

PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

2018 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

*One of the finest moments there is, is to drive into Thomas More College on the first day of school each year. At 6:30am, under the beautiful Durban summer sun, and surrounded by the greenery of Kloof, you will find a group of smiling, cheering, placard-waving past pupils at the main entrance. They are there for no other reason than to encourage and support the friends from lower grades that they have left behind. To experience that, particularly with an excited child or 2 in your car is to know that you are in a very special place indeed. It is an advert for Thomas More that no marketing agency could have scripted better, and for Past Pupil parents, it reminds you of the very soul of Thomas More and is the very reason why we are **#proudpastpupils**.*

Upon reflection, the Past Pupils' Association can be said to exist for that very reason – to remind our members, old and new, of the soul of Thomas More, and to encourage that pride to grow. It is my belief that slowly, but surely, the PPA are getting better at doing just that.

Our database contains over 3 960 active contacts, which equates to 56% of our records, which include past pupils, board members, past staff and past parents. Our Facebook page has 2 240 likes, and grows continuously throughout each year. When we release our biannual Moorcock Chronicles, we now have members reaching out to us to thank us for our efforts, and no longer receive any requests from members to stop contacting them. Lastly, when we gift our newest members with their **#proudpastpupil** t-shirts at the Matric Farewell, we are always gratified by how quickly they don them, and by how soon we see them out and about in those same shirts.

For 6 years we had worked towards our ultimate goal of revitalising Association Day, and Association Day 2017 was to see all of our dreams come true. The Day was well attended and had such a happy, energetic vibe, including wins for 4 of the 5 past pupil sports teams. We had over 30 teachers, past and present, attend a portion of the day, and had past pupils returning from Cape Town, Johannesburg, Australia and Zambia. To the Thomas More estate and grounds staff, who make the sporting variety possible for us, and the Thomas More functions and cleaning staff who make the day possible, we are so very grateful!

The last year has also seen us host 3 Reunions – the 40 Year Reunion for the Class of 1977, the 10 Year Reunion for the Class of 2007, and the 20 Year Reunion for the Class of 1997. Today will also see us host the 10 Year Reunion for the Class of 2008, and the 40 Year Reunion for the Class of 1978.



The Hockey Club ladies represent Thomas More beautifully in their new uniforms, and the school continues to benefit from the marketing exposure it receives during the hosting of the Winter Warm-Up League by the Waterpolo Club. The Cycling Club functions seamlessly, and has supported some wonderfully talented current pupils to great achievements during the course of this year, with amassed winnings being earmarked for the further development of the Conservancy Cycling Track. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle Albers, who resigned from her position as Chair of the Hockey Club at the beginning

of 2018, and congratulate Kelsey Van Wyk, one of our Committee Members on her smooth transition into that role.

I would also like to thank Gregg Higgs for his Chairmanship of the Waterpolo Club, and Tim Keep, for his Chairmanship of the Cycling Club, as well as his selfless dedication to advancing the sport of Cycling within Thomas More.



Despite route challenges due to the inclement weather, **LONG WALK 2018** was as successful as could be hoped for. The full summary of the day will be provided by the Long Walk Committee, to whom the PPA would like to extend our sincerest thanks for all of their efforts. From the Past Pupils' Stop, it was an outstanding day with great music and a wonderful vibe. Despite being a very long day, starting at 6am and ending at 9pm,

the success of our stop and the enjoyment experienced by our volunteers can only be attributed to the absolute win of having the stop on the school campus yet again. We experienced a great turnout of volunteers from **#proudpastpupils** and board members and are exceptionally grateful to those of you who answered our request for help.

Lynn Bregman's outstanding efforts in the Archives have seen her progress from the sorting and cataloging of all the records, to the identification of events and individuals in unannotated records. It has also been possible for Thomas More Staff to access records from the Archives for use during various occasions this year, which is a far cry from the 34 random boxes shoved into a room 2 years ago. The greater Thomas More community owes Lynn a debt of gratitude for her unflagging efforts. All floppy discs, stiffy discs, VHSs, CDs and DVDs have also now been converted to digital format, thus ensuring the longevity of these records. I would like to thank our committee member, James Baker for his efforts in this regard.

Our **AMERICAN DINER PUB QUIZ** was hugely successful, with 118 attendees, and a wonderful mix of past pupils, past parents, staff and current parents. Not only was it thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended it, but the use of the outstanding McAllister's Catering also made the hosting of the event significantly easier for our small, voluntary committee! We believe that this is truly an event to be proud of, and hope that everyone had as much fun as we did!

