

# OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2023



## FOUNDERS' WEEKEND 2023

The photos tell the story of Founders' Weekend 2023

**THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THIS YEAR'S EVENT**

We are already working on the 2024 Founders' Weekend





# Congratulations THE WINNERS!!!!

Congratulations to the **Class of 2013** for winning this year's OMU Attendance Trophy at the 2023 Founders' Weekend. This floating trophy was introduced last year and is presented to the class with the highest percentage of attendees at both the assembly and the OMU Dinner.

Congratulations also go to the **Class of 1983** and the **Class of 1988**, for securing second and third places respectively.

The Attendance Trophy adds an exciting element to Founders' Weekend, encouraging all Old Boys to participate and to celebrate the weekend and their bonds with former classmates.

Let's see who takes it home in 2024!



*Class of 1988*



*Class of 2013*



## OMU President's Message

I am happy to share that the Old Muirite Union is going from strength to strength, and it is a privilege to be able to give back to my alma mater in the form of leading the Union. We have a strong leadership team – made up of the OMU Committee, Class Representatives, OMU Business Portal Advisory Board, National & International Reps as well as Editors and contributors to this quarterly Newsletter and we are all indebted to these gents who give up their time and resources to lead and guide our efforts. We are very ably assisted by OMU Manager, Wendy Knott-Craig who continues to support all leadership efforts. Since the last Newsletter, Ryan Bhana (Class of 2001) has been elected as Vice President of the Old Muirite Union and we thank Ryan for his willingness to fulfil this role and give of his time and leadership abilities.

The Founder's Weekend this year was a huge success, and our thanks go to the organisers of each Reunion Class for gathering their Class and to each old boy who made the effort to attend. Record attendance at the OMU Annual Dinner and the nail-biting affair of the 1st Rugby Team match with Graeme College made the weekend one to remember.

One of the main highlights for me was when the OMU was able to facilitate for Bryan Habana (Dinner Guest speaker) to hand out the 1st XV rugby jerseys to the Muir College team and then also address and answer questions from rugby players from various local primary schools. This session was seen as a strategic move to position Muir College amongst the Community and was extremely heart-warming and a truly rewarding exercise. Thank you to the Class of 1983 for covering the cost of Bryan Habana's fee – the OMU really appreciates the gesture. Congratulations too must go to the

Class of 2013 for having the best attendance out of all Reunion Classes. Well done to Brent Vermaak and Team – the "gees" that the 10 Year Reunion class brought to the Founder's Weekend was awesome.

The OMU is currently preparing to welcome the Class of 2023 into the fold as old boys! Any Old Muirites in the Eastern Cape area who would like to attend the Valedictory Service on 23 October and join fellow old boys as we welcome these gents are more than welcome to do so. Please contact OMU Manager, Wendy Knott-Craig to confirm. At the Service the OMU will gift each of the Class of 2023 an OMU tie – made possible by voluntary contributions from Old Muirites.

Old boys continue to network and meet with each other in various parts of the world – this is always great to see. The bonds that were formed in our teenage years will always be there and to be part of a larger movement – via the Old Muirite Union – is incredible. Enjoy reading this Newsletter and keeping up to date with old boys as well as current schoolteachers and school news.

In closing – can I encourage all previous 1st Team Rugby players to consider having their name erected in the School Gymnasium Locker Room. For a small fee you can have your name up and all contributions are being allocated to purchase gym equipment for the school.

*Nec Pluribus Impar*

**Andrew Binning**

Old Muirite Union President

[www.muircollege.co.za](http://www.muircollege.co.za)



## *In conversation with ...*

# Muir College's 21<sup>st</sup> Headmaster

With 34 years of experience on the staff at Muir College, **David Francis** is well-equipped to lead the oldest boys' school in South Africa well into its third century.

David arrived at Muir College in 1989, just as the school was becoming settled into its new premises in Vanes Estate, and the sports fields were taking shape. From the outset he taught Geography, and also coached rugby, cricket and squash, and he later became a resident master at Sir Thomas Muir House. In 1997 he was appointed Head of Department and became responsible for school discipline. In 2000 he was appointed superintendent of the hostel, and in 2007 he became Deputy Headmaster.

When Robin Stephenson retired towards the end 2022, David became Acting Headmaster, and in July this year was appointed Headmaster.

During a lengthy discussion just after the mid-2023 announcement of his appointment as Muir College's 21st headmaster, David showed great confidence in his staff and in the future of the school. He also told me, however, of some of the challenges that the school is facing, and some of the likely solutions, while assuring me that there is no reason why Muir College should not continue to "punch above its weight" well into the future.

In its 201-year history the school has undergone numerous changes, two of the more recent having been its relocation to Vanes Estate in January 1987 and the demographic changes since 1991 when Muir College became the second school in South Africa formally to decide to admit pupils of all races.

At present the school has 722 pupils for whom the Eastern Cape Education Department provides only 20 professional staff – 15 teachers, three HODs, a deputy headmaster and a headmaster. The resultant ratio of more than 36 to 1 would render effective education almost impossible, so the School Governing Body has to employ a further 15 teachers, and this places a substantial burden on the school's finances. David sees part of the solution to be growing total enrolment to between 760 and 900 pupils: this would reclassify Muir College as a Level 4 school, and it would therefore qualify for at least 8 additional professional posts funded by the



Education Department. This would ease some of the financial burden, but additional classrooms would be a prerequisite if the school is to maintain such a high level of enrolment.

Unfortunately, College Hill Prep, Muir College's main feeder school, is currently undergoing conversion from a junior primary (Grades 1 to 3 only) to a full primary school, so instead of its learners being transferred to Muir College and Riebeeck College at the beginning of Grade 4, most are likely to remain at College Hill for a further four years. Nevertheless, David says Muir College's (and Riebeeck's) future primary phase enrolment numbers are unlikely to be negatively affected.

The 48 current Grade 4 learners at Muir College may be slightly fewer than their immediate predecessors, but 62 applicants have been offered admission to Grade 4 in 2024, and there are substantial waiting lists for both Grade 4 and Grade 8, while the 2023 Grade 8 and 9 classes are "uncomfortably full". This seems to indicate that there is demand for good quality education in a well-disciplined school, and further growth is therefore possible. Indeed, says David, it is possible that within a few years the school will have to provide a fourth class at every grade level.

Speaking of discipline, David reminded me that shortly after his arrival at Muir College the customary short, sharp reminders at the end of a cane had to make way for Friday afternoon detention sessions during which constructive tasks are the order of the day.

Today, he says, as Headmaster he no longer has to be the school's disciplinarian, but instead finds himself playing the unaccustomed role of mediator in disciplinary proceedings.

