

# THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PUPILS

## Declared National Winners

### OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH WATER PRIZE

During the first term of 2007, Mrs Hélène Hendey, a Grade 10 Science and Biology teacher at Thomas More College, entered three of her Grade 10 pupils in a competition which formed part of the 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme. The competition, held by the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry, was aimed at Grade 9,10,11 and 12 pupils and involved 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.

The group of Grade 10 Thomas More pupils comprised Bronwyn Metcalf, Nicole Purdon and Scott Mahoney and they participated with their project in Lower Molweni, of which a synopsis follows.

An integrated approach to saving and managing water in rural South Africa - This project seeks an integrated approach to address multiple needs and challenges facing communities in the rural areas of South Africa. The project responds to challenges such as: catchment and storage of rain water, reuse of grey water, development of food gardens both for consumption by the community and for small scale economy resulting in sustainable development. It encourages the use of natural and other available resources in the community.

Rain water is harvested by means of house roof gutters. The water is then stored in tanks using bricks made by the community. Grey water, which is household waste water, passes through a water purifying system using indigenous grass that grows in the wetlands of KwaZulu-Natal. It is then stored in water tanks.

The collected water is used to water food gardens, the growing of which is done according to a method which is currently being used very successfully in rural South Africa. The grass from the water purifying system is harvested and used to make many craft articles which are sold. It can also be used for mulching and for composting.

An important feature of this system is that it is cost effective, simple and easy to use. It can be adapted to suit different communities depending on their needs.

The pupils were first declared Provincial and then National winners of the competition and represented SA in Stockholm in August, during the World Water Week. 33 Countries participate during the international competition. South Africa has won this competition twice, during 2003 and also 2005. This year Mexico won the competition.

When asked about their project, the pupils commented as follows:

#### Why we chose our project?

During outreach activities initiated by Thomas More College, we were exposed to the poverty and need experienced by communities on our doorstep. Surveys conducted emphasised the need for local rural communities to be able to generate some sort of income to help them to become self-sustaining.

Research showed that our project could solve many of the problems that we found concerning water conservation and management, as well as the need for food and income. Our system is one that not only looks at saving water, but also at the positive aspects that stem from this by having food to eat and sell, as well as generating a steady income from making items such as bricks, mats, baskets and the like.

#### Why do we think that our project won?

The strength of our project lies in the fact that while we did not invent anything new, our system is cost effective, simple to implement, and it works! It has also been designed in such a way that it can be implemented bit by bit, according to the circumstances of the community. Given the grave situation experienced in many parts of South Africa due to the lack of water, we are confident that our system can be used to alleviate some of the hardships experienced, not only locally, but in many areas faced with similar problems.

At the awards ceremony hosted by Thomas More College on 8th August, all the Provincial winners were awarded their prizes, as were the National winners. The Director General of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mr Jabu Sindane, and various other dignitaries were present at this happy occasion.

*Hélène Hendey, Bronwyn Metcalf, Scott Mahoney,  
Nicole Purdon, Helene Steinfeldt - Kristensen*



## Outreach

### CHIEF LOKOTHWAYO PRIMARY SCHOOL

In each phase of the school, each grade adopts a project for the year. At times the whole school becomes involved in a project, such as the "anchor project" for 2007, namely the building of classrooms at Chief Lokothwayo Primary School. This is a school that we have been supporting with stationery, teaching aids, paint for art and whatever else we have been able to supply. This school, in Dassenhoek near Mariannridge on the outskirts of Pinetown, is experiencing a severe lack of classroom space. When the Outreach Committee from Thomas More College first visited the school about 5 years ago, we found that three of their classrooms had collapsed and several of the classes were operating with two teachers and two classes in one classroom. Thomas More College sought to source funding from overseas to erect new classrooms. An Outreach Committee member wrote to all the Thomas More schools in the UK, explaining the dire need at Dassenhoek. We were able to find help from the Lasallian Overseas Development projects which operates from the UK. Our aim was to build a three-classroom block in July 2007 to help alleviate the overcrowding. A group of 11 young people from the UK, who had raised funds within their communities for the project, was housed at Thomas More College, and helped with the building. In addition to the funds raised by Thomas More College and the Lasallians, Ned-bank also made a donation towards this project.

