

OLD MUIRITE UNION NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter, 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE OMU PRESIDENT

Dear Old Muirites and Friends of Muir College,

As we wrap up the second quarter of 2025, I am pleased to share some exciting updates and highlights from within the OMU family.

In May, we hosted a successful Annual General Meeting. The session brought thoughtful discussions and insightful queries about the direction of the Old Muirite Union.

We were proud to welcome three new Old Muirites to our committee and, at the same time, bid farewell to a long-standing member whose contributions we deeply appreciate.

Two wonderful gatherings took place this quarter—one in Gauteng with Old Muirites in the region, and another for past boarders of the Hostel, held in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha. You'll find more details about these events later in this newsletter.

A particular highlight was the spirited match between the Old Muirite Legends Rugby Team and the Westering High School Old Boys. It was a thrilling and closely contested game, showcasing camaraderie across generations. Witnessing the sportsmanship, respect and enduring friendships on display was truly heartwarming.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for a vibrant Founders' Weekend from 21–23 August. Planning is well underway, and we are excited to celebrate with you. Several milestone reunions will be taking place, and we look forward to welcoming the following classes:

- **10 Years** – Class of 2015
- **20 Years** – Class of 2005
- **25 Years** – Class of 2000
- **30 Years** – Class of 1995
- **35 Years** – Class of 1990
- **40 Years** – Class of 1985
- **50 Years** – Class of 1975
- **55 Years** – Class of 1970
- **60 Years** – Class of 1965



Please stay tuned for further updates about Founders' Weekend, which will be shared via email, WhatsApp Class Groups and social media.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the OMU Executive and Committee for their unwavering support and dedication.

Ryan Bhana
OMU President



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

"None of us is as smart as all of us."

– Ken Blanchard



Staff Matters

Mr. Darren Evans will leave Muir College at the end of the second term. He has been an exceptional geography teacher and hockey coach at our school, and his departure leaves a significant gap. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Mr. Lwandile Nyati is replacing him from Makhanda.

We are proud to announce that Mr. Forbes was selected to represent his province at the annual Growth Point senior IPT tournament (Squash) being held in July in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth). Fixtures will be live-streamed across the country, and hopefully, the school will have the opportunity to see Mr Forbes in action.

School Governing Body (SGB)

We extend our gratitude to the School Governing Body for their sound governance. With their help in securing much-needed funding, the school has now completed all the tennis courts, which have been upgraded with dual-surface turf. This new facility is already proving its value — our hockey boys are making full use of the courts for practice, and we've seen a marked improvement in their performance against schools that regularly play on Astroturf.

Sponsors

We also extend our sincere thanks to the many companies and individuals who generously support events and teams at Muir College.

Thanks to a recently received significant donation, the school is now set to begin construction on two additional tennis courts and develop four turf practice nets for our cricket players. These developments will provide our learners with greater opportunities to excel in their particular sporting code.

We encourage more businesses, old boys, and members of the wider Muir community to get involved. Every contribution, big or small, plays a vital role in shaping the future of our school and supporting the development of our learners, both on and off the field.

Old Muirite Union (OMU)

The rugby match against Westering on May 3rd, organised by the OMU, was very entertaining and the Old Boys managed to win this encounter narrowly. The idea was a big success and I am sure it will continue in some format in the future.

We appreciate the support we get from our Old Boys. We're lucky to have organisations like the Muir Foundation and the OMU behind us — their help makes a difference in helping move Muir College forward.

Academics, Culture and Sport

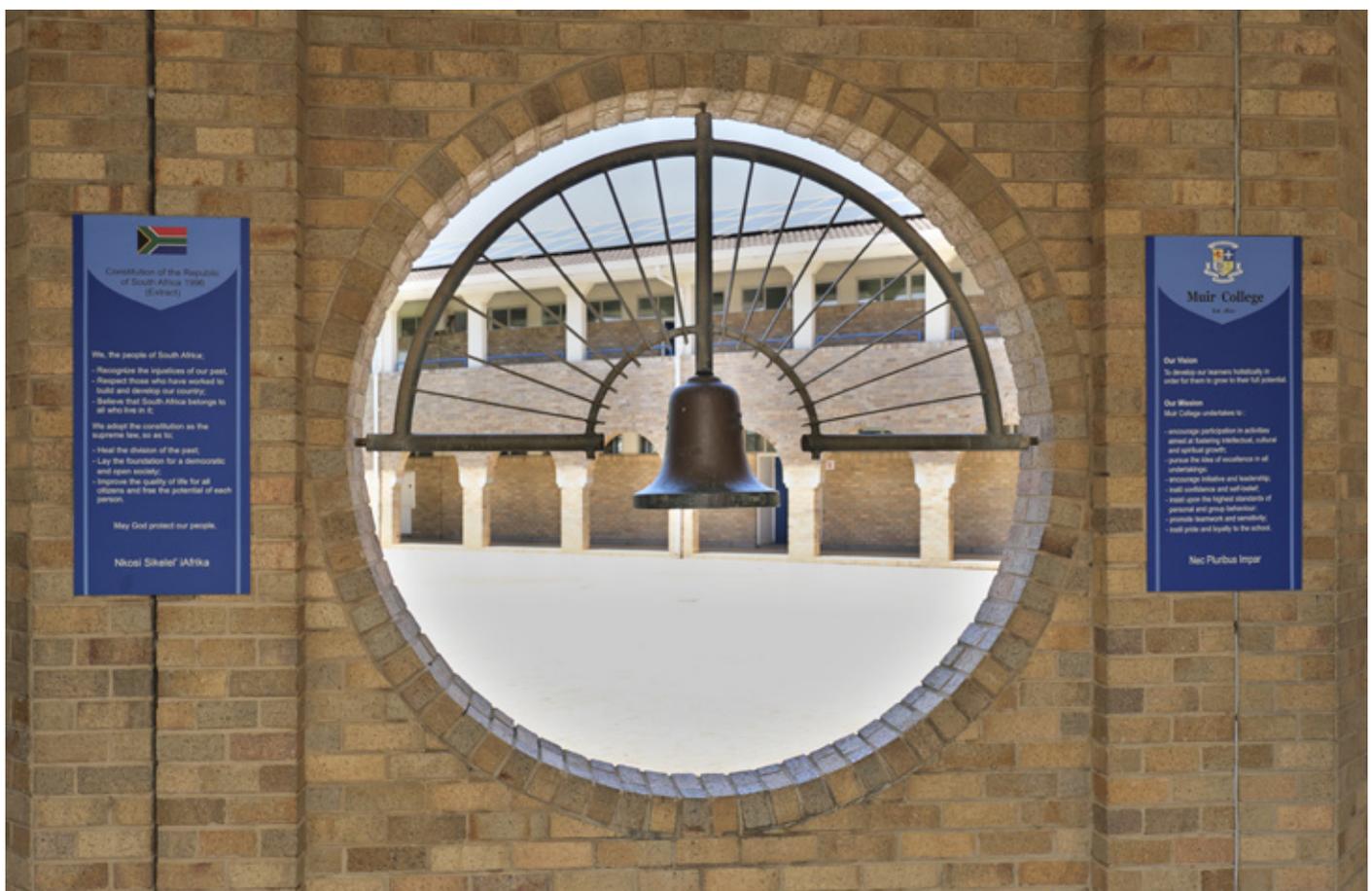
These events and activities are regularly updated and can be viewed daily on the school's official Facebook page.

However, some achievements, although already mentioned, are worth reiterating here.