And what of academic standards and the curriculum?

As reported in the last OMU Newsletter, David feels that he can safely say that the school has the same high values and standards of discipline as when he started at Muir College in 1989. He can also report that in the 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations Muir College was the best-performing of the thirteen high schools in the Kariega district, and he and his staff are strongly committed to maintaining – and improving upon – the school's academic standards and educational ethos.

Unfortunately, the removal of woodwork from the curriculum was a great mistake, as it deprived learners of the opportunity to develop their manual dexterity and various technical skills that have served generations of their predecessors well, throughout their lives. Nevertheless, with CAT and IT gaining in academic respectability, and robotics beginning to emerge as an academic discipline, it seems that more practical subjects will remain part of the academic curriculum.

Having previously been extensively involved in the coaching of rugby, cricket and squash, and having had Tom Ferreira as his mentor in his early years at Muir College, David Francis recognises the importance of sport and other extra-mural activities in maintaining the spirit and the ethos of the school, and in ensuring that all pupils have opportunities to develop beyond the classroom. He speaks with pride of Muir College's extensive sporting programmes (including hockey which, he says, is "on the rise"), as well as the school's choir, its strong debating record, renewed participation in the National English Olympiad, the annual cultural week that takes place in March or April every year, and the school's various leadership development programmes.

Muir College's wide range of extra-mural activities not only caters for the needs of learners, but also provides organisational and coaching opportunities for many members of staff for whom teaching is not just a job, but a profession.

The underutilisation of Sir Thomas Muir House is clearly a matter of concern for the new headmaster. With accommodation for 88 boarders and six resident masters, the hostel could still be the backbone of the school, but a decline in numbers led to the decision to provide only weekly boarding from 2002, and today there are only 40 boarders at Muir College. If it is to continue to "punch above its weight", and if it is to rise to – and remain – a Level 4 school, Muir College needs to attract more boarders.

Returning to the question of finance, David expresses his deep gratitude to the Old Muirite Union and the Muir Foundation for their contributions to the development of infrastructure at Muir College, especially the solar panel project which is enabling the school to balance its books.

The OMU Newsletter Team wishes David Francis well in his endeavours to keep Muir College on a strong and steady course, maintaining traditions, but also "moving with the times."



*Written by:*

***Rob Sharman***

*Class of 1971*





## Headmaster's News

*"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose."*

*- Lyndon B. Johnson*

The third term at Muir College has traditionally been a whirlwind of activity. This was emphasized in the tight schedule that the school had to follow before the end of August, when the Grade 12 trial exams were due to commence. While maintaining our regular academic programme, we also had to include key events in our calendar, including the last of our rugby fixtures, the Matric Farewell Dance and the annual Founders' Weekend.

The **Rugby** season has come to an end, with the High School's teams playing only three sets of fixtures and participating in two "Sevens" tournaments at U15 and U17 level, while the junior teams played four sets of fixtures to round off their season. Our teams have enjoyed mixed results this year, but have generally performed well. Grey High School, our oldest traditional opponent, was possibly our toughest opponent of the season.

The final matches of the season were against Graeme College, with all our teams involved. The 1st XV put on one of its best performances of the season, but lost narrowly 13-15 against a Graeme team that had beaten both Grey and Framesby this year, while our U13A XV continued their good season with a close loss against a very strong Graeme team.

In the third term eight of our juniors participated in various provincial schools' training sessions in Port Elizabeth, and four of our U13 players made it to the final round of the EP U13 Sevens – Lutholetho Moni, Kungwayo Zito, Dalin Pillay, and Ethan Constable. Ethan was selected for the EP U13 Sevens team, having had an exceptional rugby season that included his midyear selection for the EP U13 Craven Week XV.

The **Cricket** season is now in full swing. Several Muir boys attended the EP U13 and U11 cricket trials, resulting in the selection of Khanyisa Matabese, Yahyaa Kayat and Luvelwano Hugh (reserve) being selected for Eastern Province Youth Cricket Board's U11 team. During the September break the U13A team travelled to East London for the 34th Annual Richard Kent/Fenner Barnard Eastern Cape Cricket Festival, comfortably winning all four of its matches. (See the Thomas Muir Facebook page for photos and match reports.) The 1st XI played at home in the recent Cape Youth Festival, and also participated in the Pearson Cricket Festival, during which the highlights included an impressive innings of 106 from Simenkiwe Soyaya and Michael Lipsky's 4 wickets in 7 balls for 0 runs, both against York, as well as Aaron Latola's 4 wickets in one over (including a hatrick) against Queen's College.



Muir College has been a participant in the Hirsch, Edward and Gunn Shield annual athletics meeting since its inception in 1917. This year, our athletes travelled to St Andrew's College on the penultimate weekend of the third term, and collected one silver and seven bronze medals.

The school's cultural activities are also showing a lot of depth.

The Junior Eastern Cape Schools' **Debating** Championship took place at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown from 4 to 6 August 2023, and involved 110 participants. Our individual rankings were: Luvuyo Sityi 21st, Mafu Mhletywa 37th, Zukhanye Mboya 43rd and Miguel Ferreira 44th. The Muir team (known as the 'Rebel Alliance') was ranked 12th out of the 20 participating teams, having competed against five other schools. Of the five motions, only one was prepared in advance: in the other four the teams were allowed only an hour to put their arguments together, and our boys performed well under pressure.

The **Interact Club** has been involved in two initiatives. The first was a Reach for a Dream Foundation initiative in which learners purchased stickers for R20 each, and the Club managed to raise more than R4 000 for the Foundation. The Club also collected and donated food parcels to 70 households at Khayamandi in Despatch. Elections will be held soon for the 2024 committee.

The **SCA** recently participated in an outreach initiative at the Uitenhage/Kariega Provincial Hospital, showing its commitment to community service, and on 28 September participated with the Riebeek College SCA in a joint gala evening. Looking forward to 2024, the SCA is in the process of organizing interviews with both existing and prospective members for a new committee.

As per usual, the **First Aid Society** was at its busiest during the winter sports programme. It was good to have a number of new first aiders, with 15 members having qualified at Level 3. Most of these were new members, but several were renewing their qualifications. The school thanks the outgoing committee members who have done the school proud this year.

The **Media Club** has continued to grow, with more juniors demonstrating an interest in photography. The commitment of the members has been incredible throughout all the school's activities this year, and a joint workshop with Riebeek's Media Club will be held soon.

Both the **Founders' Weekend** and the **Matric Farewell** were particularly successful this year. These events not only met expectations, but created fantastic memories that will linger for years to come.

