

THE Moorcock Chronicle

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THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



OPENING OF JOAN SAVORY ART BLOCK *at Thomas More College*



JOAN SAVORY

Joan Savory is the widow of Robin Savory, the Founder-Headmaster of the Thomas More School, as it was first called. Although she chose to remain in the background, her contribution to the School, especially in its early years, was immense. Initially, it was the support from Joan which sustained Robin when the going got difficult, and then, when the School became a reality, she played a significant role at a time when there were just three full-time teachers, including Robin, on the roll. Joan performed a variety of tasks including secretarial work, acting as librarian and, as a part-time teacher, taking History and, significantly, Art. Now, as has been narrated elsewhere, Joan has been suitably recognised by having the revamped Art Block named in her honour.

The existing College Art block, built during the 1960's, had been in need of an upgrade. Through a kind donation from Peter Savory, brother of the late Robin Savory (founder Headmaster of Thomas More College), the process of refurbishing the art block was started. Local architects, Walker Smith and Associates, cleverly transformed the old block by adding a mezzanine floor, and creating more light. The ceramic studio has been improved, and the photography lab enlarged. College art teachers, Lynette Perissinotto and Deirdre Harris, are thrilled with their new studio and will shortly begin teaching in it. The pupils are delighted that Art will be housed in a modern building.

At the opening, held on 25th April, Shane Cuthbertson, Principal of Thomas More College, read a letter from the widow of Robin Savory, Joan, now living in England, and for whom the block has been named. She writes: "I feel very honoured and quite delighted at the idea of a Joan Savory Art Block. Nearly 45 years ago, when money was scarce, and teachers even scarcer, Robin asked me to take art classes. I was terrified. I was not qualified. I just believe in children's innate creativity and the importance of giving them the opportunity to indulge it. And it was the children who made it work.

"Keeping costs to a minimum was crucial. To begin with we mixed up paint from dyes, begged newsprint from The Natal Witness, boiled gallons of flour glue for papier mâché and recycled whatever we could. Each year the children carried off prizes at the Women's Institute Show at the Kloof Village Hall. We even became the victim of

art thieves when one year a beautifully decorated necklace of papier mâché beads was stolen.

"That was only the tentative beginning. I'm sure much more has been achieved since then. Now, you have an art block. That sounds very grand, but I would like to think it's not a luxury, but a necessity. Maritain, one of the great thinkers of the 20th century, wrote that the cultivation of art develops an inner quality and strength and that these are at the heart of human nature and human dignity – sentiments with which Robin Savory, the founder of Thomas More College, would have been in perfect agreement.

"My wish for the school is that throughout your lives you can remain close to the beauty of art and do what you can to promote it."



THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL *Cricket Tour* TO ENGLAND



2006 Primary School Cricket Touring Team

On 18th June 2006, 14 very excited Primary School boys, accompanied by 3 teachers and some parents, will depart for London and the Primary School's first ever International Tour. The boys, who will be billeted at host schools, will play 7 matches and will also have time to do some exploring e.g. the London Eye, Madame Tussauds etc.

The itinerary is listed below should you wish to attend a game if you happen to be in the UK.

MATCH ITINERARY

- 20 June - Tuesday - Match 1 vs Papplewick - Berkshire
- 21 June - Wednesday - Match 2 vs The Beacon School - Amersham
- 23 June - Friday - Match 3 vs Port Regis School - Dorset
- 26 June - Monday - Match 4 vs Monkton Coombe School - Bath
- 27 June - Tuesday - Match 5 vs Beaudesert School - Cirencester
- 29 June - Thursday - Match 6 vs Cheltenham College - Gloucestershire
- 30 June - Friday - Match 7 vs Aldro School - Shackleford, Surrey



2006 *Long Walk*



The annual Thomas More College Long Walk took place on Friday 24th March 2006.

At 2.30 am on a crisp, clear morning, approximately 1000 walkers, of whom 300 were non-school participants, set out in high spirits. The breakfast stop, at the Hillcrest Methodist Church, saw bacon and egg rolls, prepared by volunteers, eagerly consumed by the walkers who had completed 21km by then. Any flagging spirits were soon revived by supportive friends and some attention from medical staff, and then it was off again. The walkers aimed to complete 55 or 80 kms and many did.

