

# THE Moorcock Chronicle

EDITION 38 – 2017



# TMC

Thomas More College

THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

# 2017 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SATURDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2017

*I believe that as an Association, there is no greater indicator of success than the anticipation of potential members when they join your ranks. As such, it is both with privilege and immense pride that I attend the Matric Farewell breakfast each year. The Past Pupils' Association has grown from being an unknown entity to our newest crop of members to an entity where they race to don their **#proudpastpupil** t-shirts as badges of honour. That simple beginning makes the years' work worthwhile and truly reinforces that our proudpastpupil momentum is growing in exactly the right direction. Our newest members clearly think so, and we as a Committee can only hope that the rest of you feel the same.*

The last 2 editions of the Moorcock Chronicle were distributed and received much success, with our main goal of highlighting changes to the campus and the staff, much to the apparent enjoyment of our members. Yet another indicator of our momentum is that our July edition was distributed to over 3300 email addresses, from which we received not one response requesting removal from our distribution list. When you compare this to a database of just shy of 2000 email addresses 5 years ago, and numerous removal requests, the momentum of our growth is obvious, as well as the fact that the growth is in the right quarters. We have migrated from a Facebook profile to a Facebook page with 2159 followers, which has opened up the opportunities of using Facebook's paid promotions. Thus far, our use of it shows that we reach on average 400 more members per post than we do via unpaid posting, and thus, as a communication tool for critical messages it is proving a very worthwhile step.

Our Sports Clubs are truly representative of the wider Thomas More Family. Each Club hosts members from the pupil, parent, teacher and past pupil bodies, alongside members from the greater Upper Highway community, and all Clubs are serving members of both genders. Our hockey ladies are currently undefeated, and sitting

at the top of their league. Our cycling team, made up of entirely current pupils won the KZN League at the end of 2016 and our Waterpolo Club, in its turn, hosts a very successful winter warm up league each year which draws schools as far abroad as Pietermaritzburg.

In response to the obvious marketing opportunity that these Clubs present for Thomas More College, we will be changing our sports-funding model to one where instead of sponsoring money towards player subscription fees we will instead provide fully sponsored or reduced price TMC branded kit for each Club. This will become effective in 2018.

2017 has seen our dedicated and hard-working part-time archivist, Lynn Bregman, spend 98 hours sorting and integrating all of the physical photographs. The archives are now a pleasure to visit as they are sorted, easily accessible, and easily decipherable wherever information was available. There are currently 2 active projects underway within the Archives. One is the ongoing identification of un-annotated or unidentifiable records, which is a very time-consuming job requiring the attention of someone with first-hand knowledge of the approximate era in which the record arose. The



second is the collation of digital records, and the transferal of records from outdated media such as stiffy discs, floppy discs and VHS onto digital hard drives. Once that is completed, the next mammoth task will be the sorting and integrating of the unidentifiable and or unannotated records of digital format. We are also collecting current material, as well as any old material our members are willing to part with.



#proudpastpupil



Despite the last minute route change and the weather being better suited to aquatic life, **LONG WALK 2017** was a huge success in our opinion. The camaraderie generated by the use of the campus, as well as the increased interaction between walkers on the different loops created an amazing atmosphere that was wonderful to be a part of. Logistically we also experienced a much smoother, faster supply and resupply process for the Past Pupils' Stop. With our gazebos, new teardrop banners and energetic sound, we are confident that the Past Pupils' Stop was both memorable and successful. It was also 100% manned by Past Pupils and Board Members, with huge thanks going to Otto, Patrick and Roy for assisting us on the day. It has been said on many other forums, but the agility and outright class of the PC Long Walk Committee in adjusting to a difficult situation cannot be overstated, and our thanks go out to each and every one of them!

The **MADIBA EXHIBITION** was a very successful last minute addition to the PPA and School calendar for 2017. Matthew Willman's loan of his Madiba Heritage Collection was an opportunity to educate and enrich our community that could not be

missed. The programme began with an open evening, free to the general public, which drew an estimated 250 visitors onto campus, followed by tours of the exhibition for Thomas More scholars, parents and staff. Our thanks are extended to Lynette Dunlop and her History Department for their assistance throughout the week, but most of all, thanks is owed to Matthew Willman for his very generous offer,

and his presence and assistance throughout the week.

Our Proudly **MZANSI PUB QUIZ**, set to the backdrop of the Madiba Exhibition, was a wonderful evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all 144 of our attendees. We are prodigiously proud that in just over 2 years we have managed to grow attendance of this event from 87 to 144, and have just successfully hosted our 4th edition! We hope that all of those who attended found it to be the value for money social event that we intended, and are proud to say that our audience was a delightful mix of Past Pupils, Staff, Parents and Friends of TMC! Our idea for this event has always been to position it as an event that will draw Past Pupils back onto campus, but that can also easily be elevated into a fundraising event if and when we should have need to, and we feel that we are very close to perfecting that recipe. Our thanks here are extended to the TMC functions team headed by Michelle Wight and to Claudia Levarelli and Keryn Brophy for their assistance in setting up.

