstage crew. (Needless to say, some onstage and especially backstage romances flourished during rehearsals.) Staff members occasionally took part in the productions as well. The Woodwork department under Tom Ferreira and, in later years, Jacques Fouché, constructed a variety of sets for the shows. Following *Wagon*, further productions involving pupils from Riebeek and Muir College were *Camelot* (1973), *The Sound of Music* (1975), *Fiddler on the Roof* (1977), *Annie Get Your Gun* (1980), *Carousel* (1982), *Oklahoma* (1984), *Camelot* (1986), *South Pacific* (1988) and *Grease* (1990).

In the same year as *Paint Your Wagon*, Muir College Boys' Primary School staged the operetta *Tom Sawyer*. Two weeks before opening, the boy cast in the leading role was injured, and he was replaced by Peter King, whose father was musical director of *Paint Your Wagon*. (Ironically, a key role in *Wagon* also had to be taken over at even shorter notice.) When Muir Primary amalgamated with the Boys' High School in 1994, it brought with it not only a choir led by music teacher Cheryl Vermaak, but also a programme of music tuition. This made it possible to stage 'An Evening of Music' from time to time in the school hall, with standards rising each year. By 2001 Music was offered as a matric subject for the first time at Muir College.

A choir had been established by Linette Gubb at the high school in 1976. After her departure from Muir College at the end of that year the choir continued for a while, but its voice gradually fell silent along a road of 'many a winding turn'. From 1994 Cheryl Vermaak's newly-established Muir College choir developed rapidly into a highly successful body, performing at Founders' Assembly and the Junior and Senior Speech Nights, as well as participating with distinction in a number of regional festivals and competitions. Within a year of its formation, four choristers, Mandla Busakwe, Abongile Maqwazima, Thato Nqhome and Andile Maqoma, were selected for the Eastern Province Youth Choir. The following year it was widely considered that choristers from Muir College formed the mainstay of the Youth Choir.



*Mandla Busakwe, dedicated chorister and rugby star*





BACK: G. Ferreira, P. Tolsma, D. Alter, D. Paisley, R. Allers, M. Bubb, G. Fourie, D. Mannell, G. van Teylingen, P. Middendorp, G. Ingram, M. Williams, G. Cunningham, W. Esselaar.  
MIDDLE: D. Augustyn, A. Lubbe, S. Partington, D. Olckers, M. Lubbe, P. King, W. Asher, S. Coetzee, L. Beets, C. Audley, M. Cunningham, C. Ferreira.  
FRONT: L. Parsons, L. Goldstein, C. Schauder, E. Popple, P. Wheaton, P. King, R. Harmse.

*The cast of the Muir Primary operetta Tom Sawyer*

Musical collaboration with Riebeeck College – a feature of many a past musical production – took place annually from the mid-1990s. Added to the choir's full 'domestic' programme was its participation in Riebeeck's annual 'Music Pot Pourri' and carol service. In the new millennium a host of honours fell to the choir in events such as the 'Choir of All Choirs Competition' in 2009, at which Muir College was adjudged the best boys' choir. By 2014, under the tutelage of Annabel van der Merwe, standing ovations and gold certificates followed, including at the final of the ATKV competition in Pretoria.

2019 witnessed the formation of an acapella group, an offshoot of the choir. Known as 'Roar Harmonies', the group took part in the first Cape Region Animato Acapella Competition in George in October of that year. In response to their unaccompanied voices, they received the following awards: Most Spontaneous Group, Best costumes and props, Best Afrikaans musical arrangement and Best musical arrangement in other language (English and isiXhosa).



*The Roar Harmonies acapella group*



*Written by:*

***Charles van Renen***

*Class of 1963*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Written by:  
**Lance Dodd**  
Class of 1984



*Claude Smith family*

## Claude Smith, Class of 2001

Claude Smith describes himself as an "all-round Muir College boy, jack of many trades and codes, but master of none". Well, we reckon he might be selling himself short.

Claude captained Muir College's second cricket team and also played for the Uitenhage CC First XI. He played first team tennis and rugby as well as second team squash. He also took to the water for the Uitenhage Swimming Club. In his spare time, he hung out at the gym, where he found he "didn't need to push as hard as others." His one regret is not keeping up his gym work as "now the gymming has become a mission".

Claude was also active culturally, taking part in Interact, SCA, SU, Roar Fax, wildlife, the dance committee, debating and the school choir. He matriculated in 2011.

