



# OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER





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# CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

## Dear Old Johannians

As we reflect on the past year, I am delighted to share the incredible milestones and moments that have brought our Old Johannian community closer together. Your ongoing support and involvement continue to shape the strength and vitality of our network, making this a year to remember.

We were fortunate to host some amazing speakers for our **Eminent Speaker Breakfast Series** so far this year. These events bring distinguished speakers to our community, offering thought-provoking insights and sparking rich conversations that leave us inspired and engaged. It is also an excellent opportunity to network and reconnect with fellow Old Johannians and the College (Read more on page 7).

The **Old Johannian Association Dinner** on the 12th of July was once again a spectacular evening, filled with laughter, stories, and the rekindling of old friendships. It was a joy to see so many of you gathered to celebrate our shared history and achievements, and especially to see so many year groups hosting reunion tables.

**Gaudy Day**, always a cherished tradition, brought Old Johannians from across the generations together for a day of celebration and reflection. It was truly inspiring to meet those who had traveled from across the country and those who had come from as far away as the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States.

Our **Adsum Tea**, which celebrates Old Johannians who matriculated 45 years or more ago, provided a more intimate setting for meaningful conversations and reconnecting with old friends. It was a reminder of the enduring bonds that unite us, no matter where life’s journey has taken us.

**Reunions** throughout the year further strengthened our ties, each gathering a celebration of lasting friendships and shared experiences. Whether in small groups or large, these have been a joy to witness and a highlight of our year.

Our international network was again strengthened by **Old Johannian events in London, Perth and Sydney**. The warm welcome and impressive accomplishments of our global community were truly inspiring, highlighting the far-reaching impact of our Old Johannians.

As we look ahead, the remainder of the year promises even more exciting opportunities to connect and celebrate. On the 13th of September, we will host our annual **Morison Abel Golf Day**—a chance to enjoy some friendly competition and camaraderie. Later this year, the College will officially unveil the **Beyond 125 Campaign Donor Wall**. This significant milestone will honour the generosity of those who have supported our beloved College’s legacy and future.

I am excited about what lies ahead and grateful for your continued dedication to our Old Johannian community. Together, we will continue to honour our past, celebrate our present, and build a bright future.

**Adv Graham Kerr-Phillips**  
Chairman



<p>Please <b>follow us</b> on our social media platforms for more content related to the vibrant and enduring community of Old Johannians. Your participation is key to the continued success and unity of the Old Johannian network.</p>	<div> <a href="https://www.linkedin.com">www.linkedin.com</a></div> <div> <a href="https://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a></div>
<p>Contact: Zelda Siphenuka   <a href="mailto:info@oja.co.za">info@oja.co.za</a>   011 645 3178</p>	



# 2024 CALENDAR

<div>January</div> <div>EMINENT SPEAKER: Prof Zeblon Vilekazi</div>	<div>February</div> <div></div>	<div>March</div> <div></div>	<div>April</div> <div>London Event</div>
<div>May</div> <div>EMINENT SPEAKER: Dr Frans Cronje</div>	<div>June</div> <div>EMINENT SPEAKER: Ronak Gopaldas Sam Mkokeli Lukhona Mngoni Mpho Molopyane</div>	<div>July</div> <div>Gaudy Day Adsum Tea Reunions: 1984, 1994, 1972 Perth Event</div>	<div>August</div> <div>Sydney Event</div>
<div>September</div> <div>Friday 13 September Morrison Abel Golf Day  27/28 September Class of 1964 Reunion</div>	<div>October</div> <div>Cape Town and Stellenbosch (TBC) events  Beyond 125 Donor Board Unveiling (TBC)</div>	<div>November</div> <div>Garden Route Lunch (TBC)  Remembrance Day Service</div>	<div>December</div> <div>End of Year Community Mass</div>



Photo credit: Tom Dewar (LV Hodgson)



## EVENTS AND VISITS

### Adsum Tea

On Gaudy Day, 2024, The St John's College Advancement Office hosted the second annual Adsum Tea.

The Adsum Tea is a special occasion to honour Old Johannians who matriculated 45 years or more ago. Their long-standing connection to the school is testament to the life-long impact of a St John's education, and we took the opportunity of Gaudy Day to celebrate this.

*Adsum* - interjection. *ad-sum*. 'ad-,səm,'äd-,sum. used to indicate one's presence usually in answer to a roll call is a Latin word meaning *I am present*, it is a word that has been part of the St John's College heritage and a word that holds special memories for many Old Johannians.

