



## JON HOATSON, PRESIDENT

Dear Old Collegians,  
As the year draws to a close, I am delighted to extend warm Christmas greetings to each of you and your families on behalf of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association.



2025 has been a year of growth, renewal, and engagement for our Association. We have continued to strengthen our bonds of brotherhood, celebrate achievements, and build meaningful connections across generations and continents. Our Reunion Weekend, Induction ceremonies, and branch events have been memorable highlights, bringing Old Collegians back to the heart of College and fostering the sense of community we cherish. Membership has continued to grow, demonstrating your commitment to the Association and its purpose. Our digital platform, College Connect, has expanded, connecting more Old Collegians, parents, and College staff than ever before, while remaining a key part of our mission: Five Years for Life. This year also marked smooth transitions within our leadership, with new appointments strengthening the Executive Committee and ensuring MCOBA remains in capable hands as we look toward the future.

We continue to support the School through bursaries, mentoring, events, and infrastructure initiatives, reflecting our ongoing dedication to the College's long-term vision. As we celebrate the festive season, let us remember the bonds of friendship, family, and College brotherhood that sustain us through challenging times. I encourage all Old Collegians to reach out, reconnect, and support one another, both within your year groups and across the wider College community. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you a joyful Christmas, a safe holiday season, and a prosperous New Year filled with health, happiness, and continued success. We look forward to welcoming you back to College in 2026 for more engagement, events, and shared memories.

Pro Aris et Focus!

*Jon Mark Hoatson*





## BRUCE LESUR, COLLEGE COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR



### Greetings

2025 has been an exciting and fulfilling year for the MCOBA. Our President, Jon Hoatson, has been instrumental in leading his team on the MCOBA Exec. With the support of Grant Hooper as Vice President, the Executive team has made important decisions and hosted several memorable functions.

Jackie Ponsford has done outstanding work in her first year as MCOBA Ops Manager, consistently going the extra mile to ensure the Old Boy community is well informed and able to enjoy vibrant Branch Functions. Reunion Weekend reached a new level in 2025, and Veterans Day as well as the Induction of the 6th Formers into the MCOBA community were exceptional. Well done, Jackie. MCOBA continues to be supported by the College Business Team, who play a key role in the preparation and execution of our events. A big thank you to Kevin Smith and the entire College Business team.

A major highlight of the year was the Reunion Weekend, which featured several events starting on Thursday with golf, and concluding with drinks on Goldstones on Saturday evening. A significant change this year was the introduction of a formal dinner in the Victoria Hall on Friday night, held concurrently with a more informal gathering on Goldstones featuring a few sheep on the spit and live music. Old Boys were able to choose the event that suited them best. Another welcome addition was a round of golf at the Maritzburg Golf Course on Thursday, giving Old Boys who missed out on VCC bookings an alternative. Jackie and her team are already hard at work preparing for Reunion 2026, and further information will be shared in the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Old Boys who committed to Life Membership in 2025 and those who paid their 2025 membership fees. Jackie, Jon, the MCOBA Exec, and the College Business team are continually planning and strategizing to ensure Old Boys enjoy an exceptional experience. However, this requires significant time, effort, and financial resources that is why the payment of Subs plays a vital role in sustaining the high level of service we strive to provide.

College as a school is in an excellent space and deeply values the support of the Old Boy community. Once again, thank you for your continued support of the MCOBA and College.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year with family and friends.

Regards

Bruce Lesur

College Community Ambassador



**BRUCE LESUR**

COLLEGE COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

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[www.maritzburgcollege.co.za](http://www.maritzburgcollege.co.za)

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Honesty | Integrity | Courage | Self-Discipline | Commitment | Respect



Full Membership **612.**

# MCOBA SUBS

Life Membership **10.**

Pensioners **172.**

School (Pre paid) **919.**

Young OCs **15.**





# MARITZBURG COLLEGE OLD BOYS YEAR IN REVIEW



## JANUARY 2025

### REUNION 2025 PLANNING

The MCOBA actively consulted the Old Boys' community through social media and class WhatsApp polls to shape Reunion 2025 (28–31 May). Based on this feedback, a new semi-formal Friday night dinner option was introduced alongside the traditional formal dinner, and two golf courses were made available to ensure inclusivity and wider participation



### 128 YEARS OF BROTHERHOOD

On 22 January, the MCOBA celebrated its 128th birthday, reflecting on the Association's proud history since 1897 and the enduring bonds of brotherhood that continue to unite Old Boys across generations.



## INSPIRATION & LEGACY

Old Collegians continued to inspire on campus, with Mtunzi Jonas (OC 1999) returning as Guest of Honour at the 2024 Prize-Giving Ceremony. The College community was also honoured by the presence of 102-year-old Piet Swanepoel (OC 1938) at the Inter-House Athletics Championships — a powerful reminder of the lifelong connection to College.