I particularly wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the **OMU committee** for their immense dedication and hard work. This year's Founders' Weekend was nothing short of outstanding, largely due to their efforts. The planning that went into organizing the various events was evident in every detail, allowing the 2023 Founders' Weekend to again show the passion and spirit of Muir College. I also wish to thank the members of the College staff who hosted and worked so hard for the event, making everyone feel welcome.

The **staff room** has been sad to say goodbye to Mrs Michelle Du Toit, whom we have lost to Victoria Park High School, but we have been fortunate to obtain the services of Mr Attie Marais, a very experienced teacher from Crawford Academy in KwaZulu Natal. Geography teacher Mr Jason Moodley has relocated to England, and has been replaced by Mr Darren Evans from the Western Cape.

**David Francis**

Headmaster

# GOING BACK IN TIME

## SERVICE BEFORE SELF

Service clubs in general endorse placing the needs of others before oneself. At Muir College this is certainly true of clubs such as the Student Christian Association, Interact and Junior Town Council/Alpha Leo Club, to name a few. Two other service organisations at Muir are discussed here in terms of the particular demands made on them: the First Aid Society and Blood Bank Peer Promoters.

The First Aid Society was established by a member of the teaching staff, Ms Margaret Moore, in 1991. After attending courses run by the Red Cross and the First Aid League, volunteers obtained their First Aid certificates. They attended all home games on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and demands on their services were heightened when Muir Primary amalgamated with the High School in 1994. There was even greater pressure at times when qualified First-Aiders were reduced to just two or three after senior members had left school and there was a waiting period before the next training course.

It is not unusual for First-Aiders to play in matches themselves either before or after being on duty to render emergency assistance; none of them complain at playing in rugby matches and carrying out their First Aid duties within the space of a few hours. First Aid assistance is given to Muir sides as well as to opposing players. No occasion could illustrate this better than when Muir College hosted Graeme College on the rugby field in 2019, on a day filled with 'hard knocks', to put it rather mildly.

Today Muir College has 19 qualified Level 3 first-aiders who have been trained by ESS Medical. This team



does duty at rugby, hockey and cricket matches, and occasionally assists other schools that do not have their own first aiders. The dedicated members of the Muir College First Aid Society can, to some extent, be regarded as the school's 'unsung heroes'.

Unsung heroes have also filled the ranks of the Blood Bank Peer Promoters over the years. There is nothing glamorous about persuading hordes of your fellow pupils to donate blood on a regular basis. But that is what the Peer Promoters succeed in doing.





For their efforts they were awarded the Bokkie Human Trophy year after year since the early 2000s, based on the percentage of eligible donors they got to participate in blood drives compared to other schools in Uitenhage. In this respect Muir College set the standard for other schools in the region, with figures hovering around 40% - a laudable effort in real-world terms.

Perhaps 2018 stands out, when four blood drives were held during the year. Teacher in charge, Evelyn Seifert, and Promoters chairman Chad Carolus, would have been delighted with the pupils' response during a year jam-packed with extra-mural activities. Something to bear in mind was that blood drives do not involve 'fun' activities that take pupils out and about and away from the school, but instead invite a special kind of giving. That hundreds of boys are willing to make such a contribution is indeed remarkable. Under the leadership of Darius George, another successful year followed in 2019, the last before the Covid-19 lockdown. Such has been the formidable reputation of the Blood Bank Peer Promoters in meeting and sometimes exceeding targets, that post-pandemic one would expect it to be 'business as usual'.

Retrospective post-script: Possibly foreshadowing the achievements of the school's Peer Promoters has been the successful career of 1963 matriculant, Dr Norman Kalmin, in the sphere of blood banking, to which he has made a highly significant contribution in the United States.



*Hockey action in Goalmouth*



*RUGBY S. TOLE in action against Union High*



*Written by:*

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



## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE OLD MUIRITE UNION

*Did you know that the Old Muirite Union was founded in 1919? The very first meeting took place on 31 August 1919 where the headmaster, Mr Jock Sutherland, was voted in as President, and the first reunion took place on 19 March 1920.*

*In all, there have been 24 Presidents of the OMU.*

PERIOD	OMU PRESIDENT
1919 - 1925	Jock Sutherland
1930 - 1931	Gordon Dolley
1932 - 1933	Arthur Hardy
1934 - 1943	L.H. Garman
1944 - 1944	Pax Sellick
1945 - 1950	Reginald Marais
1951 - 1953	Errol Cunningham
1954 - 1955	Norman Smith
1956 - 1957	Alan Wilson
1958 - 1961	Reg Gilbert
1962 - 1966	Oliver Mc Ewan
1967 - 1969	Ian Clunnie
1970 - 1974	Leon Schauder
1975 - 1976	Reginald Marais
1977 - 1981	Brian Botten
1982 - 1986	Peter Ramsbottom
1987 - 1991	Clive Shamley
1992 - 1995	Winston Riggs
1996 - 2001	Ian Krain
2002 - 2005	Ivan Beaumont
2005 - 2015	Ricky Wedderburn
2015 - 2016	Warren Wahl
2016 - 2019	Jason Henman
2019 - Present	Andrew Binning



*The "chain" of office, bearing the names of Past Presidents*



*Current OMU President, **Andrew Binning**, at the recent OMU Annual Dinner, wearing the President's "chain" of office*

The OMU thanks these gentlemen for their service and commitment to Muir College and the Old Muirite Union.



# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Brent Botha, Class of 2000

In the late 1990s, a boy from Mountain View was travelling home from school with his father. The conversation turned to careers, and his father suggested (in a non-prescriptive way) that the boy might consider becoming a lawyer. 'It sounded good to me, and then it just stuck. I didn't consider anything else after that chat – it just made sense.'

It certainly did make sense, as today Old Muirite and Head Prefect of the Class of 2000, Brent Botha, is about to become CEO of Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa (NRFSA), a global law firm with offices all around the world.

In announcing Brent's appointment, NRFSA said: 'Brent brings a wealth of experience and expertise in corporate and commercial litigation law, having earned a distinguished reputation for his exceptional legal counsel and strategic insights, and regularly being ranked by Who's Who Legal as a leading commercial litigation lawyer. His outstanding leadership and strategic litigation counsel has earned him great respect from peers and clients alike.'

Brent says he is deeply honoured and is looking forward to taking on his new role. 'I'm committed to upholding our firm's longstanding tradition of excellence, and am dedicated to advancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Together, we will continue to work tirelessly to deliver unparalleled legal services to our clients while fostering an inclusive environment where every member of our team can thrive.'

Brent certainly has come a long way since his childhood in the Uitenhage suburbs of Rosedale and Mountain View. He matriculated from Muir College in 2000, having attended the school since 1996. Before that, he had attended Convent Primary School where he was Head Boy in 1995.