HOMEGROWN 2018 was a way in which the PPA and some of our members were

able to make a true positive difference in the lives of the current pupils. With 34 careers /mentors on display, the smaller, targeted audience of only the Grade 9s and 11s, and the use of the Habberton Hall as the venue, we believe that we have hit an ideal recipe on which we can expand in future years. The attention and interest of the current pupils was obvious, and they definitely took full advantage of the opportunity to ask their own questions.

COUNTRY FAIR 2018 was without a doubt our best one yet. Historically we see about 70 Past Pupils at the Country Fair, but this year we saw approximately 120 past pupils, of which we were able to correct the contact details of 22, and fill the blank contact details of a further 6. We saw past pupils ranging from the Class of 1967 right through to the Class of 2017, and once again saw past pupils from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Australia who made time out of their visit home to attend this beloved event. We congratulate and thank the Parents' Council for all of their efforts in the lead up to, and on the day.

No Chairman's Report would be complete without some sincere votes of thanks. To Kim Hooper and Claudia Levarelli who assist us in all manner of small things, whenever we ask, we thank you! To Dave Wiggitt, whom we were so fortunate as to have been assigned as our MANCO Representative in January, we are so grateful for your energy, passion and true belief in our mission. To Ross Belman, who resigned from the committee mid-year in order to focus on his studies and career as a triathlete, we wish you the very best, and thank you for your efforts on our behalf. To our stalwart committee



members, René and James, and our relative newbies Kelsey and Bronwyn, it takes a special person to volunteer their time and efforts for no reward and you four are even more special than most, thank you! To Colleen and Gill, our finances are in the safest hands, and always presented in a way that requires no interrogation – we are so grateful for all that you do! Lastly to Gary and Rae, without whom our momentum would be lost, and I would be a ship with no compass, thank you, on behalf of myself and the remaining 6000 plus members who will never truly know how much the 2 of you do for them.

In closing, I would like to point out another **#proudpastpupils** moment that separates Thomas More from the hundreds of other schools out there. Where else do you find a Founders Day of sorts that rather than being steeped in formality and tradition, and dreaded by all who attend, is instead devoted to fostering relationships and comradeships between the young and the old? Where else do you find a Founders Day where nothing is asked of returning past pupils but that they enjoy themselves? More importantly, where else do you find a Founders Day where the current pupils enjoy themselves as much as the Past Pupils? I think you will all agree that those forward-thinking gentlemen to whom we owe Thomas More College would be as proud of us as we are of them.

Melanie Küster



"When I first arrived I was like wet cement; the imprint of Thomas More College on my heart and mind has been deep and lasting."

Colin James – CLASS OF 1976

HANDS THROUGH *Time*

Our Hands Through Time podium and ceremony which took place for the first time at the 2018 Matric Prize-Giving was very well received and will be an ongoing tradition for our matrics at the final prize-giving going forward.

Thomas More College were very fortunate to have Colin James (Class of 1976) travel all the way from Australia to be our guest speaker at this prize-giving. His address was very pertinent to those present and was enjoyed and appreciated by the High School pupils and parents alike.

We so appreciate Colin taking the time to travel from Australia and share his love of all things Thomas More with our greater audience.



ASSOCIATION DAY

Association Day was unfortunately cancelled due to torrential rain, however the AGM and reunions continued as planned. We apologise to all our very disappointed sporting **#proudpastpupils** but unfortunately whilst we can do many things, changing the weather is not in our skill set.

CLICK BELOW TO VIEW A VIDEO OF THE DAY



We were proud to host the Classes of 1978 and 2008 for their respective afternoon reunions. Much fun was had by both groups and it was wonderful to see such a great turnout.



CLASS OF 1978 [40 YEARS]

The 1978 Reunion was hosted in the Robin Savory Pavilion.



CLASS OF 2008 [10 YEARS]

The 2008 Reunion was hosted in the Ken Mackenzie Centre.

MATRIC FAREWELL BREAKFAST & FINAL ASSEMBLY

The annual matric farewell followed the morning after prize-giving. This wonderful Thomas More tradition truly brings out the emotion in all who attend, from the Thom Teenies who are so excited to be noticed by the big children, to the Grade 11s who are so sad to bid farewell to their friends.

We were so delighted to gift our newest crop of members with their **#proudpastpupils** t-shirts, and wish the Class of 2018 outstanding results and success in all their endeavors next year.

