OLD MUIRITE UNION

NEWSLETTER

4 Quarter, 2024



OLD MUIRITE UNION PRESIDENT'S FEEDBACK

Ryan Bhana, Class of 2001

As we near the end of 2024, it's incredible to think how quickly this past quarter has flown by! We've been fortunate to hold a number of memorable events over the last three months, and I'm pleased to share some highlights.

I had the honor of attending the annual Prize Giving at Muir College as a guest. It was inspiring to witness so many students from all high school grades receive well-deserved awards for their hard work throughout the year. Congratulations to all of them for their achievements!



A few days thereafter it was the Valedictory Service, where a combination of Old Muirites from the OMU Committee and local alumni, formed the "Bomb Squad" to welcome the Matric Class of 2024 to the OMU. It was a privilege to address the audience with an update on OMU activities and share a special message with the Class of 2024. It was a heart warming event with a lot of laughter, cheers and some teasing. Many thanks to the Old Muirites who participated and assisted with the handing out of the OMU Ties to the young gentlemen and welcomed them to the family.

November also saw the launch of a new initiative: the Business Networking Breakfast. Many thanks to Simon Clark for organizing this successful event and managing all the logistics. This breakfast was the first of what we hope to be many, giving attendees the opportunity to deliver brief "elevator pitches" about their businesses, services, or products. Keep an eye out for upcoming events in this series.

After a year of hard work by Andrew Binning and Joel Katz, I'm excited to announce that we now have a debit order system in place for Voluntary Contributions. As a reminder, OMU membership is free, but we do ask for voluntary contributions to help cover our annual operating costs of around R250,000 – whether it be a once off lump sum or a monthly contribution. By signing a debit order form, we take the hassle out of you remembering each month / year to transfer funds to our bank account. You don't have to worry about it again. Debit orders are available to South African residents, while international members can contribute through several convenient options:

- 1. Make a one-time payment via EFT (an invoice will be issued for this).
- 2. Make a one-time payment via our website using a credit card (https://muircollege.co.za/product/donate/).
- 3. If you'd like to make regular contributions, contact our OMU Manager to arrange monthly invoicing.

On behalf of the OMU, I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed this past year. Your support has been invaluable, and we greatly appreciate it.

Finally, to close off. I'd like to thank the OMU Executive and OMU Committee for their support since I took over the helm in May 2024. Your dedication and assistance is much appreciated.

Here's wishing you all a wonderful December Festive Season and we will see you in 2025.

Until next time!

Ryan Bhana

HEADMASTER'S FEEDBACK

David Francis

"Reflect on your goals not just to see how far you've come but to learn what paths still need paving. Whether it met your aim or not, every step forward is a lesson in growth."

At Muir College, our vision has always been clear: to strive for excellence. We strive for achievement.

We continue to instil the values of respect and manners in our students.

We continue to uphold our discipline.

Our commitment to academic excellence remains.

Our dedication to the development of well-rounded young men of character –That remains.

We develop Men capable of facing the challenges of tomorrow.

We can only do this with the help of various role players.

People notice how well-kept our campus and building are. That is thanks to a very dedicated ground staff.

Thank you to the PTA for their continuous support and help with various school activities.

Thank you to the Muir Foundation and the OMU for their continuous support and efforts in maintaining and improving Muir College.

I am truly blessed to have an excellent SGB to support me as Headmaster.

Due to their efforts, we obtained sufficient funds for a dual-surface double tennis court. This surface is suitable for tennis, cricket, and hockey.

We also plan to build a separate indoor cricket academy, which would allow us to expand the present gym area.

We are also planning to expand our school building to accommodate more learners. By the start of 2026, we envision having at least two extra classrooms.

With hope and purpose, may our plans unfold as envisioned.

My teaching staff remains the cornerstone of our learners' academic success, in sports, or culture.

In academics, the class of 2023 made us proud. The pass rate was 98.9%.

63.3 %(45% in 2022) of our learners achieved bachelor passes, which allow them to study at tertiary institutions.

The class of 2024 has excelled in academics so far this year.

One of our matrics received Academic Colours (80% and above), four received Academic Blazers (75% and above), and three academic ties (above 70%)





Our Teachers



We had several outstanding individual successes in the sports and cultural field.

- Kwezi Mafongosi being selected for the u/16 EP Grant Khomo Team
- Josh Seifert for being selected for u20 EP Shooting team
- Jaedon Lundall for being selected for EP archery.
- Juan Blou, Amvuyele Toyi and Joshua Bailes were selected for EP u13 Cricket
- Luke Bailes for selection of EP u11 Cricket team (Photo)
- Cecil van Willing and Zachary Matthys u13 EP Academy Week
- Zaheer Abrahams EP u13 A Craven Week (Photo)
- S. Soyaya for Scoring 2 centuries in the year
- Bolomko Kilani on scoring his 1st 100 for Muir
- Luke Bailes u11 A Batsmen for scoring two centuries this year.
- The u13 A Rugby side for having a season with over 80 per cent win rate and beating Graeme College 50-21
- The 1st Team Rugby for beating Brandwag for the 1st time in 33 years.
- Mathew Lawson for having a batting average of over 50 for the 2nd team.
- The Muir junior team qualified for the Eastern Cape Provincial debating trials, and from that team, Kellan Reed was selected to represent EP at Nationals in December.
- Chess (five provincial and one national representative, Irshaan Mohamed).

There was a slight change on the staffing front. After nearly two years, the Department made much-needed appointments at our school. We congratulate Mr. Gouws on his appointment as Deputy Principal and Mr. Field on his appointment as Departmental Head.

Running a successful school involves many partners.

I extend my gratitude to the following committees for their dedication, hard work, and support to the school.

The SGB and Fincom, the PTA, and the Old Muirite Union.

These committees remain the backbone of our school's success.

Thank you to the sponsors for their support of our great school. The Sponsors, such as (Go-A-Rite, Afrimat, Claude Smith Attorneys, Universal Equipment, and Buco) helped with special team clothing, equipment, tours, etc.

I wish the OMU and their families a peaceful, safe holiday and a blessed Christmas.