While attending UPE (now NMU) he kept active by playing club sport. He played league hockey for Uitenhage 1st XI and then for the Old Victorian premier league team.

After graduating with an LLB, Claude did his articles in Uitenhage, and after being admitted as a Professional Attorney he delved into the corporate field and managed several "rather substantial companies". He helped establish a few and saw them grow into strong companies which still exist today. He then took a "leap of faith" and started his own law firm in March 2015.

Claude says: "What a blessed roller-coaster it has been and by the Grace of God (and with faith) the business has not only survived, but has grown in leaps and bounds."

Claude lives in Uitenhage (Kariega) with his "beautiful blended family". He and Melanie have two children, Carlisle (12) and Lilly (8). A proud father, Claude describes Carlisle, who is also a Muir College boy, as his "little champion who excels in school and also on the sports field, blessed with far more talent than his dad ever had". Lilly is his "little princess". She is enrolled at Handhaaf and "loves acting, singing and is very artistic with a very bubbly personality".

The family has what can best be described as a mini petting zoo that includes dogs, fish, dragons, chinchillas, hamsters and hedgehogs. "Yes, it's definitely a bit of a petting zoo, but a house of love, care, support, respect and discipline – well, most of the time."

When they have time, the family loves taking little road trips and spending time with family and friends. Claude also loves a good braai and enjoys dining with friends and family. He describes cooking as his "secret passion and, would hope to say, talent". But mostly, when he has free time, he enjoys the blessing that is time with his loved ones, spending each day to the full.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



*Claude Smith matric*

When he isn't reading legal books (it's part of the territory), Claude finds inspiration in pocket devotional books which accompany him everywhere. "I do love remaining in my faith and learning to become a better version of myself every day."

Claude really loves music. His playlist is populated with tunes by, among others, Jeremy Camp, Steven Curtis Chapman, Delerious, U2, R.E.M, Kravitz, Pink Floyd, Def Leppard, Jo Black, Nickelback and the late Theuns Jordaan. In fact, as Claude says, "My family love music from old to new genres. If it is not a doof, doof, bang, bang, it will be played."

He has many fond memories of being a Muir College boy, but one that sticks with him is when he was a junior prefect. "Because I was dropped off early at school each day, Reagan Schreiber and the other senior prefects would allow me into the senior prefects room and I had coffee with them, while listening to their stories, weekend escapades and wisdom."

Speaking of wisdom, Claude would like to offer the following advice:

"Never ever forget that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, you are designed and you are more powerful than you can ever imagine, but you need to control your mind, as it is factually the only thing you can control. One cannot control what others do, say or think. You cannot even control your own health and wealth. You can manage them, but you can never control them. But your mind – this you can control, and if we focus on positivity, focus on the good and what is good for all, then we can truly reach the potential God designed for us."

Those sound like the words of a master, for sure!

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Roger Martin, Class of 1972

Ah, an idyllic life on a tropical island sounds sublime. And while that lifestyle may be only a dream for most of us, it's part of everyday life for Old Muirite Roger Martin.

Roger grew up in Plettenberg Bay and was a boarder at Muir College until his matriculation in 1972. At school his passion was designing sets for plays and musicals and creating the décor for school dances.

One of his fondest memories of being a Muir College boy was "walking through those metal gates onto Canon Street in 1972."

Roger carried on his love of design and studied interior design and architecture in Cape Town, receiving his postgraduate degree of Bachelor of Architecture in 1986.

He then opened Roger Martin Architects and Interior Design in 1986, operating in Cape Town before moving to Mauritius (where he still runs his business) in 2007.

Roger lives with his sister, Helen (a former pupil at Riebeeck), in the town of St Pierre. He says he didn't leave the island for more than two years after the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown, but he paid a visit to South Africa in March, making time to catch up with some of his old friends.

When he's not designing interiors and buildings, Roger enjoys reading. Some of the books he has recently read include:

That's Life, by Rodney Phillips (a Mauritian friend of Roger, on his life as a diplomat);

The Road to Fitzroy, by Roger Jupe (another of Roger's friends, on his life as the owner of a large public relations company in the UK);

Red, White & Royal Blue, by Casey McQuiston.



Roger's playlist includes many Café del Mar lounge music mixes. He says the relaxing tunes are good to listen to while he works. And when he isn't working, Roger can be found with his brush and easel, painting mainly abstract images.