In addition to this, 9 local people attended free training at Construction Resource Development Centre (CRDC) to obtain skills in Carpentry and Bricklaying. They were then also employed in the building of the classrooms. CRDC oversaw the building project. The students returned to the UK in August after having experienced a world quite unlike that at home. All felt greatly enriched and blessed by the experience. At a thanksgiving ceremony held at Chief Lokothwayo, shortly before they flew back home, the learners presented the students with a traditional Zulu pot and basket lid, as a token of their appreciation.



*Margie Brown and Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen*



# John Walsh

WRITES

BEFORE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE - 1961

In 1961, it must have been between April and June, our mom and dad went on an extended trip overseas to Israel, the UK and the United States of America. During this time, they arranged for us to be boarded at the Kiddies Hotelette ( now Thomas More College) for the period in question. I was 10 years old at the time, my elder sister Christine was 12, my younger sister Pauline 8 and my younger brother Tony was 7.

As I remember the grounds, there was a long driveway on the right side of the property (the main entrance) which was lined with tall palm trees. The driveway turned at the bottom to the left and led to a parking area with four or so garages on the right side. There was also an office where presumably the admin was done at the time. Below the house, towards the railway line, was a forested area which had an abundance of banana trees and virgin forest. Above the house, towards the road, were more banana trees and some pawpaw and guava trees. There was a huge tree just off the section of paving leading down to the main entrance of the house (more or less in line with the parking area at present) from which we used to swing on a rope swing. I think all that remains today is a stump.

Our "Parent" guardians during our stay were a red haired lady called Mrs. Calassi ( I do not know if this is the correct spelling) and her friend who we knew as Jim. There were about 25 to 30 kids staying there at the time, mostly from the Durban area. We went on excursions from time to time in the blue VW Kombi, when they loaded us all up and took us to the beach or to movies or the circus. One of the kids, Ronald Raw, who was quite a bully, seemed to delight in picking on me and on one occasion he started to chop down a banana tree which I happened to have climbed. When this started to fall I had no option but to jump into one close by to save my bacon, but needless to say we did not become friends.

There were times when we would go down to the railway line and put pennies on the track to see how they were squashed when the train passed by. On other occasions, we went for hikes (without permission mind you) in the forest below. On one such hike, a search party was sent out for us and they found us about three miles from home, totally lost.

During the three months, we were schooled at Kloof Primary School and I recall doing woodworking lessons at School. I have found some of the memories related by my elder sister to be quite interesting and have decided to quote her reply below for your information. It also gives a little more insight into some of the events which took place during our stay. Her comments are as follows:-

"Now to the interesting development about the history of the Kiddies Hotelette. How many times I have thought of that chapter in our lives! Hmm. I don't remember any of the staff names, but

recall quite clearly all the day to day activities. We were there over Easter, because we had a three week holiday before we had to start school. I recall playing hide and seek down in the 'dungeons', as we used to call them. The smell of damp earth and rock often brings that memory flooding back. During that vacation time we took excursions to the beach, the circus and I think we did some hiking as well. Perhaps that was the hike we took without permission, through the forest, getting totally lost and eventually landing up back on the main road. Someone must have alerted the staff about kids being on the road, because soon the Kombi drove by and picked us up. Boy did we get into trouble. Can you imagine the emotions of the staff with so many of the kids missing at one time. I don't remember if we were punished or not - perhaps we missed out on a special outing.