- Chuma Bloouw and Bulumko Kilani made the EP U/18 Academy Rugby team.
- Nu'maan Jappie made non-travelling reserve for EP U/18 Academy Rugby team.
- Keeno Osborne made the U/13 EP Academy Rugby team.
- Kellan Reed, Iviwe Mdlangu and Mila Netnou qualified for provincials for junior debating.
- Ihsaan Mahomed came 3rd in the U/20 division of EP Chess trials.
- Ryan McLaren made provincial colours in mixed martial arts.
- Umair Jeeva u/16 and Carlisle Smith u/14 are competing in the EP Cricket League in September.
- Our Muir Senior and Junior debating teams have qualified for the Eastern Provincial tournament, with our Senior team ranking first in their A league and our Junior team ranking fourth in their A league. We wish them all the best for the upcoming provincial tournament, which will be held at Clarendon Girls' High in East London, in term 3.

David Francis

Headmaster



FOUNDERS' WEEKEND 2025

With just over six weeks to go until Founders' Weekend, preparations are gaining momentum as the organising team ramps up activity behind the scenes.

Herewith a breakdown of what to expect

THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRICE
14h00 for 15h00	OMU Bowls Day Registration with games commencing at 15h00 sharp. Teams of 4 players. Price includes Dinner. Dress Code: Sporting attire, takkies/runners (no hard shoes).	Westview Sports Club	R250pp
Time TBC	Old Muirite Hockey Legends vs Muir College Dress Code: Hockey gear	Clarendon Astro Turf	To be confirmed
17h30 for 18h00	Bowls Day prize giving followed by dinner Dress Code: Casual	Westview Sports Club	R150pp (dinner only)

FRIDAY 22 AUGUST 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRICE
09h30 for 09h50	Muir College Founders' Assembly To be seated by 09h50 with assembly starting sharp at 10h00. Please register online for seating purposes Dress Code: Smart Casual, OMU Tie (if you have one)	Muir College Hall	Free
17h30 for 18h00	OMU Annual Dinner Dress Code: Jacket & Tie	Westview Sports Club	To be confirmed

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRICE
From 08h00	Tinara Cup vs Daniel Pienaar	Muir College Campus	Entry fee at the gate
Time TBC	Old Muirite Legends Rugby team vs Daniel Pienaar Old Boys		
Time TBC	Muir 1st XV Rugby Team vs Daniel Pienaar in the Tinara Cup Final		

BOOKINGS

All bookings are to be done via our website: <https://muircollege.co.za/omu/omu-reunion-team/>

Assembly bookings: Please book for this activity to ensure that we have sufficient seating for all. (<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/omu-reunion-team/>)

CLOTHING & MEMORABILIA

Orders & payments for clothing and memorabilia are to be done via the website: (<https://muircollege.co.za/omu/omu-reunion-team/>)

We are excited to announce that we have a new addition to the clothing range – a golf shirt for those who were boarders in the Boarding School. Please place your orders as soon as possible.

ORDERS CLOSE 15 JULY 2025

PLEASE NOTE:

- There are no samples to try on as we don't keep stock of clothing.
- All clothing is ordered once a year (Founders' Weekend).
- Clothing is to be collected at the following times:
 - Bowls day on 21 August at the Westview Sports Club, OR
 - Before the Founders' Weekend Assembly on 22 August at the school hall.
- Yes, we do have ties available for purchasing for the dinner: please order these online.

OMU FOUNDERS' WEEKEND CLOTHING & MEMORABILIA

				
GOLF SHIRT @ ZAR400	WINDBREAKER / MAC @ ZAR540	OLD MUIRITE BOARDER @ ZAR350	PULL OVER @ ZAR200	TIES @ ZAR200
				
CAP @ ZAR130	COFFEE MUG @ ZAR80	BRAAI TONGS @ ZAR120	BOTTLE OPENER @ ZAR100	WATER BOTTLE @ ZAR50

FOUNDERS' WEEKEND 2025

CLASS OF 1975 – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Written by: **Eric Tuck**, Class of 1975



What are the weekend plans for the class of 1975?

The gents will be arriving by Thursday the 21st August and will be meeting at the Westview club. Those who arrive early will be able to join the bowls afternoon at Westview. Supper will be somewhere in PE / GQ. On Friday we will make our way to assembly in School and join the Annual OMU Dinner that evening.

Saturday is breakfast on the beach front and back to Muir or Westview to watch the rugby test match.

How are you keeping the "gees" going with your class?

We chat over WhatsApp a lot. We also share the Muir news, send birthday wishes and acknowledge any personal news and achievements.

How many do you anticipate attending?

We should have 18 classmates, which includes 10 from out of town and 3 from overseas (2 Australia and 1 UK).

We will also be making up golf shirts for the gents celebrating our milestone year.



Class of 1975 - Class 10B



Class of 1975 - Matric Class



Class of 1975 - taken at their 40th reunion in 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The OMU Annual General Meeting was held on 14 May 2025 at the Walmer Golf Club, with a strong turnout of Old Muirites in attendance.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome from OMU President Ryan Bhana, who delivered the President's Report and provided a comprehensive overview of the past year, a presentation that was well received by all. Treasurer Joel Katz (Class of 1988) then presented the 2024 Financial Report, offering insights into the Union's financial standing.

The formal proceedings concluded with an address by guest speaker Paul Geswindt, Alumni Relations at Nelson Mandela University. His talk, titled *"The Role of Alumni and Their Unions: Strengthening Connections and Supporting Your Alma Mater"* highlighted the lasting value of alumni engagement.

The evening wrapped up in true OMU spirit, with plenty of reminiscing, laughter, and lively conversation as Old Muirites shared stories from their school days and reconnected over drinks and networking.

Old Muirites are always encouraged to attend the AGM.

Welcome to the following new members of the OMU Committee:



Vic Rabie (Class of 1966)



Mandla Busakwe (Class of 1996)



Mark Bradley (Class of 1982)



Simon Clark (Class of 1994)



Geoffrey Hoppner (Class of 1996),
Clayton du Plooy (Class of 2005)



OMU President, Ryan Bhana (Class of 2001),
Clayton Du Plooy (Class of 2005)



Paul Geswindt (Guest Speaker),
Ryan Bhana (OMU President, Class of 2001)



Leo Doria (Honorary Life Vice President), Joel Katz (Class of 1988 & OMU Treasurer),
Craig Dillon (Class of 1987)



George Yerolemou (Class of 1987, Honorary Life Vice President), Mark Bakker (Class of 1988, OMU Exec Member),
Andrew Binning (Class of 1988, Past President)



Mark Bakker (Class of 1988), Mark Manlee (Class of 1988),
Neville Scott (Class of 1990), Vuyo Dyan (Class of 2007)



Leo Doria (honorary Life Vice President), Delme Redcliffe, Class of 2001,
Robin Stephenson (Past headmaster), George Yerolemou (Class of 1987),
Mark Bakker (Class of 1988)

RUGBY LEGENDS

OLD MUIRITE LEGENDS RUGBY TEAM CLAIMS VICTORY

On Saturday, 3 May, the Old Muirite Legends Rugby Team faced off against the Westering Old Boys in their first fixture of the year.

After countless WhatsApp messages, endless group chats, plenty of banter, and the occasional practice session, it was finally time for the big game.

Our Legends hit the field running - some slightly out of breath - but delivered a stellar performance, edging out a nail-biting 24-22 win over their Westering counterparts.

Well played, Gents! Let's keep the momentum (and the training) going as we look ahead to your next match against Daniel Pienaar during Founders' Weekend in August.