D. Francis





Zaheer Abrahams



Kwezi Mafongosi



Josh Seifert



Jaedon Lundall



Luke Bailes

VALEDICTORY SERVICE

THE OMU'S "BOMB AT THE MUIR **COLLEGE VALEDICTORY SERVICE**

On Monday 14 October a group of Old Muirites gathered at the Muir College Valedictory Service to warmly welcome the Class of 2024 into the OMU. The atmosphere was filled with emotion—excitement, laughter, and even a few tears. Mr. Francis delivered a heartfelt and humorous speech to the matrics, followed by responses from the current Head Boy and the OMU President, Ryan Bhana.

The ceremony culminated in the traditional walk to the Memorial Gates, where the Class of 2024 was officially welcomed into the OMU family!



Ryan Bhana (OMU President Class of 2001) and matriculant



Old Muirites welcoming the class of 2024



Guard of Honour



Thomas Terblanchel (OMU Vice President, Class of 2008), Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001)



Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001), 2024 Headboy Esihlisipho Jacobs, David Francis (Headmaster)



Old Muirites lining up to welcome the Matrics to the OMU





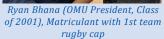
Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001), Sinenjongo Ndabambi, recipient of Trevor Winer Bursary



Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001), David Francis (headmaster)









Phakamani Nesi (Class of 2007) and matriculant



Connor Griffiths (Deputy Head boy), Vuyo Dyan (Class of 2007)



Class of 2024



Proudly donning his new OMU tie



Class of 2024

IT'S TIME TO NETWORK

The OMU has launched a new networking opportunity for Old Muirites in the form of a Business Networking Breakfast, the first of which took place in November in Nelson Mandela Bay. These networking opportunities will also further enhance the online Business Portal, but this has a more personal touch with face to face Business Networking.

This initiative is being driven by Simon Clark (Class of 1994) and Mark Bradley (Class of 1982).

The 2nd event is taking place on Friday, 10 January 2025, at the Barn & Barrel at Kingscourt in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha. Bookings to be made via Simon Clark (0721300475)



Simon Clark (Class of 1994), Estate Agent, Guesthouse Manager, hairdresser



Michael Hubsch, Designer/Builder, Aiden Wilson, Pastor & dog food distributor & Mark Bradley, Chartered Accountant

All from the Class of 1982



Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001), Financial Advisor



Networking and breakfast



4 WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MUIR FOUNDATION INVESTMENT FUND:









Contribute ZAR 1000 or ZAR 10 million or anything in between as the Muir Foundation targets ZAR 50 million Capital Fund. All funds to the Muir Foundation Investment Fund will be held as capital and only the interest will be allocated to projects.

MAJOR DONORS ARE SOUGHT TO FUND THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFIED PROJECTS AS PART OF A 2027 VISION:

- 4 New Classrooms
- NC Dugmore Project
- Muir College Sports Academy & Floodlights Project
- Muirite Extension
- Astroturf
- The Water Project
- Solar Project Phase 2
- Perimeter Wall around Muir College

The Muir Foundation Investment Fund will also be utilised for smaller, short-term projects as required by Muir College. Feedback and fund status will be shared in each edition of the quarterly newsletter.



Investment Fund administered by:





The Muir Foundation NPC Account number 273011464

[&]quot;The great use of a life, is to spend it for something that outlasts it" ~ Philosopher, William James

MUIRITE STRIDERS ENJOYING 3 DECADES ON THE ROAD

By: Peecee Ellis (Past Teacher) and Wendy Knott-Craig (OMU Manager)

In 1994 the Muirite Striders Running Club was started by a number of Old Muirites.

Quoting Peecee Ellis: "The chaps who normally travelled together to the Two Oceans, Comrades and Foot of Africa marathon used the name "Muirite Striders" as a collective noun to describe themselves. Sandy Miller, Steve Ayling, Johndavid Metcalf, Neil Grobbler, Hilton Thomson, Brian Smith (our driver) and I were the original members of this group. As I recall, we borrowed a Kombi from Muir for a trip to Cape Town for Two Oceans in 1992, on condition there was some marketing for Muir involved. One of the gents had the rampant lion and Muirite Striders decals made to stick on the side of the kombi as part of our "marketing" strategy. Later in the year, we borrowed kombis from Volkswagen for the 1992 Muir College Peace Run from Joburg to Uitenhage and used the same decals again. By the time I came back to PE at the end of 1996, after my stint as a Superintendent of Education in East London, I joined Muirite Striders, which was now a formally constituted running club."

Earlier this month the Muirite Striders enjoyed a formal celebration of 30 years together.

There are currently 89 members who meet on occasion (when time allows) to run together. The Club is open to all and sundry – if you're a runner and you're in the Uitenhage / Kariega area, please feel free to join them.

Contact Muirite Striders:

President, Margie du Toit, on +27 82 496 2926

Vice President: Denver Hume (Class of 1995), +27 73 722 3769









Margie du Toit (President) and Denver Hume, Class of 1995 (Vice President) of The Muirite Striders



GOING BACK IN TIME: MUIR AND CO-EDUCATION



Written by: Charles van Renen, Class of 1963

Co-education isn't a concept you would normally associate with Muir College, yet the school has had 'brushes' with it, in one form or another, in the past. An early example occurred in 1920, when a pupil from Grahamstown, Rathleen Fraser, whose father was the principal of the Dolley School, needed instruction in Physical Science. As this could not be provided at Riebeek, arrangements were made for the young lady to attend classes at Muir College. It was soon noted by acting headmaster Mr Floyd that 'so far, the experiment has had a good effect on the class.' (A similar 'experiment' fifty-one years later is described further on.) There were moments when

the Department of Education actually toyed with the idea of Muir and Riebeek Colleges amalgamating when pupil enrolments fell below certain levels, but this prospect was firmly opposed by the respective school communities.

