



PRESIDENTS REPORT - 2023

*To the Annual General Meeting of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association
(MCOBA) being held at 17:00 on Monday the 10th of June 2024*

It is my pleasure to submit my annual report of the President to the Members of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association 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 this is my third and final term of office, and that I do not make myself available for a fourth year. The AGM needs to consider the appointment of a President when it addresses the election of proposed Executive Committee members per clause 17.6 (d) of the MCOBA Constitution.

Executive Summary

In this the 126th year of the Association, we proudly celebrated the schools' 160th Birthday and what a celebration and year it was for Old Boys and Maritzburg College.

Old Boys assisted with:

- Gifting the school R100k towards an electric cable, connecting the solar power to Goldstones, as a 160th Birthday gift.
- Hosting an awesome [Reunion](#) 2023 and recoding a great victory against Westville.
- Committing a further **R450k** to fund [CollegeConnect](#) in 2023/2024

Dr Melba Nzimande settled into the Operations Manager role and has delivered Reunion 2023 and now her second Reunion in 2024 to the highest standards, with small personal touches, that exude "care" and attention to detail that one would expect of a professional "eventing" company. I am sad to note her resignation as of 31 July 2024 as she requires more time with her two young boys.

Sue Buchanan-Clarke has taken College Connect to new heights and it is clear this is becoming a strategic stakeholder for College and College Old Boys.

The Executive team of Old Boys continue to serve, alongside Branch Chairs and others who give of their time endlessly and who immerse themselves and their energy into serving College Old Boys and our school, College. For this I am truly thankful and for their personal support of my Presidency.

Jon Hoatson has emersed himself into all things Old Boy related and I have no hesitation in saying that our Association is in very good hands in our “President Elect”.

The role of Treasurer remains vacant but with operations digitally serviced: Dext, Xero (General Ledger) and Spotlight for Management reporting, with support provided by OMNE Accounting and Tax, there has not been much need of our Treasurer. Both Sue of CollegeConnect and Melba from MCOBA Operations Managers, have capacitated the accounting function. Wayne Evans, the schools Commercial Director, continues in the very important role of making online payments with sole access to the bank account (backed up by Rodney Klute)

We experienced our first crime where our debit card was charged R38k illegally and I am pleased to note our controls worked to identify this and the funds have been repaid. A large error also occurred at year end where a disinvestment of our Investment was made erroneously for R123k and again our controls picked this up and whilst reported on our AFS at year end, this was returned in Jan 2024 for which our Investment Administrators apologised for the error as they mixed up the Old Boys Investment account with the Maritzburg College and Old Boys Memorial Trust investment account.

As noted last year, we cannot remain dependent on Executive members to perform core operations that are delivered on a “best endeavor” and “unfunded basis”. I am really excited to note that an appointment of an Old Boy to the paid role of **College Ambassador** is imminent and it’s my belief this will be a catalyst for the future success of Old Boys.

I am pleased to report that Maritzburg College Old Boys’ Association (MCOBA):

- is financially sound, as noted by the unqualified 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 focused on delivering fun and well supported events to our Old Boys.

There is one proposed change to the constitution which is to recognise the voting rights of the:

- Director of College Business and
- a Member appointed to represent the School on the Old Boys Executive

for which the Constitution was silent on their ‘right to vote.’

There are no submissions for Honorary Life Membership required to be addressed per clause 6.2 (b) 2 (c) of the MCOBA Constitution.

There is no special business issue for consideration at this AGM.

There are no proposed changes to the Auditor, being Andre de Valence (CA) SA of GC Ford Inc.

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

Through 2023, we had 961 paid up members against a target of 1814 and so under performed by 853 which is consistent with 2022 and so remains a significant concern and the appointment of the “College Ambassador” role is key to the turnaround of this.

We are significantly grateful to the 4 Old Boys who paid Life Membership fees.

Financial Affairs

Old Boys recorded a significant loss for the year of **-R 421,726** (prior year loss of -R31 371) which is concerning and is a result of once off commitments approved by the exec of:

- 1) the commitment to fund CollegeConnect **R360k** (Salaries and Technology)
- 2) 160th Gift to College **R100k**

A budget of 1814 paid up members was set and for the second successive year, we have only secured 961 paid up members as noted here. This remains a core challenge for MCOBA as the target is to secure 3000 annual sub paying old boys.

