

THE Moorcock Chronicle

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THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SOUTH AMERICA *Rugby Tour*



On **Saturday 18 June 2005**; 23 very excited boys, 2 coaches, a photographer, a public relations manager and 13 TMC parents left Durban International Airport with tonnes of luggage, for Argentina and Uruguay.



The group arrived in Buenos Aires on **19th June** at 3:30 pm local time (8:30 pm in South Africa). After checking in and a quick shower, the team group (the parents were staying at another hotel) headed to a restaurant named Chiquilon for a typical Argentinian meal of steak and *patata fritas* (chips). Some fun was had during ordering of all meals on tour as the *camareros* (waitrons) speak NO English.

The first day of the tour, a public holiday, named *La Dia de las Banderas* (National Flag Day), was spent orientating and getting to know the way around parts of Buenos Aires via the *Subte* (Underground). The team members quickly found their way to the *Avenida Florida*, a famous pedestrian mall. The coaches explored the area around the *Casa Rosada*.

On **Tuesday 21st June** the entire group was taken to an *estancia* (ranch) called *La Cinacina*, 150kms outside BA on the *pampas*. Here all were entertained to specialist horse-riding by *gauchos*, folk dancing and singing, as well as

traditional food. Lunch was followed by *yerba mate*, a herbal tea, drunk by all South Americans. It looks a bit like green tea but tastes nicer, once sweetened. Later that evening, a group of parents and the coaches went to *Senor Tango*, a *tango* club in an area of Buenos Aires called Barracas. The dancers were immensely skilled. The *tango* singer at the club, Ricardo Soler, is considered to be one of the top *tango* singers in Argentina.



On **Wednesday 22nd June**; the team was taken on a tour of Buenos Aires, including a trip to La Boca, the artists' quarter and home to Boca Jnrs football team. The team played the first match of the tour under flood-lights that night and acquitted themselves really well, losing 24-12 to Hindu club, a top Argentinian club. Up until 10 minutes before the end of the game, TMC were leading, but then Hindu scored two tries. Pato Norreaga, who had helped the boys with their scrumming techniques on Monday afternoon, commented on how passionately the TMC boys had played with "*Grande corazon*" (big hearts). It was FREEZING cold. A beautiful photograph taken by Matthew Willman (Past Pupil), shows the steam rising from a scrum.

Thursday 23rd June saw the group packing for and traveling to Montevideo in Uruguay. The trip across the *Rio de la Plata*, or River Plate, which means river of silver, was by means of a very comfortable ferry named Juan Patricio. The crossing of South America's largest river took 3 hours. Upon arrival in Montevideo the team group was taken to the Hotel Ibis, a very modern hotel opposite a lovely bay ringed with palm trees. After a training session during the morning of **24th June**, the entire group was taken on a tour of Montevideo, including a stop at their national legislative buildings.

Saturday 25 June: The team had a well-deserved rest during the morning, whilst the coaches, Louis Conradie and Derek Bradley, and Matthew Willman, photographer, were hosted by the national coach of Los Teros (Uruguayan National team), Sebastian Pineyrua, on his farm outside Montevideo. During the afternoon parents, team, and coaches were taken by bus to the rugby field in the pampas where the second match of the tour was played against Pucaru Club. The rugby club-house is a picturesque blue building with some Tudor detail. TMC was narrowly beaten 15-12.

Sunday 26 June and Monday 27 June: The touring group left Uruguay to return to Argentina by ferry. The team headed off for a team-building session, "*kamp staalraad*"; where they had to erect tents to sleep in, participate in a race, carry logs and paddle canoes. Despite being exhausted by their ordeal, the boys managed to summon energy to continue with their shopping on Monday evening, accompanied by Mrs Yvette Arendse (TMC parent). I decided to go to the *El Colon Teatro* during the evening to attend a piano recital by an Argentinian pianist. To my delighted surprise, the coaches and Matthew left their tough "rigger" images at the hotel and decided to accompany me for an evening of *cultura*. The world-famous Colon Theatre's acoustics are considered to be of the best in the world after La Scala in Italy and The Metropolitan Theatre, in the USA.

