



# OLD GREY NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from the Old Greys' Union*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • FEB 26: OLD GREYS KNYSNA

OPEN TO OLD BOYS, PAST & PRESENT PARENTS. DETAILS TO FOLLOW

### • MARCH 11: OLD GREYS SOMERSET EAST

AN EVENING EVENT AT THE ANGLER & ANTELOPE. DETAILS TO FOLLOW

### • APRIL 8: AFTER-WORK DRINKS IN JOHANNESBURG

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

### • APRIL 17: OLD GREY GOLF VS PAUL ROOS

BIENNIAL GOLF CHALLENGE IN STELLENBOSCH ON FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2020.

### • MAY 6-9: OLD GREYS REUNION WEEK

WE WELCOME ALL OLD GREYS TO JOIN

## From the Old Grey Desk

Wishing all Old Greys a happy and healthy 2020!

Herewith a quick update on The Grey year thus far:

- The Grey Junior School welcomes new Headmaster, Mr. Grant Butler. Grant has been a Grey staff member for fourteen years, four of which were spent as the Deputy Head under Mr. Lindsay Pearson.
- Grey Junior welcomed 112 new Grade 1 pupils.
- Grey High inducted 192 new Grade 8's who walked 'Neath the Tower to ring the Hope Bell. The Grade 8's ring this bell on entry to the school as they become Men of The Grey.
- Two Old Grey Gatherings, Addo and East London have taken place. Please keep an eye out for email invites and social media updates!

### OLD GREYS REUNION 2020

The Old Greys' Union invites you to attend the annual OGU Reunion 2020 to be held from Wednesday 6 May to Saturday 9 May 2020.



[Click here to view the Reunion Schedule](#)

# Old Greys in the News



Solo Nqweni in action at the 2012 ICC U19 World Cup Getty Images

## Solomzi Nqweni '11 returns home!

Nqweni, an all-rounder from the Eastern Cape, was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome while playing club cricket for Aberdeenshire last July, spent four weeks in an induced coma and has been receiving treatment in a Scottish hospital for the past five months. He has now recovered enough to travel back to South Africa to continue his rehabilitation. However, it costs more than £80,000 (US\$104,000) for an air ambulance. His agent launched a fundraiser four days ago, which had collected £3125 (US\$4077), and then on Thursday, an anonymous donor offered to foot the rest of the bill. Nqweni will be in Johannesburg by the weekend.

**Read the full article**

"Thank you Old Greys worldwide. Your kind support and assistance is greatly appreciated. Solomzi is adjusting well and is still in a rehabilitation centre in Jhb after spending sometime at Sandton Medical Centre following the historic medical evacuation from the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary hospital (U.K.) Those who are on Instagram will catch up with him. As the grandparents, on behalf of the entire family, we wish to express OUR sincere attitude of gratitude and appreciation for your kind contribution and best wishes. THANK YOU."

- Zinziswa

(Solomzi's grandmother in return to an email of well-wishes)

**Solomzi's instagram handle:**

**@iamsolonqweni**



## Springbok captain Siya Kolisi '09 takes on tennis star Roger Federer

They're both used to being on top of the world, but Roger Federer and Siya Kolisi agreed to call it a draw when they met across a tennis net on Thursday.

**DOUBLE CLICK IMAGE TO VIEW VIDEO**



## Dave Callaghan '83 in studio with the Algoa FM Breakfast team, talks over 50's Cricket World Cup.

Former Eastern Province and Proteas all-rounder Dave Callaghan has been appointed captain of the South African over-50's squad ahead of the over 50's World Cup to be played in Cape Town in March this year.

**DOUBLE CLICK IMAGE TO VIEW VIDEO**

# GOLFERS VOTING POLL

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A GREY NATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP?

SELECTED CITY CENTRES INCLUDE JOHANNESBURG, PORT ELIZABETH AND CAPE TOWN. THE FINALISTS FROM EACH CITY CENTER WILL PLAY FOR THE TROPHY. SELECT Y/N AND IDENTIFY WHICH CITY YOU ARE IN.

**VOTE NOW**

## Chatterboard

*My family here in New Zealand enjoyed immensely the 'ducktails' story from nearly 60 years ago. This story has lived in many of our lives as a mythical tale 'remembered', as an Old Grey, with proud joy. Thank you for including this story in the latest newsletter.*

*Kind regards, **Greg Elliot** '69*



Hi, Morrie Glick and his parents used to stay opposite us in Bradshaw Street, Mount Road Township; his younger brother Sydney and I were friends; I was at The Grey from 1952-1955 and now (since 1963) live in Israel.

