The year that has passed since our last AGM has been incredibly successful for the Past Pupils’ Association on numerous levels. We set ourselves two main tasks for this year. One was to increase the quality (and quantity if possible) of the content of our database, and the other was to revitalise, or make truly successful, our existing portfolios and the existing events within our calendar so that we could look at adding more in the future. We believe that we have been truly successful on both counts.

Our Sports teams were both successful and for the most part well-run. As always, when dealing with volunteer sports teams, there were hurdles to overcome and for the most part these were cleared with flying colours. The committee would like to thank Michelle Albers for Hockey and Gregg Higgs for Waterpolo for their immense, unpaid, hard work.

Thanks to the generous funding from Roy Alderdice, and the efforts of Patricia Strong, we were able to add 531 completely new contacts to the database out of a total of 2225, marking a 24% increase. We were also able to add numerous new Facebook friends, and to begin on the path towards a Linked-In profile. When you consider the fact that Patricia was basically cold calling people, we are overjoyed at the success achieved, and cannot begin to thank her enough. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge her hard work, especially in light of the fact that we did not receive even one grumble from anyone contacted! From Roy’s generous donation there is still some money left, which we are currently reserving until we have decided on the next avenue that will yield appropriate results in this quest.

Thanks to Gary Green and Rae Griesel’s efforts, the past pupils’ stop on the TMC Long Walk was manned and successfully run, again this year. We as a committee had identified 2 targets, one was to ensure the stop was fully manned for the duration of the day, and the other was to ensure an atmosphere that clearly highlighted the fact that it was a past pupils’ stop. We were 100% successful on the first aim. The stop was fully manned, and ran like clockwork for the duration of the day. However, we were not entirely able to achieve our second aim in that we were assisted by some current parents and the obvious past pupil atmosphere was lacking despite the stop having a great overall atmosphere. We are therefore currently putting plans into place to make sure that the stop is run entirely by...
past pupils in future years and that it obviously and successfully achieves our aim of providing interaction between the current and past pupils of TMC.

Our stand at the Country Fair was successful beyond our wildest dreams. We advertised via email and Facebook that we would be offering free t-shirts, a free coffee, a free doughnut and a free copy of “Coming To Terms” (all sponsored by Gary Green) to any past pupil who joined us to reminisce (and of course update their details!). Based on our experiences from previous years where we have seen 20-30 people all day, we printed 60 t-shirts, thinking that would be plenty…

They were gone within the first 45 minutes of the day! At one point during the morning we had queues of past pupils 6 people deep at each of our 3 tables. We also had past pupils standing around in groups, catching up, reminiscing and creating exactly the kind of atmosphere of comraderie that we were hoping for. All in all, not only did we hand out all 60 t-shirts, but we also ended with a list of more than 60 more to have printed and supply to those who arrived after 10am! Overall I estimate we saw between 130 and 150 past pupils and their families, with the age range being from the initial Founding Class, right through to a large number of 2013 Matriculants. The t-shirts saw the launch of our #proudpastpupil campaign and was incredibly well-received! This has given us such a boost to carry forward into all of our events in 2015, as well as clear ideas of what works and what our members would like to see from us!

Our last target for the year is today’s Association Day and the 40 Year Reunion weekend being held in 2 weeks’ time. It will probably be the last year which will see the exact traditional programme of Association Day being our AGM, followed by Current vs Past Pupils Sport and the South Africa vs New Zealand Rugby Match which will be screened here in the Pavilion. We will also be hosting the Class of 2004’s 10 year Reunion here this afternoon. In 2 weeks’ time we will assist in hosting the 40 year Reunion which has been organised by members of that year. It will run over the course of the entire weekend, and include functions hosted by the school, or by ourselves at the school, or by the local past pupils themselves. It promises to be a truly memorable weekend for them and the Thomas More family as a whole.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Thomas More College Board of Trustees and more particularly Shane Cuthbertson and his team for their excellent administration of Thomas More College. I would also like to extend my thanks to the PPA committee. I would especially like to thank Gary Green, I so truly appreciate your help and wise counsel! Rae, the last but most important vote of thanks goes to you. No-one is more aware of the workload you carry than me. You do it all at your best level, with a smile on your face and gratitude does not even begin to describe our feelings for you! Thank you for everything you do and for just being you!