Brent played 1st team tennis and was a "B-team rugby guy". 'My first position in an U14B game was as a lock, but I quickly found my more natural fit as a prop – first a tight-head, then a loose-head. I can still remember Mr Cloete's scrum practises and the shouts of "dip – ja!"'



'We formed a Piscatorial Society at some point, which was supposed to be a fishing club, but I think we only had one meeting.'

After Muir College, Brent attended Nelson Mandela University, from where he graduated with a 4-year LLB degree. He then moved to Johannesburg to serve his articles from 2005 at what was then Deneys Reitz Attorneys. He was a litigation associate from 2007 to 2010, and became a partner shortly before Deneys Reitz merged with global giant Norton Rose and became Norton Rose South Africa (later Norton Rose Fulbright). 'In 2013 I joined the local board of directors, became Head of Litigation and a member of the SA management committee in 2019, and in July 2023 I was named CEO of Norton Rose Fulbright SA with effect from 1 October 2023.'

Brent lives in Sandton with Nevashnee, his wife of 11 years, and their two children, Layla (8) and Luke (5). In his spare time, you'll find Brent and his family on holiday, somewhere and everywhere. They get away from Johannesburg as often as possible, hitching up the trailer and 'getting around'.

# MOVERS & SHAKERS



Brent claims to be more of a 'beach guy' than a 'bush guy.' The Garden Route remains his favourite, and he says that one of the best things he did during lockdown was to buy a place in Plettenberg Bay.

What does a successful lawyer and CEO reflect on when he thinks about his days at Muir College? 'I could say the traditions. And the fact that Mr Crawford introduced the wearing of graduation robes. Or the war cry at rugby games. Or the drives to PE to play tennis games.

Or the discos with the Riebeek girls. Even the flag hoisting as Head Boy. But I reckon that my favourite moments were looking at the views over Uitenhage, looking out of the classroom windows; trying to spot my family home in the distance.'

Brent addressed a Prize Giving Ceremony a few years after he left school, and imparted these words of wisdom to the young minds of his former school: 'Don't be afraid to rock the boat, because a kite rises against the wind, but if you're too busy rocking the boat, who will row it?' ('It somewhat muddles the idioms, but it works,' he says.) A good lesson, and one Brent will clearly adhere to as he charts his course through the next phase of his legal career.



*Written by:*

**Lance Dodd**

*Class of 1984*

## Zwelethu Bashman, Class of 2002 TOP 40 UNDER 40

This Old Muirite is celebrating his recognition as one of our country's brightest stars after being nominated as a finalist in the 'South African Top Forty Under 40 Awards'. The awards are presented annually and are 'curated to identify, honour and celebrate a cross-section of the nation's most influential and accomplished young business leaders under the age of 40, from a wide range of industries, who are committed to business growth, professional excellence and community service, and have risen up the ranks in their companies or industries'.

Zweli, as he is largely known, was nominated in the health category, which is unsurprising as he is the managing director of MSD (Pty) Ltd, a company which was ranked amongst the top five best-performing pharmaceutical companies in the world in 2022.

Since assuming his role at MSD in February 2021, Zweli has been primarily focused on addressing unmet healthcare needs on the African continent, building sustainable health systems, and finding innovative financial mechanisms that broaden access to innovative healthcare on the continent. He has led MSD's significant contributions both commercially and through philanthropic programs on the continent.







Prior to joining MSD, Zweli held various positions within the pharmaceutical environment. He started his career in the industry at Schering-Plough in 2006, where he worked in sales and product management. His commercial experience grew at Adcock Ingram, where he led several commercial operations, including HIV, Cardiovascular/ CNS/Dermatology and Hospital Fluids & Equipment.

Between 2017 and 2019, Zweli expanded his responsibilities and relocated to Tanzania where he led the key account operations for Cipla Pharmaceuticals across sub-Saharan Africa. Thereafter he joined Merck Biopharma as Head of Marketing for all English and Portuguese speaking African countries.

Zweli holds several board/leadership positions. He is Vice-Chairperson of the US-South Africa Business Council, President of the Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa and is also Deputy Chairperson of the Pharmaceutical Task Group.

Zweli matriculated from Muir College in 2002 and studied Biomedical Technology at Nelson Mandela University. He also received a post-graduate qualification in Management Practice from Henley Business School and an Advanced Management Certificate from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Zweli, who grew up in Kwanobuhle, is quite humble about the recognition he has received. He says the nomination was a surprise – he has no idea who nominated him – but he is proud, and admits that ‘it feels good when you are recognised by people for what you do.’

At school Zweli was a prefect and enjoyed getting his boots dirty on the rugby field. He played for the 1st VX in 2001 and 2002 and was also a member of the EP U18 Academy team – and to add a bit of variety to his school life, he also sang in the College Choir. Of his fondest memories as a Muir boy, he says: ‘There are so many but I’ve never quite managed to replicate that feeling I got on Saturday mornings before a big derby day.’

Zweli currently lives in Johannesburg with his wife, Samantha, their 9-year-old son Ndalo and their 6-year-old daughter Vika, and when he isn’t

working or spending time with his family you can find him chasing a little white ball around a golf course.

Sadly, Zweli lost his father to cancer a few years ago, and he says it is the memory of his dad and his health battle that inspires his passion for the pharmaceutical industry. He also draws inspiration from seeing the impact that his industry is having on the wellbeing of South Africa.

Next to his bed, Zweli has a copy of Sapiens:

A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari.

So, what words of wisdom does Zweli have for those who want to follow in his successful footsteps? ‘The world is actually very forgiving; don’t be scared to try new things,’ he says.

Muir College prides itself in producing fine, upstanding members of our community and Zwelethu Bashman is certainly an Old Muirite of whom we can all be proud. We wish him luck in the finals of the Top Forty Under 40 Awards in September.

*Edit: Since writing this article, Zwelethu was the winner of the Pharmaceuticals and Health Category of these Awards. CONGRATULATIONS! NEC PLURIBUS IMPAR!*



Written by:

**Lance Dodd**

*Class of 1984*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## **Lance Dodd (Class of 1984)**

*has been in contact with the following four Old Muirites:*

## **Ashley Williams, Class of 1974**

How many countries have you visited? Anyone who answers 'between 10 and 20' would be considered well-travelled.

Imagine then, visiting 49 countries: that's Old Muirite Ashley Williams' claim to fame. But unfortunately, many of Ashley's trips weren't to "holiday hotspots", or for rest and relaxation. Ashley's work in the military field has taken him to several war-torn places, including Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Libya and, presently, Ukraine.

