

# THE *Moorcock Chronicle*

EDITION 18 - 2007

THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## FAREWELL KEN GARSIDE - MR CHIPS OF *Thomas More College*



Ken Garside, the Mr Chips of Thomas More...

Kind, witty, wise, loving and humorous.

In a nutshell, these words best describe Ken Garside, a schoolmaster supreme, who loved his profession and who died after a brave struggle with cancer in early January. He leaves behind a rich legacy with hundreds of pupils at his beloved Thomas More College, after 26 years of dedicated service.

Born in Yorkshire in 1942, Ken went on to Durham University after school, where he gained an Honours degree in Mathematics. A school boy romance at grammar school saw Ken marry his sweetheart, Renée Dumont, in August 1964, the couple settling in Durham while Ken completed his diploma in education.

After a stint in the army, Ken decided to pursue the teaching route and Kisumu Boys' High School on Lake Victoria in Kenya as physics teacher was his first port of call, where he enjoyed 11 fruitful years. After Kenya, he moved with his

family (including a son and daughter) to Westville Boys' High School, where he enjoyed a three-year stay followed by a job at Sapref. Soon after, an offer to teach Maths and Science at Thomas More College came about and twenty six years of perfect bliss followed. During his time at Thomas More College, he was HOD for Maths and Science, later Senior Deputy in the College, coached sport, and helped in producing and directing school plays. Deep down, he was always a mischievous schoolboy, who thrived in his environment.

His name and contribution to Thomas More College will live on with new High School classrooms named in his honour. In essence, he was a true son of the school. He respected everyone for who and what they were, and encouraged those around him to always enjoy life.



*Pictures taken at Ken Garside's funeral.*



## KEN GARSIDE CONT ...

Ken Garside was undoubtedly a great man. There is no question but that he made a huge impact on Thomas More College, as was evidenced by the incredible response at his Memorial Service – and the wake which followed.

Among those present were several Past Pupils of the '80's. This was a time when Ken threw himself into a wide range of activities – perennial athletics and swimming starter, rugby coach and referee, cricket coach and much else besides. He revelled in what he was doing and so earned the respect and affection of his charges. In this regard it was, surely, the School Plays which placed him on a pedestal, notably those performed in the 'Intimate Theatre' in Dalbergs, a creation of which he was justifiably proud. Those were the days of Richard Hickman and David Griffin, of Michael Edwards and of many, many boys and girls who derived so much joy and benefit from these essays into Drama – the field in which Ken must surely have scaled his greatest heights.

*Mike Leffler*



Pictures taken at Ken Garside's funeral.

## OPENING OF *Ken Garside Centre*

A new College Maths and English Centre, named after the late Ken Garside, beloved Science teacher at Thomas More College, was officially opened by his widow, Renée Garside, on 2 February 2007. This double-storey block is being used as team-teaching venues for Maths and English, and is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art computer facilities and smart boards. It is situated below the College car park. The building has replaced some old teaching venues, and has allowed for the expansion of the College Library.



## OBITUARIES

### *Ken Garside*

*Obituary and tribute to Ken Garside by Shane Cuthbertson  
- Principal of Thomas More College*

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing away of Ken Garside during the (December) holidays. One consolation, however, was that he was able to spend his last days at home and he passed away peacefully in his own bed. Ken has left an indelible mark at Thomas More College and had a huge impact on all who knew him. His compassion, his wit and his sense of adventure, endeared him to the pupils who came to know him over the 26 years he spent at the school. It was a wonderful tribute to Ken that there was a huge attendance of over 800 people at his funeral. As the funeral took place in the holidays, it is appropriate that a memorial service for the pupils took place on 19th January in the Hall. Adults who were unable to attend the funeral were also invited to attend this service.

### *Inez Molinaro*

It is with deep regret that I record the death of Inez Molinaro in Johannesburg on 1st May 2007. She had been in poor health for some time. Inez was the matron at TM in the late 60's, early 70's – a post she combined with House-keeper, cateress and, need I say, General Factotum. Although the school was small, the Boarding Establishment was thriving, cracking the 100 mark in 1967. Nothing was too much to ask of her. On one occasion she used the battered old school Kombi to transport a good-sized lifeboat from Umhlali for the benefit of the Skin-diving Club. Inez was possessed of a keen sense of humour and had a deep and lasting interest in each and every boarder. She will be remembered with great fondness. Go well, Inez.

