



PRESIDENTS REPORT

To the Annual General Meeting of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association (MCOBA) being held at 17:30 on Tuesday the 10th of May 2022

It is my pleasure to submit my annual report of the President to the Old Boys and all College Stakeholders at this year's Annual General Meetings as required by clause 17.6 (a) of the MCOBA constitution.

At the outset I confirm, per clause 10.2, that my term of office of one year is up and per clause 10.2, where a President is encouraged to complete a second year of office, I make myself available for a second year of office, if this AGM so decides, when we address the election of newly proposed Executive Committee members per clause 17.6 (d) of the MCOBA Constitution.

Executive Summary

I am pleased to report that MCOBA is in a very healthy state. We have been served and continue to be served, by Old Boys who give of their time endlessly and who immerse themselves and their energy into serving College Old Boys and our school, College.

The MCOBA:

- is financially sound, as noted by the Annual Financial Statements tabled today and the clean Audit Report.
- Continues to focus on its Objectives as set out in paragraph 5 of our Constitution.
- Is actively increasing its relevance to Old Boys as will be noted in this report.
- Has been focused on its core strategy for 2022, that is "having more events" and "bringing back the fun".

There are no proposed amendments tabled to the constitution.

No submissions for Honorary Life Members have been received and so none are tabled for consideration.

There is no special business to note for the agenda.

No changes to the Honorary Auditor being Andre de Valence (CA) SA of GC Ford Inc.

Operationally, detailed Service Level Agreements with College Business are agreed and are being delivered on with agreed Key Performance Indicators being monitored.

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



We have **987 paid up members** as of the 10th May 2022.

Events

The 22nd of January 2022 marked the momentous occasion of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association's 125th Birthday, celebrated with a first ever global event for Old Boys, being a globally coordinated celebration that included:

- 72 registered gatherings
- On 5 continents
- In 12 countries
- Across 10 time zones
- 32 locations in South Africa alone

It was a significant occasion as globally, Old Collegians along with family and friends, **paused**, took stock of our forefathers and their actions that have led us to "a **125 yrs later**". We shared meals: breakfasts, lunches and suppers; with hundreds, of Old Boys and the wider College Community across the globe and gave thanks and acknowledge this momentous occasion in our history.

Reunion 2022

After 3 long years, at long last and mindful and in no way attempting to down play the very harsh reality that has impacted all our families, friends and the wider College Community; often littered with personal tragic outcomes due to COVID-19 that includes the mental aspects humanity has endured, we have a College Old Boys reunion just weeks away!

To say your Executive have prepared for this would be an understatement, we have been preparing for 3 years! Hours and hours of effort have been invested into Reunion.

Further to this, many other events have taken place and are planned to take place and they are listed below so that the extent of the effort of the Old Boys office and Exec can be clearly noted.

This aligns into our MCOBA Strategy which was refined, in an all-day strategy session held at the Kent Pavilion on the 15th October 2021.

I must add, it has been a personal goal of mine to ensure we engage with our veteran old Boys and I am very pleased to report below that a number of events have taken place to accommodate this that includes a breakfast in Howick followed, at the invitation of the

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



Headmaster, a tour of College for which transport was put on to ensure all Old Boys, no matter their driving abilities would be accommodated.

Date	Location	Description	Attendances
7 th May 2021	The Kent Pavilion	Passing of the Bronze Basher / PMB Branch Event (+- 50)	The Headmaster Grant Little Andrew Clayton MCOBA Exec Old Boys
8 th May 2021	Howick	Fellowship Lunch (+- 30)	Andrew Clayton Bruce Lesur Veterans
14 th May 2021	Durban	Durban Branch Function with Special Guest Grant Blakeway Q&A on his solo row of the Atlantic (+- 50)	Matt Marwick Grant Blakeway Wayne Huinink Grant Little College Business
4 th June 2021	Hillcrest	Highway Branch Function / Kearsney centenary celebration (+-25)	Hermann Goslett Grant Little Ant Williamson
7 th August 2021	Camps Bay	Rugby watch +-10	The Headmaster and Andrew Clayton
14 th October 2021	Alan Paton Hall	Induction 2021 (+- 280)	The Headmaster The Exec and HLMS College Business
15 th October 2021	Kent Pavilion	MCOBA Strategy (all Day)	All Exec, Branch Chairs, Past Presidents and HLM invited Steve Colenbrander Craig McKenzie
16 th October 2021	Howick	Midlands and Veterans fellowship breakfast (+- 30)	The Headmaster Kevin Smith Andrew Clayton
11 th November 2021	Wall of Remembrance	Remembrance Day ceremony (+- 100)	The Headmaster The Exec and HLMS

