



OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION
A worldwide network of Old Johannians

NEWSLETTER

NO 02/2018

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



We are very excited about the launch of our new website www.oja.co.za. It has a fresh new look and feel, is easy to navigate and is more engaging and interactive.

As we come to end of another year, we reflect on the successes, challenges and exciting changes that have taken place at the Old Johannian Association.

The annual Gaudy Day celebrations were held in July, along with the Morison Abel Golf Day and Old Johannian Association Dinner. These events continue to be popular on the Old Johannian Association calendar and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school for their generosity in hosting us at the dinner in the Rene England Auditorium and for Gaudy Day. St John's really knows how to welcome the Old Johannians of all ages back to the school.

As the Old Johannian Association, we constantly strive to improve our offering and service to our Old Johannians.

We celebrated seven class reunions this year: 1958 – 60th Year Reunion, 1968 - 50th Year Reunion, 1978 - 40th Year Reunion, 1988 - 30th Year Reunion, 1993 - 25th Year Reunion, 1998 - 20th Year Reunion and 2008 - 10th Year Reunion.

Reunions are always a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect and renew old friendships. We want your reunions to become special occasions that you anticipate with delight. However, we are aware that planning these events can be difficult. From next year, we aim to better support your reunion events at an organizational level. We know that the classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2009 will be celebrating significant reunion milestones. We invite you to contact us to assist with your event ideas and coordination – whether it's a dinner at The Johannian Club, a golf day, an invitation to Amphitheatre, Mass in the Chapel or a Gala Dinner – we have lots of unique ideas that will make your reunion memorable.

We are also aiming to host more regular events for our Old Johannians to network, connect and become more active within the Association.

We are very excited about the launch of our new website www.oja.co.za earlier this year. The site has a fresh new look and feel, is easy to navigate and is more engaging and interactive. The database continues to be a key focus for the Association and so we have partnered with Alumnet this year as an easy way for our alumni to keep their details up to date. Please visit <https://oja.alumnet.co.za> to ensure we have the most current information about you. This user-friendly portal provides a hassle-free means for alumni to update their info themselves, refer other OJ's not yet on Alumnet to the online portal, and is also a great way for OJ's to network and connect with each other via the portal.

There has also been an added focus on general communication during 2018, ensuring that our Old Johannians feel connected with the Association and St John's College. It is key for us to establish the Association's relevance with the boys in the College as well as the recent matriculants through the Old Johannian networks. If you are not receiving regular communication from us, please let us know at info@oja.co.za.

Our Old Johannians continue to do us proud, boasting a number of outstanding achievements during 2018. Rivo Mhlari (Hodgson 2012), Melvyn Lubega (Hodgson 2007) and Ben Myres (Nash 2011) all made it onto the 'Forbes Africa's Top 30 Under 30' list for Technology. James Mitchell (Clayton 2015) became World Champion in the U23 Men's Pair Rowing in Poznan, Poland in July and Omphile Ramela (Hodgson 2006) was appointed President of the South African Cricketer's Association. We congratulate them on these noteworthy achievements.

I would like to thank the Old Johannian Association committee members for their tireless work and the time that they dedicate to the Association, despite their other commitments. Without you, none of these significant achievements during this past year would have been possible.

To our Old Johannian Community, we wish you a safe, happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas season and we look forward to a prosperous year ahead.

Kind regards
Damian Boyce
Chairman – The Old Johannian Association

UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS
8 June 2019	OJ Dinner – New York
13 July 2019	Gaudy Day

PAST EVENTS

JOHANNESBURG EVENTS:

OJ’S VS PREP CRICKET – 24 NOVEMBER 2018

On the 24th of November the annual OJ cricket vs the 1st and 2nd team Prep side was played. This is one of the highlights on the OJA calendar as it gives the OJs an opportunity to interact with the Prep boys and to connect on the sports field with our future Old Johannians. It also gave the Prep boys the opportunity to play against their dads, as we had Greg Tait, Martin Meyer and Andrew Crosley playing in the OJ team, all of whom are Old Johannians. [Read more here.](#)

OLD BOYS’ TENS RUGBY TOURNAMENT – NOVEMBER 2018

On the 9th and 10th of November the Old Johannian rugby side participated in the annual Old Boys’ Tens Tournament hosted at the Pirates Rugby Club in Johannesburg.

This year the OJ side was drawn in a very competitive group with Middleburg, who are the reigning champs of this tournament four years in a row, KES, Selborne College and Sterling Boys High. [Read more here.](#)

REMEMBRANCE DAY – 8 NOVEMBER 2018



The First World War officially ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Since then, this moment has been commemorated annually to remember all members of armed forces who died in the line of duty. [Read more here.](#)

Amongst the OJs in attendance were old boys from the Class of 1970, pictured here.

From left: George Whittle (Alston 1970), Richard Wear (Hill 1970), Don Stacey (Nash 1970), Craig MacFarlane (Clayton 1970 & ex-OJA Chairman), Rob Spargo (Clayton 1970).

