



March 2024

2024 Annual General Meeting of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association: Patron's Report

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 very proud of the National Senior Certificate results from the Class of 2023, who achieved well in so many areas. College continues to be among the top performing boys' schools in the country, consistently outperforming many of our competitors.

A summary of the NSC results of the Class of 2023 is as follows:

- 99.3% pass rate.
- 96.7% gained entry into a tertiary institution.
- 319 subject distinctions.
- one boy received 8 distinctions, three boys received 7 distinctions ; six boys 6 distinctions and 46 boys received three distinctions or more.

A special word of mention must go to Declan Pillay, our 2023 Dux, who excelled with 8 distinctions in the NSC exams and 96% in the IEB AP Mathematics exam. He was placed 3rd in the Umgungundlovu district.

STAFFING

Securing quality staff to College and Maritzburg remains a significantly difficult task due to the continuous decay of the inner city and its incompetent and ineffectual administration. Recruitment and, more importantly, retention of staff is crucial in order to ensure we remain competitive at the top level not only nationally but internationally. After long and arduous deliberations with the KZNDOE, our PPN [the number of teachers allocated to our school by the department who they will pay for] was increased to 48 [after it was reduced to 40 to 44 in October last year] saving approximately R3 million on our salary budget.

SGB 2024 Office Bearers

Congratulations to the following parents, staff and learners on their election to the SGB for 2024 . We thank them for putting themselves forward and wish them well during their term of office.

2024 Governing Body

Chairman:	Steve Colenbrander
Vice Chairman:	Hermann Goslett
Treasurer:	Rodney Klute
Secretary:	Shannon Elliott

Headmaster: Dr Christopher Luman

Chairman of the Subcommittees:

Boarding	Hermann Goslett
Facilities Development	Craig Cook
Finance	Ian Murgatroyd
Goldstones	Andre du Toit
Legal	Ruan Van Rooyen

Additional Elected Members Parents:

Dr Amon Kasambala and Warren Smith

Educators:

Brent Dodd, Jabulani Mhlongo and Jenna Stoute

Learners

Matthew Knoetze, Nikhil Narain and Justin Steyn

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 former 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 is the completion of CoffeeBox which has been a huge success, the building of additional staff housing, the installation of lights on Pape's. We are in the process of reviewing our energy supply sources as well as 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 making 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 highest number of boys participating in co-curricular activities of any school in the country.
- We were recently ranked 4th in the country as a top boys' sport school behind Hilton, Paul Roos and KES. A significant achievement.
- There has been a significant resurgence in athletics in KZN, with College winning all but one of the weekly inter-school meetings held in the first term and being the overall champion.
- Our 1st Team basketball is currently ranked 3rd in the country to Northwood and St Alban's and our 1st XI cricket team 26th.
- The Shakespeare drama production of *Comedy of Errors* will be staged early in Term 2 and the renowned Gilbert and Sullivan musical, *Pirates of Penzance*, will be performed later in the year.

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 (1 270 boys, including a BE that is almost full at 499 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 sincere vote of thanks and appreciation 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 161st birthday. Our guest of honour for the special assembly on Reunion Friday is Lee Fuller [OC1991], a highly regarded and well known travel guide of safaris throughout Africa.

Pro Aris et Focis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJ Luman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr CJ Luman
Headmaster & Patron