

THE *Moorcock Chronicle*

EDITION 17 - 2006

THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



OPENING OF THE NEW SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO POOL *at Thomas More College*

The new pool was officially opened on 27th October by Roy Alderdice, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and a founder pupil of the school. The pool, which took 20 weeks to complete, was built by contractor Mike Darné, who made use of various other sub-contractors along the way. The pool's dimensions are 25m x 35m. This allows two water-polo matches to take place simultaneously. The pool will be used by the school's existing 10 water-polo teams, as well as the High School and Primary School swimming teams. During PE classes, the pool will also come into its own. During the opening ceremony, guests were welcomed by Shane Cuthbertson, Principal of the College, after Fr Boardman blessed the pool.

Thereafter, Eric Tocknell, who had been very involved in the fundraising drive for the pool, gave a short address. A friendly water-polo match was played between the 1st Boys' and 1st Girls' teams as guests arrived. After Eric's address, the pool was declared officially open by Roy Alderdice, who fired the starter's pistol at the start of the school's provincial representatives' fun race. Afterwards, a fun swimming relay was held, with the different phases of the school being represented. When the final swimmer touched the side, balloons in the Thomas More colours were released. The Headmaster of the Primary School, Nigel Sloane, thanked all the guests for attending.



THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL *Cricket Tour* TO ENGLAND



2006 Primary School Cricket Touring Team en route to the UK via JHB.
On the left is Capt. von Bardeleben, Jason's father, who flew them to JHB.
Front Row (l - r): S. Jensch; S. Wood; M. Whitelaw; P. Voigt; B. Beghin.
2nd Row: Capt. von Bardeleben; J. von Bardeleben; J. Rencken (Capt.); D. Blewitt;
J. Chenery; M. Whattrus; M. Wilson; S. Clark.
Back Row: C. Campbell-Gillies; Mr. T. Henderson; C. Ruddock;
Mr. M. Moolman; J.D. MacMillan; Mr. H. van Ellewee.

The 1st XI cricket team, which toured to England during the July holidays, enjoyed success both on and off the field. Numerous compliments were received from teachers, coaches and host parents regarding the conduct of the boys. They played 7 games, won 1, drew 3 and lost 3.



Country Fair

Saturday 5th August dawned bright, clear and very cold, after snowfalls throughout the country earlier in the week. Despite the chilly conditions, visitors to the Country Fair turned up in their thousands and enjoyed their day with us. The games alley was very well frequented by the young Thomas Moreans as well as other young visitors to the school. The many yells emanating from the House of Horrors indicated that the youngsters thoroughly enjoyed being terrified! Dads and Moms congregated in the beer tent to watch a nail-biting SA vs Australia Rugby game, or browsed through the flea-market, book, and white elephant stands. The tea garden also did brisk trade.



GIRLS' HOCKEY TOUR TO *Cape Town*

The Thomas More Primary School's Girls' 1st Hockey team had a very successful tour to Cape Town during the July holidays. The girls were accompanied by coaches Tracey Meikle and Gary Balarin. They played 5 games and won 4 of them. Results are as follows:

- TMPS vs Pinehurst Won 5-1
- TMPS vs Somerset Won 4-1
- TMPS vs Wynberg Won 3-0
- TMPS vs Kenridge Lost 1-0
- TMPS vs Western Province U14 B Won 1-0

There are 5 Provincial players in the TMPS team. The KZN representatives are: Amy Meredith U13A, Reantha Maistry U12A, Kirsty Gibbings U12A, Lee Carvalho U12A, and Toni McCann U 12B.

Below is a photograph of the girls at the V&A Waterfront.



THOMAS MORE COLLEGE'S OWN NATIONAL ROCK CLIMBING CHAMPION

Benjamin de Charmoy, a 16-year-old Grade 10 pupil at Thomas More College, won the Open men's division of the SA Premier Indoor Bouldering Competition at the end of July. He was also the youngest competitor in this event. Prior to this achievement, Benji was placed 1st in the U18 division during the National Outdoor Climbing event held in May. At that competition, he was placed 3rd in the Men's division. Benji, seen below on the rock-climbing wall at Thomas More College, started climbing in Grade 3 and says that he climbed more seriously from Grade 5 after being inspired by a friend who was a rock-climber.