"I remember going to school with children neither of us knew and coming into the school



mid-year was difficult. You and I would sit together at lunch at the outdoor pavilions and eat peanut butter and banana sandwiches (which we had never tasted before). We had those little sandwich packets which were white on one side and clear on the other. I can remember feeling such overwhelming homesickness at times and the Afrikaans teacher was intuitive enough to sense that and would offer me compassion as the class was leaving. I remember school let out early a couple of times because of flooding rains and it was thought that the buses would not be able to get through the low-lying areas. We had to meet up with Pauline and Tony at the elementary school and then we would all go back to the Kiddies Hotelette together. I remember trying to learn to ride a bicycle belonging to Jennifer, the daughter of one of the staff members. I took the bike up the long driveway, a double strip of concrete with a grassy hump in the middle, and as I came flying down the hill, I lost control at the bottom and flew over the low stone wall and into the bushes. The bike had a very wonky wheel after that little episode. We all used to sleep in dormitories, girls on one side of the ground floor and boys on the other. The oldest

boy there was Terrence Weedman, he was sixteen. We would eat in the kitchen, four to a table and we had responsibilities to set the table and help clean up. I ate fried eggplant for the first (and last) time. The food was very good though and was prepared most of the time by a very pleasant Black woman. I liked her a lot and would help her make lunches in the mornings before school. I remember that I was 'promoted' to sit at the grownups' table across the hallway at one stage and that boosted my self esteem. I think there were six "parents" who had different responsibilities, some to monitor homework, mealtimes, medical attention etc. Which reminds me of the horrible infected mosquito bites I got. They called them Natal sores. I guess I just had a bad reaction to them or something, but they were like nasty boils on my legs and feet.

"That leads me to remember going to the Church of England on Sundays and having to kneel on those little red cushions, reading prayers out of the book of prayers. My feet and legs would hurt so much from those bites, I couldn't wait for prayers to be over. It all seemed so foreign to me. We would have craft days and one of the crafts the girls made was an apron. I think it was two hearts that were sewn together. Bedtime was usually 7pm or 7:30 and we would have to get up pretty early too. Homework was done in Study Hall and it was probably something like boarding school. I remember being so impressed with the grand, sweeping marble staircase, halfway down the wide hallway. I don't think we spent much time upstairs because that was mainly used by the 'parent families'. I remember the day before we were to return home, a couple of the women (the superintendent and one of the parents) gave all the girls a haircut or perm. Lucky me got a perm and because my hair was such a challenge to wind into the curlers, they just left them in after all the processing had been done, rinsed it really well and let my hair dry on the curlers overnight. Boy, did I have a bush of frizzy hair the next day.

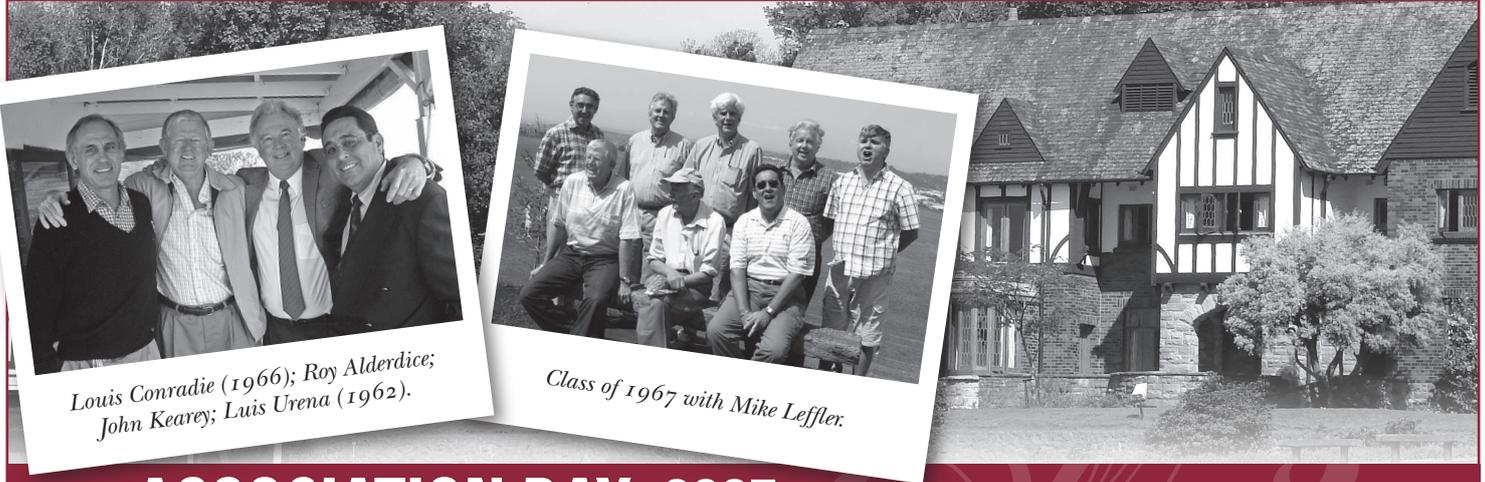
"I can remember Mom telling me that she almost cried when she first saw me at the airport, because I looked so weird. I guess she was a little emotional anyway, having been away from all her children for 3 long months. I am trying so hard to recall names, but they are well hidden in the dark recesses. I know the lady who was in charge had shoulder length, curly red hair. There was another little girl I really liked and I have recalled her name on the odd occasion, whose parents were on staff, but I can't think of it now. Frustrating. I don't remember faces too well either. Was that a happy time for you? I had moments when it seemed like fun, but when I think of the whole three months, it felt like a very long, lonely experience."

