

OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

1st Quarter, 2025



OLD MUIRITE UNION PRESIDENT'S FEEDBACK

Ryan Bhana, Class of 2001

Welcome to the first edition of the OMU Newsletter for 2025, which is packed with exciting updates.

The year kicked off with plenty of activity within the Old Muirite Union and The Muir Foundation.

We began with the annual Teachers' Welcome Back event before the school reopened, which was once again well received. It was a great opportunity to express our gratitude to the teachers and staff for their dedication and to reaffirm our ongoing support.

Later in January, a group of Old Muirites from a specific generation were invited to a breakfast to learn more about The Muir Foundation. Our sincere thanks to The Foundation for organizing this valuable gathering.

The following day saw 60 Old Muirites and partners from the Kouga region descend on St Francis Bay for a fantastic day of lunch and fellowship. Our heartfelt thanks to Vic Rabie (Class of 1966), Kenny Nieuwenhuizen (Class of 1970), Joel Katz (Class of 1988) and Wendy Knott-Craig (OMU Manager) for making this event possible.

Another highlight of this first quarter was the inaugural OMU Cricket Family Day, which took place on 1 March at Muir College. And what a success it was! Three OMU teams took on three teams from Muir College with a lot of camaraderie and competition. Well done to Muir College on winning 2 of the 3 matches.

The Business Networking Breakfast initiative continues to grow in momentum. Held every second Friday of the month at 07:15 at The Barn & Barrel in Gqeberha, attendees have the opportunity to deliver a one-minute elevator pitch to promote their businesses. Those interested in joining are encouraged to contact the OMU Manager. A big thank you to Simon Clark (Class of 1994) and Mark Bradley (Class of 1982) for their ongoing dedication to this initiative.

We also extend our appreciation to everyone who has contributed towards Voluntary Contributions, which help keep the Old Muirite Union operational. If you would like to contribute but haven't yet had the chance, please reach out to Wendy for guidance on the best way to do so.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the OMU Executive and OMU Committee for their unwavering support over the past quarter. Your dedication and efforts are truly appreciated.

Until next time!

Ryan Bhana



Headmaster's News

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success." -

Henry Ford

A summary of some of the terms' happenings:

Staff Changes

Mr. Attie Marais will leave Muir College at the end of the first term. He has been a remarkable teacher and coach at our school, leaving a big gap to fill. We wish him well in the future.

We welcome Ms. Teneal Gardner as the new History teacher, replacing Mr. Davids, who accepted a position at Andrew Rabie.

Ms. Ria Kalianji will be taking over the marketing department of our school starting on the 1st of April.



School Governing Body (SGB)

Our School Governing Body elections occurred on 17 March (2nd meeting). A complete list of the SGB has been posted on our social media platform.

Congratulations to Mr. Gert Van Wyk, Duane Osborne, and Lewellyn Reed for their election as SGB members.

I want to thank the SGB for their support and governance. With their help, the school obtained funding and is now completing all the tennis courts with dual-surface turf. This will enable the hockey boys to practice on them and become used to playing matches on Astroturf.

Sponsors

Thank you, especially to the companies and individuals that sponsor events or teams at Muir College. Mr. Claude Smith, who helped drive this initiative and has succeeded beyond what the school requested, should be mentioned.

Thank you to Mr Claude Smith of CSA attorneys, Go-a-rite, Mr Mark Pinnick, and Mr Riaan Claassen of Universal Equipment for contributing this year.

OMU and Muir Foundation

The school year started with regular meetings, classroom preparations, and an OMU welcome function for the teaching staff.

The staff much appreciated this show of support by the Old Boys.

The Muir Foundation has also announced the successful acquisition of funding for a groundbreaking water project at Muir College. This initiative aims to enhance the school's self-sufficiency by implementing sustainable water management solutions to ensure a reliable water supply, particularly during periods of drought.

This initiative is still in its planning stage, but with the help of Mr Grant Kunneke and Nyameko Magongo, it should soon become a reality.

The family day event on the first of March, which the OMU organised, was a big success, and I am sure it will continue.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our Old Boys. Institutions like ours are privileged to benefit from dedicated organisations such as the Muir Foundation and the OMU, whose contributions are vital in advancing our mission at Muir College.

Academics, Culture and Sport

These events and activities are regularly updated and can be viewed daily on the school's official Facebook page or Class Dojo platform.

TERM 2/ 2025 IMPORTANT DATES (Subject to change)

08 April	Term 2 commences
11 April	Term 1/2025 Report Reply Slips due
	FINCOM : 18h00
	SANBS
	SGB Meeting
18 April	Good Friday (Easter Weekend)
21 April	Family Day
28 April	Freedom Day observed in lieu of Sunday 27th
29 April	Special School Holiday
30 April	Special School Holiday
01 May	Workers' Day
	Gr 12 NSC May/June Supplementary Exams
	Exams Grades 8 – 11, Grades 4 – 7
02 May	Special School Holiday
16 June	Youth Day
	Exams end
26 June	Reports – Final Assembly
26 June	End of Term 2 for learners
27 June	Marks meeting : Teachers



The Blue Card will be handed out at the beginning of the second term. It contains a comprehensive list of school events and activities.

We wish you and your family a restful holiday.

David Francis

Headmaster

TEACHER WELCOME BACK EVENT

Celebrating Excellence and Gratitude!

On Monday, 13 January, the Old Muirite Union hosted the annual Teacher Welcome Back Event at Muir College. This tradition, now in its third year, is our way of expressing gratitude to the dedicated teachers and staff who have played an integral role in nurturing fine men and shaping the legacy of Muir College.

The event is a celebration of our shared commitment to the Muir Family. It's also a reminder of the enduring bond between Old Muirites, educators, and the broader school community.

A special thanks to all who joined us, including Old Muirites from across generations, a former headmaster, a past OMU president, and, of course, the incredible teachers who continue to inspire excellence.

Here's to another remarkable year for Muir College and the OMU!