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



			College Business
12 th November 2021	Class of 1961 Reunion Luncheon	Vic Hall (32 attended)	Matt Marwick Mike Hill College Business
15 th November 2021	Vic Hall	Veterans Tour of College and Luncheon (+- 30)	The Headmaster The Exec College Business HLMs
20 th November 2021	Underberg	Underberg Branch Function (+- 50)	The Headmaster Kevin Smith
24 th November 2021	Vic Hall	25 Great South African Rugby Schools Book Launch (+- 40)	Matt Marwick Warren Smith College Business
19 th January 2022	Alan Paton Hall	Boarder meeting with Old Boys,	The Headmaster The Exec HLMS Past Presidents Past Head Boys and Old Boys
22 nd January 2022	Global Locations (Including College)	125 th Old Boys Birthday Celebration Global Gatherings	Old Boys across the globe. The Headmaster The Exec HLMS and Past Presidents College Business
12 th March 2022	Stellenbosch	Social event with students (+- 44)	The Headmaster and Andrew Clayton
27 th March 2022	Melbourne (Australia)	Social event Only OC Jono Powell attended	The Headmaster
22 nd April 2022	North Coast	North Coast branch function	Pete Cameron Matt Marwick
Future Events			
26 th May 2022	VCC	MCOBA Golf Day Secured by Trellidor	The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec
27 th May 2022	Collegians Club	MCOBA Bowls Day sponsored by Meercat Recruitment	The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



27 th May 2022	Alan Paton Hall	MCOBA Reunion Dinner	The Headmaster The Exec HLMS and Past Presidents College Business
28 th May 2022	Wall of Remembrance	Chapel Service and Wall of Remembrance Service	The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec HLMS
28 th May 2022	The Kent	MCOBA Reunion Drinks post rugby vs Hilton	The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec HLMS
31 st May 2022	Hillcrest	Highway Branch function	Herman Goslett The Exec
4 th June 2022	Kearsney	Kearsney OB / MCOBA lunch	The Headmaster Grant Little The Exec HLMS
25 th / 30 th June 2022	USA: Dallas (Texas)	TBC	The Headmaster
1 st July 2022	UK	UK Branch Function	The Headmaster
8 th July 2022	TBC	College Connect Networking event	TBC
26 th August 2022	South Coast	Branch Function	Andrew Ralfe TBC
28 th July 2022	Pretoria	Branch Function	The Headmaster and Andrew Clayton
29 th July 2022	JHB	Branch Function	The Headmaster and Andrew Clayton
9 th September 2022	Midlands	Golf Day	Grant Reed TBC
13 th September 2022	College / Vic Hall	Vets Open Day tours and lunch	The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec HLMS
12 th October 2022	Zululand	Branch Function	Greg Nelson TBC
13 th October 2022	Alan Paton Hall	Induction	The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



			HLMs
21 st October 2022	Tugela	Branch Function	Joe Culverwell TBC
4 th November 2022	Harding/Kokstad	Branch Function	Jim Payne Vaughan Gilson TBC

Technology

Significant changes have been implemented into our operations at College Old Boys that have digitally enabled us to meet our Old Boys spread out across the globe. These include the roll out and go live of:

