

THE Moorcock Chronicle

EDITION 39 – 2018



TMC

Thomas More College

THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



07.30AM
BREAKFAST
& AGM

09:00AM
SPORTING
ACTIVITIES
COMMENCE

NEW BUILDINGS & DEVELOPMENTS *on Campus*

It was lovely to have Mr Shane Cuthbertson and his wife Carolyn visit us as the guests of honour at the official opening of the Shane Cuthbertson Block in the High School on 20 June 2018. During Shane's tenure he took particular interest in the aesthetics and development of our campus, and we can be extremely grateful for his attention to detail and desire to improve our campus facilities in his time with us. The Shane Cuthbertson Block houses Accounting, Afrikaans, and Business Studies and our new 21st Century furniture. It also allows for double volume teaching where Mrs Kerdachi and Mrs Wolmarans collaborate in teaching a number of their Accounting lessons together.



We couldn't achieve anything without the support of the TMC Heads of each phase. Pictured here is Mr Dave Wiggitt, the High School Headmaster, a Past Pupils Association committee member, and a true believer in **#proudpastpupil**. We are so grateful for Dave's joy in donning our shirt for the first time!!

THE LONG WALK

Every year thousands of students, teachers and outsiders take on the challenge of attempting the 80 km long walk. An event that is extremely popular in the area, and every year the past pupils take on the task to run our own stand.

We proudly serve the current walkers of the school to help them get to their goals. I had the privilege of serving this year to hundreds of those that passed our stop. It is always a blessing to see the many faces that come past. The route allowed for us to see walkers a number of times and give them encouragement along the way. Our music was pumping to keep everyone going, hundreds of juices poured and tons of fuel food placed out.

Many past pupils came through to assist at the stop and it was so amazing to get to know some new faces and catch up with some old faces while working. I hope to see many more of you involved, either in walking or serving at the stop next year. You will love the reminiscing over previous walks and make new memories at our school, Thomas More College.

Kelsey Van Wyk



?? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? PUB QUIZ

Our 2018 Pub Quiz was hosted on the 25th May, and was well-attended, with 118 attendees. The theme of the night was a 50s American Diner, and this inspired some truly fabulous outfits from some of the attendees. Between the nostalgic music, the absolutely delicious, themed menu and quizmaster Gary Green's memory-wracking questions it was an evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to McAllister's Catering for the delicious food, and professional staff, as well as to Claudia Leveralli, Keryn Brophy and Kerry White for their help turning the Peter Habberton Hall into an American Diner for the evening. We would also like to thank the Thomas More staff for their support both in attending the event, and for successfully arguing their points with our Quizmaster - no mean feat!!

We continue to believe that our pride in the event is surpassed by the enjoyment of those who attend, and hope to see even more of you there next year!

Melanie Küster





homegrown

cultivating success

The Past Pupils' Association took great delight in hosting our second Homegrown Indaba in the Habberton Hall. Like our inaugural event last year, it was specifically aimed at Grade 9 and 11 pupils – Grade 9s because they are engaging in their subject choice process, and Grade 11s as they start entertaining their university applications and other post-schooling decisions at this stage of their lives.

Once again, we had a lovely response from alumni and parents to act as our "Career Mentors" at the Homegrown Indaba. Our children interacted informally with the mentors to discuss their respective careers. Topics of conversation ranged freely from qualifications required (if any), to the best and worst aspects of the mentors' jobs, to simply chatting about life and its many options. Our children benefited immensely from this interaction with our own "Career Mentors" who understand our children's context here at Thomas More College.

The second time running any event always uncovers the pitfalls and areas for improvement once the honeymoon façade fades after the euphoria of the first event. In our case, Homegrown 2018 was focused, relevant and significantly empowering for our young people.

We thank unreservedly our alumni and parents who gifted our children with their time, patience, insights, anecdotes and wisdom. And so, our children are indeed richly blessed because they are being raised by a village.