So what is it like to live in a place many of us can only dream of? Well, before we all get too jealous, Roger says it rains almost every afternoon in St Pierre, which is located more-or-less in the centre of the island. On the plus side, he says the garden always looks exquisite and it doesn't get quite as hot as it can on the coast.

We asked Roger if he had any interesting life lessons he'd like to share, and his advice was: "Only expect the unexpected ... and the opera is not over until the fat lady sings!"

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Ross Wanless, Class of 1988

As old (and current) Muirites, we often forget that not all institutions have such an incredible history as our school.

When Ross Wanless arrived at Muir College (from Johannesburg) as a standard 7 pupil in 1985, he was blown away by the school's "incredible history written informally (the tons of graffiti) and formally on the walls of the old campus." He was also taken by the "architecture and traditions."

"The soaring wooden panels in the main hall with names of Muirites who achieved greatness (in a school context) engraved in gold: all these left 14-year-old me consoled that the bright lights of Joburg might not be all that there is."

What else did Ross love about Muir College? "Everything," he says.

"I really loved and appreciated what the school offered to release my pent-up energy and curiosity about everything. I played cricket, polo, swimming and rugby for the school and would compete in as many Sports Day and swimming gala disciplines as I qualified for."

"I played soccer in Joburg, and after hours we'd play tennis, squash, badminton, skateboarding, or tiddlywinks if needed. I cycled everywhere around Uitenhage and never stopped being active. I was a prefect, in the SCA, debating and drama, dance committees, Uitenhage Junior Town Council, Lions Club exchange, Rotary events, and I've forgotten by now many of the other things."

One of the few things that seems to top Ross's passion for Muir College is his love of nature, and more particularly the ocean. Unsurprisingly then, after matriculating in 1988, Ross headed off to UCT where he obtained a PhD in zoology in 2007. His PhD was adjudged to be best in the Science Faculty in that year, and he took the bronze medal at an international competition.

Ross currently lives in Cape Town (with minor stays in London, Mexico, some extremely remote islands and Durban) where he works as a marine biologist.

His current role involves "working on global fisheries, trying to develop solutions to make fishing less destructive and really strengthen governance." He says, "You'd be blown away at the lawlessness on the ocean. It really is the wild, wild west out there, and amazing species such as albatrosses and productive ecosystems are getting destroyed on my watch. I'm not okay with that."

When he isn't saving the oceans, you're likely to find Ross walking on Table Mountain, birding and chilling with family and friends.

Ross is married to "Italian goddess" Agnese and they have a six-year-old daughter, Gianna. Ross also has a 17-year-old son, Alen.

Ross is currently reading *Fire and Blood*, George R Martin's prequel to the wildly-popular *Game of Thrones* series.

So, what does a man who loves dragons, nature and his family and friends listen to when he has the time? These are some of the songs on Ross' playlist: *Lean into life* (Petey); *Especially me* (Low); *Your man* (Joji); *First* (Cold War Kids); *Modern Loneliness* (Lauv).

In parting, Ross has the following words of wisdom to share: "Life is complicated, messy, and quite random, and is an uncomfortable and shifting mix of what you make of it, and what cards you're dealt."

It looks like you've had a pretty good hand so far, Ross!





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Written by:

**Fenner Barnard**

*Class of 1998*



*Thato Nqhome*

## Thato Nqhome, Class of 1998

Thato was one of the black Muirites who joined Muir Primary in 1991, shortly after both Muir Primary and Muir College chose to become Model B schools to admit pupils of all races. He attended Muir College from grade 5 year all the way through to matric, during which time he was a stalwart of both NC Dugmore and Sir Thomas Muir House as a boarder. Thato was a prefect in high school and fulfilled several other leadership roles during his time at Muir College. He states that Mr Hopley taught him much about the value of leadership, Mr Stevens the importance of etiquette and humility, while he will never forget current acting headmaster Mr Francis's example of both strength and courage.

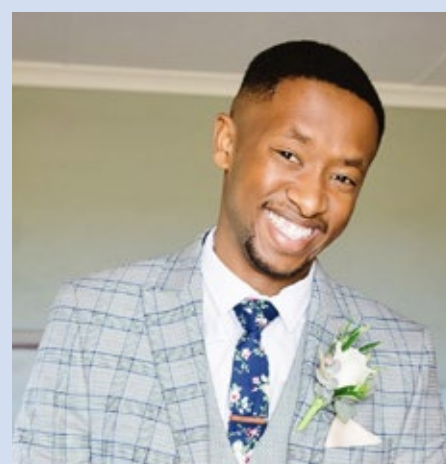
After school, Thato studied towards an Honours Degree in Business Management & Business Administration before spending 9 years working for the IEC (Independent Electoral Commission) as an Electoral Projects Co-ordinator. He then spent three years at South African Breweries, where he started as an accounts manager before progressing to be a sales manager. Since then, he has spent eleven happy years at Tiger Brands Ltd, where he is currently a Regional Customer Manager. Thato is happily married, and dad to his seven children. He says that the greatest impact Muir College has had upon him was to instil the values of team work and camaraderie, as well as teaching him to have courage and to believe in himself.