## NEXT GENERATION & ACHIEVEMENTS

January saw the welcoming of Form 2 boarders, including sons of Old Boys, celebrating the continuation of College tradition. The MCOBA also proudly recognised outstanding Old Boy achievements, including:

Andrew Tarboton (OC 2002) – 2025 MUSTO Skiff World Champion

Michael Foster (OC 2020) – Team Pyga EuroSteel cyclist

Chad Mason – Selected for the SA U19 Cricket squad

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

A Mental Health Campaign, initiated by Grant Little (OC 1985), encouraged Old Boys to prioritise wellbeing, look out for one another, and seek support when needed, supported by resources from SADAG.

January reflected the spirit of **Five Years For Life** connection, pride and community at the heart of everything we do.



## BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD





## SPORTING EXCELLENCE ON THE WORLD STAGE

Old Collegians once again flew the College flag proudly. Justin Domleo (OC 2005) represented South Africa at his fourth FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup in Croatia, where the SA Men's team secured their first-ever World Cup medal. Justin fittingly bowed out of international hockey with a bronze medal — a remarkable career achievement.

February also saw major sporting success for Andy Birkett (OC 2008), winner of the 2025 Dusi Canoe Marathon, and recognition for Stuart (OC 1978) and Gudgie Dixon (OC 1976), who continued to build their incredible Dusi legacy.

Further congratulations went to Sean Paxton (OC 2019) on qualifying for the Investec SA Open, and to Old Boys and College anglers who excelled at provincial level.



## REUNION 2025 & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Important updates on Reunion 2025 were shared, including the outcomes of the Reunion dinner poll, the introduction of a golf day double header, and ticket sales via College Connect. The Association also hosted its first “Build Your Legacy” evening, bringing together Old Collegians, partners and future College men to reflect on the lifelong impact of being part of the Maritzburg College family.

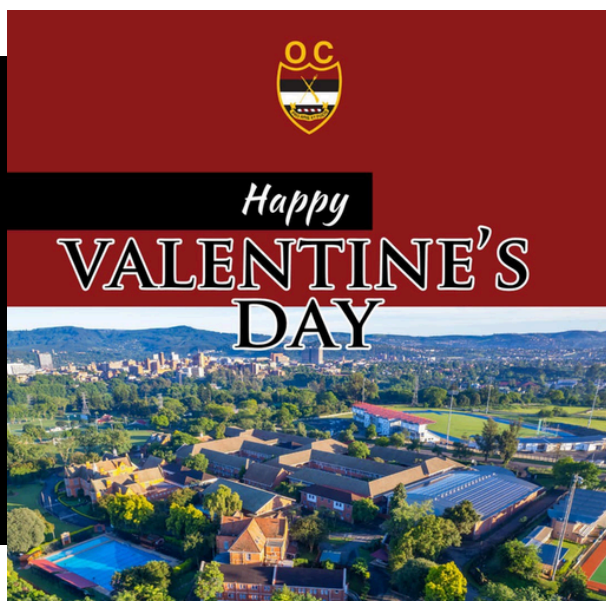




## BROTHERHOOD ON CAMPUS & BEYOND

Old Boys continued to reconnect with College, including visits from Old Collegians and strong support at rugby trials and branch events, notably the Tugela Branch function in Winterton chairman Joe Culverwell (OC 1994), a reminder of how sport continues to unite Old Boys and families alike.

A nostalgic throwback video featuring Mawande Mdanda (OC 2021) and Ntuthuko Mchunu (OC 2018) celebrated the enduring bonds formed at College.



## WELLBEING & GRATITUDE

Mental health remained a focus in February, with Valentine's Day messaging encouraging healthy relationships and open communication among College Brothers. The month also marked the retirement of Dr Chris Luman, with the MCOBA expressing sincere gratitude for his leadership and lasting contribution to Maritzburg College.

## BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD



## MARCH 2025

### BROTHERHOOD THROUGH SPORT & TRADITION

The month opened with a memorable OC Hockey match, where Old Collegians took on the current 1st team in a spirited and camaraderie-filled evening. The occasion was made even more special with expert commentary from Kelvin Watt (OC 1987).

On 2 March, Maritzburg College proudly celebrated its 162nd birthday, honouring over a century and a half of tradition under the motto Pro Aris et Focis.



**MR MATTHEW  
MARWICK**

From March 2025



*Acting  
Headmaster*



### CONNECTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

MCOBA successfully hosted regional gatherings, including a combined Stellenbosch and Cape Town OC function - the first of its kind - reinforcing the strength of the OC network beyond Pietermaritzburg. The Underberg Branch function also brought Old Boys together, with special recognition of senior Old Collegians representing the older generation. Congratulations were extended to Matthew Marwick (OC 1988) on his appointment as Acting Headmaster.





