



### **From our Office**

The well-known Farmer's Weekly columnist Peter Hughes was quoted in a recent issue urging the readership "to emerge from this festive season in a positive frame of mind, and spread that optimism liberally around you"

We would like to possibly put a variation on Hughes's constructive advice. Dare we say that we have all emerged from under the dark clouds that have hung over us in our country. We do not need to look back and relive these times.

We live in a great country and let us be thankful that we attended a great school. Let us help where we can and not always assume that all is well. The Grey schools need your support in whichever way you may be able to assist. Do a reality check perhaps on yourself and drive past a disadvantaged school. There is a high school off Heugh Road near the entrance to the Walmer Township and in driving past we need to consider the conditions under which those pupils receive an education.

For every deserving disadvantaged boy that we can bring to Grey to offer a Grey education we are making a difference not only to that young lad but also to his entire family. It is a huge uplifting experience for all concerned. Be part of it and answer the call. This is one of the objectives of the Grey Foundation and we welcome your support.

### **The Old Greys' Reunion Weekend – 9 to 11 May, 2018**

Here is the official programme. Please follow these links to view all the events of the week and to make your payments. We look forward to seeing you and remember that the event is not limited to those classes that are returning to celebrate their various anniversaries. All Old Greys are most welcome. Why not gather your friends and organize your own table for the Dinner which will be held in the Memorial Quadrangle?

### **Rectors Report**

Rector Chris Erasmus in his report to our last Old Greys' Union Committee meeting revealed some interesting facts. This year Grey has an exceptionally large enrollment of 914 boys with no less than 207 in Grade 8. There are 57 academic staff which is a staff/ pupil ratio of 1 to 16 pupils. This ratio compares very favourably with the Curro and private schools that make up some of our traditional opponents.

He stated that Grey in the future will compare itself to those schools (private) that write the IEB level of matriculation exam. Our school fees are more or less in line with similar traditional schools such as Rondebosch, SACS and Maritzburg College. These fees have risen over the years in order to maintain the standards that we have set ourselves and fee paying parents need to know that their boys are receiving the best education available at this level. There is work to be done and we wish Rector Chris our full support in raising the bar at our old school.

New staff members welcomed at Grey included Matthew Osborne (English Dept), Jarryd Cooke (History Dept), and Ms. Jean McGahey who is the Medical Matron in the Boarding House. Student Teachers include Tyrone Rankin (Business Economics) and Gareth Els who have joined the Life Science and Maths Lit. Departments.

There are also a number of staff movements that have taken place. Jason Bigara has left the teaching staff and has joined the Sports Administration Dept and Fenner Barnard has taken over as Head of Grade 12 (Matrics). Benjy Ekron our Rowing Coach will also be teaching Natural Sciences and Business Studies.

Anton Scholtz who has been on the staff for more than 25 years was promoted along with Chris Townsin to take up the Deputy Headmaster posts at the end of last year. Shawn Lyon Director of Music has also been appointed to a Head of Department post.

The MEC for Education accompanied by his senior staff recently visited Grey and addressed the school assembly. He emphasized that Grey must become involved with twinning and assisting previously disadvantaged schools. This Grey has always done and many pupils from these schools attend Maths and Science classes on a Friday afternoon and on Saturday mornings. We have been fortunate in having sponsors like General Motors and the likes of Leslie and Stanley Bergman who have seen the need to provide for these vital subjects. It is a fact that the level of tuition received

normally by these disadvantaged pupils is simply not good enough and that provided by the Grey academic staff is certainly appreciated. Their efforts are to be seen in the results!

### **Old Greys in the news**

Rory Duncan ('95) who is the Director of Rugby and Head Coach of Cheetah's Currie Cup side has been appointed to coach the Worcester Warriors in the UK. Rory captained the 2007 Cheetahs to victory in the Currie Cup final and in 2012 was appointed as Grey's first Director of Rugby. That newly created position was made possible by the generosity of a handful of concerned Old Greys who had a passion for Grey Rugby and together with support from the school funded Rory's position. The rewards of this initiative culminated in a great victory in 2014 against Grey College on the Philip field.