*Alfie Coetzee (Class of 1971), Ashley Goosen (Class of 1968),
Vic Rabie (Class of 1966), Leo Doria (Honorary Life VP)*



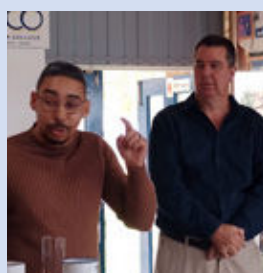
*Neil Crawford (past headmaster),
Ernie Trennery (past teacher)*



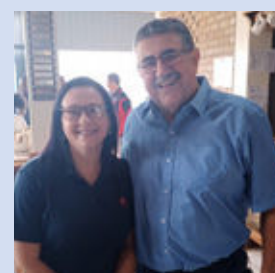
*Phakamani Nesi (Class of 2008)
socialising with one of the
Educators*



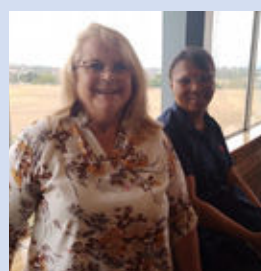
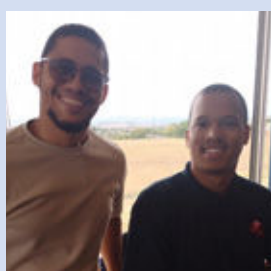
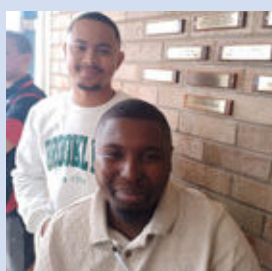
*Teachers Twane Henman,
Samantha Cuyler*



*Thomas Terblanche
(vice-President, Class of 2008),
Andrew Binning (Class of 1988)*



*Leo Doria (Honorary Life
Vice President), catching up
with one of the teachers*



FOUNDERS' WEEKEND 2025

THE DATES HAVE BEEN SET MARK THEM OFF IN YOUR CALENDARS 21 – 23 AUGUST 2025

The Old Muirite Union is getting geared up for another bumper Founders' Weekend. Get onto your Class WhatsApp groups and start making plans. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

The following classes will be celebrating their milestone reunions – contact your class representative to make plans for the weekend.



**OMU FOUNDERS' WEEKEND
SAVE THE DATE**

PROGRAMME

21 AUG	Bowls' Day – Westview Bowls Club
22 AUG	Founders' Assembly – Muir College OMU Annual Dinner – Muir College
23 AUG	Rugby – Muir College: Tinara Cup Final

Bookings to go live shortly

MILESTONE	YEAR	NAME
10 years	2015	Vuyo Kwindla
20 years	2005	Clayton du Plooy
25 years	2000	Brent Botha
30 years	1995	Warren Knott
35 years	1990	Bruce de Beer
40 years	1985	Laurie Wiid
		Justin Brennan
50 years	1975	Erick Tuck
55 years	1970	Ronnie Kingwill
60 years	1965	Ian Krain
		Allan Whitehead

See you there!



OMU Cricket Family Day – A Day to Remember!

Saturday 1 March 2025 marked the inaugural OMU Cricket Family Day, where the Old Muirites went head-to-head with the teachers and scholars of Muir College in thrilling T20 matches.

There were battles on the pitches; ragging off the pitches and a lot of laughs.

At the end of the day the results were:

- OMU 1st Team vs. Muir College 1st Team – Muir College won
- OMU 2nd Team vs. Muir College Teachers & Coaches – A nail-biter, but Muir College edged the win
- Streso All Stars Cricket Team vs. Muir College 2nd Team – A hard-fought tie!

After the games, teams gathered for the traditional fines session, calling out on-field antics in good spirits. This was followed by a delicious lamb spit braai and a fantastic afternoon of camaraderie at the Muirite Clubhouse.

A huge thank you to all the captains for their efforts in organizing, as well as Joel Katz (Class of '88 & Streso Captain) and Gert van Wyk (Teacher) for their invaluable contributions.

Shoutout to the supporters who came out to cheer – it wouldn't have been the same without you!



Muir 1st team



Spectators



OMU CRICKET FAMILY DAY



2nd Team



2nd Team at the start of the game



Streso and 2nd team captains



*Streso supporters-Nonelela Gada (Class of 2012),
Mervyn Niemand (Class of 1997)*



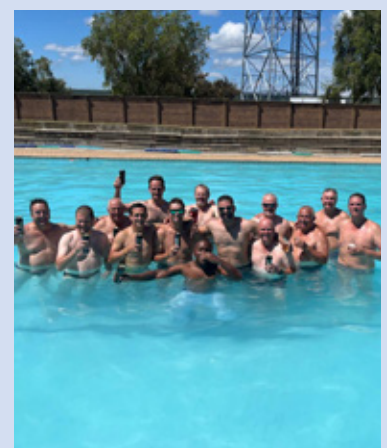
*Lunga Davids (Class of 1998),
Stephen Krain (Class of 1998)*



*Andrew Binning (past president),
Robin Stephenson (past head), Bun Hopley (past Head),
Ricky Wedderburn (past president), Leo Doria (HLVP)*



*Grant Kunneke, Gert van Wyk (Teacher), Joel Katz,
Francois Rudman, Ryan Samuels, Eardley Rudman,
Geoffrey Hoppner, Shane Annandale, Darren Niemand*



*Streso team post game having their
traditional swim*

GOING BACK IN TIME

STUDENT JOURNALISM: *FROM BOARDER NEWS TO ROAR FAX – WITH PLENTY OF MUIRAL IN BETWEEN*

The earliest reference to a student newspaper of any kind was to *Boarder News*, which first appeared in 1954. Proceeds from the sale of the paper went towards purchasing items such as table tennis equipment for the hostel. The success of the paper took it beyond the hostel, whereupon it was renamed College News. There is no reliable information as to how long this paper continued.

The student newspaper *Memuiranda* was active in the mid-to-late 1960s, capturing highlights of the school year from the perspective of the pupils, and included some humorous contributions, including a spoof on the "Seven Ages of Man" in the linguistic style of "Ag Pleez Deddy". It came out on the last day of each term, and was much appreciated.

