



BISHOPS ODU NEWS

ODU NEWSLETTER 19 MAY 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE ODU OFFICES

E-mail Spam

Some of you received a spam E-mail from the ODU yesterday entitled: **On behalf on Katy van Dop - please read**. We apologise that this was sent to you. The email was spam and thankfully not harmful. Please ignore the email and delete it immediately. We would like to thank those who notified us to the spam that was being sent from the ODU. Our IT department have dealt with it.

ODU Committee member position reminder:

A position has become available on the OD committee. The successful new member will be required to attend at least five meetings per year at the OD Mitre in Cape Town, as well as sit on at least two sub-committees which each require at least a further four meetings per year each, plus various conference calls. He or she will need to make themselves available for various OD and school events, many of them in the evening. Members are often asked to talk, report back or present at these events. In short a position on the ODU Committee requires a large amount of commitment, both in terms of time and effort. You will give your time and expertise for free and we do not encourage the reimbursement of any out of pocket expenses. If you are interested in serving the ODU in this capacity, please contact our Chairman, Bruce Jack, on brucejack@icon.co.za.

ODU Office Administrator position reminder

As many of you know by now Delre has unfortunately resigned as ODU administrator. We have advertised the post internally at Bishops as Institutional knowledge is obviously a big advantage. We would like to cast the net as wide as possible however, so please see attachment for more information and how to apply.

For more information please contact WP on 021 659 1995 or wpvanzyl@bishops.org.za.

Request for interest for the magazine subcommittee reminder

Thank you to those who have enquired about delivery of their magazines. They will be posted next week. Thank you for your patience in this regard. Just a reminder that the magazine is available on the website as well, [click here](#) to read it. We have some hard copies at the OD office in Cape Town if ODs would like to collect them sooner.

As ODs will notice, the format and frequency of the magazine will be changing. We have set up a subcommittee to manage the OD Magazine. Any ODs wishing to join this subcommittee must please send their CV and a motivational letter to odu@bishops.org.za.

Request for interest in the Bishops Benevolent Fund subcommittee reminder

As announced at this year's AGM, we will be establishing a Bishops Benevolent Fund for ODs, past teachers and the spouses of both. The need varies from financial to medical to emotional support. Any ODs wishing to join the subcommittee, which will be responsible for structuring and administering this fund, must please send their CV and a motivational letter to WP at odu@bishops.org.za.

THE GLOBAL ODU MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Global ODU Mentoring Programme keeps on growing. Older ODs (and not all that old) have volunteered their services to younger (and not that young) ODs who are looking for advice and guidance in their chosen fields, or where that choice is proving more elusive. Mentors are also helping mentees facing career choices, personal difficulties, relocation or any problem which they feel a Mentor would be able to advise and counsel them on (it's not a job-seeking forum).

If you'd like to get in touch with a Mentor - or become a Mentor - please click [here](#).

NEWS FROM ODs AROUND THE WORLD

United Kingdom

Nicky Bickett (1973F) reports:

Please see attached photo of the first page of the new booklet produced on **John Joubert (1944O)** by the music publisher Novello. John has very kindly signed it: "With fond memories of music at Bishops where it all began. John Joubert".

Nicky will be sending it for our archives, which we are very thankful for, because John is one of our OD greats.

Back from the Brink (Reminder)

Natale Labia (2001S) is presenting an evening of photographs and experiences from his recent trip to the DRC. The event takes place on Thursday 25th May. The invitation is attached and anyone in London who would like to attend (no charge) should email Natale at natale@labiafamily.com.

To view the UK newsletter and pictures [click here](#).

Also, if anyone wants to sign up to the newsletter who is not yet receiving it [click here](#).