Old Muirite Legends Rugby Team 1



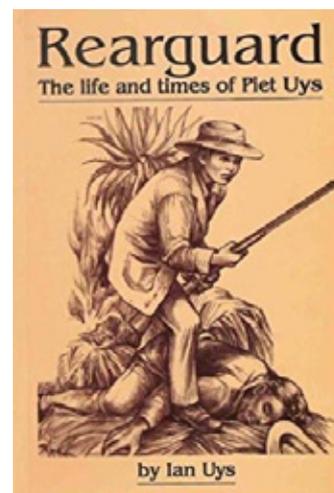
Team Talk



GOING BACK IN TIME

WAR AND PEACE

Written by: *Charles van Renen*, Class of 1963



The title of Leo Tolstoy's celebrated (and lengthy) novel seems apt in relation to the annals of Muir College. Decades of peacetime were punctuated from time to time by hostilities of regional or global magnitude. Trekker leader Piet Uys's son Dirkie may well have been the first casualty from the Uitenhage Free School established by James Rose Innes in 1822. The late military historian and Old Muirite, Ian Uys (unrelated), tells the story of how 15-year-old Dirkie died while defending his wounded father at the Battle of Iteleni in 1838. Before joining the Great Trek in 1837, the Uys family had lived at the Kromme River; the nearest school was the one started by Innes, which Dirkie is believed to have attended prior to 1837.



A slightly younger past pupil of the same school, Joseph Crowe, was awarded the Victoria Cross in August 1858 for bravery in an incident on August 12, 1857 when serving in a British regiment during the Indian Mutiny. It has sometimes been said that Crowe was the first South African to be awarded the Victoria Cross, but it would be more accurate to say he was the earliest-born South African to receive this award. A younger man, Lieutenant Christopher Teesdale, born in Grahamstown, achieved this distinction on 25 September 1857 for his actions two years before during the Crimean War. Teesdale evidently left South Africa for England with his British parents (temporarily stationed in Grahamstown) when he was two years old, whereas Crowe grew up in South Africa. This could have a bearing on the notion that Crowe was the first South African to win the VC. The photo of Crowe's

gravestone was taken in the grounds of the Moth Hall in Uitenhage prior to its eventual relocation to Heroes Acre at the Jubilee Park Cemetery. Further details are on page 124 of *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*, published for the school's bicentenary in 2022.

Two later conflicts, the Basuto War of 1880 and the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, involved young men from Uitenhage. An Obelisk honouring the fallen in the Basuto War was erected in Magennis Park close to the former Park Avenue site of Muir College. The Anglo-Boer War memorial, which stands opposite the Uitenhage Town Hall, was unveiled in 1904. In attendance were Muir Academy cadets, members of the Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles and Prince Alfred's Guard. No known record exists, however, of which men whose names are inscribed on these monuments had attended the school later known as the Government School, Udenominational Public School and Muir Academy.

Twelve years of peace after the Anglo-Boer War ended with the outbreak of the Great War, retrospectively called the First World War, in August 1914. There are many written accounts in school magazines at the time of Old Muirites who served in this conflict, including letters from different theatres of war, visits to the school by servicemen on leave and much else.



The experiences of Old Muirites such as Charlie Ingram and Clive Featherstone during the epic Battle of Delville Wood in the Somme are captured in books by Ian Uys, who interviewed many survivors decades later. As he noted in one of his books about Delville Wood, *The Times of London* in 1917 referred to South Africans having won their 'imperishable fame' in this most 'bitterly contested' of battles, where they stood firm despite being overwhelmingly outnumbered. Uys also points out that 'erstwhile foes, Boer and Briton' from the 'fledgling Union of South Africa' fought 'shoulder to shoulder against the pride of the German Army'.

Past pupils of Muir who died in the war – an inevitable consequence of joining up in wartime – are named in the Roll of Honour on the wooden memorial plaque completed, with strong support by the newly formed Old Muirite Union, in 1919. Indeed, it was the desire to honour and remember those who fell during the war that added impetus to the formation of the Union. Present school records include two names not appearing on the board: Macfarlane A. and Marrilier F. Headmaster

Jock (Oubaas) Sutherland instituted a daily practice of a Muir bugler playing the Last Post on the front steps of the school at noon each day to be mindful of Old Boys known to have died in the war. Old Muirite (1935) Pax Sellick wrote an article 'Pro Patria' which appeared in the Muir magazine of 1983, and is reproduced on the Muir Webpage containing additional reading over and above what is contained in *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*.

The Great War was followed by a mere twenty years of peace before the eruption of another European war, 'Hitler's War', burgeoning eventually into another world conflict. This time, another generation of Old Muirites joined up (as well as Charlie Ingram, a veteran of the First World War). Just as their fathers (in many instances) had done in the first war, servicemen on leave or stationed nearby between 1939 and 1945 paid visits to the school, or in some cases flew over it in their fighter planes. Andrew Jordan is said to have flown so low over the school once that it was thought he could read what was written on the blackboard! Jordan's name was one of many which appeared on the Roll of Honour for the fallen by the end of the war. This memorial plaque, a project of the Old Muirite Union, was inaugurated in 1947. Some background to this project was given in the school magazine of that year:

The Muir boys were asked to design a Plaque as a companion to the one in the school hall, and a very fine design by Monty Surmon was chosen. Mr. P.J. Alberts, the Woodwork master at the Muir, then made a miniature of the plaque, while the Uitenhage Technical High School students made the plaque itself. A fine drawing of a Springbok head was obtained from an artist in Oudtshoorn, and this was sent to Mr. J. V. d. Merwe of the Technical High School in Worcester, who, with the help of his students beat out the brass design which forms the centre piece of the memorial. Finally the lettering, scroll work, badges, etc., were executed by Mr. L. A. Turner, of 'Paramount Art Displays', a firm of commercial artists with a branch in Uitenhage (p. 24-5).

SP Lotter is an additional name on the 1939-1945 Roll of Honour list held by the school, which does not appear on the board. (As with the first war, verification of casualties could sometimes only take place a considerable time after the cessation of hostilities).



Flight Commander Grainger Heugh, serving with the South African Air Force in the Second World War, was, like fellow Old Muirites Andrew Jordan, Hilton Barber and Trevor Evans, decorated with the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross). When he was guest speaker at the Muir Founders' Day Assembly in 1981, he recalled experiencing strong camaraderie among Muir Old Boys serving in the war. This spirit of close kinship, amounting to a quality of brotherhood, he found to be unique amongst Old Muirites. Camaraderie, he stressed, was a vital element binding young men of common purpose together. He is pictured here laying a wreath at the foundation stone of the school at the Park Avenue campus.

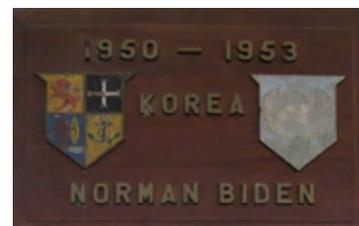


NC Dugmore, headmaster of Muir College during the Second World War, was determined to keep the school magazine going despite the economic pressures brought about by war. Old Boys spread over many theatres of war longed for news of their old school and magazines became a much sought after item. The magazines also carried news from serving Old Boys such as the friendly rivalry in rugby matches between teams of servicemen from different countries, e.g. South Africa and New Zealand.

A new kind of 'peace' followed after World War 2: the Cold War; essentially a period when tensions between the capitalist west, led by the USA, and the communist Soviet Union were fuelled by regional 'proxy' wars. The first such conflict of the Cold War took



place in Korea, when the communist North breached the 38th parallel borderline with the South in 1950. Different countries offered military support for an intervention spearheaded by The United Nations. South Africa made SAAF No.2 Squadron, the 'Flying Cheetahs' available to the UN. Old Muirite Norman 'Flash' Biden, after noteworthy actions on his part, lost his life in this conflict, which was brought to a less than satisfactory end in 1953.