Michael White ('79) of Highlands Road Wine was among a group of Elgin farmers who allowed a large volume of their own water supply to be released from the Eikenhof Dam and to flow into the Steenbras Dam. The latter storage dam feeds into the Cape Town system and has staved off the dreaded "Day Zero" by more than three weeks. This was indeed a very generous gesture by the Elgin/Grabouw farming community.

Congratulations to Mike Estment ('75) on his winning the Raging Bull awards in the category for Best South African Multi-asset Equity Fund rated on a risk adjusted basis over a period of five years. Mike has spent many years with NFB Asset Management and he and his company have won the award for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations to Peter Frielinghaus ('78) who lives in Nairobi where he is Managing Director of Continuity East Africa and has just gained and been awarded Fellow of Business Continuity Institute status.

Brandon Leer ('83) officiated as the auctioneer at the record breaking "Beyond Beef Wagyu Auction" which attracted buyers from throughout RSA. These animals are bred to produce the finest quality marbled beef. A clip on the auction held in the Free State town of Frankfort appeared on You Tube and Brandon certainly held the large audience of buyers together to obtain outstanding prices for his clients.

### **News from our Old Greys**

Peter Ford ('64) and his wife Anna have spent two months in New Zealand and Australia where they visited their son Roderick who is farming in South Australia. On returning home from Perth who should be seated next to them but Peter Finnemore ('66) who was his junior in the Boarding House!

Sammy Bortz ('48) writes to say that he is making every effort to attend Andrew Lang's 1948 Class Reunion. The survivors from this class left Grey 70 years ago and we welcome them back to their old haunts. Sammy lives in Johannesburg and makes a regular annual two month trip to the United States to visit family.

Gus Gerrans ('53) in the United States visited New Zealand recently to see his daughter and husband who have had their first child. He visited Kawan Island off North Island and also saw the one time country residence of Sir George Grey which was built in 1862. He reported that it is beautifully restored and furnished.

Wally Shear ('51) was present to pay his respects at the funeral of the late Alan Louw ('48). He has a grandson at Grey and he lays claim to being the oldest practicing attorney in Port Elizabeth.

Nate Levinthal ('68) called in to see us with his family. He has settled in Israel after having spent many years in the United States. He was much impressed with the facilities and it was very much a homecoming for him.

Many Old Greys have taken up the game of bowls among which is Monty Ware ('63) who is President of the Summerstrand Bowling Club. He will also be remembered as the outstanding Olympics full back of the day and he still arranges social occasions where old Blues players gather to enjoy a cup of coffee. Among this group are the likes of Mike Cunningham, Mickey O'Shea, Elandre De Coning, Stan Terblanche and Denton Barnard. Terry McGee who captained both Olympics and Eastern Province joins them when on a visit from Johannesburg.

Other bowling achievements have it that Mel Bailey, playing as Lead, and Keith Young as his Captain have won the Club Trips Championships at the Westville Country Club in KZN. Well done the Class of 1967!

David Barkes (also 1967) is taking a gap year and is managing a farm in Worcestershire. He is running a large flock of sheep and a herd of cattle. He recently visited Rugby School where the game originated. Gap years are not only for those who have recently written matric!

### **Correction**

In our last issue, due to copy and paste error made in our editing, we stated that Max Katz ('43) had received a R12000 cash award in recognition of his performance. This is incorrect and we apologise for the error which we should have noted in our editing process.

### **Our Rugby prospects for 2018- Director of Rugby- Allan Miles**

We asked Allan to give us some insight into the year ahead and he advised us of the following players from the First XV of 2017 who have returned. He has selected a squad of 41 players to prepare for the exciting season ahead of which many will of course make up the second and third teams.

Regular players returning from 2017 include Warwick Griffin (Prop 14 caps), Larken Gray (Lock 18 caps), Renaldo Pedro (Scrumhalf 14 caps) and L. J Du Preez (Fly half 15 caps). Gray was selected for EP Craven Week in 2017 and Pedro's father, Henry, once played for EP on the wing. Those who also represented the First XV last year include Daniel Wolf (Prop-1 cap), Corne Slabbert (Hooker- 5 caps), Dumisa Ngcivana (Lock- 6 caps), Ryan Adams (Loose forward- 3 caps) Darren Vermaak (Scrumhalf - 3 caps) Joshua Oosthuizen (Centre- 5 caps), Andrew Dalgleish (Wing - 1 cap) and Enrique Franks (Wing or Full back- 8 caps)

All in all we would say we have the making of a very good team and with a number of exciting new players coming through from our U16A side we will be seeing some good rugby. Our first encounter will be against Graeme College at their Open Day in March. This day traditionally opens the schoolboy season and is a big attraction in Grahamstown. Graeme College has in recent years proved to be no pushover and it will be a tough encounter. They last beat us in the early 1970's in a side led then by the brilliant Cheeky Watson who in the opinion of many was the most outstanding schoolboy player seen over many generations.

