



# OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER





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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

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### Dear Old Johannians

As 2024 draws to a close, it is a pleasure to reflect on another eventful and meaningful year for the Old Johannian Association. Our community continues to thrive, bound by shared traditions and the values instilled in us at St John's College.

In October, we had the privilege of welcoming the 2024 matriculants into the Old Johannian Association. Their induction marks the beginning of a lifelong relationship with this remarkable community, and we look forward to seeing the impact these young men and women will have in the years to come.

The 2024 Speech Day and Matric Valedictory Mass celebrated the culmination of the graduating class's journey at St John's College. It was a profound moment of reflection on their achievements, experiences, and the bright futures that lie ahead for these fine Johannians.

On the 17th of October, the Advancement Office unveiled the Beyond 125 Donor Wall, at a beautiful event in the Rene England Auditorium, where the Donor Wall stands. The event was a moving tribute to the incredible generosity of our community. This wall stands as a testament to the collective spirit and dedication of Johannians worldwide, whose support has been vital to the success of the *Beyond 125 Campaign*. If you haven't already seen the Donor Wall, I encourage you to do so (contact Zelda at [info@oja.co.za](mailto:info@oja.co.za) to arrange a visit).

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to bring even more opportunities to connect and celebrate our shared legacy. In April, the Executive Headmaster Stuart West, will visit our Old Johannians in Melbourne and Auckland, and plans are already underway for visits to other OJ communities around the globe. We also look forward to welcoming several landmark reunion groups back to St John's to celebrate their shared milestones.

As we prepare for the holiday season, I wish each of you a peaceful and joyful time with your loved ones, and a prosperous and fulfilling New Year. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Old Johannian Association. Together, we ensure that our legacy not only endures but thrives.

Yours in Old Johannian fellowship,

**Adv Graham Kerr-Phillips**  
Chairman, Old Johannian Association



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### A Fond Farewell to Kate Lowings

It is with a mix of sadness and gratitude that we bid farewell to Kate, who has served as the Donations and Database Administrator in the St John's Advancement Office since 2020. Over the past four years, Kate has worked closely with the Old Johannian Association, supporting various reunions and being a constant source of warmth and professionalism.

Kate's friendly voice on the other side of the phone was a comfort to many Old Johannian donors, always ready to assist and go the extra mile to ensure their needs were met. Her dedication to the St John's

community has left a lasting impact, and her contributions have been invaluable.

As Kate embarks on a new chapter as the Head of Advancement at Pridwin School in 2025, we celebrate her achievements and thank her for her unwavering commitment to St John's and all Johannians. She will be sorely missed, but we know she will excel in her new role.

Thank you, Kate, for your years of service and for making such a positive difference in the Old Johannian community. We wish you all the best in this exciting new journey!





# 2025 CALENDAR

<div>January</div> <div>Community Mass</div>	<div>February</div> <div>OJA Family Day at Idiom Wines</div> <div>St John's College Basketball Tournament</div>	<div>March</div>	<div>April</div> <div>Easter Rugby Festival</div> <div>Event in Melbourne &amp; Auckland</div>
<div>May</div>	<div>June</div> <div>OJA Dinner</div> <div>Gaudy Day</div> <div>Adsum Tea</div>	<div>July</div>	<div>August</div> <div>UK Event (TBC)</div>
<div>September</div> <div>Morrison Abel Golf Day</div>	<div>October</div> <div>Class of 1965 Reunion</div>	<div>November</div> <div>Remembrance Day Service</div> <div>Garden Route Event (TBC)</div>	<div>December</div> <div>End-of-Year Community Mass</div>



Photo credit: Tom Dewar (LV Hodgson)

## OJ NEWS

### Mark Williams (Clayton 1973)

Mark Williams (Clayton 1973), was selected to represent South Africa at the Paris 2024 Paralympics as an assistant to one of our Paralympic cyclists - Pieter du Preez (H1 Class Handcycle). Pieter is a C6 Quadriplegic. Mark has worked with Pieter for the past seven years.

Pieter, accompanied by Mark, competed in the H1 Individual Time Trial on 4 September at the Paralympics and won a Bronze Medal for Team South Africa.

