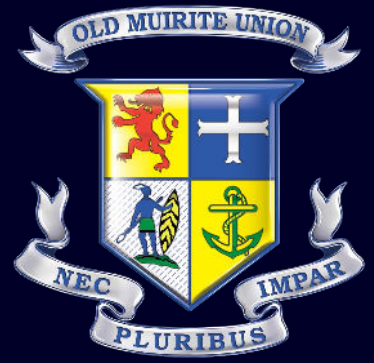


# OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

3 Quarter, 2024



## CELEBRATING 202 YEARS 2024 FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

What a weekend it was.... From the school assembly, to the OMU Dinner and the various sporting activities.

This year's Founders' Weekend started on Thursday 8 August 2024 with the Founders' Assembly in the morning. This was once again a very touching and meaningful assembly which saw many Old Murites in attendance, including those who were celebrating their milestone reunions.



*Bun Hopley, Robin Stephenson, Neil Crawford - 3 past headmasters*



*Class of 1999*



*Ryan Bhana, David Francis*



*Raising of the flags*

After the Assembly, the gents made it back to Gqeberha for the OMU Golf Day at the Walmer Golf Club. We had over 50 golfers on the course, with a shotgun start, and all ending at roughly the same time (except for one 3-ball, no names mentioned, who decided to rather enjoy the refreshments after 9 holes instead of finishing 18). The prize giving that evening was greatly enjoyed by the players as well as non-players who bought tickets to the evening.



*Josef Suti (Class of 2005), Clayton du Plooy (Class of 2005), Darryn Niemand (Class of 2005), Geoffrey Hoppner (Class of 1996)*



*Golf Day - Andrew Binning (Class of 1988), Chris Stange (guest), Ant de Bruin (Class of 1988), Stokes Ncula (Class of 1994)*



*Golf Day - Jan Loyson (guest), Anthony Dollery (Class of 1984), Kim van der Riet (Class of 1980), Grant Botten (Class of 1984), Antonie van der Hoek (Class of 1984)*



# 2024 FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

Friday 9 August, aka Women's Day, included hockey and the Annual OMU Dinner.

The hockey tournament was arranged by Simon Clark (Class of 1994) and saw a variety of Old Boys taking on the Muir College 1st Hockey Team. Well done to the "old boys" on their win. This was followed by a boerewors braai and socialising.



Players, in alphabetical order: Alan Konold, Ameer Kariem, Andrew Binning, Aviwe Keye, Darryn Niemand, Dhruv Rathod, Dylan Halforty, Jason Henman, Jodi Cunningham, John Woodburn, Josh Rhode, Justin Brennan, Logan Henman, Lylall Scharnick, Mehul Panchal, Patrick McCarthy, Peter Biljon, Shane Annadale, Stewart Scott, Warrick John Hart



Simon Clark (Class of 1994) in action

Friday evening was the Annual OMU Dinner and what a fantastic evening it was. The atmosphere was one of happiness, joy, camaraderie, reminiscing, laughter and even a tear or two were shed. Our sincere thanks to our guest speaker, Buhle Gayika, aka Booshle G (Class of 2016), who spoke from the heart and shared his journey from day one at Muir College until his breakthrough in the music industry in South Africa.



Joel Katz (Class of 1988)  
Andrew Binning (Class of 1988, Past President)

A special acknowledgement was given to Andrew Binning for his 5-year tenure as the OMU President and the excellent work he did in this time.



Buhle Gayika, aka Booshle G (Class of 2016 and OMU Dinner guest speaker)



Listen to Booshle's music on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvBnVa6-Z8Y>



# 2024 FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

Congratulations to the class of 1999 for winning the Annual Reunion Attendance Trophy (based on attendance numbers at the Assembly and Dinner, as a percentage of their class numbers, living only). Let's see who takes it next year.



*In the clubhouse*

Many Old Muirites gathered in the Muirite Clubhouse after the dinner until the early hours of the morning, catching up and reminiscing.



*Class of 1999 with trophy*

Saturday 10 August was the final games of the Tinaru Cup, which is a tournament that is held between Muir College, Daniel Pienaar and Brandwag. This year the finals were between Muir College and Daniel Pienaar.

There was great excitement as a group of Old Muirites (ex rugby players) created a team, The Old Muirite Legends, to take on the "old boys" of Daniel Pienaar. Thanks to Robert "Blikkies" Blygnaut (Class of 1977), Neville Scott (Class of 1989) and Erik Tuck (Class of 1975) for putting the team together. The game was tough. We played almost as well as the Bokke, but sadly Daniel Pienaar took the win.



contd. page 4



# 2024 FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's Founders' Weekend – whether you played Golf, joined the dinner, played Hockey or Rugby, or you were a spectator at the Rugby day. Your passion, support and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

Next year we will be doing it all once again, and will be celebrating the following Class Milestone reunions:

MILESTONE	CLASS
10 years	2015
20 years	2005
25 years	2000
30 years	1995
35 years	1990
40 years	1985
40 years	1985
50 years	1975
55 years	1970
60 years	1965
60 years	1965



Alan Giese (Class of 1966) signing the book



Various Old Muirites socialising prior to the Founders' Day Assembly



Ashley Williams, Mark Wates and James Bosman (Class of 1974)



Class of 2004



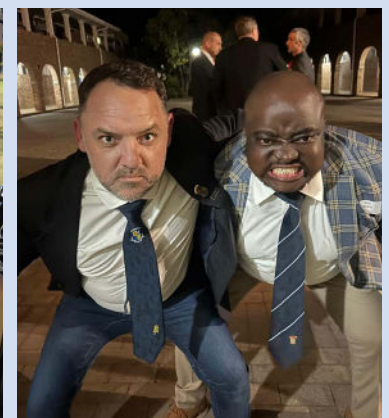
Ryan Samuels, Lyzander Parfitt, Oswald Erasmus and Wesley Entwistle (Class of 2004)