Our new kid on the block, **THE HOMEGROWN EXPO** was a resounding success, and really it was never going to be anything but. Every adult sitting in this

room has the lingering question in their minds, of how different their life may have been if they had experienced such an exposure to many varied career paths, given by people who truly have their best interests at heart. Thomas More pupils need never have that lingering question from 2017 forward. The venues used on the day were a buzz of activity, with real, serious interest shown by the pupils in the 48 careers on display. In addition, many of the mentors present continued on to offer their assistance and facilitation during the upcoming work experience week for the Grade 11's. I personally believe that many a student's future choices were informed by the interactions facilitated that day, and that no PPA event will prove, in future, as valuable to the students of Thomas More as the continued success and growth of the Homegrown Expo. We can't thank Dave Wiggett enough for his passionate championing of this event and for providing the PPA with a platform from which to turn our idealistic Mentorship Programme into something real and meaningful in the lives of the scholars.

**COUNTRY FAIR 2017** was a resounding success for the PPA. Our stand proclaimed our identity, and we saw in excess of 120 past pupils on the day – a record number for us, with 15 of them being members for which we previously had no contact details at all. Our **#proudpastpupil** mugs were well received, and will be thoroughly enjoyed. What was wonderful to see were 2 brothers from the 1970's, who now live in Barcelona, but who had come out for a visit and used some of that time to attend the Country Fair. We see this every year, but not usually in our older members. Yet another nod to the Parents' Council on the affection in which this event is held by our members!



As always, **ASSOCIATION DAY** is our flagship event. In addition to our standard programme of events, we have introduced a catch up session, hosted here in Café de More, with those current and past staff whom we have been able to entice to attend today's proceedings. In addition, we are hosting 2 lunchtime reunions, for the classes of 1977 and 2007 respectively. We are sure they will thoroughly enjoy themselves, and like last year, will still be here at 5pm, where we will gently try to chase them off campus.

As far as the PPA Executive committee goes, we were delighted to add Bronwyn Burnett to our ranks during the course of the year. Her passion for the school makes her a perfect fit for the PPA, and if I may take the liberty of saying this, would make her dad incredibly proud. Sadly, we lose 2 members this year, Shane Cuthbertson and Reg Hoddinot, both due to retirement, both of whom will be honoured later this morning.

As always there are thanks that must be made. To Lisa and her catering staff, for the delicious food this morning. To Malcolm, and his facilities staff for all the preparation that goes into the sports fields for today. To Wanri, for co-ordinating the sporting schedule and ensuring the attendance of the TMC sports teams. To Michelle, and her functions staff for the preparation of this venue, and the others in use today. To Claudia for all of her



design work and plentiful other assistance, today, and throughout the year, and to Nonto Mkhize, for assisting us whenever she has spare time in her schedule.

To Colleen Woodley, René Missen, Kelsey Coady, James Baker, Ross Belman and Kathryn Kure – there is no dead weight on this committee. You all work hard and give of yourselves and your time. I am eternally grateful to each of you for what you all enable us as an Association to achieve. I would also like to take this opportunity, and I know I speak for everyone here, to wish Kelsey our deepest congratulations, on her upcoming wedding. You will be the most joyful, beautiful bride, and we wish you and Fred a happy and blessed life together.

Gary, it is very rare to have true respect for someone these days, but boy do I have it for you. You are my sounding board, my back-up, and my partner in crime. I hope that one day every member of the greater Thomas More family will know just how much they owe you! I can't give you chocolate or wine, so I am afraid you will



have to settle for the biggest tub of sweets I can find.

Rae, whilst Thomas More College is the air that we breathe, you are the heart that ensures we can, in fact, breathe in the first place. Thank you for beating for us, and let no one, ever, be under the misapprehension that you are just our secretary, you are the best of us all!

I stand here in front of all of you as a Chairperson who is incredibly proud of what we have achieved this year. I can remember in my very first Chairman's Report I took great pride in its brevity, knowing that I was not going to bore all of the attendees... Well this year, I take just as much pride, but my report is nowhere near as brief! We are now an active committee, with a repertoire of worthwhile, successful events, we are of interest to our members and have now also added real value to the offerings of Thomas More College, and the lives of its current pupils. Nobody is ever going to respond who are they when questioned about the PPA in future, and hopefully that is also enough to not have bored any of you today!

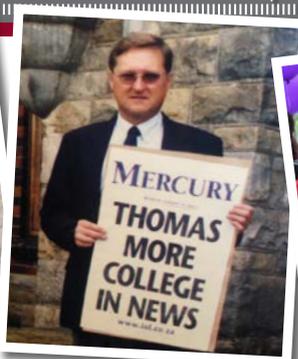
*Melanie Küster*



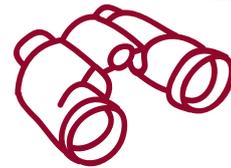
## ASSOCIATION DAY

As always, Association Day is our flagship event, and what a wonderful success 2017's edition was! In addition to our standard programme of events, 2017 saw us introduce a catch up session, hosted in Café de More, with those current and past staff that we were able to entice to attend the proceedings. A wonderful initiative from the Dom King, and Emily Barnes, the current Head Boy and Girl, saw the addition of a 'soundtrack' to the campus for

the day. The PPA have worked towards revitalising Association Day for the last 6 years, and to finally see our plans bear fruit was a feeling of pride like no other! Association Day 2017 was well attended and had such a happy, energetic vibe. We are very pleased to say that each and every **#proudpastpupil** and each and every teacher, past or present, who attended enjoyed themselves thoroughly! We have definitely finally found our winning recipe.