But, let's go back a few decades. Ashley was born in East London, where he lived until his family moved to Uitenhage in 1971. He started his brief Muir College journey in the second term of 1971 and matriculated in 1974. At school he was actively involved in sport, playing rugby and cricket for the second teams, with a few appearances for the First XV and First XI. He was also culturally active and won the Daniel Cup for Best Speaker and the Schauder Cup for service to the school.

After leaving Muir College, Ashley attended the University of Stellenbosch's Military Academy in the Faculty of Military Science at Saldanha, where he was awarded a BMil degree. He also obtained various management certificates through UNISA.

From 1975 to 2002 Ashley was an engineer in the South African Engineering Corps where he commanded several units before ending his military career as the Chief of Staff of the SA Army Engineering Formation, with the rank of Colonel.

In 2002 Ashley joined a Denel company, MECHEM, as Chief of Operations, and served as CEO from 2008 to 2016. MECHEM was the first commercial company to engage in humanitarian mine clearance, and were also the designers of the Casspir mine-resistant vehicle.

*contd. page 15*



*Lance Dodd*

After two years in the Marketing Department of Denel Land Systems, Ashley joined a Swiss/German company - Global Clearance Solutions - as Head of Operations in 2018, a role he still fulfills, albeit from his home office, with lots of travelling. GCS manufactures

landmine and explosive ordnance clearance machines, and Ashley is involved in operations, managing the clearance of landmines and explosive ordnance.

Earlier this year Ashley and his wife, Sonja, whom he wed in 1982, moved to Jeffrey's Bay. They have one son, Martin, who is married to Stephanie, and they have two children, Lexi (4) and Xander (5 months).

Asked how he likes to spend his free time, Ashley responds. 'Always used to be at Jeffrey's next to the sea, now blessed to be here permanently. I still love the Karoo and try get there occasionally. Until recently I loved road running - I completed 14 Comrades - but now I enjoy walking.'



*Ashley Williams family*



Ashley is currently reading *Truth to Power*, Andre de Ruyter's book about his time at Eskom, while musically he has 'no real preference: I enjoy everything from rock, gospel, to Afrikaans.'

And what if his fondest memory of being a Muir Boy?

'I loved the comradery, traditions, and discipline of Muir College. This probably drew me to the military. I stayed almost opposite the "old Muir" in Cannon Street, and attended all and everything that was presented at the school.'

What life lessons does someone who has spent so many years trying to save lives have to share? 'Really very many, but of late the following have come up again: Show me someone who enjoys losing, and I'll show you a born loser; feedback is the breakfast of champions; and you only get one chance to make a first impression.' Wise words indeed.

The OMU wishes Ashley well as he continues his humanitarian work in foreign countries.

## Devereux Craül, Class of 1966

Known to his friends as Dev, Devereux Craül has lived in numerous places in his lifetime.

His roots are diverse, as he grew up in a series of vibrant South African towns - from the quaint charm of Touws River, Paarl and Riversdale, to the coastal allure of Hermanus and Port Elizabeth, and then on to Uitenhage.

At Muir College, Dev's years were punctuated by a fervour for athletics and rugby, even if the latter was never at a participation level.

After matriculating in 1966, Dev found himself walking the halls of the University of Stellenbosch Business School. Here he obtained diplomas in Financial Management, Senior Management and Project Management.

His professional journey meandered through the landscapes of Administration, Human Resources Management, Branch Management and Project Management. These roles didn't just define his career, but also underscore his dedication to honing his skills and embracing new challenges.

Today, Dev finds himself nestled in the tranquil embrace of Edgemead, Cape Town. Family has always been his cornerstone, and his marriage to Ania since 1976 stands as a testament to enduring love. Their twin daughters, Courtnay and Bronwyn, added layers of joy and pride to his life. When time allows, Dev cherishes the simple pleasures: quality moments spent

with family, reminiscing about a recent Kruger Park adventure, or indulging in the thrill of sports.

As for his literary pursuits, Dev currently finds himself engrossed in the captivating world of Robert Ludlum's Jason Bourne series. His musical tastes are a reflection of his eclectic nature, effortlessly switching between the tunes of the '60s and '70s, with dashes of jazz and classical melodies to round out the mix.

But beneath these interests lie fond memories from his days as a Muirite – the camaraderie he shared with his peers and the sense of accomplishment that came with sporting triumphs.

In the tapestry of his life, one quote shines brightly: 'The purpose of life is to help others; if you can't help them, don't hurt them' – a wise adage from the Dalai Lama that encapsulates Dev's philosophy in a life defined by learning, growth and fostering positive connections.



*Devereux Craül with his wife and twin daughters*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Neil Hamp-Adams, Class of 1987

Turning 50 is a big deal. Many of those who have not yet reached that milestone probably contemplate how they will celebrate the big day. Those of us who have been there look back fondly and ponder the next “big” birthday.

Neil Hamp-Adams did something special. In 2019 (five months before lockdown), he decided that to celebrate his 50th he would have a huge party and drink a lot, but that’s not what he did. He made a commitment to run 4km every single day without fail. In 2021 he upped the distance to 5km and, he’s happy to say, ‘I have largely managed to maintain this, averaging around 1200km per year with not a single injury.’

Neil grew up in Port Elizabeth and was a boarder at Muir College until he matriculated in 1987. At school he played 1st team hockey and ‘the 5th team everything else.’ He had a penchant for making and creating which, he says, he never actively pursued at school, except perhaps in Woodwork.



After school Neil attended UPE where he obtained a Bachelor of Architecture degree, and then a Diploma in Advertising from the AAA School of Advertising. After two years of national service and six years of study, he did a brief stint in the construction industry and then entered the advertising world, working his way up to Regional Account Director looking after the Land Rover Account for Sub-Saharan Africa. This led to an opportunity in Dubai to head the Middle East and Africa Region in 2001.

In 2008, Neil set up his own events agency, Driving Force. The company is still going strong and handles some exciting projects, including the annual Globe Soccer Awards and two franchises for the Middle East: Expandabrand and Clever Frame.

Neil and his wife Rachel currently live in Dubai with and their two daughters, Connie (8) and Bibi (6).

‘Time with family and friends at home is number one on my list. I enjoy dabbling with low and slow meat cooking on the smoker, and cooking in general. I also still enjoy working with my hands and so have an endless list of projects at home to keep me busy.’ And then there’s his daily 5km run which is quite impressive when you consider the desert heat.

Neil is currently reading *Stolen Focus* by Johann Hari. He says it’s ‘a must read for what’s going on in the world today.’ He describes his current playlist as ‘very eclectic right now with two young girls who love their music! So, we’re listening to everything from the ‘60s onwards.’