TOGETHER SINCE GRADE 00



Goodbye to the
MATRICES OF 2018

Ed's note: Class of 2018, we look forward to your visits, so please keep in touch!

Introducing...

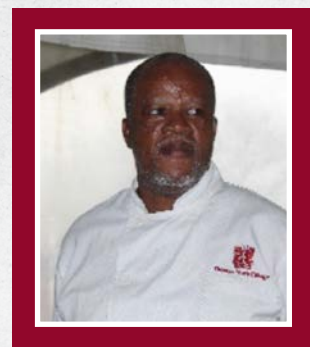
THE HEADS & DEPUTIES FOR 2019



Congratulations to our 2019 Heads of School. We wish them all the very best for their year ahead whilst they continue to lead and serve their peers with humility, courage and conviction.

DEPUTY HEADS: Kellen Daniels & Sibapiwe Khanyile

HEADS: Courtney Sim & Ligudu Mashige



**LONG SERVING
STAFF FAREWELL**

JOSEPH NGCOBO

Mr Joseph Ngcobo retires at the end of this year. Joseph has worked in the kitchen at Thomas More College for 15 years, 7 of which were with KKS, an outsourced catering company, and 8 years for TMC directly. His is a smile that is known, loved and appreciated by the greater Thomas More community and we wish him well in his retirement.



STAFF TRIBUTE



Our STAR Staff Member this month is Mrs Carol Mbili. Carol is at present the longest serving staff member at Thomas More College, having joined us in 1993 as a part-time teacher, becoming permanent in 1994.

When Carol joined Thomas More, there were only 3 staff members in the Foundation Phase. Carol started the IsiZulu Department in both the Junior and Senior Primary and taught all classes from Grade 0 - 7.

Carol is not only a qualified educator, but legally qualified with her BJuris. She is well loved by her pupils, in the classroom and on the sports field. Her particular love of

netball, hockey and soccer as well as having managed hockey and rock climbing over the years.

Carol has chaired regional IsiZulu user groups from 2014 - 2016 where they meet regularly to improve teaching methods and share ideas with other educators from around the country. Carol has enjoyed a full family experience at Thomas More College, having all 3 of her very talented children pass through the phases.

We salute you Carol for your dedication and commitment to Thomas More College, a place we know you call 'Home'.

A Trip down Memory Lane...

Hi Rae,

With reference to your request for updates from past pupils and recently finding the photo album that I thought to have lost years ago here is an update.

The class photograph with Mr. Brooks (1974 I believe) is me back row centre with Johnathan Morgan (UK) right side, Nigel Hesk on the left side and Fred Fischer on the end left. Quite a few names I remember as Chris Hurley, Jeremy Williams, Bruce Rice (NZL), Peter Dennehy (Past away I believe), Patrick Yeadon, Patrick Dalais, Ivan Giessen (Froggy), Bosco, Connell Vickers (Portugal), Ralph Hayward, Charles... For those that I do not remember - my apologies.

The photograph of the rugby team, me 2nd row centre behind Mike Dunleavy, is also from 1974 I believe, and the soccer team photo with Bill Pickering - 1969.

After Matric, Fred and I went to 42 Field Artillery in Potchefstroom - 1976. Immediately after completion, my parents had decided to go back to the Netherlands. Getting used to the life, language and weather in Europe took awhile and was not easy. However, I went onto Architectural College and later joined Shell Oil Company and returned to SA in 1989 for a project at SAPREF for a couple of months. I met up with Fred and his wife and really enjoyed the few months being back in South Africa. In 1997 I obtained a BSc Civil Engineering after 7 years of 'night school' and

also specialised in Refractory Design and Engineering of Furnaces, Steam Reformers and Incinerators. In 2005, my wife

and I returned to SA for holidays and got in contact again with Fred and his wife. Since then, we've been back on a regular basis for holidays and really enjoyed the trips to various locations in SA. We also visited Thomas More Collage in 2005, 2008 and 2012. It was really impressive to see how the school has developed and grown to become what it is now.

After ten years at Shell I joined a large Refractory Materials Manufacturing Company (also with office and production site in Vereeniging) and went from the Project Management to Engineering Department and from 2012 - 2016 travelled the globe, from Russia to China, Korea, Vietnam and South America to India and the Middle East. In 2016 I was asked to join a petrochemical company called Borealis. Fortunately, the global travel to far away countries has declined but the business travel around Europe has intensified. I still enjoy the work and passing on the knowledge of the 'Principles of Refractory Technology'.