The route, which sees participants walking on tarred and dirt roads, through sugar cane, and across dam walls, ends at Summerveld, well-known in equestrian circles. The school bell had been moved to the finish, and each walker was welcomed "home" with the bell being rung. Some walkers ran the entire distance, and the first person to cross the finishing line, even though it wasn't a race, was the facilities manager at Thomas More College, Brendon Burger. Hot on his heels were Struan Allan, a Grade 10 pupil, and Phil Bradley, a past pupil and now at St. Benedict's, who flew down especially from Johannesburg to participate in the event. Past pupils turned out in numbers to participate in this great spirit builder, many of them having completed 8 or 9 Long Walks whilst they were still at school. The younger pupils from the Junior Primary school were not to be outdone by the older pupils. They walked between 4 and 12 kms with their class teachers and parents. One little person was overheard encouraging her friend: "Don't you dare bail!" Even the Pre-Primary children are part of the tradition; they walk around the school, sometimes chalking up more than 5 kms.

Despite aching limbs and blistered feet, most of the walkers vowed that next March would see them on the road again, making new friends and setting new goals for themselves.

Mike Leffler, who is still involved at Thomas More College as the liaison person of the Past Pupils' Association, was at the finish, in the company of the school's Senior Master, Allan Chandler, and Zulu teacher, Mrs Karen Singery. She is seen in the photograph, holding a future Thomas Morean, her son Raiken.



CO-ED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' *Sports Festival*

The second Co-educational Independent Schools' Sports Festival was again hosted this year by Thomas More College during the Easter holidays. From next year, the festival will be hosted by other Independent schools as well, starting with Uplands College in Mpumalanga. Four sporting codes namely Boys' Hockey, Girls' Hockey, Netball and Rugby were contested among 10 schools. Thomas More College, Felixton College, Creston College, Grantleigh College from KZN, Uplands College and Penryn College from Mpumalanga St Dunstan's College from Gauteng, and Hillcrest College and Gateway High School from Zimbabwe.

The Festival took place on April 5, 6 and 8 on the Thomas More College campus in Sykes Road, Kloof. Proceedings ended on 8th April with a brief prize-giving ceremony for best players in each sporting code, winners of the team events etc. The visitors also had some time to explore Durban and surrounds by visiting uShaka Marine World, Gateway and Pavilion Shopping Centres. A wonderful festive atmosphere prevailed at the festival, and despite fiercely contested matches, many new friendships were forged.



PAST PUPILS' NEWS

Mike Leffler writes...

Michelle Pringle (1995), for some years a travel agent in Umhlanga Rocks, is now here in Kloof as manager of the local branch of Pentravel

Seen at the wonderful musical production put on by the Senior Primary School was **John Foord**, one of the proud parents, and a scholar here in **1981**. He has a building business in the area.

I am indebted to **Sandro De Nadai (1978)** for a copy of an emailed photograph sent by classmate **Iain Morton**, who now lives in Hamilton, New Zealand. Attached photos provide an extra dimension to emails which are sent in. I am steadily building up a collection. Feel free to add to it!

Sean Olivier (2000) is working in Edinburgh, Scotland, as a 'junior contract executive' in IT (Spring plc) ... 'things are going really well' and he is looking forward to news.

Chris Wicks (1974) was recently remarried and among the expected guests were **Penny (1977)** from the UK, **Stephen (1978)** Howick, SA, and from Queensland, **Phillip Nagle**. Chris has sold his restaurant in Port Fairy, Victoria, and has now gone back to banking, this time with the Anzac Bank.

Just the other day we had something of an on-line reunion involving **Roosevelt Sokhulu**, **Marco Gardella** and **Sithembiso (Albert) Nzimande**. Marco is particularly keen to get in touch with the likes of Trevor Massey-Hicks, Mike Andrew and others from **1991**.

Maria Stuttaford (1988) has enjoyed Scotland – 'Amazing landscapes and ever-changing sea and skies', but seems destined to leave her post at St Andrew's University to return to England – to a place called Northwood near Watford. **Peter Stuttaford**, meanwhile (**1986**) continues to do well in Florida. Hopefully no more hurricanes!