The appointment of the “College Ambassador” role is key to the turnaround of this.

Budgeted Income

Account	Fee	Total - at 7 Nov 2023		
		Budget	Actual	Variance
Subscriptions				
		10	8	-2
Subs College Staff (1052)	R150,00	R1 500,00	R1 200,00	-R300,00
		1522	771	-751
Subs Full Membership (1050)	R450,00	R684 900,00	R346 950,00	-R337 950,00
		9	4	-5
Subs Life Membership (1053)	R20 000,00	R180 000,00	R80 000,00	-R100 000,00
		282	182	-100
Subs Pensioners (1051)	R160,00	R45 120,00	R29 120,00	-R16 000,00
Subs School (Pre paid) (1054)		R150 000,00	R200 000,00	R50 000,00 *
Total Income		R1 061 520,00	R657 270,00	-R469 840,00
		The School is expected to pay +-R100k		

The following “cash and investments,” remained at year end.

- **R523 489** in our investment managed by PSG and Finlaw
 - Note this should be R123k more as a sell down error occurred and was returned in Jan 2024 as such the real balance is **R646, 489**.
- **R265,617** – Cash and Cash equivalents:
 - R49,270.85 in our Standard Bank Current Account
 - R101,595.91 Nedbank Corporate Saver 0410 CollegeConnect
 - R26,571.49 Nedbank Corporate Saver 7317 - Life Subs via Foundation
 - R 88,178.83 Nedbank Corporate Saver 9751 (Weaner + Rugby)

These funds leave MCOBA well-funded but it needs to be conservative through 2024 and secure income before committing to more large donations.

The detailed budgeting process is operational and is being tracked to on a monthly basis using the new technology, Spotlight. Expenditure in excess of the Exec approved budget is:

- 1) Subject to the Delegation of approval policy (see <https://www.collegeoldboys.com/>)
- 2) Tabled at the following Exec meeting to ensure Executive review and approval.

Once again, the Association remains very grateful to the School for its support in billing parents the pre-paid student subs whilst learners are still at school. MCOBA is very aware of the significant resource usage that this is and the time spent by the College Finance department reconciling these figures.

These pre-paid student subs are recorded as income and are available for immediate use by the Association.

Reunion Income

As a committee we have finally run at a small profit over the Reunion weekend of **R31 707** keeping in mind that Old Boys does not, as a strategy, budget for the annual reunion to run at a profit with an expectation that MCOBA depends on this in anyway.

It is clear the cost to host dinners / functions at College, where everything has to be sourced in, is expensive. Profit expected from bar sales is consumed by these expenses which include costs for: Bar (physical), Fridges & Bar Staff costs (including accommodation as they come from Durban), tables and decorations, photography, security, sound and lighting and hire of equipment. These fixed costs can add between R50k to R80k of expenditure.

An underperformance of R43k was experienced and this is due to these fixed costs. On a positive note, at long last, Reunion has not run at an outright loss and going forward the 2024 Reunion was planned on a tighter budget.

Bowls	R 8 472 (budget R 4980)
Friday dinner	-R 10 246 (off budget of R18 561) - unexpected loss *
Golf	R 36 981 (budget R51 350)
Sat Lunch	-R 3 500 (off budget R0)
Profit <u>R 31 707</u>	(Budget R74 891 variance of R43 184 essential spent on fixed costs)

Events

Through 2023 we have hosted numerous events including but not limited to:

- Hosting [Reunion](#) 2023.
- Veteran's Open Day in Vic Hall.
- Branch events across the country and abroad including: Pietermaritzburg, Zululand, Midlands, Highway, North Coast, Kokstad, Underberg, Cape Town, and the United Kingdom (London).
- Remembrance Day Service
- Matric Induction with 255 boys, being 95% of the 2023 matrics, inducted into Old Boys. For the first time all the ties were sponsored, the Association saved on this spend.
- Old Boys Strategy Session hosted at College Jan 2024.

