

THE Moorcock Chronicle

EDITION 11 - 2004

THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EXPANSION *at Thomas More College*

Thomas More Primary is set to expand with the building of the new Junior Primary block below the School's swimming pool. The new block will house 4 new classrooms and toilets for boys and girls. The plans were signed on 2 September by Mr Greg Brooks, headmaster of Thomas More Primary School, ably assisted by the principal of Thomas More College, Mr Shane Cuthbertson. It is hoped that building will commence soon.



Headmaster of the Primary School, Greg Brooks, Gavin Houldin from Walker Smith Architects, and Principal Shane Cuthbertson.

Other exciting developments at Thomas More

Following the success of the opening of the School's first ever Grade 00 class in 2003, a decision was taken by the Board of Trustees to open a second Grade 00 class in 2005. Various promotional events were held to inform the Kloof and Hillcrest communities of this development. It is hoped that many tiny tots, whose parents are past pupils of Thomas More College, will enrol.



The School for all Seasons



Join us this FOUNDERS' DAY

This year's celebration sees the past pupils from Thomas More College meeting the present pupils in some friendly match fixtures. The match times for the 18th of September are as follows:

Boys' Hockey: 9.30 - 10.30
Girls' Hockey: 10.45 - 11.45
Rugby: 12.00 - 13.00

All these matches will be played on Pickering Field.

Netball on courts: 9.30 - 10.30 am

Refreshments e.g. teas, coffees, egg and bacon and boerewors rolls will be on sale at the Hockey hut and Savory Pavilion throughout the morning.

Braai packs for lunch will be on sale outside Pavilion. Salads and rolls will be supplied.

We invite both past and present pupils to come and enjoy the morning with us.



PAST PUPILS' NEWS

Mike Leffler writes ...

Maria Stuttaford (1988) has taken up a post lecturing Geography at St. Andrew's University in Scotland, a town well known for its golf course. In response to a query of mine Maria replied: 'Yes, William Windsor (aka Prince William) is here and he is in Geography.' He is starting his final year. At the time of writing she had not yet seen him. Maria also gave news of her brother **Peter** (Dux of 1986), now living and working in Florida, USA (hurricanes permitting); also classmates **Nicci Hayley (nee Gunning)** who now has a daughter, Carolyne, and Natasha Jeena, an optometrist in Johannesburg.

At the School Play I had the pleasure of meeting **Girshin Govender (1999)**, working in his father's business, and **Beryl Gilbert** and **Warren Sutcliffe**, both of whom worked and travelled extensively in Europe over the last couple of years. Also in the audience was **Blaire Tonkin (2000)** who is studying to be a teacher - of the little, little ones.

MATTHEW WILLMAN MEETS MADIBA

Thomas More College past pupil, Matthew Willman (1993 - 1997) has recently seen the fulfilment of a 9-year dream when he met Mr Nelson Mandela. Matthew's quest to meet Nelson Mandela began in 1997 at the opening of the Durban International Convention Centre. After hearing Madiba speak, Matthew was determined to meet the great man. His journey took him on a photographic route that included the likes of the late Hansie Cronje, PW Botha, Evita Bezuidenhout and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Matthew Willman and former President Mr Nelson Mandela.

After a photographic documentary of Robben Island earlier in 2004 which Matthew submitted to the Nelson Mandela Foundation, he was commissioned by the Foundation to do a private photo-shoot of South Africa's most beloved leader. Matthew's Robben Island Documentary will be showcased on 21 September in Johannesburg when Mr Mandela opens the Mandela Centre of Memory.



Matthew with a photograph from his recent photoshoot.

Thomas More College is proud of Matthew and wishes him all the best for the future.

Vaughn Edmond-Mack (1996) has been in London for the past 4 years, 2 of which saw him working as a contractor for various IT related firms. Subsequently, he worked with a global software company, first as a Senior Systems Engineer and latterly Service Manager (Promotion). He is doing well. Vaughn was able to pass on some news of **Alan Stanton (1995)**, working in Scotland, **Brad Hill (1996)** back in New Zealand, and **Greg Powell-Rees (1994)** at the time holidaying in Poland.