## HONOURING LEGACY & EXCELLENCE

A deeply meaningful moment took place with the unveiling of “Jackie McGlew Way”, honouring Derrick “Jackie” McGlew (OC 1947), one of South Africa’s greatest cricketers and a true College legend!

Old Collegians continued to excel beyond College, including Thandolwethu ‘Ollie’ Zondi (OC 2019) starring in Netflix’s GO!, and Muhammad Mota (OC 2014) being featured for his innovative protea farming venture.



## COPING WITH STRESS IN THE WORKPLACE



## WELLBEING & VALUES

Mental health awareness remained a priority, with messaging focused on managing workplace stress and supporting one another as brothers. The Association also marked Human Rights Day, reflecting on dignity, equality and unity.

## REUNION 2025 MOMENTUM BUILDS

Excitement for Reunion 2025 (29–31 May) continued to build, with details shared around activities, dinners, and sporting fixtures. Title sponsors were announced for the Reunion Golf Days and Bowls Day, highlighting strong Old Boy and partner support for the weekend’s events.



## BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD



APRIL 2025



## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

We proudly welcomed Mr Alan Redfern as the 16th Headmaster of Maritzburg College, effective 1 July 2025. A former College educator, Alan brings 27 years of leadership experience and a deep appreciation for the College's traditions, values, and pursuit of excellence.



## ON THE WORLD STAGE

On the athletics front, Neo Mosebi (OC 2022) delivered a world-class performance, clocking an incredible 10.03 seconds in the 100m at the Pepsi Florida Relays, placing College firmly on the global sporting stage.

## CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Throughout the month, MCOBA also led important conversations around brotherhood, culture, and healing, encouraging Old Boys to reflect on how we support one another and contribute positively to the legacy of the school.





## CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP

We extended warm congratulations to Matthew Marwick (OC 1988) on his appointment as Headmaster of GHS, celebrating yet another Old Collegian stepping into a prominent leadership role.

## SHOWCASING TALENT

April also highlighted the talents of our Old Boys, including Chris Ahern (OC 1990), whose musical journey began in the College cadet band.

## BRIDGING DISTANCES

Regional connection remained strong with a successful Pretoria Branch Function, reinforcing the enduring bonds of the red, black and white across generations and geographies.

## FREEDOM AND FELLOWSHIP

The month concluded with Freedom Day, a reminder of the freedoms we enjoy and the lifelong brotherhood that unites Maritzburg College men everywhere.

OUR BOYS ARE  
COMING HOME!

BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD





## MAY 2025

### CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

May opened by recognising those who keep our community strong. Workers' Day paid tribute to the dedicated staff of Maritzburg College, while Mother's Day honoured the women who support, guide, and uplift our Old Collegians and their families. On the sporting front, we celebrated Michael Foster (OC 2020), crowned 2025 South African Cross-Country Champion, a proud achievement that inspired Old Boys across generations.



### BUILDING MOMENTUM TOWARDS REUNION

In the lead-up to Reunion 2025, Old Collegians Grant Hooper (OC 1993) and Devin Galtrey (OC 1995) revisited the campus, reminding us why College is far more than a school — it is a lifelong brotherhood. We also celebrated entrepreneurial success within our network, congratulating Anthony Williamson (OC 1990) and Meerkat Portfolio on being appointed an official booking agent for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.





## REUNION 2025 – A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Reunion 2025 unfolded as a powerful celebration of connection, tradition, and brotherhood, offering one of the most comprehensive programmes in recent years.

To meet growing demand, MCOBA introduced a second Golf Day, hosted at Maritzburg Golf Club alongside the long-standing Victoria Country Club Golf Day. Both were exceptionally well supported, highlighting the enthusiasm of our Old Collegians to reconnect through sport and camaraderie. Padel, bowls, basketball, shooting, and social gatherings further broadened participation across age groups.

Friday's programme included a Special Reunion Assembly on Goldstone's, featuring guest speaker Steve Evans (OC 1993), followed by a full afternoon of sporting fixtures. That evening, Old Collegians were offered both a Formal Dinner in the Victoria Hall and a newly introduced Semi-Formal Dinner on Goldstone's. The semi-formal option proved extremely popular, creating a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere that was widely praised.

Saturday began with one of Reunion's most meaningful traditions — the Memorial Service, Wreath Laying, and Wall of Remembrance — before a full day of sport against Kearsney College, culminating in a thrilling 1st XV victory on Goldstone's. The Old Collegians' War Cry, Blazer Display, post-match celebrations, live music, and social spaces ensured the weekend closed in true College spirit.

Reunion 2025 was a resounding success, bringing Old Boys home from across the country and the world, reaffirming that the bonds of Red, Black, and White remain as strong as ever.