Morrie used to play scrum-half for the Grey first team. As keen rugby players my friends and I used to often watch the Grey rucker teams playing and the rumour was that one could often hear Morrie's father Ruby Glick's (he used to rroll his rrr'ss) loud cry across the field : *MORRRRRY – GIVE A DRRRRROP!*

Whether true or not, I have often related this anecdote to my family and many of them (including children and grandchildren) repeat it and we have a quiet chuckle about the old days and the characters from PE.

Sincerely, Malcolm Finn '55

## Looking Back with Ian Pringle

Back in the day of the old South African Railways and Harbours, a large proportion of the boarding establishment travelled by train either to return home at the end of term or to return later, somewhat reluctantly at the start of a new term! Flying was not a consideration and inter-city buses had yet to arrive as a means of transport. Trains left the Port Elizabeth station bound for Johannesburg, East London, Cape Town and Graaff-Reinet and there was even a contingent which undertook a four-day trip to the Copper Belt of the then Northern Rhodesia now Zambia.

Along the way boarders were be dropped off, or embarked at odd stations such as Cookhouse, Rosmead, Adelaide, Fort Beaufort and Queenstown, where patient parents awaited their sons and daughters. Collegiate girls were part of the mix and the convergence of trains at Alicedale to meet up with those from Victoria Girls and Graeme College on the incoming Grahamstown train was a jovial occasion. It is all history now. The old SAR&H is but a memory of train travel as it was, and the stations have all fallen into a general state of disrepair. But stories and yarns continue to be spun on those times and Iain Judd who was a boarder in Way House in 1967 sent us this delightful read which follows:

*I have happy memories of thirty-six hour treks into the hinterland. By the time I stumbled into Standard 9 in Way House, my uncle who was my guardian had moved onto the teeming metropolis of Dundee, Natal, home of Kiltie sweets and three and six week holidays which were spent in that neck of the woods. The said uncle, Bill Bruce, also an old Grey, was a canny Scotsman and was of the opinion that the ten day holidays were too short to justify the expense of a train trip. Anyway, around this time the Rector, Stan Edkins had received terrible reports regarding the 'alleged' misbehaviour on the trains and had decided to require a senior boy on the train to get the conductor to sign a chitty indicating good behaviour from the Grey boys, which would facilitate the 'smooth running of the school'. Various souls were appointed by the Rector to be the guardians of Grey virtue, on the recommendations of the worst miscreants in the Hostel. Some bright spark had decided that, for the Johannesburg train, I would be 'Jimmy the one'.*

*In normal boarding house logic, the fact that the trip to Dundee took thirty-six hours, qualified me as the sod with the longest trip (most of the time was spent picking one's nose in Bloemfontein, Ladysmith and Colenso, waiting for connections). The fact that I turned right at Bloem whilst the rest of the merry band proceeded straight on north without my guiding influence, mattered not to the Rector and I was issued two chits, one for the away trip and one for the home trip. Screaming, pleading and debating proved no help.*

*The train shot off into the night carrying its normal happy gang from the various schools, Grey, Collegiate, Gill, Muir and the like. Great merriment was had by all and the freezing dawn and Bloemfontein arrived without the company of some who had disembarked during the night. The Durban coach was unhooked and the rest of the gang rumbled off north. An abiding memory of the Bloemfontein station at 6 in the morning in the June holiday was the length of the icicles under the carriage. Hours later, sitting in a milk train somewhere between Bloem and Bethlehem, (must be a country and western song in that) staring at the snow-covered Drakensberg, I had time to reappraise my predicament. Muttering darkly I found a kindred soul on the carriage. Another poor innocent, from Muir, had been given the same job as I. For the life of me I cannot remember his name but his father ran the local hotel in Dundee. The two of us approached the conductor with a very reasonable request to sign off on the chit and were told very rudely to go away.*

*The best part of this leg of the trip to Bethlehem, was the opportunity to buy peaches and apricots alongside the track. The train was a 'milk train' which meant it chugged to the top of a hill, took on a milk can or two and screamed to the bottom of the hill to repeat the process. We had a breakdown in Ficksburg once in summer when the steam engine blew something important in the boiler. A long 8 hour day was extended by a few hours in the scorching heat. The beauty of the Lesotho Mountains was lost on plebs such as us.*

*Through Bethlehem, over the Drakensberg in the cold, cold night we went and arrived at a freezing Ladysmith around midnight. For those not used to the cold in Northern Natal, it is a near death experience. After four-hour wait we finally got to Glencoe and an hour later we rolled the 2kms into Dundee. The three week holiday proceeded apace with daily visits to the Kiltie factory for sweeties and assorted jollies in and about Dundee, a real hive of activity.*

*The trip home was reversed with trying to find the conductor and 'bedding boy' in Ladysmith at one in the morning being a very interesting experience, as was waking the others in your compartment in the early hours of the morning. The highlight was a five-hour wait on a Sunday afternoon in Bloemfontein waiting for the train from Johannesburg to arrive.*