## - TRIBUTE TO - *Shane Cuthbertson*



**SHANE CUTHBERTSON** was born on 19 October 1954 and attended St John's College in Johannesburg for the duration of his schooling. Having qualified with a BSc and HDE at Wits he then went on to do his B.Ed. through UNISA, and later completed his WITS LDP.

Shane started his career as a Biology and Science teacher at Northview High School in 1981 then moved on to Bryanston High School from 1982 – 1984. With teaching Biology and Science, Shane was also the Chief Marker for Biology in the Central Rand Region and Master in Charge of Swimming, Athletics as well as coaching Rugby. Shane was also the Chairman of the Transvaal School Swimming Association. Shane moved on to Northcliff HS where he was HOD for Natural Sciences, among other things, and in 1989 was appointed the Deputy Principal of Bryanston High until 1997.

Shane was then appointed Headmaster of Lowveld High in Nelspruit where he served until 2001, Shane also joined the executive of the South African Principals' Association and chaired the Mpumalanga Principals' Association from 1999 – 2002, whereafter he was snapped up by Thomas More College in 2002 and appointed Headmaster of the High School. With structural changes, Shane was appointed Executive Principal in 2009 to present. Shane has served as a Board member at Thomas More College, and Umhlanga College. He was appointed SAHISA KZN Secretary in 2005 (7

years), KZN Chairman, (2011-2012), National Vice Chairman (2013-2014) and now National Chairman.

Shane is well respected in the education world, and is often called upon to present at National and International conferences and workshops. In addition he has co-authored 6 textbooks for use in schools throughout South Africa.

Shane has facilitated the development of 39 new classrooms, the Ken Garside Centre, the Ken Mackenzie Centre, new and improved PS and HS library blocks, a full size heated swimming pool, netball courts, a Past Pupils' Pavilion and Coffee Shop, an Astro turf, Music School, Stock Shop, upgraded and expanded AEU facilities, an expanded Pre-School programme from Crèche to Grade 00, all in addition to vastly improving our IEB matric results.

Shane has immersed himself in all operations at TMC and takes particular pride in watching our children complete the 80km Long Walk. We will all remember Shane in years to come as having personally congratulated every person as they rang the bell over the finish line.

Shane is married to Carolyn and has welcomed his role as stepfather to her two children, Mandy and Douglas, and is loving his role as "Bumpy", to Mandy and Connor's two children, Ella (4) and Adam (2) whom he adores.

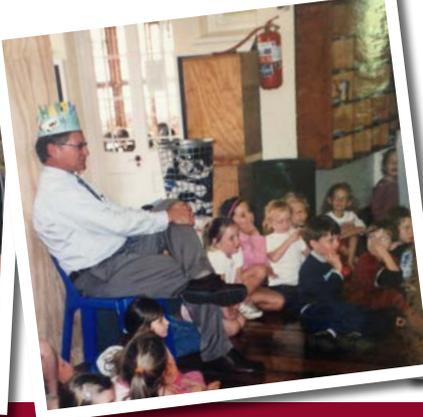
Shane will continue with his passions in retirement, and looks forward to more time in the bushveld, birding, hiking and photography.

Although we are sure he will still be kept very busy teaching Science, and will be snapped up as a locum teacher, and most definitely in larger roles within ISASA.

Shane began his tenure at Thomas More College at the beginning of my Matric year, and I can clearly remember my matric class, come about June of that year, feeling immense gratitude to the Board of Trustees for providing us with such a forward-thinking new Headmaster, and yet one who so very clearly bought into what it was to be a Thomas Moreon. That belief in the fundamental essence of the Thomas More spirit is what makes him a Principal who is known and respected by his staff and his pupils alike, and is part of the reason that Shane is in fact already an Honorary Life member of the Past Pupils' Association.

Shane, I therefore have the privilege this morning, not of standing up here to induct you into our ranks, but rather of expressing our extreme gratitude for all of your efforts over the last 16 years, and to honour you for the success that Thomas More College now is, which is undoubtedly in large part due to your leadership. Every **#proudpastpupil** amongst us owes you a sincere debt of gratitude, and we can only hope that you will enjoy your retirement, knowing that you carry into it the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of every one of us!

*Tribute by Melanie Küster*



# REUNIONS

We hosted two lunchtime reunions, for the classes of 1977 and 2007 respectively on Association Day and then class of 1997 on Saturday 2nd December. What a privilege it was to host all three of these events!

## CLASS OF 1977 (40 YEARS)

The 40 year Reunion for the Class of 1977 was attended by **#proudpastpupils** from as far afield as Australia and Tanzania, and with the wonders of modern technology we also linked in more international jetsetters via Skype. We were all also blessed to have Mr Bill Pickering and Mr Peter McKay join us for the festivities. Class of 1977, you are true **#proudpastpupils!**



## CLASS OF 1997 (20 YEARS)

In order to accommodate a class member on holiday from America, the 20 Year Reunion for the Class of 1997 was held on campus at the beginning of December. We were so privileged to enjoy the memories of those that attended and experience their joy in friendships re-united. Thank you Class of 1997, we are blessed to call you **#proudpastpupils!**

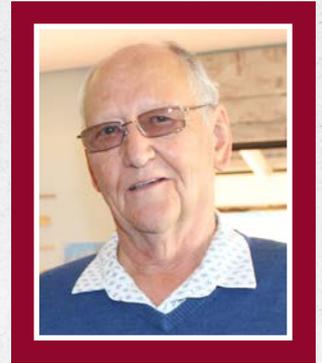


## CLASS OF 2007 (10 YEARS)

The 10 year Reunion for the Class of 2007 was an intimate luncheon, and such fun was had that we can only hope that by their 20 year Reunion we will see many more of them! Thank you to the **#proudpastpupils** of the Class of 2007, we loved hosting you and your families!



