



BISHOPS ODU NEWS

15th December 2016

Dear ODs

Welcome to my closing newsletter for 2016, all of which I hope have helped to keep you up-to-date with news of ODs, happenings at The Mitre and the OD Union's future developments.

IMPACT

After reading about Rex Pennington in last week's newsletter, Andrew Rowan (1963W) wrote in to say, "Rex was my housemaster at White House from 1960 to 1963 and was a very important influence on me. He persuaded me to go on an AFS year to the USA (rather than accept a post-matric invitation that included the opportunity to be a Grand Poobah on campus – a very tempting offer for an impressionable 17 year old). There have been a few moments when I thought what it might have been like to stay on for post matric but no regrets for making the choice I did. I am most grateful to Rex".

INTO AFRICA

Three years ago, Aidan Baigrie (1996O) was the first person hired by Facebook Africa and was responsible for opening and scaling the African operations out of Johannesburg. Today there are over 90 million active Facebook users in sub Saharan Africa.

Aidan gets asked 'What does Facebook do in Africa; surely they are just a software platform?' He replies, "The reality is that it is embedded through two lenses; one, in helping Africans connect to the internet through Facebook's non-profit collaboration called internet.org, and two, helping businesses grow by connecting them to the well over 10 million daily users in the continent. In South Africa alone, we have 8 million people connecting daily on their mobile devices".

Aidan is a founding member of the SEACOM team and has a wealth of management experience and consulting expertise in the financial and telecoms industry. He holds an MBA from the ESADE University in Spain and an undergraduate degree from the University of Cape Town.

How is Facebook Giving African SMEs a Boost? Watch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfS0BkccbXY>

COVERAGE

The proof is in the "write up-above". Join the ODU Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ODUnion/> and become a member of our LinkedIn group at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7421444> in order to network with fellow ODs.

We are busy revamping our website – watch this space!

The Mentoring Programme proves that modern communication technology makes mentoring support almost independent of face-to-face contact! Sign up at <https://form.jotformeu.com/61863512428356>

BEAUTY AT 90

Lady Margaret Mellish celebrated her 90th birthday on the 8th December. Maggie is the daughter of Frank Mellish MC and the widow of Sir Wilfred Robinson (1935S), fondly known as “Chippy”. Chippy was the housemaster of School House and eventually vice-principal. On his retirement in 1977, Chippy and Maggie went to live in England. Please see a photo of this remarkably beautiful nonagenarian attached.

2017 - DATES TO DIARISE

AGM

The 121st Annual General Meeting of the OD Union will be held at The Mitre on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 18H00.

OD Dinner with a Difference!

Our Annual Dinner will take place on Thursday 16th March 2017. All details will be sent out early in the New Year.

Founders Day 2017

Founders Day 2017 is set for Friday 17th March. ODs wishing to take part in the respective sports, please contact the responsible person below: -

Shooting: Phil Calothi phil@lsds.co.za

Tennis: John Smuts westbury@iafrica.com

Basketball: Glen Gibbon ggibbon@bishops.org.za

Debating: Aneen Kritzinger akritzinger@bishops.org.za

Cricket Teams: Delre O'Rourke dorourke@bishops.org.za

Golf: WP van Zyl wpvanzyl@bishops.org.za (Date to be advised)

Squash: Chris Boyes Boyes chris.boyes@taquanta.com (Squash matches played on Thursday 16th March at 5pm)

EVENT – ‘Birding in Panama’

Our first event at The Mitre has been marked for Thursday 2nd March 2017. Simon Peile (F1979) and new college parent Mike Buckham will speak on their recent two week birding trip to Panama. Simon is a keen world birder, with a world life list approaching 3 500, and Mike is one of South Africa’s leading birders. The highlight of their trip was undoubtedly seeing a pair of Harpy Eagles, an iconic, highly sought-after species for world birders. The talk will cover Panama as a birding destination and will be illustrated with some of Mike’s

excellent photographs.

RESPECTS

It is with regret that I inform you that Herbert Bryan Day (1950F) passed away on the 2nd December. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife June, his sister Heather, sons Paul (1977F) and John (1979F), daughter Alison and grandchildren, James (2008G), Robert (2010G), Megan, Chris, Michelle, Jenna and Matthew. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

I notified you last week that Caroline Pekeur (Staff 1980 - 2016) passed away on the 4th December, only 3 days short of her 57th birthday, which her work colleagues celebrated in her honour. A Christmas staff lunch was held on Friday the 9th December, a bitter sweet occasion. This past Monday the school gathered for a Service of Farewell to Caroline. Carol Witbooi (Staff) delivered a heartfelt, yet humorous eulogy. Please see photos attached.

Caroline's much-loved bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13:1–13: -

The Way of Love

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Chris Manning (1954F) was extremely sorry to read that Nigel Gibbs had died. Both he and Pam have very fond memories of him. Chris writes, "Despite his disabilities, he had more spirit than anyone else I know. He was certainly an inspiration to me. He would have been the most wonderful mentor to anyone else in a similar situation".

SPORT

PSI (Pro Series Indoor)

Over the past week, Bishops has been one of several venues to host matches in the Under 13 - 14 age groups for the 2016 Pro Series Indoor Hockey Nationals. The PSI hockey concept consists of Leagues, Regional, All Stars and National tournaments and caters for both girls and boys in age groups U11 to U18.

FBRFC

False Bay Rugby Football club are pleased to announce that Graham "Snoopy" Knoop (2005O) will again lead their first XV for the 2017 season as they defend their status as

Champions of the Western Province.

Kevin Lennett (1984O) has been appointed Chairman of FBRFC for 2017, and will help the club navigate the challenges that lie ahead both on a rugby front, as well as on the financial side to maintaining their fields, lighting and clubhouse. Kevin hopes to bump into many ODs at their club in Constantia during the course of next year!

Proteas versus Sri Lanka

There are still Cricket Hospitality Tickets available for the Proteas versus Sri Lanka Test Match at Newlands from 2 to 6 January 2017. Cost for full hospitality in box is R1 250 per ticket. For more information please contact Neil on ncarter@bishops.org.za

RECAP

The Christmas Day Eucharist Service will be held in the Memorial Chapel at 08H30. All are welcome.

ACCESSIBILITY

I will be going on leave from tomorrow 16th December and back in the office on Monday 9th January. WP van Zyl will be in the office as much as possible during the holidays so that he can meet and greet our ODs who are visiting from out of town. If you would like to pop in at The Mitre, please call WP on 021 659 1995 or 083 565 1374.

This year may have been trying for some, and trouble-free for others. New Year's Resolution - two words 1. KEEP 2. GOING

Let the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes;

For it is the season to find many reasons to be happy;

Find the light in the precious moments;

Wishing you and your families a joyous Christmas!

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice" – Thomas Eliot

Enjoy a good break and please travel safely.

Best wishes

Delre