

# THE Moorcock Chronicle

EDITION 24 - 2010

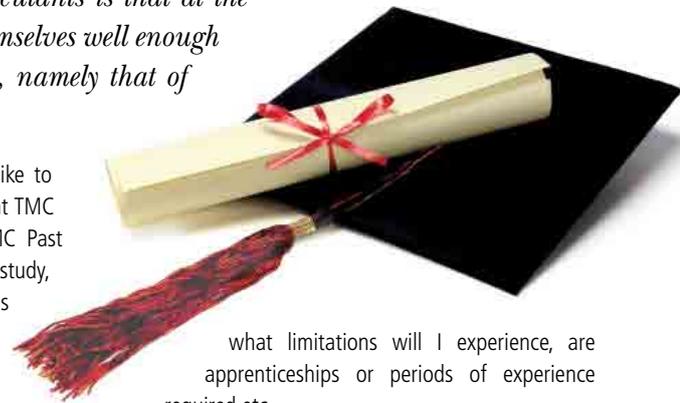
THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Thomas More College Past Pupils' Association *Mentorship Programme*

*The biggest problem faced by prospective Thomas More College matriculants is that at the age of 17, with little to no life experience, they are expected to know themselves well enough to be able to make a decision which will define the rest of their lives, namely that of choosing an avenue of study and consequently a possible career path.*

One of the biggest problems faced by the younger members of the TMC PPA arises as a result of that choice. Pupils who never had access to the necessary information, or who had no-one of whom to ask their questions discover within their first two years of study that they have made the wrong choice. Consequently pupils who have chosen the wrong avenue of study suffer not only from the added financial burden of changing courses, but also the mental burden of confusion, or worse still, feeling like a failure. Added to this is the setback experienced by those who did not choose the correct subjects to gain access to their chosen field who then have the added burden of bridging courses.

What we, as the TMC PPA, would like to do is create a system whereby current TMC pupils can access a directory of TMC Past Pupils, and their chosen avenues of study, career paths, trade apprenticeships and/or work experiences. In this way the pupil would have the opportunity to contact someone who has had a similar primary and secondary educational experience to them, in order to ask the relevant questions that many career counsellors have difficulty answering – such as does my personality type suit the chosen field, what are the hours involved, what real career opportunities does this qualification open for me,



what limitations will I experience, are apprenticeships or periods of experience required etc.

In so doing the TMC PPA aims to provide yet another 'service' to its members, by providing a channel of communication for the sharing of knowledge and experiences which will hopefully help future generations of TMC pupils in making one of the most difficult decisions of their lives.

*Should you be willing to have your details listed in the directory, please contact Rae Griesel (secretary of the TMC PPA) on [rgriesel@thomasmore.co.za](mailto:rgriesel@thomasmore.co.za) or 031-764 8697, or Melanie Küster (co-ordinator of the TMC PPA Mentorship programme) on [melanie@steritech.co.za](mailto:melanie@steritech.co.za) or 082 852 9160*

## *A First For*

**THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**  
FOUNDING PUPIL'S GRANDSON BEGINS  
HIS SCHOOLING IN THE FOUNDATION  
PHASE THIS YEAR – 2010

*Founding Pupil Mr Roy Alderdice (1962 - matriculated 1967) and who is also now Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Thomas More College gives his grandson Cameron a big hug before he walks into his Grade 00 classroom for his first day at school this year.*



# PAST PUPILS' NEWS SNIPPETS

## Parents in Business

### FORUM BREAKFASTS

Each term Karen Colvin (Fundraising: Thomas More College) holds a Parents in Business Forum Breakfast.

This year Karen decided to focus on the Past Pupils as guest speakers.



2ND TERM - Sithembiso Nzimande (1989)  
– Educor Nomandla CEO.



1ST TERM – Chris Dalzell (1979) – who was until June Curator of the Durban Botanical Gardens.

## GARY GREEN : 1979

Gary Green in 2009 published his first book called Mad Cows and River Spiders which chronicled the adventures of a Duzi novice (he himself with a couple of friends). Book 2 is now out and in this book he tells the funny side of military life in his own experience. Watch out as book 3 is in the process of being written. Below is an extract from one of the local papers.

## Book tells funny side of military life

FORMER surfer turned author, Gary Green, has written an amusing book about his life in the army.