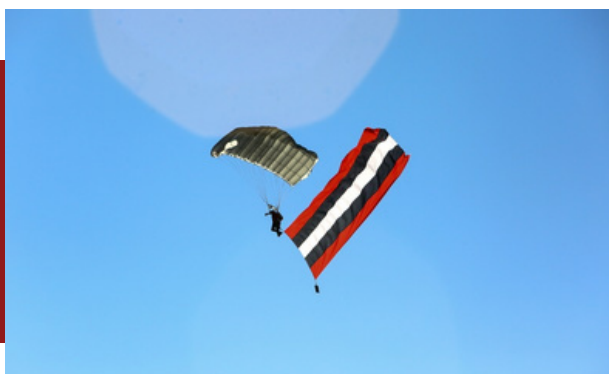


## REUNION 2025 – A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Reunion 2025 (29–31 May) proved to be one of the most successful and well-supported gatherings of Old Collegians in recent years. With an expanded programme offering two Golf Days, padel, bowls, multiple sporting fixtures, and enhanced social options, the weekend catered to Old Boys across all generations and interests.

To meet demand, MCOBA introduced an additional Golf Day at Maritzburg Golf Club, complementing the Victoria Country Club event — both of which were extremely well supported. The introduction of a Semi-Formal Dinner on Goldstone's, alongside the traditional Formal Dinner, was a standout success, creating a relaxed and inclusive environment that allowed year groups to reconnect in their own way.

The weekend culminated in a powerful Memorial Service, full sporting fixtures against Kearsney College, and a memorable 1st XV victory on Goldstone's, reinforcing the pride and traditions of the Red, Black and White. Post-Reunion survey feedback confirmed the success of the weekend, with Old Collegians describing the event as exceeding expectations, exceptionally well organised, and one of the most enjoyable reunions to date. Communication through WhatsApp and social media was widely praised, as was the balance between structured events and informal social time. Many Old Boys — including those based abroad — remarked on how meaningful it was to reconnect with their College and brotherhood.



The feedback received has provided valuable insights for future reunions, but the message was clear: Reunion 2025 set a high benchmark and reaffirmed the strength of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' brotherhood.





## REUNION REFLECTIONS & COLLEGE TRADITION

June opened with powerful moments from Reunion 2025, including a stirring Old Collegians' War Cry on Goldstones ahead of the 1st XV fixture — a reminder that while the years pass, the brotherhood remains unbreakable. The Reunion weekend continued to generate pride, reflection and gratitude across the OC community.



## LEADERSHIP & COLLEGE MILESTONES



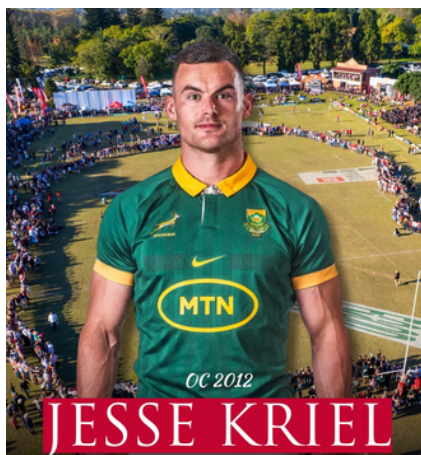
MRS JEANETTE FINNIE

MCOBA congratulated Mrs Jeanette Finnie on her appointment as Acting Headmaster of Maritzburg College, marking a historic moment as the first woman to hold the position. Her long-standing service and leadership were warmly acknowledged, with Old Boys offering their full support.

The Association also continues to benefit from the visible leadership of MCOBA President Jon Hoatson (OC 1998), who, despite the demands of a busy professional and personal life, consistently makes the effort to attend MCOBA events and functions. His presence, engagement, and hands-on leadership were again evident during the Michaelhouse Old Boys' Club pre-match gathering, reinforcing the importance of tradition, camaraderie, and strong inter-school relationships.







## SPORTING EXCELLENCE – ON FIELD & BEYOND

- Malcolm Mitchell (OC 2013) continued his strong performances on the Sunshine Tour.
- Phiwayinkosi “Rambo” Kubheka (OC 2024) earned selection to the Junior Springboks SA U20 squad.
- Jesse Kriel (OC 2012) captained the Springboks against the Barbarians, a proud milestone for College.
- Andile Simelane was selected for the SA T20I squad.
- Nathan Trodd (OC 2019) received Academic All-District honours in Golf.
- Calvin Savage (OC 2011) starred in Major League Cricket in the USA, earning Player of the Match for the Texas Super Kings.