GAUDY DAY – 7 JULY 2018:

On the 7th of July St John's College hosted their 106th Gaudy Day. We would like to thank all the old boys who turned out in their numbers this year and also to those that participated in the events. We encourage everyone to attend next year's celebrations as we would like to continue to grow this event. [Read more here](#)

MORISON ABEL GOLF DAY – 6 JULY 2018

On the 6th of July the Old Johannian Association hosted the Annual Morison Abel Golf Day at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Course. Players gathered on the newly revamped East Course and were met with chilly and windy conditions. Despite the winter chill, some great golf was played and the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves. [Read more here](#)

ANNUAL OJ DINNER – 6 JULY 2018

The annual Old Johannian Association Dinner continues to grow, and in 2018 we filled the largest covered venue at St John's College – The Rene England Auditorium. 335 Guests attended the 109th dinner. [Read more here](#)

OJA EMINENT SPEAKER BREAKFAST SERIES – 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Martyn Davies (Managing Director, Emerging Markets & Africa, Deloitte)

Dr Martyn Davies was our 16th Eminent Speaker at the Eminent Speaker Breakfast Series. Dr Davies heads Deloitte Africa's Automotive Sector business as well leading Japan Services Group and China Services Group for the Firm. He is a member of the Deloitte global Firm's Insight Advisory Group as well as the Deloitte Economics team. [Read more here.](#)

OJA EMINENT SPEAKER BREAKFAST SERIES – 20 JUNE 2018

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr Victor Sekese - Chief Executive, SizweNtsalubaGobodo (SNG)

Mr Victor Sekese was our 15th Eminent Speaker at the Eminent Speaker Breakfast Series. SNG is the largest black owned audit and advisory firm in Southern Africa. [Read more here.](#)

REGIONAL EVENTS WORLDWIDE:**GARDEN ROUTE OLD JOHANNIAN LUNCHEON – PLETTENBERG BAY
7 NOVEMBER 2018**

The OJ luncheon in Plettenberg Bay took place on the 7th of November 2018 on a warm and sunny day at the Equinox Restaurant. It was a perfect setting for the 20 Old Boys and partners to have a chin wag and to enjoy fine food and drink. [Read more here.](#)

HONG KONG OJ GET-TOGETHER – OCTOBER 2018

Over the past four years St John's College has had a growing relationship with the City University of Hong Kong which has seen to a number of OJs moving to study in Hong Kong.

The OJs at City U have formed a small but close community and have flourished in the opportunity rich environment provided in City U. With activities extending from sports to Model

United Nations, OJs have lead from the front with two OJs acting as Secretary General of Model United Nations and multiple travelling abroad for conferences.

Currently two OJs have already utilised a special program and moved to study at Columbia University in New York. All the OJs at City U share a sentiment of gratitude for having had the ability to seize such a rare and great opportunity in Hong Kong, with many thanks going to the school for fostering such a relationship. The number of OJs in Hong Kong are expected to grow in the coming years as more and more OJs utilise this amazing opportunity.



OJs at City U in Hong Kong

From the left: Quintus Kilbourn (Nash 2016), Christopher Ching (Thomson 2017), Numan Koor (Fleming 2017), Pierre Gildenhuys (Thomson 2017), Hugh Morgan (Fleming 2017), Daniel Arnot (Nash 2015), William Kerr-Phillips (Alston 2017), Daniel Stevens (Thomson 2017)

Christopher Ching
Hong Kong OJ Representative

SYDNEY OJ GET-TOGETHER – 8 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Springboks versus Wallabies Test Match in Brisbane provided an ideal opportunity for the NSW based Old Johannians to get together for a reunion dinner in Sydney. The venue was the picturesque Roseville Golf Club, and a cool, drizzly night saw the OJs and partners turn out in force. [Read more here.](#)

NEW YORK OJ GET-TOGETHER – 24 JULY 2018

USA OJs gathered for an informal dinner at the Manhattan Classic Car Club in New York on the 24th of July. Thank you to our USA OJ regional rep (NY-East Coast), Ryan Thorp for organizing. [Read more here.](#)

LONDON OJ DINNER – 20 JULY 2018

A warm welcome to our new UK OJ regional representatives, John Conway (Clarke 2009) and Aleks Stojakovic (Hodgson 2008), who have taken over the stewardship of the UK OJ body. The first major event of the summer was on Friday the 20th of July at the Institute of Directors hosted

by the OJA, the Head of Council, Jon Patricios and College Headmaster, Paul Edey. 60 OJs attended the event as they celebrated the school's 120th anniversary. [Read more here.](#)

PREP HEADMASTER, PATRICK LEES' VISIT TO AUSTRALIA – JULY 2018

Patrick Lees (Headmaster of St Johns Prep) visited Perth, Sydney and Melbourne while on a trip for a conference.

The respective OJA representatives in each region did a superb job of hosting Mr Lees, organising venues and inviting Johannians and their families to cocktail drinks and snacks.

Mr Lees did a presentation on the school and gave the Old Johannians some insight in to the plans that the school has for the future.