Had a cheery missive from **Brendan Chidrawi (1992)** who lives in Norwood, Jhb, and works in advertising as a senior designer in a studio in Sandton. He seeks contact with contemporaries from 1992.

Nicolette Crozier (1996). I had an email from Nicolette a while back but as this is the first Chronicle in 2006 I am only now able to pass on her message which is on behalf of a friend, Dr **Shane Fonseca**. He is operating as a Chiropractor at Chiropractic First at the Umhlanga Medigate Centre, Suite 2, Gate 2. So if you are suffering from aches and pains and are living in the Umhlanga area why not give it a try?

A December email comes from **David Mills (1988)**. He describes himself as 'living a harmoniously peaceful life on a small-holding 20 kms south of Perth, Western Australia.' He is married with a 4-year old son and works for himself in the open-cut mining sector.

Tilisha Govender (2001) has completed her B Com degree and is currently at a College in Central London while on an extended holiday overseas. An opportune moment for me to issue an appeal to Matriculants from, say, 1990 onwards to advise us of degrees attained. It is good to keep track.

Rohan Bolton is getting there. He has 2 years to go with his B AppSc Human Movement Studies at Brisbane University.

Sarita Briedenhann (2003) lives in Milton Keynes in the UK where she is aiming to study nursing or midwifery.

Looking in on the Ponds stop on the Long Walk it was pleasing to see several Past Pupils in support. Three whom I saw were **Sean Standaevan**, **Jason Walker** and **Philip Edmonds**, but as my visit was relatively brief these names are only representative. I am sure that there were many more. The Long Walk retains its strong appeal!!

Micky Bolton (1974). Micky and family have moved from the Bury St Edmunds area to the village of Badwell Ash, also in Suffolk. He is a sculptor by profession, specialising in pieces sculpted from discarded motor vehicle scrap. To judge by her email address, Micky's wife Ruth runs a restaurant, The Chalice. Staying ecclesiastical, the family have acquired the vicar's house. Curiously, I once stayed there when the Vicar was Rev Christopher Leffler, a relative of mine – one of those 'isn't it a small world' situations. Micky Bolton also builds and races historic racing cars.

Yvan Giesen (1975) lives in Barcelona where he teaches English to Spanish students. Not bad for a Belgian! He may be coming out here in August to visit family, including older brother **Christiaan** who has been seen at several Past Pupils' functions

Andrew Gay (1983) is Retail Network Manager for Engen oil in Port Elizabeth. He travels a 6000km beat from Middelburg, Cape, to Stilbaai, W Cape. He has had a back operation which put paid to his cycling but it seems not hockey. He has a 10-year old daughter who is something of an academic (unlike father: that comes from Andrew not me!), is a strong swimmer and blue belt karate. Andrew has run into some contemporaries, eg **Cindy Behan** (in Jhb where she runs her own printing company) and **Chris Tapsell** in Cape Town. Andrew enquires – anyone out there got contact with **Damian Turner**? Last I heard he was a detective in Winnipeg, Canada.

Nigel Evans (1974) lives in Bedford, England, but supports Wales when it comes to rugby. He is vice-president of the local rugby team (Bedford Athletic). Rather like **Carl Mayo** further south (near London), Nigel has been supportive to the extent of providing employment for a young South African player. He, Nigel, has a 17-year old son who plays in a rock band, he has a small health and safety consultancy

and he preserves fond memories of his time at Thomas More, including a spell as a boarder (shared a dorm with **Errol Finniss** amongst others).

Laura Nutten (1994) "would love to get in touch with anyone who finished Matric in 1994". Her email address is laura.nutten@hotmail.com.uk. Two 1994's I have seen recently have been **Murray Smith** and **Ryan Smith**, both in refrigeration, Murray locally and Ryan in the UK. He had come out to get married.

Natalie Dubeau (nee **Pringle - 1992**) is happily married to an Englishman and they have 2 children, 7 and 6. When she first moved to the UK she was based in Brighton where – wait for it – she was the licensee of a snooker club. She married a very successful, self-employed carpenter/builder and once the children came along Natalie's main preoccupation became the family. However, she did take the opportunity to obtain teaching qualifications which she did with notable success. Thinking back to her TM days she wrote ... "Those were definitely the best years and the most defining. TM to me was like a big extended family."