Mark is a master bike fitter and conditioning coach and is based in East London.



### Nick Huddy (Clayton 1999)

Nick Huddy (Clayton 1999) has partnered with giga-programme management software "Integrate" to lead "The Ambitious Machine Challenge" - a first-of-its-kind project that is working with NASA and other organisations to digitally recreate the entire programme life cycle of the International Space Station.

The project was launched at Space Vision 2024 in collaboration with SEDS (Students for the Exploration and Development of Space), and brings together students from universities across the USA including Harvard, MIT, and Columbia to piece together 26 years of data from five space agencies, thousands of engineers, and suppliers from 15 countries. They will be guided by specialists who were involved in the build of the ISS to ensure historical accuracy.

The objective is to not only preserve the historic record of space exploration, but to create a learning tool that will be used to build a better roadmap for how these giga-programmes are undertaken in the future. Being able to see the entire lifecycle in a single, compact, and manageable view will allow space developers to identify exactly where bottlenecks and errors have previously emerged, and how to avoid them in the future, saving potentially hundreds of millions of dollars and improving the safety of personnel on the ground and in orbit. It will be included in the syllabus of many of the schools' aerospace and engineering programmes starting in 2026.

Nick is the co-founder and executive creative director of Hudson Davis Communications - a Los Angeles-based public relations and creative consulting firm that specialises in lateral growth solutions for SMEs. He is also deeply involved in the entertainment industry, and in 2022 was presented a SOVAS Award for his work in animation.



### Three OJs

Three OJs in Sydney celebrating George Raffan's milestone birthday. Left to right – Richard Harrison (Hill 1963), George Raffan (Hill 1961) Ray Dearlove (Hill 1965). Even more of a coincidence is that they were all in Hill House.



## OJ NEWS

### Remembrance Day 2024

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will  
remember them."

Old Johannians, St John's College students and staff gathered in The Memorial Chapel for our annual Remembrance Day Mass, honouring the lives and sacrifices of those who have served in wars past and present.

The haunting sounds of "The Last Post", performed by Jason Aspoas (LV Clarke), filled the chapel from the choir gallery, followed by the laying of the wreath by Siza Gule (Head of School) in memory of those who gave their lives for greater peace. After a moment's silence, "The Rouse", also performed by Aspoas, brought the solemn tribute to a close.

The music of the Solemn Mass included "Libera me and Pie Jesu" from Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem", performed by the 110-strong Chapel Choir, with soloists Tirivashe Pasipanodya (LIV Nash) and Benjamin Anderson (U111). The "Kontakion for the Departed" was sung during the concluding rites, and the liturgy ended with an organ postlude by Anton Bruckner.





## OJ NEWS

### Dr Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh (Nash 2006)

#### 2024 GQ Men of the Year

Congratulations to Dr Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh (Nash 2006), OJ and member of the Council of St John's, on his nomination as one of the 2024 GQ Men of the Year. As an academic, author, musician, podcaster, and broadcaster, Sizwe is a leading voice in South African political discourse, inspiring critical thought, conscientious action, and a vision for a brighter, more equitable future.





## EVENTS AND REUNIONS

### Cape Town Reunion

On Tuesday 29 October, the St John's College Team consisting of the Executive Headmaster, Mr Stuart West, the Head of Advancement, Ms Shelley Roberts, and Advancement Team Member, Kate Lowings arrived in the beautiful Cape to host the Old Johannians in Cape Town reunion.

In the magnificent suburb of Constantia, at Peddlars on the Bend, approximately 80 Old Johannians, ranging from Class of 1962 to Class of 2023 gathered for an evening of shared stories, laughter and catching-up while they reflected on their common heritage during their time at St John's College.

Stuart West opened the evening with an informative talk about St John's, its current developments and its commitment to community engagement projects. An inspiring video, which outlined the values that make St John's such a special school as well as the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the College, followed. Shelley Roberts concluded the evening speeches with a short talk about the importance of giving back to one's school, and in so doing, creating a legacy for others to come.

After the speeches, the conversation amongst the OJ's flowed, the 60-year age gap diminishing with a collective love for their school.