Craig Ross (MC and Class of 2003), Ryan Bhana (Class of 2001, OMU President)



Rob Hayter (Class of 1983) and Kim van der Riet (Class of 1980) enjoying the golf day



Craig Ross, Alan Nyoni



# 2024 FOUNDERS' WEEKEND



Ryan Truelove (Class of 1998) double checking that he has the right ball



Eldon Leonard (Class of 1994)



George Yerolemu (Class of 1987), Brett Botten (Class of 1982), Grant Botten (Class of 1984), Riaan Claassen (Class of 1987)



Ian Krain (Class of 1965, Past President, HLVP), Winston Riggs (Class of 1957, Past President)



Robert "Blikkies" Blignault (Class of 1977) and Erik Tuck (Class of 1975)



Oswald Erasmus, Ryan Samuels, Michael McClelland and Khaya Elvis Nondo (Class of 2004)



OMU Legends and Daniel Pienaar old boys



**SEE YOU IN 2025!!!!**



Wendy Knott-Craig (OMU Manager), Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001)



Nizaam Kafaar, Alard Basson, Mr David Francis (Headmaster), Sipheshile January, Zinzo Dondashe (Class of 2014)



# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## JOURNALIST NICK WILSON WINS

In the previous edition of the OMU Newsletter, we announced that **Nick Wilson**, Class of 1994, was a finalist in the Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Awards 2024.

We are thrilled to share that Nick won his category in this prestigious competition.



Nick Wilson, 2nd from Left

## SIYOLO DICK – PRESIDENT OF THE NELSON MANDELA BAY BUSINESS CHAMBER



Congratulations to **Siyolo Dick**, Class of 1996, on his appointment as President of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber.

Siyolo is also currently the SPAR Eastern Cape Divisional Managing Director.

Pictured here are Siyolo Dick, Denise van Huyssteen (Chief Executive Officer of the Business Chamber) and Loyiso Dotwana (outgoing President of the Business Chamber).



## 2024 OLYMPICS

Old Muirite, **Neville Rothman** (Class of 1994) attended this year's Olympic Games in Paris, France. Neville holds the position of Assistant Coach to the Irish Hockey Team since 2022.

“I’m lucky and blessed to have this opportunity afforded to me. Being at an Olympics is not something I ever thought would happen and am so grateful to be able to experience this”



# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## WENTWORTH BROTHERS FACE EACH OTHER IN HOCKEY

Old Muirites and twin brothers, **Malcolm & Richard Wentworth** (Class of 1969) will soon be challenging each other on the hockey field at the International Masters Hockey Tournament in Cape Town in October 2024.

Malcolm, who lives in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha, will represent South Africa at this tournament. Richard, who lives in France, will be representing France. This means that these 2 identical twins will be playing against each other.

May the best team win,  
and brotherly love remain.



*Malcolm Wentworth*



*Richard Wentworth*

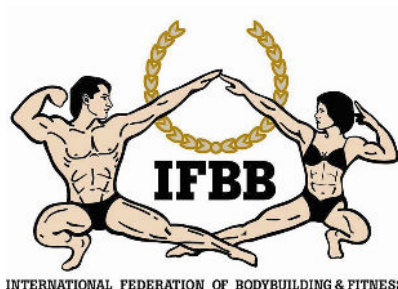
## SIBA PHILLIP TAKING HOME THE WIN

**Sibabalwe (Siba) Phillip**, Class of 2016, recently partook in, and won, the following categories in bodybuilding competitions:

- Physical Culture Association (PCA), Port Elizabeth Showdown Sports Model Champion
- Physical Culture Association (PCA), South African Championship Sports Model Champion

Siba now goes on to competing in the - IBFF Mr Universe 2024 competition at the end of October.

Good luck Siba



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BODYBUILDING & FITNESS





# OLD MUIRITE UNION PRESIDENT'S FEEDBACK

**Ryan Bhana, Class of 2001**

*Dear Old Boys,*

I am happy to report back to you on some of the highlights of the last quarter.

Founder's Weekend, as always, was successful. Commencing with the annual Founder's Assembly on the Thursday morning, 8 August, and ending off the final fixture of the Tinara Cup between Muir and Daniel Pienaar on Saturday, 10 August. A definite highlight was the match between the Old Muirite Legends the Daniel Pienaar Old Boys. The Old Muirites still displayed some flair even though many of them haven't played in years.

Special thanks to the reunion classes who were at the dinner as well as Muir's own pop sensation Buhle Gayika, or Booshle G (Class of 2016) who spoke at our dinner. His speech was nothing short of inspiring as he shared how Muir played a pivotal role in shaping his life journey. Hearing him reflect on his time at our beloved school was a reminder of how deep the impact of a Muir education runs.

The St. Francis/Kouga chapter hosted a wonderful get-together in July, where I had the privilege of representing the Old Muirite Union (OMU). It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with our old boys in the region. I wish to encourage other chapters in our other regions to plan gatherings next year as it provides great networking opportunities and foster's connection.

Thank you for your continued support of our Union and your alma-mater. Together, we carry forward the spirit of Muir with pride, passion, and commitment.

*Nec pluribus impar,*

**Ryan Bhana**





# HEADMASTER'S FEEDBACK

## David Francis

The third term has traditionally been a whirlwind of activities.

While maintaining our academic program, we also had to include key events in our calendar. This included the rugby fixtures, the Matric Farewell Dance, and the Founders' Weekend.

The Founders' Weekend and the Matric Farewell stood out in their success.

These events met expectations and created fantastic memories that will linger for years.



### TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- Matric Farewell (held during the holidays)
- Founders' Weekend
- Mr. Muir
- Despatch Kunsfees (received Gold)
- SGB by-elections
- Grade 7 Camp
- Hosting of the Pearson Cricket Festival
- Hosting of Gr 12 Spring School (during the September holidays)
- Cape Youth Cricket Festival

We were sad to say goodbye to **Mrs. Tyali**, who retired at the end of February but was willing to stay until the end of July to assist **Ms. N Zulu** in her new post—our congratulations and best wishes to Ms Zulu in the isiXhosa Department.

Congratulations to **Mr. Lyntin Gouws** (Class of 1998) on his well-deserved appointment on 1 September as Deputy Principal, and our congratulations to **Mr. Jason Field** on his promotion to Departmental Head.

**Mrs. Melissa Roberts** is to be congratulated on her election as a member of the SGB during the by-elections held earlier in the term.

The school's newsletter provides a comprehensive report on our academic and co-curricular activities; however, some outstanding achievements need to be mentioned:

The first highlight was the u13A rugby team beating Graeme 50-8 at Graeme. The team can also boast a fantastic 81%-win ratio for the 2024 season.

Another achievement was Luke Bailes's score of 181 runs not out against Westering at the end of the third term. This is a great accomplishment.



*Lyntin Gouws*



*Jason Field*



The results from the Primary South African National Geography Olympiad are outstanding. Muir College came 1st in the Eastern Cape. Gaameem Rockman (Gr 7) placed 1st in the Eastern Cape. We came 2nd overall in the Q4/5 schools.

Gaameem Rockman placed joint 6th overall in the country. Congratulations to Ms. Cuyler and the Gr 6 and Gr 7 Geography learners.

Our Junior Debating team has also done very well. Muhammad Jeeva and Carlisle Smith's excellent debating performances have allowed the junior debating team to rank among the top four schools to have debated in the Gqeberha Primary Schools Debating League for the year 2024.

The Muir College choir participated in the biannual Despatch Kunsfees, which draws participants from across the Nelson Mandela Metro and surrounding areas. The choir performed exceptionally and received a gold certificate (80%+) for its performance.

Further good news is that Muir College obtained funds to resurface two tennis courts with dual surfaces, benefiting tennis, hockey, and cricket. We also received a donation of bricks to build a separate cricket academy. I want to warmly thank all the parties involved for their help and support in this project, which ultimately benefits the school's learners.

Finally, I want to thank OMU for your support and involvement in our school and your commitment to Muir College. A special mention must be made to the Class of 87 for their kind donation of the doors to the school reception area. Thank you to Mr. Arthur Rudman for his kind donation of the new garden area in the Memorial Quad.





# A Head Boy reflects ...

by **Robert Sharman**, Class of 1971

OMU Newsletters typically contain many recollections of past pupils, but what of the views and experiences of the current crop of learners?

I had the privilege of teaching at Muir College for four months this year as a substitute for an English teacher who was on maternity leave. It was an interesting experience! School management and administration are somewhat more complex than they were 50-plus years ago.

Fortunately, I had the privilege of teaching the Grade 12M class – M for Muir, denoting what would previously have been the “A” class. The boys responded well to any and every mention of the Good Old Days, eager to know more about the history and past traditions of our school. My fondest memory is of the class’s spontaneous and very moving rendition of the School Song at the end of my last lesson with them.

Among those with whom I conversed at length during this brief sojourn was the Head Boy, **Esihlisipho Jacobs**, who had arrived at the College as a Grade 8 “new pot” in January 2020, just two months before the initial nationwide lockdown associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Esi” had been offered a bursary to attend Woodridge College, but three of his uncles had been pupils at Muir, so family loyalty had carried the day. His first impressions of our school left him in no doubt that his choice had been wise. Having enjoyed his primary schooling at Caledon Prep, a small private school in High Street that had little outdoor space, it took some time for him to get used to the vast Muir campus with its extensive buildings, large numbers of boys and seemingly endless sports fields. One of Esi’s abiding memories of his first two months at the College is of the orderliness of his new school. He admits to being slightly bewildered at first – and a little scared, especially of the then Deputy Headmaster, Mr David Francis, who was responsible for maintaining discipline.

Although he had played a bit of hockey at Caledon Prep (on one of the Brandwag fields), Esi had aspirations of branching out into other winter sports at Muir, but that ambition was stillborn when the national Covid lockdown was imposed in March 2020, and for the next two years sport was not on his menu.

Sitting at home and being taught on line for most of their Grade 8 year was a lonely experience for Esi and most of his classmates, and he tells of watching a lot of television, with occasional solo workout sessions in the family garage. He longed to return to school, but in the following year he and his mask-wearing classmates found little comfort in their alternate-day school attendance and alternate-desk seating arrangements: everyone was keen to get away immediately after school, and the spirit he had witnessed in his first few weeks at the school was noticeably lacking.

Daily full-time attendance resumed for Grades 10 to 12 in mid-2021, but part-time attendance continued for Grades 8 and 9 for the remainder of that year. During those “missing” years, extramural activity was largely limited to debating. Normal sporting activities resumed in 2022, and returning to pre-Covid levels of performance was an uphill battle for some sportsmen. Esi points out, however, that much of the old Muir College spirit and the sense of brotherhood have survived, largely due to the school’s ongoing traditions and the encouragement of staff – and the examples set by the Old Boys. There can be little doubt that, in spite of its missing out on much in their Grade 8 and 9 years, the Class of 2024 has remained keen and deeply committed to “The Muir”.

As Head Boy, Esihlisipho Jacobs has had to balance his duties with the formal demands of the Grade 12 curriculum. It is his perception that there is a need for more extensive participation in a wider range of school-based cultural activities, and he has also identified a need for more social events at the school to allow the boys to get to know each other better and to bond outside the classroom and beyond the strictures associated with formal sporting activities.