A welcome visitor a while back was **Mark Hardy (1970)**. An expert in grasses and the holder of a PhD, he functioned in the Maritzburg district for some years, but is now down in the Cape, Montagu to be precise. He is involved with the Department of Agriculture but I am afraid that the details escape me. Mark, if you get to read this, please fill me in!

Libby Redding (2000) obtained her BSc degree from UCT in 2003. After a break, she was offered a position with ERM (Environmental Resources Management) and is now a researcher. ERM is the biggest environmental consulting firm in the world.

Andrew Kerr (2000) has done particularly well in his studies and is headed for Oxford University in August, to take up a Rhodes scholarship.

John Olsson (1965), who has made enthusiastic contact, lives in Wales, in a house that goes back to before Thomas More was born. He is a Professor of Linguistics (remember Prof Higgins in My Fair Lady), an author of university textbooks, has worked for major police forces in the UK and USA (a recent case involved the author of 'The Da Vinci Code' – accused of plagiarism), learned 6 languages including Chinese and much else besides.

Very impressive I must say, but he has not forgotten his roots and is warm in his praise of Thomas More's, a school of which he preserves fond memories. Along with another early 60's pupil, **Christopher Boast**, now in Adelaide, South Australia, he has much to say about the Long Walk, expeditions to the Molweni Gorge, the soap box derby, the Tour de Kloof cycle race, the kite competition, the Commando Course above Dalberg's and so much more. Good to hear from you.

PAST PUPILS' NEWS

Also going back some years are two brothers, **Gregory** and **Phillip Scheurich** both of whom I associate with horse-riding and the Long Walk (around the time of **Gavin Lawrie** and **Mark Welch** circa early 70's). The family emigrated to New Zealand as soon as Greg matriculated (it was he who got in touch), and he has been there ever since, currently in Hamilton, North Island – and home of the Chiefs, the Super 14 rugby franchise.

Greg took a BSc, majoring in Animal Physiology, at one stage worked part-time in a medical laboratory, ultimately converting it to full-time until he took a sideways turn, as it were, and went in for quality control management. By all accounts he is happy in what he is doing.

Phillip, meanwhile, went into building and has prospered, so much so that he has been able to semi-retire and now focusses his attention on his 50-acre farm.



Thomas More Hockey Club

The Thomas More Hockey Club entered two men's and one ladies' team into the KZN Hockey Association leagues for the 2006 season, which started on the weekend 22/23 April and is set to run through until early September.

The ladies' first side competes in the 4th division and the squad includes several past pupils. Chantal Hoffer has taken over the team organisation from Tracey Sullivan this year, and has introduced team practices, which are held on Wednesday evenings. Chantal can be contacted on 072 386 5558. They have played four games so far this season and are playing well as a team, although have yet to record their first win of the season. They did however play particularly well against the Varsity 4th side and went down narrowly to a single goal in the last minutes of the game.

The men's first side will again compete in the second division this year after their fourth place finish in this division last year. The team comprises predominantly past pupils who matriculated from TMC during the last five years or so, the class of 2002 being the most prevalent, and is run by a TMC parent. They have played three games so far recording two wins and one loss, the 3-2 win in a keenly contested match against a strong Varsity 3rd side being the season's highlight so far. Their next game is against Berea Rovers at the Riverside Astro turf in Durban North.

The men's second side, also run by a TMC parent, will compete in the fifth division in 2006. It is pleasing to see both TMC past pupils and current pupils well represented in this side, which has tremendous potential. René Missen (class of 79) anchors the team at the back in the sweeper position, and has been seen putting his rugby skills to good use on the hockey field. Their current record of one win from four starts does not reflect the team potential, which was developed during the off-season when many of the players also played indoor hockey together.

2006 is the first year that the new Leffler field at the school is being used as a venue for home games by the Hockey Club. The ladies usually play on a Saturday afternoon and the men on a Sunday morning, except for the first team who play all their games on Astro turf, mainly at Queensmead in Durban or Riverside in Durban North.