## Introducing our newly inducted HONORARY LIFE MEMBER



**REGINALD HODDINOTT'S** association with Thomas More College began when his eldest son Graeme started at Thomas More in 1998, when at the time he was still on the Governing Body of Hillcrest Primary, a role he maintained until the year 2000, when his youngest son David joined the Thomas More family.

In 1998 he began his service to Thomas More College with marshalling duty on the Long Walk, and was so enamoured with the event, that in 1999 he was appointed as a Sector Marshall. In the year 2000 he was appointed as Chief Marshall but had to step in to the role of Long Walk Co-ordinator when Peter Raap was unable to continue in this role. This resulted in Reg being co-opted on to the Parents' Council. In 2002 he was elected Chairman of the Parents' Council and by virtue of this, became a Member of the Board of Trustees .

In 2003 Reg was elected as the Chairman of KZN Junior Chess and together with his PC, Board and Long Walk responsibilities the load became a little too much and he handed over the PC Chairmanship reigns to Roger Ramseier, thus also ending his tenure as a Trustee.

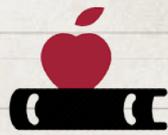
Reg continued serving on the Parents' Council as Long Walk Co-ordinator until the end of 2005 when his youngest son, David, matriculated.

In 2006 Reg joined the PPA Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of René Missen and the rest as they say is history, with Reg being both the custodian of the PPA's Constitution and our strategic co-ordinator for the last 11 years.

During that time, Reg has been a Committee member, whom despite having no other continued link to Thomas More College, could be relied upon to turn up and help at every event the PPA hosted, and to always give of his best.

It is an honour to induct Reg Hoddinot as an Honorary Life Member (9 September 2017) of the PPA. I am certain that you will all agree with me, that with terms as a parent, Long Walk co-ordinator, Chairman of the Parent's Council, Trustee and PPA Committee member his faithful service to Thomas More College over the last 19 years makes him an incredibly deserving recipient of such an honour!

Reg, we thank you for giving all that you had to give to our beloved school, and more so to the Past Pupils' Association. We wish you a very happy and peaceful retirement in Cape Town, where we are sure your children will thrive under your love and care!



# LONG SERVING STAFF

## GAVIN BELMAN

After 21 years of service to Thomas More College, we wish Mr Gavin Belman well as he takes up the position of Deputy Headmaster of Reddam Umhlanga in 2018.

Past Pupils bidding Gavin farewell at his final assembly



## LEIGH-ANNE MACKENZIE

After 24 years of service to Thomas More College, we wish Mrs Leigh-Anne Mackenzie well, as she and her husband Julian and their 2 boys Saxon and Jethro immigrate to New Zealand in January 2018.



## LYNETTE DUNLOP

After 20 years of service to Thomas More College, we belated wish Mrs Lynette Dunlop well, as she and her husband Donald have already taken a contract teaching in China.

*Thank You!*  
We will always remember you with love and appreciation.



# Goodbye to the MATRICS OF 2017

## TOGETHER SINCE GRADE 00



- 1st Row [L-R]: H. Renard; E. Robson; C. Brown; C. Visser; H. Banfield; D. King; M. Morgan; M. Bartman; G. Comarmond.  
 2nd Row: D. Turner; M. Hardstone; J. Esmonde-White; H. Young; A. Freeman; J. Pieters; A. Harper  
 3rd Row: M. Bartlett; J. Selley; A. Smith; C. Doyle; H. Rossouw; K. Scott-Moncrief; N. Leisegang; R Bettany; J. Woods  
 4th Row: Mr D Wiggett; Mrs D Hornsey; Mrs B Taljard; A. Boardman; R. Pillay; R. Smith; Mr S Cuthbertson.





**ROSS BELMAN** (Class of 2012)

***Triathlon World Champs – Rotterdam***

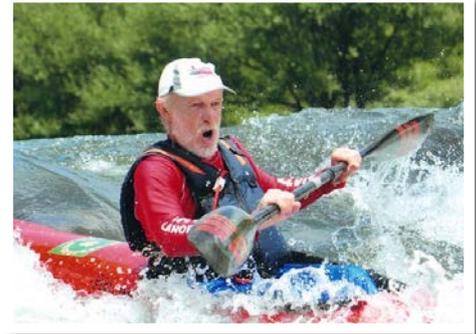
Congratulations to Ross Belman who came 18th in his age group recently after completing his first Triathlon World Champs in Rotterdam in September this year.