And what does the future hold for Esihlisipho Jacobs? At this stage it is his intention to study law and, given his impressive speech on Founders’ Day this year, it seems that he may once again be choosing wisely. Two things are certain, however: in spite of his disrupted high school experience, he will always be grateful that he chose to be a Muirite.

Esi and his fellow prefects and classmates will soon face the challenge of their matriculation examinations, and thereafter they will leave the hallowed precincts of Muir College to face yet further challenges – armed with their new status as Old Muirites.

I wish Esi, Connor and the entire Class of 2024 well in the years ahead.



*2024 Head Prefect, Esihlisipho Jacobs and Deputy Head Prefect, Connor Griffiths*



# FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

The brass bell in the corner of the Main Quad at the school is, like the Edward VII pillar box in the nearby Interact



*Bell cast by David Owen*

shottists garnered a trophy at an Eastern Province Bisley competition in 1927. Muir cadets had considerable success in inter-detachment shooting competitions in succeeding decades. If it is possible to refer to a 'golden age' of Bisley competitions at Muir, it could be the 1980s. During that decade Muir shottists won multiple trophies against leading schools in regional competitions and boasted several EP representatives. Details of their many successes appear on page 137 of the commemorative history of Muir, *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*.



*David Owen in 1969*

The mentor and coach behind so much of Muir's Bisley triumphs in the 'eighties was the redoubtable David Owen, a member of the teaching staff of the High School. The connection between David Owen and the bell in the quad is this: rather than see spent cartridge cases go to waste after shooting practices and competitions, Owen collected them and in time had enough to undertake a special recycling operation. As he once told the late Clive Shamley, past president of the OMU, his custom was to pick up spent cartridges after shooting practice at the Butts, Muir's shooting range at Park Avenue, and save them for future projects. Hence the beautifully crafted brass bell, a Muir College icon today, embossed, on the section facing outward into the quad, with the Muir College badge and the inscription THIS BELL WAS CAST TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL ON 20 MARCH 1987. In embossed lettering on the bell where it faces inward is simply the name of the craftsman, DAVID.

Quad, symbolic of history and tradition at Muir College. It has the unusual origin of having been cast from spent cartridge shells. The latter were in turn a by-product of a former tradition at Muir, namely Bisley. This branch of target shooting was an official school activity of Cadet Detachment no. 29. The Cadet Corps of Muir College, begun in 1896, functioned largely on a ceremonial basis and from the outset Muir cadets were acclaimed for their smartness and discipline on military and civic occasions and at events like the official opening of the Muir Academy Library in 1899 and the new school building in 1904. The Cadet Corps was officially designated Cadet Detachment no. 29 in the mid-fifties, when school cadets began to fall under the auspices of the Union Defence Force, and in later years, the South African Defence Force.

Early evidence of Muir cadets' skill in marksmanship was highlighted when a team of junior