South Africa's political relationships with the rest of the world underwent a significant shift after the Korean War, especially in the 1960s and beyond, as the country's domestic policies attracted increasing international attention. South Africa had also resisted pressure from the United Nations to relinquish control of South West Africa/Namibia mandated by the League of Nations after the First World War following the defeat of its former colonial power, Germany. PLAN (People's Liberation Army of Namibia), the armed wing of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation), had conducted armed resistance to South Africa's South West Africa Territorial Force from the mid-1960s. When in 1975 a civil war broke out in newly independent Angola between communist-inspired MPLA and anti-communist UNITA, SWAPO supported the MPLA. South Africa was inevitably drawn into the conflict.

Conscription of white male school leavers in South Africa had been in force since at least the late '60s, and many landed up fighting against PLAN in Namibia and (though at first denied by the SA Defence Force) in Angola itself, where South Africans also engaged Cuban forces sent to prop up the MPLA, the de facto government of Angola.

The so-called Border War was in many ways another manifestation of the Cold War proxy conflicts between Western capitalist interests and Soviet-inspired communism. The United States of America were believed to covertly support the South African operation in Angola, viewing it as a bulwark against the spread of communism in that part of Africa, bearing in mind too, the strategic importance of the Cape sea route.



THE WEISS SQUAD
 - culmination of a good year's work
 Packing Christmas hampers for Old Muirites in the forces are Claude Weiss and his bevy of mothers and sweethearts.
 Left to right: Chaimain Bellen, Sharon Broderick (obscured), Beryl Bultendag (obscured), Shirley Waals, Renee Lightfoot, Billy van Antwerp, Denise Fish, Mavis Ramsbottom, Noreh Annot, Marlene Hume, Ann Brennan.

In 1979 a project was begun at Muir to support 'Boys on the Border', which included the sending of news and Christmas hampers. (Picture: 'The Weiss Squad') This is described under 'We Will Remember Them' in *Shout Till the Rafters Ring*. The Border War finally ended when Namibia gained independence in 1990.

The dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1991 and Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of Glasnost and Perestroika effectively signalled the end of the Cold War. South Africa's essentially peaceful transition to democracy in 1994 took place within a new international order of peace, stability and economic globalisation following the end of the Cold War. The optimism of this era has become increasingly threadbare in recent years amid the escalation of geo-political tensions between NATO and its opponents, especially following military aggression in Europe on a scale not seen since the Second World War.

The following names are included in the School's Roll of Honour for the period 1965-1990: Bessinger, L; Brown, MA; Freed, N; Goldstein, L; Luppnow, K; Nicholls, AN; Pullen, NR; Vice, CR.

Benecke MA and Craül MG (the latter finished high school at Pearson, where he appears on a Roll of Honour) need to be added, and I am indebted to Old Muirite **Alan Giese** (1966) for doing a 'deep dive' into various sources of information, thereby providing some vital context for some of the above names:

BENECKE, Melvin Ashley: 1 Parachute Battalion; d. 6 September 1987 in Battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola (some details also supplied by the late Ian Uys)

BESSINGER, Leon William: Prince Alfred's Guard Regiment; d. 20 August 1975 in a military vehicle accident near Peddie in the Eastern Cape

BROWN, Michael Ashley: South African Infantry Corps, Kaffrarian Rifles unit; d. 2 December 1965 during training, resulting in amendments to training schedules following an enquiry

CRAÜL, Michael Graeme: South African Infantry Corps, Algoa Bay Regiment; d. 14 November 1976 in a friendly fire accident at Ondangwa, Namibia

FREED, Neil: Israeli Defence Forces, Armoured Corps; d. 18 October 1973 during a tank battle in the Sinai Desert; Neil had emigrated to Israel in 1971

GOLDSTEIN, Leon: South African Air Force, 21 Squadron; d. 14 July 1982 in accident over Swartkops near Wonderboom Airport; gravestone at the Durban (Red Hill) cemetery

LUPPNOW, Kevin: (class of 1977) d. 20 April 1984; memorial tablet at St Katharine's Church, Uitenhage; no further details were available at the time of writing

NICHOLLS, AN: (class of 1981) no details were available at the time of writing

PULLEN, Neville Roy: South African Air Force, 42 Army Air Reconnaissance Squadron; d. 2 August 1965 during a flying accident near Derby, Transvaal

VICE, Clement Roy: d. 24 November 1973 in South African Air Force 24 Squadron training exercise off False Bay, Cape Town



Inscribing the names from the 1965-1990 Roll of Honour list onto a wooden plaque topped by the Muir College badge and mounted near the other memorials in the school hall could well be a worthwhile project to consider in time to come.



LET'S REMINISCE

Of Blackboard Erasers, Bins, and Brotherhood: My Muir Musings In this edition of Let's Reminisce, Lee Baatjes (2012) shares some stories of his time at Muir.

If you asked me to rewind time and pick out my most memorable moments from school, I'd probably grin and say: "The Great Grade 5 War." No, really - Grade 5A versus 5B in what can only be described as a series of legendary breaktime battles. What caused it? Nobody knows. But what followed? Absolute chaos. The kind of pure, youthful madness that lives rent-free in your memory forever.

Of course, no school story is complete without that one unforgettable classroom incident. Mine came courtesy of Mr Stevens and a rogue blackboard eraser.

Picture this: me, front row, a little too eager to blurt out a maths answer - and getting it completely wrong. Mr Stevens didn't say a word. He just launched the eraser straight at me. Luckily, I had Keanu Reeves-level reflexes and ducked just in time. Matrix moment? Definitely.

Then there was Mrs Potgieter's legendary stash of citrus. She brought the best oranges and naartjies from her Kirkwood farm - sunshine in fruit form. Sadly, I didn't get to enjoy it much. Mr Stevens often "confiscated" them for, uh... staff morale purposes?

But beyond the food fights and flying stationery, Muir was about the brotherhood. With such a small class, we formed bonds that went deeper than just group projects and lunchtime soccer. Breaktimes were sacred - we played "bambie" (hand tennis) in the quad like our lives depended on it, channelling Steven Gerrard, while passionately arguing about why Liverpool is the greatest football club on earth.

When it comes to standout teachers, Mrs Serene Bayman easily takes the crown. She believed in me before I believed in myself. Her compassion, support, and unshakable confidence helped shape the path I walk today. And then, there were the unforgettable mentors who left a mark: the late Mr Barnard and Mrs Bezuidenhout, Mr Elie, Mrs Henman, Mrs Potgieter, and (yes) Mr Stevens - eraser throws and all. Each of them was a thread in the tapestry of my growth.

Muir taught me more than algebra and Shakespeare. It instilled values that continue to guide me.

- **Discipline & Responsibility** – Deadlines mattered. Uniforms mattered. Even hair inspections mattered. We learned to show up, on time, ready.
- **Respect & Integrity** – Do the right thing, even when no one's watching. That lesson stuck.
- **Teamwork & Camaraderie** – From sports fields to school committees, I learned that real progress is made together.
- **Leadership & Service** – At Muir, leadership wasn't about being in charge. It was about stepping up, helping others, and giving back.

Ask any Muir student about Grade 8 initiation and they'll wince – and then laugh. I still remember being dunked into a dustbin and "swimming" on the school field. It was rough. It was ridiculous. It was... unforgettable.

And Matric 40 Days? Iconic. After some light mischief, a few of us hid from Mr Francis in a broom closet-sized office with Miss Friedburg. He knocked. We froze. He walked away. Crisis averted (barely).



Maths and Accounting were my jam - order, logic, problem-solving. English? Not so much. Ironically, it's now a huge part of my life in psychiatry. Life has a sense of humour like that.