PAST PUPILS' NEWS

Mike Leffler writes...

Nigel Briggs (1971) remains a dedicated canoeist and, along with his younger brother David, he had the distinction in June of representing South Africa at the Wildwater World Championships in the Czech Republic. Well done!

Wesley Letsolo (1999) has married a Canadian missionary he met at the Bible College. The happy couple migrated to Canada where Wesley hopes to continue his interest in IT.

I am indebted to **Stacey Galliver** for some news, mainly academic, pertaining to some of the girls of the class of 2001. **Lauren Cook**, busy with 3rd year Social Science at UKZN, hopes to do Honours next year: **Kelly McCallum**, also at UKZN, is doing a BSc, majoring in genetics and biochemistry, again with Honours in her sights: **Karen Englefield** aims to be a pre-primary teacher and will be in 2nd year next year: **Robyn Wymer**, meanwhile, is a qualified radiographer, currently working at the Albert Luthuli Hospital.

Nicola Freeman is in a different field altogether. She has been a beautician for some years and now hopes to go overseas to work on cruise liners. Bringing further variety, **Lisa Scheepers (Le Roux)** got married earlier this year and she and her husband, Mike, live and work at the Luthuli Rhino Reserve near Mkuze.

Stacey Galliver is completing an internship in Biokinetics at a private practice in Pinetown. Next year she is opening her own practice in Kloof.

Chris Wicks (1974), who sadly lost his wife to illness a couple of years ago, remarried recently. The accompanying wedding photograph shows Chris and bride Bronwyn together with boys Tom and Charlie, sons of Chris and his late wife Lisa. Notice the kilts!

Still on the wedding theme, Thomas More was well represented at the marriage of **Wesley Harding (1994)** and Melanie, daughter of Dawn Haynes. Father Boardman celebrated the Nuptial Mass at the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Westville - and the reception was at the Tala Game Reserve (**Stuart Hilcove**, the owner, was a foundation pupil at Thomas More). In the bridal party were **Jonathan Haynes and Ross Harding (2000)**, as well as **Erin Harding (1998)**, and **Meg Logan** the new Drama Teacher. Unfortunately, **Greg Powell-Rees (1994)** scheduled to have been a groomsman, didn't make it due to the London Heathrow Terrorist emergency.

Asheen Behari (1986), after several years as a dentist in the Durban area and a further 6 years in Kensington, London, eventually capitulated to the English weather and has now joined a practice in Perth, Australia. He has also taken a post-graduate course in Sydney and tutors students at Perth University. He seeks to build relationships within the Perth dental fraternity - so I put him onto **John**

von Thomann who emigrated to Australia after matriculating from Thomas More in 1970. Asheen's mother and younger brother, **Amun (1988)** have also moved to Perth.

Dean Howarth (1998) is back in Durban after 4 years in the Cape. He is now working in a construction company but hopes to get back into set design and construction as the film industry becomes established in Durban.

Travis Bussiahn (1997) is with the popular East Coast Radio where he produces the equally popular Breakfast Show.

Bianca Burton (nee Morris (1998)) took a law degree at the University of Natal and, having served articles in Durban, was admitted to the Bar in 2005. She married Warren Burton and they have now emigrated to Florida, USA

An interesting visitor to the School was **Yvan Giesen (1975)** who teaches English to Spanish students in Barcelona. Not bad for a Belgian! In fact, Yvan, while visiting relatives in Crestholme, made use of the time to do some touring around South Africa with some of his Spanish students. His brother, **Christiaan (1973)**, accompanied him to TMC. Operating from Crestholme he maintains an IT/software development business besides going in for machine embroidery.

Another visitor from way back was **Patrick Gallwey (1976)**, Production Manager for E Snell and Co, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, and living in Bedfordview not far from Isando near Germiston.

Philip Nagle (1974) was over not long ago on a visit from Brisbane, Australia. He came specifically to see his parents and sisters and their families. The opportunity was taken to feature a mini-reunion of friends from his 1974 class - **Neil Fox, Paul Fattorini, Greg Courtney** and **Raoul le Breton** (somewhat fortuitously as he had travelled from the Cape to celebrate a family occasion of his own and was able to join the party - to which I was also invited).