Pupil enrolments aside, co-education per se was favoured by some authorities. Dr WJ Viljoen, Superintendent-General of Education in the Cape between 1918 and 1929, was highly disposed towards co-educational schooling; a building for this purpose had been erected in Uitenhage's High Street by 1922. Dr Viljoen had successfully provided co-educational solutions to schooling needs in Graaff-Reinet, and doubtless viewed the possibility of doing the same in Uitenhage. There must have been some pressure on Muir and Riebeek by the education authorities to join forces as a co-educational institution – something the parent bodies were very much against – for as a compromise arrangement, they agreed to unite their respective junior sections below Std 5 in a new co-educational junior school. This was housed in the new building in High Street. Schooling commenced under Principal Miss C.M. Naudé in January 1923, offering tuition to both English and Afrikaans-speaking pupils in their respective home languages. The success of this arrangement in what was regarded as a 'model school' reflected, in a sense, the policy of James Rose Innes a century earlier.

A move to establish a separate Afrikaans School in Uitenhage gathered pace in the mid-1930s. The SGE at the time responded positively to a deputation requesting the establishment of such a school. There was a problem, however. Funding for new building projects was not available in the economic depression of the 1930s, so how could one open a new school without erecting a new building? The Department of Education mooted the idea of Muir and Riebeek amalgamating, and for the Riebeek premises to be used for the new school. Unsurprisingly, this was strenuously opposed by the committees of both schools. An alternative plan was implemented whereby Miss Naudé's Junior School was to become the new School (Brandwag) in 1937, and the English-speaking junior boys and girls were to be redirected to the Muir and Riebeek Colleges. The Afrikaans pupils remained at High Street to form the nucleus of the new school. The Muir College magazine of 1936 reported that the cry was "Back to the Muir, and back to the Riebeek!"

In a broad sense, Riebeek and Muir pupils had experienced fourteen years of co-education before being divided into the two single-sex institutions once again.

Both Riebeek and Muir retained their junior departments for the next twenty-five years. At the beginning of 1962, however, the Junior Primary departments (today's Foundation Phase without Grade R) of both schools



"Back to the Muir!" - junior school boys in 1936

migrated to the new College Hill Preparatory School. College Hill was housed in the Riebeek College building in Church Street; at the beginning of 1962 Riebeek was in the process of relocating to North Street. Muir College at this point also



shed its Senior Primary section (Standards 2 to 5 – today's Grades 4 to 7) which became an autonomous institution. It was thought at the time – certainly at Muir – that a school ranging from Sub-A to matric was too big to be run optimally, and this fitted in with the Cape Education Department's 'expansionist'

Riebeek College in Church Street

phase, when constructing new buildings (the new Riebeek and the New Wing at Muir) and appointing additional school principals was not the issue it was thirty years before.

College Hill was (and still is) essentially a feeder school for Muir and Riebeek. The new Muir College Boys' Primary School, housed in the Preparatory Block in Cannon Street, hosted the Sub-A class of boys for the first term of 1962 while the big Riebeek 'trek' to North Street was being completed. For these boys, co-education was 'suspended' for a while,



The first College Hill Sub-A group in 1962: Riebeek & Muir pupils in 1973

and a new experience awaited them as from the second term. Inadequate space for the burgeoning pupil enrolment became an increasing problem over the years at College Hill, and by the early 1970s new premises were planned. The



Miss Ferreira's Standard One class at College Hill in 1979

sod-turning ceremony for the new campus, also in North Street, took place in November 1973. Members of the first Sub-A class, now in matric, were invited to participate in the ceremony.

Fifty-one years after the 'experiment' with the coeducational Physical Science class, history seemed, to a degree, to repeat itself. Head Boy of Muir in 1971, Rob Sharman, recalls that

...the death of their Physical Science teacher in mid-'71 created a sudden need for matric tuition for three Riebeek girls, so arrangements were made to transport them to Park Avenue in time for the daily 10A lesson with Neill Hoare.

I cannot recall whether or not our class was told of the arrangement in advance, but I clearly remember that when

the door opened and three girls entered the Science Lecture Theatre for the first time there was a sudden hush – followed by a rowdy hubbub. Attempts by some of my classmates to entice the new arrivals to join them at their desks were still-born, as there were three empty desks in the room - one conveniently in front of mine, and two immediately

to my right. For the next few months the boys enjoyed the daily company of Anne-Janine Raubenheimer, Elizabeth Barber and Shirley Langton - but only during lessons, as the three were whisked off to a waiting vehicle as soon as each lesson ended.

In 1980 the Muir College Club of Ten, which challenged members to extend their knowledge beyond the school curriculum, had the pleasure of hosting an Australian Rotary Exchange Student, Kerrie Mengerson. An honorary member, she made a dynamic contribution to the Club. This unique and happy element of co-education was most successful; Miss Mengerson was greatly appreciated for her valuable contributions and her ability to 'lighten up the evening meetings'.



Club of Ten 1980 with Kerrie Mengerson

Acknowledgements:

*Gordon Druce (probably 2nd from right in front row) for providing a copy of the photo and report in the Evening Post of the College Hill sod-turning ceremony in November 1973, and *Carl Harrison (second from left in front row) for the photo of the Standard One (Grade 3) class at College Hill in 1979

OMU PHOTO DIGITIZATION PROJECT

The Old Muirite Union is still calling on Classes to forward any photos from school days, Reunions & gettogethers etc. to the Union.

Photos are being catalogued and uploaded to the Cloud to be preserved and saved for future generations – we have almost 5000 photos already!

Please contact the OMU Manager for further information (oldmuiriteunion@gmail.com)

Thank you Konica Minolta for sponsoring the machine being utilised for the Project





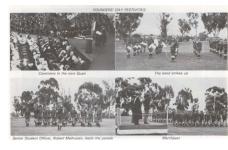
























Allan Whitehead Reminiscing

Allan Whitehead (Class of 1965) is our guest Old Boy in this edition of 'Let's Reminisce'. He paints a very vivid picture of his time at Muir, and I'm sure that many reading this will be have fond memories of some of the people and places he mentions. Allan remembers:

It all started when I arrived at Muir in 1954 as a Sub A pupil at the old primary school building south of Cannon Street. I was in the old hostel on the corner of Cannon Street and Park Avenue. The junior dormitory was downstairs, and upstairs were four dormitories namely Paradise, Texas, Pegasus and another I can't remember. Pegasus was the biggest and accommodated about 30 boys. Paradise was for the seniors and no junior was allowed there. I don't think many who passed through Paradise are alive today! I only made it to Pegasus.