*Mike Leffler*



# TORNADO CAUSES HAVOC AT *Thomas More*

On the night of 15th March a tornado ripped through Kloof and other surrounding areas, leaving a path of destruction in its wake. A press report at that time states: " Thomas More School, situated at the top of Fields Hill, became one of the hundreds of premises violated by the storm. Large trees, many of which were decades old, littered the grounds. One tree, over six metres tall, was ripped in two and thrown no less than 50 metres from its stump, onto the sports field". (Highway Mail, 23 March 2007). Another report reads: " Thomas More College suffered a lot of damage. Parts of the roofs of some school buildings were ripped off, most of the car-port covers were bent and overturned and many of the large trees surrounding the school were felled by strong winds." (The Hilltop, 23 March 2007).

The Principal and Headmaster, assisted by the Facilities Manager and some willing parents, spent the better part of the night after the storm had abated somewhat, dragging trees out of the way in Fairview and Sykes Roads, in an attempt to reach the school and ascertain the nature of the damage. With there being no power, they had to make do with torchlight, and it was difficult to assess the full extent of the devastation. However, at first light, it became apparent that there had been extensive damage with roofs blown off, fences down, trees felled, many miraculously having narrowly missed buildings. Parents bringing their children to school had tears streaming down their cheeks at the sight that met them. Children too were traumatised by the sight of nature having caused havoc at their beloved school. Many of these pupils had lived through the terror of the storm, and many of their homes had also been devastated. The Primary School Open Day scheduled for that day, as well as the College Open Day scheduled for the following day, had to be cancelled due to the storm damage

and the fact that there was no electricity. The Junior Primary phase of the school was closed due to the damage on that part of the campus.

Mike Leffler, who lives a stone's throw away from the school, said that he was awoken by what sounded like hail, but what was in fact branches being ripped off trees. He reports that he could not see much apart from continuous lightning and had no idea of the devastation. A large tree outside the Great House, nearest the Principal's office, lay across the lawns towards the Savory Pavilion. Another tree, as if it had been pushed, fell between the Great House and the strip road on the way to the Chapel. One of the tall palms, on the way to the Farmhouse, had been blown over, taking with it the corner of the Farmhouse roof. Apart from all the car ports, that looked as if they had been crumpled by a giant hand, and the roof of the Hockey hut that had been ripped off and flung away, the other structural damage was on a smaller scale. All the trees between the campus and the villa came down, as did many other trees around the campus. The conservancy escaped virtually unscathed. Mike said that the tornado reminded him of hurricane Dimoia in the 1980s. At the time he had taken some pupils up to Zululand to witness the resulting devastation. Approximately seven years later, another hurricane deposited the Savory Field bank onto the far side of the railway line.

As we go to press, the mopping up continues, with many damaged structures not yet rebuilt.

*Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen*



# PAST PUPILS' NEWS

## Mike Leffler writes...

Due to illness, including a 6-day stay in hospital, I have not been able to produce a gossip column of anything like its usual length. My apologies! However, it does give me the chance to express my sincerest thanks for all the attention shown me. I don't think I have ever eaten as many chocolates as I have done these last 3 or 4 weeks!

One thing the episode has shown has been the togetherness of the Thomas More family, not least a class from the Junior School.

**Richard Armstrong (1970)** called in earlier this year. He was over from Canberra, ACT, Australia where he is well ensconced in the past. He is a research earth scientist occupied in dating rocks in terms of millions of years. He undertakes frequent journeys to Africa and places like Brazil.

**Jonathan Haynes (1997)**. Congratulations on the bursary from Netcare. He is currently doing his 2-year internship at Groote Schuur, at the moment in the Nuclear Medicine Department. Working hard and loving it! He is well settled in Cape Town.

**Simon King (1993)** has returned to the UK. Some months ago he regaled his e-mail readers with a graphic account of the ups-and-downs of securing accommodation and finding a job in London – not the first time he has been through it. At the time he was in touch with the two Richards, Richard Gielink and Richard Tozer.