*Hambe Kahle,
Bert van iersel - The Netherlands*





COURTNEY MORRIS (Class of 2014)

Courtney moved to the UK after matric. In July of this year she graduated from the University of Warwick with a BSc (Hons) degree in Biomedical Science. She was also top of her graduating class which she was very pleased with.

"In September I started my graduate job with KPMG in Birmingham and I am now studying two professional qualifications to become a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Adviser (a bit of a change from my degree, I know!)."

JON AMBLER (Class of 2006)

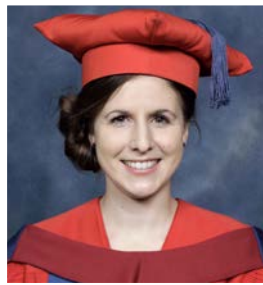
John graduated with a PhD in Bioinformatics from UCT in June 2018.



CATHERINE LE ROUX

– née Kirkwood (Class of 2006)

Catherine graduated with a PhD in Business Management from the University of Pretoria in September 2018.



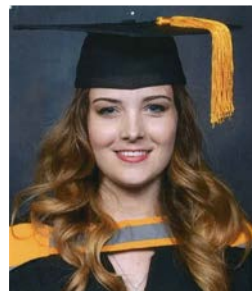
LIAM HORNBY (Class of 2013)

Liam has completed his BSc Physiotherapy with honours at Wits University



SHAUN HARDCASTLE
(Class of 2014)

Shaun has graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences from Rhodes University.



COURTNEY-JANE EASTON
(Class of 2012)

Courtney has graduated from the University of Pretoria with a BA (LLB) Law degree and is at present doing her Articles of Clerkship in a Pretoria based law firm.



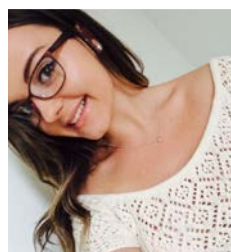
JAMIE SPINDLOVE
(Class of 2011)

Jamie graduated with a Masters in Performing Arts in London.



KAYLA DE CHELAIN
(Class of 2015)

Kayla has just completed a BA in Psychology at Stellenbosch University. She is hoping to continue with Honours next year.



AIMEE CAWOOD ZUCCARINI
(Class of 2015)

Aimee is about to complete her Bachelor of Social Science degree at Rhodes University, majoring in Psychology and Anthropology. She has had an awesome time and has learned a great deal. She is taking a gap year in 2019 and will be travelling.

FALON OLFSSEN (Class of 2007)

Upon leaving Thomas More, Falon completed her BSC Animal Science degree at UKZN, with Honours in Animal Reproduction and separately in Animal Nutrition, becoming the #1 animal science student in the country. Falon also went on to complete her BSC Epidemiology degree through UNISA. It was only after this, and 7 years worth of applications, that the University of Pretoria accepted her to study her BvSc (veterinary) at their Onderstepoort campus.

Falon successfully completed her BvSc at the end of 2018 after 4 years of academic studies, and a further 2 years of practicals. She said her oath on 27 November 2018.

She will go on to do her community service year in 2019, where she will be practicing as a state vet in Pretoria.





EMMA ALEX & SAM POTTINGER (Class of 2013, 2016, 2018)

Emma received her Honours in Economics at UCT a year ago, and is loving her job at Mathematica Policy Research in Washington, DC, USA.

Alex Pottinger is studying Engineering at UCT.

Sam Pottinger Matriculates from Westerford High School and is going to do a BA at UCT next year.

Ed's note: We LOVE whole family updates – please keep them coming!

JAMES MASON [Class of 2002]

James is now living in San Francisco. After UCT, he obtained his Masters degree from the International Space University in France and is now "Senior VP Space Systems in Missions" for a company that manufactures and launches small satellites (cubesats), which are known as "Doves". They currently have a flock of about 150 Doves in orbit.

From Wikipedia

"Together, Doves form a satellite constellation that provides a complete image of Earth once per day at 3–5 m optical resolution."

The Brooks/Stander mentoring he had at Thomas More College and trips to places like the Planatarium must have had their effect! James works hard and plays hard (Triathlons, Burning Man, diving in Hawaii, etc) and comes home at least once a year.



James Mason and his Thomas More mates – this photo was taken about a year or so ago at Ross Holmes wedding. They were all in matric together at Thomas More College so long ago and still keep in contact (and serve as best men).