Entitled *Stand at Ease*, the book is the tale of a reluctant conscript's military madness and mayhem.

Green, who is an entrepreneur who works in the surf industry on the Berea, decided to pen his experiences of his life in uniform in a entertaining and satirical light, from the receipt of his dreaded call-up papers through to the unofficial conclusion of his citizen force training.

The book has lots of interesting characters, humorous events and hilarious situations.

Between 1967 and 1994 about 600 000 young, white South African men had to enrol into compulsory service to the South African Defence Force in accordance with the terms of the Defence Act of 1957.

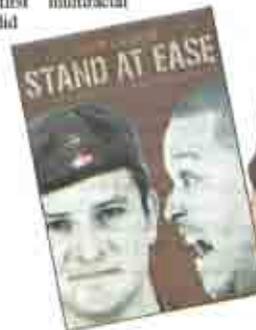
"Many of these conscripts served willingly, some with patriotic fervour. Others did so reluctantly, with little enthusiasm and significant misgivings about the cause for which they were supposedly fighting. I was the product of a liberal middle-class family and as a graduate of one of the country's first multiracial schools, I did

not specifically subscribe to the philosophies of the apartheid system and felt no patriotic duty to uphold its ideals," said Gary.

Determined to outwit the 'military machine' and avoid the conflict of South West Africa, the book details Gary's journey of avoidance and evasion, designed at securing a cushy office job in Durban.

"Instead, in a series of amusing failures, I found myself banished to the notorious Army Battle School and the desolate red sands of the Kalahari Desert," he said.

To find out more, get yourself a copy of this amusing book, which will be available in leading book stores.



Gary Green, author of *Stand at Ease*.

## Congratulations



Deanne Impson married David Clarkson on 27 March 2010 at the Oyster Box!

## Staff News



CLAUDIA LEVARELLI  
(Administrative Staff)  
Was on maternity leave for the 3rd term.  
Her second son Levi Levarelli Smith arrived on Saturday the 12th of June 2010.



# Weddings

## TIGHT KNIT FAMILY OF THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

This is a picture taken at Jodi and David Hill's wedding. For me it is amazing to see that everyone in this picture is a past pupil of Thomas More College and how friendships get forged at school and continue through life.



*James Lees, James Mason, Melanie Kuster (nee Zietsman), Mark Kuster, Jodi Hodgskin, (Bridesmaid), Clare Hofmeyr (Bridesmaid), Zuriel Naiker (Best Man), Lazar Naiker, Andrew Hill (Brother of groom, & Groomsman), and Jenna Fogarty.*



### JODI BELL & DAVID HILL

*Jodi and David were married on 21st November 2009.*



### LIEZL LAATZ (NÉE HOFFMANN)

*Liezl and Ryan Laatz were married on 5th December 2009 at the Cranford Country Lodge in the Midlands.*



### COGHILL – JANSEN

*Gemma Coghill (2005) and Marek Jansen (2001) were married at Under the Marula in Shongweni on 6 March 2010. Marek is a civil engineer, and works for Reed Simpson Construction. Gemma is in her last year of studying teaching, majoring in Sport Science, and doing her practical at Thomas More Primary at the moment.*



### JASON WALKER (2003)

*Jason and Camilla were married on Saturday 18th September 2010 at Granny Mouse Country Hotel in the Natal Midlands.*



### PETER STANYER (2003)

*Peter and Claire were married on Saturday 17th April 2010 at the Chantecler Hotel in Botha's Hill.*



### NZIMANDE WEDDING

*Sithembiso Nzimande was married on 21st March 2010 in Kloof.*



# PAST PUPILS' NEWS SNIPPETS



## THREE **DUX** IN A ROW

### SALLY HOFMEYR : 1995

Sally is working on her PhD, based in the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town, and her supervisor is the well-known statistical ornithologist Prof. Les Underhill. Her topic is *Conservation impacts of environmental change on populations of threatened large terrestrial bird species in South Africa*. In her spare time she sings in the Philharmonia Choir of Cape Town, hikes on the mountain, and enjoys bird watching and bird ringing, as well as the cultural life of the Mother City. However, she misses the green hills and wonderful birdlife of home greatly, and comes back to KZN at least once a year to recharge her batteries! Email: [salhofmeyr@gmail.com](mailto:salhofmeyr@gmail.com)



