



**Ambassador's Report.  
Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association.**

**To the Annual General Meeting of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association (MCOBA) being held at 17:30 on Thursday 18 June 2026.**

Thank you, Mr Hoatson, for giving me the opportunity to present my 2025/2026 Ambassador's Report.

Next month, I will have been in this role for two years, and I have taken some time to reflect on that journey.

Following an outstanding Reunion Weekend—one that was truly next level and, I would boldly suggest, unmatched anywhere else in the world. I continue to be in awe of the remarkable "product" we have as Old Boys: our College.

The pride, passion, and sense of community that College inspires is extraordinary. The past few weeks have once again highlighted just how special our school is and how deeply it continues to connect generations of Old Boys. This makes the role of the Old Boys critical to the schools on going success.

I would like to focus on two important aspects of Maritzburg College: firstly, the school itself—its staff and boys—and secondly, the MCOBA.





## **Maritzburg College:**

Through my role within both College and the MCOBA, I have had the privilege on many occasions of spending time with College staff and boys. Since my own years at College, a common sentiment expressed by boys when they have left has been, “The school is not the same as when I was there.” Today, that statement is certainly true. The school is not the same—IT IS BETTER.

Maritzburg College has continued to evolve and grow, building on its proud traditions while adapting to the needs and challenges of a changing world. The dedication of the staff, the quality of the boys, and the strength of the College community ensure that the school remains as relevant and impactful as ever.

The College boys are deeply invested in this great school. They are respectful, passionate, and exemplary ambassadors of its values. I can confidently say that this was evident to Old Collegians and their families throughout the Reunion Weekend. College continues to produce young men who will play a vital role in shaping our country's future.

I have had the opportunity to travel on two winter sports exchanges to PBHS, and on both occasions I returned by following the buses back to College. Through these experiences, I came to appreciate just how invested the College staff and coaches are in the boys—something I feel many Old Boys and parents may not fully grasp.





It is not simply a case of the boys getting on the buses and leaving. Each staff member assigned to a bus is given a list of boys to account for, and they are required to provide regular updates on their bus's location throughout the journey. The Director of Sport travels behind all the buses, coordinating communication and keeping everyone informed.

There is a stop at Montrose on both the trip to and from Pretoria, and every boy must be accounted for before the buses depart. Even when returning to College at midnight or 1 a.m., the coaches and Director of Sport remain on duty, ensuring that every boy is collected safely before they leave.

Gentlemen, this is just one example of the dedication shown by our Headmaster and his staff. It is also a reminder of why we, as College Old Boys, should be proud of our Alma Mater and the values of care, responsibility, and commitment that its staff consistently demonstrate.

There are many more examples that highlight the dedication of the College staff and illustrate why the school remains such a valuable choice for Old Boys considering College for their sons.





## **Maritzburg College Old Boys Association:**

This Association is led by a dedicated group of Old Boys who generously give up their personal time to keep fellow Old Boys engaged with and connected to Maritzburg College. It has been ably led by our President, Jon Hoatson, Vice President, Grant Hooper, as well as several Executive Committee members and College staff.

I would like to thank all these individuals for the time and effort they have invested in making Reunion Weekend, Veterans Day, the Induction Ceremony, and the many branch functions held across the country such outstanding successes.

Thank you.

This brings me to the MCOBA office and the vital role our Operations Manager, Miss Jackie Ponsford, plays in supporting the Old Boys. Jackie, congratulations on the successful events you coordinate on behalf of the Old Boys. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to MCOBA. Your hard work and commitment are greatly appreciated. Thank you.





Gentlemen, all the extremely successful Old Boys events are made possible through hard work, commitment, and, most importantly, financial resources generated through Old Boys' subscription payments.

The collection of subscriptions has always been a challenge. However, I firmly believe that the vast majority of Old Boys are willing to pay the annual subscription fee of just R500 for Full Membership. The MCOBA Executive has consistently worked to make this payment process as simple and convenient as possible for Old Boys.

What I find remarkable is that an Old Boy will happily attend and enjoy an outstanding Reunion Weekend or Branch Function and, in doing so, spend more than twice the value of his annual subscription while enjoying time with his mates. Yet, for many, paying the subscription itself remains a hurdle.

By supporting MCOBA through your annual subscription, you are helping to ensure that these events and initiatives can continue to thrive for the benefit of all Old Boys.

Some Facts:

R500.00/year = R42/Month

R500.00 = 2 Cases of Beer!!

R42.00 = 4 Cheese Zarms!!

Approximately 12000 OCs with 846 paid up member equates to 7.2% collection rate.

I welcome any suggestions from the Old Boy community on how we can increase the number of paid-up Old Boys. These financial





resources are fundamental to the ongoing future success of our Association.

### **Recruitment:**

If I may, Mr President, I would briefly like to touch on the recruitment of Old Boy sons to attend Maritzburg College.

It has become a concerning reality that many College Old Boys no longer see the value that a Maritzburg College education can offer their sons. For Mr Ryan Kyle and his recruitment team, who work tirelessly to promote the worth and opportunities that College provides, it is particularly disheartening to see Old Boys choosing to send their sons to neighbouring high-cost schools instead.

I would therefore encourage Old Boys and their families to visit the College campus, meet our dedicated staff, and spend time walking around our pristine grounds. In doing so, I believe they will gain a renewed appreciation of the exceptional value, traditions, opportunities, and all-round education that Maritzburg College continues to offer.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the President of MCOBA, Mr Jon Hoatson, for his leadership, dedication, and commitment during his term of office. He has truly raised the bar, and his contribution to the association is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Jon.

I would also like to wish the incoming MCOBA President and his Executive Committee every success for the year ahead.

Bruce Lesur  
Maritzburg College Community Ambassador