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<tr>
<th>2015 PAST PUPILS’ ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Kuster</td>
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<td>Gregg Higgs</td>
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First and foremost to Heather Collis, a big thank you for taking on championing this Reunion. Without your input, Facebook invitation, support and rallying the troops together this event would not have been the success it was.

**THE AFTERNOON WENT AS FOLLOWS:**

12:30 Arrival & welcome drinks and snacks (supplied by the PPA).
13:00 Braai’s started.
13:00 Tour of the school by Rae.
14:00 Men braaied.
14:30 Lunch was enjoyed by all.
15:30 Dessert – Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce.
17:00 Wrap up and those still wishing to chat went to Stokers.

Rae Griesel

I'd like to thank the school, the Past Pupils Association, and Rae for affording us the opportunity of having our reunion. It was a day filled with nostalgia, and I honestly feel that it was enjoyed by all.

DUNCAN KEIR

luke ROBBERSE

Thank you so much Heather and Rae for hosting our ten year school reunion recently. It was an awesome afternoon spent catching up with all our old friends. So glad I was part of the 2004 class at TMC - what a bunch of cool people!!

LAUREN MCCALLUM

I had such a good time at our 10 year reunion. It was amazing to see all the development that has happened at the school since I left, it really has come a long way! Was also great catching up with old friends!

LUKE ROBBERSE
Thanks to everyone involved in the 10 year reunion. It was so nice to see everyone so grown and happy with kids running around and partners... Time really does fly! Funny how I felt out having a daughter before - not realising how many of us have kids- Warren (My BF) even saw an old friend of his that is now married to Chantal. Was awesome seeing the schools progress- had to show off my class 1 classroom to Warren which is still there... Thomas More is looking beautiful and hopefully 1 day I can send my daughter there!

TAMRYNN PEARCE

Dear Rae & The Past Pupils’ Committee. I would like to say a huge thank you for arranging the class of 2004’s first 10 year reunion! It was very well organized and all of the right facilities were provided for us to have a great afternoon together. It is heartwarming to see that events like these are kept going - it is reminders like these that make me a proud Thomas More College past pupil!

NIC FRANKS

Thank you to Rae for all the hard work she did ensuring that it was a very special occasion for all who had returned to celebrate the institution that is central to our upbringing in the former most impressionable years of our lives. Another very big thanks goes to Heather Collis who took on the onerous task of inviting and initiating the reunion. From all the memories shared and laughs had, it is clear that TMC holds a special place in the lives of all those who have passed through its corridors. What a wonderful occasion to remember, celebrate and commemorate all those who played their parts in our “academic” adventures. I can honestly, say for me, it was a day well spent indulging in good “nostalgic food for the soul” for years to come. Thank you to the Class of 2004 for being all that you are, were and will continue to be. Lastly I would like to say thank you to Thomas More College for all the amazing memories and its Past Pupils’ Association for keeping the TMC Ethos our “fire” - if you will - burning and thus all those special memories very much alive.

KYLE VAN DE MERVE

The reunion was great fun. It was nice to catch up with the people we haven’t stayed in touch with. The tour of the school was really nice. There are some really great changes.

LINDSEY FOGARTY

I found the reunion totally relaxed and loved the chilled vibe! The braai idea was awesome and so were the tunes!! Too many memories came flooding back ha ha great to see old faces and meet partners and children:-) great success x

BECKY HICKEY

A big thanks to Heather and Rae for organising our reunion braai. It was very interesting to see the school again, and lovely to see old friends.

DANIELA GUERRERA
On behalf of my classmates, I would like to thank Shane Cuthbertson, Rev Martin Easson, Rae Griesel of the Past Pupils’ Association, the staff of the High, Junior and Primary School and all of the pupils here today, for allowing us to celebrate this unique occasion with you.

I would also like to thank my classmates for the enormous efforts they have made in travelling from all over the world to be together again after all these years. I pay tribute to two class members who have died, Johannes Hoffmann and Mark Welch.