Attended by over 50 Old Johannians and held in the Common Room, a space traditionally reserved only for teachers, the high tea was a memorable morning of reminiscing, reconnecting and celebrating the shared experiences and successes that shaped the lives of those who walked the St John's corridors.

The Chairman of the OJA, Graham Kerr-Phillips and the Executive Head of St John's College, Stuart West, welcomed the Old Johannians back to the College, some for the first time in many years, and said a few words about the College today, and plans for the future.

The Adsum Tea was a joyous occasion filled with chatter and "do you remember when?" conversations which resulted in much laughter. To attend St John's College is to be part of an ongoing journey, that although different for every former student, contains common threads which intertwine so many lives together.

We thank everyone who attended and look forward to welcoming the Class of 1980 to the Adsum Tea next year.

*Lux Vita Caritas*



## EVENTS AND VISITS

### Australia 2024

The Old Johannian spirit was alive and well during a recent trip to Australia, where St John's College and the Old Johannian Association had the pleasure of hosting gatherings in both Perth and Sydney. These events were more than just reunions; they were celebrations of shared history, lasting friendships, and the enduring connection we all have with the College.

Stuart West, the Executive Headmaster, and Shelley Roberts, the Head of Advancement, travelled to Australia in late July to represent the College. The journey began in Perth, where the Old Johannian community came together at Ambrose Estate for an evening filled with laughter and reminiscence. Roger Veary, the Old Johannian Representative for the East Coast, welcomed Mr West who gave an inspiring and informative speech about the College and the excellent work it is doing in educating future Old Johannians and making a significant impact in the community in which it serves. This was followed by a video showing the school in all its magnificence, bringing back many happy memories.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Roger (Alston 1961) and Pam Veary, and Ian Curlewis (Nash 1967), whose meticulous planning and warm hospitality ensured that every guest felt welcome and at ease.

From Perth, we made our way to Sydney, where the Old Johannians gathered at the esteemed Royal Automobile Club of Australia. The grandeur of the venue was matched only by the enthusiasm of the attendees, who eagerly shared stories of their time at the College and the paths their lives have taken since. Here Ray Dearlove, the Old Johannian Representative of East Coast Australia, introduced Mr West. After the speeches and video, the party carried on well into the night.

A special thanks goes to Ray Dearlove (Hill 1965), whose unwavering commitment and organisational skills played a crucial role in bringing this event to fruition. Ray Dearlove has been a pillar of the Old Johannian community in Australia, particularly in his role as the representative for East Coast Australia. After many years of dedicated service, Ray has decided to take a well-deserved step back, although he will continue to be an active member of our community. We are pleased to announce that Tony Pearce will be taking over the reins, and we look forward to introducing him more formally in our next OJA newsletter.

The trip was a poignant reminder of the strength and resilience of the Old Johannian network. No matter how far we are from the school grounds, the bonds we formed there remain strong, connecting us across continents and through the years.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the events and made them so special. Your presence and participation are what keep the Old Johannian community vibrant and connected. We look forward to many more gatherings in the future and hope to see even more of you at our next reunion.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the Australia 2024 Photo Gallery

To see the video shown on the night and for more information on the *Beyond 125 Campaign*, please [CLICK HERE](#).



## EVENTS AND VISITS

### London 2024

On the 30th of April, Old Johannians in London once again gathered at the Marquis Cornwallis in Bloomsbury for a lively evening of camaraderie. The turnout was far above expected, with over 100 Old Johannians coming and going throughout the evening. At this rate, we will have to find a bigger pub for future get-togethers!

Hosted by the College's Executive Headmaster, Stuart West, the event was another wonderful opportunity for our growing Old Johannian community in London to get together over a beer, reminisce, have a laugh and network. We look forward to many future events in London and hope to see you all again next year.

**CLICK HERE** to see the London 2024 Photo Gallery  
*Gallery Password: St John's College*



## EVENTS AND VISITS

### Eminent Speaker Breakfast Series

The OJA hosted three Eminent Speaker Breakfasts in the first part of 2024. Each presentation provided a deep understanding of complex issues and current trends and was followed by conversation, networking opportunities and breakfast at The Old Johannian Club.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits, Prof. Zeblon Vilakazi, opened the series in January with an inspired and inspiring presentation that considered the value and impact of technology and AI on teaching, learning and innovation. His brilliant talk was both informative and refreshingly accessible, encouraging critical thought around the role of technology and how it will shape our lives.