*Passing Cookhouse in the cold dawn light, my mate from Muir and myself remembered our good conduct chitties to be signed by the conductor. A reasonable request was made and, once again, we had the same response as the guy going North (they must have known each other!). Around Swartkops panic abounded, but, once again, genius schoolboy resourcefulness kicked in. My mate signed mine and I signed his. Job done and Stan was happy!*

# In Memory

**We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of the following Old Greys who have passed on:**

## **Brian Lawrenson – Class of 1958**

Brian passed away on the 22nd January 2020 in Sydney, Australia after a 17 year battle with prostate cancer. In school he excelled at art and was the drum-major of the cadet band. On leaving school, Brian joined Burroughs business machines as a trainee technician. This started his lifelong career in the IT industry. Brian met his wife Jill whilst living in the UK with marriage and emigration to Australia following. He was often seen wearing his Grey supporter's shirt and was always proud to tell any enquirer of the outstanding quality that the Grey offered its students. Our sincere condolences to his brother Alan, family and friends.

## **Urs Zschokke - Class of 1960**

Sadly, Urs passed away on Sunday 12th January at the age of 76. An exceptionally talented sportsman, Zschokke was a prefect, played first team rugby, was a National Junior Gymnast and it is to be noted that he was the first Grey boy to gain provincial selection for gymnastics. He was also an SA Schools Diving Champion (when the baths were opened in 1956 he was the first to officially dive off the board) and represented the Grey in inter-schools swimming and athletic competitions.

## **Peter Das - Class of 1970**

Peter was an excellent swimmer and represented Grey High at inter-schools level and Eastern Province at schools level. After school Peter continued to follow his love for water when he joined Kings Beach Surf Lifesaving Club which he served for many years including excelling as oarsman and swimmer at lifesaving events. In 1977 he moved to the Netherlands to join his brother Bart. There he met his wife and settled into the building industry where he worked for a company specializing in fireproof partitioning. Peter passed away on 8th December, 2019 at the age of 67 leaving 2 wonderful daughters and 3 lovely grandchildren in the Netherlands.

## **Michael Dearden - Class of 1965**

Mike passed away on Monday, 25 November 2019. At school Mike was a brilliant athlete and represented the Eastern Province Basketball team for which he later received SA Colours for in 1968.

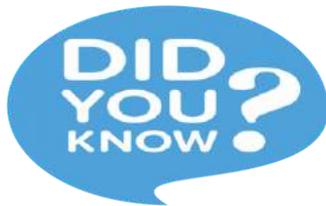
## **Dr Laurence Ries - Class of 1977**

Following his Grey school career Laurence graduated with an M.B.C.H.B degree in medicine from Stellenbosch University. He then worked in South Africa for a few years before meeting and marrying Cathy. Together they emigrated to Canada for 12 years, working in various places before settling in the beautiful Rockies in Fernie British Columbia. He then went to Australia in 2001 working as a GP Anesthetist until suffering a heart attack and passing away on 12 November. Our sincere apologies to his brother Eugene, his wife Cathy and 2 sons, daughter and 2 grandkids.



# THE GREY FOUNDATION

*Projects and news at a Glance*



## South African tax benefits are available for donations up to 10% of your annual taxable income?

The Grey Foundation Trust is registered as a Section 18A Non-Profit Organisation (NPO). South African taxpayers are eligible for a tax deduction (up to 10% of your annual taxable income (subject to SARS rules) for donations towards The Grey Foundation Trust.

**If you haven't yet made use of your 10% donation tax benefit, you can do so for the current tax year by making a donation before 29 February 2020.**

The following payment methods are available:

- **Secure Online Donation** - set up a Monthly Debit Order donation, an Annual donation, or a Once-off donation using your Visa/Master Card.
- **Direct Deposit Donation** - Complete the donation form which includes banking details for making a direct deposit donation.
- For **Donors in the UK or USA**, make your donation into our respective registered charitable trusts in London and New York. [Details can be found here.](#)

The Grey Foundation welcomes donations large and small. Thank you for making your contribution and joining us in securing the future for The Grey.

**[MAKE A SECURE ONLINE DONATION](#)**



# THE GREY FOUNDATION

*Projects and news at a Glance*

## BURSARY DONATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Each year The Grey Schools are committed to providing bursaries to boys who, due to economic circumstances, might not have had the opportunity to enjoy the benefits which a school like Grey can offer them. Bursaries are awarded for sport, music, academics or to general all-rounders.

The Grey has deserving candidates with various strengths should you be interested in affording a young man the opportunity to attend The Grey. For specific candidates, please be aware that all donations towards bursaries are for the recipients' full term at Grey High School - a 5 year commitment from Grade 8 to matric.

Alternatively, you may wish to [donate](#) to the General Bursary Fund which will see your donation go towards qualifying candidates who are not funded by a specific donor.