Looking back, I might have signed up for everything.

A few highlights:

- Deputy Head Librarian
- Interact Secretary
- Drama Board Co-founder
- Mr Muir 2012 (yes, really)
- Blood Donor Rep (the juice and cookies were a nice bonus)



And who could forget cleaning out the old fish pond on 35°C days? Or the thrill of seeing our school take the district trophy for learner blood donations?

My sports roster was ambitious: 1st Team Hockey, Tennis, Chess (yes, it counts!), and Athletics. I also tried rugby and cricket in my younger years - though I may have been the skinniest forward ever fielded.

One unforgettable moment? Sprinting towards the wrong goalpost in a hockey match. My coach wasn't impressed. But hey, I loved every second; especially the away games. There's nothing like bonding with your team over missed classes and bus snacks.

After school, I headed to Stellenbosch University for my medical degree. While there, I chaired the Tygerberg Student Representative Council (SRC), joined the University Senate, and received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Leadership and Service. In 2017, I was named one of SA's GradStar Top 10 students.

In 2021, I earned a Diploma in Mental Health during my community service year at Elizabeth Donkin Hospital. Today, I'm in my third year of a Master of Medicine in Psychiatry at University of Cape Town. I live and work in Cape Town, rotating through state hospitals in the South Peninsula.

Outside of work, I'm a proud uncle, a coffee addict, and an avid traveller. My passport's seen the likes of Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America - Rio, Brazil being the crown jewel of my journeys.

Muir wasn't just a school for me. It was a launchpad, a battleground (literally in Grade 5), and a family. The lessons, laughs, and friendships I found there are treasures I carry into every chapter of my life.

Here's to the blackboard erasers, the brotherhood, and everything in between.



Written by:

Craig Cuyler,

Class of 1996

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Leo van Niekerk Class of 1990



WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	Kap
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	Yes from 1987 - 1990
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	Rugby, Hockey, Athletics, Cross Country and Tennis.
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	Matric Dance Committee, Interact Club, Wildlife Committee.
Leadership positions held	Boarding Prefect, Veld & Vlei Graduate, Athletics & Cross Country House Captain.
Fondest Memory	All the "no good "we got up to in Boarding School – Too many to mention.
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	Matric & School of Hard Knocks
Career (Brief details)	I've owned a sales business since 2008 to date.
Where do you live now?	Durban North
Share a bit about your family	Beautiful wife Nicola, 2 Daughters Jade & Kayla (32) and a son Enzo (20)
What do you do in your free time?	I love staying fit and challenging myself in sporting events – Been a competitive cyclist for more than 10 years and started participating in Ironman events last year. I have completed the Full Ironman in PE this year (2025) and also completed Half Ironman in Durban this year where I qualified for the World Champs slot in Spain. I am on track to qualify for the Ironman series medal later this year in Mossel Bay as well. I also love supporting my kids in the pursuit of their dreams!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Neville Scott Class of 1989

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	I can't remember
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	Yes from 1985 to 1989
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	1st Rugby, 1st Team Athletics
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	I was a Sunday School Teacher at the Methodist Church opposite Riebeeck Hostel
Fondest Memory	Getting my 1st Team Colours for rugby and getting to meet so many new people in the hostel. And my first hiding received from Mr Francis (damn, it was hard)
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	I went to the Army for 6 years
Career (Brief details)	After the Army I joined a British Liquor Company called Bulmers, where I was the RSDM (regional sales development manager) running the regions from the Western Cape to the Border Region. I currently help out at 3 Council offices with the residents municipal issues. I am also on 2 Neighbourhood Watches for the last 9 years).
Where do you live now?	I live in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha
Share a bit about your family	My mom is still alive
What do you do in your free time?	Unfortunately, I don't have any free time. I do make time for the Old Muirite Rugby Legend Team, which I have played 4 games for now. We are also looking forward to building up the Old Muirite Rugby Legends Team, where we do need your help with a number of items.



*Neville Scott with his mom
at the army*



*Neville Scott-Front,
right of teacher*



Neville Scott - Front Centre



Lusama “Sam” Mlahleki

Class of 2000

WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	The late Mr. Bannard coined my nickname. He called me <i>Saambou</i> . The gents caught on. In true nickname fashion the name got decorated and evolved. I was now known as Shambo. Some went a step further and called me <i>Shambula</i> .
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	NC Dugmore from 1992 till 2000.
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In primary school I was big on athletics. I just wish I discovered earlier that stamina is not my strength. I would watch the lads run laps around me in between my bent over breath-catching breaks that got spectators in stitches, sad that my own mother used to laugh at me. • I set my eyes on soccer but for the life of me I was not like other folks. I was not nimble and could not dribble, no matter how hard I tried. How I still got the captain's armband baffles me to this day. • I had potential to play 1st team tennis, I think, well let me say that I used to beat a guy who played for the 1st team when bashing it out after school at the hostel. That still bugs me. I hope Shaun Hutchinson never reads this.
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I won best “actress” every year in the mime concert. • I played the piano in primary school and quit because my adolescent self began to think that it was uncool. If only I knew. • I was in the choir from grade/standard.2 until grade 12/matric and achieved colours. I was selected for the EP Youth Choir. The choir was cool. I mean it allowed us to miss the last period most of the time for practice.
Leadership positions held	I was a hostel prefect for a short while. Please don't ask why?
Fondest Memory	As a hostel boy, it was the wait for Wednesday's first break, because we got cake instead of sandwiches. And the apple crumble dessert for the 2nd break.
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	I had a stint at the University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela University). I got wind of a stage play that I was auditioning. I was the last to audition and got the lead role. It is the taste of stardom performing in the National Arts Festival that gave me a big head, so I dropped out. Off to Joburg I went. I was going to be a hotshot actor. Life had other plans for me though. Ten years after matric I enrolled at AAA School of Advertising, studying copywriting. After that I went to UNISA and did a BA in Language & Literature: Creative Writing (not yet completed).

<p>Career (Brief details)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scriptwriter & Storyliner – Muvhango on SABC 2 • Script coordinator – Generations The Legacy on SABC 1 • Scriptwriter – Ikhaya Labadala on Moja Love • Content Producer/Director – Moja Love (Uyajola 9/9; S’khipha Amafiles; Ekhaya; Lovey Dovey and Mina Nawe) • Content Director – Barkers Media (Ngishade Wrong on Mzansi Wethu; Ngithande Nam on Mzansi Wethu and Ubuthe Uzobuya on Showmax)
<p>Where do you live now?</p>	<p>I live in Johannesburg.</p>
<p>Share a bit about your family</p>	<p>I am married. We have 4 kids, 1 girl, 3 boys. I was fresh out of school when I had my daughter, so she was raised by my mother. My boys are still at the age where it is still cool to be a team of fart machines. Dread to see them outgrow that. My wife, Zola, works for an orphanage and runs a catering business as well. She is soft spoken and shy but don’t let that fool you, she is the boss of me. I live amongst loving people. I have a son, Khalima, who chose not to get a birthday present when he turned 9 but would rather, we cook for the homeless. We did that. Me? I was born to be a dad; I love nothing more. I would be a stay-at-home dad any day in this life or the next.</p>
<p>What do you do in your free time?</p>	<p>I play hide and seek with my boys where we pretend not to see the last born, Iyana, when he is standing right in front of us with his hands covering his eyes. I guess in his head, having his eyes covered means that we too cannot see him. I love nothing more than playing with my kids.</p>



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Gavin Viljoen

Class of 1975



WHILE AT MUIR	
Nickname , if any?	“Big Gav”
Were you a boarder ? In which years?	1971-1975
Sport/s played at Muir? (with achievements, if any)	1 st Team Swimming, 1 st Water Polo, Silver Cross for Lifesaving 4 th team rugby.
Cultural activities /societies? (with achievements, if any)	None
Leadership positions held	None
Fondest Memory	Playing rugby for the border team and beating Daypots 10-9 Receiving a merit award for veld & vlei.
POST-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Education (Where & what?)	National Diploma Marketing Management – PE Technikon, CIS – Chartered Institute for Secretaries – Part time at PE Technikon.
Career (Brief details)	Sa Navy Diver, Regional head at Santova Ltd – multi national JSE – supply chain management and logistics company – retired from there 2021.
Where do you live now?	On a farm on the outskirts of Port Elizabeth
Share a bit about your family	Widowed with 2 children, Jason who is 36 & Kerri-Lee who is 33, am blessed with 2 grandchildren, Cole 4 years old & Grace 1 year old.
What do you do in your free time?	Daily exercising in the gym, reading & socializing.