In 1970 and 1971 a group of keen literati in the senior standards brought out a quarterly paper called *Voice*, which contained literary contributions as well as snippets of topical news, including brief sports reports. Head Prefect in 1971, Rob Sharman, takes up the story:

Pupils involved in the project included an editorial trio comprising Tony Kaplan, Mike Strohman and Robert Sharman - known as "The Triumvirate", a moniker they adopted from their Std 8 Shakespearean setwork, Julius Caesar. The cover design of Voice was based on Da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man", and was drawn by Michael Flynn, who became a regular contributor of literary pieces. The wax sheets for each edition were typed by a certain long-suffering senior English master, and the copies were rolled-off and assembled on a hand-powered Gestetner copier in the old staff room.

Later in that decade a quarterly student journal called *The Muiral* saw the light of day, subsequently appearing on a more frequent basis. Like its predecessor it featured news, commentary and literary efforts, keeping the student population informed about matters great and small and also giving pupils a voice.

Edition 5/1977 of *The Muiral* is a particularly good example of the contents and spirit of this newsletter,

especially in its earlier days. It contains details of the editorial board (Kevin Luppnow, Michael Vincent and Mark Opperman), the typist (Mrs Tribelhorn) and the 'censor', who, in the interests of sporting reporting here, remains anonymous. Luppnow and his team expressed their good wishes to the incoming editorial board drawn from the ranks of the Standard 9 group.



A typically wide range of topics appeared in this edition, from reporting on school societies (recovering from the impact of the all-consuming Muir-Riebeek musical show *Fiddler on the Roof*), to a detailed report on the school's excursion to the Fish River Canyon in Namibia. Some contrasts in temperature were noted in the course of this trip, from rushing into Pep Stores in Upington to buy R2.99 blankets after a very chilly night, to stripping off and swimming in the river after hiking in the canyon. Sure to be included in this report was an incident where the Muir party was skinny-dipping in a river when a group of hikers, including some girls, arrived on the scene. As the young reporter put it, 'a rapid spontaneous movement towards a deeper section of the river by everyone was noticed'. That the passing troupe seemed in no hurry to move on was the probable cause of some of the gentlemen evidently having to spend up to half an hour in the depths of some very cold water. Another unexpected encounter with ladies occurred on their way home: when rolling out their sleeping bags 'on the gravel of the Kakamas Caravan Park', the boys 'were visited by two interesting women, one of whom was most annoyed when she tripped over Philip King, who was innocently sleeping in the women's ablution block!'

An excursion of an arguably more predictable nature was reported on: the 'Willem Wikkelspies' (sic) Festival at the 1820 Settlers Monument in Grahamstown. An added level of refinement was ensured by the companionship of the Riebeek girls, though the Muir boys were separately accommodated in supposedly the only men's residence at Rhodes that wasn't haunted. The rules of residence were generally adhered to, though the early hours of one morning were disturbed when one of the Muir boys (no name, no pack drill, but named in the *Muiral* report) was apprehended by a night watchman on the roof outside his window. '...and on being asked to climb down quickly, he obeyed by coming down quickly the hard way – he fell.' It could be that there was some journalistic licence here, as our reporter mentioned that their residence was College House, and anyone familiar with the old part of the Rhodes campus will know that College House is a multi-storeyed building!

Detailed reports on rugby, hockey, squash, cross-country and tennis matches were also included in the 5/1977 edition. There was a special feature on 'A Legend on his Own' – Robert ('Blikkies') Blignault, who was chosen for the South African Schools Rugby XV. In a biographical sketch it was noted that 'Blikkies' (also known as 'Spud') had notched up 86 tries for Muir in his high school seasons, and 7 for the EP Craven Week XV in three years. He also represented the EP U/19 Biathlon team which won the inter-provincial tournament in Bloemfontein. It was further noted that in 1977 Muir had three rugby players in the EP Craven Week side: Blignault at flank, Brent Robey at scrumhalf and Bruce Bosman at fullback. This edition also featured a section on 'Sporting Greats' currently at Muir, which included the multi-talented Robey who played at first-team level in hockey, tennis, rugby, cricket and squash. Letters to the Editor, the Hostel Hit Parade, creative writing and jokes would characteristically round off editions of *The Muiral*.

Some of the items offered by pupils in the annual *Muirite* resembled those in *The Muiral*. For example: 'Messrs King and Whitehead provide "room service" for each class in the school, demanding hair off the ears and receiving excuses off the cuff.' Or a list of 'howlers': "hors-de'oeuvre" – a meal of horse-meat; "opportunist" – an eye specialist; a "pretext" – an original copy; "rhetorician" – someone from Rhetoricia'.

The Muiral Editorial Board could be forgiven for managing only three editions in 1987 – the year of the big move to Vanes Estate. Board member A. van der Merwe reported that this year also marked a change in the paper towards something more 'serious', with a cutting back on 'quick humour'. Articles the year before were not all lacking in seriousness, however; one of the topics discussed was 'multiracialism' – not an inappropriate subject for the times in South Africa. Members of staff were to a greater or lesser degree involved in the production of the paper;

Messrs V. Herbert and R. Hart at different stages from a consultancy point of view, and Mrs Tribelhorn in the Secretaries' Office, who had the pleasure of 'deciphering our articles and typing them', it was reported.

It is possible that the more 'serious' approach in 1987-88 meant less popular appeal; after good support from the pupil body for the first edition of *The Muiral* in 1988, sales and support plummeted for the subsequent issues. Teacher-in-charge, Deputy Headmaster Barry Buckley concluded that the current format of the paper did not meet 'the needs and expectations of the pupils'. A new editorial policy and approach were indicated, but sadly, no editorial board was elected for 1989. It would take a further seven years before a pupil newspaper was to re-emerge at the school. When it did, it was called *Roar Fax*.



Started in 1995, *Roar Fax* has continued as a quarterly paper comprising articles, drawings, creative writing, poetry, fun activity pages and other features to engage the interest and promote creative responses. It focuses on current trends and news. *The Roar Fax* Committee, led by Richard Booth in 1995, took the trouble to explain how the name was arrived at: 'Lion = "Roar", Fax = sending a message. Sometimes we present the "Raw Facts"!'