In May, a full auditorium welcomed Dr Frans Cronje (Thomson 1995) to hear his political and economic observations and predictions for South Africa, just ahead of this year's critical national election. By outlining defining factors and how these may affect our country's immediate future, Frans's analytical and data-driven address identified possible trajectories.

Esteemed economist and speaker, Ronak Gopaldas (Thomson 2004), led a dynamic post-election discussion in June. In conversation with Sam Mkokeli (Mkokeli Advisory), Lukhona Mnguni (Rivonia Circle) and Mpho Molopyane (Alexforbes), Ronak shared invaluable insights into how various political scenarios for South Africa may impact the economy and markets.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsor, Standard Bank, and to our speakers who give so generously of their time and knowledge. Thank you also to those who attended and continue to add to the dialogue around key topics.



Left to right: Lukhona Mnguni, Mpho Molopyane, Sam Mkokeli and Ronak Gopaldas



Prof Zeblon Vilakazi



Dr Frans Cronje



## EVENTS AND VISITS

### Gaudy Day

The Old Johannian community gathered at St John's College on Saturday, 13 July, for our annual Gaudy Day, a cherished occasion to reminisce and celebrate our shared love for St John's.

The first Gaudy Day took place on 16 May 1912, Ascension Day. The proceedings began with choral celebrations at St Aidan's, followed by a Past vs Present football match, in which the OJs recorded a 2-1 victory over the College. The Annual Old Johannians' Dinner that evening was held at the Langham Hotel in Kerk Street.

Over the years, the Gaudy Day programme has remained largely unchanged, beginning with the Old Johannian Mass. This year, The Revd Fr Thapelo Masemola served as Celebrant and Old Johannian Revd Fr Angus Patterson (1973 Hill) delivered the Homily. The magnificent choral sounds, featuring the Old Johannian and St John's College Chapel Choir and Brass Ensemble led by Sidumo Nyamezele, with Cameron Upchurch playing the chapel organ, brought tears to the eyes of those in attendance. [Read more...](#)





## EVENTS AND VISITS

### Old Johannian Association Dinner

On the 12th of July 2024, The Old Johannian Association hosted their annual dinner. The Rene England Auditorium was magically transformed from an exam writing venue into a wonderland of sparkling fairy lights, magnificent floral arrangements made up in trophies from years gone by, and beautifully decorated tables. Although the numbers were lower than previous years, the festive vibe ensured that all who arrived had a wonderful time. Reunion years from 1972, 1994 and 1984 were well represented and the conversations flowed as if they were at breaktime, back in matric.

The evening started with entertainment from the St John's College band, a supremely talented group of young Johannians, thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. Following the performance, Melvyn Lubega (Head of School, 2007), a wonderfully entertaining MC, took to the stage to welcome everyone and to introduce the arrival of the Boar's Head.

The Boar's Head was carried by the father and son duo of Mike Matthews (Thomson 1963) and his son, Greg Matthews (Thomson 1994), accompanied by members of the Old Johannian Choir who sang the traditional Boar's Head Carol.

As the evening continued, the Chairman of the Old Johannian Association, Adv Graham Kerr-Phillips spoke, espousing the importance of giving back to the school. Lawrence Brittan was the inspirational speaker who entertained with his engaging story of winning a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics after beating cancer. Festivities followed as Old Johannians reconnected, reminisced about experiences that shaped their formative years, shared stories, caught up with current news and expressed gratitude for the enduring friendships.

Once again, the OJA dinner was a resounding success, providing an enjoyable opportunity for all present to experience genuine camaraderie, and to celebrate collective experiences of a wonderful school.

*Lux Vita Caritas*

[CLICK HERE](#) to view photos of the OJA Dinner





## REUNIONS

### Annual UK get-together of 1965 OJ Classmates

- Leigh Kealton (Clayton 1965)

Every year a group of 1965 leavers get together in London for dinner, to reminisce and to tell a few lies over a few beers. This usually coincides with my annual ski trip from Australia. Ced Howson joins us from Spain most years. Garth Watkins lives in Wimbledon and is our man on the ground to round us up. Alex Mavro lives in London too when not relaxing in his island home in Greece. Erik Bjornsgaard, Mike Strong and George Cunningham make the pilgrimage into London from their delightful country villages. Garth also facilitates a monthly zoom chat which started during Covid 19 and has continued ever since - somehow we always have lots to talk about and never a dull moment, with travel usually high on the agenda.