## Ayabonga Lulonwabo Jonas, Class of 2010

A member of the class of 2010, Ayabonga Lulonwabo Jonas has followed his calling into education. After matriculating in 2010, he obtained a BSc in Physics and Applied Mathematics, followed by a BSc Honours in Applied Mathematics, and finally a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. After completing his honours degree, Ayabonga worked as an assistant lecturer in both Physics and Applied Mathematics at NMU. This experience, among other things, sparked an interest in a career in education and led him to dive into what he describes as the "weird and wonderful" world of teaching.

His first post was at his alma mater, where he taught with some of the legends of the Muir College staff, most of whom shaped his love for Science and Mathematics.

After almost five years of teaching the next generation of Muirites, he chose to start a new chapter in his profession when he accepted a position as a Physical Science teacher at Grey High School.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ayabonga is thankful for the many teachers who had a tremendous influence over him during his time at Muir College, both as a scholar and a teacher, from the late Mr Barnard, who inspired his deep love for science in grade 7, to Mr Ownhouse and Mr McAllister who both continued to build on this love. Another great inspiration to Ayabonga was Mr Stevens who, in his own unique way, developed in him a passion for mathematics. Ayabonga also drew great inspiration from the unity demonstrated over the years within his peers in the class of 2010.

Ayabonga is happily married and his wife is expecting their first child. He enjoys music, football, gaming and cooking and believes that the greatest impact his time at Muir College had upon him was, simply put, the art of being a gentleman. "The lessons learned in words not said but rather actions demonstrated, have shaped the way that I, still to this day, carry within myself."

## Amesh Tulsidas Prag, Class of 1998

A member of the 25-year reunion class of 1998, Amesh was also part of the 1991 intake after Model B was instituted, joining Muir College in grade 5. Mr Nico Heath was his first class teacher, while Sheron van Eck, Serene Bayman, Rose Hartley and others were part of the primary school staff who taught him.

Amesh remembers his time in the red brick buildings fondly, as a member of the last grade 7 class to finish their primary schooling under the leadership of headmaster Carl Lategan, and deputies Willy Watson and Fenner Barnard, before the amalgamation of Muir Primary and Muir College in 1994.

After matriculating up on the hill in 1998, Amesh's studies took him first to Damelin for a basic computer skills course and then to PE Technikon (now part of NMU), where he gained a qualification in Electrical Engineering. After an internship at Eskom, Amesh spent a year working for the SABC in Bisho, before returning to Uitenhage in 2009, where he joined the family business, Rowlans Clothing and Footwear, which has become an institution in the town.

Amesh is happily married and has two children. He enjoys sketching in his spare time and pursues his passion for problem solving through puzzles and electrical projects. Amesh believes that his time at Muir College taught him respect, manners and discipline, which have stood him in good stead.



## LLOYISO... PERFORMING IN THE USA

The singing career of Loyiso Gijana, aka Lloyiso (Class of 2017) has skyrocketed with Lloyiso announcing that he will be performing in New York and Los Angeles, USA, in June.

He was first noticed during the 2015 South African Idols competition while he was a school pupil at Muir College. Since then he has signed with record label Republic Records, has sung at the wedding of Brooklyn Beckham (David Beckham's son), has lit up a billboard in New York Times Square and his single, Speak, was featured in a US sports drama TV Series, All American.



# SUPPORTING YOUR ALMA MATER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The following article, written by Thomas Terblanche (Class of 2008) was published in The Herald in May, and made for some very interesting reading.

Involved (active or passive) alumni are an essential component of the success of this nation. Graduation season has just drawn to a close, making it an opportune moment for us to reflect on the integral role of alumni for their alma maters and, by extension, society. But first some basic definitions: “alumnus” is a term designating an individual who has graduated from an educational institution (school, university, college), “alumni” being the plural form. The institution from which one graduated is referred to as one’s “alma-mater.”