Sales of the paper and other initiatives like subscriptions to competitions have meant that *Roar Fax* has been able to make donations to charitable institutions such as the Animal Welfare Society and the Animal Anti-Cruelty League. Some technological changes were made in 2018 with the changeover from the D6 Communicator (facilitating easy access to information between school and parents) to the Class Dojo App (for tracking of skills, amongst others) aimed at promoting reliable standards in student journalism.

Acknowledgement: thanks are due to Rob Sharman and Mike Strohman for information about *Voice* and *The Muiral* during their time at the school.



Written by:
Charles van Renen,
Class of 1963

LET'S REMINISCE



Craig Cuyler

by
Craig Cuyler (1996)
 and
Carl Harrison (1988)



Carl Harrison

Coming to the realization that one's time at Muir constitutes only a fraction of the school's now over 200 years of history is very humbling. I consider myself fortunate to have had the privilege to attend Muir (something that my late father and I shared, and which played a significant part in our relationship). I remember him regaling me with stories of what he and his friends got up to at school, and names like Messrs Stresso, Raubenheimer and Maree, were commonplace when these trips down memory lane occurred.

My own time at Muir was a lot less eventful; however, there are some very poignant memories that come up from time to time. I remember cycling to school from Vanes Estate to the old redbrick building when I was in primary school, and meeting friends along the way – our faces and hands cold and blue in the winter months. The exhilaration of freewheeling down Winterhoek Drive on the last day of the year, knowing that long weeks of frivolous abandon and Christmas holidays lay ahead, also stands out as a very vivid memory.

I often think of the kindness of the teachers who played a really significant part in my life. Willie Watson comes to mind as someone who always went the extra mile. I think I played for the U13D rugby team in 1991, and he would try in vain to inspire us with nuggets about the All Blacks, and how we should model their attitude on the field. Sadly, we did not win many games (if any) that season, and the only try I scored in my rugby career at school was during a practice on the Bunny Field. Mr Watson never failed to encourage, guide, and occasionally employ a little tough love to motivate us to give our best, on and off the field.

The big derby fixture against Grey also often springs to mind. I recall the innumerable war cry practices in the school hall in Park Avenue, which then translated themselves onto the sidelines of the pitch at the Swifts Rugby Club. I can almost taste the boerie rolls sold by the PTA on the sidelines as I write this (a good boerie roll is hard to come by in the UK).



English lessons with Roger Hart were a firm favourite, and the famous Friday afternoon double lesson in our Matric year never failed to disappoint. I can honestly say that my decision to become an English teacher was born out of those lessons, and the list of books recommended by Mr Hart now have pride of place on my bookshelf: *Catch 22*, 1984, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Things Fall Apart* are just a few of the wonderful friends that he introduced us to. I am grateful to him for broadening my horizons, and for his encouragement to not be casual observers, but active participants in our community.

Muir was very kind to me. It provided me with an education that has served me well; but more than that, the good people who taught, and those who continue to teach there many years later, provided me with a sense of direction and purpose that I will always be grateful for.

In brief conversation with Carl Harrison over e-mail recently, he too shared some memories that he has of Muir. Carl says: 'My overarching memory of school is spending time with my best mates playing sports and having a great time - laughing with them trying to vault in Bun Hopley's PE classes, talking about the upcoming rugby game in maths class and making fools of ourselves at the interhouse gala! I will always remember the laughs and the deep friendships forged during that time.'

Muir truly is a special place. The great South African author, Marguerite Poland, uses the expression 'a landscape of the heart' to describe another school in the Eastern Cape. I am going to appropriate it, just this once, to express what Muir is for many of us – a true landscape of the heart.

Craig Cuyler



LET'S REMINISCE

A Hostel Story From 1972

It was the evening of the inter-house gymnastics competition. A few of our juniors were allowed to attend and watch the likes of Neil Beaumont and Neil Galloway soaring through the air and somersaulting over the pommel horse. It must have been quite a spectacular event for a young child to see the white clad gymnasts performing and landing to rapturous applause.

I don't recall who came away as king of flight that night, but the event played a huge role in the dreams of one of our juniors.

After the 'lights out' bell had sounded, the matrices were allowed to gather for a short coffee interlude in one of the little back rooms before heading off to bed. On this particular evening three of us met up in the downstairs toilets to share a fag. Two of the group took the back route up to their rooms whereas I chose to go up the front flight of stairs.

As I walked past the front door, there to my surprise was one of the juniors (Gary Pike) scratching at the door from the outside. His eyes were half open, but he appeared to be asleep. I rushed to matron Barnard's room and woke her up. Young Gary was still standing there when we got back. Matron quickly unlocked the door in a panic and gathered him in her arms. He was still fast asleep.



Gary Pike

He'd obviously fallen asleep soon after lights out and then began to dream of being a gymnast. In his sleep he'd taken a jump out of his first floor dormitory window and ended up on the gravel pathway below. He had landed in front of Ms Badenhorst's (Afrikaans teacher) bedroom window directly below. It was only a miracle that her window was not fully open on such a warm night, otherwise he could have sustained serious injuries. Fortunately, he only had a few scratches and bruises from his frightening ordeal. As I recall, not too much was said about the incident afterwards but it did make the local newspaper.



Written by:
Brian McKay,
Class of 1972



AN IRONMAN JOURNEY – ALL THE WAY TO TAUPO, NEW ZEALAND

Growing up with 5 brothers on the wrong side of the railway lines in Uitenhage certainly made us a little tougher. We were either running across the tracks, up or down Cannon Street or cycling on single gear bicycles to get to school or sport. Bata toughies were the go to sport shoe and were fine for anything from cricket to cross country running. Swimming was something you did during PT or over the weekend and even that used to require a dash up the street from Muir to the main pool and back before the bell rang. School snacks were whatever you could bum from kids at the tuckshop and lunch was always sandwiches and usually mixed fruit jam from the largest Koo tin imaginable. When I arrived at the gates of College Hill in Std 1 as the new pasty Pom on the block, there was this other tough new kid there from Bedford, a chap called Garth Wright. We became great pals and Garth's dad was the most generous, friendly and honest person I have met to date and a great role model. Ironman4thekidz is certainly a tribute to him.