This hostel was a great learning experience for me. The Rowe brothers could serve one coffee in bed, at a price, and Peter Bosman would lend you money if Ben (the house master), after a successful rugby match, allowed all to go to bioscope after supper. Radios were scarce in those days and a Springbok test and the hit parade saw us grouped around a single radio listening intensely to the proceedings. As for communication, we had the Riebeek boarders pass by every morning on their way to school. They were great carriers of love letters and we became good at letter writing.



It was here that I learned about striking. The food at that hostel was not good and on more than one occasion the seniors organised a strike. We were ordered to eat nothing and say nothing during mealtime. The staff were influenced by this, and the food did improve for a while thereafter. In retrospect I now understand under what difficult conditions the staff had to work, with facilities being very limited. Such was life in the 50s

In 1961 we packed up the old hostel and moved to N.C. Dugmore House in Park Avenue, now housing the Department of Education. Its glory has faded somewhat... Clive Bosman has written about life in that fine hostel, so I will not repeat it here - wonderful facilities by comparison to the older building. Being part of the class of '65 we bade farewell to that hostel with fond memories.

1971 saw me back at N.C. Dugmore House as a teacher and duty master. Now as a teacher I was keen on having the class pay attention, while writing on the board I became annoyed by someone talking behind my back, so I turned around and threw the chalk in the direction of the talker and hit someone right in the mouth, he promptly spat out the chalk. At this stage I think my status as a chalk thrower was better than that of a Maths teacher!

The Mini. Yes, I had a Mini and one day my Mini was not where I had parked it, but in the middle of the quad at the old red brick building. Those that know this quad will realise that it is quite a feat to get it there and I had some difficulty getting it out again. Those boys did a good job because they did not damage the old Mini in any way. I never found out exactly who were responsible for this prank. If the ringleader is the one I suspect, he became a highly regarded educationist.

The fire. I always tried to make Science exciting for the boys, so when potassium was put on water for example and requests for "a bigger piece, Sir," I often obliged. And so it came to pass that one day, being a little behind with the syllabus, I decided to handle the reactions of metals and non-metals in one lesson. With sodium, potassium and phosphorus on the front bench I managed to set the lot alight. A powder fire extinguisher was at hand, so I managed to put out the fire. The class was deadly quiet while this happened, but they would surely remember that some chemicals can make a big fire. Mrs Robey, our able lab assistant, never forgave me for using that fire extinguisher because that powder permeated all places in the lab and she never got it all cleaned out.

The alcohol experiment. My Matric class were given a mixture of ethyl alcohol and water to separate by fractional distillation. All went well but a while later a boy came to tell me that one (who shall remain nameless) was not feeling well. On further enquiry, I established that he had consumed all of the alcohol. I sent him to the sickbay and on checking at the end of the day, I found him recovered enough to go home. I never punished him, realising that the experience was a good enough lesson. He went on to become a medical doctor.

Mr Ellis started the Operations and the first few were a great learning experience for us teachers. To start they were more cadet orientated but later more outward bound. I recall Operation Tombola, held on the farm of the Hudson–Lambs. At some point the boys became very restless and were wandering around in the rain at the dead of night. I rounded up all the wanderers and marched them down the road and back again only to find that on return the squad was considerably smaller than when we had left. Many had escaped the punishment in the dark of night.



Maintaining order with a group of up to 300 boys was not an easy task. Tom Ferreira taught me a good trick. Andy Robinson would sound taps on the bugle, and all were supposed to settle down for the night. To enforce this ruling Tom and I would find one still roaming around, summons him in a loud voice, find a kit bag, and give the kit bag a couple of loud "jacks". The roamer would be sent back to his patrol with a loud warning as to what might happen to the next offender. This trick had the desired result.

I am now in the autumn of my life and need some prodding to remember all the experiences of 12 years as a pupil and 26 years as a teacher at Muir College. Looking back I am proud of our Muirites who are not second to many.

Written by: Craig Cuyler, Class of 1996

MOVERS & SHAKERS

LLOYISO GOES PLATINUM, NOT ONCE, BUT 5 TIMES

Congratulations to **Lloyiso (Loyiso Gijana, Class of 2017)** on the incredible achievement of going Gold and Platinum with his music!

His hit song, Seasons, has now gone Platinum 5 times, a remarkable milestone. We're so proud of you, Lloyiso—well done and keep shining!

P.S This is truly the face of happiness!





DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, ROWALLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to **Kurt Japtha**, Class of 2012, on his recent appointment of Deputy Principal of Rowallan Primary School in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha. All the best with the new position Kurt.

DR ROWDZI RELEASES A SINGLE

Glen Rowdzi, Class of 2015, who also happens to be a Medical Surgeon, released his second song on all streaming platforms mid-November. Please give him a follow on socials as well as streaming platforms.





OLD MUIRITES GET TO MEET THE BOKKE

During the first week of November the South African Springbok Rugby team arrived in Scotland to take on Scotland and 2 Old Muirites managed to get up close and personal with them.

GRANT MATHER TEACHES THE BOKKE HOW TO PLAY GOLF

Grant Mather (Class of 1995) spent a bit of time with the Bokke on the golf course showing them "how it's done". The played at the Renaissance Golf Club, which is where the Scottish Open is played each year.









MARK PINNICK AT THE TRAINING SESSIONS

Mark Pinnick (Class of 1991) resides in Jersey on the Channel Islands, which is where the Springbok did some of their training sessions prior to the match. Mark was lucky to attend the training and capture some selfies with the players.















TREVOR WINER RECIPIENTS

Annually a deserving learner is awarded the Trevor Winer Bursary, which assists him with his tertiary education for the next 4 years.

This bursary is given out by Old Muirite, Trevor Winer (Class of 1955) and it is done via the Trevor Winer Trust.