Perth: 5 July 2018 at Wembley Golf Club



Melbourne: 13 July 2018 at the Athenaeum Club



From left: Graham Barrett (67-Thomson), Paul van der Merwe (92), Dominic Moss (90-Darragh and Nash), Patrick Lees (Prep Headmaster), Craig Westcott (89-Thomson), Greg Turner (89-Bousfield and Thomson), Martin Coleman (89-Carter and Thomson)

Sydney: 17 July 2018 at Royal Automobile Club**PERTH OJ GET-TOGETHER – 10 MAY 2018**

I'm happy to report that we had a very pleasant and convivial OJ Sundowner at the Wembley Golf Course bar in Perth.

Attendees were Marco Chiaberta (Hill 1985) and his wife Valerie, Ian Curlewis (Nash 1967), David Jones (Thomson 1959), John Koeppler (Nash 1974), Rob Sceales (Nash 1963), and Roger Veary (Alston 1961). Unfortunately, a couple of people had to pull out at the last minute, but hopefully they will be able to attend the next function along with a couple of OJs who were overseas at the time.

We sat around, had a few drinks, chewed the cud, and solved many of the world's problems! Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Roger Veary
OJ regional rep for Perth

OJ REUNIONS

- **1958 – 60th YEAR REUNION – 8-9 MARCH 2018:** [Read more here](#)
- **1968 - 50th YEAR REUNION – 5-6 JULY 2018:** [Read more here](#)
- **1978 - 40th YEAR REUNION – 24 MARCH 2018:** [Read more here](#)
- **1988 - 30th YEAR REUNION – 6 JULY 2018:** [Read more here](#)
- **1993 - 25th YEAR REUNION – 6 JULY 2018**

A few old boys (and partners) from the Class of '93 gathered at the Annual OJ dinner to catch up on old times and to enjoy the festivities. Those in attendance included David Nightingale and wife, Nick Sproule, Gavin Heron, Jon Holden, Don Gibson and Lawrence Hunt.

- **1998 - 20th YEAR REUNION – 6 JULY 2018:** [Read more here](#)
- **2008 - 10th YEAR REUNION – 5-7 JULY 2018:** [Read more here](#)
- **1979 - 40th YEAR REUNION – SCHEDULED FOR 2019**

The 1979 40th reunion is set to take place on Saturday 27th April 2019 at the Johannian Club.

Kindly contact reunion organisers Athol Cochrane (athol_cochrane@msn.com) and Guy Martin (guy@blueprints.co.za) if you wish to attend this reunion.

- **1970 - 50th YEAR REUNION – SCHEDULED FOR 2020**

The 1970 50th reunion is set to take place in 2020 and plans are already underway to get hold of as many OJs as possible from the Class of 1970.

Kindly contact reunion organiser Craig MacFarlane (craigmacfarlane001@gmail.com) if you wish to attend this reunion and possibly assist him in finding fellow classmates.

OJ EAGLES WATER POLO

The OJ Eagles have won water polo's national championship (Currie Cup) for the 14th time in the last 16 years. The club, made up of mainly OJs, is coached by Vlado Trninic who has been instrumental in their success. Congrats to the OJ Eagles club!

Water Polo Season Is Back!!

It's time to bust out your budgie-smuggler.

If you played polo at school and things have gone a bit pear since then, our OJ Eagles 2nd Division Club is just for you.

Our crew is a conglomerate of old and young, chubby and not-so-chubby, with a sprinkling of fitness and a bucket-load of 'gees'.

We are always looking for new recruits. So, if you think you still have a decent baulk, pop in for a practice to meet the lads.

Practices are Wednesdays 18:00-19:30/45 at Valley Pool, with drinks and pizza afterwards in The Johannian. League matches are on Saturday afternoons.

Subs are R2500, which includes some awesome social functions as well as the year-end bash.

Best regards, Club contacts:

Andrew Egbers andrewegbers@gmail.com

Mike Bleyenheuft mikebleysa@gmail.com



The Semi-Serious Section's year-end function

OLD BOYS' NEWS

1) Khaya Gobodo (Alston 1996) – FINANCE

16 Nov 2018 – Congratulations to Khaya Gobodo (Alston 1996) who has been appointed to head Old Mutual's wealth and investments division in 2019.

Article and image source: Fin24.com



Khaya Gobodo will take over the reins from Dave Macready at Old Mutual's wealth and investments division. Gobodo is currently deputy MD of the division and managing director of the investment group. Macready will be retiring early next year, warranting the change.

"Gobodo joined Wealth and Investments in January 2018 as MD of Old Mutual Investment Group, bringing with him a broad depth of investment experience and a solid track record in portfolio management and leading asset management teams.

2) Numan Koor (Fleming 2017), Chris Ching (Thomson 2017), William Kerr-Phillips (Alston 2017) and Pierre Gildenhuys (Thomson 2017)

Nov 2018 – Numan Koor (Fleming 2017), Chris Ching (Thomson 2017 - our OJ regional rep for Hong Kong and Asia), William Kerr-Phillips (Alston 2017) and Pierre Gildenhuys

(Thomson 2017) concluded their 3-day trip to Munich to attend the Model United Nations representing Hong Kong City University.