In 2005, we decided to have a go at doing an Ironman (3,8km swim, 180km cycle, 42,2km run) and saw the opportunity to raise some cash for children in need. R11,000 was raised and we branded our kit in the colours of the Boardwalk and KPMG and completed the event in a little over 13 hours. Job done....well not quite, Ironman4thekidz was born and this year we celebrate our 20th anniversary and R35m collected for charity. After 7 years we received an amazing gift from Ironman and were given entry to the World Champs in Kona, the birthplace and mecca of Ironman! The boys from the Hage accepted and finished this iconic event, raising some cash for a project in Hawaii. Garth was happy as he beat Gordon Ramsey to the finish line!

In July 2018 the Ironman 70.3 World Championships was coming to PE and we were all excited and in training as we had been given slots to compete. In June I competed in the Durban 70.3 and had a terrible day out. After the swim I had a metallic taste in my mouth



Gary & Clive Stephenson with their family post the race

and had very little energy on the bike. I walked the run and managed to finish the event, but didn't feel great. A few tests and a double bypass later I was out of the World Championship race and had to watch from the side as Garth and other celebrities completed the race..... eish. I think at this point I should encourage anyone that 'hits the wall' during a race of any kind to have their heart checked, a simple ECG can save your life!

The 2021 Ironman 70.3 World Championships was scheduled for Taupo, New Zealand. Then Covid hit and the new race date was set for December 2024. My older brother and 'Junior School' Old Muirite, Clive, is an adrenaline junkie and has competed in many crazy New Zealand long distance, multisport events, including the Taupo Ironman on many occasions. I thought that this was a great opportunity to do an event together. This is where the Ironman Foundation were amazing and we not only secured two slots to the race, but also VIP tickets for us and our wives for the whole weekend. That's doing it in style!

The 1,9km swim was in Lake Taupo, one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. Before the start the lake was blessed in a local Maori tradition and competitors were granted permission to swim. What an amazing start! South African swims are all sea based, so it was a bit daunting to swim in the freshwater lake, but it went quite well and both Clive and I emerged on the other side pretty much at the same time. The helpers pulled off our wetsuits and it was a dash over a bridge to transition and the bike.

During the run to the bike, I started to notice that the blocked nose of the past week was back, but I had no breathing/lung issues, so I decided to stick it out, Uitenhage style. The first 30km of the cycle was uphill and I really struggled with that, but was making progress and never felt that I wouldn't finish the race. Thoughts of racing Clive were long gone and it was all about survival and completing the race now. Once we turned around and the route headed back into town, I got some momentum back and enjoyed the ride back to transition, 90km cycle over, just a 21.1km run to go!

I started the run and was progressing well with a bit of a recovery walk in between when I heard someone screaming my name.....very easy when your name is on your race number! There was this crazy Saffer at the side of the road and I stopped for a photo and breather! I won't lie, the run was brutal, especially with the temperature being over 30deg on the day and I kept looking out to see if Clive was ok. He was doing the same for me and in true 'Big Brother' style actually waited at a point where the course met in opposite directions, to see if I was ok! We had a chat and wished each other well, promised each other a beer at the end and carried on in opposite directions. Besides seeing Clive, it was great to pass the girls, Antonella and Liz, at several points on the course and to take the recharge from having support!



Gary and Clive Stephenson after the race

I refuelled at 19km and set out to run those last 2km. The crowd was amazing and helped a lot and then I was turning into the finish chute.....big breath... I cannot explain the emotion already seeping through my body on finally completing this event, but then the announcer, legend Paul Kaye, started talking, explaining about Ironman4thekidz and the journey Garth and I had taken over the past 20 years in helping underprivileged children in South Africa, what a rush, everyone held their hand out for a high 5. It was a surreal feeling, but it will stay with me forever. Ironman CEO, Scott DeRue came and shook my hand and Clive and the girls came to greet me. My son in Aberdeen was watching on Ironman live TV.....and it was then that I realised that we had made a difference and hopefully we will inspire others to help out when required. Clive and I grabbed a beer!

Clive was inspired by our charity efforts and arranged a private fundraiser and collected in excess of R10k for the charity. I fell in love with New Zealand, its amazing landscape, great people and wines!

Thank you to everyone who has partnered with us on this journey and made a donation or put their bodies on the line. Look out for Garth and I at the end of March when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Ironman4thekidz in PE.....ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE..... NEC PLURIBUS IMPAR.



Gary and Clive Stephenson



Written by:

Gary Stephenson,

Class of 1981

PHOTO DIGITISATION PROJECT

The OMU Photo Digitization Project is in full swing, and we're excited to announce that we've reached a milestone - 10,000 photos! This means that 10,000 Muir College/OMU photos have been submitted, digitized, and carefully cataloged.

***Do you have any photo albums or loose photos from your school days?
If so, we'd love to include them in our archives!***

Please contact the OMU Manager to arrange for your photos to be borrowed.
They will be safely returned to you after digitization.

Thank you for helping us preserve our history!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Written by:

Khaya Nondo

(Class of 2004)



ALAN REYNOLDS

Class of 1968

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	Ally
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	No
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	1st Team Swimming & 1st Team Hockey
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	
Leadership positions held	Leading Cadet
Fondest Memory	Received Sword of Honour as Leading Cadet
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	Qualified as a telephone technician.
Career (Brief details)	Worked for Post Office later became Telkom as a telephone technician. Worked at Riebeek College as the estate manager for 19 years.
Where do you live now?	Uitenhage (Kariega)
Share a bit about your family	Married to Sylvia for 51 years, have two daughters who both attended Riebeek College. Eldest daughter Candice lives in George and youngest daughter Samantha lives in London UK with her husband Jim.
What do you do in your free time?	I have been a Rotarian for 33 years. I am involved in Swimming as Technical Director of Nelson Mandela Bay Aquatics for swimming officials. I was appointed to the FINA panel of World Swimming Referees for a four-year period from 2007 to 2011. Currently am involved with the training of swimming officials.