At the Valedictory Service it was announced that this year not one, but two, deserving Muirites would be receiving this prestigious award. Congratulations to Zaahid-Achmed Abdollatief and Sinenjongo Ndabambi.

We cannot wait to hear more about your studies going forward.





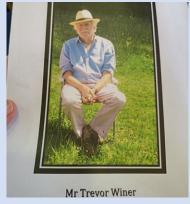
2025 MUIR COLLEGE HEAD LEADERS

Congratulations to Blake Raw on his appointment as Head Boy for Muir College for 2025. He will be supported by Zingisa Mdidimba, who is his Deputy Head Boy. Congratulations to all who received their leadership accolades for 2025.











OMU LEADERSHIP

Did you know that the OMU has over 120 Old Boys who are part of the OMU Leadership team? This teams consist of:

- The OMU Exec
- OMU Committee
- National Representatives in major centres in South Africa
- International Representatives in a variety of countries and regions globally
- Newsletter Committee
- Business Portal Advisory Board
- Class Representatives.

In this issue we will be meeting the Class Representatives from 1959 – 2024.

The role of the OMU Class Representative(s) is to share relevant news with the Class members via channels he has established (WhatsApp Group / emails etc) and to represent his Class when called upon by the OMU. Class Reps also assist in identifying organisers of their special Reunions. All Class Reps meet once a year (online) with the OMU President and invited OMU Committee members.



1959 Andries van Westenbrugge



1960 David Geard



1961 Athol Pratt



1962 Warwick Owen



1965 Alan Whitehead



Ian Krain



1966 Alan giese



1967 Howard Beckley



1968 Lloyd Thomson



1969 Bill Stephens



1970 Ronnie Kingwill



1971 Robert Sharman



1973 Arnold Niemand



1974 Ashley Williams



1975 Eric Tuck



1976 Peter King



1977 Robert Blignaut



1978 Dave Hudson-Lamb



1978 Pindy van Deemter



1979 Wayne Lightfoot



1980 Dave King



1981 Shaun Ruth



1982 David Snuggs



1983 Jurie Swart



1983 Robert Meihuizen



1984 Antonie van der Hoek



1985 Justin Brennan



1985 Laurie Wiid



1986 Frank McFarlane



1987 Bernard Wyatt



1988 Andrew Binning



1988 Joel Katz



1988 Mark Bakker



1989 Scott Irving



1990 Patrick McCarthy



1991 Mark Pinnick



1992 Zarrin Zehmke



1993 Craig Loenen



1994 Chris Lategan



1994 Jason Zehmke



1995 Warren Knott



1996 Geoffrey Hoppner



1996 Vincent Raepset



1997 Guy Wates



1998 Lyntin Gouws



1998 Robbie Scheepers



1999 Asanda Singata



2000 Brent Botha



2001 Jonathan Niemand



2001 Ryan Bhana



2002 Runeshan Moodley



2003 Craig Ross



2004 Alan Nyoni



2005 Clayton du Plooy



2006 Damian Dennis



2007 Vuyolwethu Dyan



2008 Phakamani Nesi



2009 Buchule Sibaca



2010 Ayabonga Jonas



Kevin Flanagan



2012 Nathan Dennis



2013 Brent Vermaak



2014 Siphesihle January



2015 Vuyo Kwindla



2016 Thabile Dyeli



2017 Lilitha Hempe



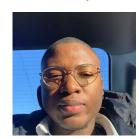
2018 Duncan McFarlane



2019 Lyden Human



2020 Sonwabile Mbini



2021 Ntsika Mzalazala



2022 Oyintando Gqomo



2023 Eshaan Prag



 $Esihli sipho\ Jacobs$















Name	Bahle Qukubana
Matriculation Year	2015
Nickname, if any?	Kwaky (Quaky)
Were you a boarder? In which years?	Yes, in my matric year to help prepare for my exams
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Just rugby mainly; I've always been invested
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	1st team Choir (Best Boys Choir in 2014 in the ATKV Competition, was very special time)
Leadership positions held	None (I was always laughing and making jokes $\ensuremath{\mathbb{Z}}$ maybe the teachers didn't back me cause of that, but I believe in leadership through humour)
Fondest Memory	Honestly so many of them but besides having a good laugh with my fellow Muirites what will forever be dear to my heart was my Xhosa Teacher, Mrs Tyali, making me realise the potential I hold as a young boy when I apply myself to whatever I do that changed my life forever.
Education (Where & what?)	B.Sc Sport Science (University of KwaZulu Natal) B. Sc Honours Biokinetics (University of Western Cape)
Career (Brief details)	While I was studying I was involved in club rugby, worked at various gyms and rehabilitation centres to help gain confidence in my skills and exposure.
	Was blessed enough to receive an internship at the Sharks 2021 as an Intern Biokineticist. Later that year was employed by the company, which was one of the proudest moments in my life.
	Have exposure of working with high performing athletes of which some are Springboks and most emerging Springboks.
	To be in a system of getting them fit to play and rehabilitating and getting them back on the field and ready to perform is so special that it doesn't feel like a job as I love what I do.
	I have recently been appointed at the Head Strength & Conditioning Coach of the Sharks Junior system, working hand in hand with an ex Springbok player who's now the Head of Junior Rugby - JP Pietersen.
Where do you live now?	Durban
Share a bit about your family	Honestly very special to me, family of 4 now as we lost the head of the house earlier this year. We are 3 boys and I am the eldest son. We absolutely love each other and there is a lot of banter in the house. We will do anything for each other and are very protective over our mother.
	The 2nd born, Sinovuyo, is currently doing an internship at Volkswagen and the last born, Limnandi, is actually a pupil at Muir and is currently in grade 9.
	Very intimate family that hold strong values of love, faith and respect.
What do you do in your free time?	What I do in my free time- a whole of things which include hiking, long distance driving (I enjoy that), running and spending time with my friends outside my work environment.