The topic was: "Focusing on the principle of Equality and its meaning in relation to the structure of democratic values in the 21st century".



Top left: William Kerr-Phillips, Chris Ching, Numan Koor, Pierre Gildenhuys

Congratulations to William Kerr-Phillips who won the prize for best position paper on the Human Rights Committee, and to Chris Ching who served as the head delegate for the City University Delegation.

3) Omphile Ramela (Hodgson 2006) – CRICKET

1 Nov 2018 – Article source: [Times Live](https://www.timeslive.co.za)

Highveld Lions top-order batsman Omphile Ramela has replaced JP Duminy as the president of the South African Cricketer's Association.

Ramela, who is currently on franchise duty for the Lions in Potchefstroom against the Titans in the four-day Franchise Series, was appointed to the position last week during the organisation's annual general meeting in Johannesburg.

Ramela's not just an ordinary cricketer despite his reasonably decent first-class numbers.

He is a St John's College product and has a Master's Degree in Economics from Stellenbosch University alongside his 11-year first-class cricketing experience.

4) Devon Conway (Nash 2009) – CRICKET

18 Oct 2018 – Article source: [Newshub.co.nz](https://www.newshub.co.nz)

Cricket: South African-born Devon Conway brings up double century for Wellington.

Devon Conway batting for Wellington. South African-born Devon Conway has continued to build on his 15th first-class century, surpassing 200 runs for Wellington in their first inning against Otago in Plunket Shield play.

5) Janesh Ganda (Clarke 2006) – SPORTS MEDICINE



Oct 2018 – Congratulations to Dr Janesh Ganda on his recent appointment to sports Physician Doctor for the SA women’s rugby team!

Janesh graduated at Wits with his medical career in 2012 and started his masters in Sports Medicine at UCT in 2016. He has just completed three years of course work and is now working on his thesis. Janesh also completed a number of advanced emergency and rugby related courses in this time. He has worked at the Two Oceans medical tent for two years and Cape Town Cycle tour.

Janesh has been working at the Sport Science Institute in Cape Town, Newlands in a practice called Cape Sports Medicine and spends half his time with teams and the other half consulting private patients.

He worked for two years with the Boland Cavaliers - Domestic Currie cup team (2016-2017). In 2018 he was asked to work with WP rugby Supersport Challenge team and then the U19/U21 teams. He covered a few games of the senior Currie Cup team who just lost in the finals in October.

Janesh was then appointed as the Springbok Women’s Doctor in February 2018.

6) Christopher Hale (Hodgson 2013) – ROWING

Oct 2018 –Chris Hale (OJ 2013) took part in the "Head of the Charles" rowing regatta in Oct.



This is one of the biggest rowing races in the world which took place in Boston, USA, starting 20th Oct 2018.

Chris is a Rhodes University student. He finished rowing at SJC in 2013 and now currently rows for Rhodes University and is on a tour to Boston. This is his first time at the regatta and is currently training with his crew.

7) James Mitchell (Clayton 2015) - ROWING

28 July 2018 – Congratulations to James Mitchell (Clayton 2015) who became World Champion in the U23 Men’s Pair in Poznan, Poland. View his World Rowing results [here](#).



8) Andrew Morgan (Clayton 2013) - ROWING



May 2018 – Andrew is currently studying at Princeton University in the USA and has been elected as the Captain of the Men’s Heavyweight rowing team for 2019, when he will be in his senior year at the university.

Andrew was accepted into Princeton University in 2015. That year he began rowing on the Princeton Heavyweight Crew Team.

He has strong academic interests in history, politics, law and economics, and indicated in 2015 that he was leaning towards history as his major.

9) Rivo Mhlari (Hodgson 2012), Melvyn Lubega (Hodgson 2007) and Ben Myres (Nash 2011) - TECHNOLOGY

June 2018 – Source: [Forbes Africa's Top 30 Under 30](#)

#1 - Rivo Mhlari (Hodgson 2012) - Founder: Rikatec

Rivo created an information management system using big data and artificial intelligence to solve problems for vehicles such as predicting and detecting vehicle breakdowns.

Today, Rikatec simultaneously provides a connection to the nearest help option within five minutes of breakdown detection. The company also provides predictive maintenance for fleets, monitors driving habits, wear and tear and uses big data and analytics to provide valuable information that can help reduce operational costs.

#22 - Melvyn Lubega (Hodgson 2007) Founder: GO1

Melvyn and his co-founder, Andrew Barnes founded GO1, a training solution that brings together training content which is accessed through an easy-to-use online platform. Today, the company is recognized as a world leader in employee compliance, professional development and on-boarding training. It is backed by investment from the likes of Y Combinator, the University of Oxford and leading venture capitalists.

The company employs over 157 people, was listed in the global Disrupt100 as one of the most disruptive companies in the world and was listed in the Deloitte Technology Fast 500, based on percentage fiscal year revenue growth over three years.

#24 - Ben Myres (Nash 2011) – co-founder: Nyamakop Games

Since forming Nyamakop in 2015, Kimani and Myres have built their studio into one of the most promising emerging startups in African game development.