**Conor O'Hagan-Ward (1971)** A while back, I put out an appeal for Conor's address. Some kind person did respond but now I have managed to lose/mislay the address. Could I ask that kind person to again furnish Conor's address? I wouldn't like to lose touch with someone who must have the keenest sense of humour in the Past Pupils' Association!!

It was great to have a visit from **Bruce Zungu (1991)**. I last had contact in 2001 when I was staying with the Keareys in North Carolina and we were trying to get in touch telephonically with as many U.S.-based T.M.s as we could – and Bruce was in New York at the time. Bruce is now in Johannesburg, is married, and has 2 kids, a boy and a girl, and works in Private Equity (buys companies amongst other things). He was most impressed with all the developments at Thomas More.

Contact re-established! **Richard Rennie (1986)**, one-time stalwart of the Old Boys Club, is back in Durban where he has an advertising business called Hardy Boys which employs 20 people.

**Chris Govender (1995)** is due to marry on 18th August in Kielce, Poland. The bride, Barbara Kubec, is a school teacher, while Chris is a physiotherapist.

**Nigel Briggs (1971)**, seems to appear in the gossip columns more often than most. This time he has told me that he is thinking of undertaking a

History of - if I remember correctly - the Junior Duzi Race. Any information would be welcome, including the names of finishers

**Carl Mayo (1984)**, at one time in the South African Police and subsequently in Security. Until fairly recently he was in the South of England but has now got an appointment in one of the Arab States, where he enjoys all manner of benefits.

**Dr. Maria Stuttaford (1988)**, one of our more regular correspondents, is on the move again, this time to Maastricht in the Netherlands, where her partner has a posting with the RAF. This RAF posting means that he is involved with NATO operations. Maria has taken the opportunity of passing on news of some of the girls from her class.

**Natasha Jeena** is now married and has recently given birth to their first child.

**Ursula Strauss** is still in London and Maria sees her from time to time.

**Nicci Gunning** and family have now moved to New Zealand. Meanwhile, **Riaz Jeena** is well settled in Australia where he is an Estate Agent.

### ADDITIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

The recent AGM brought new blood to the Committee. **Chris Dalzell (1979)** joins classmate René Missen, while the addition of **Privani Moodley (2001)** and **Melanie Zietsman (2002)** means that, along with Liesl Hoffman, there are now 3 girls serving on the committee. At the same time, however, we have lost Sandro De Nadai and Chris Akal. We are grateful to them for their contribution over the last 2 years.

Gossip (continued) ...

What follows is something of a list, but I make no apologies. There is a perennial interest in the professions followed by Past Pupils of the College, or 'what they are doing for a living', so here goes.

**Martin Meugens** – Victorian Fireplaces.

**Michael Meugens (1986)** – Wooden Flooring.

**Kenny Clements (1972)** – Left the Blood Bank in which he was so successful but still basically in the Medical Field.

**David Missen (2003)** – Plumber, a partner in his own business.

**Privani Moodley (2001)** – Human Resources Department at Unilever.

**John Boule (1971)** – Brahmin Bull Association, Bloemfontein.

A visitor to the school early in the year was **Patricia Strong (1980)**. Involved in Design, she was brought along by Pinetown architect **Michael Liebenberg (1979)**, often a visitor to the school.

Our dedicated Chairman, René Missen, is equally dedicated to his rugby. He has been re-elected Chairman for the Hillcrest Rovers 3rd Team, is vice-captain of the 4th side and at the age of 45 is still an active player.

**His second son Jason (2005)** is in his 2nd year in Westville – while working at the coalface, as it were, coaching rugby in the Thomas More Primary School.

A further item on **Chris Dalzell**, well known as the curator of the Durban Botanic Gardens. He has very recently received a major award at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London.

### THE BENTLEYS GO YACHTING

**Rob and Belinda (nee Pickering) (1987)** together with their 2 kids, Danny and Jenna, have recently returned from an idyllic 2-year adventure holiday, which has taken them from Mozambique to Madagascar, the Comores, Tanzania, Kenya, The Seychelles, The Maldives, Andaman Island, and, by way of Malaysia, to Thailand where they spent 3 months at Phuket. Particularly idyllic for the kids was that they missed school for this time!

Their boat, 'Shayile', has three cabins, two for sleeping and one for living.

More details of the journey will be included in the next Moorcock Chronicle, due out in the last term of the year.