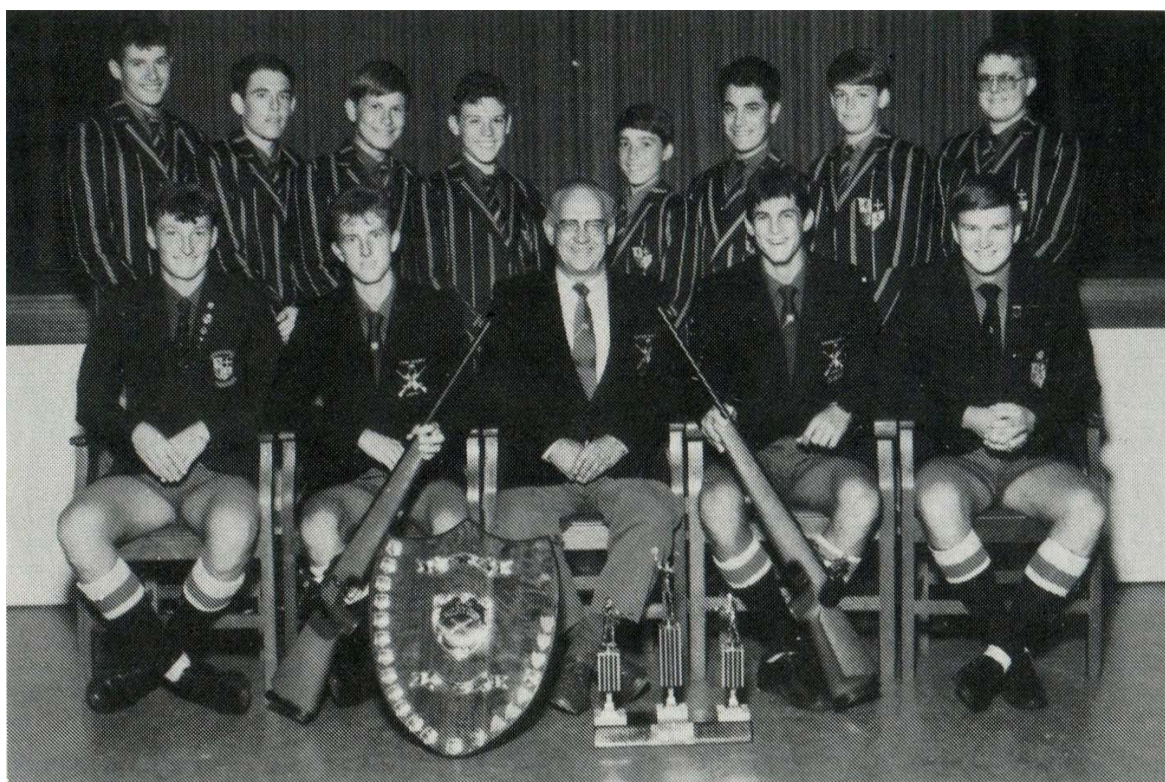
*Brian Seady Springbok  
shottist 1969*



The bell is more than just a skilfully produced artefact gracing the school (or substitute for the automated school bell during load shedding). It stands for a bond between one generation of Muirites and the next, from way back in the past to the present and well into the future. The 17th Century English poet John Donne observed that 'No man is an island' and that each is 'a part of the main'. Therefore, 'send not know', he said, 'for whom the bell tolls' when it tolls the passing away of someone, because 'It tolls for thee' – for all who are 'involved in mankind'. In that sense, all who are 'part of the main' are 'diminished' by the passing of each individual, said Donne. The Muir College bell is perhaps a reminder of this in terms of the Muir College community, but in a happier sense, it is also a call to the brotherhood of boys past, present and future, to be involved with, to honour and to stand with their fellows.



In the words of the late Michael King when Acting Headmaster in 1975, 'Muir is a brotherhood of those who have gone, those here at the present time, and those yet to come – a family, demanding loyalty to itself and loyalty of brother to brother'.



*Standing: B. Podesta, G. Jonker, A. Simpson, S. Schaup, F. Weideman, D. Maniatis, D. Nel, C. Cuyler.*

*Seated: L. Dorfling, A. Frost (capt.), Mr C.D. Owen, T. Passet, B. Wolf.*



*Written by:*

***Charles van Renen,***

*Class of 1963*



# CLIVE BOSMAN



Following on from last edition's "A 6-year-old reminiscing", by new OMU Newsletter contributor, **Clive Bosman** (Class of 1975), in this edition he shares the story of being the rugby mascot and his first hiding at Muir College.

## THE GAME OF RUGBY

Muir College was a fine rugby school, producing many good players over the decades. Being the youngest in the hostel, I became the mascot for the first team - dressed up in a rugby jersey, shorts socks and boots - everything of course many sizes too big. I would run out in front of the team with the captain, firmly clutching the ball to my chest, through the tunnel of boarders and to the middle of the pitch where the war cry was executed - then I'd run off the field before kick-off feeling chuffed with myself. This was my moment of glory, and I made a promise to myself that one day I would say the war cry as a member of the First XV-and so it came to pass when I was in high school.

As a College Hill boy, we would have little rugby games on Friday afternoons on the Bunny Field at the top fields with our "coach" Manny Katz. I would score a try on occasions, and one day a senior told me that if I didn't score a try that Friday, I needn't come to the supper table that evening. Well, as hard as I tried, it just didn't happen. Taking those words to heart, I returned to the hostel, showered, but didn't line up for supper.



*First Classroom at College Hill- Sub A 1963*

contd. page 15



*3 Bosman Brothers:  
Peter Bosman (Class of 1966),  
Clive Bosman (Class of 1975),  
Late Justin Bosman (Class of 1962)*

I hid in my clothes locker, petrified of showing my face because I had failed. The offshoot of it was that a "search party" was sent out looking for me. A bit of panic had now set in, and I remember them coming into the baby dorm calling out for me, looking under the bed, and then eventually finding me tucked up in my locker. I'm not sure it was just simply out of sheer relief that no disciplinary action transpired resulting from act, but I was relieved to escape any significant sanction.

## THE BABY DORMITORY

The Baby Dorm, as it was affectionately known, was the one dormitory within the hostel that everyone had much affiliation with and affection for. There were four of us that shared that dorm and in my Sub A year in 1963, it was Arthur Jennings, Christopher Farr, myself, and someone else that I cannot recall. They proved to be important times in those early formative years. Although the baby dorm where Matron (Mrs Andrews) was responsible for our wellbeing, we were very much part of the daily run of the mill boarder discipline. The rising bell would go off at 6.30 am and ring again at 7 am for the daily inspection by the duty master. During that time, we were to get dressed; make our bed; wash our face and brush our teeth; polish our shoes; and ensure that everything was neatly stacked away in the lockers provided.

As can be appreciated, there were some challenges in the early days viz. the tying of shoelaces; the making of the Windsor tie knot; polishing of shoes without making a mess, amongst other things. There were 3 Matrons who looked after us: Matron Andrews was the matron for the baby norm and sick bay and was known as matron Aspirin- she would hand out aspirins for most sick cases. The other matrons were Matron Gertie (in charge of the kitchen) and Matron Nell (laundry). The Headmaster's wife was the Head Matron.

After supper, we would go to the Matron's dining room and have a story read to us or colour in whilst the other boarders went into the prep hall. After that it was time to brush our teeth, say our prayers and have the lights turned off by a Prefect at approximately 7.30pm. However, this became probably the biggest challenge for us at the time. How is it possible for 4 youngsters

to immediately remain quiet? We would start with a whisper and then progress to a louder chatter and then eventually so loud that the Prefect would warn us a few times until he lost patience- and then came the dreaded moment - that first hiding, and something that one does not forget easily.

## THAT FIRST HIDING

The said Prefect had enough of warning us, so he leapfrogged us downstairs in slippers and gowns, through the prep room where everyone was still doing prep, and into the Headmaster's office. The result was getting a few cuts. I'm not sure what was more painful - the hiding itself, or the humiliation of being paraded through the prep room with one's fellow boarders.

Quite amazing how one remembers the words of a Cat Stevens song viz. the first cut is the deepest!



*College Hill Sub A 1963*



*College Hill Sub B 1964*



*College Hill Std 1 1965*



# ST FRANCIS GET TOGETHER

Early in July this year, 30 odd Old Muirites and partners gathered in St Francis Bay for a get together. OMU President, Ryan Bhana, took a drive out to the village to meet the gents and to give them an overview and update on the Old Muirite Union.