By end 2017, Nyamakop had signed a multi-million rand publishing deal with renowned videogames publisher, Good Shepherd Entertainment and courted a rare access to Nintendo’s newest console, the Nintendo Switch. The game would be the first African developed IP to release on a Nintendo platform ever.

Myres co-curated Africade, the first gallery exhibition to focus solely on African video games. In 2015, Myres was named one of Mail & Guardian’s Top 200 to watch.

10) David (Porky) Hefer (Clayton 1986) – DESIGN



June 2018

Source: [Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation](#):

SFA Advisory and Southern Guild presented a unique project by renowned South African artist Porky Hefer at Design Miami/Basel in June 2018.

The exhibition, commissioned by SFA Advisory to benefit the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, showcased a series of seating pods depicting endangered species. The sculptures, which depict an orangutan, a polar bear, a sloth, a blue whale, and a great white shark, are made of eco-friendly and recycled materials.

“It’s the future of the next generation that I am concerned about and the state of the world they inherit. Looking after our animals and Earth is one thing but also the preservation of human skills, crafts and traditions,” says Hefer.

Hefer’s larger-than-life seating environments have garnered extensive global recognition over the past few years. His first solo show, *Monstera Deliciosa, Volume I*, was presented at Southern Guild in Cape Town in 2015, and in 2017 he had a solo exhibition at R & Company, New York. Hefer also represented South Africa at the inaugural London Design Biennale 2016.

11) Chris Soal (Fleming 2012) – ART

4 April 2018 – At a gala event held at the University of Johannesburg Art Gallery on the evening of 4 April 2018, emerging visual artist Chris Soal was announced as the overall winner of the PPC Imaginarium Awards 2018.



The 23-year-old sculptor, a fine arts graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand, garnered R150 000 in prize money, and participation in an eight-month-long nationwide traveling exhibition.

Soal’s winning piece, entitled “Imposed Structure (Deflated)”, consists of cement cast into the shape of a deflated and scuffed soccer ball, through which a metal rod has been forced.

The weight of the cement causes the rod to bend and pull, signifying the weight not only of deflated childhood professional sports dreams, but of the inherent danger of “play” within the city. The work speaks not only to the realities of growing up in a city environment, where soccer is played in the streets, on concrete and tar, but also to the relationship of soccer to South African industry. One example of this relationship is the 2010 FIFA World Cup. To this day, questions are still posed regarding the event’s benefit for the country.



Soal’s artwork was chosen as the winner by the PPC Imaginarium Awards national judging panel. The panel includes globally acclaimed contemporary artist Mary Sibande and Daniel van der Merwe (who heads the PPC Imaginarium Awards), in addition to renowned local artist Stephen Hobbs and UJ Art Gallery curator Annali Dempsey, bringing a wealth of industry know-how to the judging of South Africa’s top art and design contest.

Chris Soal studied at Wits having recently graduated with a Bachelors in Fine Arts (Honours), 2017. Alongside his own artistic practice Chris works as a cinematographer at the [Centre for the Less Good Idea](#), founded by South African-born, internationally renowned artist William Kentridge, and as a writer on art and culture for [Bubblegum Club](#).

He has been selected as a finalist for numerous awards such as the Cassirer Welz Award in 2017, the Wits Young Artist Award in 2016 and 2017, The SA Taxi Art Award in 2016 and the Thami Mnyele Award in 2015. Chris Soal was awarded a residency in 2018 by the [South African Foundation for Contemporary Art](#). The residency was held in Knysna at Axon Investment's Entabeni Farm for a duration of six weeks alongside established South African artist, Minnette Vari. He has exhibited in group shows at institutions such as Aeroplastics Contemporary in Brussels (2017), Wits Art Museum (2017), Fried Contemporary (2017), Museum of African Design (2016), NO End Contemporary Art Space (2016, 2017, 2018), and Galerie Noko (2016). Chris regularly exhibits at art fairs around Europe with Clifton Boulder Gallery and at local art fairs in South Africa.

You can view the winning artwork titled "Imposed Structure to the detriment of the members (Deflated)" [here](#).

Read all about Chris' interview with PPC after the Award [here](#).

12) Steve Boyes (Hill 1996) - CONSERVATION

April 2018 – [TED2018](#): Steve Boyes and a team of scientists have been traveling through the Okavango Delta, Africa's largest remaining wetland wilderness, to explore and protect this near-pristine habitat against the rising threat of development. In this awe-inspiring talk packed with images, he shares his work doing detailed scientific surveys in the hopes of protecting this enormous, fragile wilderness.

Steve Boyes and Chris Boyes also made a documentary entitled "Into the Okavango" which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. View the trailer [here](#).

13) John Pettifor (Thomson 1962) and John Gear (Thomson 1960) - MEDICINE

December 2017 – Brief extracts of tributes to both John Pettifor (Thomson 1962) and John Gear (Thomson 1960) were taken from the magazine Wits Review on occasion of both being awarded Honorary DSc (Med) by University of the Witwatersrand at the December 2017 Graduation ceremonies:

John Gear

"Who shall live and who shall die is now being determined largely by practitioner behaviour and managerial commitment," said Professor John Gear (MBBCh 1967) at the 2017 graduation ceremony where he received an honorary Doctor of Science in Medicine (DSc Med) degree.