Tuesday 28 June: Belgrano Day School is one of the most famous private schools in Argentina. It is a co-educational day school with 800



The School for all Seasons



PAST PUPILS' NEWS

Mike Leffler writes ...

Mark Luiz (1970) who has been in London for some time now has accepted a 3-year contract to run TV channels for cable and satellite in Tokyo. This makes him the first Past Pupil of TMC to work in Japan.

A visitor in July was **Peter Souchon (1972)** who is in the Accountancy profession in the UK. He is remembered here for his fine contribution in 1971-2 towards the building of the Rondavel.

Michael Deeks, a Foundation pupil in 1962, a strong academic in his schooldays and now a highly successful civil engineer in the Johannesburg area, e-mailed to put us in touch with former classmate **Rob Brislin**. Rob is a former Chairman of the Past Pupils' Association and also a former Trustee of the Thomas More Board. He is a lawyer by profession who used to practice in Durban but now operates in Johannesburg.

Andrew Walters (1987) is still in Perth, Australia, where he is doing lots of international weather projects, e.g. two concurrent projects in Switzerland and Kuwait. Turning to the UK, his sister **Cindy's** architectural practice 'is going through the roof' (in London, that is). His older brother **Michael (1984)**, also in the UK, is also doing well – I think in accounting.

Mark Lewis (1981) lives in Dorset, England,

where he is with a tea company. He is married with 3 children, the oldest of whom, a boy of 13, sounds like a chip off the old block. He plays scrumhalf or flyhalf and has had a go for his county side.

Congratulations to **Dominique Hardy (1996)** who married Amelie, a Mauritian girl on April 29th. The couple called in at Thomas More on a visit last year.

I had a cheery e-mail from **Graeme Borthwick (1981)** who lives near the northern beaches of Sydney and owns a business dealing in truck parts. He married a South African girl who was travelling in Australia and they now have 2 girls. He used to do a lot of yacht racing, but is now restricted to skiing!

All the information passed on has come the way of the e-mail. Another was from **Christian Giesen (1973)** who wrote in glowing terms of his time at Thomas More. He operates from home running an IT business called Express Talent and also has a craft business. His brother **Yvan (1975)** is in Barcelona, Spain, where he teaches English. Not bad for a Belgian!

Moving away from the e-mailers, someone I missed at The Country Fair was **Rory Waterson (1985)**, who after several years in Canada is back in South Africa – in Mossel Bay. It was while looking for him at the pony rides that I

came on **Danielle Pavan** and **Wesley Harding**, two of the stalwarts of 1994. Quite a few of their classmates are now in the UK, a case in point, **Elizabeth Klapprott**, who has just sent in a change-of-address in London. We send out copies of The Moorcock Chronicle to everyone on our books and it certainly is helpful to get advices of address changes.

A little while back **Michael Lane** was in contact. He is living in Milton Keynes, UK, and he is with an IT company called Level 3 Communications. He is a manager responsible for European Product Development. He is married to Tina and they have a child due in October. Mike has passed on some info relating to contemporaries. **Paul Evans (1992)** owns a clothing business in Durban. In fact, he and Mike Lane were business partners for a couple of years: **Marsha Humpolik** is, he thinks, a fitness instructor: **Tanli Lundgren** is back in Durban (in fact I saw her and **Rob Slater** at the breakfast stop in last year's Long Walk).

After school **Bronwyn Spence-Ross (2000)** studied Aromatherapy/Reflexology in Pinetown, then spent a while in retail and is now a receptionist/typist with Magna Removals.