Unhappily, just a few weeks later **Philip's** mother Pam passed away unexpectedly and, of course, Philip returned from Brisbane. Pam, I may say, was a truly wonderful person and was always very happy to extend hospitality to groups of Thomas More boys when they passed through Wakkerstroom en route to the Kruger National Park. Our very sincere sympathies go out to Joe, her husband, to Philip and to other family members. R.I.P.

Rob McIntyre (1969) came through with an email in which he said there was "nothing much to report in our lives". I wonder! Wife Bryony moved from a village school to one of 1500 pupils ... daughters growing up ... family still goes skiing ... had a break from their usual Scilly Isles summer holiday, replacing it with Tuscany, a particularly alluring part

of Italy ... Rob's Reigate, Surrey, business continues to grow.

News from Dominic Dalais and family. First **Danny (2002)** should finish his degree in Accounting at the end of the year and has secured a position with Deloittes in Brisbane; **Nick** continues with his BComm (Acct) studies; Nick and Danny are earning some money packing shelves at the local supermarket, from 10 p.m. to 2 am!

Dominic himself is involved in supply teaching but is really aiming at a return to business, while **Christine** is still at the University of Queensland library. Interestingly, Dominic has made contact with **Philip Nagle**, also a resident of Chapel Hill, and with **Chris Wicks (1974)**. Good to see some Thomas More contacts being made abroad.

Paul Hopper, pioneer pupil from 1962, has given me news of his son, **Mark (1999)**. He is working at the Washington Mandarin Orient Hotel, Washington, DC. Initially, he had a stint as back of house manager, and has now been promoted to restaurant manager for their top restaurant, apparently the best in Washington.

While on the subject of catering, I have lost touch with **Conor O'Hagan-Ward**, last heard of in the Berg. Can anyone give me his address?

Debbie Sutton (now Mrs Brown) (1988) is married and has been living in the UK for more than 16 years. With her husband, she is involved in IT - and has no fewer than 4 children with another on the way. 3 of the children play musical instruments and/or sing in choirs.

Calvin Masson and **Jason Missen** were prominent members of the unbeaten Thomas More 1st XV of 2004. Both were unlucky not to make the Natal Craven Week side and now a further year on and out of school, both are showing promise of bigger things in the future.

Calvin has been making waves with the Gold Coast Breakers, Brisbane, in their Under 19 team for which he was the top try scorer. In fact, he was chosen for the Queensland Under 19 team, but unfortunately the expiration of his visa prevented him from running out with the Queensland U19's. Watch this space!

Meanwhile, **Jason** has been offered opportunities with Stade Toulouse, France, and Dunstaple in England, but he chose to stay with Durban Collegians and is part of the permanent squad which comprises the Natal Under 20 team. At club level he received the Most Committed Player Award in the Under 20A category.

Michael Walters (1984) an accountant in Fleet, Hampshire, UK, paid a welcome visit recently, bringing his wife and children. He is odds of 22 years out of school and has only just retired from rugby! He conveyed news of former classmate, Carl Mayo who was at one time with the SA Police, has remained

PAST PUPILS' NEWS

involved with security and now has a job in that line in Dubai.

Alastair Ramlakan (1993) is currently working at the 'Pebble Beach' nuclear research establishment in Pretoria - which has as its aim the production of a far safer reactor than the old fuel rod type in use at the time of the Chernobyl disaster. He visited the school recently and was persuaded by Ken Garside to speak to senior Physical Science students of his and very interesting it was, too. He also passed on family news. **Ravel (1990)** is an orthopaedic surgeon in the Durban area. His wife has just had a baby daughter, Jemma. Meanwhile, **Ravesh and Raveen** are both in the world of finance.

It is always pleasing to make contact with Past Pupils not seen or heard of in many years. Such a one is **Gary Gouws (1978)** who holds a senior position with Mercedes cars.

The world of hotels and catering seem to exert a strong attraction for Thomas More products. We have already had **Mark Hopper**, and now two very recent leavers, **Shaun Standaevan** and **Justin Sievwright-de Beer** have come to light. Shaun is due to take off to a job in faraway Qatar.