This year we decided to retreat to a country pub with accommodation so we could enjoy a very long dinner and plenty of good cheer. Wives joined us and as usual added to the festivities. By now they know each other well - and all our secrets and anecdotes, usually divulged by George who sadly has a remarkable memory for detail from school days! Unfortunately, Ced and his wife Lee were unable to be there.

The following day we had an interesting two hour tour of Erik's nearby Surrey sculpture park, filled with an amazing array of artistic creations. After lunch at the adjoining pub, we went on our separate ways and agreed a night away was the preferred option in future.

There is plenty of life and enthusiasm in this group of over 75's.





## REUNIONS

### 1972 Old Johannian reunion at St John's College on Gaudy Day

- Graham Woolford (1972)

The overdue 50th reunion commenced at 07h00 on Friday the 12th of July with a welcome assembly by the headmaster and boys in the amphitheatre which took us back to our Thursdays when Deanne Yates reminded those of us with sideburns that we should 'eliminate the facial hair on the vertical side of the cranium'. We then moved to scones and coffee in the David Quad, followed by a tour of the Heritage Museum. Breakfast that followed at The Old Johannian Club, was attended by old boys and their wives. The paucity of attendees from '72 was adequately compensated by the conviviality and enthusiasm of reformed friendships. The Executive Headmaster Stuart West, retired masters Mick Badham and Cliff Midgley together with the Head of Council, Thulani Khanyile and the Chairman of the St John's OJA Graham Kerr-Phillips were present. I thanked these two amazing, dedicated, brilliant teachers who have devoted their lives to boys like us, instilling a value system and code of conduct which has assisted all of us in achieving our goals.

I made a brief welcoming speech to thank the headmaster and the other senior members of the College community who joined us and my immediate impression was that the school is in extremely good hands under the leadership of Stuart, a great headmaster. It was rather strange to be in the company of a headmaster when some 55 years ago my abiding memory of our then headmaster was one of abject terror.

Some who attended had travelled from afar: Dave Ellington; Mark Goodale (and wife Norma); and Richard Snell from the UK; and some out-of-townners Steven Voget; Gavin Routledge; Rupert Worsdale (and wife Liz); Adam Langbridge (and wife Jean) and James Bourhill (and wife Jackie) together with Anthony Hare; Michael Davies (and wife Glenda); Graeme King; Rob Newsome; and Henry Adams together with my own wife Liz Woolford.

We enjoyed an interesting tour of the school with many new additions such as a new aquatic centre which was close to my heart as my own son Myles Woolford played first team water polo in upper 4, lower 5 and Matric and played for Gauteng. They were regarded as one of the greatest teams in St John's history, having lost only 7 games in 8 years as a team.

On Gaudy Day, we visited the Heritage Exhibition which captured the history of the school since its founding by the Community of the Resurrection in 1898 up to the present date. This was followed by the lavish Adsum Tea and then onto rugby between the first team at the school leavers, and lunch with the headmaster in very relaxed surroundings under a marquee on Burger Field.

The usual Friday night before Gaudy Day dinner was in fact not at all usual but spectacular in terms of the décor, speeches and fare with the traditional Boar's Head Carol followed by deeply inspirational speeches. The 2007 Headboy, Melvyn

Lubega, spoke with the confidence that made me proud to be called a Johannian alongside him.

The highlight I think for me of the entire visit apart from reconnecting with all my old mates was the Chapel service which brought many tears to many eyes as the St John's choir excelled themselves. The music will remain in us forever.

Overall, it was a wonderful time to share our stories and to remind ourselves of the incredible privilege that we all enjoyed as part of one of the greatest educational institutions on earth! On a sad note we remembered those old mates who passed on: Neville Norton, Andrew O'Dowd, Nicholas Bodley, John Pym, Mark Pennels, Garth Dustan, John de Kock, David Ross, Merryck Catchpole.

I want to thank Kate Lowings for her unbelievable support and attention to detail in helping us put together this event and Kate, I hope you remain with St John's and will help us celebrate our next '72 reunion, where we hope to swell the attendance.

Could we all continue to try and reach out to those who were unable to join us?

[CLICK HERE to view the Class of 1972 Reunion Photo Gallery](#)





## REUNIONS

### Class of 1984

- Jerry Dawson (Hill 1984)

On Thursday 11 July, around 30 of us from the Class of '84 gathered at the school to celebrate 40 years since matric. Not surprisingly, we are now scattered across the globe and people travelled from Australia, UK, USA, Switzerland, Italy, the Azores and various places in SA.