**NEIL FOX** (Class of 1974)

***Epic Trek in Nepal – Gokyo Valley, Gokyo Ri, Cho La Pass, Everest Base Camp & Kalapattar***

In April / May of this year, Neil undertook a 19 day trek in the Everest Region of Nepal. Having hiked to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro in 1995, he had wanted to get to Everest Base Camp for many years, and at long last it happened. He set out on the trek with a friend, supported by a fantastic Nepalese guide and porter. Unfortunately, his friend got a viral infection and altitude sickness, and had to be evacuated by helicopter, but he continued and achieved all four things he set out to do. This included Gokyo Ri (5 360m), the Cho-la Pass (5 420m), Everest Base Camp (5 364m) and Kalapattar (5 550m). This was a fantastic experience and it exceeded expectations. Should any past pupil have a desire to do the trek and wish to speak to someone who has done it, he is only too willing to talk about it and share information.



**NIGEL BRIGGS** (Class of 1971)

Nigel's love for canoeing has resulted in him completing over 40 Dusi Canoe Marathons and led to he and his brother publishing a book on the race. Nigel went on this year to get his Protea Canoeing Management colours, taking the SA team to Germany where they won 2 gold, 2 silver and a bronze medal, and in so doing entrenched SA as the number one Kayak team in the world. The Canoeing world champs are being hosted this year in September in Pietermaritzburg where Nigel managed the team and competed in the Masters event.

**SIMONE GOBEY** (Class of 2011)

***Hansa Fish River Canoe Marathon– Eastern Cape, Cradock***

Simone has taken part in a few Canoe and Surfski races this year, however a big one she completed was the Hansa Fish River Canoe Marathon. The race consists of big water, big rapids, wiers and portages over a distance of 81,8km. She and her boyfriend completed the race in a total of 6 hours and 16 minutes and came 159th out of 492 boats.



**JOELLE BARNES**  
(Class of 2003)

Completed the ***Ironman 70.3*** in June this year.



**WARREN COOPER**  
(Class of 2011)

Completed the ***Ironman 70.3*** in June this year.



**JAMES CODNER**  
(Class of 2011)

Completed the ***Comrades Marathon*** this year.

# A trip down Memory Lane...

## CANOEING AT THOMAS MORE

Canoeing at Thomas More started when I asked to build a canoe. A wood and canvas one. I was granted an extra hour after prep each night to build it in long suffering Mr McKay's garage. No doubt keeping him and his babies awake.

My memory is a bit hazy on the details, but I completed this 80lb behemoth and sought permission for Michael Dedekind and I to paddle down the Umgeni from Umfula store to the sea. Mr Copley drove us down into the valley with it on the roof of the old VW combi which was the only transport the school had. (You can fit a whole rugby team into one combi!). In those days that was rugged and remote country. The combi didn't ever make it back out of the valley as far as I remember and that was its demise...

The river had no water in it but we set off anyway taking some two days for what in the current Dusi marathon would take us a couple of hours. Come Sunday evening we still hadn't reached Blue Lagoon and panic stations had set in all round with a plane even being sent out to search for us. We finally got there after dark, with Mr Savory giving telephonic permission for us poor shattered boys, (who were busy racing go-carts and having a ball at Blue lagoon), to go home for a couple of days to recover.

This led to fibreglass boats, which we built ourselves at school. The only time and place for such building was mostly after prep at night, which required lights that were only available in the basement dining room - hence sticky resin all over the dining room tables for breakfast. Thankfully dear Mrs Van, the matron, didn't mind. On Sundays my Dad would pick us up and take us to the various races as far away as the Umkomaas. John Keary and I made a pretty good doubles team, coming sixth and ninth in the Dusi and winning the schoolboy's trophy twice running. We were in the top ten in the province and even beat the Dusi kings, Pope Ellis and Eric Clarke, on occasion on the Umkomaas. We were proud of our resulting provincial colours and provincial and national singles and doubles title, but in later years, even more grateful for the Head and Staff at the time in terms of the freedom and encouragement they gave us - they'd get taken to court for it today.

*Mike van Wieringen*



Canoe Race Is  
Their Goal

ACTI



MICHAEL VAN WIERINGEN and Michael Dedekind.

### TWO BOYS (15) GO ON CANOE ADVENTURE

THE Pietermaritzburg-Durban canoe race is the goal of two 15-year-old Kloof schoolboys who paddled down the Umgeni River from Kloof to the mouth last week.

Michael Dedekind and Michael van Wieringen, fourth form pupils at Thomas More School, Kloof, used a 16-foot canvas canoe to cover the 12 miles in under nine hours, with frequent stops and portages.

Both had done some canoeing on South Coast rivers before, but were inspired in their latest adventure by a talk on canoeing given at the school by Mr. Don Cobbleddick, one of the winners of the last Pietermaritzburg-Durban race.

Mr. Cobbleddick advised the boys not to try the river yet as the water was low. But they had a strong desire to do so, and now they are not sorry.

#### THREE RAPIDS

They had to negotiate three sets of rapids and spent a great deal of time carrying their canoe.

They also discovered why glass-fibre canoes are now preferred. Their canvas canoe was punctured in several places and this added to their difficulties.

Eventually, they arrived at Ellis Brown Viaduct—tired but happy.

Their next step is to join the Kingfisher Canoe Club. Then, after more experience, they will be ready to tackle the gruelling Pietermaritzburg-Durban race.



### Canoeists set off late . . .

TWO 17-year-old canoeists, Mike Kearey and John von Wieringen, of the Kingfisher Canoe Club, left Durban by train on Saturday night for the start of a year's military training at the Air Force Gymnasium in Pretoria — four days after they were scheduled to leave.