And what of Neil’s fondest memory of being a Muir boy? – ‘Boarding School at the time was just a way of life, but in hindsight it was probably one of the best times of my life, and the friendships I have to this day are a testament to this. A gift.’

When asked what interesting life lesson he’d like to share, Neil offered this quote from Dale Carnegie:

‘Any fool can criticise, condemn, and complain, but it takes character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving.’



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Peter King, Class of 1976

Peter King's life journey has been one of exploration, education, and adaptation. From his beginnings in various South African towns, he has traversed diverse paths in education, local government, and more. With a passion for sports, the arts, and continuous learning, Peter's story is a testament to his resilience and dedication to fostering positive change within his community.

Peter's formative years were marked by his diverse upbringing across towns like Queenstown, Uitenhage, Bloemfontein, Grahamstown and others, the relocations widening his horizons.

At school, Peter embraced a wide array of passions. He engaged competitively in cricket and hockey, while also contributing to the rugby scene as a member of the "fighting fifths". He also spent much of his weekday mornings looking out of the classroom window at the mountains ('ADD was not a thing yet'), or fiddling with trying to square the circle by construction, convinced that he would find a way when all had failed before him 'It turned out to be a folly (of science),' he says.

After matriculating in 1976, Peter entered higher education, majoring in English and Psychology at Rhodes University and expanding his knowledge with a Higher Education Diploma from Unisa, and further studies at UPE (NMU). 'But frankly, most of us who have flirted with higher education will acknowledge that most of the useful stuff one accumulates, is learnt on the job,' Peter says. Peter's career path is as diverse as his upbringing. 'I worked in Uitenhage for six years, teaching first at Muir College for four years and then spending two years in the employ of St Katharine's church.'

'In 1986, I chose to evade a malicious prosecution by the military by "going into exile" at the newly established non-racial All Saints College outside Bhisho. I left education for local government management between 1995 and 2010, initially as a town councillor and then including stints as Deputy Town Clerk of King William's Town, Acting City Manager and Director of Buffalo City Metro, Special Advisor to the Executive Mayor and, lastly, MD of a tourism company.'

Peter took an extended sabbatical in 2010 'to calm my spirit, paint the house and research my family tree (reinforcing my belief that we are all cousins), before taking up the educational cudgels again for seven years at Merrifield College, East London.' Peter relocated to Grahamstown/Makhanda in 2020 'to cook for my wife', who is now an Associate Professor in Psychology at Rhodes.

Peter's family has been a cornerstone of his life. His enduring marriage of over 36 years to Tracey (née Feltham) has produced three successful children, and he takes immense pride in their accomplishments. Daniel (35, an economist) works in Cape Town, Matthew (32) has an MBA from Rhodes and has now chosen to segue into teaching, and Emily (24) now working in Cape Town after completing her Honours in Linguistics. He also has a 'beautiful granddaughter in Cape Town.'

In his leisure time, Peter balances various hobbies, from gardening to photography, cooking to reading, and even tackling the Telegraph crossword. Currently engrossed in *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* by Adam Rutherford, Peter recommends the book for its exploration of genetics and mathematics. 'It unpacks how genetics and mathematics have now proved conclusively that all of us are quite recent cousins,' he says.

Of his fondest memories of Muir College, both as a pupil and a teacher, Peter says: 'I had the privilege of teaching at Muir College with some great people like the late Ettienne Gouws, Jan Strauss and Alan Whitehead.'



My fondest memories are probably the camaraderie of the Muir-Riebeek school musicals, which were produced by Neill Hoare every second year – truly a labour of love, and far beyond professional duty.’ (Those involved in the earlier Muir/Riebeek musicals will recall that Peter’s dad, Mike King, was the musical director, and Peter’s grandmother, Dolley King, was the rehearsal pianist.)

Peter’s connection to community is equally strong. An advocate for positive change, he witnessed Muir College

evolve beyond the confines of apartheid, emerging as a diverse and unified institution. ‘Historical privilege gifted me the opportunity to be educated, to live a life of relative material security, to imagine a country beyond the tribalism of apartheid. I take great satisfaction in witnessing how the Muir College of today has outgrown the age of insularity and gross injustice, enabling the community to discover a more diverse and unified identity. Well done to everyone who supported the transition over the past 50 years.’

### **Fenner Barnar** (Class of 1998) *checking up on Old Muirites*

## **Rob Scheepers**, Class of 1998

An Old Muirite of the highest calibre, Rob Scheepers has been the driving force behind his class’s last two significant reunions, including their 25th reunion in 2023. Rob came to Muir in his Grade 7 year after moving from Grahamstown, and was a member of both the primary school and high school hostels.

After matriculating in 1998, he studied Computer Engineering at Varsity College. A life in IT was not for him though, and he began to work in construction. Plumbing became a focus, and after qualifying Rob emigrated to Australia. Initially based in Darwin, he has worked in the construction of high-density residential developments, domestic housing projects and defence developments, while the building of a gas processing plant for the Japanese in the Northern Territory has been a highlight. He is currently working in the Australian Capital Territory on the new Australian Taxation Offices.

Robbie lists travel, mountain climbing and international foods as his interests. He has climbed to the base camp of Everest, summited Kilimanjaro, and plans to conquer Aconcagua in South America next year.

The greatest impact Muir College had on Rob was that he always felt that he was part of a team. The discipline he learned at school set him up for life in the real world and, most importantly, the school’s motto, “Nec Pluribus Impar”, is deeply ingrained in him. Miss Lingwood,



*Fenner Barnar*

Mr Whitehead and Mr Francis were teachers who impressed values and life lessons on Rob in high school.

Rob believes that the biggest influence on his school career, even though he only taught him and coached him for one year, was Mr Fenner Barnard: “He taught me how to start believing in myself; I’ve carried that with me and have never looked back.”



*Rob Scheepers*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Lubabalo Catele, Class of 1998

A proud former member of Dugmore House, Lubabalo Catele joined Muir College in 1994, his Grade 8 year. At Muir Lubabalo excelled academically, and he went on to study towards a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the then University of Port Elizabeth. He also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice through the Henley Business School.

During his career, Lubabalo has held various roles in the financial sector, from being a financial officer to a financial manager responsible for financial reporting. He is currently a Senior Business Analyst at Nedbank.

Living in Johannesburg, happily married and with two children, Lubabalo believes that the camaraderie he experienced in Dugmore House and at Muir College instilled in him the importance of being a team player. The maintenance of positive work relationships and lifelong friendships have been easy due to this experience, and it has also made it easier to collaborate with others in his workspace. Many hands do indeed make light work!