Deidre Harrison (nee Rice) (1980) is in Auckland, NZ. At first she was working in the chemical Engineering Dept. of the University of Auckland, running the laboratories and helping with undergraduate lab teaching, but now has 2 children and describes herself as a 'mom-slave'! Meanwhile, **Shaun Rice (1976)** has moved from Auckland to Perth, Australia where sun and surf are the major attractions. He is still a keen canoeist and surf paddleskier - having obtained South African colours in both. Shaun manages to fit in some work in the air-conditioning installation/contract business. The last of the Rices to hit Auckland was **Bruce (1975)**. He is a Quality Control Manager with a large, innovative white-ware manufacturer.

Staying in New Zealand, **Iain Morton (1978)** went into Forestry after school, but changed direction after 8 years, qualifying as a scientific instrument maker with the CSIR. He started his own precision engineering business and since 2002 has been in Hamilton, New Zealand (home of the Super 12 'Chiefs') - in the same line of business. In his spare time the whole family, Iain, wife and 2 kids all ride motorbikes ('foot-ups' to be precise).

Stuart Booy (1985), not heard from in many a long year, writes fondly of his days at Thomas More, notably hiking and outdoor activities generally. He is seemingly settled in the Hague, Holland, working in the IT department of a Utilities Company supplying gas and electricity around Holland. After school he studied surveying but decided it was not for him and helped in his father's business in Newcastle, had a go at chicken farming and growing herbs, proceeded to Holland (made Christmas decorations, worked in construction) and thence to a kibbutz in Israel. Many of you reading this may find it a familiar story! On his return to Holland, now with his fiancée, he joined the aforesaid Utilities company - though he has now acquired an old farmhouse in France so the story is by no means over.

Dean Howarth (1998) writes with enthusiasm about the South African Film Industry for whom he is working as Standby Props Assistant in Cape Town. 'The Industry is flourishing here and foreign investors are swarming to this beautiful country ...'

Jodi Bell (2002) spent her 'gap year' in Scotland where she worked for British Waterways. Now she is studying Interior Design at the Natal Technikon - and doing well.

Gavin McCardle (1977) has worked in education in Brisbane, Australia, Tonga (Nuku'alofa) and New Zealand (Wellington) and currently Auckland. This involves Research, Admin and Management jobs for some 10 years, followed by teaching, and for the past 3 or 4 years he has concentrated on two projects - English-To-Go and Instant Workbook, both of which involve publishing. As he says "And whoooooosh, that's 25 years!"

Mark Luiz (1970) and his brother **Francis (1971)** both qualified as Chartered Accountants and practise in London (Mark) and Sydney (Francis), but both have extended their range considerably - Financial

PAST PUPILS' NEWS

Directors, CEO's, that sort of thing. Mark is currently with Telewest, a large organization concerned, among other things, with cable Television and, in particular, with SkyTV.

Rory Hearty, from the **1975** group, who finished his education in Canada. He is a cousin of Mark and Francis and like them he is an Accountant, in his case in Toronto. He and his family (wife and 2 kids) came out on an extended trip around South Africa. Rory was delighted with the chance to revisit old haunts at Thomas More's.

Had a cheery e-mail from **Carl Mayo (1984)**, He spent some time in the South African Police and subsequently emigrated to the UK. He lives in Woking where he is involved in Security work - and close on 20 years out of school, is still playing rugby, but as hooker rather than prop. In addition he should have started the current season as player/coach. Well done!

Recent visitors to School have included **Dick Hardman (1973)** from Little Baddow in Essex. At one time a teacher in Chichester, he switched to an export/import business from home and keeps his educational hand in with one-on-one teaching.

Then, within 5 minutes of each other, two of the boarders of the 60's called in. First was **Chris Collingwood**, who was very active in the Past Pupils circles in the days of the Club House. He is still active in business despite something of a migratory life, including furthering his education with an MBA acquired in the UK, property interests in the Bahamas and generally getting around the world. He was followed very shortly by ebullient **Jimmy Bakos** who earns his living as a football coach (not called upon by Newcastle!). He has been more than content taking the beautiful game to the state of Iowa in the USA where the enthusiasm is immense. Presently, he is involved in the local South African setup, but expects to return to the US next year.