I have such fond memories of the stay there despite some of the bullying, and the building reminded me very much of the Leopard Rock Hotel in Zimbabwe, which to me was an enchanting place.

# THE *Moorcock Chronicle*

EDITION 19 - 2007

THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



*Louis Conradie (1966); Roy Alderdice; John Kearey; Luis Urena (1962).*

*Class of 1967 with Mike Leffler.*

## ASSOCIATION DAY 2007

The 2007 Association Day was held over 7th and 8th September. The celebrations fittingly started with a Thanksgiving Service led by Fr Boardman. Special guests included past pupils from the class of 1967. Some of these guests, Luis (Pancho) and Shirley Urena, and John Kearey, had travelled from as far as the USA to attend their 40th reunion. After this ceremony, the Primary School enjoyed birthday cake, this being the school's 45th birthday. Association Day continued with members of the Class of 1967 being hosted to a special tea in the Savory Pavilion, followed by a tour of the campus (much changed since their day), and then a number of these guests were escorted to the Kloof Country Club where the Thomas More College Golf Day was being held. Festivities continued on Saturday 8th September when the past pupils played against the College pupils in a variety of sports. The day ended with a braai outside the Savory Pavilion and the viewing of a World Cup Rugby match. Present at a special lunch held in the Indaba Room in the Great House were Roy Alderdice (present Chairman of the Thomas More College Board of Trustees) and his classmates Michael Deeks, Luis and Shirley

Urena, John Kearey, Rob Brislin, Hilton and Stella Healey, James and Mrs Mowatt and Mike Leffler.

The reunion was a major feature of Association Day. It was never a big group and, understandably, the 'boys' of that year are widely scattered. Of those who made it to the event, Luis 'Pancho' Urena is in retirement in Miami, Florida, USA. John Kearey has a thriving building construction business in North Carolina, also in faraway USA. Rob Brislin is in law in Johannesburg, and Mike Deeks, engineering, also in Johannesburg. Alex Bax was there too, in a dual capacity, as he refereed the Old Boys' rugby match. The numbers were swelled by 3 members of the 1974 class; always reliable Jonathan Spencer-Smith (1966) and, always good for a party, pilot Hilton Hedly (1968.) Pancho's wife Shirley accompanied him from the USA. Some of the other wives also came to the luncheon, hosted of course by Roy Alderdice, Chairman of the School Board. Professor of Law at University of KwaZulu Natal, James Mowatt, was another 1967 to be present.