Before I introduce my classmates to you, I must set the scene, as Thomas More College was a much smaller school in our years, from 1968 to 1974. It was restricted to boys as we just missed the pleasure of sharing our education with girls at the school. In our Matric year there was a staff of about 10 teachers and roughly 170 pupils, divided equally into boarders and “day-dogs”. It was our function as day-dogs to provide the boarders with all their supplementary nutritional requirements such as sandwiches at the small break, as they were always hungry.

We had the privilege of being at the school whilst both of the co-founders served as Headmaster. Firstly, there was Robin Savory and subsequently Christopher Hurley. I know that they would be immensely proud to see how their vision of a school with a unique ethos, has become the thriving institution it is today.

They laid the foundations and we benefited from that invaluable belief in ourselves that they and the staff instilled, from their acceptance of us as individuals and most importantly from the realisation that we had to assume personal responsibility for crucial aspects of our lives.

That sense of responsibility, however, imposed a real challenge for us as we were inclined to pretend sometimes that it did not exist, but it has stood us in good stead on this journey we call life.

I must confide something in you, as the school motto is “Truth Conquers All” and in Latin “vincit omnia veritas”. In our years at TMC we were escape artists, being very adept at avoiding class for the flimsiest of reasons. We of course, regarded these escapades as very important character building exercises (akin to the corporate team building programs today).

We spent hours ensuring that the cricket pitch was rolled flat to perfection - even longer hours were spent erecting rugby poles on the school field. The challenge was to find poles that were straight and close enough to the school as we had to carry them.
We would also dupe teachers into thinking we were occupied. I remember an occasion when our classroom was in the elevated art-block and we could see our teacher arriving from the Great House at a distance.

Once when we saw an absent-minded teacher hesitantly making his way to our classroom, we instructed the boys in the back of the class to raise their hands and to pretend that they wanted to answer questions, so that the teacher would think that our class was being conducted by another teacher. We were very pleased with ourselves when he turned around and we had a free period.

To introduce my classmates briefly, beginning with the Australians:

- **Neil Fox** hails from Perth where he lives with his wife and three children. His mother, Doreen, was one of the first teachers at the school together with Mike Leffler. Neil’s brother, Brendan, also attended TMC and his daughter, Shannon, is in Matric this year.

- **Philip Nagle**, who was endlessly teased at school for coming from a remote town called Wakkerstroom, now lives in Brisbane with his wife and two sons.

- **Mark Lyster** lives in Sydney with his wife and two children; Mark’s brothers, Patrick and Richard, both attended TMC and his father was a renowned rugby player, achieving Springbok colours.

- **Michael Bolton** lives in London with his wife and two daughters. Michael’s mother, Harriet, was a stalwart in the struggle against apartheid and she played a vital role in the trade union movement in the clothing industry in Durban; Harriet was the recipient of the Order of Luthuli in bronze in recognition of her contribution to the liberation struggle and to a democratic South Africa.

- **Michael Tosio** and his wife Vilia, are from Alberta in Western Canada where they live with their two sons.

- **Richard Piper** and his wife Bridget, live in Johannesburg with their son and Richard commutes to his work in Zambia.

- **Ciro Molinaro** also lives in Johannesburg with his wife and children. Ciro’s mother, Ines, was the matron at TMC for several years and took many a boarder under her wings.

- Closer to home, **Paul Fattorini** lives in Durban, but has taken time out from a safari in Namibia to be with us today and is wearing a suit for the first time in many months of living in the bush. Paul’s brother, Peter, was also at TMC.

- **Greg Courtney**, lives in Durban with his wife, Jane and two children.

- **Johnathan Balloden** and his wife Debbie, live in the mother city, Cape Town which is also my home.

The friendships we forge at school have stood the test of time. Neil Fox, Mark Lyster and I started school together in 1963 at the Pinetown Convent School, over 50 years ago. Neil, Greg and I have co-ordinated this reunion and we have maintained our close friendship notwithstanding our residing in different Provinces and Continents. The value of these friendships are that they enrich our lives as we share in a non-judgmental way our life experiences and support each other in the choices we have to make.

As you begin your journey may I offer some observations that may guide you in learning to live life to the full, with all its complexities and strange surprises.