The day started for some with a lunch in Darragh Hall and a walking tour of the school - Pre-Prep, Prep and College - hosted by two current students. Many of us started in the Pre-Prep in the 70s and were pleased to see some of the old buildings still standing! The main event was a lamb-on-the-spit braai at the Johannian Club, where we were joined by

the Headmaster, Stuart West, and former teachers Cliff and Madeleine Midgley, Paul Edey and Kate Byrne. Classmate Craig Owen also provided a photo booth, which was a lot of fun!

Around 10 die-hards stayed on for the formal OJA dinner on Friday and Gaudy Day on Saturday, where we whiled away a very pleasant afternoon reminiscing and drinking beer on Burger Field. We also drank a toast to the memory of our Head Boy, Adrian Walton, who sadly passed away just before our reunion.

[CLICK HERE to view the Class of 1984 Reunion Photo Gallery](#)





## REUNIONS

### Class of 1994

- Dale Vice (Alston 1984)

The Class of '94 Reunion was an unforgettable event filled with laughter and nostalgia. We began with a tour of the school, allowing us to walk down memory lane and see how much had changed—and stayed the same. Drinks at The Johannian Club with Headmaster Stuart West set the tone for a night of reconnection and celebration.

Even before the event, excitement was palpable on our WhatsApp group. Photos and comments flooded in, with everyone sharing their anticipation and reminiscing about the good old days. The group chat buzzed with plans and jokes, so we sorely missed the guys who could not join us on the night.

Thanks to everyone that travelled, with special mention to James Jardine and Greg Matthews who flew out from Holland and the United States respectively to join us for the evening. Greg's hilarious and heartfelt keynote speech brought back a flood of memories, sparking conversations and laughter.

As the evening drew to a close, we all agreed that the reunion was a resounding success, leaving us with a renewed sense of connection and a promise to stay in touch. Here's to the next reunion and the incredible people who made this one so memorable!

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the Class of 1994 Reunion Photo Gallery





## REUNIONS

### Class of 2014

- Lebohang Mota (Hodgson 2014)

On June 22, the Class of 2014 hosted its 10 year reunion, drawing 32 Old Johannians back to St John's for a memorable day of reflection and fellowship. The event kicked off with a guided tour by current students, taking us through the familiar halls and evoking cherished memories. A highlight of the day was the first rugby team's clash against St Stithians on Burger Field. The match, echoing the triumphs of 2010 and 2012, was a thrilling spectacle, culminating in a last-minute try that secured a victory for The Blues. The atmosphere was electric, a vibrant reminder of our school days' competitive spirit. Following the game, we reconvened at the Johannian Club, enjoying pizzas and cold beers. The gathering provided an opportunity to relive our high school experiences and update each other on our current lives—many of us now engaged, married, or expecting children. The reunion underscored the enduring influence of our education at St John's, reaffirming the values of integrity and excellence that continue to guide us. This gathering was not just a walk down memory lane but a celebration of the bonds we forged and the shared journey that still unites us.



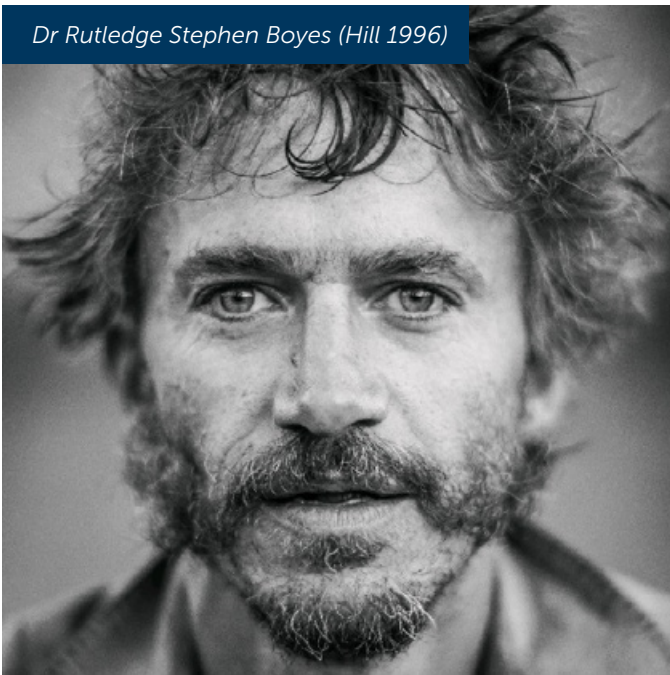


## GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD 2024

St John's College is pleased to announce that Dr Rutledge Stephen (Steve) Boyes (Hill 1996) and Luke Potter (Nash 1995) are the recipients of this year's Golden Eagle Award.