He urged the doctors who were graduating at the ceremony to be caring professionals. “You must take control. You have the choice to be caring or selfish; you need to exercise that choice conscientiously and wisely. Your patterns of behaviour must be dominated by care and compassion, for patient and self.”

Professor Gear was the first chair of the Department of Community Health at Wits, and Academic Director of the Wits Rural Facility from 1989 to 1997. He has made a huge contribution to rural health care and training future health leaders.

St John’s College Golden Eagle Award 2018

Professor Gear received this year’s St John’s College Golden Eagle Award in recognition of his supreme efforts in championing the health needs of under-served and poor communities.

The Golden Eagle Award honours Johannians who have made a truly significant contribution to South African society.

The ethos of serving others, encapsulated in the College motto, *Lux Vita Caritas*, is evident in Prof Gear’s selfless commitment and leadership in the field of medicine, especially in public health.

John Pettifor



(MBBCh 1968, PhD 1980) was Director of the Metabolic Unit in the Department of Paediatrics at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and a leading international scholar in the areas of infant and childhood nutrition, bone development and rickets.

Since his retirement he has been the Director of the Carnegie Clinical Fellows programme in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science in Medicine degree.

OBITUARIES

We have listed below the names of OJs who have passed on. Many thanks to those family members and friends who have notified the OJA of their passing. If you are aware of any other OJs who have passed on, please kindly notify the OJA office via email at info@oja.co.za.

Full name	Date deceased	Matriculated	House	DOB
John Ranger Tyrrell	04 Oct 2018	1959	Hill	17 Aug 1942
John Humfrey Bowker	26 Sept 2018	1962	Alston	12 Feb 1946
Julius Benjamin Kruger	2018	Lower V in 1977	Clarke	09 June 1960
James William George Tait	14 Aug 2018	1961	Hill	23 May 1943
Fr. Geoffrey George Paxton	28 July 2018	1965	Thomson	20 March 1948
Simon Tebogo Makhalemele	13 July 2018	2008	Hodgson	17 March 1991
Mark Andrew Pennels	11 June 2018	1972	Nash	02 June 1955
Dr John Walter Long	16 May 2018	1962	Nash	10 Dec 1945
Roger Downing Stacey	03 May 2018	1939	Thomson	26 Jan 1922
Hendrik Louis Loots	01 May 2018	1970	Hill	04 Jan 1954
Dr Roger Kendal Jarvis	07 April 2018	1947	Alston	23 March 1931
Richard Fuller	23 March 2018	2017	Alston	22 April 1999
Professor Matthew Robert Michael Lester	12 March 2018	1979	Clarke	02 Aug 1961
Peter Myles Formby	08 March 2018	1950	Thomson	24 June 1932
Gavin Dewar Telford	02 Feb 2018	Lower V in 1963	Alston	23 Sept 1947
John Garth Beresford	06 Dec 2017	1953	Hill	17 Feb 1937
Dimitri Michael Comitis	17 Nov 2017	1982	Alston	27 Oct 1964
John Dyer Young	28 April 2017	1956	Hill	17 Oct 1939
Ian Leonard Sturrock	10 Sept 2008	1961 (Sixth Form 1962)	Alston	10 April 1945

TRIBUTES

- **James William George Tait**
Hill 1961
(23 May 1943 - 14 August 2018)

Tribute from James's son Greg:



James William George Tait (Hill 1961) died very suddenly and without much warning from a liver cancer in Greyton, Western Cape in August 2018.

George grew up in Benoni the son of an old Johannian and so as soon as he was old enough he made the move to board at St John's Prep.

He went on to finish at the College, thoroughly enjoying his school years.

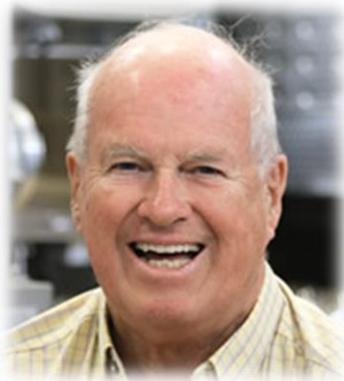
James made some fantastic friends and had fond memories and stories from his years at the College under the leadership of Dean Yates. He regularly reminded the family of the fact that he had spent many sessions of hard labour planting the grass on Mitchell field! During the 80s and 90s, as a parent, his voice was regularly heard cheering on various College teams.

He kept in touch with the goings on at St John's and was thrilled when his grandson entered Remove in 2018. He will be greatly missed as a husband, father and grandfather and chief touchline supporter of all sport involving a ball and one of his grandchildren.

- **Peter Myles Formby**

Thomson 1950
(24 June 1932 - 8 March 2018)

Tribute from Peter's daughter Heather:



Peter Formby matriculated from St John's College in 1950. He studied at Wits University and completed his articles at Howard Pim and Hardy, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1959. He joined Anglo American in 1963, where he spent 39 years, with many of those years spent at E Oppenheimer & Son. Peter retired in 1992 but was asked to continue working for the family until 2002.