Should anyone be interested in playing for the Club in the leagues or socially in annual events, such as the Association Day matches against the school teams, or in helping out with umpiring or supporting our matches, please contact Chantal on 072 386 5558, Glen on 073 370 9393, or Johann on 084 510 5764.

Johann McLeod



THE ARCHIVES

We are currently compiling a comprehensive archive of the history of Thomas More. If anyone has any items, be it photographs, print material (e.g. programmes, reports, news letters, certificates, documents, magazines) or clothing to add to the collection please send them to Mrs. Bregman in the Dalberg Library.

OBITUARIES

Bradley Redman

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing away of Bradley Redman on 13 May after a short illness. The Redman family has had a long association with the school. Bradley joined Thomas More in Grade 3 in 1998, and was in Grade 11 this year. Brother Ryan and sister Jade are both past pupils. He was a delightful young man, with an enthusiastic appreciation of all aspects of life. Bradley was thoroughly involved in school activities. He had a particular passion for water sports, and excelled at swimming and water polo, but was also involved in many other extra-mural activities. His considerate nature ensured that he made many friends, who have been devastated by his passing away. He will be missed terribly. A memorial celebration of Bradley's life was held in the Habberton Hall at Thomas More College on the 19th of May and was attended by hundreds of fellow pupils, friends and family members.

Mark Cox

Mark, who was a member of the 1971 Matric group, died unexpectedly in December last as a result of a sudden heart attack. For many years after leaving school he ran an asphalt business, which has now been taken over by his sons.

As a boy Mark was both strong of limb and fleet of foot and so was able to shine on the rugby field both as a prop forward and as a wing. Then, he, in tandem with Luke Brouckaert, provided powerful opposition as shot-putters in our annual Triangular Athletic meetings with Carmel College and Brettonwood. He was also a keen supporter of the Past Pupils. He will be sadly missed.

Our sincere sympathies go out to his widow, Sharon, and to the whole family.



2006 ASSOCIATION DAY

This event is well entrenched as a feature on the calendar both of the School and of the Association. Traditionally it begins with a religious service in the Hall, led by Father Boardman, after which the focus is on a series of sporting events - hockey (boys and girls), netball, soccer, rugby and possibly tennis and squash.

This year Association Day will be held on **SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER** so you are getting ample warning! We would love to see you here and importantly having as many Past Pupils as possible involved. Don't wait to be asked. Volunteer!

Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The AGM, held in the Ken Mackenzie Centre on 6 May 2006, was a notable success, with an excellent turnout both in terms of numbers and of the spread over the years from the 60's right up to the present. Good to see many new faces.

The proceedings kicked off with Anthony Campbell and Jonique Oosthuizen, Chair and Vice-Chair of the SEC, adopting a novel approach in enlightening the gathering regarding life at Thomas More College in 2006. Breakfast followed, then the AGM proper at which the outgoing committee was re-elected en bloc.

To bring the proceedings to an end, Chairman René Missen took the opportunity to induct two notable Past Pupils, Roy Alderdice and David Frolick, as Honorary Life Members of the Association. Both were Founder Pupils of Thomas More in 1962 and both have made very significant contributions to the school - Roy as Chairman first of the Association, and currently as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Dave who has made a huge contribution over many years to the Old Boys Cricket Club in particular, and also to the Hockey Club.

THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PADSSA REPRESENTATIVES

We are very proud of the 14 Thomas More Primary School pupils who were chosen to represent PADSSA in Hockey (U12 and U13). These pupils will be going to the Southern Coastal Hockey Trials. Well done to the coaches and players!



They are from left to right (front): T. Tomlinson, K. Thompson, T. McCann, K. Gibbings, L. Carvalho, R. Maistry and A. Duff
Back row from left to right: T. Harper, J. Rencken, D. Blewitt, PJ Voigt, M. Wilson and M. Lerotholi. Absent is B. Beghin
Coach in back row is Mr G. Balarin.

PETER TERRY-LLOYD WINTER FESTIVAL *held at Grantleigh*

The Winter festival, held in early May, saw the following schools participating: Arboretum PS, Creston College, Eshowe JS, Felixton College, Gratton PS, Mtubatuba PS, Richards Bay PS, Richards Bay Christian School, Richardia PS, Suid-Natal PS, St Catherine's School, Thomas More PS, Heuwelland PS and Grantleigh PS.