The Golden Eagle Award was launched in 2004 by the Old Johannian Association in partnership with the College to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary impact that Old Johannians have made in South Africa and internationally. The award seeks to honour the valued, lasting contributions of Old Johannians who have "made a difference" in a community, industry, arena of life, or field of study. It is given to an Old Johannian who is nominated by a fellow Old Johannian for consideration. [Read more...](#)

*Dr Rutledge Stephen Boyes (Hill 1996)*



*Luke Potter (Nash 1995)*



*Photo Credit: Joss Busa (LV Clayton)*



## WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

### Good Fellowship

Going back eight decades, I was a fast-growing tangle of arms and legs, with no sporting talent. There was a cup for Good Fellowship, but I didn't win that either. Five decades later, my dad was enjoying his retirement and in what turned out to be his ultimate year, we would occasionally have sundowners together and he would reminisce about the variety of my successful activities. He asked me whether there was anything that I had wanted to do or had tried to do and was unsuccessful. I told him that he would have to go back to my King Edward Preparatory school days, where I wanted to win the Good Fellowship Cup. He laughed and said that I didn't have a hope, as he had donated the cup to the school with the obvious understanding that I would never receive it. Having lived for five decades with the idea of a Good Fellowship Cup, it seemed appropriate when my grandson Luke entered St John's Pre-Preparatory School, that I would introduce a Good Fellowship Award, but I decided that it would be an actual award and not a cup, and that the award should be clearly defined in a preamble describing the St Johns Preparatory School Boy who behaves according to the following:

- shows commitment to concerned and correct interpersonal behaviour without regard for the popularity or otherwise of his decisions
- unconditionally cares for all fellow scholars, especially those apparently less fortunate than himself
- unselfishly gives of his time, talents and ability to help others, either as individuals or as a group, to achieve their aspirations and goals
- shows a willingness and ability to identify problems being experienced by others or himself, and thus facilitates resolutions of the problems
- appreciates and reciprocates the benefits he experiences because of the unselfish behaviour of others
- sees himself as a modest member of the winning team consisting of students, teachers and school staff, upholding the precept of "Lux Vita Caritas"
- shares the fun and enjoyment of being a schoolboy while endeavouring to meet the commitments outlined above

When I showed this pre-amble to the remarkably talented teachers, Mrs Helen Popplewell (retired Headmistress of St John's Pre-Preparatory School), she said that this is more than Good Fellowship, it absorbs the total ethos of the school, and should therefore be called the *Lux Vita Caritas* Award.

### Tales of Two Countries

Ray Dearlove (Hill 1965) published his second book "*Tales of Two Countries*" after "*The Crash of Rhinos*".

It describes a childhood in apartheid-era South Africa and the turbulent years before Nelson Mandela assumed the presidency in 1994. Having lived in Australia for more than thirty years has brought its own share of interesting people, events and opportunities. There are many stories about the

raw challenges of moving countries. Quoting Rod Morrison, one of Australia's pre-eminent publishers, "*Ray's book has some very moving and also some very humorous moments, all told in Ray's discerning and direct style.*"

Tony Park, bestselling author of many novels set in Africa, the "Muscles from Brussels" Jean-Claude van Damme and Adrian Gardiner, one of Africa's best known entrepreneurs and conservationists have kindly written forewords for the book. Tony commented, "*An insightful conversation starter for any barbie or braai.*"



### Junior Springbok Squad

Joshua Boulle (Clayton 2022) and Joel Leotlela (Nash 2022) earned their spot in the Springbok U20 squad, which travelled to Australia in May 2024 for the U20 Rugby Championship!

Josh and Joel are the first Old Johannians to join the junior Springbok squad after representing the U18 SA Schools team in 2022.

Well done, gentlemen! We wish you the best of luck and look forward to following your progress on the field.





IN MEMORIAM

Adrian Philip Nicholas Walton  
(Head of School, Nash 1984)



The Old Johannian community was saddened to hear of the passing of an exemplary Johannian, Adrian Walton, who was Head of School in 1984. Adrian succumbed to his battle with cancer at a relatively early age on 3 July 2024. He was 57 years old.

Adrian was born in Nairobi on 3 May 1967. His family moved to Johannesburg in 1971, and in 1973, Adrian joined the Pre-Prep and went on to become a Pre-Prep survivor when he left the College in 1984. As a schoolboy, Adrian was the epitome of a worthy Johannian. His impressive achievements in sports and cultural events were numerous. [Read more...](#)

David Hatherly Matthews  
(Nash 1954)



With David Matthews's death on 26 April 2024, Southern Africa has lost a great pioneer in post-apartheid education.