A lot of laughter, reminiscing and fun was had during the day, which went late into the evening where Keith Clark happily marketed his wines to those present (they were in agreement that the wine was really good).

Another such event will be taking place in January, with the aim of 50 Old Muirites attending from the Garden Route and Nelson Mandela Bay too.



Ryan Bhana, OMU President, Class of 2001



Alan Giese (1966), Cyril Rowe (1966), Keith Condon (1968), Ken Nieuwenhuizen (1970), Bun Hopley (past headmaster)



Keith Condon (Class of 1968), Peter Bosman (Class of 1966), Trevor van der Miller (Class of 1973), Ivan Beaumont (Class of 1971), Harry Sharp (Class of 1969), Andy Will (Guest), Keith Clark (Class of 1972), Malcolm Serrao (Class of 1968)



Keith Clark (Class of 1972), Peter Bosman (Class of 1966), Trevor van der Miller (Class of 1973)



Keith Clarke (Class of 1972), Any Will (Friend of Muir), Ken Nieuwenhuizen (Class of 1970), Harry Sharp (Class of 1969)



Trevor Medley (Class of 1966), Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001), Keith Clark (Class of 1972), Vic Rabie (Class of 1966) and Melville Fish(76)



Keith Condon, Peter Bosman, Peter Van Der Miller, Ivan Beaumont, Harry Sharp, Andy Will, Keith Clark, Malcolm Serrao



# 1960s AT IT AGAIN

Written by: **Alan Giese**, Class of 1966

The last few years have seen the Class of 1966 class regularly getting together informally for a braai or lunch. To bolster our numbers we, on occasion, invite some members from the classes from the late 1960's.

Fairly recently, Peter Clark (Class of 1966), returned to Nelson Mandela Bay after spending many years on the Reef. As he is on the committee of the SAAF Museum, he arranged for our get together to be held at the Museum, which is located behind the Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport (PE/GQ Airport). Besides having a tour of the exhibits, we were able to use their bar and braai facilities.

The Museum boasts a total of sixteen aircraft, including four helicopters, a supersonic jet fighter, a world-famous Harvard trainer and a full-scale model of a Spitfire among others, and the oldest surviving jet fighter in South Africa.

Another must do is the flight simulator, which is dedicated to SAAF Buccaneer 415, piloted by Maj. S. Odendaal and Maj. P. Webb when it disappeared on 16 October 1969, off the coast near Eshowe in KZN during a training exercise.



*L/R: Vic Rabie(66), Geoff Coates(67), Brian Pashley(67), Peter Clark(66),  
Alan Giese(66), Bill Johnson(67).*



# CLASS OF 1974 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

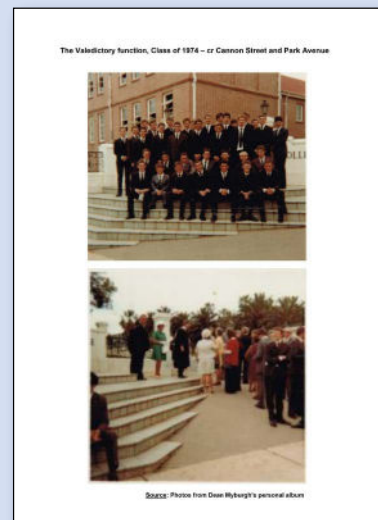
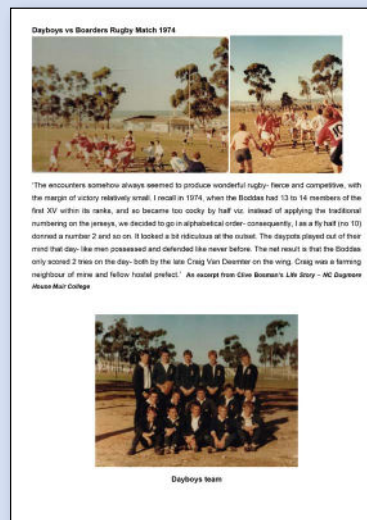
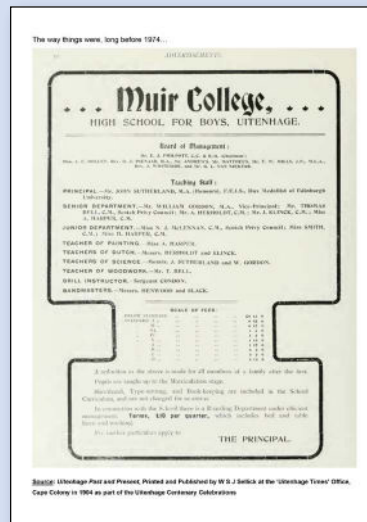
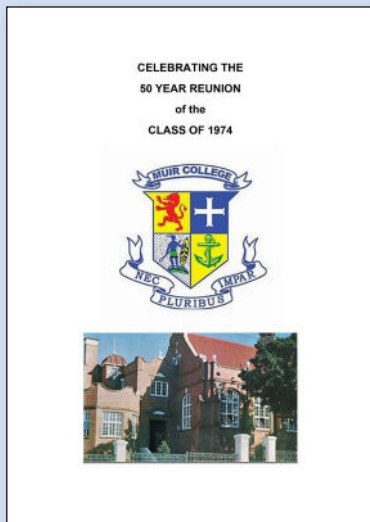
The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th Reunion at Founders' Weekend this year.

As part of the celebration, Dean Myburgh, who currently resides in Kerikeri, New Zealand, reached out to his classmates and compiled a special booklet featuring:

- Tributes to classmates and teachers who have passed away
- Life stories shared by classmates
- Photos and newspaper clippings
- Anecdotes and memories
- And much more

This is a fantastic initiative that future classes could considering doing too, and adding to it just before each of their milestone reunions.