Canada

John Hueton (1947G), branch Secretary for Eastern Canada, reports on their Eastern Canada Branch Meeting:

"We were delighted to welcome **Mark and Lynda Vincent (1970S)**, attending for the first time. Mark is an extremely busy research Nephrologist at the London Health Science Centre. **David Hurst (1961F)** composed and read an ode to John for his years of service. The Skipper (**Hubert Kidd, Principal 1943-1963**) would surely have preferred it in Latin! Present with their wives were: **David Hurst (1961F)**, **John Hueton (1947G)**, **Mark Vincent (1970S)**, **Nicholas Searle (1980O)**, **Richard Townsend (1958G)** and **Erik Jurriaans (1973G)**. The gathering was at Erik's beach-front, factory-built home on a narrow strip of land between Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario, now at its highest level in many years.

On Saturday I handed over the torch (mitre?) to **Nicholas A. Searle (1988O)** after 42 years, first as Canadian Branch Secretary, and then as Eastern Secretary after the Western Branch was formed to cover Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. It has been a heart-warming experience meeting and speaking to so many brilliant and friendly ODs down the years. It has been a very great pleasure to serve the ODU. I am most grateful to my wife, Elinor, for hosting so many gatherings at our homes in Oakville and then Puslinch."

You can contact **Nicholas A. Searle (1988O)** at: nic@property416.com

On behalf of the ODU we would like to congratulate and thank John Hueton and his wife, Elinor for their tremendous service over so many years. Also congratulations to Nicholas Searle for his appointment as branch secretary.

Africa:

Michael Muller (1965S) reports on his birthday celebrations in KZN:

“I celebrated my 70th birthday yesterday and out of the blue two of my old class mates arrived from Cape Town to spend the night with me and my wife in Hilton KZN. It was a special trip and they left after breakfast the next morning. We all finished in 1965 and still stay in contact with each other.”

Attached photo of **Vincent Magnus (1965G)**, **Michael Muller (1965S)** and **John Hare (1965G)**.

Leonard Thomas (1957S) invites ODs in Zimbabwe:

“Good morning ODs.

We would like to hold a get together on Saturday 3rd June at 12pm, here at our home. Address: 24 Mazowe Springs, on Buckland Lane, Pomona.

Which is 200m before Wild Geese Lodge. Please give us an RSVP [here](#) so we can arrange catering for the lunch, as in the past a small donation would help for the purchase of the main meat course.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Best wishes,
Len Thomas”

ODs IN CHAPEL

During the past week, three ODs addressed the school in the War Memorial Chapel.

On Friday morning **Ollie Linley (2012K)** preached a sermon on believing in the Good News; on Tuesday **WP van Zyl (1997K)** spoke at College Evensong on our faith in *Pro fide et patria*; and on Wednesday **Rodger Hudson (1996W)** spoke on “Winning, losing and just competing”, and he’s experiences in the 2012 London and 2016 Rio Olympic games.

We express our thanks to ODs for contributing to the education of the boys of the school.

CONDOLENCES

Major Ian Gordon MBE (1945F)

Douglas Gordon (1983G) reported on the passing of his uncle:

“Ian Gordon passed away peacefully on Sunday 7 May 2017 in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland.

Ian and his identical twin brother **Antony Gordon (1945F)** were born in Cape Town on 5 September 1927 and grew up on the apple farm, Drumearn, in Elgin coming to Bishop Prep in 1937. Ian recalled only just scraping through the matric maths exam but also winning a geography prize. As twins, Anthony and Ian were apparently a handful for the wartime teachers and Founders staff.

After school, both boys joined the British army in their father's regiment, the Royal Scots Fusiliers (RSF) after being commissioned at Sandhurst Military Academy in 1948 – Ian coming 21st out of 300. Ian spent time in Germany including commanding the Spandau Prison Guard. After postings in Scotland, he was posted to Malaya, England, Edinburgh and Cyprus before a transfer temporarily to the Cameronians in Kenya and then permanently to the Kings African Rifles in Nanyuki, Kenya where he had to learn Kiaskari (soldiers' Swahili) as part of the training of the future commanders of the Kenyan Army as well as recruiting among the Somali tribes in northern Kenya. Ian was awarded by Kenya to only 18 North East Kenya medals awarded to British soldiers in the run up to Kenyan independence which he wore "with pride in a job well done". Ian also learnt to fly, obtaining his private pilot's licence in 1962.