Some news of the **Barkers**. **Pierre** is a pediatrician in N. Carolina, USA. He travels a lot and is currently involved in a major HIV project for medical research. **Alain**, a flautist who once taught at TMC, is one of the directors of the Indiana State University Music School. London has claimed **Patrick**, a businessman, and **Michelle**, a designer. Martine, a journalist with the Cape Argus, missed out on the Thomas More experience (left school before co-education came here).

The **Barkers** were all children of the long-serving Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the late **Dr. Edo Barker** and his widow, **Paulette Barker** who passed on the information at the same time as pursuing the subject of co-education.

Daniel Lemon (1994) who has his own web-site has built up a formidable array of email addresses, mostly pertaining to his own 1994 group - predominantly resident in the UK.

Alain Rouillard (1970) has been living in the Johannesburg area for some years and has returned to garden services as a business.

Ken and **Renée Garside** will be looking forward to a Christmas visit from daughter **Karen (1990) - Mrs Luker**. Meanwhile, **Richard Garside (1988)** is still teaching 'Garside' subjects (Science or Maths or both) at Eshowe. He and his wife have recently taken occupation of a fine new house there.

Two welcome faces on Association Day were **Simon** and **Luke Hemsley**. **Simon (1995)** is a pastor, while **Luke (1999)** describes himself as reception/maintenance. Both are now married.

OBITUARIES

Dennis Rouillard

Sadly, I must record the death of Dennis Rouillard. He matriculated in 1969, having had the distinction of 3 or 4 years in the 1st XV rugby. However, his real forte was photography, especially Wild Life studies and well do I remember the patience he demonstrated while taking pictures of a Yellowbilled Hornbill at its nest on a cattle ranch near Naboomspruit. Our sincere condolences to his family. R.I.P

Weddings WEDDINGS

A past pupil who matriculated in 2001 was Lisa le Roux. Recently she married Mike Scheepers. They were married on 1 July 2006, on Luthuli Private Game Reserve in Mkuze, Zululand. Mike and Lisa manage Luthuli Private Game Reserve, which is part of the Zululand Rhino Reserve.



Chris Wicks (1974) and bride, Bronwyn, together with sons Tom and Charlie



Above: Yvan Giesen (class of 1975), Mike Leffler, Christiaan Giesen (class of 1973). Yvan teaches English as a Foreign Language in Barcelona, whilst his brother Christiaan runs on IT / software development business.

Junior Primary CONCERT

Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, The Emperor and his New Clothes, and The Pied Piper together with his rats, were all on stage at Thomas More College recently when the Junior Primary phase of the school held its annual concert. With choreography and music by Mrs Debra Moerdyk, the entire JP, consisting of almost 200 pupils, took part. Whether in a lead role, a supporting cast member, or as part of the choir, each child contributed to an evening thoroughly enjoyed by moms, dads, grandparents and siblings.



2006 ASSOCIATION Day

Association Day was again a resounding success. With contests involving the School and the Past Pupils in hockey, soccer, netball, rugby, tennis and squash, it was not surprising to see a good turn-out of vigorous Past Pupils from recent years. Earlier in the day there was the blessing ceremony by Fr Boardman, followed by Terence Robertson, Matric 1986 and a parent of a pupil in the Junior Primary, as the guest speaker, and an excellent job he made of it, too. This was followed in turn by a fun session, Philip Lanz' 'Loony Olympics', followed thereafter by the keenly contested sports encounters.



MATRIC ART Exhibition



Prizewinners with guest speaker and matric art teacher.
From left to right: C. Clark; R. Moys; C. Weston; Reverend B. Stott;
M. Whitfield; Mrs. L. Perissinotto; J. Ambler; K. Gevers.

Excerpt from speech by guest speaker Reverend Bernice Stott.

"A warm welcome to everyone. Thank you for coming out on this cold, wet evening to this handsome new building. The famous twentieth century architect Frank Lloyd Wright received a telephone call late one night from a client. "Mr. Wright", she said, "My new house has sprung a leak." "Madame", he replied, "Who said you could leave my house out in the rain?" Art Education such as this can also be likened to an enchanted loom that weaves together the stuff of dreams. I take my imagery of the enchanted loom from the English scientist, Charles Sharrington. He pictured the human brain as an enchanted loom where "millions of flashing shuttles weave dissolving patterns, always meaningful, never abiding." An art course like this in a school curriculum facilitates the enchanted loom of imagination and encourages students to unlock their creative selves, hopefully for a lifetime.