David was born on 12 February 1936 and entered St John's Preparatory in 1944, where he was affectionately known as 'Doggie' to his friends. David had an exceptional career in the College where he achieved mathematics distinctions year upon year and was an allrounder on the sports fields. He played rugby for the First XV, often scoring penalties and converting tries. He also played cricket for the Second XI and excelled in athletics, coming first in the high jump, hurdles, and discus throw. [Read more...](#)

Hugh Henry Huggett  
(Nash 1958)



St John's College has suffered a grave loss of a revered Johannian with the death of Hugh Henry Huggett, an education activist and, throughout his life, a man who followed the principle of Ubuntu in his varied and memorable career and in all that he had done.

Hugh was born into a St John's College family and was the son of the famous Jack Huggett, a successful teacher and Officer Commanding of the St John's College Cadet detachment.

Hugh's father and mother were the driving force of many Gilbert and Sullivan productions, and this is where young Hugh received his first taste of singing in a choir. [Read more...](#)

Old Johannians who passed in 2023 & 2024

OLD JOHANNIAN

- David Matthews (Nash 1954)
- Peter Harris (Thomson 1956)
- John Anthony Blyth (Hill 1958)
- John Alexander (Nash 1958)
- Hugh Huggett (Nash 1958)
- Glen Babb (Thomson 1960)
- Peter Lloyd (Alston 1961)
- Peter "Slug" Thurlow (Alston 1966)
- Peter Cousin de Kock (Thomson 1966)
- Peter von Maltitz (Clayton 1966)
- Chris Couchman (Nash 1967)
- Bruce Davies (Nash 1970)
- Paul Williams (1988)
- Kip Summer (SJC Teacher)

DECEASED

- 26 April 2024
- 06 October 2023
- 08 August 2023
- 2022
- 25 May 2024
- 25 June 2024
- 16 November 2023
- 2023
- May 2023
- November 2023
- October 2023
- 15 March 2024
- February 2023
- Oct 2023





## SCHOOL NEWS

### Class of 2023 Matric results

St John's College was proud to announce the outstanding final year results of the Matric Class of 2023, with a 100% pass rate. "We salute the Matric Class of 2023 on their truly outstanding results, and while we celebrate our many top achievers, we also recognise and applaud every matric who worked incredibly hard to achieve their personal best," says Stuart West, Executive Headmaster, St John's College. "This speaks to the resilience, habits of excellence and structured academic confidence that each of our matrics embraced to achieve these remarkable results." "Credit must go to our world-class academic staff - from the Bridge Nursery School to the College - for their dedication to their students. They have nurtured these young men through their personal and academic development and contributed significantly to these results. They have instilled in their students a culture of curiosity and critical thinking that is commendable." [Read more...](#)



### 2023 Sixth Form Results

St John's Sixth Form presented another exceptional set of Cambridge AS and A Level results and congratulated our top achievers in the November 2023 examinations.

"Today, we celebrate the remarkable academic performance of our Sixth Form students whose journey has been championed by an expert team of devoted teachers," said Paul Emant, Head of St John's Sixth Form. "The accomplishments of these young men and women are a source of great pride for themselves, their parents, their teachers and the greater St John's community." [Read more...](#)



### Basketball Tournament

St John's College concluded the highly anticipated 19th Basketball Tournament, brought to you by Standard Bank in association with Avis, an exceptional display of talent at the biggest boys' school basketball tournament in Southern Africa. The tournament, which ran from 22 to 25 February, featured an impressive lineup of 62 teams hailing from Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Free State KwaZulu Natal, as well as from our neighbouring eSwatini and Zimbabwe.

The competition was intense as the U15 and U19 age-group categories made their way through the group stages while the U13s played a festival format, with no winners or losers, just enjoying lots of play.

"As the juniors look at the giants of the U19s, we hope that this one day inspires them to become giants themselves," said Tony Johnson, MIC Basketball at St John's Preparatory. [Read more...](#)





## SCHOOL NEWS

### Pink Derby

Our winter sports season ended on Saturday with the highly anticipated 7th annual Pink Derby Day, where our young men faced St Stithians College in hockey and rugby in support of gendered cancers and the PinkDrive

St John's took on a rosy pink glow as supporters from both schools dressed in pink to support Pink Derby Day. Trees were swathed in pink cloth, and pink goodies were sold throughout the day. There was also a raffle to raise funds for the Pink Drive, who were on-site with their mobile screening clinic. This year, we introduced the Wall of Hope at the entrance to St John's College, where, for a donation, community members from both schools could leave messages for loved ones touched by cancer.