Legal educational institutions, regardless of their configuration, are one of the most important parts of society, forming part of the glue that holds any society together. In the modern world, a nation cannot thrive or have a bright future without working educational institutions. Ideally, schools train young people to be effective and well-rounded members of society. At school they should unearth their skills and talents, and foster cultural norms such as respect, resilience, punctuality, and discipline. Schools commence the cultivation of patriotism and belonging amongst young learners, which are key values that should be continued and fine-tuned at institutions of higher learning. Civic or community engagement is a key tenet of the model citizen, and getting involved in your previous educational institution is a great way to add value to society and showcase your patriotism.



We are all aware of the multi-polar crisis in South Africa, and our educational institutions are at the centre of this crisis while, importantly, being an integral part to the solution. I do not need to further depress the reader by providing examples - we all know. Educators and administrators are working under very tough circumstances and the government with all its weaknesses cannot fulfill the task of creating equitable educational environments without assistance from other stakeholders. This is especially true for quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools. However, I do not want to limit this conversation to underdeveloped schools. All schools and higher institutions of learning need some assistance in one way or another.

Over the last ten years, I've had the privilege of being involved in or having observed alumni or past pupil associations; this, from former model-C schools, university and quintile 1 to 3 schools. Some of these alumni associations have a rich history and structures and programmes with dedicated staff, while others are starting out with little to no budgets. I've witnessed how past students have raised millions for schools and assisted with organising major events, while others built science laboratories and raised money for school transportation. I have witnessed some sell bags to raise funds for university students, others offering a small monthly contribution to a bursary fund. Some even bequeathed a part of their estate to their previous educational institutions. Regardless of your contribution, all are important.

I want to pose the question then; how can we get involved? Briefly, there are four strategies - the four Ts of philanthropy: treasure, time, talent, ties. Many of my previous examples have alluded to the importance of treasure or money. Of course, financial contributions are almost always welcome, but this is not the only act of philanthropy or way of making a difference. You may have some time to spare and can assist our school with painting a classroom, for example. Or, you may have a specific skill set that your former university may be able to benefit from. Perhaps you don't have the time to serve, but there will be a whole host of resources that your network can bring forth.

I have a vested interest in my alma-maters not because I want to return to a world long past. Rather, I am passionate about this nation, and I have concluded that educational institutions are a central part to rebuilding and strengthening our nation and her children's future. And so, when I invest my time, treasure, ties and talent at my former schools and university, I inadvertently invest in our nation. I appeal to you – no, I challenge you – to consider making a difference in society through supporting your alma-mater.

*Written by:*

**Thomas Terblanche**

*Class of 2008*



# THE NOSTRILS GO BACK IN TIME



The Nostrils (i.e. the Class of 1962) and friends decided to go back in time and visit the South End Museum in May.

This Museum is located along Marine Drive, just below the South End Fire Station in Humewood, Gqeberha. The building was opened on 12 May 1900 on land that was given by the Harbour Board to the Seaman's Institute (which later became the Seafarer's Club).

This building has been converted into a museum showing the history of South End prior to the forced removals from that area and the destruction of many homes. It also shows selected snippets of history of the city.

The 62'ers arrived to loadshedding which fortunately didn't last long. They enjoyed a video of the history of the area, followed by a tour of the building. There is a wealth of information in the museum, and one should ideally take about two hours to cover it all.

After the tour, the Nostrils returned to their "local" for their weekly Friday lunch and catch up at the Southender Pub & Grub

Information provided by Warwick Owen, class of 1962



*Written by:*

***Wendy Knott-Craig***

*OMU Manager*



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Congratulations to educator, **Mr Elandre Sias**, who has been appointed as the Conditioning Coach and will travel with the gents on their Lions Tour to Johannesburg over the winter break.



First Team Cricket Coach, **Mr Akhona Kula**, obtained his CSA Level 2 Cricket





# TEACHER INTERVIEW

## Antoinette Downey

Current head of the English Department at Muir College, Antoinette Downey BA (UNISA) PGC (NMU), received her schooling at Felixton College in KZN where she played a lot of sport (including hockey at provincial level) and was an active member of the InterAct Club. At Muir College she has been in charge of hockey and is currently in charge of debating. An avid reader, she loves fishing and has played pool at provincial level.

### ***What subject/s you teach?***

English Home Language

### ***How long have you been at Muir College?***

Eight years

### ***Why did you choose to become a teacher?***

I enjoyed my school days, and I wanted to be a teacher because of the positive interactions I had with my own teachers. Some of them were very interesting and excellent teachers who inspired me, and I also wanted to have that kind of impact on people.