The St. Stithian's Easter Festival then follows and we will be taking part for the third year. It is Grey's policy to support a particular school over this holiday period for at least three years. It adds to the continuity and planning of the event and it is only fair to all concerned that planning for events of this nature is done on this basis. This year our First XV will have a tough program as they take on Bishops, Maritzburg College and Parktown. We have a score to settle with our Maritzburg opponents. Good luck to Allan, his coaching staff and to all the boys who play the wonderful game of rugby at Grey!

### **Grey Junior News**

Headmaster Lindsay Pearson reports on two new appointments to his staff. Rogan Scheepers (2017) has joined the Leadership Programme and Brett Thompson ('05) has been appointed to a Grade 6 post. Brett brings with him considerable cricketing experience. In his time at Grey he was not only selected for SA Colts but also for SA –U18 and for the SA –U19 World Cup team

Lindsay also mentioned that no less than 8 of the top 10 Grey matriculants in 2017 came from Grey Junior. A singular achievement. Well done Grey Junior!

### **The Alec Brooke Bursary Awards**

The Alec Brooke bursaries were made possible through the generosity of Mr. Alec Brooke, a well known Port Elizabeth businessman in his day. He founded what was "Brookeway Motors" and was the General Motors agent in the City. That he was successful is an understatement and he left a bequest to provide for those wishing to study Medicine and Engineering. The terms of the bursary awards were that the pupil had to be from Port Elizabeth and the recipient

would normally not be able to enter university. Over the years numerous Old Greys have through this opportunity been able to further their studies and one such is Paul Du Plessis ('58) who studied Medicine at UCT.

Upon graduating Paul and his wife worked at mission hospitals in Africa and India among patients suffering from Leprosy. They were rich and rewarding years before he retired to London. In a letter to the former Headboy of his year Ed Hurr(1958) he concluded by saying:

*"The inspiration and influence of Grey has been inestimable in helping me live a full and interesting life".*

Thank you Paul for your kind words. We are sure that many echo your sentiments.

### **Old Greys year of hell in Qatar**

Graham Vance ('07) has described his year spent in this country as a year of hell leaving him penniless after being accused wrongly for the accidental death of a co-worker. The two were working on a high rise cat walk on the new soccer stadium being built for the 2022 World Cup when their equipment failed and his co-worker fell 40 metres to his death. Graham was immediately blamed for his death.

What followed was a litany of delayed legal issues and despite being cleared in an internal probe this report never reached the courts. His life came to a standstill. He was unable to work, was unable to leave the country and he could scarcely converse in English with anyone. It took a Port Elizabeth family friend and lawyer to fly to Qatar to resolve the issue which took two days!

### **Sihle Njezula turns out for the Stormers!**

Sihle, Grey's star 2017 fullback had his first run for the Stormers when he turned out against South Western Districts. Follow this link to read more of his exploits.

### **Calling back the past- our 125 celebrations in 1981**

Follow this link to view two pictures from those celebrations. They appeared in "Die Burger" of the day and we are sure that many old boys will recognize those pictures of Grey Rector Dieter Pakendorf and former Rector Bruce "Flash" Gordon. In the same picture is James Hattle who was the Sports Editor of the old Evening Post and one who had a vast knowledge of both schools and Old Grey matters.

Those in the second picture left Grey in the 1920s and were among the oldest present for that memorable week. Among those depicted is Ronnie Stewart who was a former Chief Magistrate of Port Elizabeth and President of the Old Greys Union. Another in the picture is George Pohl who became one of Grey's oldest old boys and who died in 2002 at the age of 98 years. He and his brother Norman ('27) were Grey's most vociferous supporters when Grey played against any of the Grahamstown schools in that city. Their call of "Gooiwal Grey, Gooiwal" resonates to this day!