OLD MUIRITE MOVERS AND SHAKERS

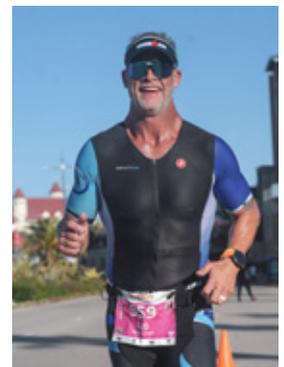
SOUTH AFRICA ARE WORLD CHAMPS

Congratulations to the Proteas Cricket Team, and to Runeshan Moodley, Class of 2002 who is the conditioning coach of the team, for taking the win at the recent World Test Cricket Championships held at Lords Cricket field in London.



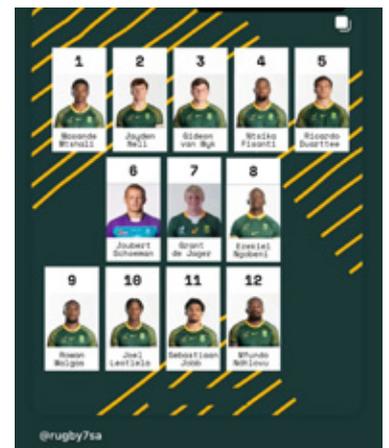
IRONMAN WORLD CHAMPS

Congratulations to Leo van Niekerk, Class of 1990, on qualifying for the World Champs Ironman in Spain. Leo only started participating in the Ironman in 2024!



SPRINGBOK SEVENS "A" TEAM

A big well done to Ntsika Fisanti, Class of 2018, who has been selected to play for the Springbok Sevens "A" Squad in Mauritius on 21 & 22 June.



COMRADES MARATHON 2025

Congrats to the following Old Muirites for completing back to back Comrades Marathons:

Delme Redcliffe (Class of 2001), Roger Redcliffe (Class of 2009), Dayne Jekels (Class of 2002). Both the Redcliffe brothers are runners for the Muirite Striders Club in Uitenhage / Kariega.

And well done to all Old Muirites who competed in this year's Marathon – hard work and determination pays off.



Comrades Marathon- Old Muirites compete back to back Comrades Marathons, Delme Redcliffe (Class of 2001), Roger Redcliffe (Class of 2009), Dayne Jekels (Class of 2002)

WE EVEN SHINE IN IRELAND

Neville Rothman (Class of 1994) is the Assistant Coach to the Irish Men's Hockey Team, who recently beat Belgium 3-2, with Belgium being ranked 3rd in the world (after the Netherlands and Germany).



SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

Donovan van Loggerenberg (Class of 1990) was recently inducted into the South African Radio League Hall of Fame. He is part of the PE Amateur Radio Society (PEARS) and is also the owner of Ham Radio Outlet in PE/GQ. Donovan's history with amateur radios goes back to his grandfather and father.

There are a number of Old Muirites who are members of PEARS, namely:

- Allan Whitehead (Class of 1965 and former Teacher at Muir College)
- Ashley Goosen (Class of 1968)
- George Whitehead (Class of 1981)
- Kevern Burger (Class of 2006 and chairman of PEARS)
- Carlin Mitchell (Class of 1986)



Donovan van Loggerenberg receiving Honorary life membership to PEARS from Kevern Burger, PEARS Chairman

BOARDER GET TOGETHER

On Saturday, 29 March, we welcomed around 60 former Muir College boarders - and a few of their wives - to a memorable Boarders' Get-Together held at the Westview Sports Club in Port Elizabeth/ Gqeberha.

The afternoon kicked off with an overview of the Muir Foundation by board member Riaan Claassen (Class of 1987), followed by an update on the activities of the OMU from OMU President Ryan Bhana (Class of 2001).

The event took a nostalgic turn as several Old Boys shared vivid - and at times hilariously lengthy - memories of their boarding days. Stories from Peter "Monkey" Biljon (Class of 1964), Mark Bakker (Class of 1988), and Des Wood (Class of 1974) shed light on the antics that once echoed through the hostel halls. It certainly gave us all a new appreciation for why the Hostel Masters and Prefects often looked so weary in the mornings!

Before lunch, Ian Krain (Class of 1965) proudly led us in singing the Muir College School Song. It was heartening to see how many could still belt out the lyrics without missing a beat. The nostalgic moment reached a rousing crescendo when Ian, joined by some 1st Team Rugby players, launched into a spirited rendition of the War Cry - so powerful it made the Haka look tame by comparison!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the day's success. We look forward to seeing you at the next gathering!



*Alf Coetzee (Class of 1971),
Vic Rabie (Class of 1966),
Etienne Uys (Class of 1966),
Harry Sharp (Class of 1969)*



*Brian McKay (Class of 1972),
Gavin Viljoen (Class of 1975),
Allan Whitehead (Class of 1965)*



*Nico Claassen (Class of 1991),
Michael Combrinck (Class of 1997),
Wendy Knott-Craig (OMU Manager),
Eardley Rudman (Class of 1990)*



*Nico Claassen (Class of 1991),
Riaan Claassen (Class of 1987),
Craig Dillon (Class of 1987),
Paul Engeler (Class of 1988)*



*Pindy van Deemter (Class of 1978),
Kevin Glegg (Class of 1978)*



Peter "Monkey" Biljon (Class of 1964)

GAUTENG GET TOGETHER

A number of Old Muirites based in Gauteng gathered for an official catch up and OMU Get Together on Friday 6 June at the Higher Ground Restaurant at St Stithians College.

A lot of laughter could be heard in the restaurant that evening with the lads moving to the balcony and doing the school War Cry.

Our thanks to the OMU Gauteng Reps for arranging this event: Asanda Singata (Class of 1999), Grant Wilkinson (Class of 1997), Brent Robey (Class of 1977) and Mfundo Magongo (Class of 2005).



Barry Lambson (guest), Dylan Nightingale (Class of 1995).



Rowan Luck (1997), Glen Elferink (1991), Asanda Singata (1999, Gauteng Rep), Leon Loyson (1997), Grant Wilkinson (1997, Gauteng Rep)



Alan Samuels (Class of 1973) and Gavin Clunnie (Class of 1972), Front Sbi Koyana (Class of 2000) and Thози Ntabeni (Class of 1999)



Dinner



Thози Ntabeni (Class of 1999), Lukhanyiso Msuthu (Class of 1999), Grant Wilkinson (Class of 1997)

WAYDE NAGY

MEDALS, DIVING AND THE NAVY (Wayde Nagy, Class of 2010)

Wayde Nagy, Class of 2010 and a Boarder of Muir College, joined the South African Navy in 2012 and completed his six-month Basic Military Training program in SAS Saldanha. During this time, he also participated in the Maritime Reaction Squadron selection and passed it, as well as passing the Diving Selection. Both these careers were exciting and challenging. However, he knew that his calling was to become a clearance diver for the South African Navy.