After being a Training Major in the RSF in Ayr, Scotland and missing Africa, in 1967, he joined the Malawi Rifles as Training Officer at Zomba eventually becoming deputy commander of the Malawi Army. His flying allowed him to see Malawi and in particular, Nyika National Park in northern Malawi on "game counts". In his time in Malawi he got to know President Hastings Banda well.

In 1971 he married, Avril Rowan Thomson and was awarded his MBE for services to the Malawian Army in the Queen's Honours List. He returned to Malawi later that year as Game Warden for Nyika National Park and he and Avril spent 6 very happy years there with idyllic countryside, climate and wildlife. They returned to Scotland where he was the estate manager for Cardoness and Kirkdale Estates. He retired (properly) in 2003.

Ian is survived by Avril, Antony, nieces and nephews including **Douglas Gordon (1983G)**, **Edward Gordon (1986G)** and **Alexander Gordon (2016G)**."

Please see attached photo of Major Ian Gordon MBE (1945F)

Mrs Myrtle Lister (Staff 1967-91)

WP reports on Mrs Lister's funeral on Tuesday 16th May 2017: "It was a very touching Thanksgiving service celebrating the life of Myrtle Lister. What stood out was the large role that Bishops played in her life. This was illustrated by the many ODs and past staff members that attended the service. It epitomised the fact that Bishops is indeed a family. Touching contributions were given by her children and grandchildren. **Paul Dobson (Staff 1966-94)** spoke on behalf of Bishops, and gave thanks for Myrtle's wonderful contribution, and life. Fittingly,

as the coffin left the church, a recording of Psalm 150 moved the hearts of the congregation.”

Mr Simon Hobday (1958S)

Peter Syfret (1961S) reports on the passing of Simon Hobday from last week’s newsletter:

“My uncle **Ewen Syfret (Staff 1921, 1928-58)** who taught biology loved Simon Hobday. He was not the brightest of pupils. In one exam Simon did not take long to finish the paper as he had limited knowledge of the subject. He expected 20% or less but received 40% to his surprise. When he asked why he had done so well he was told it was for "neatness".

On another occasion Ewen, who loved his goldfish in a tank in the classroom, told Simon he would be sent to his housemaster for some extravagant offence or other. He escaped the beating which would have ensued by threatening to "deal with" the goldfish. He won.”

EVENTS AT THE MITRE

Greg Mills Book Launch, *Making Africa Work* : Friday 19 May

Please note: Due to the positive response the venue has moved to the **War Memorial Theatre**. A few reminders: **Friday Evening, 19th May at 6 PM.** Entrance is **free**. Extra **security** has been arranged. Please **park along the avenue** and walk to the theatre as parking is not allowed on the new cobble stones around Founders. Rugby at Newlands Stadium (starting 19:00) is bound to cause **traffic delays**, so please take this into consideration. Hockey matches at Woodlands will be in progress as well. There will be a book signing after the presentation in the Old Gym where drinks/snacks will be provided. Books will be for sale at **R287.00** each. Card or cash transactions will be available.

If you would still like to join the event, or bring a friend along, please contact Nicole at odu@bishops.org.za or on 021 685 1829.

James Stewart, Rosemary & Cameron Bruce: Thursday 15 June

LIVE at The MITRE
Thursday 15 June 2017 at 7pm

Book tickets [here](#)

About: JAMES STEWART

Emmy nominated, Multi SAMA award-winning, chart topping singer/songwriter, producer and musical entrepreneur. As a singer/ songwriter for The Usual, he achieved fame with enduring #1 classics like 'The shape that I'm in' and 'Like a vision' securing the band a special place in the hearts and homes of music lovers throughout South Africa.

His solo achievements include hits with 'Shine', 'A Man like me', 'You don't stop Turning me on' and 'Beautiful Mistake'. James' music has taken him all over the world.