Peter was involved in many aspects of Johannesburg life over his 85 years. Among others, he was on the boards of St Mary's School and the Bridgman Memorial Hospital Trust, as well as helping what was then the Progressive Federal Party, in Houghton.

He was a formidable tennis player and went to Wimbledon every year for almost 20 years to watch his favourite sport. He was a great supporter of wildlife and flora and was active in the Rose Society. Peter always saw the positive side of life, and the best in everyone he met and will be remembered for his integrity, humour and ability to engage with everyone. He is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he was married to for 59 years, his three daughters and his five grandchildren.

- **Roger Downing Stacey**

Thomson 1939
(26 Jan 1922 - 3 May 2018)

Tribute from Roger's son George:



Memories of dad after he stopped farming.

Dad was quiet, but he communicated in so many ways and with profound impact. He wrote easily and well, in a flowing style, and sent us monthly newsletters. Poignant, pithy and wise, his writing touched us all. He didn't say a lot but captured the nub of an issue.

He wrote a letter twenty years ago just to say how he felt about his family, just in case the "clock of life" stopped sooner than expected; how fortunate we are that the clock has only stopped now after 96 years.

It is a profound lesson that one must say what needs to be said in good time.

Dad loved sport and there were countless hours spent playing tennisette - a time of great fun and keen competition. He was the ultimate Roger Federer fan. If there was a time that dad might have been obsessive, this would have been it. Bolt upright and rooting for him, dad's mood was more buoyant when his Roger was in sublime form. Dad was a tennis classicist and Roger was his man...demure, quiet, well-mannered, getting on with the job!

When his farming days came to an end, dad turned his hand to carpentry. He produced an astonishing array of woodwork over the fifteen years in his workshop, with his assistant Gabriel. Tables, trolleys, gates, chopping boards, plant-stands and birdfeeders and the innovative use of whatever timber he could lay his hands on. Important for him that everyone in the family should get something worked with his hands.

Mom and dad remained until recently in the farm house that was their home for sixty-nine years.

Security mattered less than being able to enjoy the familiar pleasures of their home and continuing to entertain family and friends. They were confident that they would be treated with the respect that they afforded others. Faith in the Lord above - the best form of security. What a blessing!

When dad learned that he was very ill, he said that he was going first, to check that the good Lord had a double bed ready for he and his Rosa. Dad wanted to go quickly and not be a burden on those around him.

I quote from a piece dad wrote in 1957 on the day his own father died. Everyone who knew my father will agree that I could have written these same words about him!

"Those who knew him well will realise that no words can really measure the worth of this Father.

There was never a job too difficult or one too menial, each was tackled carefully and untiringly.

He did anything for anybody so willingly that one always felt a little uneasy at his example, an example set however on such a plane that to follow was possible, but to equal was not.

He was forthright and punctual and God in Heaven knew that this man and his word was Truth.

He is my Father.”

- **Dimitri Michael Comitis**

Alston 1982
(27 Oct 1964 - 17 Nov 2017)

Tribute from Dimitra’s brother George:



Dimitri was born in Beira, Mozambique, the third child and first son of Michael and Mary Comitis.

He attended a Portuguese school in Beira until the age of 10 when he moved to St. John’s Prep not knowing a word of English – and for the first two years as a boarder! - then moving to the College where he was in Alston house and matriculated in 1982.

Besides playing rugby and cricket, he was passionate about basketball, playing and training regularly from a young age - often at neighbouring King Edward School since the sport was not offered then at St John's! In 1983, at the age of 19, he obtained his Transvaal basketball colours and two years later, in 1985, his Springbok colours.

Dimitri qualified as an accountant and tax consultant in 1987. He met and married the love of his life, Molly, in 1996. His beloved children Michael and Nicole were born in 1997 and 2001. Dimitri was the epitome of a dedicated and loving father and adoring husband. He placed great emphasis on family and always put his loved ones before himself. His unwavering upstanding character made his parents proud. He was a constant source of advice, support and inspiration to his brother George and sisters Kally and Angie as well as being a father-figure to his ten nephews and nieces.

Dimitri's positivity was drawn from his strong Christian faith throughout. His sense of humour was legendary and you could be sure you would never leave his presence without having shared some laughs. He will be sorely missed by all but always remembered for the committed and loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle and friend that he was.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace where the light of Christ's countenance watches and shines over him.

“He has fought the good fight, he has finished the race and has kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give to him...” 2 Timothy 4: 7-8

- **John Humfrey Bowker**

Alston 1962
(12 Feb 1946 - 26 Sept 2018)

Tribute from John's brother William:

I record with sadness the passing of my brother John Bowker in Port Elizabeth Hospital from pneumonia on 26 September 2018.

John earned full colours for Rugby and the highest cadet award for shooting. He was a member of the Moses Cup team. In 1963 he was in the National service in the Navy Gym in Gordon's Bay. John completed a veterinary degree in 1968/9.