ATHENKOSI FAKU

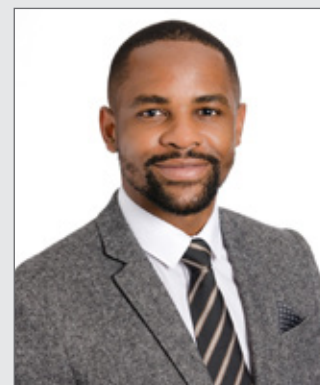
Class of 2011

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	Dinky (after the oros dinky) that was grade 8-10 ,then I became Bhuda FK until now
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	No. I was a day boy
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Rugby, 1st team blazer
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	N/A
Leadership positions held	Captian of the 2nd under Mr Moodley which called the team "VryStad"
Fondest Memory	My fondest memory was me and xhanti makhubalo with other high school prefects at the time we were all happy and sings at quad and it was so loud, we just heard Mr Francis saying who's sing there everyone ran and hid behind a pillar but Mr Francis stood there and said if you don't come out in 3 sec you all getting headmaster detention, the prefects begged me and xhanti to take the blame cause if the were caught it would be worse , so xhanti and I came out and Mr Francis said we have 5days headmaster each but if we tell him who are the other guys singing we would get 10 credits each , yhoo the guys were crying hahaha xhanti was will to give them up but I said no it was just us , xhanti was so mad at me , cause Mr Francis would not "speak" us (meaning he won't jack us to get out of thus detention) but we end up getting out anyway.
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	Sports Managements at Boston City Campus
Career (Brief details)	Now I'm a assistant lodge manager at Amakhala game reserve (Bush Lodge) enjoy being in the bush and going on a game drive everytime I go to work been here for about 6years now and still enjoying
Where do you live now?	I stay in Paterson (my hometown) about 45 minutes outs Port elizabeth
Share a bit about your family	Talking about my family what can I say , being the youngest still get bullied even now hahaha but I've got a son (luphiwe Tize) goes to Muir as well my daughter who still stays with me (Avothando) , I'm looking forward on my wedding day this year hopefully everything will go well with my fiance (Sisanda Cakwebe) , Everyday is a challenge and being a family man and a Father is the best thing ever.
What do you do in your free time?	On my free time most times I'm at home cause I work an 21 days on and 7days off cycle so we I get free time I spend it with family and friends, watching sports and having a good time or doing homework with my daughter hahahah



AXOLILE LUNGU

Class of 2008



WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	Axe and Lungu
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	Yes. 2000 - 2001
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Athletics, Hockey, Rugby
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	Interact Board, Student Christian Association (SCA), Scripture Union, Dance Committee, Roar Fax Committee.
Leadership positions held	Chairman of SCA, Junior Prefect, Senior Prefect
Fondest Memory	<p>The friendships and the sense of brotherhood that Muir fostered, on and off the field. Mr. Crawford, telling me after meeting with my father and I, that I was already a Muirite. That sense of belonging stayed with me throughout my time at school.</p> <p>Boarding life was shaped by supportive figures like the late Mr. Fenner Barnard. Conversations with Mr. Stevens about my future helped set me on the path to becoming a Chartered Accountant, and my experiences with Mr. Jacques Botha on evangelistic missions outside of school helped shape my perspective on leadership and service. Many other teachers, staff and friendships also made lasting impacts that I still carry with me.</p>
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Cape Town – Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting (graduated 2013) • University of Cape Town – Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting [Honours] (graduated 2014) • South African Institute of Chartered Accountants – CA(SA) Qualification (obtained in 2018) • Quantic School of Business and Technology – MBA (graduated in 2022)
Career (Brief details)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta (formerly Facebook) [Ireland] – I worked as a Revenue Accounting Manager at their European headquarters in Dublin, focusing on revenue operations, financial systems, and fraud prevention. • AbbVie [Ireland] – A Fortune 500 pharmaceutical operating in over 175 countries. I was a Product Costing Controller, working closely with their global finance teams on manufacturing cost strategies. • Gilead Sciences [Ireland] – A world leader in biotech, including advancements in HIV and COVID-19 medicine. As a Senior Financial Accountant, I played a key role in global transfer pricing and financial system implementations. • EY (Ernst & Young) [Ireland] – One of the “Big 4” global accounting firms. I led teams auditing multinational clients, including Apple and Abbott Laboratories.

POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (contd. from previous page)

Career (Brief details)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) [Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth] – Another “Big 4” firm, known for shaping global financial standards. I started my career here, quickly moving up to Senior Associate, where I worked with clients across industries, from hospitality to telecommunications. • Beyond my corporate career, spearheading entrepreneurial ventures, particularly in how AI and technology are reshaping the financial landscape.
Where do you live now?	I’m currently based in Ireland but often return to South Africa.
What do you do in your free time?	I enjoy traveling, recently taken up golf, mentoring young professionals, and keeping up with emerging trends in finance and technology. I also serve as a Non-Executive Director at Impact School, helping to shape education and leadership programs.

GERALD SCHNABLEGGER

Class of 2003

WHILE AT MUIR

Nickname , if any?	Schnapps, Schnabbie, Gee
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	No
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Tennis, 1st Team. Hockey, 1st Team
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	First Aid, Roar Fax
Leadership positions held	None
Fondest Memory	Break times playing handball squash, mime concerts, seeing a desk plank break in 3 pieces on Anees Mohamad’s rear during woodwork class.

POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Education (Where & what?)	BSC Biological sciences (NMMU) BSC Hons (Microbiology and Biochemistry – NMMU) Masters in Biochemistry from NMMU
Career (Brief details)	Started to work for Cadbury (now Mondelez) as a Micro laboratory technician, worked up to senior lab analysts, Lab manager, Factory Quality, Systems quality, now R&D (Research and development). Currently job title Senior Scientist for AMEA R&D Chocolate – so now I am responsible for any innovations, reformulations and business continuity plans for our SSA business.
Where do you live now?	Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)
Share a bit about your family	Married for 14 years with 2 boys (ages 10 and 8)
What do you do in your free time?	Always have some sort of sport with my boys but love playing squash and golf, getting together with my friends, and enjoying a beer around the fire.