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Name	Gary Stieger
Matriculation Year	1981
Nickname, if any?	Gary Gee (because I was always being injured from falling off my motor bike)
Were you a boarder? In which years?	No
Sport/s played at Muir (with achievements, if any)	Cricket and hockey
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	Dance committee for the 8/9/10 dances, Props and backstage at the town hall stage productions. Played the music at most of the school disco's and 24-hour dance marathons

Education (Where & what?)	Design and architecture interested me (and still does) but at the time I wasn't 100% sure which career would best suit me, so I went straight into business. The only thing I did know for certain was I wanted to /needed to work for myself. Some work experience and various management programs eventually helped me to start an interesting journey, that felt right for me.
Career (Brief details)	In 1990 I, together with my wife, launched a small business venture, living off our wedding money for the 1st few months, which was a challenging period BUT passion combined with our desire to "succeed" pushed us through. In 1992 we were approached by and joined a new franchisee group that was just getting established in SA. This opportunity gave us a platform to expand our business services and products.
	In 1997 we were approached by another group to join them as a franchisee, which we decided to do as it gave an opportunity to leverage more growth.
	As a franchisee I served both as the regional as well as the national franchise council chair. I also served on the national marketing and operations committee and represented the brand at FASA.
	During my 20 years as a franchisee and chair I gained an extensive knowledge and experience in all facets of the business, the industry, best practices, contractual as well as the management of franchises.
	However. during the time as a franchisee, whilst I was enjoying and having fun, I always felt something was still missing, I needed something more
	With sanctions being lifted I saw a gap opening in the market during the 2000's, which ultimately led me to me launching a completely new business venture 2013, My Glass. We use a Licensee model rather than a traditional franchise model because we want entrepreneurs to have the inherent freedom, not be bound by too many constraints.
	My Glass was designed to exceed clients' expectations, offering a convenient mobile service as standard combined with world class quality products. The business is underpinned by a bespoke system that uses the latest tech to ensure our clients always receive the best possible service experience.
	My Glass has grown to over 200 mobile service units nationwide and has become the preferred service provider of choice to most insurance companies in South Africa. My Glass has also just been recognised by OUTsurance as a winner at the 2024 OUTperform awards.
	Seems Maslow was right Helping others reach their potential, seeing people believing in themselves, thriving, has finally allowed me to reach personal fulfilment.
	Whilst my career has been an interesting journey, it's almost time for the next generation, my sons and the excellent team, to take the business to the next level, with the same energy, passion, integrity and commitment I had way back in 1990.
Where do you live	Port Elizabeth

I have been consumed by the business over the past 12 years so haven't done too much but when I do have time, I enjoy boating, fishing, travel, cooking, car shows, F1 and designing. I have just refurbished my tennis court at home, so hopefully playing some

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now?

Share a bit about

your family
What do you do in

your free time?

I got married in 1990 and have 3 wonderful sons

tennis during the warm summer nights will catch on again.





Name	Guy Wates
Matriculation Year	1997
Nickname, if any?	Нароог
Were you a boarder? In which years?	1994-1997
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Cricket - 2nd XI, Rugby - 2nd XV mostly, a few 1st team caps, some golf
Cultural activities / societies? (with achievements, if any)	Interact President, Wildlife, SCA, Drama
Leadership positions held	Head Prefect, Hostel Prefect
Fondest Memory	Wayne Kallis singing "If I were a rich man" at our Valedictory
Education (Where & what?)	UCT - BBusSci Hons in Marketing and Economics
Career (Brief details)	Very squiggly. Started as a market researcher - my first university assignment was for Western Province Cricket Club. My career meandered towards technology and I now head up Product Operations for a fast growing insurance technology company.
Where do you live now?	Horsley in Surrey, UK
Share a bit about your family	Married to the love of my life, Belinda. A Durban girl I met in London. We are lucky to have 2 wonderful children: Emily (14) and James (12)
What do you do in your free time?	Spend time with my family. Play cricket in the summer for the local village club. Help 2 other great guys look after the local Cub pack. Walking with our 4 year old labrador.

NAME	Keith Liddiard
MATRICULATION YEAR	1985
Nickname, if any?	Gigo
Were you a boarder? In which years?	No
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	1st team Water Polo,1st team Swimming, 1st team Rugby, 1st team Squash – interhouse cricket, hockey and athletics. EP water polo 1982 to 1985
Cultural activities / societies? (with achievements, if any)	Dance committee
Leadership positions held	Prefect in std 5 and matric
Fondest Memory	Great school, sport matches, sport tours, cadet camps,
Education (Where & what?)	Diploma in Quantity Surveying – PE Technikon
Career (Brief details)	Manage local consulting company - head-off in Germany (EBP Management)
Where do you live now?	Pretoria
Share a bit about your family	Married 24yrs with two stepchildren – Wesley and Lindsey
What do you do in your free time?	Play golf, cycle and enjoy my motorcycle on weekends











Name	Jullian Britz
Matriculation Year	1991, with a post-matric in 1992
Nickname, if any?	Stubby / Fluffy
Were you a boarder? In which years?	Yes: from 1987-1991/2
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	I played first-team Rugby, Hockey, Indoor Hockey, Squash, and Athletics. Represented EP u15 and EP Schools Senior Hockey, and even got a game in the first team while still in Std 7. I was also selected for an elite national training camp with Jonty Rhodes. Played EP Rugby for two years, captaining in my second year, and made the SA Schools team in 1992. We had the honour of playing the main curtain-raiser for South Africa's re-admission to international rugby at Newlands in 1992, where I met Dr. Danie Craven. Percy Montgomery and Corne Krige were my teammates. I was awarded rugby honours as well.
Cultural activities /socie- ties? (with achievements, if any)	Served on the SCA committee.
Leadership positions held	I held the rank of corporal and was a platoon leader in Cadets. I was a hostel and school prefect and served as captain or vice-captain in various sports teams. I was also a group leader at school camp, where our group won the overall competition.
Fondest Memory	Sports tours, school camp, sneaking out of the hostel, and the camaraderie among the boarders. There was always something special about returning to school after the holidays.
Education (Where & what?) and Career (Brief details)	I went straight into business after school, exploring a variety of industries. Over the years, I've owned takeaways, video stores, nightclubs, bars, a hair salon, an alcohol company (Truth Spirits), and a locksmith and security business (Houdini). During COVID, I co-founded Nurse2U for COVID testing, and I am now working in the healthcare space. Fun fact: Paul Engler and I once opened a sandwich bar called "Subway," and we received a cease-and-desist letter from Subway USA long before they arrived in South Africa.
Where do you live now?	I currently live in Lovemore Heights, Port Elizabeth
Share a bit about your family	My wife and I have been married for 18 years. Though we originally didn't plan to have children, about eight years ago, I visited an orphanage and met two baby girls, Tumi and Roundi, who are twins. It was love at first sight. I knew right away they were meant to be ours, and after a lengthy adoption process, they officially became Britz's. They're now in Grade 4 at Sunridge Primary School. We also have four dogs and a cat.
What do you do in your free time?	These days, I don't have much spare time! With the twins' busy schedules in dance and sports, life stays full. When I do get a moment, I enjoy a round of golf or relaxing at home watching sports, especially rugby.