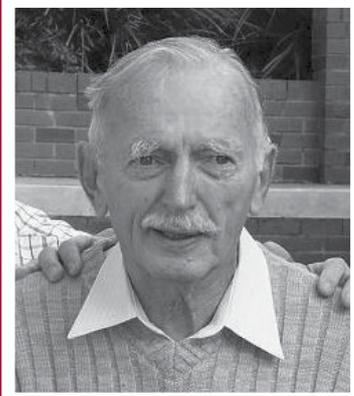
### NICHOLAS HOFMEYR : 1998

Nicholas has recently moved to Bangkok after 6 years in London and is looking for work in the financial sector there. His most recent job in the UK was as a consultant at MSCI Barra, a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investment institutions worldwide. He is studying towards his Financial Risk Management certification, and in his spare time he is learning Thai, and travelling whenever possible. Email: [nhofmeyr@gmail.com](mailto:nhofmeyr@gmail.com)



### CLARE HOFMEYR : 2002

Clare is currently completing her Masters degree in Economics at UCT. For her thesis she is examining how young adults make the decision to undertake tertiary education in South Africa. Fortunately for her, the Department of Economics offers many opportunities for overseas short-term study, and she has recently been accepted not only to a summer school programme at the University of Michigan but also to a 6-week internship at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the upcoming winter break. She is hoping that the internship may open up opportunities for her to continue with research and policy work regarding poverty in Southern Africa once she has completed her thesis. Otherwise she is being kept busy tutoring and lecturing, both of which she enjoys (most of the time!), as well as participating in all that Cape Town has to offer. Email: [clarehofmeyr@gmail.com](mailto:clarehofmeyr@gmail.com)



### MIKE "FLUFFY" LEFFLER

1.4.1931 – 15.12.2009

### TRIBUTE TO A

# Legend

It is with great sadness that the Thomas More Family, both past and present, mourns the loss of Mike "Fuffy" Leffler. As we mourn his loss we also celebrate his life and the life that he brought into Thomas More College over his 35-odd years of service.

Mike was a founding teacher and boarding master at the school in 1962 and was employed to teach English, Afrikaans, Arithmetic and Economics. It did not stop there as his pastimes included extensive travelling, reading, bird watching and nature conservation, and so Geography, History and Biology were soon added to the curriculum. This shows what an incredibly important role he played in the early years of the school where he was involved not only in the academic sphere but in all other aspects of school life as well. His ability to help individual pupils who desperately needed confidence in themselves, finding their strengths academically and on the sports field, was another of Mike's strengths. Mike was always a passionate sportsman and coached many a team in cricket and rugby. He organised and led many trips for pupils to places such as the Okavango Swamps, walks down the Wild Coast, game reserves etc. Mike introduced the 80 km annual Long Walk in 1963 and today this is still an amazing team-building and major event held at the school.

Thomas More College is what it is today partly because of the love and pure dedication that Mike and all the staff gave/give to this school and its pupils.

Mike, we salute you. May you rest in peace in the knowledge that we will always remember your love, care and dedication to the amazing pupils of this school. You always followed their progress with such care and interest.

Rae Griesel



# TRIBUTE



## FAREWELL *Father Boardman* FAREWELL

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL...

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Father Boardman during the Easter holidays. He was hugely respected in the Thomas More College community, having spent 37 years as the School Chaplain. Father was initially appointed as Chaplain in 1971 in a part-time capacity, as he was at that time also parish priest of the Kloof Catholic parish. In 1991 he retired from parochial work to take up the position of resident Chaplain.

During his time at the school he played a diverse role, which ranged from taking Mass for Catholics, teaching Bible Studies and Religious Education, counselling, and even coaching football. Father finally retired from Thomas More College in 2008 after 57 years in the ministry. He then moved to Nazareth House where he continued to deliver the weekly Mass.

Father had suffered from heart problems in recent years and had been fitted with a pacemaker. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday 26th March. A funeral Mass led by Cardinal Napier took place at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Tuesday 6th April. As the funeral took place during the holidays, it was decided to hold a Memorial Assembly on Wednesday 21st April in the Habberton Hall. This was primarily for the benefit of the pupils, but many past pupils, staff and parents also attended.