Some of his successes include:

- Clearance Diving part 1
- Deep diving to 54m
- Clearance Diving part 2 (which entails diving Supervision and Hyperbaric Chamber operator)
- Clearance Diver part 3
- Explosive Range Safety officer
- Explosives ordnance disposal operator.

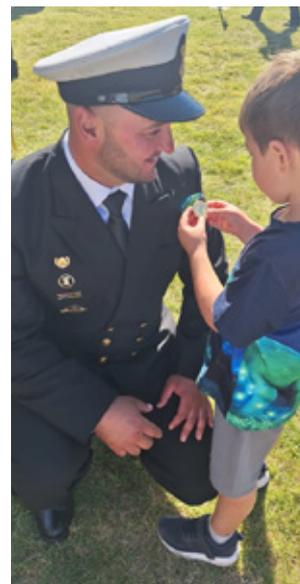
He recently completed his final course in the diving division and he is now a specialist on land and water when it comes to Underwater Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Operations (UIEDD).

Wayde has been deployed throughout Africa on both land and sea on different operations and exercises.

Earlier this year, the South African Navy honoured its members for distinguished service, acts of bravery, and long-standing dedication to duty during the Chief of the Navy Medal Parade - an official military ceremony. **Petty Officer Wayde Damian Nagy was awarded the SADC Medal** for his service during the Southern Africa Mission in Mozambique.

Wayde currently lives in Simonstown with his beautiful wife, Elindi, and his son Ethan. Wayde ends his interview by saying: "If I could tell you something that makes a Sailor's wife unique, it is that they are called the engine of a South African naval vessel, which ensures that when a sailor is deployed, they are the driving force which keeps all in order at home whilst being away from home."

Congratulations on this achievement, Wayde. Keep up the good work protecting our country and flying the Muir College flag high.



OLD MUIRITE UNION PODCAST

The OMU Podcasts have enjoyed great success over the past 18 months, and we extend our sincere thanks to Ncedo Marele (Class of 2005) for his exceptional work in hosting and producing these interviews. His professionalism and attention to detail have consistently delivered top-quality content.

Through the podcast, we've had the pleasure of reconnecting with many remarkable Old Muirites, and we'd love to hear from more of you. If you're interested in sharing your story, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the OMU Manager. And if she reaches out to you - say yes! Your experiences and insights are valuable to Old Muirites all over the world.



Gavin Stevens, EP 21



Rocky Headbush, EP 22



Phakamani Nesi, Class of 2008



Robert Blignault, Class of 1977



OMU BUSINESSS NETWORKING AND BUSINESS PROFILE

Introducing Mark Bradley & BVDM



Meet Mark Bradley. Although Mark has always supported the OMU, it's only recently that he has been, somewhat inadvertently, enrolled as a volunteer. While helping with an OMU auditing issue, and in conversation with Simon Clarke, Mark had a realisation about the OMU's Business Network.

Having previously been a member of an international business network, and been underwhelmed with the experience, Mark noticed that some aspects of these international business networks were quite onerous, restrictive and costly.

And his realisation was that the OMU's Business Directory was a golden opportunity for the union to showcase this vast network and provide mutual benefit to all.

"The quality of people we have in this OMU network is tremendous! We have an array of occupations and skill sets within a large bunch of people you can identify with, on a national and global level."



Mark has already started to explore and build on the idea by hosting a monthly business networking breakfast since last year November together with Simon Clarke. There has been great interest shown from Old Muirites attending the breakfasts and hope that this platform will continue to gain momentum. The intention is to get OMU business people to network and each breakfast will have a guest speaker to share with those attending.

"And aligned with the business breakfasts, we'd also like to rethink the OMU's online directory. We want to refresh that and get it working more smoothly by utilising technology and data more optimally. And in so doing, not only to benefit those in the directory, but also to promote and fund the OMU."

And now meet **BVDM**

During his day job, Mark runs the Gqeberha based, BVDM, an accounting firm specialising in full-spectrum business solutions for SMEs. From company registration and structural setup to monthly management accounts, tax planning, and retirement strategies, BVDM offers start-to-finish business support that goes beyond compliance.

What sets BVDM apart is not just technical expertise, but a commitment to value-driven service at a significantly lower cost. *"We're typically about 40% more affordable than the big auditing firms,"* says Mark. *"That's a substantial saving, especially for owner-managed businesses."*

Rather than seeing accounting as a grudge purchase or a tick-box for regulators, BVDM reframes their offering as a strategic opportunity. The firm works with clients to implement the right internal controls and systems, generate meaningful management reports, and then translate those insights into smarter business decisions. Whether it's compiling annual financial statements or advising on smarter tax and retirement structures, the focus is always on relevance, responsiveness, and real-world benefit.

The company's lean, centralised model allows it to maintain low overheads and agile service delivery while working with clients across South Africa. Thanks to digital tools and efficient data extraction, location is no barrier, and they have a national footprint.

BVDM's philosophy is to keep it simple for clients, do what's necessary and always add value. *"When structuring solutions, we ask: Is this a 'must-have' or a 'nice-to-have'? Are we really helping the client grow and save?"*

That pragmatic, partner-like mindset has earned BVDM a loyal SME client base. Even during COVID, the firm lost only two clients, a testament to its resilient, people-first approach.

I took Mark through a quick round of questions to further understand the BVDM legacy:

- **What was the main driver behind starting this business, and how does it shape your leadership today?**

In the larger accounting firms the partners had become inaccessible, and today, even more so. We created accounting and taxation services focused on SMMEs and owner managed businesses. And still today our ethos is about accessibility, for clients and staff. We want everyone to feel like they're part of a family, and that spirit drives our leadership approach and our service offering: open-door policy, genuine care, and a commitment to continuous learning.

- **What advice would you give to other entrepreneurs, based on your own journey?**

Keep it simple. Don't overthink or chase problems that don't exist. Rather focus on what truly matters.

- **What would you do differently if you had to start over?**

The profession needs to approach marketing differently - to think outside the box and not just in how we promote ourselves, but in how we communicate our value to the world.

- **What's the 'secret sauce' that sets your business apart?**

We've built our edge around value-added services. One of our most rewarding initiatives has been developing a niche product for the optometric field, which has been so impactful that we're now adapting it for other industries.

- **Which business personality do you admire, and why?**

Anton Rupert. He played a crucial role in building South Africa's economy, not just through enterprise, but by creating meaningful employment. That legacy inspires us.

- **What excites or concerns you about the future of your sector?**

I'm curious about the impact of AI in our industry. That is, how it will change the way we work, and how we can use it to improve both client service and internal growth.

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

To keep things real and create environments where people can grow.

GIVING BACK TO MUIR COLLEGE

Dr. Jon-Ray Pienaar and Dr. Daniel from Kadam Medical Centre recently addressed the Muir College scholars during assembly.

Old Muirite, Jon-Ray Pienaar (Class of 2016) shared part of his personal journey and emphasised the importance of perseverance, discipline and integrity. He also gave the learners some tips to manage stress and touched on the importance of reflection along your journey to your goals.

After matriculating in 2016, Jon-Ray studied medicine at the University of the Free State, graduating in 2021 and is currently practicing medicine at the Kadam Medical Centre in Kariega / Uitenhage.

The Old Muirite Union loves hearing about Old Boys who “come home” and inspire current learners and show them what life can bring them.