Name	Tando Faku
Matriculation Year	2007
Nickname, if any?	Beast, Beasty Boy
Were you a boarder? In which years?	Yes. 2003-2007
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Rugby – Played 1st team rugby. Played Squash occasionally.
Cultural activities / societies? (with achievements, if any)	Wildlife Society
Leadership positions held	Hostel Prefect
Fondest Memory	When Muir College and Victoria Park High School put together an invitational team called Victorian Lions, which I was part of, and toured Argentina for two weeks with the team. I played for the 2006 first team (Best 1st team in 20 years that year which beat big schools and lost only two games that season). Operation – Check my podcast for the confession (Don't Judge)
Education (Where & what?)	Diploma in communication management at Vega School
Career (Brief details)	Group Marketing Manager at The Hope Factory & SAICA Enterprise Development
Where do you live now?	Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape
Share a bit about your family	I have a beautiful Daughter and Son. I also have a loving mother who I look after and Nephew.
What do you do in your free time?	Watch Rugby. Scrolling Tik Tok. Play squash.

NAME	Warren Espinoza
MATRICULATION YEAR	1986
Nickname, if any?	Can't remember
Were you a boarder? In which years?	Was a boarder at NC Dugmore house from 1981 to 1986 (Std 5 to matric)
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Being in the hostel I tried my hand at everything. Represented Muir at first team level in Cricket, Hockey (Colours), Rugby, Squash and Chess.
Cultural activities / societies? (with achievements, if any)	Interact, All rounders
Leadership positions held	School and hostel prefect
Fondest Memory	Being a part of the last matric class to walk through the gates at the old red brick building.
Education (Where & what?)	Studied at UPE and qualified as a CA (SA). Also a CMA (UK). Later on, in 2002, had the opportunity to study an AEP at UCLA.
Career (Brief details)	After qualifying in 1993, I spent a year back packing in Europe and the US before returning to Port Elizabeth to start work in the automotive industry. Spent 25 years at Midas, the last 8 as CEO before taking a year off in 2020 which coincided with covid. In 2021, joined ATR International, a global trading group based in Germany, as CEO, the position I am still in today.
Where do you live now?	Currently in Esslingen in Germany
Share a bit about your family	Married to Sonia with two daughters Jessica and Sarah.
What do you do in your free time?	I love to travel and am an avid Cyclist and golfer now, although not particularly good at either. Plan to ride all the famous climbs in the Alps and the Pyrenese





MEET THE BUSINESS

WE SELL HOUSES.CO.ZA





Simon Clark

Roland Cox recently spent time interviewing **Simon Clark** Class of 1994, to find out more about his business: We Sell Houses.CO.ZA



1. What's the elevator pitch for your business?

We are a Boutique Google 5 star rated real estate agency

2. Are you national or local or international?

We service Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Despatch (Nelson Mandela Bay area)

3. When was this business founded?

June 2021

4. What was the main driver behind starting this business?

A passion for Real Estate born out of renovating and selling our own properties

5. What do you love most about this business?

The people and closing deals.

${\bf 6.\ What\ advice\ would\ you\ give\ to\ other\ entrepreneurs?}$

Never be afraid to start small. There are a lot of people who have good ideas. The successful ones don't talk about them, they do them.

7. What is the secret sauce of your business?

A chilli, mature cheddar cheese sauce served with crayfish and a chorizo crumb. Could not resist I am such a foodie. I served this to my partner, now wife, on I think on our 3rd or 4th date. It was covid time and eating out was not really an option. On a serious note, it is the diverse knowledge and skill set we offer our clients. Monique was head of Trend and Design for Boardmans and as such can stage properties to their best potential while I close the deals.

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

Started sooner. Real estate had been an idea for years, but it was covid and my partner that lead to me taking the leap.

9. Who would play you in a film about this business? And why?

Matt Damon, my company nickname is The Asset - I get sent in to close the deal.

10. Which well-known business personality do you admire, and why?

Of all time would be Cecil John Rhodes who not only had big dreams but went after them.

11. What's your leadership philosophy or approach? Benevolent dictator

12. What's been your most exciting/rewarding project over the years?

That's a long list. Historically it would be the Cansa Shavathon which I founded. Currently it would be Belstane Partnership which is a company I am currently involved in which promises to revolutionize small scale property investment.

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

The expanded role of AI in the industry. The research is already showing that it is almost impossible for a computer to replace a person. However, there are huge areas especially on the legal side of the industry where AI offers huge potential.

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

Invest locally. As company in an industry that is famous for faces on lampposts our policy has always been that we would use our ad spend in areas where the money will be of direct benefit to local communities. Hence we advertise local school grounds and sponsor local sports clubs.

CRICKET FAMILY DAY

The Old Muirite Union will behosting a Cricket Family Day on **Saturday 1 March 2025** at Muir College.

3 Teams will be taking on the Muir College boys & teachers as follows:

- 1st OMU Legends Team vs Muir College 1st Team
- 2nd OMU Legends Team vs a variety of Muir College Teachers and u/15 players
 - Streso All Stars vs Muir College 2nd Team

Games start at 09h00 on the School cricket fields. Bring your families along for a day of fun. A spitbraai will follow the cricket in the Muirite Clubhouse.