I have learnt that aging itself does not bring wisdom and that the greatest battles are those that are waged within ourselves as we actively seek to extract meaning from our experiences, especially the difficult ones. We do not always get what we want – that is a lesson many people never learn to accept.

I have also learnt to embrace adversity as that is when we learn the most about ourselves. The values that we learn at a very early age and then at school serve as stars in our personal galaxy, to guide us in times of doubt.

Please read the poem “If” by Rudyard Kipling, but remember that it was composed long ago and the ending needs to be adapted.

Finally, we hope to be back in 10 years time, older, but wiser.
BILL PICKERING

I’m so glad that I could change the dates for our Australia visit in order to attend the 40 year reunion. It was without doubt the best past pupils reunion ever.

It consisted of a very full and interesting programme over a number of days which allowed past staff and ex-pupils to catch up on their adventures and recall many incidents from their time at Thomas More College. Congratulations to Raoul, Neil, Greg and Rae for their organizing – it has set a high benchmark for other years.

It was a wonderful experience for me to meet again after 40 years and to see how these boys had become such great achievers in so many parts of the world – yet still recognizable – still the same characters. I was proud to have been associated with such happy, friendly, enthusiastic, able and confident citizens of the world.

Each past pupil was interviewed so that their memories of the school are captured on a DVD which is now in the school archives and I urge all of you to send copies of old photos and other memorabilia to Rae so that your history can also be preserved.

MICKY BOLTON

Just a short note to say thank you again to all, for the hard work and commitment making our reunion such a memorable time. Personally I left feeling quite emotional, didn’t expect that at all. What a great school and lovely and important part Thomas More College played in my life and what’s more I felt that I was right back in 1974. The school still retains that atmosphere all these years later, well done to all, thanks again. Hope to see you all sometime soon.

NEIL FOX

It’s now well over a month since our reunion, and I just want to thank everyone involved for making this event such an enormous success. Without wanting to identify people by name in case I omit anyone, a special thanks to Rae Griesel for all that was done to ensure that the past pupils felt so welcome back at our old school! You put so much effort into making the event such a success – it is much appreciated.

To Greg and Raoul for all the liaison with the school and for ensuring that every event on the program ran so smoothly. Thanks to you both for all the hosting you did. It was good fun working with you over the last couple of years to make sure that the event came together as well as it did!

A big thanks to all our former classmates for travelling from far and near to be there. Without you there would not have been a reunion! It is a pity that not everyone could have been there, but that is well understood.

Until the next reunion, all the best.

GREG COURTNEY

As one of the co-ordinators of the class of ’74 – 40 year reunion we were thrilled to have the following teachers, Bill Pickering, Peter Mc Kay, Yvonne Cawood and Mike Dunleavy’s wife Kristina attend some of the functions.

Our classmates travelled from far and wide with Neil Fox from Perth, Mark Lister from Sydney and Phil Nagle from Brisbane making up the Ozzie contingent; Mike Tosio
from Canada, Mickey Bolton from the UK, Paul Fattorini came back from Namibia and Rich Piper from Zambia. The locals included Ciro Molinaro from Joburg and Raoul Le Breton and Jonno Balladon from Cape Town with yours truly Greg Courtney and Nigel Marlton seemingly the only ones left in Ethekwini.

Much fun and reminiscing was had with supper at my home, lunch at the school and of course the absolutely essential supper at Tina’s where many more beers were quaffed.

It was also great on the last day of the four day event to have siblings Brendon Fox, Steven Wicks and Michaela Hurley, her husband and Rae Griesel join us. Most of us watched the rugby at the Keg where fortunately the rugby was won by the Bokke vs Oz. We were joined by Phil’s sister Anne and her hubby and Richard Lister.

As Phil Nagle said to me on parting, he thought four days would be too long but regretted that it wasn’t a full week! The next event is a gathering in three years for a combined 60th birthday celebration as it was felt that ten years was too long to wait. Hopefully we will rally a few more to join us!

KWAME MOKOENA  (Class of 1992)

"Hi TMC are you there.... A big shout-out to everyone that I attended school with at TMC... Those were days that I live to cherish forever with fond memories of each and every one of you. To all the wonderful teachers who taught us so well much luv and appreciation to you all and God bless ‘yall’ during this year’s festive season."