"The visual, dramatic and audible arts are critical for a full education. They bring to education a completion and wholeness. Recent brain research has taught us that we have two halves of the human brain, with two ways of knowing. The left hemisphere of the brain is verbal, analytical, rational and logical. The right hemisphere of the brain is non-verbal, synthetic (it can synthesize), non-rational and intuitive. Sadly, in our world-centred culture, we overvalue the rational side, of the brain to the detriment of our imaginative side.

"Art education brings to a young person the enchantment of imagination. In addition to this it brings together theory and praxis. On the one hand the mind analyses the works of great art, theorises about them and writes it down. On the other hand, the imagination and hand look and draw without words. Outside concrete objects transform into different objects on a page or a stage for that matter. So art education brings together the theoretical and the practical and this takes tremendous discipline to hold the two together.

"Art Education also produces lateral thinkers. The right hemisphere of the brain is analogical, meaning it is associative and free wheeling, seeing the similarities and likeness of things. It also sees where things are in relation to one another and how parts go together to form a whole. Our own great lateral creative thinkers such as Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu and Mahatma Gandhi have had great cultural impact on the social fabric of South Africa." They were able to imagine new ways of being.

"There is far too much work for me to comment on, in this short time. I must however congratulate Lynette and the students on a fine body of work, there is much skillful invention. What is clear to us as viewers is that you have all discovered the enchanted loom of imagination which has been facilitated by this art course. Whatever you do after matric, nurture your creativity! Edward Hopper said "No amount of skillful invention can replace the essential element of imagination." And this, Class of 2006, is your inheritance.

"Thank You."

THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PLAY

During September, the Drama Department presented "The Sound of Music" - a well-loved, popular, family musical. This is a story of how love and a passion for life can bring people together and transcend difficult circumstances. The production was directed by the Drama and Music teachers of Thomas More



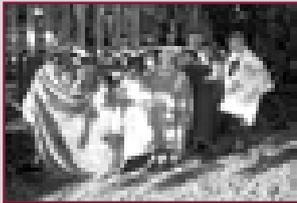
College, and starred a cast of talented and committed school children.

Left and above are photographs of the "children" in the cast as well as the "nuns".



OUTREACH *Thomas More*

Nowhere is the caring, as enshrined in its ethos and held dear to all Thomas Moreans, epitomised more than in its Outreach policies and activities. Each grade in the school is involved in a project selected by that grade, be it distribution of sandwiches, winter blankets, beanies to street children, the SMILE project, sharing of school facilities such as computer laboratories etc. The Grade 8's, seen below together with their grade teachers, collected much needed beanies for distribution to various street children shelters in Durban. The Grade 9 pupils host children from the Embo community each week. These children are transported to the campus to engage in educational games with our pupils. These pupils are also fed when they come to school. In the Primary School, one of the annual projects involves the collection and distribution of winter blankets.



PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES GRANDPARENTS' DAY

On Friday 11th August, the pupils of Grades 00 and 0 honoured their grandparents. Grans and grandpas were invited to a concert in the Hall where the pupils from the different classes represented different countries, e.g. Grade 00 (Purple Group), seen below with their teacher Mrs van Heerden, represented France. All the children sang songs from Australia, Africa, France, Scotland and America. Purple Group sang "Sur le Pont d'Avignon" in French, when it was the turn of France to be highlighted. Grandparents and other special guests were also given special cookery books with recipes from these countries, to take home and try out. The morning ended when after a rousing rendition of "Hokey-pokey", during which the grandparents were asked to join in, actions included, special guests were given a well-deserved cup of tea and some lovely scones.



EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS *at Thomas More College*

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK

The new 6-classroom High School block which will house the High School Maths and English classrooms, is nearing completion and will be operational in January 2007. With the Maths and English departments moving to the new building, their old classrooms will become available for use by peripatetic teachers.



SWEET AND SAVORY *Coffee Shop*

The Sweet and Savory Coffee shop in the Savory Pavilion was taken over by Philippa Hudson during July. She has retained the services of Joyce Mgenge.

Their contact details are: philippas@3i.co.za or 083 461 5807. They hire out the Pavilion for functions and do the catering for you. Why not give them a call if you are planning an event?