CollegeConnect

Through 2023, College Connect has secured significant achievements being:

- 1700 registered users
 - 78% willing to help other Old Boys – Mentoring and the likes.
- Facilitating connectivity with an average of 79 messages between users each month
- 19 CollegeConnect events posted for 2024 so far which started in 2023.
- 8 CollegeConnect specific WhatsApp groups with 940 members
- 227 jobs advertised through CollegeConnect
- 31 confirmed hires via CollegeConnect and many more in discussion/progressing.
- 18 promoted businesses paying CollegeConnect to be promoted.
- Supporting Grade11 Work Experience: 419 placement options in 2023

Maritzburg College Old Boys Memorial Trust

Mr. Wayne Evans (OC 1990), Financial Manager 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 and the significant role the Trust continued to play for Maritzburg College.

Operations

Old Boy Operations have enjoyed the incredible and professional services of **Dr Melba Nzimande** who has emersed herself into Old Boys and taken things to new heights, when one

could not even imagine it possible. I am sad to note her resignation as of 31 July 2024 as she requires more time with her two young boys. We wish her well and expect to see her back as a parent in the not to distant future once Merchiston days wrap up.

Melba has been ably supported by **Thandekile Mthlane** who has brought a sparkle and fun to the office as she enjoys training as an intern under Melba. Thandi has assisted Melba with admin jobs and served this out professionally for which I am grateful.

Sue Buchanan-Clarke has delivered exceptional service into College Connect and this remains a very exciting opportunity as it grows. Sue has also assisted Melba with workload, particularly in the Accounting requirements.

College Business

The central service team, **College Business**, experienced significant changes in staff at the end of 2022 but through 2023 has delivered and serviced into MCOBA in a very positive way not experienced to date.

Kevin Smith heads up College Business and he has managed the team to be a very productive and happy team with a positive working environment. It's clear the success of events and services into MCOBA are benefiting from this. It still remains a concern that Kevin is spread thinly due to huge demands of his time, particularly in the fund-raising space and building and infrastructure role out (Swimming pool for 2025).

Rachael Barnard has joined the school as their **Events Co-ordinator** full time and has delivered exceptional service. She has been instrumental in the success of the 2024 Reunion.

Mathew Marwick continues to serve Old Boys on the Exec and addresses the Day Boy and Boarder admissions / recruitment. Matthew has given tireless service to the Old Boys Exec for which I am eternally grateful.

Jenny Baptista has moved to College Foundation and on a best endeavors basis, graciously, supports the technology and database needs of MCOBA.

Sally Upfold, now sitting outside of College Business, provides marketing services into MCOBA and the working relationship with Melba and Sally has matured well ensuring in most cases the alignment of 'messaging' and 'marketing'. This is a crucial area as MCOBA aims to enhance communications and engagement with Old Boys.

Our Patron / The Headmaster

Firstly, I record with pride that our Patron has secured his doctorate and again I record our sincere gratitude to our Patron and Headmaster, Dr. Luman, for so generously hosting Old Boys on Campus and embraces all things "College" that are so dear to Old Boys.

The Headmaster has led the school through its 160th year with distinction! He continues to be one of the biggest supporters of College Old Boys, committing many hours of his personal time engaging with Old Boys across the globe.

On behalf of the Old Boys, may I thank Dr. Luman and the entire College Business team.

Closing

I would like to thank my entire Executive of 2023/2024 who have served old boys unsparingly and supported me through this past year.

The success of Old Boys and the role it is playing is in no small measure, thanks to the Exec team, that operates like a slick machine. Hours and hours of time are committed by Exec members and each has contributed.

I firmly believe that MCOBA is in a very healthy state and is making itself more and more relevant in an era where society is looking for: “community”, “purpose” and “a sense of belonging”. In a world full of challenges, it becomes clearer that Family and Friends are what count. Friendships forged in formative years at College prove to endure and are what are turned to more frequently now, in times of need. Increasing examples of Old Boys turning to their year groups at desperate times of need where their year groups support and provide love and care (as well as necessary financial assistance) are increasing and this “FiveYearsForLife” truly is for life!

I thank the entire College Community for the significant support and new friendships I have forged through the past 3 years and I can truly say I have enjoyed and been privileged to do my bit in giving back to College for what it gave and continues to give to me.

Sincerely

Pro Aris et Focis



Andrew Clayton

Andrew Clayton

President MCOBA



Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association

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