A big shout out to everyone I went to school with and all my teachers at TMC who gave us the best school years of our life.... Much luv to you all."
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Wedding**

TRACY MCKENZIE (Class of 2009) and RYAN FLOWERS were married on 7 December 2013.

**Engagement**

AMY WILSON and MARK BARNARD got engaged on Saturday 18 October 2014 at Makaranga Gardens. They met at UKZN, and are both highly involved in the Deaf Community - Mark through rugby, as a player in the Deaf National Squad and Amy as a finalist in Miss Deaf SA this year. Amy is a drama teacher at Northlands Girls’ High School and Mark will be working for Hillcrest Primary School from next year.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**WESLEY BOHATA (Class of 2009)**

Wesley and a friend won the JSE Investment Challenge which is an inter-varsity investment challenge comprising of over 3 000 teams from all Varsities in South Africa. It was the first time in this 41 year old challenge that a team from UKZN has won.

**ROCHELLE JACOBS (Class of 2008)**

Rochelle has had 3 poems published and came 2nd for her poem “Something Other” at the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Awards 2014 which took place the Goethe-Institution in Johannesburg.

Rochelle a 24-year-old student in her final year at Stellenbosch University studying a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Rochelle’s passions boil down to three things: helping the world, getting the adrenaline flowing and literature. Rochelle and a group of friends have recently begun a rape awareness campaign on Stellenbosch campus called ‘Unashamed’ which is aimed at removing the guilt which permeates the discourse surrounding rape in South Africa, and her prize-winning poem ‘Something Other’ was written in this context.
MATT WILLMS (Class of 2008)

Matt took two gap years to enjoy some travelling and complete a Business Diploma. In 2011 he was accepted to study a Bachelor of Journalism and was awarded the Executive Dean’s Merit Scholarship for International Students at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia.

He completed his Bachelor of Journalism, majoring in Fashion Studies, in December 2013. His career has taken him on a different path as throughout his studies he worked part time as a visual merchandiser for various Australian brands including two of Australia’s most successful fashion companies, Ksubi http://www.ksubi.com & Romance Was Born http://romancewasborn.com.

In October 2013 he started a very intensive six-round interview process for Swedish clothing giant Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) http://www.hm.com. After multiple interstate flights & Skype interviews with staff based in Europe, he landed the job as Menswear Visual Merchandiser for H&M Australia. He contributes this success to his travels, work experience, fashion major and studies.

SAM VOSPER (Class of 2008)

In October 2014 Sam started a post graduate course at the University of Cambridge. He will be reading an MPhil in Environmental Policy which is a one year master’s course offered through the Department of Land Economy.

The programme aims to combine the perspectives of environmental economics and environmental law with the design, implementation and assessment of environmental policy. The course also requires students to undertake some independent research and produce a dissertation in the final term.

For the duration of his studies he will be based at Magdalene College which is pictured above. It is with thanks to the funding provided by Cambridge Trust and Skye Foundation that he was able to take up his place at the university.
Wondering who has been to visit me lately at Thomas More College? Go to 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

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HIGH TEA .................................................. End January / early February 2015
LONG WALK ......................................... Saturday 14 March 2015
GOLF DAY ............................................... Friday 08 May 2015
COUNTRY FAIR .............................. Saturday 01 August 2015
ASSOCIATION DAY / REUINI... Saturday 12 September 2015
NIGHT RACING ........................................... Friday 20 November 2015

Update YOUR DETAILS
Hooray!!!! Thank you to all past pupils that have been doing my quick “update your details” on the website. Keep it up!!!!!

Rae Griesel

TogetheR SiNce Grade 0

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

RAE GRIESEL
031 7648640
griesel@thomasmore.co.za

Mentorship
Should you be willing to have your details listed in the Mentorship Directory, please contact Rae Griesel (secretary of the TMC PPA) on rgiesel@thomasmore.co.za or 031-764 8640, or Melanie Küster (co-ordinator of the TMC PPA Mentorship programme) on melanie@steritech.co.za or 082 852 9160

CollectiOn

Together Since
Grade 0

The School for all Seasons
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