



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### MARITZBURG COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

*TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MARITZBURG COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (MCOBA) BEING HELD AT 17:30 ON THURSDAY THE 18 JUNE 2026*

It is my privilege to present the President's Report of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association for the year ended 31 December 2025 in its 128 Year of existence.

This report also marks the end of my two-year term as President. In terms of the Constitution, the President is elected annually and is encouraged to serve for two consecutive years. Having now served that period, I will not be making myself available for further election. The election of a new President will be dealt with later in the agenda.

Serving this Association has been an honour. It has been demanding, but also very rewarding. I have seen how much Maritzburg College means to its Old Boys, and how important this Association remains in keeping both this schools and our friendship alive.

The past year has been a positive one for the MCOBA. Our membership subscription numbers reached 1,740 for the year, which is a strong indication that Old Collegians continue to value the Association and the role it plays. This support is never taken for granted. It gives us the ability to keep building, to keep connecting, and to keep supporting the school and our members. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to college.

Financially, the Association has performed acceptably. The audited financial statements will be presented separately, but I am pleased to report that the Association remains financially sound, with a strong balance sheet and healthy cash reserves. This reflects careful management, good controls, and the support of our members.

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Our Executive Committee has functioned well throughout the year. One person does not carry the work of the Association, and I have been fortunate to serve with a very committed and capable Executive team. There has been healthy discussion, and a shared understanding that our role is to serve the Association, the School, and the wider College community. The Executive has worked within their portfolios with diligence and commitment to our association, something that I'm truly grateful to each one of them for.

Member engagement has continued to grow. Branch functions remain an important part of the Association's life. Our Branch functions allow Old Boys across South Africa and abroad to stay connected to each other and to the school. They also allow us to share news, listen to members, and strengthen our Association and its ability to meet our member's needs, more like demands

Reunions have again been a major highlight. Year on year, we are seeing more Old Boys returning to college, as the energy and events offering around the reunion weekend continues to grow. It is encouraging to see significant numbers of Old Collegians coming back through the gates and remembering what College meant to them. These reunions are not just about events; they are a significant reminder that College remains part of our lives long after we leave.

A key focus for the Association has also been around recruitment, and particularly the recruitment of Old Boys sons back to Maritzburg College. This is an area that matters greatly both to the school and to our community. If we believe in this school, its values, its standards, and its future then it is incumbent on all old boys to actively encourage firstly your wives and then the next generation of college boys to follow in these footsteps. This will remain an important focus for the Association going forward.

The relationship between the MCOBA and the associated bodies of Maritzburg College remains strong and collaborative. We have collaborated closely with the School Board, the SGB, the Foundation, College Business, Club 1863, MARC, and other important parts of the College family. These relationships matter because we all ultimately serve and work towards the same goal and that is the continued strength, relevance and success of Maritzburg College, its contribution to Society, its relevance in today's world and the exceptional product it continues to produce year after year out of these gates.

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Most importantly, our relationship with the school itself has been excellent. I want to make special mention of the Headmaster and Patron of the Association, Mr Alan Redfern. Mr Redfern has now been Headmaster and Patron for close on one year, it has been an absolute privilege to see his passion, vision, and commitment to excellence begin to take root, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to be able to work with him through this transitional period in the life of Maritzburg college

His involvement in all things Old Boy related has been appreciated. He understands the importance of the Old Boys' Association, not only as a support structure, but also as part of the College story. His commitment to the boys, to standards, to tradition, and to the future of the school is clear. The College community is already seeing the early signs of his leadership, and I have no doubt that his influence will continue to grow in the years ahead.

I would also like to record my sincere thanks to the College Ambassador Bruce Lesur, College Business represented by Kevin Smith and the Old Boys Operations Manager Ms Jaclyn Ponsford. Their commitment, energy, and support have made a significant difference during my term. Much of the work of the Association happens behind the scenes, and I genuinely believe that we as an association are very fortunate to have people that are dedicated to our cause, who show up and who keep daily operations moving. In today's world it is extremely difficult to do what we as an association achieve on a best endeavours and part time basis, Permanent and dedicated staff is the real wind in our sails, so thank you for all your work and dedication to the Association.

To the Executive Committee, thank you for your unwavering commitment and support over my term as President. I have relied on your time, your wisdom, your willingness to serve, and your institutional knowledge of our Association. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside you.

To the Branch Chairmen, Class Convenors, and social media Warriors who continue to give of their time and in many instances your resources, thank you. The Association continues to depend on people who are willing to serve without fuss and without personal reward. Your work keeps us alive and relevant.

To the members of the MCOBA, thank you for your loyalty and support. Your subscriptions, attendance at events and reunions, your engagement and late-night phone calls or What's apps, it all matters. You allow the

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Association to remain relevant, financially stable, and connected to its purpose, gentlemen we have an unbelievable heritage in this association, I urge you all to never take it for granted.

As I conclude my term, I do so with gratitude and confidence. Gratitude for the opportunity you have all given me to serve, and confidence that the Association is in a strong position, Succession finally moves from a red to a gold badge, We have a growing member engagement, a stable financial position, a well-functioning Executive, and active branch structures, we also have a close working relationship with the School and the associated bodies.

The Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association in its 129<sup>th</sup> year remains an important part of the Maritzburg College. It exists to promote fellowship, to support the school, to connect generations and to remind us that Maritzburg College is not only five years of our lives, but rather a bit of a sentence in that it truly is five years for life.

With honour and humility, I submit this report.

**Jon Hoatson**  
President  
Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association

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