It was a wonderful evening filled with camaraderie, "remember when" and "do you know what happened to" stories, as well as the exchange of contact details.

As the St John's College team boarded the plane the next morning, we reflected on the bond between OJs that transcends generations and unites them in the values of *Lux, Vita, Caritas*.

[CLICK HERE to see the Cape Town Photo Gallery](#)





## EVENTS AND REUNIONS

### 1964 Leavers Reunion

- Dave Wilkinson (Thomson 1964)

A group in total of 13 of the 1964 leavers gathered, together with six spouses, on the weekend of 27 and 28 September to celebrate our 60-year reunion. We were royally looked after and all agreed it was very special to be able to reunite, having left the College 60 years ago. There were plenty of memories, some embellished with time, and a great deal of laughter made the get-together most enjoyable and worthwhile.

We gathered on the Friday evening at The Johannian Club for a few drinks, after which the Club provided a superb meal for us. We were welcomed by the Executive Headmaster, Stuart West, who gave a brief outline of the College today and its many successes. He was followed by Graham Kerr-Phillips, Chairman of the Old Johannian Association, who explained the important role which the Association continues to play in support of the College.

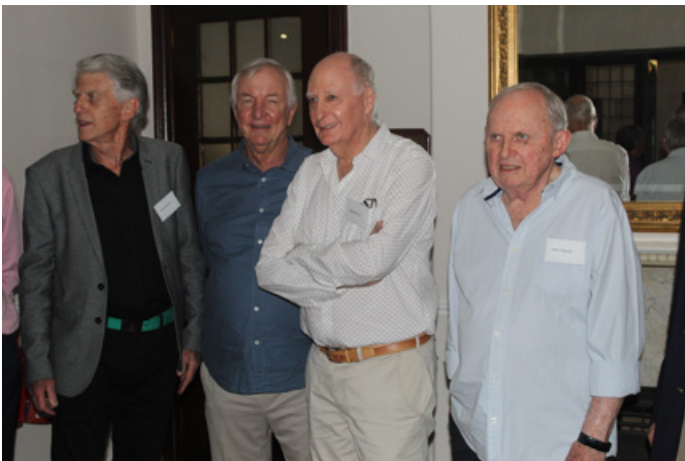
During the dinner, a rolling PowerPoint was on display with photos provided by the group and some who were not able to attend. It provided a great background to our meal and socialisation.

The next morning, we gathered for breakfast in the Staff Common Room, after which we were taken for an extensive tour of the College. This provided us with the opportunity to see the new buildings and facilities, as well as to be reminded of the past. The tours were conducted by two very articulate and charming young men from the College.

The weekend gathering concluded with a Chapel service, conducted by the College Chaplain, during which we remembered those colleagues who have passed on. Many of the College Choir had volunteered to give up their Saturday morning to provide superb singing to add hugely to the quality of the service and our commemoration of colleagues no longer with us. It was indeed a very special way in which to conclude our getting together.

Huge thanks must go to the Executive Headmaster, the Chairman of the OJA, the Chaplain, the Choir and the Music Director, as well as the catering staff for making it such a special time for us. Special thanks go to Kate Lowings from the Advancement Office for her superb organisation of our reunion. She was meticulous in every way, and made it so easy for us to enjoy the reunion.

Thank you, Kate!





## EVENTS AND REUNIONS

### Unveiling of the Beyond 125 Donor Wall

On 17 October, St John's College unveiled the Beyond 125 Donor Wall in the Rene England Auditorium. Described as a "rich tapestry" by Mr Stuart West, the wall honours the incredible generosity of the school's community and shows the vital role of Old Johannians, whose contributions are critical to the school's success. Plaques acknowledging individual names and year groups who have given collectively, reflect the enduring support of past students.

During the unveiling, Mr Stuart West expressed deep gratitude to benefactors, emphasising the transformative impact of their generosity. Guests were treated to a stunning piano performance by Lebeko Mosunkutu (LV Fleming), a Charles Grieg Rolex Scholarship recipient.