## ENDURANCE, COURAGE & INSPIRATION

The OC community rallied behind Hayden Driemeyer (OC 2009) during the 2025 Comrades Marathon, with tremendous support for Hayden, Shaun Black and Fran Steart. The month also recognised all Old Collegians who completed Comrades, as well as Brad Gace (OC 1988) competing in the gruelling Race Across South Africa (Freedom Challenge)

## BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD





## INNOVATION & FUNDRAISING FOR COLLEGE

June marked an exciting new fundraising initiative for MCOBA with the inaugural MCOBA Live Bull Auction, introduced and driven by Rustin Shaw (OC 1999). Hosted in partnership with Grassfields Beef Droughtmasters and Meerkat Online Auctions, the event showcased The College Bull and represented a fresh, innovative approach to Old Boys fundraising. The initiative demonstrated how OC-led ideas, when combined with strong partnerships, can create sustainable support for the Association while strengthening engagement with the broader College community. MCOBA extends sincere thanks to Rustin and all involved for bringing this concept to life.

**GRASSFIELDS BEEF DROUGHTMASTERS AUCTION**

Bull-ieve in giving back!

LOT 4

GRASSFIELDS BEEF DROUGHTMASTERS

GRB 21-0063 SIRE: GRB 17-0002 G-SIRE: C-13-0038 (C06-222) DAM: GRB 14-0031 G-SIRE: FCK 10-0073

*In a class of it's own!* SHM

**FUND RAISING FOR THE MARITZBURG COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

**10% of this bull's sale Supports Maritzburg Old Collegians**



## BROTHERHOOD ACROSS GENERATIONS

From the Michaelhouse vs College Old Boys' pre-match gathering, to inter-year mentorship moments and business networking between OCs, June highlighted the enduring bonds formed at College — across decades, professions and continents.

## MCOBA GOVERNANCE & GROWTH

The 2025 MCOBA AGM was successfully held with strong in-person and online attendance, reinforcing engagement across the global OC network. The Association also welcomed Grant Hooper (OC 1993) as Vice President, recognising his leadership, experience and long-standing commitment to College and MCOBA.







## JULY 2025

### REUNION 2025 – RELIVING THE MOMENTS

July kicked off with the release of the official Reunion 2025 video, allowing Old Collegians to relive a memorable weekend of reconnection, tradition and brotherhood. The video sparked strong engagement, with OCs sharing favourite memories and highlights from a reunion that continues to set the benchmark.

### ENDURANCE, GRIT & EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT

Brad Gace (OC 1988) completed the Freedom Challenge – Race Across South Africa 2025, finishing the gruelling 2150km event in just under 25 days. His achievement, alongside Brett Andrew (OC 1978), drew widespread admiration for its resilience, humility and sportsmanship.

Anthony Gould (OC 1991) also completed the Freedom Challenge, overcoming extreme conditions to reach the finish.

In paddling, Joshua Glyn-Cuthbert (OC 2022) and James Sharpe (OC 2022) completed the demanding Berg River Canoe Marathon, while Nathan Curry (Form 5) finished second in the U18 category and was the youngest competitor to complete the full race – an exceptional achievement.







## HONOURING SERVICE & LEGACY

MCOBA proudly awarded Honorary Life Membership to Matthew Marwick (OC 1988), recognising his exceptional contribution to the Old Boys' Association and the wider College community. The motion, presented by President Jon Hoatson (OC 1998), acknowledged a lifetime of service and commitment to the brotherhood.

## LEADERSHIP & COLLEGE MILESTONES

July marked a significant chapter in the life of the school with the formal welcome of Mr Alan Redfern as the 16th Headmaster of Maritzburg College at a special Assembly of Welcome and Dedication. Rooted in tradition and united in purpose, the College community looks forward to this new era of leadership.



## COMMUNITY, BROTHERHOOD & GIVING BACK

Mandela Day was observed across the OC community, with Old Collegians encouraged to give back through acts of service and reflection on Madiba's legacy. The month also saw continued engagement through archive posts, mentorship moments, and intergenerational connections — including Old Boys coaching against one another while remaining united by shared roots.



# BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD





## GROWING THE OC NETWORK

A new and exciting Midlands initiative was launched with the first Howick Old Collegians lunch, sparked by Nic Nicolson (OC 1964) and supported by Grant Reed (OC 1987). With strong initial attendance and growing momentum, this monthly gathering has already added new names to the OC database and strengthened regional connections.



## MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Old Collegians were reminded to pay their 2025 subscriptions, with incentives including raffle entries, Life Membership rewards, and inter-year competition for Class of the Year, reinforcing participation and sustained support for MCOBA.





## LEADERSHIP, LEGACY & LIFELONG BROTHERHOOD

August opened with a powerful reminder that the Red, Black and White bonds extend far beyond school. Old Collegians from across industries and generations connected at the Cricket South Africa Awards, highlighting the lasting impact of College networks in leadership, sport and business. Once a College boy, always a college boy!



