



22 March 2023

2023 Annual General Meeting of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association: Patron's Report:

Good evening, Mr President, Honorary Life Members, Past Presidents, members of the Executive Committee, and Old Collegians

I am pleased to present a report from the school's perspective.

ACADEMICS

We are proud of the National Senior Certificate results from the Class of 2022, who achieved well in so many areas, despite nation-wide lockdowns, school closures and civil unrest in their formative years in the FET phase. College continues to be amongst the top performing boys' schools in the country, consistently out-performing many of our competitors. A summary of the NSC results of the Class of 2022 is as follows:

- 98.1% pass rate;
- 81.2% of our matriculants achieved a Bachelor's Degree pass;
- 319 subject distinctions;
- Two boys received 8 distinctions, one achieved 7 distinctions and four boys received 6 distinctions; and
- 45 boys received three distinctions or more.

We are pleased to report that we had two boys in the top 20 in the district, viz. our Dux T Abramia (9th) and Y Malani (14th). U Essa was 26th in the district.

Two of our staff, Messrs O Kajeer and N Pillay, were recently acknowledged for excellence in their respective subject areas, viz Business Studies and Economics.

STAFFING

The recruitment and retention of teaching staff has become increasingly more onerous, as Pietermaritzburg is not on the list of sought after destinations, especially after what we experienced in 2021. However, despite losing some top quality teachers to our neighbouring independent schools in the Midlands and a well-known school in Stellenbosch, we have still been in a position to attract quality, experienced staff to the school. However, the demand by *arriving* staff for housing is significant, and in the strategic plan the College Board will need to look at building a block of flats across the road on the site off Verbena Road (as mooted previously). We have simply run out of space on the College Campus and across the road at the Verbena Complex.

MCOBA 125th Celebrations in 2022

Maritzburg College was in 2022 privileged to be included in many celebrations during the course of the year, culminating in a wonderful 125th Reunion Friday special assembly, at which we welcomed back Jesse Kriel (2012), the current RWC-winning Springbok, as our guest. At the annual MCOBA induction ceremony in October, for the first time since this ceremony was introduced, every single College boy of the 6th Form Class signed up to become a member of MCOBA – a wonderful testament indeed.

COLLEGE CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

Through the College Board and the school's Facilities Development Committee, we continue to improve our campus and facilities by virtue of our master plan, driven by Craig MacKenzie, Ken Hackland and chairman of the FDC, Rob Warr. There are a number of exciting projects on the go and a number which have been completed. With the

considerable financial support of MCOBA Trust, the Foundation, College Business and the MCOBA, as well as a number of very generous benefactors, these projects have all become a reality. The most recent are the completion of the new food court, the extension of the Margaret A' Bear Media Centre, the building of the splendid Philip Nel Pavilion overlooking Goldstone's (including a new first aid facility), the addition of solar panels, the building of additional staff housing, the setting up of a new 1st XV and XI changeroom, and the construction of the Coffee Box drive-through near the Centenary Gates. We are in the process or reviewing our energy supply sources, extending and renovating the Kent Pavilion, as well improving the Dudley Forde Aquatic Centre. These are all projects that Old Collegians may wish to be part of – and I gently remind OCs that we do not receive a single cent from the KZNDOE towards the maintenance of and cost of running the school, as well as any contribution at all towards building/construction. The funding for these initiatives has to come from parents, our budgeted CAPEX expenditure and the generous support of our OCs.

SPORT AND CULTURE

College continues to perform at the top level in all that we do and we are very proud of our boys and Old Collegians on their achievements. I wish to highlight a few:

- Maritzburg College continues to have the most number of boys participating in co-curricular activities of any school in the country.
- There has been a significant resurgence in athletics in KZN, with College winning every one of the weekly inter-school meetings held in the first term. A sizeable number of College boys earned selection for the KZN team that will participate in the upcoming national championships.
- Our 1st Team basketball is currently ranked 2nd in the country to our neighbours St Charles and our 1st XI cricket team 8th.
- The outstanding court-room drama production of *12 Angry Men* took place in the first term and was very well received. The renowned musical, *My Fair Lady*, will be performed in May.
- The recent appointment of Doug Watson (OC 1991) as the coach of the Scotland national cricket team means that College's tally of international sportsmen/officials is now 325. Congratulations, Doug!

Finally, despite a number of recent, very stressful situations with boys and staff, Maritzburg College remains in a very healthy state: the school roll is sizeable (1 260 boys, including 470 boarders); we have top quality teachers, coaches, administrators and support staff; our facilities are world-class; we have superb teaching resources; and we continue to perform at the top level in all that we do.

A warm "Thank you" goes to the President of the MCOBA, Mr Tubby Clayton, and all the Executive Committee members who continue to support the school in so many ways, as well as the MCOBA Trust and its trustees. Your contributions, gentlemen, are sincerely appreciated.

We look forward to hosting many of you at Reunion, as we continue to celebrate our 160th birthday. Our guest of honour for the special assembly on Reunion Friday is Andre Bredenkamp (OC 1975), who earned renown as the first South African mountaineer to have climbed the Seven Summits — including Mount Everest twice, from both the north and south sides — on his first attempt at each, and as an amateur.

Pro Aris et Focis



CJ Luman
Headmaster