At the luncheon, the numbers were made up

of Jonathan Spencer-Smith (1968) and ever faithful 1974s Raoul le Breton (law), Greg Courtney (business) and Neil Fox (town planning).

An interesting visitor on Association Day was Kim Gravett (1999). A notable leg-spin bowler in his schooldays, he was involved in yachting in the Caribbean for some years thereafter, but is now back in South Africa, in the Cape.

*Mike Leffler and Helene Steenfeldt-Kristensen*



*Old Girls' Netball Team*



*Old Boys' Hockey Club*



*Old Boys' Waterpolo Team*



*Old Boys' Touch Rugby Team*



## *Justin Lanz* **STAR CRICKETER** **AT THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**

Justin Lanz, a Grade 9 pupil at Thomas More College, scored 192 not out in a recent match against Hillcrest High School. Justin, who captains the U15A side, and is its wicket keeper, is also his team's opening batsman. This is Justin's third century this year and the second in 3 weeks. His first century was against Eshove earlier in the year, and then two weeks ago he scored another against St Henry's Marist Brothers. Thomas More College made 330 for 5 and won the match against Hillcrest High by 284 runs. Justin's score included 24 X 4s and 5 X 6s.

*Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen*



## *Senior Primary* **MPUMALANGA TOUR**

**7 October:** Today was great! Everyone was so full of energy, eating sweets etc. then we all tried to get some shut-eye (in our Kombi this wasn't too successful - because the Kombis were mixed - we had James Chenery in ours and he drank a whole 2ℓ coke and wouldn't let anybody sleep). After everyone had TRIED to sleep, we would wake up and eat sweets again. This cycle continued for the whole six hour trip.

**8 October:** Today we went to the zoo!

**9 October:** Today we went to Gold Reef City! But oh pooh, it rained. We were able to go on this one ride though; a huge boat that did 360° spins. I was on one side of the boat and had Juffrou Steyn directly opposite me on the other side. Her face went bright red with terror every time we were suspended upside down.

**10 October:** Today we began our long drive to White River. On the way we stopped at the Sodwala Caves, which were fun and interesting. That night we stayed at the Bundu Safari Lodge, which was really great.

**11 October:** Today we drove to Kruger National Park, where although we didn't see all the animals, the boys played a really good game against Skukuza Primary on a lovely pitch. The girls watched, had a little nap and took lots of photos!

**12 October:** We spent the morning swimming, playing on the jungle gyms and playing putt-putt before we left for Uplands Primary. The girls and boys both won their matches, the boys beating their highest score of runs!

**13 October:** Today we left for Penryn College. We beat them in netball but they also asked us to play hockey! We were losing 1-0 by the end of the first half, but, after firing Bianca as Goalie, we made a surprising comeback by scoring 3 goals in the second half, thus winning that as well.

**14 October:** Today – more driving, this time to Pongola Lodge, a small place halfway between White River and home. While we were there, we had a prize giving ceremony, where everyone got a prize for something they had done on tour.

**15 October:** On Country Roads Take me Home! We ended the tour off by driving into the school singing to the theme-music of Hannah Montana, which really made heads turn! All I can say is: WHAT A FANTASIC TOUR!

*Lara Hornby, Grade 7*

## *Matric* **ART EXHIBITION 2007**

The Matric Art pupils held an exhibition of their art in the Joan Savory Art Block. The exhibition was opened by well-known Durban artist and lecturer, Jeanette Gilks. Jeanette commended Mrs Lynette Perissinotto, the Matric Art teacher, as well as the pupils on their work. She spoke about how artists make the "invisible, visible" in society.

*Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen*



*Award winners - (l to r): Andy Aringhe; Clifton Rhind; Jeanette Gilks - speaker; Lynette Perissinotto - Art teacher; Dean Potgieter; Lanna Breetzke.*

## *SEC*



*2008 SEC Secretary - Bruce McClure; Chairperson - Claudia Lyle and Deputy - Chairperson Samuel Vosper.*

## *WANTED* **ANY ARCHIVAL MATERIAL**

We appeal to past pupils and Staff to send any printed material (e.g. photographs, newsletters, programmes) and items of clothing (e.g. team outfits, old school uniforms) connected to Thomas More to the College archives. Where possible we would appreciate it if you could provide a date, names, identify the event and give any other information represented by the item. We are also in the process of recording on to DVD anecdotes related by anyone connected to the school since its inception. If you would like to take part in an informal recording session please let us know. Items for the archives can be sent to Mrs. Bregman in the Dalberg library or contact her on 031 764 8657 or e-mail [lbregman@thomasmore.co.za](mailto:lbregman@thomasmore.co.za)



# PAST PUPILS' NEWS

The Bible College connection. **Philip Edmonds (2005)**, is in second year at Bible College. He is going to India at the end of the year for a month on mission. His brother **Colin (2003)** has now got his degree in Marketing Management and is working for Kloof Harvest Church. He is attending Bible College and has been offered a job teaching at St Mary's.

After a lengthy spell working at his church, **Luke Hemsley** is now at Pinetown Boys' High. **Simon Hemsley**, meanwhile, is a Pastor at his church.

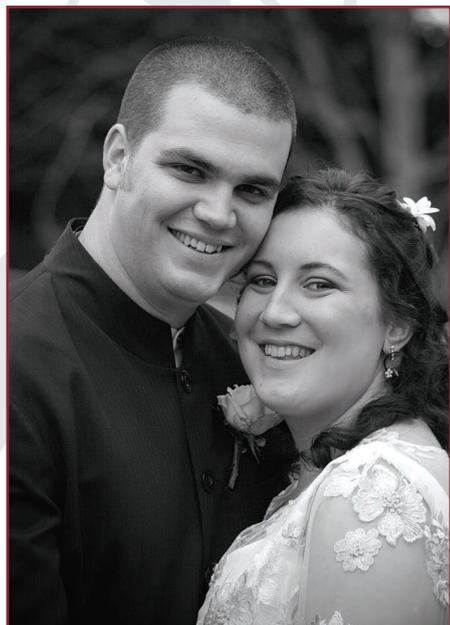
**Matthew Harman (2005)** has started his own business in import/export where he is reportedly doing very well.

**Philip Sim (1971-1977)** is a Medical Representative. His wife Jenny is a Pre-primary teacher at Thomas More, and the couple's children are both pupils at the school.

Good to have contact with **Damian Turner**, for some years now a sergeant in the Police in Winnipeg, Canada, and **Andrew Gay**, both from the class of **1983**. Andrew is in retail.

A voice from way back – **Kevin Hodgkiss (1982-1984)**, who is in Accounting on the East Rand. It was wonderful to read some of his reminiscences from the early years of the school.

**Melanie Zietsman (class of 2002)** married another TMC past pupil – **Mark Küster (2000)** on 21 July at St Dominic's Catholic Church in Hillcrest.



**Chris Wicks** and his wife Bronnie and their children Tom and Charlie travelled through the Australian Outback after having been invited to a wedding in Alice Springs over the first weekend in July, which was timely because it was also school holidays. "We decided on a driving holiday so over 2 weeks covered a little more than 6,000kms. It

was a fascinating drive and we all travelled very well" says Chris.



During June, **Doug Talbert (class of 1969)** now living in Sydney, Australia, brought his wife Mary to show her his old school. He said that back in 1969 there had been 60 boys and only 16 matrics. He remembers that TMC rugby at that time was "not a strong point". Doug also fondly remembered Mike Leffler as being a "wonderful History teacher". He said that at that time Mike was living in the Coach House where the girls' toilets are now.



**Terence Robertson** writes about **Shane Krige (class of 86)** although he left in Std 8 for the USA. Shane is married with a boy 5 and girl 18 months. He went into the hotel industry and has done exceptionally well. After many hotels in the USA he made his way to England as the hotel manager for the Grosvenor House Hotel. Then he made his way back to Dallas as the hotel director for the Mansion On Turtle Creek (6 star) and now currently holds the position of the general manager of The Plaza Hotel in New York City on Central Park. His email address should anyone want to contact him is: shane.krige@fairmont.com.