Dave Wiggett



COUNTRY FAIR

LIFESTYLE EXPO

The 2018 Country Fair was certainly a cheerful and happy one for the Past Pupils' Association who stood alongside the schools' marketing team to welcome the crowds as they passed through the Habberton Hall. The day as a whole was most enjoyable, especially since we experienced one of the best turnouts of past pupils; each of whom received a gift from the PPA. The hall was positively buzzing with nostalgia as past headmasters and numerous alumni chatted amicably of yesteryear. There are many good reasons that past pupils return to TMC; the Country Fair being one of them, that appears to hold fond memories. We look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Amy Balarin





SALLY HOFMEYR (Class of 1995)

Sally has been living in Cape Town since 2007. She did a PhD and postdoc at the University of Cape Town, looking at how birds are responding to environmental change, and then did another postdoc on science communication.

Since 2016 she has been working as a freelance academic editor, but she still does bird-related fieldwork whenever possible: penguin monitoring on Robben Island, bird counts at Silvermine (part of Table Mountain National Park), and bird ringing in and around Cape Town. She is in a long-term relationship but has no children. Her mother, Suzanne (long standing staff member), and sister, Clare (Class of 2002) - both Thomas Moreans - are also living in Cape Town, and a couple of years ago she met up with a classmate from Std. 8 to Matric, Sahal Yacoob, who is now a lecturer in Particle Physics at UCT. Sally and Suzanne both sing in the Philharmonic Choir of Cape Town.

STUART KEIR (Class of 2000)

Stuart and his Irish wife, Mary, are living and working in Jersey, Channel Island and are very happy there. They have two young sons.



DUNCAN KEIR & ANTHONY WEINECK (Both Class of 2004)

Duncan and his wife, Dominique, emigrated to Canada in December. They have settled well in Toronto and are very happy there. They live in a flat below another SA couple. Duncan met them in Johannesburg through hockey and kept in touch. Whenever they can, they go off exploring their new country.

Anthony and his wife, Julia, live in Denver, Colorado.

MIKE TOSIO (Class of 1974)

Mike is now back living in Auckland, New Zealand, living near his kids and first grandchild in Auckland.



KIM (née Finestone) & JAMIE AITKEN (Both Class of 2006)

Kim and Jamie were married in 2016, 10 years after they matriculated at TMC together. They relocated to Ontario, Canada in January 2018. Jamie is working as a Mechatronics Engineer/PLC programmer and they are both loving Canada!



FRANCO COLEMAN (Class of 2015)

Franco's dream came true when he joined the French Foreign Legion in 2017 and is now a proud Premier Class Legionnaire.

KENWYN CRADOCK (Class of 1992)

Ken is the Biology Department chair at Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM. He has recently become an Entomological Society of America Board Certified Entomologist in Medical and Veterinary Entomology. He was part of a programme sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control to expand expertise in these fields to respond to vector-borne disease outbreaks. His wife Kelly and daughters Kaileen and Kenleigh are doing well. "I often think back fondly of my time at TMC (I still have my blazer) and love to check in on the website to see what is happening and how it has grown!" says Ken





TRISTAN VAN ECK
(Class of 2014)

Tristan has graduated from the University of Pretoria with a Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Leisure studies Sport and Recreation Management.

ASHLEIGH DE CHALAIN
(Class of 2013)

Ashleigh obtained her Honours Degree in History at the University of Pretoria last year and is now doing her Masters and is part of a research team at Stellenbosch University.



MICHAEL HUGHES
(Class of 2011)

Michael has graduated with a BBA Degree in Disaster Relief Management from Stenden University.



NICOLE LARKAN
(Class of 2013)

Nicole graduated with a PGDip, Housing, Regeneration and Urban Management.



CASSANDRA & KAYLA WESLEY (Class of 2012)

Cassandra and Kayla have both graduated with Honours in Psychology from Wits University.



ACHIEVEMENTS

JAIME WIGGETT (Class of 2016)

Jaime is the Dance Sport School League Coach at TMC, an extra-curricular activity that the school adopted in 2017. Jaime coached the u14 KZN DSSL female team in 2017 and they took home gold, and in 2018 she coached the u16 KZN DSSL male and female teams, who won 4 gold medals out of a possible 6.