Mr Mickey Mashego, Head of Community Engagement, noted the doubling of Academy beneficiaries in the past year, a milestone made possible by the support of our generous donors. He highlighted how these contributions enable St John's to welcome talented students who would otherwise lack access, enhancing the educational experience for all. Siza Gule (Head of School) shared personal anecdotes of how scholarships create profound, life-changing opportunities.

Ms Shelley Roberts, Head of Advancement concluded by toasting the 800+ donors whose names now grace the wall, urging the community to continue sharing the story of St John's. The donor wall serves as a testament to the power of Old Johannian and community contributions in shaping the school's future, ensuring St John's remains a place of growth and opportunity.

With special thanks to the Music Department and the College Marimba Band for their performance and to Kevin McNeice for the wonderful photographs.

*Please view the video for further information on our Centenary Scholarship Programme [HERE](#).*



For further information on how to give, please contact [advancement@stjohnscollege.co.za](mailto:advancement@stjohnscollege.co.za)





## EVENTS AND REUNIONS

### Garden Route Reunion

The annual Garden Route reunion of Old Johannians took place at Barrington's in Plettenberg Bay on Friday 1 November. 30 guests attended the luncheon to reconnect and share memories and news in the beautiful setting.

Ed Cutten (Thomson 1966) welcomed guests and held a moment of silence for Old Johannians who are no longer with us. The legendary Doggie Matthews (Nash 1953), who had attended many previous Garden Route events, was remembered. Sheenagh Harris eloquently delivered Selkirk's Grace, before attendees sat down to enjoy a wonderful meal.

College Deputy Headmaster: Student Affairs, Martin Huysamer, spoke about current developments and challenges faced by the school and Johannesburg, as well as how we are managing them. He shared news on some of the extraordinary achievements of students this year, highlighting a variety of interests and opportunities, as St John's College continues in its pursuit of excellence in education.

Suzie Copperthwaite, attended on behalf of the Advancement Office and showed a video that captures the profound ways in which St John's has impacted the lives of our scholarship recipients.

It was wonderful to connect and honour long standing friendships. Special thanks to Andy Dane (Thomson 1968) and Ed Cutten for their hard work in making the event a success, as well as those who travelled to be there.

[CLICK HERE to see the Garden Route Reunion Photo Gallery](#)





## EVENTS AND REUNIONS

### Welcoming the Class of 2024 to the OJA

Our Upper Vs and Upper VIs embarked on an exciting new chapter, officially joining the Old Johannian Association! They celebrated this significant milestone with a pizza feast at The Johannian Club, surrounded by the promise of a global network of support and mentorship. Joining them was Old Johannian Karabo Radebe (Hodgson 2005), who reminded them that their St John's journey continues beyond the school gates, enriched by a worldwide community of Old Johannians and lasting camaraderie.





## IN MEMORIAM

### John David Hadfield (Hill 1944)



*13 May 1927 – 5 November 2024*

St John's College announced with great sadness the passing of our oldest Old Johannian, John David (Jack) Hadfield. Jack passed away early on Tuesday morning, 5 November 2024, eighty years after he had matriculated from the College.

Jack Hadfield was at school during the tough World War II years when South African society became aware of social problems in Johannesburg and the rest of the country.

After Trevor Huddleston visited St John's and addressed the boys, Jack heard the CR priest's call for help. Together with three other boys, he took over teaching at the 'Native Night School', teaching English and Mathematics. Jack Hadfield was the last surviving member of this 1940s venture, which provided education for township boys who were unable to attend school.

[Read more...](#)

### John Fiske Wilder (Clayton 1964)



*8 November 1945 – 20 September 2024*

It is with deep sadness that the sudden passing of John Wilder, an exemplary Old Johannian, is recorded. The St John's College Community has lost a stalwart advocate for the cohesion and communication of Old Johannians in the cause of a better world, particularly in the United States of America.

John entered the College in 1959 and was in Hill House until he moved to Clayton for his Sixth Form year. During that year, he was appointed a Monitor. John participated in sports and played for the Sixth Rugby team. John Wilder was named as an individualist and original thinker by a former teacher who remembers him well. John became the founder chairman of the College Film Society, which he served for many years. He filled several roles in the annual Shakespeare plays. He also served as an assistant librarian for several years.