Our sincere thanks to both these doctors for sharing their time with the Muirites



Dr Daniel, Headboy Blake Raw and Jon-Ray Pienaar (Class of 2016)

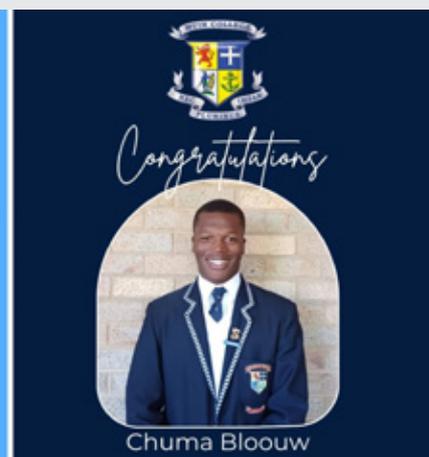


Wally Slack (Class of 1969) presents a commemorative artwork to David Francis (Headmaster) to honour the late Lieutenant Norman Biden, a Muir College old boy who bravely served and lost his life during the Korean War. This tribute reflects the enduring legacy of the men of Muir's past who helped shape the values and name proudly carried forward by generations to come.

SCHOOL NEWS

RUGBY

Congratulations to **Chuma Bloouw** and **Bulumko Kilani** for their selection into the EP U/18 Academy Team, playing in the U/18 Academy Week in Mpumalanga in June. **Nu'maan Jappie** has been selected as a non-travelling reserve for this team.



CHOIR

In May the Muir College Choir participated in the ATKV Appolous Regional Competition, which is a national choir competition that attracts choirs from all across South Africa, including Namibia.

This year, more than 290 choirs entered nationwide and Muir College performed very well receiving a Silver Certificate (70 - 79%).



SCHOOL NEWS

CHESS

Ihsaan Mahomed was placed 3rd in the U/20 Division of the final round of EP Chess Trials.



MIXED MARSHALL ARTS

Ryan McLaren received Bronze in Points Fighting, Silver in Jiu Jitsu Grappling and a fantastic Gold in Continuous Fighting at the recent Mixed Marshall Arts EP Championships.



ANGLING

Moosa Vawda was chosen to represent Eastern Province Raggies RASSPL Franchise in the upcoming Nationals 2025 Angling Tournament, to be held in Port Alfred.





OMU LEADERSHIP



MEET OUR OMU NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Old Muirite Union has representatives in various regions in South Africa who form part of the OMU Leadership team. If you have not yet met them.... Let us introduce you to them.

We thank these gentlemen for their ongoing support and commitment to the OMU.



Buchule Sibaca
Cape Town



Kevin van Tonder
Cape Town



Lance Hilliard-Lomas
Cape Town



Ross Heynes
Cape Town



Graham Smith
Durban



Mpumzi Platjie
Durban



Chris Lategan
East London



Khaya Makaza
East London



Asanda Singata
Gauteng



Brent Robey
Gauteng



Grant Wilkinson
Gauteng



Mfundo Magongo
Gauteng



Fabrizio Altichiero
Grahamstown



Jason Henman
Nelson Mandela Bay



Mark Manlee
Nelson Mandela Bay



Nonelela Gada
Nelson Mandela Bay



Runeshan Moodley
Nelson Mandela Bay

LIFE LESSONS

As shared with the OMU by fellow Old Muirites

As part of Muir College's 200-Year Celebrations, a collection of valuable life lessons was gathered from Old Muirites and compiled into a special commemorative booklet titled "200 Leadership Life Lessons." These insights reflect the wisdom, experience and enduring spirit of Muir College's alumni, offering guidance and inspiration for future generations.

Bun Hopley – Past Headmaster

*Don't sweat the small stuff. Focus on those things that are important and that you need to do. **'Procrastination is the thief of time.'** Do what needs to be done promptly and to the best of your ability. Don't keep people waiting and meet deadlines. That way we don't put unnecessary stress on ourselves and everyone is happy.*



Xolile Jonas, Class of 1991

I have learnt over the years to be patient and understand that your turn will come. That being said, it does not mean that you must not be vigilant to improve your life. Accept failure as a lesson and improve for the future.



Roland Cox, Class of 1987

Wow, there is a lifetime of wisdom out there, all to be personally experienced and savoured. For me, the most profound understanding I've gained is the importance of ongoing self-inquiry. Consistently exploring who you believe you are, physically, mentally and emotionally.

*The **'I am ...'** statements you make will generate your reality. And, hopefully, become more expansive and empowering over time. It's the ultimate meta-skill. A superpower even.*



LIFE LESSONS

Siphele Sixaso, Class of 2000

Martin Luther King once said: “A true measure of a man is not how he behaves in moments of comfort and convenience but how he stands at times of controversy and challenges”

Life and growth come in challenges and the ability to overcome them. During these times when the country and the world is facing global pandemics, unrest in historically peaceful areas, inequality and poverty is ravaging the world, especially our beloved country. True men are needed to stand up! True men are needed to show the others of what could be, true mighty men of Muir are equal to the task. The lessons learnt at this Alma Mater are life lessons that equip and have equipped us to navigate this world and the uncertain future. One just needs to look back at the glorious years, envision a prosperous future and work hard to secure the life that they wish for and do more for his family, his community, and his country.

I am only proud to say that: Muir College is that place that has for the past 200 years, equipped future leaders and still more to come. All one needs to do is to believe in themselves. So, if a true measure of a man is how one stands during challenges, then the mighty men of Muir are ready to be part of the solution.



WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Our condolences go to the families and friends
of those we have lost in the first and second quarter of 2025.

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

Hilton Warner Vermaak
1949

Neville Weaving
1955

John Myers
1956

Ronald Anderson
1956

Abel Bezuidenhout
1958

Lionel Thwait's
1959

Clive Reid
1959

Andre van Eyssen
1960

Anthony Kennelly
1962

Peter Gouws
1964

Eric Milton
1972

Dean de Villiers
1983

Kurt Nilsen
1990

Sebastian Lotter
1995

Ntsika Hintsa
2016

THE BACK PAGE

What a whirlwind of a quarter it's been - and now we're already speeding into the second half of 2025!

It was with sadness that I received the news of Hilton Warner Vermaak's passing (Class of 1949). What a wonderful age he reached. Hilton would reach out once or twice a year with an update or just a friendly chat via email. I'll truly miss those warm, thoughtful messages.

In this edition, you'll have read about several Old Muirites who are doing incredible things - whether making waves in their fields or giving back to Muir College. If you know of anyone with a great story to share, please send it along with photos. We'd love to feature them in the next newsletter and possibly on social media too.

I must say, I'm thoroughly enjoying the OMU Podcasts! It's been such a pleasure getting to know a diverse group of Old Muirites through these candid conversations.



OMU Manager, Wendy Knott-Craig

Now... should we talk about the Old Muirite Legends Rugby Team? They've certainly been keeping things lively - with lots of energy, ideas and passionate discussions about the game flying around!

A heartfelt thank you to the Newsletter Committee for their contributions - each member has been acknowledged in their respective articles. Your dedication and support are what make it possible to bring this newsletter together every quarter.

A special mention must be made to Driving Force, a company owned by an Old Muirite based in Dubai, who sponsors the design work for each edition of our newsletter. The design work is done by one of his team members in India - so this goes from my desk in Port Elizabeth, via Dubai to India and back again before hitting your desks.

I'm looking forward to reconnecting with many of you at Founders' Weekend - and finally meeting some of you who have become "virtual friends."

Until next time, take care and keep smiling.

Warm regards,

Wendy Knott-Craig

OMU Manager

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Follow the Old Muirite Union on social media platforms:

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