### ***Is there anything that you wish you'd known as a first-year teacher?***

There are many things that I wish I had known as a first year teacher, but the reality of any new experience is that there will be challenges. As I fumbled through my first year and the years that followed, I learned that becoming an excellent teacher requires patience, constant reflection and the ability to adapt to your learners' ever-changing needs.

### ***What's the best advice you've been given about teaching?***

"You just have to love them."

### ***What kinds of qualities do students look for in teachers?***

Students want teachers who are able to be themselves in the classroom. I think that in order to connect well with learners, you need to let them see who you are as a person while maintaining the boundaries of a student-teacher relationship. Sharing stories and anecdotes about your own life experiences makes a teacher interesting and builds a level of trust between a teacher and her learners. Teachers need to have fun moments with their learners to connect with them at their level.

### ***How do you approach discipline and what role does it play in learning?***

I think good discipline is something that is developed over time. If you are consistent in your discipline and expect a certain level of respect, as time goes by, learners come to understand the boundaries that you have set. I also think that if you are able to show learners your love and passion for teaching and on a daily basis treat them with the same courtesy you expect of them, discipline in general becomes manageable.

### ***Your funniest moment at Muir College?***

I have had many moments of fun and laughter at Muir College, but watching Mr Hawkins transform from his serious and collected self into Freddie Mercury at the Roar Talent Show was a sight to behold. That night I laughed so much that my stomach muscles ached for days after.



Written by:

**Grant Kunneke**

Class of 1993



# BUSINESS PORTAL

*It's not faith in technology.  
It's faith in people.*

- STEVE JOBS

## Lonwabo Marele, Class of 2012

Lonwabo Marele, originally from Gqeberha, is an Old Muirite from the class of 2012, and founder and CEO of Successful Journals, a media production company in Cape Town. He's also the deputy chairman of the non-profit organisation, the Ngcayisa & Marele Foundation, and is a multimedia sports journalist with Cape Community Newspapers. He holds a National Diploma and a Bachelor of Technology (BTech) degree in Journalism from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and is a Master of Laws candidate with the Unicaf University.

In addition, he is a TedX speaker, businessman, writer and philanthropist.

Asked to provide the OMU with responses to the following questions, Lonwabo has demonstrated why he has been so successful in his relatively short career:

### ***What is the elevator pitch for your business?***

We are a media production company that tells the rich and untold stories of the informal economy in Africa. Through our compelling magazines, documentaries, articles, and digital content, we shine a spotlight on the resilient entrepreneurs and vibrant communities that make up this thriving sector.

### ***Is the business local, national or international?***

While we're based in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, we operate nationally and internationally. Our content resonates with audiences across the globe.

### ***When was this business founded?***

SJ was founded in 2020. During the eye of the Covid19 Pandemic in 2021, when people were panicking and needed calming, we launched our first digital wealth magazine.

We interviewed entrepreneurs from the Eastern Cape (OMU member Buchule Sibaca, CEO of SMTAX), Limpopo, Western Cape and KZN, and worked with major brands such as Nissan and Vodacom, sharing stories of hope, inspiration and generosity. All of this, simply by designing a website in a shack, in Gugulethu, while the cold and rain kept on creeping in under my door at night.

We've employed 10 people, trained over 200 informal traders and introduced technology to over 300 businesses in SA townships. We have 150,000 readers as far as the Americas, UK and Australia.

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

It was the desire to bridge the gap between the mainstream media and the stories of the informal economy by providing an alternative platform for the voices that often go unnoticed and unheard.

Growing up in a township and witnessing the incredible resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of the people around me, I felt a strong need to share their stories and their challenges and triumphs.



*Lonwabo Marele and former Springbok coach Peter De Villiers*



*Buchule Sibaca (2009) and Lonwabo Marele (2012)*

# BUSINESS PORTAL

For example, my mother joined stokvels to help pay Muir College school fees. Through that her understanding of different income streams was unique. It was a generational wealth creation lesson that many people in our communities practise in different forms. We continue to create more employment and economic opportunities in our communities through storytelling and, in turn, making history.



*Lonwabo Marele and the magazine*

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

Having a positive impact. Through our storytelling, we can challenge stereotypes, break down barriers, and inspire change. It's incredibly fulfilling to see how our work resonates with audiences and empowers the individuals and communities we feature.