Kearey and Von Wieringen, who both matriculated at the Thomas More High School in Kloof, were granted special permission to start their training four days late.

The reason? They competed in the gruelling three-day 'Dusi' canoe marathon from Pietermaritzburg to Durban which ended on Friday.

They came ninth, in 11hr. 57min. 59sec., to retain the Kerby trophy for the first schoolboy team to complete the 110-mile course.

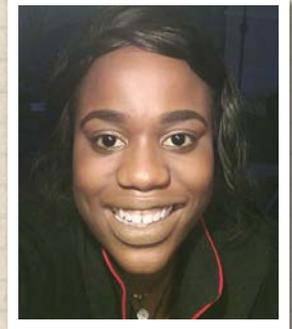
Last year they finished sixth in 12hrs. 41min. 1sec. to win the schoolboy trophy for the first time.



**SCOTT & CANDICE (née Petzer)  
MORDECAI-JONES**  
(Both Class of 2003)

Scott and Candice made the big move to Australia at the beginning of 2017 with their little girl, Mia. They are settling in well and have recently just welcomed their baby boy, Jesse, into the world at the end of September 2017. Jesse weighed a healthy 3.87 kg's at birth and is continuing to grow beautifully every day. Mia is an extremely proud big sister!

Scott is the Operations Manager at a company that produces steel doors and windows in Australia and is really enjoying his job. Candice was a beloved music teacher in the Senior Primary at Thomas More prior to her immigration and plans to return to teaching once her children are a little bit older.



**KAYLEIGH BLACK**  
(left in 2009)

After studying, Kayleigh joined San Lammer, Camelot Spa. She now owns her own Beauty and Skin Care Salon in Hillcrest called Kalabash, where she offers a wide range of treatments specializing in Sports Massage.

**LYNETTE CLENNELL PERISSINOTTO**  
(Past Art Teacher)

Lynette is currently teaching Art at Macau Anglican College in Macau a self-administrative region of China (a former Portuguese island next to Hong Kong).



**LEANNE BARLOW** – née Freeguard (Class of 2004)

Leanne received her diploma in International Hotel Management at Varsity College and is now living in Pietermaritzburg and working with her parents at an Engen petrol station which they have owned since June 2011.



**TATUM OWEN**  
– née Cox  
(Class of 2008)

Tatum having pursued music for most of her life studied and completed her Bachelor of Music Hons, cum laude at UKZN in 2012. Tatum taught music at two Primary Schools and private pupils in South Africa before moving to New Zealand to be with her husband in 2016. They were married on the 7th January 2017 this year at Providence Country Weddings in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands. She is now settling into married life in New Zealand and hopes to pursue her Music career there.

**CHRIS DALZELL**  
(Class of 1979)

Chris is the Chairman of the Keep Kloof Beautiful Association. This is a small group of volunteers who work tirelessly at maintaining meridian islands, collecting litter, removing graffiti and illegal sign posts and constantly emailing the



necessary role players about jobs which are meant to be done but haven't been. Chris has a wealth of knowledge from his many years of working as the curator of Durban Botanic Gardens and from working as the Assistant Director for the project of building the Botanic Gardens in Singapore where they had a budget of \$1 billion. Unfortunately the budget for Keep Kloof Beautiful is nothing like this and comes entirely from donations. Chris very generously gives of his time and labour wherever needed.

**ROD CARGILL**  
(Class of 1968)

Rod is still living in London, and enjoying his work as a professional artist.



**KEEP KLOOF BEAUTIFUL ASSOCIATION**  
Working to Maintain the Special Kloof Environment we all Value

Kirsten King • AdoptASpot Portfolio

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**DR JOHN OLSSON**  
(Class of 1965)

John is a barrister, law lecturer at Bangor University, Wales, and forensic linguist, working in the UK courts as an expert witness.

John values his time at Thomas More, as a "wonderful period in my life". "Some of the best teachers I have ever known worked at this school" he says, thinking particularly of Mike Leffler, Tim Copley, Ted O'Brien, Chris Hurley and Bill Pickering.

"I probably gave them all a hard time" he laughs, "but that does not mean I didn't learn from them", adding "I think Robin Savory inculcated certain values in us, including his emphasis on the character of Thomas More, the man, as a person of great loyalty and truth".

"I remember going to Manchester Crown Court a few years back, where I had to give expert evidence in a conspiracy case. One is always nervous before doing so, and that day was no exception. However, I was greatly reassured when I happened to notice that the statue opposite the door of the court where the trial was taking place, was that of Thomas More. I immediately felt confident that all would be well, and so it was".

John is the author of the standard textbook on Forensic Linguistics, which is used in universities across the world and has been translated into a number of languages, including Arabic and Chinese.

He lives with his partner, Angela (a psychotherapist), in Wales. Their daughter, Chloe, is now 21 years old.

**LARA SIMS-HANDCOCK**  
(Class of 2007)

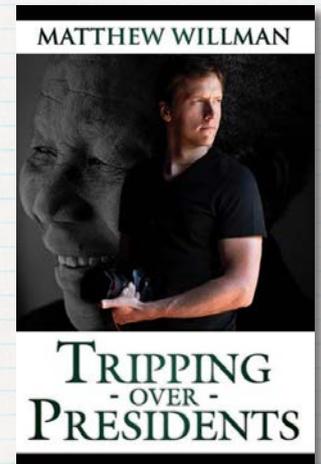
Lara is currently living in London and works at Parallel Consulting. Lara, ever the sportswoman, is currently enjoying her running as can be seen in the attached photograph.