If you would like to receive a copy of this document, please contact either Dean Myburgh ([dmyburgh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dmyburgh@xtra.co.nz)) or Ashley Williams ([ashwill1956@gmail.com](mailto:ashwill1956@gmail.com))



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

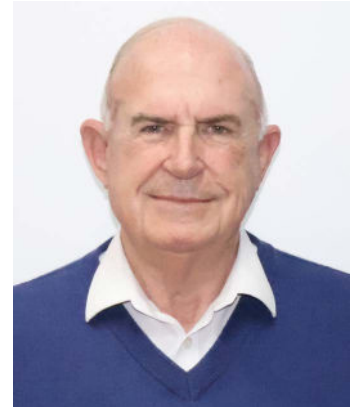


Written by:

**Wendy Knott-Craig,**

OMU Manager

Let's meet 2 Old Muirites from 1960's and 1970s



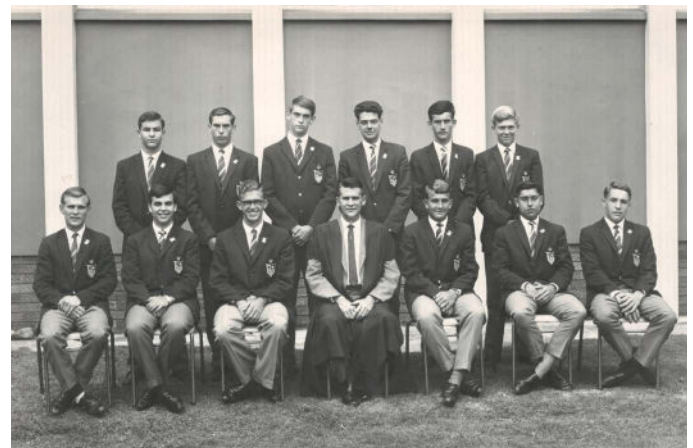
## ROBERT WEATHERDON

### Class of 1964

Robert Weatherdon lived in Uitenhage for 24 years, and has been in Cape Town for 53 years. During his time in Uitenhage, he attended Muir College from Grades 1 to 12, when the school was still a single school. In Grade 9, Muir College was divided into 3 separate schools, which was apparently not the best idea according to the scholars. In matric he was Head Prefect and was awarded the Dr Steyn Cup for Good Fellowship and Leadership that year. His fondest memory of being a Muir Boy is the vibrant school spirit, good fellowship between pupils, an excellent headmaster (Mr Cecil Clement) and the proud traditions of the oldest boys' high school in the country.

Robert was also a teacher at Muir College, where he was hostel master for 2 years. He would live at home and do boarding house duty from 6h00 to 23h00 five days a week.

Weatherdon says that academic achievement for career purposes was his top priority during his school years. This resulted in him being awarded the School Dux Award as well as numerous other awards, such as:



*Robert Weatherdon - Prefects of 1964*

The Uitenhage Municipal Bursary for attaining the highest aggregate of candidates in Uitenhage; the Redvers Ingg's Bursary for having the highest Physical Science mark at Muir College; the J.J. Albertyn Scholarship for the duration of his university studies; and the Alfred Beit Scholarship for having the best Senior Certificate results of first year students admitted to Rhodes University.

Robert played first team Tennis and represented Muir College in the Eastern Province Inter-Schools Athletics and the Hirsch Shield Athletics Meeting. On top of all of this, Robert was the Chairman of the Debating Society at Muir College.

Post school, Weatherdon attended Rhodes University where he graduated with a B.Sc. Degree with distinction in Chemistry and a University Education Diploma with distinction in the Practice of Teaching.



*Robert Weatherdon- ATHLETICS TEAM 1963*



In 1969 Robert started his teaching career as a Science teacher at Muir College, where he also coached tennis and athletics and was the manager of the First Cricket team. Over the next few decades Weatherdon taught at Rondebosch Boy's High School, Westerford High School, Fairbairn College, Oude Molen Technical High School. During this time, he was promoted to Deputy Headmaster and finally Headmaster at Oude Meulen and Fairbairn College (during his 2nd stint at the College).

Before retiring, Robert moved to the Private School system at Chesterhouse College, which is also in Cape Town. Since retiring he has been teaching home-school pupils online in the IGCSE and A Level Physics syllabuses. All in all, he has spent a total of 55 years teaching and hopes to continue doing so.

When Robert isn't busy engaging with young minds, you will find him walking on the Blouberg Beach, keeping fit at the gym, keeping up with world news on the internet, travelling overseas and mastering the latest advances in technology.

Robert enjoys reading academic science books to keep up to date with new topics and he listening to light classical music.

On parting, Robert would like to leave us with the following words of wisdom: A good education, a high-demand qualification and integrity are essential assets for a successful life and career.



*Robert Weatherdon - Boarding House 1969*

## PAUL KAPLAN, Class of 1979

Paul Kaplan grew up in the Uitenhage / Addo area, and resided in the hostel from Standard 6 up to Matric. He was the Head Prefect of the Hostel and Deput Head Boy of the school on 1979.

Paul's passions were Gymnastics and Rugby (he received his 1st Team Blazer for these sports). He also enjoyed diving, swimming, lifesaving, athletics and cricket. Paul thoroughly enjoyed the Inter House competitions, which were always well received by all Muirites. His fondest memories of Muir College include his life in the hostel, his sport and the amazing teachers and mentors that he came across during this school days.

Once Kaplan completed matric, he did a Tool and Die Maker apprenticeship at Borg Warner, and he also completed his compulsory 2 years service in the army.

Between 1985 and 1990 Paul took the road and worked and travelled his way through Europe, Israel and England. He also managed and sold 2 very successful manufacturing businesses, one in Scottsdale, Arizona and the other in Sydney Australia.