**Mark Hopper** is currently living in Alberta, Canada, and working in a hotel in Lethbridge as a manager. He reports that he spent the last few years in Washington DC, also as a manager in an upscale hotel in the SW of downtown Washington. He says that he's been doing a bit of travelling as well when he gets some spare time. He hasn't been back to South Africa since he left almost 3 years ago, and says that he can't help but miss it, "sometimes you can't get Africa out of the blood". He hopes to come back for a visit next year. Mark's email is mhopper@chiphospitality.com or bunky11@hotmail.com.

**Chantal Moerdyk (2004)** is studying to be a CA. She married Cuan Saunders here at TMC on 27th April 2007.



**Jerry Legrand (1977)** while at school went by his adoptive uncle's name of Schoonderwoerd. Jerry lives in Centurion and may be contacted on legranj1@telkomsa.net He says that after completing his military service in 1980, he joined the then Post and Telecommunications Department. He also did a teacher's diploma and designed and delivered training on Radio, Microwave and Satellite telecommunications systems. In 1998 Jerry became a Manager in Telkom's Centre for Learning (CFL). He left KZN for Gauteng in 1991 - but remains faithful to the SHARKS. He married twice, and has three children, a daughter (19) and 2 sons (13 & 9).

**Adolph Jansens (AJ) (1999)** lives in Melbourne, Australia, and works for L'Oreal Australia as their National Inventory Manager.

**John Olsson (started at TMC in 1968)** lives in Wales and fondly remembers some of the teachers of his day. He names Tim Copley, Hamish Lindsay, Ted Brien, Pop and of course Mike Leffler, whom he refers to as "Sir Mike"! He remembers that the school was very small in those days, but very energetic, with activities including orchestras, long walks, sports up at the Country Club – with 10 or 15 of the pupils packed into the old Combie.

**Shaun Standaevan (2005)** popped in to enquire after Mike Leffler. He is in hospitality and is presently at Crowhurst in Gillitts.

**Adam Tudehope (1973 -1976)** writes " It's probably about 15 years since I last visited the school, which happened to be during the school holidays. Browsing through the past Chronicles and the College web site, I am awestruck at the changes that have taken place and the number of pupils who are now enrolled. In looking back on my life, I have to say that those three and half years when I was a pupil at TM, moulded my life and decided my career. There are many many good experiences that I can recall as if they happened yesterday." Adam's email address is: tudehope@eject.co.za

Due to Mike's illness, all correspondence regarding Past Pupils' news to be directed to: Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen on hsk@thomasmore.co.za

# PAST PUPILS' NEWS

## Hockey Club

The outdoor hockey season is already over. The men's first side needed a win against log leaders, Varsity, in their final match of the season to secure second place in division 2. The game was played in pouring rain, and was evenly contested, but Thomas More were held to a 2-2 draw, and finished third, 1 point behind Kearsney.

The ladies' team played with determination throughout the season and had a lot of fun. There were not many wins, but this was a good season for the ladies' team.

The men's second team has progressed well in the last two years and is now able to comfortably hold its own in division 4, and act as a feeder to the first side, providing players when needed. This year the second team provided two new players for the first team.

All three teams were well run by their respective captains. Thank you for your efforts, without which the club would not be able to field these teams. The results of the season so far are summarised below:

Team	Division	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points	Position
Men's 1	2	16	10	3	3	54	28	33	3
Men's 2	4	16	5	1	11	33	38	16	5
Ladies' 1	4	16	3	0	13	18	65	9	7

- \* Please keep fit for the indoor season, starting early January 2008.
- \* Should anyone be interested in playing for the Club, or in helping out with umpiring or supporting our matches, please contact Mary-Ann 083 557 0072, Glen 073 370 9393, Ryan 084 876 5022 or Johann 084 510 5764.