Please visit www.songsOfJames.com

About: ROSEMARY & CAMERON BRUCE

A 'dad and daughter' duo that blend acoustic guitar, vocals and harmony into a set of original folks songs and well-loved cover's from the likes of James Taylor and Carol King. Cameron is an accomplished musician, singer and songwriter who has been performing to audiences since the late 80's. He has taken great joy in sharing his love for music with his daughter Rosie, who has loved to sing since the day she was born! Their show is a beautiful combination of talented musicianship and heart-warming interaction between a dad and his daughter.

1997 Reunion

ODs from 1997 are reminded of our reunion on **Friday evening 23 June 2017**. And then also at the Mitre on **Saturday 24 June** after the Bishops-Rondebosch rugby/hockey games for a lekker braai.

Staff from the 1993 -1997 era are pleased asked to join us, in order to see how much we have matured in 20 years.

Please contact wpvanzyl@bishops.org.za to confirm numbers.

Sport Fixtures

For first team rugby results against HTS Drostdy last week and fixtures against Durbanville High School on Saturday [click here](#).

For first team Hockey results against Bergvliet High School last week and fixtures against Fairbairn College this Saturday [click here](#).

For all other sports results and fixtures [click here](#).

HAMILTON MVELASE

At **Myrtle Lister's (Staff 1967-91)** Thanksgiving service I chatted to **John Gardener (Senior Prefect 1948, Principal 1988-92)** about an inspirational White House boy who's life is remembered by a bench made out of recycled plastic outside the White House entrance. It related to an earlier conversation

with **Mark Burgess (1992O)**, who was the senior prefect of the White House boy's year group.

The scholar in question was **Hamilton Mvelase (1988-91W)**. He has left us with a wonderful Bishops memory, that is worth retelling. Quoting from the September 1991 DC Magazine:

"Hamilton was born in Guguletu in 1973 and attended Songezo and Luzoko Primary Schools before winning a scholarship to attend Bishops. On his arrival there he formed a close friendship with Brian Siyoyo Mehlomakulu who paid the following tribute at the Memorial Service:

Our friendship was one of "eating the words", meaning studying and becoming educated, as this is offered by our best school, Bishops. We struggled with the school's academic standards at first but we adapted and were doing well to the best of our abilities. Last year Hamilton went on the Adventure Course in the Cederberg in a group of six boys who selected him as their leader for four days, a tribute to his leadership qualities.

Hamilton proved himself again at the beginning of this year when he was chosen for the school Interact committee where he was the leader of the Guguletu contact group. He was also a fine art student helping with drawings for the Xhosa concert this year. Hamilton was a loving, caring and benevolent person. A tragedy happened on 21st July when Hamilton passed away leaving behind three brothers and three sisters and a mother and father. We all miss you Hamilton and we will all miss and remember you."

And it is well worth remembering Hamilton indeed:

He played a rugby match for Bishops on Saturday 20 July 1991(see photo attached). Hamilton played hooker, and Mark Burgess was his loose-head prop. (At this point it is well worth keeping in mind that Bishops has a proud history of hookers. In fact the current OD Chairman and Executive Manager are both ex-hookers).

DC Magazine September 1991:

"In mid-morning on Sunday, 21st July Hamilton changed his mind about staying in White House for the day and decided to go home. Little more than an hour after getting permission he was murdered while walking from the taxi with his friend Bennett Kongisa to the latter's house. The two eighteen-year-olds were attacked by a man in a totally unexplained act of violence and Hamilton was fatally stabbed in coming to his friend's aid."

What is incredible about that last sentence, is that according to both John and Mark, Hamilton had cleared himself from the attacker's threat. He noticed his

friend in need, and instinctively ran **towards** the attacker in order to free his friend. He was stabbed through the heart with a bicycle spoke.

That action of laying down your life for other's freedom certainly stirs the memory of so many ODs that have done likewise in various wars. It practically illustrates the Bishops style. Hamilton doing it in our latest war – the war on crime.

Many boys in the 1990's experienced Bishops through Hamilton Mvelase Scholarships.

Pro fide et patria.

Fittingly we end off today with a quote by Hamilton himself:

"I learned that love, truth, justice, mercy and peace can change someone's life as a whole."

Warm regards

Bruce, WP and Nicole
The Mitre, Bishops, Cape Town

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