### **Old Greys Union programme- 2018**

All Old Greys, their wives and partners together with past, present and intending parents are invited to these functions. Our intention is to introduce our new Rector Chris Erasmus to The Grey Family at large and he will be accompanied by Old Grey Chairman David Hurr and some of the Union Committee including Grey Junior Headmaster Lindsay Pearson. We ask Old Greys in these various centres to remind their friends of these functions and to ensure bumper attendances. Our invitation listings are up to date but we may always miss one or two so please spread the word!

- 7 March- Old Greys in the Sundays River Valley  
An evening function at Avoca hosted by the Smith family. Cash bar is available and best ever burgers for R80 each. Time from 1730hs for 1800hs
- 14 March- Old Greys in the Somerset East area  
An evening function at the Angler and Antelope. Your R50 includes great snacks and a cash bar is available. Time from 1730hs for 1800hs
- 16 March- Old Greys in Knysna – A Braai at the Knysna Yacht Club – Cost R80 – with cash bar available and timed for 1730hs for 1800hs

- 17 March- Breakfast in Plettenburg Bay at the “Down to Earth” Restaurant near the Bitou River off the N2 –Meet from 800hs for 830hs. A great breakfast which includes coffee for R100
- 31 March- Informal gathering of Old Greys in the Beer tent from 1200hs at the St Stithians Rugby Festival. The First XV play Maritzburg College at 1300hs

### **Grey the Top Squash school in RSA**

We are unbeatable. Follow this link to read of our outstanding successes.

### **Grey Junior Hostel 1957- 60 years ago!**

Rod Pringle ('65) brought to our attention a photograph which has a long history. It is of the Hostel lads at the then Grey Junior Hostel which was situated at 70 Cape Road. The double storied old home has long since been demolished and a block of flats called Elizabeth House now stands on those grounds.

Rod identified nearly all of those in the photograph but we had to do some detective work to find the missing names. Ossy Botha and Bob Dower offered their opinions but then Bob did the sensible thing and passed the photograph across to Neil McLaggan. In the trice he completed the picture- Thank you Neil for your marvelous memory!

The Hostel was run by Headmaster of Grey Junior Stanley Edwards and his wife and were known among the boys as Porky and Petunia! Nicknames last a life time. It is fact that 50 years later when Old Greys meet nicknames are recalled way ahead of first names.

Those pictured in this photograph will recall the weekly pocket money of a shilling (10c) being doled out on a Saturday morning and a further “tickey” being given out on a Sunday morning for Sunday school which we were obliged to attend. The Methodist and the Presbyterians on their way to St. Johns and The Hill Presbyterian churches used to slip in at The Provincial Fisheries in Rink Street and buy a penny’s worth of sweets. The balance then went into the collection plate!

At half term we were allowed out to visit family and friends on a Sunday afternoon. Train travel was the preferred method of transport for anyone living beyond the Sundays River Valley and full tuck boxes on the return from holidays carried a range of biscuits and sweets. These were carefully spun out to last until at least the half term weekend. Tinned boiled condensed milk was prized and Romany Creams the ultimate snack! Biltong was a very useful bargaining tool and a few good length pieces ensured a daily supply of a meaty sandwich from a day boy friend!

The boys came from all over. There was a contingent from the then Northern Rhodesian Copper Belt and Colesberg was well represented as were most of the small towns in the Cape Midlands including Steytlerville and Jansenville! Those from the Rhodesias had a four-night train trip to reach their destination and only returned home for the mid-year July holidays. They were always readily hosted by other boarding friends and built up friendships which last to this day.

There is a story told of one of these lads who when being sent from Rhodesia to become a boarder at the Senior Hostel arrived with a label tied round his neck. It read “Please deliver Johnny to Way House, Grey High School- Port Elizabeth!

And then there was the brush. Who could forget this clothes brush that was used by Porky to meter out suitable punishments! Boys will be boys and at times would be found wanting. The brush came to an end when on the last day of a term in 1962 Charles Ayliff of Middelburg pocketed it. As his homeward bound train passed over the Swartkops River he threw it out and that was the last of the painful encounters!