Graeme Taylor (1993) has not forgotten his Geography, but has chosen the law as his profession. Like so many others he is in the UK – as a solicitor with the Commercial

Rugby Tour CONTINUED...

pupils from 2-18 years of age. The fees are US\$1000 per month. There are no grass playing fields at the school; they are situated about 40 minutes away from the school. Whilst our team tried their best, they were exhausted at the end of the tour and so lost 24-7 to a team whom, had they all been hale and hearty, they would have beaten with ease. It must also be remembered that the team had played a match against Treverton on the day prior to their departure to South America, played a further 3 matches on tour, and had to contend with jet lag, traveling from place to place, and a team-building camp. The Thomas More Rugby team did us proud, considering all they had to contend with. After being stuck in rush hour traffic after the game for an hour and a half, the weary tour party all assembled for a joint 'farewell to South America' dinner. Here, at the same restaurant where steaks had been enjoyed on the first night, goodbyes were said and memories shared.



Wednesday 29 June; after checking out of the hotels, the entire tour group was taken by coach to a tour of the Tigre Delta of the Parana River. This occurred on a riverboat along the Delta, past homes built on the islands formed by lava sediment washed down from the Andes Mountains over centuries. Many people have holiday homes here although some people live here all year round, even sending their children to a school on one of the islands. The only access to their homes and the school is by boat, so each home has its own jetty. The group departed for home that evening. A tired group of

Thomas Moreans touched down at Cape Town International airport on **Thursday, 30 June** at 8.30 am. After embarking again at Johannesburg International at 3.30 pm we all arrived safely in Durban at 5pm.

What a wonderful experience it was. To experience other cultures, traditions, cuisine and general hospitality was a privilege that all the tour participants will remember forever. A final *muchos gracias* and congratulations to all those people who made the tour possible. *Hasta luego y adios!*

Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen
- MARKETING & PR. MANAGER



Disputes section of a well-known City (London, that is) law firm. To quote him 'looks like I will be in London for the long haul'

Some news of **Andrew Hill (1999)** and his brother **David (2002)**. Andrew is busy with his Honours in Geography at Maritzburg Varsity, plays cricket and is actively involved along with **Grant Telfer (2000)** in adventure biking (hope I've got that right – they use mountain bikes and are good at it! Grant is working towards his Higher Education Diploma. Meanwhile, **David Hill (2002)** is at Durban Varsity where he is in 3rd year BCom in Accounting – aiming for his CA. David continues to achieve great things on the hockey field where he has obtained KZN colours at both Under 21 and at Senior level. Congratulations! A word on **John van Besouw**. He is at the Technikon in Cape Town where he is studying towards a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

Katie Lightfoot (2000) is in the UK. She has completed an arts management degree and is currently busy with BSc, printing, packaging and graphics.

Finally, I must add that most of the gossip has been derived from e-mails sent in. In fact, I haven't had to ferret out information. If you wish you could send an e-mail to mleffler@thomasmore.co.za. One thing that would help would be to help us keep up-to-date with both e-mail and postal addresses. Our aim is to reach as many people as possible via the e-mail.

Country Fair

30 July dawned brightly with a stiff breeze leading to some anxiety about the stability of some of the gazebos. Luckily, the wind died down and the sun shone on a very happy event. An amount of R65,000 was raised by Parents' Council on what was a most successful Country Fair Day. From the games alley, to the tombola, House of Horrors and quad-biking, to the arena events staged by the Hillbillies Dance Group, ER Rescue and belly dancers, fun was had by young and old. Past Pupil Mark Elmer (1994), came to visit the PR stand.



Madiba's

BIRTHDAY TORCH RELAY

Invitation to Madiba's 87th Birthday celebrations in Durban

"To enable as many South Africans as possible the opportunity to participate and share in Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18th July, and leading up to 23rd July Mandela Challenge, SA Rugby has organized, through its 14 rugby unions, the following:

"To begin the staging of a Six Day Rugby Torch Run Relay, in which at 00h01 on 18th July in the cell of 46664, on Robben Island, a torch is lit, which will then start the journey of the Rugby Torch Run, on a defined and publicized route throughout South Africa.

"The runners will be accompanied by a fleet of 3 branded support vehicles, of which one, the lead 46664 vehicle, will be dedicated to the collection of as many birthday cards and written greetings, along the route, which South Africans will have the opportunity of passing on for a handover on 23rd July in Johannesburg. These greetings will all be contained in a branded card box to build a "wall" of greetings from each of the unions into one structure at the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

"We, the Natal Sharks (Pty) Ltd, would like your involvement on the day that the torch runners reach Durban, scheduled for the morning of Wednesday 20 July..."