NEAL BOSMAN

Class of 1978

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	"Stukkie" stuck as nickname from NC Dugmore House days.
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	Boarder in 1974 and 1975. Day pot from 1976-1978. I am the last of our family of Bosman's who attended Muir, with my father and uncles, grandfather and great uncles and all their sons having attended Muir College over the ages. When I was in Std 6, there were 7 Bosman's - all Boarders, and all being farmer's sons, of which 6 (Paul, James, Bruce, Mark, and Clive plus myself) were either brothers or cousins. Michael, my eldest brother, completed schooling in 1973. What a legacy to follow!
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Played cricket, hockey, and tennis. Shooting. Was a 100m sprinter in my early days!
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	As a schoolboy, I could probably aptly be described as a cultural ignoramus.
Leadership positions held	No formal leadership position other than captaining some sports teams.
Fondest Memory	School holidays.
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	Completed Hons in Industrial Psychology at UPE.
Career (Brief details)	After varsity studies and national service, I moved from PE to Pretoria in 1986, working at Samcor. I ended as IR Manager, leaving after Ford reinvested in 1997 to start my own HR consulting business - Pro-Link Management Services, which has treated me well till this day.
Where do you live now?	Pretoria – since 1986
Share a bit about your family	I met Helen whilst at university. We married in 1986 and have 2 wonderful daughters raised in Pretoria, but now both living in London.
What do you do in your free time?	Shooting, hunting, reloading, fishing and boating. I read a lot of non-fiction. You may also find me in the rough on a golf course from time to time.



NONELELA GADA

Class of 2012

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	Sgubhu
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	I was not a boarder. I was a day boy
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	I played rugby and cricket. I suffered a lot of injuries. I am still carrying some of those injuries today. I see the injuries as an honour and battle scares.
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	I was not in any societies
Leadership positions held	
Fondest Memory	The tradition and camaraderie we had a school boys.
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	Studied at Varsity College in Cape Town. I studied a Bcom (general) but my main stream was Financial Management. I am looking at a different course which will elevate me to another level.
Career (Brief details)	I studied at Varsity college. I graduated with a Bcom majoring in Financial Management. I worked for a non profit organization while I was still studying, tutoring grade 9 in Mathematics, EMS while it was still known back then. I eventually left and moved back to PE. I worked for two insurance companies which were competitors. The hardest part was to leave the industry and focus on other things due to Covid making life difficult. I ventured into farming that still drives me to this day.
Where do you live now?	I will in Bluewater Bay in Port Elizabeth
Share a bit about your family	My family is still in Uitenhage. I see them more than anything every time I get an opportunity to. I just got out of a serious relationship that was going to lead to marriage but due to life ups and downs things didn't turn out the way I expected.
What do you do in your free time?	I am going into Golfing now. I'm still an amateur but you grow and eventually master a skill.



SIZWE NDUKU

Class of 1993

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	N/A
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	No
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Tried my luck in Athletics and I flopped ... didn't stand a chance against Andrew Tree(Boom).....LOL
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	
Leadership positions held	N/A
Fondest Memory	Always looked forward to the annual school camps, just to catch on some sh..... with the guys
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	ND Internal Auditing (NMMU), LLB (UNISA), LLM-CORPORATE LAW (Currently studying)
Career (Brief details)	I'm currently a Chief Advisor at one of the SOE's
Where do you live now?	Gauteng (Jozi)
Share a bit about your family	Father of 2 , daughter currently at CPUT and son at NMMU
What do you do in your free time?	Watch sports , big Liverpool fan (YWNA) , go to church , a member of men's guild (Anglican)





OMU LEADERSHIP

International Representatives



*Did you know that the OMU has representatives globally?
We are thrilled to introduce them to you:*



Carl Harrison
England



Craig Cuyler
England



Craig Potgieter
Australia



Graeme Ingram
Namibia



Jonathan Hamp-Adams
USA



Lance Nelson
New Zealand



Mark Beckett
Scotland



Neil Hamp-Adams
Dubai



Paul Frew
Canada



Ricardo Suarez
Germany



Roscoe Ratangee
China



Sikander Peer
China

SCHOOL NEWS

ASTRO TURF UPGRADE

A recent upgrade saw Astro Turf installed on one of the tennis courts on the school campus. This project serves a dual purpose: first, to restore and improve the condition of the tennis courts, and second, to provide hockey players with the opportunity to practice on Astro Turf - ensuring they remain competitive against other schools in the region.



Before



After

TINARA CUP OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony for the 2025 competition was held at Daniel Pienaar High School. The games will end on Founders' Weekend, 23 August 2025.

Good luck to Muir College for another fantastic season.



Tinara Cup - Muir first team



*Tinara Cup - Gert van Wyk,
Head of Rugby at Muir,
saying a few words*

INTERACT ORIENTATION

The Muir College Interact Club attended an orientation hosted by the Rotary Club at Strelizia High School. The event was organised to bring together the Interact Clubs from various schools, creating an opportunity for interaction, networking and the exchange of ideas.



INTERHOUSE GALA

Guess who won it this year? Dugmore House! Congratulations.



DEBATING

The high school continues with excellent Senior Debating challenges.

Their activity in February was held at Muir College and the motion was: Implement a global cap on wealth.

Best Speaker for Muir 1 (proposition) was L Sityi and for Muir 2 (opposition) was O Mboya.



HOCKEY: A PREFECTS' SHOWDOWN, A GAME OF BROTHERHOOD & SISTERHOOD

Muir College and Riebeeck College came together for a spirited Prefects Hockey Showdown showcasing camaraderie, teamwork and school pride. In a closely contested match, Muir secured a 1-0 victory. But the real win was the bond shared between both schools.

Thank you for helping us preserve our history!