*Johann Macleod*

## Swimming CLUB

Thomas More College Swimming Club has a men's team playing in the 2nd Division, and a ladies' team playing in the Ladies' Division of the KZN Waterpolo Highway League. Games are to be held at King's Park Swimming Pool between 6 and 9 on a Tuesday evening for the Men, and between 6 and 9 on a Thursday evening for the Ladies. Games consist of 4 chukkas (7 mins each for the Men, and 5mins each for the Ladies) and each team only plays one match in the evening. The season runs Sept-December and Jan-April with a break over the Christmas to New Year period.

These teams are open to anyone, not necessarily just TMC Past and Current Pupils. Any ladies interested can give Melanie Kuster a call on her cell 0828529160. Any men interested can give James Lees a call on 079 156 6522 or Calum Cockerill on 072 232 1088. There is also the possibility of TMCS being able to enter a Men's Masters team; anybody interested should contact Gavin Belman at the school.

*Melanie Kuster*

## Reunions 2008

**FOUNDERS' DAY 24 SEPTEMBER**

**CLASS OF 1998 - 10th reunion**  
**CLASS OF 1988 - 20th reunion**  
**CLASS OF 1978 - 30th reunion**  
**CLASS OF 1968 - 40th reunion**

Please let your friends know about this important date. Please contact the school's Marketing Department on 0317648680 if you require names of B&B's in the area. If you would like to arrange something special for your year's Matric Class, let us know and we'll see how we can help.

## HANNAH MEREDITH

a Thomas More College Pupil  
with a big heart

Grade 10 pupil Hannah Meredith has done Thomas More College and her country proud.

She represented South Africa at the Operation Smile International Leadership Conference in Limerick, Ireland, in July. Operation Smile was founded in 1982 in Norfolk, USA. The organisation has worked in 30 countries throughout the world, and in November 2007 is conducting a week-long mission in 44 countries simultaneously where medical specialists will be treating 5000 children with facial deformities. Hannah has been involved in fundraising for Operation Smile, creating awareness in the media and the community, presenting talks, and visiting areas where the organisation can make a difference.

Hannah said that she was initially nervous when she flew into Shannon, just outside Limerick in Ireland, which Hannah describes as being "so green", but the friendliness of the people soon allayed her fears. The Conference was held at the University and the delegates from around the world were privileged to hear from inspirational speakers such as Mark Victor Hansen who wrote the 'Chicken Soup for the Soul' series, also Paul Gleeson, the youngest Irishman to row single-handedly across the Atlantic Ocean, and many other speakers. 50 delegates were then selected and given mission training, and of these 40 were selected to be sent to different sites around the world in November. Hannah was selected to go to Madagascar from 7th until 16th of November. She and Judy Robert, her student sponsor and a parent at Thomas More College, will travel to schools and communities in Madagascar distributing posters and information about oral hygiene, burn prevention, nutrition and rehydration. She is hoping to find some sponsors for dental floss, toothbrushes etc, to take along for distribution.

Judy Robert writes: "Operation Smile is most grateful that Thomas More College has granted permission to Hannah Meredith to be part of the Student Team on the "World Journey of Smiles" mission, in Tamatave, Madagascar. Hannah will depart from Durban on 7 November 2007 and return on 16 November 2007. Hannah will join approximately 43 medical and non-medical volunteers on this mission.

The Student Education Team prepare basic healthcare lessons on clean water, nutrition, burn care and prevention, oral rehydration, and dental hygiene. During the mission, students present these lessons to the patients and their families who are being screened for surgery. They then educate and interact with patients during surgery week.

Additionally, the student teams visit local schools and orphanages to give their presentations and spread awareness of Operation Smile. The students are also responsible for assisting, as needed, in other areas of the mission.

Upon return from the mission, the students are expected to give presentations on their mission experience to classmates, church groups and other civic organisations. As a direct result of these efforts, student volunteers help improve the lives of thousands of children and their families each year.

*Helene Steinfeldt-Kristensen*