Thus read part of the invitation to Thomas More College to participate in the festivities. We were the only school in the Upper Highway area of Durban and its surrounds to be invited to the Torch Relay. The Junior and Senior Primary phases of the school made some beautiful cards for Madiba.

Early on the morning of 20th July, a group of 30 pupils and teachers headed for the ABSA stadium in Durban where the Torch Relay would be headed, led by Durban's Mayor, Mr Obed Mlaba. There was great excitement in the air with "Sharky", the Natal Sharks' mascot, entertaining the crowd who were dancing to the rhythm of a steel band.

At last, the much anticipated Torch Relay squad arrived, headed by the Mayor sporting his 46664 t-shirt and surrounded by runners and a 46664 brass band. Mr Mlaba was accompanied by paraplegic Jason Ware, who had broken his neck in a game whilst playing schoolboy rugby.

The Thomas More College pupils initially lined the route and later joined the runners and also posted their special birthday cards to Madiba.

The Mayor was later interviewed for television and the artist, Lungelo Gumede, who had designed the city of Durban's gift to Nelson Mandela posed with him.

From Durban and Shark country the torch was carried to the Griqualand West Rugby Union area and from there it made its way to Ellis Park where it was handed to Madiba on 23rd July, just before the Nelson Mandela Cup rugby game between South Africa and Australia.

Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen
- MARKETING & P.R. MANAGER



ASSOCIATION DAY

Now a regular date on the School calendar, Association Day was given its initial impetus by way of a Thanksgiving Service arranged by Father Boardman and bringing in representatives of the whole school community. This was followed by 'Looney Olympics' organized by Mr Lanz and entered into with gusto by the College, after which there was a series of hockey, soccer, netball and rugby matches between the Past Pupils and the School. All were contested with vigour.

There was an excellent turnout of Past Pupils, notably from the class of 1979, appropriately bearing in mind that this was Chairman René Missen's class! A particularly welcome guest was Bert van Iersel (1975), out on holiday from Holland. Association Day can be rated a great success.

Mike Leffler



JUNIOR PRIMARY Expansion

In the last Chronicle we included a photograph of the sod-turning ceremony in March. The classrooms are scheduled to be opened on 13 October. Here is what it looked like in June and as we go to print.



STOP PRESS!!

Past Pupils' *Build to Last Dinner*

At Thomas More College
on 1 November 2005 at 6:30 pm

For more details or to RSVP
GABI MARAIS on 031 - 764 8640

Somerset House Tour

We were privileged this year to host Somerset House from the Western Cape who had organised a tournament on our behalf when our hockey teams toured Cape Town last year.

They brought their unbeaten U/13 Netball team and their 1st XI Boys and Girls Hockey teams.

The afternoon witnessed closely contested matches and the building of relationships between the two schools.

Our hockey girls played first and continued their good form of play from the previous term, winning their match 2 – 1 in an exciting game. Then came a nail-biting netball fixture between two unbeaten sides in their respective leagues. The game was played in an excellent manner and I am happy to report that the Natalians pipped the Province rivals 6 – 5. Well done to our girls who remain the local champions.

The hockey boys played against a well-disciplined visiting side loaded with provincial players. As it was our first game together, it was a "baptism of fire" in which they coped exceptionally well against some very talented individual play. Our boys played excellently as a team and lost the game 3 – 1.

Gary Balarin

- 1ST XI HOCKEY COACH, PRIMARY SCHOOL



Matric Dance

Once again, Mrs Trish Pike and her Dance Committee outdid themselves, by producing a spectacular Matric Dance. The theme was *A Masked Ball* and each matriculant had a mask made especially for them. The dance was held in the ballroom of the Royal Hotel in Durban and was preceded by a cocktail party for parents and pupils at school. This gave parents, staff, friends and the press the opportunity to admire and photograph the elegant young ladies and very stylish young men.