Through these successes Jaime was asked to coach the U16 DSSL South African All Star team, and asked to take on the role of head of high school DSSL coaches in KZN. In very recent news, Jaime has been offered an internship by DSSL Mauritius from November to January. Jaime will be spreading her talent and tricks of the trade as well as her infectious energy and passion throughout the dancing community in Mauritius.



Congratulations

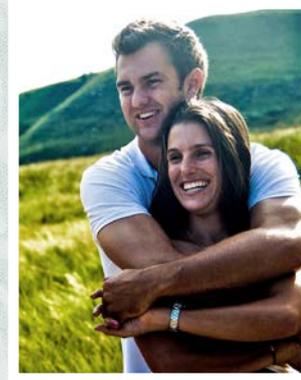
ENGAGEMENTS



KONRAD DORFLING (Class of 2009) and **MICAELA BROWN** (Class of 2014) were engaged in December 2017 and will be getting married in August 2019.



WALDIE DEKKER (Class of 2010) and Casey Edwards were engaged on 28 April 2018.



WARREN COOPER (Class of 2011) and Natalie Dennis were engaged on 24 February 2018.



WEDDINGS

Congratulations to **DEAN BLEWITT** (Class of 2011) and **SHANNON SIMPSON** (Class of 2012) who were married on 19 May 2018 at Maroupi.



CONDOLENCES

KRISTINA DUNLEAVY

It is with great sadness that we learnt of Kristina's passing. On behalf of the Thomas More College family, we would like to extend our sincere condolences to her sons, Paul and Brian, and their families.

PINBOARD

highwaymail.co.za/News

Friday, 15 Jun

Teens climb that mountain high

THREE local rock climbers, who have made the SA team, are going to Moscow, Russia to represent the country at the 2018 IFSC Youth World Climbing Championship in August. Danielle Visser, Faran Steenkamp and Erin Sterkenburg received their letters a few weeks ago to inform them of their selection to the world champs from 8 to 16 August. The climbers have a deep passion for rock climbing and have shared why it has changed their lives.

Erin Sterkenburg
Erin, who is in Grade 8 at Westville Girls' High School also began climbing last year. She joined the school's climbing club which really just intrigued her, but soon found out that there was a climbing gym in New Germany, which she joined.

"For me, climbing never seems like something I have to do, it is always something I want to do and I look forward to each climb. I am really excited to be competing overseas this year and one day, I hope to be able to compete at the Olympics," said Erin.

She said she has learnt that the climbing community is full of fascinating people who encourage those around them, and believes that these people have made her love for the sport grow even more.

Danielle Visser
Danielle began high school at Westville Girls' High last year. The school has rock climbing as a sport so she tried it out. After only three months, she won the KZN colours. She then made it into the national competition held at City Rock JHB and was placed sixth.

She was selected for SA trails in Johannesburg last month and made the SA team. Danielle said she has never had a passion for any sports until now and trains 12 hours a week. Her dream is to become a wildlife vet so the rock climbing fits in with her love of the outdoors.

Danielle is almost 15 years old and has a lot on her plate but said she loves her busy life and she can't wait to show Russia what talent South Africa has to offer.



Rock climbers, Danielle Visser, Faran Steenkamp and Erin Sterkenburg have been selected for the 2018 IFSC Youth World Climbing Championship in Russia from 8 to 16 August. PHOTO: Submitted

Faran Steenkamp
Faran started climbing at Thomas More College in Primary School and first made the KZN Climbing provincial team in his Grade 6 year.

He thanked his coach, Michael van der Ham, of Southern Rock for his time, commitment and expertise and Gerald Camp of Thomas More, a KZN rock-climbing legend, for his dedication in ensuring sport climbing is a school sport.

Faran trains for 11 hours a week through the school and the Southern Rock Master Class and is now getting out to the climbing areas of Krantzkloof Nature Conservancy on Sundays. He has to juggle his training for climbing in-between competitive maths (he made top 10 of Junior Maths Olympiad last year), Robotics (his team with Dylan Launsbach won KZN and made it to Nationals last year) and he also has to practice for his Piano Grade 7 ABRSM exam later this year.