## BRANCH FUNCTIONS & GROWING THE OC NETWORK

- The Johannesburg Branch Function was a standout evening of camaraderie and connection, attended by Headmaster Mr Alan Redfern, who shared his vision for the future of the school.
- The Upper Highway Branch Function brought together OCs, partners and prospective College parents in a vibrant and welcoming setting. The event was well supported by President Jon Hoatson (OC 1998) and Deputy President Grant Hooper (OC 1993), reinforcing MCOBA's commitment to visible, engaged leadership across regions.
- Looking ahead, excitement continued to build with strong interest in upcoming branch events on the North Coast.



## BRANCH FUNCTIONS & GROWING THE OC NETWORK

- Ethan Gough (OC 2020) was featured in the Brotherhood Bulletin as a rising golf talent, with an exceptional academic and sporting career in the USA and a clear pathway toward Sunshine Tour qualification.
- Ayakha Mthalande (OC 2021) earned his first call-up to the SA Men's Hockey squad, while Peabo Lembethe (OC 2014) continued his proud international representation.
- Mawande Mdanda (OC 2021) returned to Pietermaritzburg to represent the Sharks, wearing the No. 3 jersey at Woodburn Stadium - a proud homecoming moment.
- Inathi Masinga (OC 2024) was awarded a scholarship to attend Tabor College in Kansas, continuing the strong tradition of College boys excelling abroad.





## HONOURING TRADITION & HISTORY

A new and meaningful tradition was launched with the inaugural Hellfire Club Dinner, honouring Old Collegians who fell at the Battle of Delville Wood (1916). Through reflection, remembrance and fellowship, the evening reinforced the deep historical roots and shared heritage of the College brotherhood, with future commemorative gatherings already planned.

M E N T A L

H E A L T H

M A T T E R S

## MENTAL HEALTH & CARE FOR OUR BROTHERHOOD

MCOBA continued its quiet but vital mental health initiative, focused on awareness, connection and compassion. Progress included:

- Ongoing themed awareness posts
- Support provided to families who reached out for help
- Continued collaboration with SADAG
- Planning for personal storytelling content to keep conversations real and relevant

While this work is not always visible, its impact is meaningful and deeply human - reinforcing the brotherhood we are all a part of.

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY & SERVICE

- Women's Day was marked with sincere appreciation for the women who play an essential role behind the scenes in both College and MCOBA.
- Vets Day (65+) was a highlight of the month, welcoming 60 Old Collegians back to campus and some for the first time in decades. Led by President Jon Hoatson (OC 1998) as MC, the Open Mic session was filled with laughter, memories and powerful reminders that the bonds forged at College truly last a lifetime.





## OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

- Andy Birkett (OC 2008) and Keegan Vogt (current College boy) delivered phenomenal performances at the World Championships, showcasing the strength of College sport across generations.
- Cebo Dlamini (OC 2020) captained the Suzuki Griquas in the Currie Cup Final at Ellis Park — a remarkable leadership milestone for a former 1st XV player.
- Sheldon de Klerk (OC 2007) represented South Africa at the 2025 Bodybuilding World Championships, finishing 12th at his first-ever Worlds — the culmination of a journey that began in the College gym.



## HONOURING LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

MCOPA joined the College community in mourning the passing of Dr Reginald Dudley Forde (1940–2025), the College's 11th Headmaster. His leadership, vision and values left a lasting imprint on generations of boys, and his legacy was honoured through tributes and remembrance.

## BRANCH LIFE & BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION

- The South Coast Branch Function was a highlight of the month, drawing over 70 Old Collegians, families and friends. The evening included the proud tradition of presenting 2nd Form ties to boys starting College in 2026, a meaningful moment of connection across generations.
- A new initiative in Howick continued to gain momentum, with casual monthly OC lunches growing rapidly and strengthening local bonds in a relaxed, inclusive setting.







## REUNIONS & CLASS CONNECTIONS

The spirit of Reunion 2025 continued beyond the official weekend, with members of the Class of 1990 reconnecting at an informal lunch — proof that the bonds of College endure long after the final whistle.

## HERITAGE & SHARED IDENTITY

Heritage Day provided an opportunity to reflect on the traditions, stories and values that unite Old Collegians around the world. The Red, Black and White heritage remains a powerful thread connecting generations.



## WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATION

Preparations were finalised for the 6th Form Induction Ceremony in October, where the Class of 2025 will officially become Old Collegians. September also marked a major milestone as the OC Tie Sponsorship initiative exceeded its target, ensuring that every matric will receive a sponsored MCOBA tie, a lasting symbol of brotherhood, mentorship and legacy.



BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD

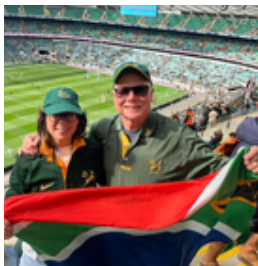




## OCTOBER 2025

### BROTHERHOOD WITHOUT BORDERS

October opened with Old Collegians proudly flying the flag at Twickenham, as the Springboks defeated Argentina in a championship-winning performance. From London to home soil, the Green and Gold once again united Old Collegians around the world, a reminder that rugby, pride and brotherhood know no borders!



MEET  
*Carrie Campbell*

College Connect's new  
Community Manager



### COLLEGE CONNECT & COMMUNITY GROWTH

College Connect entered an exciting new chapter with the appointment of Carrie Campbell as Community Manager. With a strong background in education, entrepreneurship and economic development, Carrie brings valuable experience in building impactful networks. Her role will be key in mobilising the powerful College community for business, employment opportunities and long-term relevance in a changing South African economy.

 collegeconnect@mcollege.co.za

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# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

In recognition of World Mental Health Day on 10 October, MCOBA reinforced an important message: brotherhood means showing up for one another - especially when it matters most. October served as a reminder to check in on mates, listen without judgement and seek support when needed. Through ongoing initiatives and a continued partnership with SADAG, MCOBA remains committed to meaningful, long-term mental health advocacy within the Old Collegian community.



## EXCELLENCE ON THE HONOURS BOARD

Congratulations were extended to David Miller (OC 2007) on having his name added to the Maritzburg College Honours Board, a proud moment recognising achievement, perseverance and commitment to excellence.

## GIVING DAY 2025 – A REMARKABLE RESPONSE

The College community rallied in extraordinary fashion on Giving Day 2025, raising an incredible R970,386. This collective effort by Old Collegians, parents, staff, students and friends represents a meaningful investment in the future of Maritzburg College, supporting academics, sport, boarding, culture and the arts. It was a powerful demonstration of unity, generosity and belief in the College's ongoing legacy.



## OLD COLLEGIANS MAKING THEIR MARK

- Tashin Singh (OC 2013) was featured as an Old Collegian in the Spotlight, returning to KwaZulu-Natal to film Sugarcane Burning, his Master's graduation project with the London Film School.
- Kevin Smith (OC 1985) featured alongside College leadership in Blindside: "Maritzburg College | Where Rugby Builds Men", highlighting the values, discipline and legacy of College rugby.
- Ayakha Mthlane (OC 2021) earned his first Test cap for the South African Men's Hockey Team, marking a major milestone in his international career.







## INDUCTION 2025 – WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2025 INTO THE BROTHERHOOD

The Class of 2025 Induction Ceremony was the defining highlight of the month and one of the most significant events on the MCOBA calendar. The evening marked the official transition of the Matrics from Maritzburg College scholars to Old Collegians, welcoming them into a lifelong brotherhood.

Held on the historic campus and steeped in tradition, the ceremony brought together families, Old Collegians, staff and friends to witness the passing of the torch from one generation to the next. Each young man was formally welcomed into the MCOBA by MCOBA President, Mr Jon Hoatson (OC 1998) and presented with his Old Collegians tie, a powerful symbol of belonging, continuity and connection. Many of these ties were sponsored by Old Collegians, reinforcing mentorship and intergenerational bonds.

In keeping with tradition, the Head Prefect of 2025 received his Old Collegians blazer, symbolising both the conclusion of his school journey and the beginning of his place among generations of Old Boys.

The ceremony was enriched by heartfelt reflections. Valedictorian Justin Steyn addressed the audience with sincerity and authenticity, speaking of gratitude, character and the enduring bonds forged “within these walls.” Callum Lee (OC 2021) followed with reflections on life beyond College, reminding the boys that the lessons, values and brotherhood of College extend far beyond matric.

The emotional depth of the evening was reflected in tributes shared by families and Old Collegians. One particularly poignant tribute marked a third-generation milestone for the McDonald family, as a father presented his son with his Old Boy tie — described as a “surreal, emotional and unforgettable” moment. Another tribute encouraged the Class of 2025 to “live, love and build their legacies.”

As the evening drew to a close, the sound of the bagpipes echoed through the campus as the Class of 2025 processed from the Alan Paton Memorial Hall and gathered at Clark House, where they sang their final Jimeloyo-Ji! — a powerful and defining moment marking the end of their school days and the beginning of their lifelong connection to the MCOBA.

They arrived as Maritzburg College boys and left as Old Collegians, bound forever by brotherhood, tradition and shared memory.

Pro Aris et Focis.





## CONTINUED SPORTING & ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Peabo Lembethe (OC 2014), Ayakha Mthalande (OC 2021) and Devon van der Merwe (OC 2003) helped South Africa win the 2025 Men's Hockey Africa Cup of Nations, securing qualification for the 2026 World Cup.
- Phiwayinkosi "Rambo" Kubheka (OC 2024) was selected for the SA Rugby U19 Academy Squad.
- Joshua Glyn-Cuthbert (OC 2022) impressed by balancing academic excellence at Stellenbosch University with elite sport and recovery from surgery.
- William Horn (OC 2020) received the Rector's Award for Academic Excellence at Stellenbosch University.