Photo Cred: Siya Kolisi Instagram

*"Vincent Mai is a fellow Grey boy and has invested in 100's of kids in SA through bursaries, the majority of the time without ever meeting them.*

*I was one of those kids. Without the opportunity, there is no way I'd be where I am today. He sowed into my life without ever knowing what would come from it, and I couldn't be more grateful."*

**– SIYA KOLISI (2009),  
Springbok Rugby Captain**

## 7 BURSARY RECIPIENTS ELECTED AS PREFECTS IN 2020

These young men who, only through donor assistance, have managed to embrace all that the School has offered them and have been rightfully awarded positions of higher office at The Grey. We are especially proud to announce that the top leadership position of Head Prefect is also a recipient of generous donor support. We commend them on showing their leadership abilities and wish them well as they take on these significant roles within the school.

## BURSARY RECIPIENTS RECEIVE AWARDS IN 2019:

At Prize Giving in 2019, bursary recipients were awarded the following:

- **Academic Awards for English, Afrikaans, Maths, Science, EMS, History, ICT, IT, Creative Arts, Geography**
- **Academic:** English Literature Award
- **Academic:** isiXhosa Scholar of the Year (Arnold Kaplan Award)
- **Academic:** Music
- **Academic:** Strakosch Bursary for 2020
- **Music:** Robert Selley Memorial Music Bursary
- **Music:** Senior Musician, Endeavour in Music (Robin Small Memorial Cup)
- **Music:** Senior Performer of the Year (Peter Hafner Memorial Cup)
- **Music:** Vocal Performer of the Year (Ernst Bonnet Memorial Cup).

Shared Trophy for 2 recipients.

- **Cricket:** Grade 8 and 9 (Athol McKinnon Memorial Award).

Shared Award for 2 recipients



*” I’m happy and so thankful for this great opportunity, for me to be part of a loving family and brotherhood. I could never have wished for a better chance than this. The love and camaraderie here is what I’ve always wanted. ” – Bursary recipient Grade 9*

## MENTORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMME FOR BURSARY BOYS

A major contributor to the success of our bursary recipients is the mentoring programme. Managed and coordinated by the School Psychologist, staff members are assigned as Mentors to small groups of bursary boys. This enables the school to identify areas where a boy may require additional support. It provides a platform for these boys to develop a relationship with his Mentor which allows him to express his views, address any issues and ask for advice or assistance. The mentor groups also ensure that the boys are socially integrated and assisted with managing their daily tasks, projects, and preparation for examinations.

Grey High School is committed to ensuring that every bursary boy is fully integrated into school life and has every opportunity to reach his potential at school and beyond.

**[MAKE A SECURE ONLINE DONATION](#)**

For any queries please contact Bev McCarthy - [fundraising@thegrey.com](mailto:fundraising@thegrey.com)



# THE OLD GREY CLUB

*The latest updates from The Old Grey Club*

## From the Chairman's Desk

### The Present

Presently the OGC is in great shape. The finances are sound and look good for the current financial year. The OGC bar, restaurant, and hiring facilities are well supported on a daily basis. *We invite any "Old Grey Memorabilia" either permanent or on loan to be placed in the Bar and Lounge area.* Brad and Ronel offer a great menu with good quality meals at reasonable prices, and cater to the public and Old Greys young and old from breakfast to late suppers. The Grey families and business communities are loyal supporters of the facilities with weekly functions from kids birthdays, corporate events, business promotions and weddings to 70th birthday celebrations.

The grounds and squash facilities are also in good condition and well maintained. The GJS & GHS are very involved in using the facilities for their learners, and without this commitment and financial support, it would make the viability of the Sports section of the OGC very difficult.

There is a full calendar over the various seasons and it requires great effort from our outsourced grounds team, PE Turf, in keeping to the high standards required for the various sports over a long season. The adjacent SAPS sports field lease was renewed last year for 5 years and this enables the OGC, GJS & GHS to utilise the facilities when required. In return, PE Turf maintains the facilities for SAPS at no cost to SAPS. This arrangement has worked well and we look forward to improving the SAPS facilities for the betterment of all users.

### The Future

The OGC has a bright future operating within the guidelines as set out by the OG Union Committee over the last 10 years. Many sporting Clubs currently face financial hardship and decreasing sporting bases however, with the partnership between the GJS, GHS & OGC this hurdle is not one that the OGC faces. By utilising the facilities, the current learners will better understand the culture and role that the OGC has to play in their futures, and the sporting codes that already have these learners playing for the teams at a young age will benefit from their support going forward. The sport codes have their own challenges which are now made easier by including the school learners in the Club sporting environment. OGC continues to grow and be a valuable asset to all.



*Thank you all for your continued support!*

**Gary Sim**

*Chairman, OLD GREY CLUB*