More information will be shared on our social media platforms and bulk emails.

DIARISE THE DATE IN THE MEANTIME



THE SOCIAL PAGES

Class of 1990 Hanging Out

Earlier this quarter the Class of 1990 got together for a catch up at Douglas Puttergill's farm at Thornhill.



Francois Nell; Myles Shamley; Stewart Scott; Bruce de Beer; Pierre Fourie; Donovan van Loggerenberg; Anthony Doherty

Alastair Wilkinson; Shaun Wright; Nicholas Groves; Douglas Puttergill; Andrew Hunter; Patrick McCarthy; young Brody Hunter.

THE SOCIAL PAGES

The Class of 1999 goes big in Cape Town

Each year the Class of 1999 has a get together in one of the cities in South Africa. This year it was Cape Town's turn to host (last year was the Kruger National Park).



Asanda Singata, Afrika Mlahleki



Mario Campbell, Joel Swartz



Asanda Singata, Afrika Mlahleki, Sapho Maqwazima, Joel Swarts, Mario Campbell, Mziyanda Nopote



Mziyanda Nopote, Mario Campbell

A get together at the Kromme River

In September a number of Old Muirites got together at the Kromme River.



Mike Vermaak (Class of 1975), Bun Hopley (past Headmaster), Peecee Ellis (past teacher), Peter Stevens (Class of 1976) and Ian Daniell (Class of 1973)

Gents from the '70's Gather

A number of Classmates from the 1970's gathered at Mike Bosman's farm in Mailands, PE/GQ in November. These gents try and get together a few times a year to catch up, reminisce and speak about life.



The NC Dugmore Boarders: Keith Clark (Class of 1975), Brian McKay (Class of 1972); Mike Bosman (Class of 1973), Andrew Mather (Class of 1972);

Robert Blignaut (Class of 1977)



The group



Mike Bosman (Class of 1973); Pat Clarke (Class of xxx) Neil Crawford, Neil Crawford (past headmaster)

LIFE LESSONS

To follow are a few extracts from the 200 Leadership Life Lessons Booklet, which was published as part of the Muir College 200 Year Celebrations.

JOHN ASTBURY, Class of 1977

Develop yourself in life and in your career by seeking out and taking on the challenging assignments. Differentiate yourself from your peers and become known as someone who can step-up and deliver despite the obstacles and challenges these assignments often present. Always be on the lookout for growth opportunities and make sure you position yourself as ready and willing to take them on, even if it means more workload, professionally, in sports, and in life in general. Do not blend into the average! Leaders appreciate, rate, and seek out highly talented



into the average! Leaders appreciate, rate, and seek out highly talented people who are not only qualified and experienced, but who have a can-do attitude, and who can be trusted to deliver solid results. Build your acumen and stand-out from the norm, create your personal brand with a value proposition that makes it difficult for leadership to ignore you, and reap the benefits of the recognition this brings.



LUNTU LOLONGA, Class of 2000

Treasure the primary and secondary phases of your life and that is predominantly the school phase. Create networks within those spaces because those phases form an important part of a persons foundation. A great school is critical for a person to achieve in life and Muir Boys college has set me up for many of my successes. Learn, enjoy, have friends (your net worth is your networks) and create a solid foundation to build your life on.

DAVON WILLIAMS, Class of 2004

We all have a voice deep within calling us to a place that we have never been, that's called destiny.

Not everyone will understand the vision you have for your life and future but that's okay, some places are better travelled with those that share the same vision.



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) with the information. **Cecil Iones David Leach** Winston Canter 1956 1958 1958 Ian Uys **Anthony Barlow Alexander Sharp** 1958 1959 1960 Peter MacCullum Norman Slack **Derek Dillon** 1961 1961 1961 **Michael Weiss Leslie Schultz Morris Meyer** 1962 1962 1963 **Noel Jonker Douglas Thomson Peter Bubb** 1965 1966 1966 **Michael Hargreaves Vernon Hosking Andrew Gouws** 1966 1968 1975 Marc Feltham **Robert Berry Shaun Turner** 1982 1983 1983 **Brendon Wright Chule Timothy Ralo Brendan Clack** 1989 1987 1996 **Vukile Goba** Ludwe Matomela 2006

THE BACK PAGE

And 2024 is done 'n dusted! What a year it's been.

Firstly, a HUGE thank you to all who have supported the OMU in some way this year, whether it be by sitting on one of the committees, getting involved in a project or 2, assisting with OMU related issues on a business side... the list goes on. It is greatly appreciated.

As you have seen, a new initiative was introduced during this last quarter, namely the OMU Business Networking Breakfast. The first one was a great success, and we aspire to grow the numbers at each session. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your business / line of business to other Old Muirites and make use of each other's services / products where you can. A big thanks to Simon Clark for putting the first event together.



Wendy Knott-Craig
OMU Manager

I came across a post on social media, which is an extract from the Muir College Headmaster's Message (Mr Skillicorn) from the 1958 Muirite, which I thought you'd all enjoy:

"I mention all the above to show that we are trying to keep the boys busy, but here I must voice my regret that amongst a few of the day boys there has crept into existence a tendency to frequent, too often, the bioscopes and cafés in town, while dressed in the modern garb of jeans, colourful shirts and jerseys. I do not imply for a minute that these few are "duck-tails" or delinquents, but I do feel that there is a definite correlation between sloppy dress and sloppy behaviour and work. Let us hope that this phase will quickly pass."

Here's wishing you all a peaceful end of 2024. To those who have holiday at this time of the year, enjoy the break. To those who have to work, hang in there, your holidays will come soon.

On a personal note, I'd like to express my thanks to the OMU Committee and Exec for their ongoing support this past year. And also to the many, many "Old Boys" who stay in touch with me and share their stories and "gossip". Don't stop.

See you in 2025!!!

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Old Muirite Union on social media platforms:

- The Old Muirite Union OMU
- The Old Muirite Union
- in The Old Muirite Union
- The Old Muirite Union



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