## Yves Adams, Class of 1998

Another of the 25-year reunion class, Yves Alain Adams began at the then Muir Primary in his Grade 6 year in 1992, and he matriculated in 1998. Some humorous incidents that Yves remembers from his time at Muir include being asked by Mr Fenner Barnard whether he thought he deserved the hiding he received, and answering, 'Yes, Sir,' as he couldn't think of another response. Miss Lingwood's Geography classes in high school were also memorable, along with Mr Francis's number game.

After school, Yves studied Sales and Marketing at the then UPE (now NMU) and has been a part of the team at Tavcor Motorgroup since 2011. He has risen through the ranks, beginning as a salesperson before moving into sales management in 2018, acting as the Suzuki Sales Manager until 2020. Yves is currently Tavcor's VW Master Cars Sales Manager in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha.

Yves believes that the respect and discipline that were instilled in him by the teachers at Muir College and his sense of belonging and camaraderie created by the school have been important influences in his life.

A self-described "armchair sports enthusiast", Yves avidly supports the Springboks, Proteas and Liverpool Football Club. He loves to spend time with his wife and his two sons and good friends, collecting Scotch whiskey. He also enjoys spending time in the great outdoors.



# AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

Retired since 2017, and inspired by the class of 1975 with Justin Jonas recently competing in a 10km race, Wilfred Newman competing in an ocean swim and Alex Kingwill sharing a host of extreme mountain bike challenges, I eagerly accepted the invitation to hike the Fish River Canyon this July.

What made the event particularly special is that I was able to get a place for my daughter, Caryn, to do the hike with me. Although a blessing, this was also the cause of a near separation due to what I will term a 'conflict of interest.' I went with a strict instruction from my wife, Sandy, to please look after Caryn. Unbeknown to me, Caryn had been given instructions by her younger sister, Debbie, who was worried about me, that she must look after me.

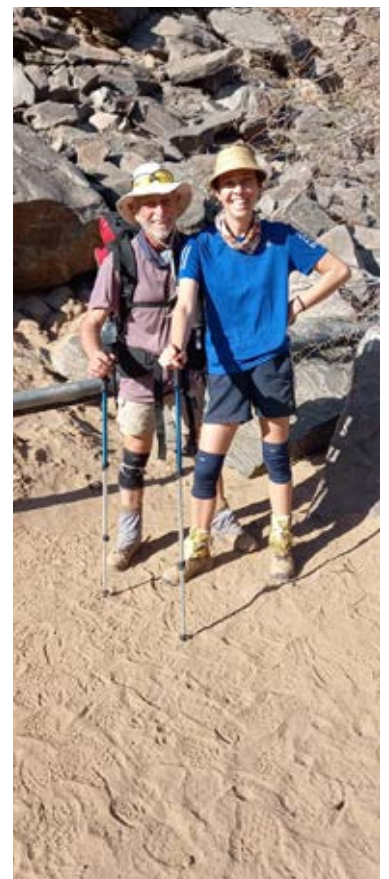
Despite the wealth of information on the net as well as advice from previous hikers, I was still unprepared for the 86km hike that lay ahead. A descent of 1.76km took approximately 3 hours and began with an almost vertical drop of some 400 meters. The boulders one encounters are the size of an average motor vehicle and the soft sand is taxing on the calves.

Water is very scarce this year, so we relied on stagnant pools. Due to the vastness of the canyon, these pools can easily be missed leaving one without water for lengthy periods. This resulted in our each carrying a minimum of three litres at all times.

I don't regret having done this hike which has always been on my bucket list and I would consider doing it again at a more leisurely pace. The formations, geology and scenery are indescribable and need time to be appreciated. Photos do not do them any justice.

I hope that by sharing this I may motivate my fellow Old Muirites to enjoy life while they can, and not to submit to the boredom of retirement.

***Glen Fourie, Class of 1975***





# EASTERN PROVINCE HOCKEY REUNION FOR 3 MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1985

After playing together 38 years ago in matric, Justin Brennan, James Laurie and Shane Viviers all represented EP Masters in August 2023 at the Inter-Provincial tournament in Pretoria.

James Laurie has represented Western Province and Southern Gauteng at Masters level, having played for the Muir College 1st hockey team from 1983 to 1985.

Justin Brennan and Shane Viviers have both represented the EP Men's hockey teams with Justin playing for more than seven years (1988 to 1995) and receiving more than 80 caps, then playing in the UK as the player-coach for Royal Tunbridge Wells Hockey Club.

Shane, after playing for EP, accepted a teaching post in East London at Selborne College, where he's been teaching for the past 31 years. He represented Border and was selected for South Africa to compete in the 1994 Men's Hockey World Cup in Sydney, Australia, and then went with the national team to India in 1995.

One highlight from their school hockey careers was a tour to Durban in 1984 where they played three matches on the newly-laid Astro pitch at Queensmead, eight years before the first Astro was laid in Port Elizabeth. Muir College teachers Mike Vermaak, who was the first team coach, and Andrew Todd contributed greatly to the development of Muir College Hockey.

Both Bun Hopley and Roger Hart were also instrumental in developing a strong hockey culture at Muir College during this period, building on the enthusiasm of the Muir College hockey players of the '60s and '70s.

A few outstanding Muir College hockey players who represented Eastern Province at various levels during this period were Colin Fish, Brett Botten, Kevin Wright, Garrick Dillion, Warren Espinosa, Heath Killeen, Stuart Scott and Paul Viviers.

At an international level, Old Muirite Neville Rothman is the national men's hockey assistant coach for Hockey Ireland. What an achievement for Muir College!

## *Justin Brennan, Class of 1985*



*Shane Viviers, Justin Brennan and James Laurie*



# MUIR COLLEGE IN THE USA

**Jonathan Hamp-Adams** (Class of 1989), recently shared some photos with us showing “Muir College” in the USA.

This Muir College is the John Muir College, part of the University of California (San Diego), that focuses on environmental education. Muir College Drive is the road below John Muir College.

In 2018 Jonathan, his wife and daughter visited the University whilst looking for college options in the USA for their daughter, and he could not resist taking these photos.



## Information from the John Muir College website:

JOHN MUIR COLLEGE

UC San Diego

About ▾ Academics ▾ Student Life ▾ Residential Life ▾ The Middle of Muir ▾ Writing ▾ Environmental Studies Contact ▾ 🔍

John Muir College, the second oldest college of the University of California at San Diego, admitted its first students in the fall of 1967 and moved to its present quarters in 1970. The college was named after John Muir (1838-1914), a Scottish immigrant who became a famous Californian naturalist, conservationist, and author.

Inspired by John Muir’s self-directed and multifaceted life, Muir College stresses the spirit of individual choice and responsibility within the framework of a supportive and inclusive community. The college also encourages awareness of environmental issues and involvement in environmental preservation and sustainability.