*Shane Cuthbertson*

We hardly spoke of religion – except in the context of History or Paintings. So what was it that compelled me to sustain a friendship with an aging Priest? Simple. I enjoyed his company – his stories. War stories, Vatican stories, Boys' Town stories – I pictured them all as in a 1950's black and white movie!

The ambulance flights: close escapes like the one over Sicily, when the pilot got a bit too close to Mt Etna and the heat from the volcano sucked them downward.

Or the time the pilot told him (during taxiing) that the runway was too short and he'd better move all the wounded to the rear so the nose would lift!

He recounted many great moments during the Desert campaign – meeting Montgomery and listening to Smuts encouraging the troops.

I was moved by his story of a wounded soldier begging him to let him keep his pistol under the sheets on the stretcher – he had had both his hands shot off. But weapons were not allowed on ambulance flights and Father got into serious trouble over this.

Father loved describing people and places in Italy. He told of how, as young priests, they used to stay smelly and dirty themselves in order to gain the trust of the filthy little street kids in Naples. And how they'd watch soccer matches where the referee carried a gun – to protect himself from the fans!

My favourite story was set at a youth club Father had started in Sarnia. Some brilleamed "ducktails" pitched up one night wanting to bring booze in. Father stood firm at the door and stepped forward as if to chase the biggest guy away. The chap was surprised and stepped backward – tripping. Father said: "As with most stories, the more they get told the more fantastic they become." And soon the word on the street was that Father had punched the guy clear across the street! They never bothered youth club again.

I enjoyed his inquisitive mind. He had a vast knowledge of history and current affairs. We shared a love for all things Italian – especially food. But mostly I'll miss his stories.

Ciao, Padre!

*Lynette Perissinotto*



# PAST PUPILS' SPORT

## THOMAS MORE PAST PUPILS' *Hockey Club*

INDOOR 2010

The TMHC fielded three men's sides in the KZN Hockey Association indoor league, which runs from January to April. The men's 1st side was captained by Richard Montgomery this year, while the men's 2nd and 3rd teams were again captained by parents at the College.

The men's 1st side was captained by Johann and Glenn respectively, both

The 1st and 2nd sides, competing in the same division again, had a keenly contested match against each other, with the 1st side displaying their usual well structured, quick style of play, and after a close first half they dominated to win comfortably 8-5 in the end.

THE UNCONFIRMED RESULTS FROM OUR RECORDS FOR THE 2010 INDOOR SEASON ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TEAM	DIVISION	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	POINTS	POSITION
Men's 1	2	7	5	0	2	34	30	15	2
Men's 2	2	7	3	0	4	27	33	12	4
Men's 3	4	8	3	0	5	26	52	9	5



OUTDOOR 2010

We have entered two men's teams into the KZN Hockey Association outdoor leagues for the 2010 season, which started in April and is set to run through until September.

The 1st outdoor hockey team competes in the second division. The team comprises predominantly past pupils who graduated from TMC during the last seven years or so, and is run by Richard Montgomery this year. Past pupils in this side include James and Cris Lees, Richard Montgomery, Ross Holmes, and Duncan Keir, along with Steve Montgomery, who has been closely associated with the school, and a TMC teacher.

The men's 2nd team is run by Glenn, a TMC parent, and competed on Astroturf in Division 3 for the second consecutive year, after dropping to the fifth Division in 2006, and then moving

up two divisions in successive years. Past pupils in the team over the past two years include Wesley Harding, Barry Foxon, Sean La Réservée, Steve Gardiner, Murray Smith, Bryce Bosse, Rodney Meyrick, Dale Dunlop and René Missen. Bryce, Barry and Steve have also represented the first side in previous seasons.

The men's 2nd side is a much better side than 3 years ago, but will again be in a battle to avoid relegation in Division 3. The 2nd side is looking to strengthen their side to cement their place in Division 3. Now that the second side competes only one division below the first side, they are able to act as a more effective feeder team, supplying players to the first side.

Both teams eagerly awaited the official opening of the new Astro Turf at the College which took place on the 14th of August 2010.

The hockey club has developed a closer link with the College over the years. On Association Day, the ladies' team plays against the College 1st ladies team while the Men's 1st and 2nd teams take on the College first and U16A teams respectively. On 14 August, we fielded a Ladies' and a Men's team to play against College sides to celebrate the official opening of the new Astro Turf at the College. We would also really like to see some TMC pupils from the class of 2010 playing for our past pupil teams next year.