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

Stay true to your passion and purpose. Believe in the value of your ideas and never be afraid to take risks. Surround yourself with a strong support network, seek guidance from mentors, and continuously educate yourself in your chosen field. Most importantly, persevere through inevitable challenges and setbacks.

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

I'd say our authenticity and commitment to the stories we tell. We strive to create genuine connections with the individuals and communities we feature, allowing their voices to be heard in their own words. Our approach is rooted in empathy, respect, and a deep understanding of the social and cultural contexts we operate in..

## ***If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?***

I would focus on building a diverse and inclusive team sooner. Recognizing the power of different perspectives and experiences can lead to even more impactful storytelling and a stronger organizational culture.

# BUSINESS PORTAL

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

I'd love to be portrayed by Mbongeni Ngema, of Sarafina! fame. He's a talented actor, writer, lyricist, composer, director, choreographer and theatre producer who fearlessly shares his own stories and challenges societal norms. He would bring authenticity and depth in portraying my journey and the essence of SJ.

## ***Which well known business personality do you admire?***

I admire Strive Masiyiwa, founder of Econet Wireless. He's a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and advocate for social change. His commitment to empowering youth, providing access to education and technology, and driving economic development across Africa is truly inspiring.

## ***What's your leadership philosophy?***

My leadership philosophy is centred around empowerment, collaboration, and inclusivity, where every team member feels valued and encouraged for their unique contribution. I strive to lead by example, maintain a strong work ethic, and foster a culture of continuous learning and growth.

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

We did a technology training series for informal entrepreneurs in Khayelitsha. It was incredibly inspiring to witness their determination, resilience, and the positive impact they were making in their communities. The project showcased their stories and sparked meaningful conversations highlighting the important economic contribution of informal businesses in SA and throughout Africa.

We were also nominated for the best youth-owned media company in SA, in the Top 16 Youth-Owned Brands Awards!

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

I'm curious to see how technology and digital platforms continue to transform the media and storytelling landscape. I foresee exciting opportunities to reach wider audiences, engage with new mediums, leverage emerging technologies and amplify the voices of Africa's informal economy.

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

Business needs to contribute actively to socio-economic development, by creating job opportunities, fostering inclusive growth and addressing the root causes of inequality. Business can play a crucial role in building an equitable and prosperous society through prioritizing ethical practices and participating in community upliftment programmes.

### **Lonwabo 'Lobz' Marele**

Founder and CEO: Successful Journals

076 794 6001

[lonwabo@successfuljournals.com](mailto:lonwabo@successfuljournals.com)



*Written by:*

***Roland Cox***

*Class of 1987*



# OLD MUIRITES GIVING BACK

## CLAUDE SMITH

Claude Smith, Class of 2001, from Claude Smith Attorneys, has embarked on having branded shirts made for various sporting disciplines at Muir College, as well as the coaches. This is to ensure uniformity across the board for all coaches and sporting disciplines.

## RUNESHAN MOODLEY

Runeshan Moodley, Class of 2002, and Strength & Conditioning Coach for the Protea Men's Cricket Team, held a conditioning session for the Muir College cricketers in May.

## KHWEZI MANDABANA

Khwezi Mandabana, Class of 2009, from BDO in Gqeberha, has offered five Grade 12 Accounting pupils the opportunity to workshadow at BDO during the forthcoming school holidays.

Thanks to all who continue to give back.

*Written by:*

**Wendy Knott-Craig**

*OMU Manager*

**PS:** Should you have any opportunities for Muir College and the learners, please contact the Old Muirite Union and we will facilitate it for you.



*Claude Smith, Class of 2001*



*Runeshan Moodley, Class of 2002*



*Khwezi Mandabana, Class of 2009*

# LIFE LESSONS

In 2022 the Old Muirite Union produced a booklet, 200 Life Lessons, for the Matrics of 2022 and for Matrics going forward. The aim of the book was to bridge the gap between high school and the “big bad world” with words of wisdom from Old Muirites, local community leaders and some celebrities.

The following two extracts are typical of the advice offered:

## Nceba Mafa – Class of 2009

“It is not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog” – Mark Twain. This is an adage with which most Muirites are very familiar. While in my schooling years, it was a maxim instilled in us by our headmaster, Mr Hopley. It encapsulates the very fabric of all that makes Muir College great and synonymous with excellence. I have come to learn that resilience, and fortitude to never give up, even when circumstances suggest so, is at the very core of success.

The motto “Nec Pluribus Impar” is apt for the ilk of men our great institution produces.