- College Connect Community using US technology owned by a US firm, Graduway, that services the US Ivy League universities.
 - College Connect brings our community together by digitally enabling new features that the old technology, Alumnet, did not and includes: a jobs board, Business to Business opportunities and a mentorship program.
 - Most notably it is **user friendly** and links to Facebook and LinkedIn, tools our communities already use.
 - Significantly, 7 Corporate Partners have provided the \$5000 needed for the first year of annual fees of the initial 5-year contract with Graduway. MCOBA, has also contributed +- \$2500 from funds held in the Old Boys UK Bank Account.
 - Note: the decommissioning of Alumnet has been planned for May 2022 and will save Old Boys R1880 a month.
- Completely new website that integrates to the: School, College Foundation, College Connect and College Shoppe.
- New payment gateway with our very own merchant account enabling payment for: subs, events and anything else on a global scale with ease.
- Office iPhone loaded with entire MCOBA database.

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



- Creation of office “persona” RD Clark complete with email address, Whatsapp profile and Facebook account.
- WhatsApp Groups newly launched to meet the preferred communication methods of old boys and particularly those abroad.
- Trello, a project management tool, is now in its second year and is housing detailed operational information that is critical to running the Old Boys Office.
- Voting forms (Formbuilder123), ensuring decisions are informed and voted on.
- Online Debit Order Mandate forms including secure online Cloud storage.
- MCOBA domain including secure online cloud storage.
- MCOBA Zoom account to facilitate communications globally.

Office Bearers

A number of long-term serving members of the Executive are opting to stand down and I would like to thank:

- **Gary Banfield** who has served 10 years, in the office as “Honorary Treasurer” and then to lead our Strategy portfolio. I have enjoyed wise council from Gary but I know Executives before will recognise his significant contributions to Old Boys through many more years than I can speak for.
- **Grant Sayers** who has given 4 years of significant effort ensuring we have had timely management accounts and then annual financial statements. He has attended to many finance related questions and has also assisted with the reporting on our investment. I know he has invested personal time over weekends to ensure our accounting remained in tip top shape.
- **Bruce Lesur** who has served this Old Boys executive through so many years in all positions including that of President and continues to give of his time unstintingly, is stepping down as Vice-President, a position you will notice remains unfilled and will need to be filled through the course of the year. Bruce kindly agreed to return and assist me as my Vice President in my first year of office as President particularly as it was our 125th Year. I have enjoyed incredible wisdom and engagement from Bruce over this past year for which I am eternally grateful for. I am pleased to say Bruce will continue to service Old Boys through his main passion, which is Rugby, via the Weaner Rugby Project.
- **Ant Williamson** who has served 2 years, in the office as “Head of Projects” has almost single handedly turned an annual golf day into something that could almost rival a Golf

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



Major. It sells out in a matter of hours now and I know when he took this task on, we struggled to fill the field. The energy and attention to detail and generosity of his time has been immense. His role across Reunion and Project has also been immense and the energy he injects into “geeing” up the troops is beyond measure. He assures me he will be backing and supporting his incumbent, Devon and for this we are very grateful.

- **Patrick O’Connell** who has served 2 years, helping run the portfolio of Membership and Participation has shared generously of his wisdom gained through his years involved with College. A passionate Exec member matched perhaps only by Ant Williamson and I know his support will never fail us.
- **Robin Westley** who has served 2 years, in the office helping run the portfolio of Membership and Participation and who also held the office of Vice-President has had to navigate some very tricky time-consuming years at College which included his position as Chairman of the College Foundation. Robin has given unreservedly and invested hours and hours of his time for the benefit of College. He has always been a very calm and level headed voice of reason in our Executive and he knows I personally had hoped he would have reconsidered the position of Vice-President again.

We will in time be running an event to thank these servants of College but I would like to formally thank them all and the truth is, that nothing I could say could do it justice enough but, Thank You Gentlemen!

With all these changes, there might be cause for alarm? I assure you passionate Old Boys are not short in abundance; the challenge is to ensure they have “time to give” and I believe those being nominated tonight for office have fresh ideas and passion to breath into Old Boys and indeed some younger years are filtering in which is exciting as Old Boys needs to remain relevant to all.