John farmed wool and cattle on his farm Reedsdale, outside Grahamstown.

He married Janet Harvey in 1970 and they have two children, Patricia and Andrew and is survived by his wife and family.

- **John Ranger Tyrrell**

Hill 1959

(17 Aug 1942 - 04 Oct 2018)

Tribute from John's sister Elizabeth Brown:

My brother John Ranger Tyrrell, died on the 4th October 2018, in Nottingham, U.K. He was the world authority on Janacek, the Czechoslovakian composer.

John's reflections of his time at St John's College:

"It was Mr Andrewes who suggested I should stay on for the Sixth Form: 'After the Nurse in Romeo and Juliet you'd make a wonderful Mistress Quickly in Henry IV'. But I resisted: I wanted to get going with a career in music and I didn't think much of what was on offer at St John's music-wise apart from the choir. So Mr Andrewes had to make do the next year with Philip Wood as King Lear. I went to Cape Town for my music degree and during the four years there I realized that though I liked writing music, I was better at writing about it. So when I went to Oxford in 1964, I went as a budding music historian rather than as a composer."

- **Gavin Dewar Telford**

Alston - Lower V in 1963

(23 September 1947 - 02 February 2018)

Tribute from close friend, Peter Simmonds (Alston 1964):

Gavin died peacefully on 2 February 2018 at his residence at the Lion Park in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Gav and I met in St John's Prep and remained good friends thereafter. He matriculated at Oxford College, Rosebank. After completing his army national service he served an apprenticeship at Swan Press Publishers. On completion he joined The Star newspaper and subsequently became a manager at the Eastern Province Herald newspaper.

However, Gav always had a passion for The Big Top and sawdust ring. As a youngster he even repainted his Dinky Toy trucks and vans with circus colours and names!

Through his connections with the Boswell and Wilkie families and personalities like Tickey the Clown, he joined the Boswell Wilkie Circus. Here he had managerial responsibilities, travelled overseas sourcing acts, assisted with the training of chimps and tigers and personally bought motorised swings and merry-go-rounds for young children's amusement.

In the 1970's he privately performed as a skydiver at various airshows. In about 1974 schoolmaster Michael Carter asked Gav to jump out of an aeroplane and parachute down onto the Mitchell cricket field where a festive SJC fun day was to be held, including an oompah band. On the day, Gav and his two Springbok skydiver friends landed successfully on target.

Gavin's combined hobby and main career choice gave him daily satisfaction, and he even convinced me that "there's no business, like show business!"

JOHANNIAN CLUB REPORT 2018

In May of this year the Old Johannian Association Governing committee made the decision to run the Johannian Club internally and so the club has undergone many changes over the past six months with new management, a new design look and feel and a new menu.

The Johannian Club strives to accommodate the school, its parents, teachers and the community as a whole. Since the transition the focus has been on creating a balance between catering for the old boys, ladies' luncheons and special events for students and staff.

The Johannian Club is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and caters for all preferences and every occasion. A focus on good food, service and excellent pricing remains a priority. It is a central meeting place for the St John's community where they can come together to enjoy a delicious meal, a few drinks and relax in the tranquil garden. The popular club bar is available for a quick drink before a school event, drinks after work or a get together whilst watching the latest sporting events. The club is making a concerted effort to create events that appeal to the St John's community, for example Fathers' Day lamb on the spit, gin tastings, wine and beer tastings and quiz evenings.

The club's boardroom is available for half or full day hire and is fully equipped for all conferencing needs.

The bed and breakfast facility comprises four rooms available to the public. We are centrally located and the ideal accommodation solution for a quick business trip in the city, or a mini home away from home.

For bookings or comments please call the club on (010) 492 0088 or email theojclub@sjc.co.za and the club manager will follow up with you.

Visit our webpage on the OJA's new website www.oja.co.za.

To keep up to date on the latest events please join the Club's Facebook page "[The Johannian Club](#)".

GENERAL INFO

ST JOHN'S COUNCIL AND FOUNDATION NEWSLETTERS

Here is the link to the Council and Foundation newsletter from Jon Patricios (Head of Council) and Steve Raney (St John's College Foundation Chairman).

<https://mailchi.mp/e99271ae18a5/st-johns-college-council-and-foundation-newsletter>

2017 AND 2018 JOHANNIAN MAGAZINES

A limited number of hard copy Johannian magazines for 2017 are available and will be distributed on request only.

A limited number of hard copy 2018 Johannian magazines will also be available at the beginning of 2019, available only on request.

If you would like either of these hard copies, please contact our OJA offices at info@oja.co.za.

OJA WEBSITE

Please visit our new-look website for more information on the events and happenings taking place with the OJA: www.oja.co.za.

SOCIAL MEDIA

You are welcome to join us on social media by clicking on the links below:



OJA OFFICE

Contact details for the OJA office are as follows:

- General email: info@oja.co.za
- Tel: +27 (0)11 648 9303

OJA MEMORABILIA

We have a variety of memorabilia for sale at the school shop, including OJ ties, rugby jerseys, gilets and other items. Please contact the shop at: shop@stjohnscollege.co.za.