*Paul Kaplan - in matric in 1979*

Paul is married to Sandra, and they live in Sydney, Australia.



*Paul Kaplan - at his 40th reunion in 2019*

They have 2 adult sons and 3 granddaughters. An interesting fact about Paul, his wife and his sons is that each of them were born in different countries on different continents.

Since retiring in 2023, he spends a lot of time travelling, playing golf, fishing along the East Coast of Australia and spends as much time as he can with his family. His favourite musician is Bob Dylan.

Paul's parting words of wisdom: Don't be afraid to have a go. Trust in your ability and if you don't succeed, it's not how you fall but how you get up that counts.

# MEET THE BUSINESS

## CHINGCHINO COFFEE



### *Roland Cox*

*Class of 1987, sat down with Clayton du Plooy (Class of 2005) to find out more about Clayton's business, Chingchino Coffee Truck, which is often seen around town in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha.*

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

At my coffee trailer we serve more than just a great cup of coffee—we brew relationships. Our convenient, accessible location makes us a go-to spot for anyone seeking quality coffee crafted with care. Whether it's our locally sourced beans or the friendly chats that turn first-timers into regulars, every visit is an experience. Stop by and see why we're more than just a coffee stop—we're part of your day.

- **Are you national or local or international?**

I am a small local business based in Port Elizabeth

- **When was this business founded?**

September 2018

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

As someone who isn't afraid to take risks, I wanted to create an opportunity that connects with people on my own terms, while giving them a product that everyone can relate to. The best way was open my own business where I control the outcome.

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

I enjoy seeing people happy and smiling, and I love the fact that I can be the reason they have these emotions. Coffee affects people in such a positive way and being able to serve it to my clients daily has forged many new relationships and friendships, both business and personal.



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

*There are a few points to consider*

- Believe in yourself, you are stronger, tougher and more resilient than you think.
- Do what you love and love what you do, then it won't feel like work.
- Work hard
- Embrace your mistakes, be prepared to fail and keep learning.
- Listen to what others have to say

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

Consistency, determination and authenticity.



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

I would have started this business earlier, with the hope of increasing my footprint and brand throughout my home town.

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

Support to the local businesses that employ locally, and allow the local economy to thrive. I support as many small businesses out there as it goes a long way for the greater good of our local community.



Please visit our website to find out more about the Business Portal and the companies listed there (<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/business-listing-management/>)



# LIFE LESSONS

*Extracts from the 200 Leadership Life Lesson Booklet that was published and distributed in 2022*

## **IVAN BEAUMONT**, Class of 1971

*There is only one person you will spend your whole life with and that's yourself. Therefore, believe in yourself, trust your instincts, stay true to your values, and enjoy each and every day you spend on this beautiful planet. If you need life rules, you need go no further than Jordan Peterson's 12 Rules for Life. "*



## **LUBABALO BONGA**, Class of 2007

*Success in life is relative and it's up to each man to define their own success. Some will be the best sportsman, some businessmen and some family men etc. Every path in life requires a sacrifice and it's up to you what you're willing to sacrifice to get where you want to be!*

## **KEVIN KELLY**, Class of 1983

*Honest, ethical business practices breeds great success!*



## **SINETHEMBA MALI**, Class of 2007

*Chaps, whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability at all times, ensuring you leave no room for regrets. Life passes by so quickly, make the most of every moment. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time.*

*Lastly, make sure you owe no man anything but love. Godspeed Men of Muir!*



# WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Our condolences go to the families and friends  
of those we have lost from January 2024.

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.

**Cecil Jones**  
1956

**David Leach**  
1958

**Winston Canter**  
1958

**Anthony Barlow**  
1958

**Ian Uys**  
1959

**Alexander Sharp**  
1960

**Peter MacCullum**  
1961

**Norman Slack**  
1961

**Noel Jonker**  
1965

**Douglas Thomson**  
1966

**Michael Hargreaves**  
1968

**Andrew Gouws**  
1975

**Marc Feltham**  
1982

**Michael Weiss**  
1982

**Brendon Wright**  
1987

**Chule Timothy Ralo**  
1996

**Ludwe Matomela**  
2007



# THE BACK PAGE

As the year hurtles to an end, life becomes more and more crazy for all of us. This last quarter was quite a big one for the Old Muirite Union in that we planned the annual Founders' Weekend, which was once again a great success.

This year we added Hockey and Rugby to the mix for the Old Boys, and boy... did they have fun. I'm sure there were many aching bodies after those matches. I even heard one gent saying, after the rugby match vs Daniel Pienaar, that he was exhausted by the time he ran onto the field from the top of the stairs.

Many thanks to all who supported this year's Founders' Weekend. We have already started planning the 2025 one.

Our Podcasts are coming along really well, and we receive more and more positive feedback with each episode. We pre-record each episode and set a date aside for that specific one to go live. We are thrilled that we have managed to pre-record sufficient podcasts for the balance of 2024. If anyone would like to be interviewed, please let me know so that I can arrange it for you. If you need any backdated episodes, you can find the link to them on our website, under "Newsletters" or look directly on our YouTube channel.

Whilst in the planning phase of this newsletter, I sent a request to all the Class Reps to find out if any of their classmates had some interesting news / stories to share with us. Thanks Hoosain Peweker, Class of 1997, for letting us know about your new cat. He/she is really cute.

In all seriousness, if you have interesting information to share with your fellow Old Muirites in our newsletters, as well as on social media, please let me know – this newsletter cannot be done without your stories too.

*Thanks for reading this 3rd quarter edition of 2024. All the best for the last few months of 2024.*



**Wendy Knott-Craig**  
OMU Manager



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Follow the Old Muirite Union on social media platforms:

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