**AUTHORS**

*Amongst us...*

**MATTHEW WILLMAN**  
(Class of 1997)



**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**NICOLETTE CROZIER**  
(Class of 1996)

Nicole Graduated in October 2017 - BSc Honours and continuing onto an MBA. She has been elected as Chairman of Umzinyathi Canoe Club 2017 and will herself be doing the Dusi in 2018. Nicolette has also been promoted as COO in 2017 for an entity called Krisp - KwaZulu Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform.



**DEVON SIMS-HANDCOCK**  
(Class of 2010)

Devon graduated from Rhodes University, Grahamstown with a B.Com (Economics) on 22 April 2017.



**INTRODUCING THE HEADS & DEPUTIES OF THOMAS MORE 2018**

We introduce our Heads and Deputies for 2018. Head boy and girl - Brandon Davies and Tatum Olivier and deputies James Ireland and Skye Embleton.

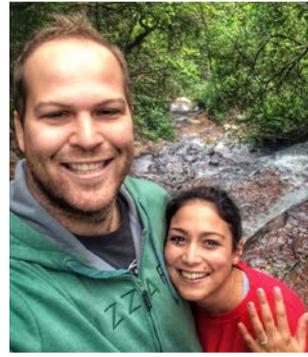


*Congratulations*

# ENGAGEMENTS



**SHANNON SIMPSON** (Class of 2012) and **DEAN BLEWITT** (Class of 2011) got engaged on Saturday 24 November at Mtentu Lodge just outside the Transkei.



**LEVERNE POISSON** (Class of 2007) and Matthew Knox got engaged while hiking in the Kloof Gorge on 21 October 2017.



Congratulations to **MERYL SIMS-HANDCOCK** (Class of 2006) and Troy Dempsey who were married on 1 July 2017 at Lake Eland at Oribi Gorge.

Congratulations to **KELSEY-ANNE COADY** (Class of 2009) and Fred van Wyk who were married on 23 September 2017 at Ashtonvale Guest Farm in the Midlands.

# WEDDINGS



# BIRTHS



**LEANNE BARLOW** – neé Freeguard (Class of 2004) welcomed her son Noah on 20 June 2017. Noah is a prem baby and was born via an emergency C Section.

**CLAIRE VERBAAN** (Class of 2003 – left in 2002) welcomed Taylor Mae Verbaan 3 months early into this world, weighing 770g on 7 August 2016. Claire is based in Hillcrest and is working for F Verbaan Construction.



## PINBOARD

### THE 165 MERCURY



**Brendan Sim**  
(Class of 2011)

The first locally designed and built electric car, called the Mamba, was launched yesterday at the Durban International Convention Centre.

## Students' electric car is a historic first

Khumbuzile Mbuqe

AN EYE-CATCHING electric car, dubbed the Mamba, which is believed to be one of South Africa's first locally designed and built electric cars, was unveiled in Durban yesterday.

The car was designed by a team of six University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) students in collaboration with a local innovation technology business incubator, InvoTech.

InvoTech unveiled the car

yesterday at their last monthly business breakfast of the year at the Durban International Convention Centre.

The students, four top-performing final-year students and two postgraduates, worked under the UKZN Energy and Materials Engineering Research Group, with the financial backing of two companies, TR Tec and Stealth, under the supervision of Dr Clinton Bement and Dr Matthew Brooks.

The Mamba is believed to be the first battery-only electric vehicle to be built in South Africa and uses electric vehicle technology that relies on rechargeable battery packs.

Students Simone Chetty, Sean Mons, Brendan Sims and David Woods were ecstatic when they became part of the team to design along with postgraduates Nicholas Witteveen and Matthew Woods.

The vehicle is a sports

car with good aerodynamics, handling and range, and is extremely light (at about 650kg).

Featuring a lightweight carbon-fibre design that uses the exterior shell of the vehicle to provide structural support, in contrast with traditional body-on-frame construction, the Mamba can reach 0-100km/h in 4-5 seconds and has a top speed of about 140km/h.

Powered by 20kWh Lithium-ion batteries, it has a range of about 200km.

## Success and nothing less for former Durban singer

After losing her mother to cancer just three months following the diagnosis, an up and coming singer with a golden voice, lost interest in music and no longer been so passionate about. However, Tilisha Govender (pictured) knew that she could not let this define her career and wanted to make her mother even prouder of her and so she chose to start an amateur YouTube channel, where she shared her love for music. That was the start of something great for the talented individual who is now part of reputable record label, SA Local Content.