There were to be no winning schools, as not all the schools played against each other's teams in the codes of Hockey, Netball and Rugby.

The pupils were there to enjoy themselves, to the best of their abilities, knowing that they would be playing both stronger and weaker teams than themselves. In Peter Terry-Lloyd's words: "Those teams that walk away saying that 'we have done our best, win or lose' reflect the true meaning of the word sportsmanship".

Thomas More Primary School's 1st team played two rugby matches at the festival and won both.



EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS at Thomas More College

CHAPEL Refurbishment

Easter time saw a "new look" to the TMC Chapel.

Thanks to the generous donations from two Thomas More families and the weekend chapel community, Fr Boardman has a beautiful new set of vestments, the altar has new cloths, and there is a new set of "The Stations of the Cross". The latter is a set of 15 pictures depicting the passion of Christ. TMC stalwart, past pupil Matthew Willman, offered 15 of his original photographs taken at various locations around the world. This meaningful pictorial meditation has added to the special atmosphere in our Chapel. Fr Boardman designed a beautiful arrangement of flowers and drapes for the entrance and so we have a quiet and attractive chapel which is both prayerful and pleasant to be in.



SWEET & SAVORY COFFEE SHOP

The Sweet and Savory Coffee Shop, which operates out of the Savory Pavilion, opened its doors for trade early in February and has proved to be a huge success. Initially used mainly by mothers waiting for their offspring after school, it is now frequented by parents bringing grandparents to lunch, celebrating birthdays, and more recently by the Matric pupils, who have been allowed to use the Coffee Shop after school as a privilege.

Seen in the picture are Wendy Nelson, Proprietor, and Joyce Mgenge, her able assistant. Please pop into the Coffee Shop when you're in the area; operating hours are 7.30am-3.30pm Mondays to Fridays.



INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS



The school has now taken delivery of four new Smart Boards and will be installing another four on completion of the new College classroom block. These boards allow the white board to function as an interactive computer screen, thus allowing internet, Microsoft packages, videos etc. to be displayed via the screen. The board is touch-sensitive and can be operated directly from its own surface rather than a keypad. This brings a whole new dimension to teaching that will certainly be a lot more stimulating to the pupils.

To the left is a photograph of Mrs Marika van Wyk teaching a Science lesson using the Smartboard in her Science Laboratory.

Build to Last

The Build to Last project, started last year and referred to in the previous Chronicle, has reaped rewards. Several minor capital items were donated by parents, such as drinking fountains, shade shelters on playgrounds, and benches around the campus. Donations of tiles for the upgrading of the Pre-Primary toilet block, as well as donations towards the upgrading of signage around the school, were also received. As regards major capital projects, the Board of Trustees has agreed to the construction of a new classroom block for the College, to be situated above the existing classrooms, where the present thatch gazebo is located. It is hoped that construction will commence soon. They have also approved the building of a new swimming pool, to be used for both swimming and waterpolo. This will be situated beyond the dead-ball line on Savory Field. Some Past Pupils attended a dinner, held in November, where they were informed of the developments and asked to participate in building a school that will last for many generations to come.

Below is a list of the minor projects, that will ensure that the school's facilities are adequate for the pupils' needs.

MINOR CAPEX ITEMS

Air-conditioning: Classrooms	Outreach sports equipment
AV upgrade of hall	Playground equipment
Benches	Playing kit
Books & models: Library	Posters, DVD's etc.
Braai area for Savory Pavilion	Primary School costume room
Bowling machines	Primary School Library upgrade
CIS & GPS equipment: Geography	Rain shelters for car park
Computer software: educational games etc.	Scholarships and bursaries
Drama costumes	Scoreboards
Drinking fountains	Smartboards
Orchestral instruments	

Should any past pupil be interested in donating any of the listed items, please contact Monica Sloane on msloane@thomasmore.co.za

Contributors: Mike Leffler and Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen



Shade shelters on Savory Field.



New Junior Primary playground equipment.



Sod-turning for the new pool.



Construction begins on the new pool.

The School for all Seasons - www.thomasmore.co.za