[L to R]: James Mason, Barry Foxon, Ross Holmes, Bryce Bosse, Steven Gardiner

JASON MISSEN [Class of 2005] & MEREDITH MISSEN – née van As (Class of 2006)

Jason and Meredith at Burleigh Heads, on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Jason is a Business Development Manager and Meredith runs a successful online Flower business. They live and own a house, in Southport, on the Gold Coast, in Queensland, Australia.



[L to R]: Jason, Meredith, Athena & René Missen



MATTHEW WILLMAN (Class of 1997)

Documentary photographer and artist Matthew is in Hong Kong raising funds for our precious rhino in KZN. Matthew worked for over 2 years with the Zululand Rhino Conservation Trust to create this exhibition which so far has raised over R1 million rand for our rhino and their protection. Matthew continues to gain global recognition as an artist with further exhibitions in Shanghai, London, Vienna and USA in 2019.



RENÉ MISSEN (Class of 1979) & DANIELLE AUDIBERT (Class of 2005)

René and Danielle were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, of Hillcrest Villagers Rugby Club for the 2019 KZNRU Season. This will be René's 32nd and Danielle's 5th year on the Committee at Hillcrest Villagers Rugby Club.

ENGAGEMENTS



COURTNEY-JANE EASTON (Class of 2012) and **MARNO STANDER** (Class of 2011) got engaged in Cape Town on 29 December 2017.

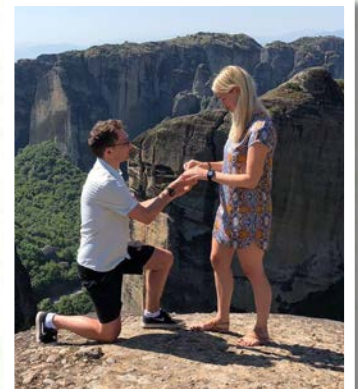


LARA SIMS-HANDCOCK (Class of 2007) and Luke Enstrom got engaged on Corfu Island Greece in September 2018.

RICHARD MOOLMAN (Class of 2003) and Karina Merkel got engaged at Snowdonia National Park in the UK on 19 November 2018.



LARA HORNBY (Class of 2012) and Jordan Maze got engaged at Meteora in Greece on 16 July 2018.



WEDDINGS

Congratulations to **CHLOE FOURIE** – née **Erskine** (Class of 2013) who was married on the 4th August 2018 to Donovan Fourie at Krantzklouf conference centre.



PINBOARD

Co-ed schools are the way to go

A RECENT article in the *Sunday Times* referred to a study done at the University of Wellington, New Zealand, which concluded that boys educated at boys-only schools have a better chance of success, i.e. gaining university entrance, etc. than boys educated in co-ed schools.

The study hinged around the assertion that boys are "wired" differently from girls, with specific reference to the different concentration levels between the sexes.

Far be it for me to argue the conclusions of so venerable an institution; however, let me say from personal experience that education is not just about getting in to varsity, *et al*, but all about "getting on" in the world.

I have only pride in saying that I was educated at an all-boys' school, and am as proud to name it, St Thomas More School, now known as Thomas More College.

The school was founded just before my arrival. I had the greatest time of my life. The camaraderie, the extramural activities, including a commando course, hikes into Kloof Gorge, etc. will live with me forever. Somewhere in the mix I got a spot of education. But something was missing. It was girls! Fond as I am of this "specie" of human kind, their absence was distinctly noted to the point that most of us, when released into "civvy street", be it for school holidays or even after matriculation, didn't know

how to behave or even converse coherently with a girl. The lucky boys were those with sisters who in turn had friends, so some interaction took place, but for many of us, we were blithering idiots, and what was worse, we knew it.

Thomas More College today is a thriving co-ed school with the sexes pitting their minds against each other and growing in a fuller, more comprehensive way.

The school deservedly ranks in the top segment of South African schools because it got it right.

CONOR WARD
(oldish boy, Thomas More College)
Champagne Valley

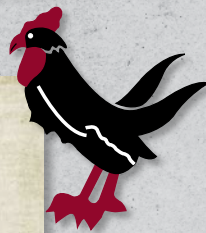
SAVE THE DATE 2019

EVENT	DATE
LONG WALK	Saturday 16 March
GOLF DAY	Friday 3 May
PUB QUIZ (PPA)	Friday 31 May
HOME GROWN (PPA)	Wednesday 19 June
COUNTRY FAIR	Saturday 27 July
ASSOCIATION DAY / AGM / REUNIONS	Saturday 14 September

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



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to continue getting our feeds and
updates and please spread the word!



Thomas More
College Past Pupils'
Association



1973

THEN & NOW Joan Savory Art Block



2018