## BRANCH LIFE & OC GATHERINGS

The strength of the MCOBA network was further reflected at the Cape Town Branch Function, where Old Collegians spanning more than six decades, from the Class of 1959 to the Class of 2024, gathered at Barristers in Newlands. It was a powerful reminder that the Red, Black and White spirit thrives wherever Old Collegians meet.



# BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD





## NOVEMBER 2025

### BROTHERHOOD & REUNIONS

Old Collegians from the Class of 1994 came together for a special mini-reunion that celebrated both Merchiston Primary and Maritzburg College ties. Sparked by their 30-year College reunion, the group has committed to making these gatherings a regular tradition.

Similarly, the Class of 1989 enjoyed a relaxed reunion, joined by an OC from the Class of 1990, reinforcing the spirit of lifelong connection that defines the MCOBA.

Further afield, the Class of 1998 gathered in South East Queensland, Australia, with momentum building for regular OC meet-ups in the region.



### OLD COLLEGIANS ON THE WORLD STAGE

- Ross Stander (OC 2017) continues to excel in the UK, balancing a legal career with refereeing at top-level school rugby.
- Andrew Reintges (OC 2016) and Darren Ferrer (OC 2021) represented Germany in a Remembrance Rugby Fixture against the UK Armed Forces, securing a memorable international victory.
- Ayakha Mthalande (OC 2021) and Michael Horan (OC 2017) were named in the SA Men's Hockey squad for the upcoming Test Series against India, with Michael set to make his senior national debut.
- Chad Potgieter (OC 2017) continued his rise in international cricket with Portugal while completing his Chiropractic studies.
- Dawson Thornton-Dibb (OC 2022) was selected to represent South Africa at the AAKRUTI International Finals in Houston, Texas, with his innovative medical design project Dr. Bou.







## COMMUNITY, SERVICE & REMEMBRANCE

- MCOBA proudly stood in solidarity against Gender-Based Violence, reinforcing its commitment to positive leadership and social responsibility.
- Remembrance Day was observed in honour of service and sacrifice, with Old Collegians contributing both on the field and in commemoration.
- As the year drew to a close, MCOBA reinforced its ongoing mental health message: check on your mates, and check on yourself.



## COLLEGE & MCOBA EVENTS

- The Old Boys' Association Golf Day was held in late November, with players competing for the historic Norman Lewis Trophy. Thanks were extended to all organisers and partners for a successful day of fellowship and sport.
- College Connect continued to grow momentum, engaging the OC community in shaping economic opportunity, entrepreneurship and collaboration ahead of 2026.







## DECEMBER 2025

### WRAPPING UP 2025

As the year drew to a close, MCOBA concluded its operational planning for 2025 and planning ahead calendar meetings for 2026. Provisional dates have been set, and the full 2026 MCOBA calendar will be communicated early in the new year. Momentum is strong, and the Association is well positioned to hit the ground running.



### OFFICE CLOSURE

From **11 December 2025**, Operations Manager Jackie Ponsford began a well-deserved leave break. The MCOBA office will reopen on **12 January 2026**. Old Collegians were encouraged to continue sharing news and updates via email, with responses to follow in the new year.



### DAY OF RECONCILIATION

The Day of Reconciliation served as an important reminder that unity is built through reflection, understanding and continued effort, values that resonate strongly within the College brotherhood.

### OLD COLLEGIAN SPOTLIGHT, MATT SHAW (OC 2021)

December closed with a standout Old Collegian achievement. After leaving College in 2021, Matt Shaw moved to England and joined Harpenden Rugby Club.

The 2025 season proved exceptional:

- 32 games played
- 28 tries scored
- Top try scorer in the Hertfordshire County Championships

An undefeated team season, capped by a thrilling final victory at Twickenham







## 2025 AT A GLANCE MCOBA BRANCH FUNCTION STATS

MCOBA's strength lies in connection, and 2025 saw strong engagement across South Africa and internationally through branch functions and gatherings.

### BRANCH FUNCTIONS HOSTED IN 2025

Total branch events held: **13**      Approximate total OC & partner responses: **649**

Countries represented: **South Africa, USA, United Kingdom**

### REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**104**

PBHS & MCOBA  
Combined Event  
(April)

**97**

Stellenbosch  
& Cape Town Students  
(March)

**85**

Upper Highway,  
Glenwood (August)

**78**

Johannesburg &  
Students (July)

**63**

North Coast  
(August):

### INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS CONTINUED TO GROW WITH GATHERINGS IN:



**BOSTON, USA**



**LONDON, UK**



**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**