## REUNION Class of 1967

A reunion of the matric class of 1967 will be held on 8th September at the Savory Pavilion. The present Chairman of the Thomas More College Board of Trustees, and a founder pupil of the school, Roy Alderdice, reports that there were 20 matriculants that year. Sadly, Michael Dedekind has passed away. The remaining matriculants are warmly invited to attend.

Please contact Monica Sloane on:  
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for further details.

## PAST PUPILS' NEWS

### GRAEME HODDINOTT (CLASS OF 2002) WINS MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIP



Graeme started at TMC in Grade 8 in 1998 (from Hillcrest Primary School). He matriculated in 2002 with four distinctions (Honours for "Best all Round Performance"). Whilst at Thomas More College Graeme played cricket, soccer and hockey (Past Pupils' hockey from Grade 10 and he is still active in both indoor and outdoor versions).

His leading roles in College plays included that of Thomas More in "The Man for all Seasons" and "Freddy" in "My Fair Lady". Graeme was a member of the SEC (Marketing portfolio).

He represented KZN at the SA Junior Chess Championships from 1996 to 2003 and was KZN U12 Chess coach from 2004 to 2005. Since leaving the College, Graeme has been studying at

UKZN. 2003 to 2005 BSoc Science (Psychology) (summa cum laude); 2006 BSoc Science Honours (Psychology) UKZN Pietermaritzburg (cum laude); 2007 Studying for a MSoc Science Psychology UKZN Pietermaritzburg, Golden Key Award as well as numerous other scholarships from 2003, the most prestigious of these being the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship in 2007. This scholarship is for study at suitable universities within Africa.

*Reg Hoddinott (Proud Father)*

### MARY PERRY GIVES TALK ON CHINA TO Thomas More College Pupils

Since the inception of the College Cultural period in 2006, when the High School pupils meet in the hall to be entertained by speakers, musicians, dancers etc, many interesting guests have been hosted here. Mary Perry visited the College in June and shared some of her experiences whilst living in China. Mary was the School Counsellor at Durban Girls' High School in the late 1980's. She left for England where she taught at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey. Whilst on a walking holiday in Greece, she met her partner, Ted Garner, on the island of Samos. Ted is an English journalist and author. Together they decided to embark on an adventure before coming to settle in South Africa. They decided on a year in China, teaching conversational English to 16-20 year old education students in Gaoyou, a city of 1,000,000 people on the eastern Chinese seaboard between Beijing and Shanghai. Being the only Westerners there provoked much interest. Mary lists amongst her defining moments the interesting food, hospitality and the diversity of the country. She loved seeing the famous terracotta warriors and the Great Wall of China. Mary and Ted made many friends in China and were invited to spend the Chinese New Year with a family, a great honour. Getting around proved quite a challenge with no-one speaking English, and there being no signs in English either. Mary said that they mimed a great deal. She describes the Chinese as very "genuine" people. Possessions are not very important to the Chinese, who value the community and family above all. Some differences between East and West were very marked, e.g. the one child per family policy, which has led to the abortion of many female fetuses, as boy children are prized. At present the ratio of boys to girls is 145:100. Another difference is the lack of boyfriend-girlfriend relationships in young adults. Now happily retired in South Africa, Mary and Ted do volunteer teaching, hike and travel. Mary says that she misses the challenge of living in a different society, the Chinese food, and the warmth yet formality of the Chinese people.



*Mary Perry and Justine Coleman  
(vice-chairperson of SEC)*

## A Cricket Star IN THE MAKING



In a feat almost unheard of in schoolboy cricket, Dean Blewitt, a Grade 8 pupil at Thomas More College, took 10 wickets for 11 runs against Kloof High School in February. Included in Dean's feat were four wickets in four balls. In the Thomas More innings, Dean also shone with the bat, making 35 out of a total 165 runs. Kloof were 33 all out, giving Thomas More victory by 132 runs. The last time this feat was accomplished, it was by a Thomas More cricketer Simon Kimber, back in 1980. Simon, who subsequently played for Natal and also county cricket, became the school's first cricketer to bag all 10 scalps in an innings, against Kloof High School's 2nd X1.