Most of what I have written here has had a 'faraway places' touch to it. Meat and drink to me, I suppose, but it is indicative of two things in particular - a goodly number of Past Pupils have emigrated, and much of the information given has been derived from e-mails, an undoubtedly popular means of communication. Keep them coming. We regard the Moorcock Chronicle as a very valuable means of communication between the Past Pupils and the School. I give my e-mail address again - mleffler@thomasmore.co.za

OBITUARIES

Ann du Plessis Ann du Plessis was our Primary School Librarian for the past 12 years. She suffered from continuing ill health over the past few years and sadly passed away in June.

Jonathan Fountain Everyone who knew him was shocked and saddened to learn of the death in a motor car accident of Jonathan Fountain, son of Mandi and Ted, and brother to Nicholas and Stacy-Leigh. The funeral service held in the Hilton Chapel was marked by a notable turnout of Jon-Jon's contemporaries.

Slight in stature, Jon-Jon brought considerable courage to his appearances on the sports field an area where he excelled, whether it was cricket, hockey or rugby.

Simon Raap Simon was tragically killed in a motor car accident near George on Tuesday 7th September. He matriculated from Thomas More College in 2003. Simon was ever ready with a pleasant smile and a helping hand for anyone who needed it.

CELEBRATING

40 Years



Renée and Ken at their 40th celebration.

Renée and Ken Garside celebrated their Ruby (40th) wedding anniversary recently with a party in the Robin Savory Pavilion. The venue was appropriate when one remembers that 24 of those 40 years have been "at Thomas More". While Ken has taught Physical Science and Mathematics, Renée has done "everything else" - in particular the 'save the school' speech at the closing down meeting in 1980 might be considered to have done just that!

Both from near Huddersfield, Yorkshire (although Renée's parents were Belgian) they attended Elland Grammar School, where they became acquainted!

Ken went on to an Honours Maths degree from Durham University while Renée worked in Barclays Bank (she never managed to remove enough money to make them rich).

Not being thrilled with teaching pay and conditions in the UK, Ken obtained a post at Kisumu Boys' High School, Kenya, where they spent "11 glorious years" before moving to RSA in 1976. After brief interludes at Westville Boys' High and SAPREF, Ken was invited to join the Thomas More staff in 1980 and they both felt like they had "come home" - so they stayed.



COUNTRY FAIR

2004



It was decided to move the Country Fair from its usual date at the end of May into the third term. After a week of unseasonal showers, the 31st of July dawned clear but crisp. The Fair started later, at 12 noon and continued until 11pm. This format allowed for the needs of the older pupils at school to be met. A "Battle of the Bands" had been organised as well as a disco for them. Earlier in the day, the younger children had great fun at adventure games, a games alley and the notorious "House of Horrors". There were plenty of flea-market stalls to entertain the parents as well as a popular beer tent and well-supported tea garden.



SENIOR PRIMARY

Sport

Our 1st XI Hockey Boys and Girls toured Cape Town in June this year, losing only three games out of the sixteen played between them. We played a number of local government schools with the full-time score having only a difference of one goal in most games. Their standard of hockey is most impressive, making the Cape an ideal destination for future tours. Our teams, with twelve PADSSA players, united well both on and off the field in what proved to be a most successful and enjoyable tour.

We wish our U/11 A and 1st XI Cricketers all the very best as they tour Botswana in the first week of October.



COLLEGE PLAY

On Stage

This year saw the first ever joint production between High School staff and pupils. It was a wonderful experience and epitomises all that we believe in at Thomas More College. The cast worked together, sang together, danced together, laughed together, learnt together and finally performed together.

"On Stage" was a musical set in a school for the Performing Arts. It was directed by Dawn Haynes, ably assisted by Tanya Conradie. Debra Moerdyk organised the music and singing and Leigh Irwin was the choreographer. As Dawn said, "The exhausting schedule left us all weary and footsore but each and every one has shone!"