Faran said he would like to study at Dartmouth and the Ivy League College which has excellent academics and rock climbing as one of its sports.

Michael van der Ham
(Class of 2001)

Michael, the KZN Rock Climbing coach, has been working as the manager at Southern Rock for the past two years and is the KZN head coach for this year.

He and his team have created a training group at Southern Rock, called Master Class.

"The aim was to really bring climbers of all abilities together to grow the sport in KZN. It has been hugely successful with a number of our kids qualifying to climb in the KZN team and SA team. We are all immensely proud of their achievements," said Michael.

KZN coach Michael van der Ham

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Sponsor their trip

There is a huge cost for these adventurous kids to fulfil their dream. They hope the community will be able to help them

by sponsoring their trip. Deposit contributions: KZN Climbing, FNB Branch code 250655, account number

62281171399 with 'Russia' as reference, or contact Sylvia Ravenscroft on 083 339 7962 or 031 701 2793.

Kloof rider 'gears-up' for success

PHINDILE SHOZI
>>>Phindile.Shozi@media24.com

MECHANICAL Engineering student Devon Mackenzie is a third overall in SA and third in the Pro Elite category this season.

Mackenzie revealed that it's his parents who got him into riding motorbikes right from the start.

"My first bike was a pink Yamaha PW 50 when I was four-years-old and I was terrified of the noise it made. That's really things got less scary from there and I have been riding enduro ever since," he explained.

He said he got started with the being a trials rider by chance mid-way through 2007.

"My dad and I came across a trials bike at a bike shop not far from home.

"I managed to get a quick ride on the bike and the bug had bit. Soon after that we found a bike for sale and I have been riding and involved in the sport ever since."

Mackenzie said injuries are part of the trials but for him, even though he's been doing it for a decade, he fortunately has been very lucky with injuries so far.

"Each event usually has its fair share of eye-openers so it's hard to narrow it down. I would say our most recent National in Durban, as it is still fresh in the mind, has been the scariest trial I've ever done," said the trial rider.

The mechanical engineering student said his inspiration is Billy Bolt, a young British trials rider who has moved over to enduro and has now become hugely successful, saying: "He is an innovative rider and is continually progressing the sport."

He mentioned that the most challenging thing for him right now is juggling his time between his studies and training.

"I'm currently studying full time so trying to squeeze training in is a bit of a challenge but so far I'm happy with how things are going."

"The more riding, the merrier so I am always pleased when I can catch a break from work," he said.

In conclusion, he said that doing trials is just a hobby as his main focus is to finish his degree.

"I am doing the occasional trials show on the side, which all helps, but for now my main focus is to finish my degree and then pursue my riding and see where it goes."

"I would also love to get more involved in Enduro riding as trials lends its hand towards the sport and is another passion of mine," said Mackenzie.



Mechanical Engineering student and Trials rider Devon Mackenzie. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Devon Mackenzie
(Class of 2012)



PENNY RIMMER
(Former Teacher)

Penny has qualified and been selected to represent South Africa at the upcoming African & Arab Powerlifting Championship in October 2018. In order to get her there they have set up a BackaBuddy Campaign in order to raise the necessary funds.

The page can be found [HERE](#)

We also have a Facebook fan page with more information. [CLICK HERE](#)



ROSS BELMAN
(Class of 2012)

Ross is hoping to participate in few triathlon races at the end of the year as an elite athlete. In order to get there he has set up a BackaBuddy Campaign in order to raise the necessary funds.

The page can be found [HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE 2019

EVENT	DATE
GOLF DAY	Friday 8 March
COUNTRY FAIR	Saturday 8 June
PUB QUIZ	TBC
ASSOCIATION DAY & AGM	Saturday 14 September
LONG WALK	Saturday 21 September
REUNIONS	TBC



1970s

THEN & NOW

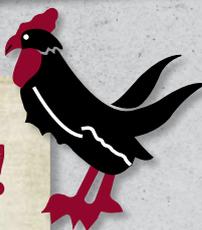
High School Art Block Entrance



2018

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

Have you found us on Facebook yet?!



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Thomas More College
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