The main hockey game on Saturday featured the 2nd XI in pink socks, who unfortunately lost 4-2. Overall, both schools claimed six victories each, with a single draw. The 1st XI match took place on Monday evening, where they narrowly lost 3-2 after fighting back from a 3-0 deficit in an exciting fixture.

In rugby, the results tipped in favour of St John's College. The Blues clinched a nail-biting, last-gasp 24-20 win on Burger Field in their pink socks. The U16As drew 22-22, the U15As enjoyed a 12-10 victory, and the U14A side suffered a 10-12 loss. The U15B, 3rd, and 4th teams ended the season well with some good wins.

Thanks to our coaches and players for a wonderful derby season and to all involved in creating and supporting Pink Derby Day.

### The History of the Pink Derby Day

In 2013, Alex Kuttschreuter (Thomson 2013), who was then in matric, approached Mr Martin Huysamer, Deputy Head, Student Affairs, to sell pink ribbons to the students at St John's to raise awareness and funds for the oncology unit at a local hospital. He and his brother, Luke Kuttschreuter (Thomson 2008), had lost their mom to cancer a few years earlier. From these humble beginnings and after much brainstorming and tweaking over the next few years, the idea of a Pink Derby Day was established to raise awareness around breast cancer. Annual collections to support this cause achieved varied degrees of success until St John's teamed up with St Mary's School to co-host a CANSA Relay for Life, where more than R500 000 was raised.

The first fully-fledged Pink Derby against St Stithians Boys' College happened in 2016. We also teamed up with The Pink Drive organisation, which provides free support and counselling services to women across South Africa, to raise funds through various initiatives on the day. These initiatives include selling pink roses and pink cupcakes to spectators and supporting the merchandise sold at the Pink Drive stall.

In 2018, St Stithians agreed to reciprocate by dedicating this fixture to this important cause. The impact of having two great boys' schools in Johannesburg support women's health at their annual derby fixture goes a long way to heightening awareness and encouraging early detection that can potentially save lives. We hope this initiative will take off between other traditional boys' and girls' schools in Johannesburg and beyond.

[Read more...](#)





## SCHOOL NEWS

### Johnny Waite Cricket

Congratulations to our 1st XI Cricket team, who emerged victorious as the 2024 Johnny Waite T20 Champions after a thrilling battle against at Wits on Sunday.

Joe MacRobert (UV Nash) and Alec Loveland (LV Nash) were our top batters, scoring 42 and 38 runs, helping set a challenging target of 125. Our boys showed great composure and determination on the field, with Cole Francis (UV Nash) excelling with the ball, taking 4 wickets for 23 runs, while Alec Loveland (LV Nash) picked up figures of 4 for 16 in his 4-over spell. Alec was also named Man of the Match for his performance.

Mboniseni 'Mishak' Ngcongwane, who meticulously maintains and cares for our cricket pitches at St John's, was there to share in the excitement of the game and the joy of victory with Mr Bongani Ntini, Mr Gilbert De Villiers, Mr Adi Norris and the team at the Wits Oval on Sunday. The boys also received a surprise congratulatory message from #OldJohannian Devon Conway (Nash 2009), who was in the First XI when St John's last won the Johnny Waite in 2008.



### Hugh Lewin Memorial Lecture

St John's College was proud to welcome Dr Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh (Nash 2006) as the special guest speaker at the 6th Hugh Lewin Human Rights Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, 26 March.

Welcome to the 6th Annual Hugh Lewin Memorial Lecture. A special welcome to our guests of honour, Ms Fiona Lloyd, Ms Thandi Lewin and friends of the Lewin family, to Ms Tessa Oakley-Smith and Dr Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh, our speaker, a man of intellect, insight and empathy, an OJ and Council Member. Sir, I have enjoyed your leadership of the Transformation Committee, but I will leave other remarks to Hlobi Mthembu, who will formally and properly introduce you.

To Mr Stuart West, Executive Headmaster, Members of Council, Heads and Executives, our OJs present, and to Mr Lewis Manthata, who, with Dr Daniel Pretorius, birthed the idea of this annual lecture. To our staff, students, and parents with us, a warm welcome to today's Hugh Lewin Memorial Human Rights Lecture. [Read more...](#)





## 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 really appreciate your assistance and we hope 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.



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