Today, the 33-year-old's love and passion for singing has returned and earned her much success. In an interview with the former Durban resident, she shared her musical journey with journalists. "I come from a family that absolutely loves music. Growing up, there was always music and singing at our family gatherings. My grandfather, Moon, played the double bass at the Odeon Orchestra back in the day. I think it is safe to say that we all inherited our musical abilities from him. When I was seven, I asked my parents to purchase a guitar for me and despite not having much money, they fulfilled my wish," she said. According to 'Tilisha G', her mother was always her biggest fan and encouraged her to always follow her dreams. "She took me to audition for Idols when I was 19. Although I never got to see the TV judges, she kept telling me to never give up. When I was 13-years-old, I wrote two songs and she was the only one I played them for. She was so proud of me and took me to record a demo at the Highway Radio studio. I still have the tape and it's quite embarrassing."



she chuckled. Some of the artists who inspired the insights strategist over the years are Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, The Bee Gees, Tupac, The Backstreet Boys, The Spice Girls and Aaliyah among many others. She enjoys the rhythm guitar and is also currently teaching herself to play the harmonica, proving that there is no end to knowledge. "Being part of my school choir, church choir and youth band also helped deepen my love for music," she added. When asked what it's like being part of SA Local Content, she said that the experience has been amazing. "They have displayed belief in me and my ability even when I doubted myself. SA Local Content is really passionate about developing talent in SA and I am very excited to be working with them. At the moment, we are doing lots of promos for a collaborative album, 'A Place in Time'. In addition to this, I am also very excited to be in discussions with SA Local Content regarding a solo album. I have achieved my dream and it's such a special feeling," she proudly said. According to the former Thomas More College pupil, music can take one on a human spirit. Her advice to aspiring artists is to fill their life with an active pursuit of the things they love to do. "Anything is possible. Using social media to showcase who you are and what you have within you. Most importantly, always stay humble," the bubbly woman concluded. To keep up with Tilisha's music, visit her on SA Local Content.

**Tilisha Govender**  
(Class of 2001)

## Engineering their futures

### Innovative work on show at UKZN

TANYA WATERWORTH

**A** FLYING car, a rocket display, a pedal bus and a smart home. These were just a few of the engineering projects on show yesterday at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's annual Mechanical Engineering Open Day which showcases some of the province's most innovative work by final-year engineering students.

Professor Glen Bright, academic leader for UKZN mechanical engineering, said: "The students have to solve fundamental engineering problems. They have to research, design, manufacture and test within a very structured format and within a 10-month period. When they go into industry, they will be required to solve industry-related problems."

Petroheads around Durban would be impressed with the automotive ingenuity on display, including a rally car built from scratch, a winged flying car, an amphibious vehicle and a collapsible hand-bicycle for paraplegics, as well as a pedal bus and electric trikes.

"There are electric and solar vehicles, these are the vehicles of the future."

Other projects included a smart home which is designed to operate entirely off-grid by using solar energy and incorporates a control system applied to several components.

There was also a Brick Rehabilitation system which takes old and used bricks and puts them through an integrated cleaning mechanism which is capable of refurbishing and/or reshaping bricks,

providing a low-cost alternative to new ones.

The prototype of the Flying Car attracted a lot of interest, with the team explaining that the vehicle had a vertical take-off and landing capability.

"There are other flying cars, but they need a runway. We looked to find a solution to this in that the car can take-off and land vertically."

"We see the end result of being able to drive and fly in a car and that is also electric which is far better for the environment. We spent many late nights up working," said team member Nilan Gounden.

The amphibious car, also described as the "shark car", could have come straight out of a James Bond movie.

"The car's team of designers said while the initial use would be recreational, the end goal was to create a search and rescue vehicle."

The off-road rally car was also an impressive feat of engineering, with Vikshay Ramperath saying their team converted an old VW Beetle.

"We kept the front suspension, gearbox and engine and then converted it into a fully functional off-road vehicle," he said.

The projects form part of the final year Design and Research Project modules where students had to achieve specific objectives within budget and the prototypes covered a wide range of engineering sub-disciplines including vehicle design (electric, air, land, water), green energy technologies, renewable energy harvesting systems and industrial machines.



**LANDING GEAR:** Holding up the prototype of the flying car are final year UKZN engineering students Nkolo Mthembu, Nilan Gounden, Jeremy Crichton and Ryan Cooper.

**Ryan Cooper**  
(Class of 2013)



**ALL-TERRAIN:** The off-road rally car team: Rehwyn Pillay, Suleshan Munsamy, Cameron Hofer and Vikshay Ramperath.



**WATER BABY:** The amphibious car designed by Andrew Isaac, Roshlan Govender, Vivek Naidoo, Muneeb Malik and Keegan Naidoo.

# SAVE THE DATE 2018

EVENT	DATE
LONG WALK	Saturday 17 March
GOLF DAY	Friday 11 May
PUB QUIZ	Friday 25 May
HOMEGROWN	Monday 11 June
COUNTRY FAIR	Saturday 28 July
ASSOCIATION DAY / AGM / REUNIONS	Saturday 8 September



1976

## THEN & NOW

### Edoo Barker Pool



2017

Merry Christmas  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



### PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

Wishes you and your families a very special and Merry Christmas  
We look forward to touching base with you in the New Year.

## WE NEED YOU! How can you help?

Please send us your updated information for our ALUMNI PORTAL.

If you are in contact or have PAST TEACHERS as friends on Facebook, Please send any contact information you have to [rgriesel@thomasmore.co.za](mailto:rgriesel@thomasmore.co.za)

## Have you found us on Facebook yet?!

Our original Facebook Profile will be shut down in July 2017 as we have migrated to a FACEBOOK PAGE.



PLEASE LIKE OUR PAGE

[www.facebook.com/proudpastpupil](http://www.facebook.com/proudpastpupil)  
to continue getting our feeds and updates and please spread the word!