Financial Affairs

Old Boys are in a sound financial position.

A far more detailed budget is being tracked to this year to keep us focused on achieving our targets so that this strong position is not jeopardized.

Further to this, the monthly management accounts have been enhanced to report on management information that allows the executive to make decisions based on the financial information.

Maritzburg College Old Boys’ Association



A project is underway to introduce new digitized systems with document storage of all invoices and an enhanced approval processes as well as automated banking feeds into a new general ledger called Zero.

This will all be further enhanced with straight through processing into a management reporting tool called “Spotlight” that will reduce the effort and time required in producing management accounts.

Critical to Finances is our income and so I include a detailed report on this and post reunion we will start to request OC, that are not paid up, to consider being paid up members. Note, this is a change in strategy this year. In prior years a letter was sent early in the year to request such payment of subs. The Executive have taken a strategy to deliver on service and a reunion before sending out such requests. That said, anyone who has paid for reunion on our new payment portal, will have been asked to consider adding subs to their bill.

The executive has been very mindful that there is a need to demonstrate service to all old boys to justify the request for subs and we believe we are doing just this.

Budgeted Income

	Currently 10 th May 2022	Target	% Against target
Subs Membership – Full R450/pa	914	1455	63%
Subs Pensioners R150/pa	67	80	84%
Subs College Staff R150/pa	4	25	16%
Life Membership (R12500 for 125th yr)	2	7	29%
School - Pre paid students *	There continues to an annual collection of +- R300k each year that is reconciled and paid to MCOBA in about Nov.		

*MCOBA remains very grateful to the School for its support in billing old Boys subs in advance and MCOBA is very aware of the significant resource usage this is and the time spent by the College Finance department reconciling these figures.

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



Maritzburg College Old Boys Memorial Trust

Mr. Sven Jager, Chairman of the Maritzburg College Old Boys Memorial Trust has provided a report on the financial affairs of the Memorial Trust which is tabled to this AGM and it talks to the healthy state of affairs of the Memorial Trust.

Operations

The central service team, **College Business**, has taken a few years to mature into the well-oiled machine it is now. The foresight to move to this new operating model and effort to get it operational, that MCOBA had navigated through was not an easy journey of change but it has been worth it and College Business is a game changer whereby dedicated permanent resource execute on the needs of MCOBA that ensures a level of service that is not based on a "best efforts" basis.

We welcome Sam Paterson who joined the team in March 2022 and she splits her time equally between Old Boys and the school. She services College as their **Events Manager** and for Old Boys heads up our **Communications** portfolio which includes: Newsletters and Social Media. We are expecting big things from Sam through 2022/2023 – Welcome Sam.

If our engine room of Old Boys, being **College Business**, could be likened to rugby, well then:

Sue Buchanan-Clarke would be an **entire scrum!** The work effort she has put out in the past 6 months with efficiency and output into Operations, just simply kicked Old Boys and our capabilities into the stratosphere. It was like Father Christmas threatened not to come and 2022 was looking tough and then he arrived and delivered 8 Sues!!!!

In April 2022 Sue had work stack that read:

- 3 Priority tasks open
- 18 other tasks open
- **26 closed** over the last month
- **45 closed** over the rest of the year (starting Oct 2021)
- 17 deliverables over the next 6 months

Sue has delivered new technology that includes detailed work into: Website, Payment systems, the College Connect Platform, WhatsApp Groups and technology.

Sue has delivered services beyond exceptions to ensure Reunion is going to run efficiently. She has managed and supported endless Old Boys event and I do not think there is an Old Boy

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



out there now who will not have met the efficiencies and services that Sue has brought to Old Boys.

Most pleasingly Sue has engaged with all Branch Chairs and is building this relationship very strongly and the increased number of Branch events, is evidence of this. (A core strategy and focus of Old Boys). The list of events above talks to this immense engagement Sue has achieved.

Kevin Smith is the Captain (at **Fullback** of course) but would be the first to admit the team has matured into a fine red wine this past year making leading it, easy. That said, credit is due and Kevin has engaged and it was clear that the securing of the sponsors of the new College Connect platform proved to be a team defining event lead by Kevin.