Dean, who plays for the U14 team, was in the Primary School's Cricket Team that toured England last July. His favourite Protea players are Makhaya Ntini, Herschelle Gibbs, Shaun Pollock and Jacques Kallis.

### SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH WATER PRIZE

Our school entered a competition held by the Department of Water and Forestry in conjunction with the Department of Education, called "South African Youth Water Prize". It forms part of the 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme. The competition for Grade 9,10,11 and 12 students was aimed at solving water and sanitation related problems. The brief was to identify problems related to water and sanitation in their school or communities; and to take action, initiate a project, do research and recommend solutions to resolve the identified problem.

A group of Thomas More pupils; Bronwyn Metcalf, Nicole Purdon and Scott Mahoney, participated with their project in Lower Molweni, and won the provincial competition, and a prize of R3000. They flew to JHB for the national competition which was held in June. They were declared National winners of the competition and will be representing SA in Stockholm in August. We are very proud of our Thomas More College stars.



*L to R: Bronwyn Metcalf; Scott Mahoney; Nicole Purdon.*

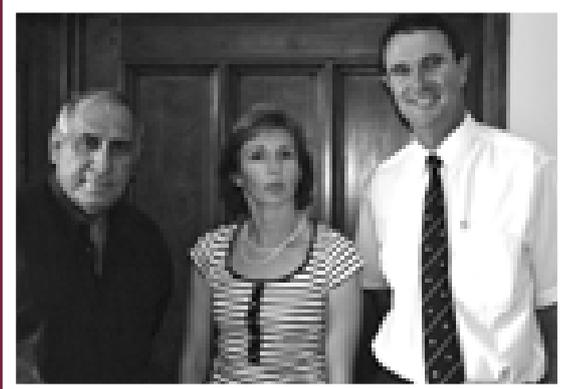


## DERECK JACKSON VISITS THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dereck Jackson, Educational and Counselling Psychologist, Teacher, and International Speaker, visited Thomas More Primary School during January 2007 to conduct workshops with teachers, and with parents.

Dereck, a married father of two, whose daughters are both health professionals, started his teaching career at St George's College in Salisbury, in the then Rhodesia where he was the Latin master. He then relocated to South Africa and taught History and English at King David in Johannesburg and eventually became Vice-principal there. He later moved to Sandown where he was Deputy Headmaster. He also ran the Gifted Child Centre at JCE. He qualified as an Educational Psychologist through UNISA and later trained as a Counselling Psychologist at the University of Austen, Texas, USA.

Upon his return to South Africa, Dereck worked with the Education Department's Psychological Support Services for 17 years eventually heading up the Norwood office. During this time he started lecturing to both parents and students. After being promoted to Inspector of School Psychological Services in Gauteng, the restructuring of the Education Departments saw Dereck launching his international and national career as speaker. He currently spends one week per month abroad, lecturing at schools in Portugal, Holland and England.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS SPECIAL ASSEMBLY FOR

### *Mother's Day*

On the Friday before Mother's Day, the Primary School held a special assembly for the mothers in that phase. The Primary School Choir sang, children recounted why their mothers were special, and an amusing power-point presentation featured many of the mums and anecdotes by their children. After the assembly, the mums were treated to a special tea.



**Saturday 4 August**

**10:00am - 4:00pm**

**15 SYKES ROAD, KLOOP**



### *Ladies' and Men's Breakfasts*

## HELD AT THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

During May, breakfasts were held in the Ken Mackenzie Centre with Monica Fairall and Rev Bernice Stott addressing the ladies, and Colleen Dardagan and Dave Allen addressing the men. Monica, a well-known broadcaster and health journalist, spoke about leading a balanced life through diet and exercise. Bernice, an ordained Anglican Priest and artist, spoke about the balance between mind, body and soul. Dave Allen addressed some of the dangers involved at clubs, the abuse of drugs and alcohol by teenagers etc, whilst Colleen spoke to fathers about the challenges facing them as parents.

Guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by the school caterers, KKS. There were lucky draw prizes, and each guest received a "goodie bag" from generous donors.

*Helene Steenfeldt-Kristensen*

## ASSOCIATION DAY

**\* 8TH SEPTEMBER \***

For more information contact René Missen on 083 778 5714

The School for all Seasons - [www.thomasmore.co.za](http://www.thomasmore.co.za)