Please follow this link to this picture. Boys from those times will have memories of climbing the loquat trees situated in the back yard of the hostel, of playing “ Bok-Bok” ,that ghastly boiled cabbage and of sharing a birthday cake baked by Lilwill’s Bakery with ones mates! Perhaps we should put pen to paper and let our Scribe have your comments no matter what Grey Junior hostel you resided in- it would make a great read.

### **These shoes are still meant for walking!**

For the last number of years the Union office has appealed to the Matrics to donate their school shoes to a disadvantaged school in the belief that the shoes can still carry on walking! They certainly do so and on completing their last exam walk out of the Murray Gymnasium, they take off their shoes, don a pair of running shoes and drop their old

shoes into the boxes placed outside the doors. The shoes are all in good condition and instead of being consigned to the back of a bedroom cupboard those who are in need receive them. In total we collected 132 pairs and these were donated to the Solomon Mahlangu School by members of the Grey Pulse Society who assisted in the campaign. Follow this link to see the picture taken ahead of the donation being made to this disadvantaged school.

## Deaths

We extend our sympathies to the families of the following Old Greys who have passed on:

### Trevor Scarr – Class of 1950

Trevor matriculated at a young age of 17 years having done Sub A and Sub B in one year! After leaving school he took up an electrical apprenticeship with the then PE Municipality before joining Ford for a short stint. He returned to the Council to spend the rest of his working life in the Electrical Department retiring as Assistant Distribution Engineer. He was a long time member of the PE Amateur Radio Society and his call sign was ZS2AE. He is survived by his two daughters and a son with their families.

### Ron Chron -Class of 1962

Ron passed away in Toronto after having battled cancer for many years. He had a career in accountancy and business consulting and emigrated to Canada in the 1970's.

### Alan Louw – Class of 1948.

We are indebted to Andrew Bradley ('81) for passing onto us the eulogy he delivered at Alan's Memorial Service which was held at St. John's Methodist Church. Andrew was Alan's stepson and we have taken the liberty of quoting a paragraph from this address which we feel epitomized the wish of the family that his ashes be returned to Grey and to be buried next to a tree planted in his memory

Alan spent 37 years with Barclays Bank in a career that also took him to a posting in the United Kingdom. He was from all accounts a fanatical sportsman and represented EP at both cricket and hockey while at the same time becoming a very competent rugby referee and administrator. He even at one stage after retiring at the age of 53 due to ill health owned the Langdon Hotel in Port Alfred before life led him to finally settle in Cape Town. He spent his last few years in care but none the less remained both cheerful and happy in his surroundings supported by his loving family. The paragraph which we earlier referred to thus follows:

*He was born in PE. Although life took him out of PE, you could never take PE out of him. He loved everything about it and always yearned to be here. While PE was his love, Grey was the epi-centre of his universe. He regularly regaled us with stories of his times there. No matter how many times we heard the stories of the chaos and mayhem they caused, they usually brought a tear to the eye, not just because of the amusement, but because of the passion, nostalgia and memories they invoked in him. If the school was his epi-centre, the front Pollock field was his sanctuary and the pitch the place of his ultimate pleasure. It was almost aspirational that he desired his ashes to be spread on the Pollock field and particularly on the pitch. We are delighted that Grey has agreed to allow us to do so. They have also agreed to plant a tree in his memory next to the sight screen on the College drive side of the field that will overlook the field and look onto the school buildings.*

Alan opened the bowling for Grey. It is perhaps appropriate that his memorial tree is planted to the left of the sight screen on the College Drive side and more or less in line from which end he would have commenced his run up to deliver a ball.

### Derek Wilson – Class of 1962

Derek passed away on 1 December 2017 after a long battle with colon cancer. Upon leaving Grey, Derek studied at Rhodes where he obtained a BA (Hons) in Economics and History after which he continued with his formal studies receiving a MBL through UNISA.

He spent a few years in Melbourne and on returning to South Africa he worked for Caltex and The Reader's Digest before starting a direct mailing book and magazine distribution business after which he transitioned into finance and accounting. Not long after returning from Australia he married Cheryl Fick in Cape Town where he settled and raised two boys David and Michael. Both boys attended Bishops and UCT. He was delighted to have returned for his 50 Year Reunion in 2012 and to once again meet up with old friends