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 Glenn (073 370 9393), Richard (082 343 2558), or Johann (084 510 5764).

## PAST PUPILS' *Waterpolo* PAST PUPILS'

During the preceding off-season, TMC Highway Waterpolo Club hosted its annual Winter Warm-up League. The league is intended to give school & adult teams from the Durban and Highway areas some match practice prior to the beginning of the actual waterpolo season in October.

The League was held at TMC, and hosted 22 teams, with matches being played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The League was a huge success, with fun had by all, players and spectators alike. It also achieved its intended result, with 4 of the participating teams achieving huge success in their respective season opening tournaments – most notably the TMC Boys 1st Team winning the annual National Co-Ed Tournament (Well Done Boys!!!). The 4 participating TMC Highway teams all finished in the top quarter of

their league division, with the Ladies' team going from second to last, last year, to 2nd overall this year.

TMC Highway Waterpolo Club will be fielding 7 teams in the upcoming KZN League – one 1st Division team, one 2nd Division team, one Masters team, two 3rd Division Boys' teams, one Ladies' team and one Girls' team. Practices are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 5pm-7pm at TMC. All are welcome, of any age – if you would like to play, please just come to a practice or contact Gregg (082 838 6175), Melanie (082 852 9160) or Calum (072 232 1088). Alternatively contact the TMC PPA office who can take your details for one of us to contact you.

*Melanie Kuster*



# THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



## Guest Book

Wondering who has been to visit me lately at Thomas More College? Go to [www.thomasmore.co.za](http://www.thomasmore.co.za) - Past Pupils - Guest Book and have a look.

I would love to meet you, so pop in and I can add you to the guest book as well.

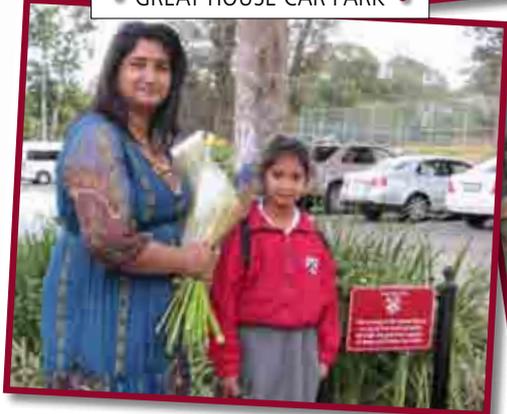
Rae Griesel



• GREAT HOUSE CAR PARK •



• HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK •



• ASTRO - LEFFLER FIELD •

## Update YOUR DETAILS

This is a vital part of my job and I ask if you have not heard from me in a while by email, please go to [www.thomasmore.co.za](http://www.thomasmore.co.za) – Past Pupils and do my very quick “update your details”. I would really appreciate the time and effort. At the bottom of that page there is a link to be my friend on Facebook – be my friend please...

A year ago I had 2241 past pupils on my database and I am happy to announce that I now have 2585. Of those I only have 480 email addresses. So you can see why I need you to update your details.

Exciting news though is that in a matter of 7 months we have got the TMC Past Pupils Facebook page up and hopefully by the time you get to read this I will have 1000 Facebook friends (all Past Pupils). Help me get this number to increase steadily.

Rae Griesel

## CAMPUS

# Developments

### ASTRO TURF – LEFFLER FIELD

We made considerable progress with the various capital projects over the June/ July holidays. The much awaited Astro Turf is now up and running, and a number of practices on the new surface have already taken place.

### HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM BLOCK

The High School classroom block (4 classrooms) is complete.

### DALBERG LIBRARY

As a spin-off project we have been upgrading the Library facilities. This involved capturing two adjacent small classrooms into the Library space.

### TARRING OF GREAT HOUSE CAR PARK

We have been blessed with having had the Great House car park with driveway all the way down to the Stock Shop tarred. This was generously donated by the Govender Family who are current parents at Thomas More College.

### Archive Collection

If you have pics, clothes, documents to donate. Stories to tell... Please do...

LYN BREGMAN - DALBERG LIBRARY

031 764 8657

lbregman@thomasmore.co.za

### Thomas More College Jubilee

2012

Watch this space for more details

The School for all Seasons

[www.thomasmore.co.za](http://www.thomasmore.co.za)

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