***The College motto, 'Celebrating the Independent Spirit', expresses its dedication to helping students to lead varied, successful, committed, and self-directed lives.***

(This sounds a bit like the Muir College that we all know and love, doesn’t it?)

*Note: The students who work in the campus coffee shop are called “Muiristas”.*



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Accounting

A group of Grade 12 Accounting learners had an insightful evening at PWC in Gqeberha in July. The program was facilitated by PWC trainees and chartered accountants, detailing their work and sharing information with the learners. The evening was rounded off with a passionate game of 30 Seconds on the PWC content covered.



## Geography

In August learners from Muir College Primary School participated in the 2023 Primary Schools South African National Geography Olympiad. Congratulations, Gents, for being the top state school in the country for 2023. The Grade 6 and 7 learners' results also placed the school first in the Eastern Cape.

Congratulations to all who participated and thanks to Mrs Samantha Cuyler for putting this team together, guiding them and running with the project.



*3 SA National Geography Olympiad*

# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Dance

Grade 12 learner, Likhaya Loyiti, participated in the annual Nelson Mandela Bay Dance Festival recently. This is a competition that showcases various categories of dance from studios in and around Nelson Mandela Bay. Likhaya was among the performers selected to perform in the gala evening where he received the following awards:

**Ballet Section Winner**

**Ballet Championship Runner-Up**

**Modern Section Winner**

**Modern Champion Winner**

Besides the above, Likhaya was as awarded the NMBDF Ballet Bursary and the Ballinger Bursary for Best Senior Dancer.



## Shooting

Congratulations to Muir College Grade 8 learner, Joshua Seifert, who has been selected for the Eastern Province Metallic Silhouette Shooting Association's Junior U20 team. Joshua will participate in the SAMSSA National Championships to be held in Bloemfontein in October.





# MEET THE BUSINESSES

## in the OMU's Business Portal

### ANALYZE CONSULTING

An interview with **Reyer Meihuizen**, *Class of 1991* and partner in Analyze Consulting



**Q** : What's the elevator pitch for your business?

**Ans:** Working closely with businesses of all shapes and sizes, Analyze Consulting specializes in business strategy, business process improvement, technology implementation and change management. As one of the more niche management consulting firms in South Africa, we pride ourselves in solving complex business challenges powerfully and efficiently with our tried and proven partnered approach and methodologies.



*Reyer Meihuizen, Class of 1991*

**Q** : Is the business local, national or international?

**Ans:** Mostly local, but with some international.

**Q** : When was your business founded?

**Ans:** 2008

**Q** : What was the main driver behind starting this business?

**Ans:** My business partner and I wanted to build a successful business, grounded on the principles we felt were most important for a healthy business and a healthy team.



*Analyze Team*



*Analyze website*

**Q : What do you love most about your business?**

**Ans:** I love the moments when our team gets together socially, and I'm able to marvel at the wonderful group of people we've brought together in Analyze.

**Q : What advice would you give to other entrepreneurs?**

**Ans:** Be clear about WHY you want to start your own business. Thereafter, and as soon as possible, shift your mindset to working "on" your business rather than simply "in" the business. The business needs to grow beyond you.

**Q : What is the "secret sauce" in your business?**

**Ans:** We have a deep appreciation for the value of great people and of taking a balanced approach to work and personal life.

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

**Ans:** There are many little things I might do differently, yet that is only with hindsight; and so I suspect I might change very little (other than to take it all a wee bit less seriously).

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

**Ans:** Ryan Reynolds. He knows what it is to be an entrepreneur. Plus, I suspect he would do a great job of imitating my appalling dad jokes.

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

**Ans:** Warren Buffet. He is very clear on his investment philosophy, and generally not swayed by trends and public opinion.

**Q : What's your leadership philosophy or approach?**

**Ans:** Servant leadership. Let your actions be the substance behind your words.



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

**Ans:** In the past few years, we've been on a journey to develop a solution that can support human behaviour change through AI and digital technology. A suitably tough nut to crack!

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

**Ans:** I'm curious about the role of humans in the industry of the future. Despite the hype of automation and technology intelligence, much will continue to change in the way we do things. Yet humans change very slowly. What emotional intelligence will we need to adapt and thrive?

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

**Ans:** Encourage all stakeholders to treat one another with respect and kindness.



*Interviewed by:*  
**Roland Cox**  
*Class of 1987*



# 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

**John Carter**  
1957

**Cedric Oliver**  
1957

**Melville Thwaites**  
1958

**Denis Pinnock**  
1961

**Kevin Smith**  
1963

**Johan van Rooyen**  
1964

**Brian Harris**  
1965

**Peter Butlion**  
1967

**Bryan Erasmus**  
1970

**Anthony Hubsch**  
1972

**Alan Kees Jenner**  
1973

**Mike Sinclair**  
1974

**Delvin Vermaak**  
1976

**Anthony Bernstein**  
1979

**Louis le Grange**  
1984

**Mark Crane**  
1985

**Simon Groves**  
1986

**Bretton White**  
1989

**Thobile Koko Tshazibana**  
1997

**Akhona Baliwe**  
2009

**Thembisile Chris Lukuzo**  
2011

**Sinawo Booi**  
2014

**Shaun Jonga**  
2022

# THE BACK PAGE

We've reached October 2023... and what a year it has been!

To those who attended the Founders' Weekend in August, it was wonderful to see you there and to catch up with "old" friends and make some new friends. I'm sure you'll agree that it was a good weekend of bonding, networking and sharing happy memories!

Thanks to those who supported the auction at the Old Muirite Union Dinner. We had some fantastic items up for grabs and would sincerely like to thank all who contributed towards the auction: there were signed rugby jerseys, signed cricket photos (even one signed by the late Hansie Cronje), wines, Commemorative Book, to name a few.

To the purchasers of these items – a big thank you. Funds raised will go to The Muir Foundation towards projects going forwards.

Don't forget that some of the photos from Founders' Weekend have been loaded onto the website, with the balance of the photos being available on our Google Drive. Drop me a line if you'd like the link to the shared folder.

I've been working on various OMU projects, with one of the main ones still being updating the database. Should your email, cell phone number or city where you live change, please let me know so that I can keep our records updated.

If you know of any of your classmates who aren't receiving correspondence from us, please send their contact information to me and I will get in touch with them.

I've also introduced a "Memory Monday" to our social media pages. If your class has a funny, interesting, happy, clean memory that you'd like to share (with photos), please send the info and photos my way.

Here's to a fantastic last quarter of 2023.

Keep smiling

**Wendy Knott-Craig**

OMU Manager







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#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Old Muirite Union on social media platforms:

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