Kevin has also been instrumental in driving the new SuperSport contracting so that our main events are beamed around the globe.

Sally Upfold is the nippy **scrum half**, connecting us through media and of course marketing which has been critical in this our 125th Year. The new website has been a significant deliverable and with rich new content about to be secured from the 125th reunion, we know it will be put to good use.

Sam Paterson is the “new gal” who will need to occupy the **centre** channels to deliver the punchy communications we need using the correct technology and pitched at the right: level, frequency and agenda.

Mathew Marwick is the **Flyhalf** / ‘General’, marshalling play in some sadly dark days for College that has required firm control and good communications and wise shoulders.

Old Boys continue to be represented on Day Boy and Boarder Admissions and I am pleased to have Matthew to work with / through on this really important aspect of College.

Jenny Baptista is the elusive **Wing**. Its unlikely you will even “see” her but the technology and database expertise with critical technology thinking that she brings to the team, in the environment we do business in these days, are skills required if you want to score tries!

Our Patron / The Headmaster

I must report and thank our Patron and Headmaster, Mr. Luman who so generously hosts us Old Boys on Campus.

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



We have enjoyed consistent open dialog through the past year which I hope continues. I am struck by his tireless unrelenting passion for our Old Boys. Often our meetings take place by call on a Sunday and most often take over an hour and he gives generously. When I am in Pietermaritzburg there is always time set aside to meet, often at his request and desire to engage with Old Boys.

He is more often the one driving the need for more Old Boys events and was the reason a Veteran's visit was hosted at College last year which included transport, put on by the school. He initiated a wonderful 125th Celebration event and hosted over 20 guests on the 22nd January 2022.

He has attended all our Cape events and even when I offer up contributions to accommodation, he turns this down always mindful of the need to "save old boys" a cash spend.

He offers his time generously and freely and when on a personal visit to see family in Melbourne in April 2022, he offered to meet with Old Boys and met with an OC. When he heads to the US in June/July, he has offered up time there and is even delaying his stop over in the UK by a night to run an event in London for Old Boys

At the end of July, he is meeting me in Johannesburg and Pretoria for our Old Boys Functions there.

I do not think any old boy's association could find a more generous and engaging Headmaster and I am very pleased to report on this and thank Mr. Luman on behalf of the Old Boys.

Closing

I would like to thank my entire Executive of 2021/2022 who have supported me and given so much to Old Boys and College this past year. Each and every Executive member has unique skills that they have used in servicing Old Boys' needs. From Reunion and Induction planning committees to new technology planning meetings, legal and constitutional matters, sports, mentoring and strategy sessions as well as Branch functions. The executive has been awesome and I want to thank you all.

One moment stands out for me in 2022 where the Exec, supported by Past Presidents, Honorary Life Members and prominent Old Boys were invited to the school to address all the Boarders on the 19th January 2022. We were asked to address the boys on the topics of:

Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association



Traditions, Bullying and what it means to be a College Boy and College Old Boys. It was just amazing to see how passionate old boys, across all decades, rallied to attend this meeting and I am grateful for this.

I believe College Old Boys is in very good health and is well placed to leverage all the very positive changes that has been implemented through 2021/2022 to making Old Boys:

- Increasingly relevant to all Old Boys, globally
- A community of choice that OC aggregate towards and engage in more
- That OC, after 3 years of covid "isolation", find fulfillment and a sense of "my tribe" in.

It is my belief that we need to further increase the headcount in our Old Boys office to deliver into these objectives in order to ensure success. College Old Boys can't run on a "best endeavors basis" that it faces off to when paid resources are not hired and tasked to deliver on services.

As always, I invite you to contact me directly should you have any specific topics you wanted addressed. I look forward to seeing you all at Reunion in a few weeks' time.

Sincerely

Andrew Clayton



Andrew Clayton
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Honesty | Integrity | Courage | Self-discipline | Commitment | Respect



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