[Read more...](#)

## Old Johannians who passed in 2023 & 2024

### OLD JOHANNIAN

Johan Andries Muller (Nash 2000)  
Alan Hancox (Alston 1970)  
Graham Volck (Alston 1960)  
John Frisk Wilder (Hill 1964)  
John David Hadfield (Hill 1944)

### DECEASED

29 November 2023  
March 2024  
11 November 2024  
20 August 2024  
5 November 2024

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information. If you see any errors or omissions, please let us know: [info@oja.co.za](mailto:info@oja.co.za)



## SCHOOL NEWS

### School Prefects

Congratulations to the School Prefects for 2025 on this significant milestone in their leadership journey.

"You are now recognised and accepted as School and House Prefects of St John's College before the members of this School and in the sight of God, to whose grace and faithfulness we commend you as you seek to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to you."

We wish you wisdom, courage, and success as you serve the St John's community with dedication and integrity.

#### School Prefects

Head of School: Siza Gule  
 Second Prefect: Menzi Bongwe  
 Custos: Kamogelo Thobejane  
 Head of Nash: Mila Xego  
 Head of Hill: Owethu Sishuba  
 Head of Clayton: Oletinala Mgeyane  
 Head of Thomson: Tumelo Bopape  
 Head of Alston: Atlegang Seboni  
 Head of Clarke: Sebastian Bruinders  
 Head of Hodgson: Gerald van Wyk  
 Head of Fleming: Michael van Heerden  
 Head of Runge: Sean Li  
 Deputy Head of Runge: Morongoa Monale



Photo by Joss Busa (LV Clayton)

### Annual UV Visual Arts Exhibition

The annual UV Visual Arts Exhibition was a glittering evening that beautifully captured the theme of Truth and Fiction. Giant silver balls and shimmering decor made attendees feel they had, like Alice, stepped through the looking glass into another world where reality and imagination intertwined.

Each piece of student work on display was breathtaking, the music unforgettable, and the food exquisite, turning the entire evening into a masterpiece in its own right—a testament to the immense talent of every child involved.

The theme, Truth and Fiction, invited patrons into a complex interplay between fact and fantasy, each adding layers of meaning to the other. As Head of Visual Arts, Ms Estelle

### 2024 Upper V Speech Day and Valedictory Mass

The 2024 Upper V Speech Day at St John's College brought together members of the Council of St John's College, Roger Cameron, 15th Headmaster of St John's, Lebogang Montjane, Executive Director of ISASA, honoured guest Mrs Jane Lane, Headmistress of the Pre-Prep, dedicated staff, proud parents, and, most importantly, the Matric class of 2024.

#### EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS - MR STUART WEST

Upper Fives, standing before you on this momentous occasion, is an honour. Today, we celebrate not only your remarkable achievements but also the journey that has brought you here and, most importantly, the future that lies ahead. As we look upon you, our proud young Johannians, we see the men you are becoming – men of character, purpose, and significance.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge "my boys!" The class of 2024 holds a special place in my heart. You began your journey at the College as I began mine as Headmaster. Shortly after, the world changed, and we found ourselves navigating the uncertainty of a global pandemic. For two years, we faced the challenges of hybrid online learning. While you may have learned some Maths and a little less Afrikaans during that time, you gained something far more valuable – resilience, adaptability, and empathy.

[Read more...](#)



Potgieter, explained, "Truth and fiction coexist as two facets of human experience, weaving facts and narratives into compelling stories." In the spirit of Alice in Wonderland, the exhibition embraced the "madness" of the creative process, echoing the Cheshire Cat's words: "We're all mad here."





## PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

We want to ensure that we have your up-to-date details. If you have not yet completed the form, please do so, and encourage as many other Old Johannians you know to do so too — <https://sjc.co.za/oja>

We appreciate your assistance, and we are hoping that together, we can update our data and improve our communications with you.

Should you wish to chat further, please do not hesitate to email Zelda Siphenuka at [info@oja.co.za](mailto:info@oja.co.za).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

By following our pages, you'll be kept up to date with exciting news, upcoming events and inspiring stories. Spread the word among your fellow Old Johannians and let's strengthen the Old Johannian Network on social media.



[www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)



[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

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