## Vernon Naidoo – VWSA Community Trust

1. *Set clear boundaries – mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.*
2. *It is ok to say NO. There is no need to over-explain or to justify why you are saying no.*
3. *Focus on one goal and work at achieving it.*
4. *Family is the most important, and it matters. Find a lifelong partner with the same vision, morals and values as you.*
5. *Start investing now. Seek help from reputable advisors. Forget the get-rich-quick schemes – smart and hard work is the only way to earn an honest living.*
6. *Never, ever, forget your roots. Help others as much as possible.*
7. *Give! Give! Give! – This will help others find relief and you will be a blessing to the less fortunate.*
8. *The right formal education is a key and it will open doors for you. Study what YOU love to do.*
9. *When you fall, get up, dust yourself off, cry and start running again. Don't give up!*





# 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

**Desmond Thompson**

1957

**Denis Pinnock**

1961

**Kevin Smith**

1963

**Johan van Rooyen**

1964

**Brian Harris**

1965

**Peter Butlion**

1967

**Bryan Erasmus**

1970

**Alan Kees Jenner**

1973

**Mike Sinclair**

1974

**Anthony Bernstein**

1979

**Mark Crane**

1985

**Simon Groves**

1986

**Bretton White**

1989

**Thobile Koko Tshazibana**

1997

**Akhona Baliwe**

2009

**Shaun Jonga**

2022



# THE BACK PAGE

Winter is settling in over the Eastern Cape, with the usual fresh mornings and gorgeous days.

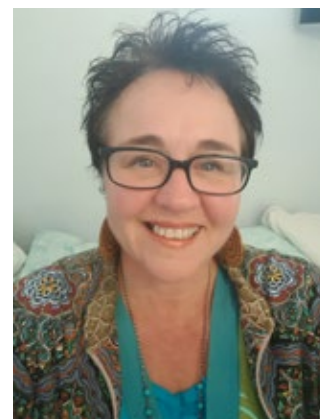
Over the past quarter, apart from the day-to-day administration of the Union, I've been running with the following projects for the OMU:

## DATABASE

This is an ongoing labour of love, trying to find email addresses and cell numbers for over 1000 Old Muirites, while those whose details are already in the database keep changing their contact details!

This quarter I focussed on capturing phone numbers for the classes from 2007 to 2016 on the OMU phone and setting up WhatsApp groups.

The Class of 2010 have blown me away. At the beginning of the exercise there were 74 gents from that year, but we had contact details for only 29 of them. This grew, over a period of about 3 days, to 46 email addresses and 54 cell numbers. Thanks Gents!



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Most of the focus on social media has been on the forthcoming Founders' Weekend. Please continue to follow us on all social media platforms for regular updates on the OMU and Founders' Weekend.

## NEWSLETTER

A lot of time and effort has gone into putting together the newsletter and I'd like to thank the committee for their assistance with this, namely:

- Robert Sharman      - Grant Kunneke
- Charles van Renen    - Roland Cox
- Lance Dodds        - Thomas Terblanche
- Fenner Barnard

## FOUNDERS' WEEKEND – 10 to 13 August

A lot of behind the scenes work is ongoing for this event.

The online booking system is live – please do all your bookings via the website.

Clothing & memorabilia are available to order on line, for collection at Founders' Weekend.

Clayton du Plooy and his team are working frantically on the golf day. Any and all prizes for the day are welcome.

Another emotional Founders' Day assembly will take place on the Friday morning.

The annual OMU Dinner promises to be an excellent one with Bryan Habana as the guest speaker.

And not to forget a Saturday full of rugby between Muir College & Graeme College. The Muirite Clubhouse will be open – come and mingle, and enjoy some good rugby.

Until next time ... take it easy and we'll see you at Founders' Weekend.

**Wendy Knott-Craig**

OMU Manager



#### CONTACT DETAILS:

For any queries, please contact

##### **Old Muirite Union Manager:**

**Wendy Knott-Craig**

Email: [oldmuiriteunion@gmail.com](mailto:oldmuiriteunion@gmail.com)

Cell : +27 (0)76 355 2171

##### **Old Muirite Union President:**

**Andrew Binning**

Email: [andrew@inkanyezi.co.za](mailto:andrew@inkanyezi.co.za)

Cell : +27 (0)82 372 9247

##### **Old Muirite Union Secretary:**


**Mark Bakker**

Email: [markbakker@bmiza.com](mailto: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

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