SOCIAL PAGES

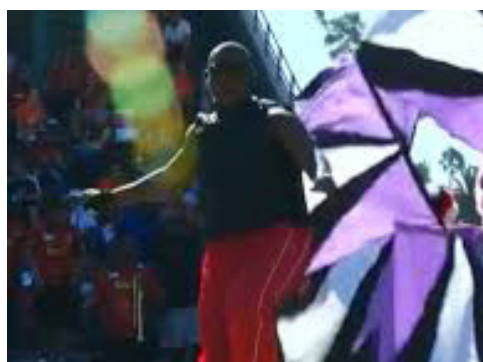
OUR MUSICIANS AND CRICKET

The Betway SA20 Cricket League took place across South Africa in January and February, showcasing top global cricketing talent. However, two Old Muirites made their mark in a different way - through music.

At the Opening Ceremony at St George's Park in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), **Lloyiso** (Loyiso Gijana, Class of 2017) and **Booshle G** (Buhle Gayika, Class of 2016) captivated the crowd with their live performances.

Booshle G continued to impress, performing during halftime at the finals at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. Adding to his achievements, his hit song Take Me Home was featured in the tournament's television advertising.

These young men make us proud. Keep up the good work.



CLASS OF 1982 IMPROMPTU GET TOGETHER

Class of 1982 reunite in Port Elizabeth/Gqeberha

The Class of 1982 recently enjoyed an impromptu gathering in Port Elizabeth/Gqeberha, sparked by a visit from Jonathan Bernstein, who travelled from Canada. The reunion provided an opportunity for old friends to reconnect, reminisce and share fond memories. It was a special occasion filled with laughter and nostalgia, highlighting the enduring bonds of brotherhood and friendship that have stood the test of time.



(Left to right) Jonathan Bernstein, Kevin Preddy, Gary Daniels, Mark Bradley, Dave Snuggs, James Wilde, Warren Griffiths

JB MAGONGO GOLF DAY

Old Muirites **Nyameko** (Class of 1993) and **Mfundo Magongo** (Class of 2005) host an annual golf day in Gqeberha in honour of their late father, JB Magongo. This event serves as a golf development initiative, aimed at inspiring and encouraging more young people to take up and enjoy the game.

The 2024 edition took place on Boxing Day and saw fantastic support from both the youth and the “older” generation, along with generous sponsors who helped make the day a success.

Old Muirites interested in participating in the 2025 competition, or those who would like their children to get involved, are encouraged to reach out to the OMU for the Magongos' contact details.





THE OMU DESCENDS ON THE KOUGA REGION

On Saturday, 25 January, 60 Old Muirites and their partners gathered at the Ski Boat Club in St. Francis Bay for a day filled with laughter, reminiscing and reconnecting. The event welcomed locals from the Kouga Area (Jeffreys Bay, Humandorp, Paradise Beach, St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis, Oyster Bay, Kromme River), as well as many who made the trip from Gqeberha.

Highlights included:

- An update from George Yerolemou, Director of The Muir Foundation, on the Foundation's exciting plans for the future.
- OMU President Ryan Bhana sharing key updates on the OMU.
- Legendary Garth Wright (Class of 1981 and former Springbok rugby player) captivating the audience with stories from his Muir College days.

The fun continued over lunch, with more catching up and laughter lasting well into the afternoon.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and to those who generously provided Lucky Draw gifts – they were truly appreciated.



Alf Coetzee (Class of 1971)



Allen Nicholson (Class of 1981), Joel Katz (Class of 1988), Robert Blignault (Class of 1977), Garth Wright (Class of 1981), Brett Botten (Class of 1982), George Yerolemou (Class of 1987)



Billy Johnson (Class of 1966), Andy Will (Guest)



Garth Wright (Class of 1981), Wendy Knott-Craig (OMU Manager)



Peter Bosman (Class of 1966), Robert Blignault (Class of 1977)



Ronnie Townsend (Class of 1965), Trevor Medley (Class of 1968)



Trevor Medley (Class of 1968), Vic Rabie (Class of 1966), Ashley Williams (Class of 1974)

LIFE LESSONS

Herewith a few life lessons taken from the 200 Year Leadership Life Lessons Booklet:

LUKE BERGLAR, Class of 2008

Work for a cause, not for applause.

Live life to express, not to impress.

Don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt.

Rather open your hands to serve than to receive, you will realise how blessed you are in ways others are not.

Unless you attempt to do something beyond what you have already mastered... you will never grow.



ROBERT BLIGNAULT, Class of 1977

Actions speak loader than words. Next time someone tries to convince you that they care, look at what they do , not what they say.

LUBABALO CATELE, Class of 1998

Gentlemen, learn to trust yourself and your abilities.

Tim Ferris once said "what we fear most is usually what we most need to do."



MBASA MABI, Class of 2005

Chase fulfillment, not success. There is no bigger failure than a successful person who isn't happy. Happiness shouldn't be contingent upon success. Happiness is an internal choice that drives fulfillment irrespective of success or failure. Fulfilment is a state of being, success is merely an outcome.

**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 in the first quarter of 2025.

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

Ronald Anderson
1956

Abel Bezuidenhout
1958

Lionel Thwait's
1959

Clive Reid
1959

Anthony Kennelly
1962

Eric Milton
1972

Dean de Villiers
1983

Kurt Nilsen
1990

Ntsika Hintsa
2016

THE BACK PAGE

And 2025 has started with a bang... we're done with the 1st quarter, which has flown by.

We've had a number of highlights this quarter, namely (read more about them in the newsletter):

- Annual Teacher Welcome Back Tea
- Business Networking Breakfasts
- A breakfast for the Muir Foundation
- A Kouga Region get together
- The Cricket Family Day
- Boarder get together (to feature in the next newsletter)



OMU Manager, Wendy Knott-Craig

Keep a look out for information on the AGM in April.

I'm still doing regular updates to the OMU Database – please let me know if any of your details change (email, WhatsApp, city, country) or if any of your classmates aren't receiving information from me, then please send their contact details.

Thanks again to all who contact me regularly to discuss the OMU. I enjoy the interaction with each of you.

Here's to a fantastic 2nd quarter of 2025! Hang in there!

Wendy Knott-Craig

OMU Manager

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