

# 150

BUILDING  
HILTON  
TOGETHER

150th CELEBRATIONS  
27 April - 2 May 2022



ISSUE 51 | DECEMBER 2021

"Building Hilton Together" - An update to all Old Hiltonians

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## PRESSING ON UNPRECEDENTEDLY

Pete Storrar

We've all grown tired of conversations that begin with "in these unprecedented times" but unprecedented they are! Covid-19, a faltering economy and the KZN insurrection have left us shaken on occasion this year. Despite all of this, Hilton College has advanced to unprecedented heights in 2021.

We launched our A-Level programme in January, so boys can now choose between the A-Level and Independent Examinations Board syllabi in their final two years of school. Vula Lodge 2's first official visitors were hosted on campus in July and accommodated in well-appointed en-suite rooms. We now have space to accommodate 24 visiting teachers comfortably at any one time. This donor-funded programme continues to improve the quality of the teaching and learning of high school maths and science in communities across our province. Construction of a world-class music centre began in August and our matric results and sporting performances continue to impress.

Parents continue to express their confidence in our school by sending their boys here, many at great sacrifice: Hilton is as full as it has ever been and there is a healthy waiting list. We are experiencing increased interest from families abroad, with boys from as far away as South Korea, Singapore, Dubai, the UK and Australia choosing Hilton College over outstanding options in their home countries. This school will always be a proudly African institution, but we welcome the increased diversity to our school roll. Boys from a variety of cultures, interests, talents and socio-economic backgrounds all come together here to meet people that they would never otherwise encounter, a prized feature of our offering.

*On reflection, Hilton's capacity to thrive despite some of the turmoil that exists in the world should not be a surprise. The school has after all withstood civil wars, world wars, several epidemics, the infamous walkout of the 1950s, and half a century of apartheid government.*

The Hilton College of today is not without challenges, and we are far from perfect. Boys, staff, parents, and Old Hiltonians do have their failings and there is much work to be done to improve in many areas. One of our most pressing needs is to make our school more affordable and to increase the number of boys that we can provide financial assistance to.

What sets this community apart, however, is that most are heavily invested in moving Hilton towards a better expression of itself - rather than merely trying to survive in a volatile and uncertain world. We look forward to you joining us for the 150th celebrations next year as we celebrate the fruits of this partnership and pledge to continue Building Hilton Together.

Wishing all Hiltonians and their families a blessed Christmas.

*Pete Storrar is the Director of Advancement*



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# BUILDING HILTON TOGETHER

# FOR THE LOVE OF SINGING: HILTON COLLEGE PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS

Angelique Ardé

When Hilton College celebrates its 150th next year, it will become one of only a few schools in South Africa to have two organs on its campus: a new three-manual digital organ in the chapel and the 84-year-old pipe organ in a concert space in the new music centre.

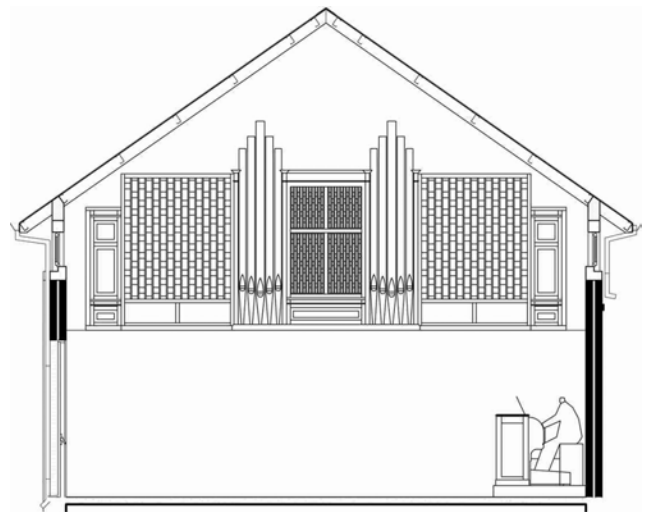
The overarching purpose of having two organs is to nurture a culture of singing in the school.

"There is an opportunity to reimagine and to re-establish a sense of community through music-making as we emerge from the disruption of the COVID pandemic, and there is identity in the powerful experience of singing the shared songs of the school," says David Orr, Hilton College's co-lead of the Music Department.

Hilton College's tagline, "Deeply Traditional. Refreshingly Contemporary", resonates with a project that is all about the preservation of a heritage instrument and the acquisition of a larger, modern one that can support the school's current musical needs.

Careful consideration is being given to the design of a traditional-looking pipe organ casework for the new instrument to ensure that it's in keeping with the aesthetics of the chapel and adds to the listener's overall experience of the instrument.

Having two such contrasting quality instruments is a luxury the school wishes to share with the broader community to inspire a wider appreciation for the organ and to encourage young South Africans to learn how to play the instrument.



The purchasing of the new Dutch-manufactured organ by Content and the relocation of the Rushworth & Dreaper pipe organ from the chapel to the new music centre is being part funded by Old Hiltonian Stephen Crookes. An organist, singer, and choral conductor, Crookes started his career as a chartered accountant. But his love of the organ and the music it supports inspired him to switch careers five years ago, to move to the United Kingdom, and to pursue a career in church music. Crookes is now enrolled for a master's degree in organ performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

"Hilton College helped to build the foundation for me to pursue my passion for church music. It's a great privilege to be part of a venture that may inspire a similar joy in present and future Hiltonians, as well as the wider community," he says.

Orr says the school realised the need for a larger organ in the chapel over 20 years ago, when the chapel was enlarged, but the project ran aground.

The current chapel organ, which replaced a harmonium (reed organ), is an English instrument which was purchased and installed in 1937 at a cost of £1,250. Rushworth & Dreaper was a reputable Liverpool firm that was chosen by the school because it had installed organs in different parts of "the Union" that had "*stood up well to the conditions*", reads an entry in the 1936 edition of *The Hiltonian*.

Installed by Messrs Cooper, Gill and Tompkins of Johannesburg, the instrument was a four-rank two-manual, "remarkable for its tonal quality and for its peculiar fitness for Hilton's chapel. It is powerful, but not overpowering," according to the school magazine.

The instrument was originally housed on a raised platform in the north transept in the front of the chapel but was moved to the rear of the chapel in 1988 and rebuilt by the late Colin Hele. Patrick Harty, who was Hilton College's chapel organist from 1986 to 2003, says "this meant that the instrument now spoke directly down the nave - a great improvement". During this move various alterations were made to the instrument, and another set of unenclosed pipes (an Open Diapason rank) was installed, donated by the Culwick family.





Then in 2001, when the chapel transepts were lengthened and double volume seating added to increase the capacity of the chapel, a significant enlargement of the pipe organ was planned. This project regrettably ran aground. Harty says that after the extension it proved difficult getting the sound of the organ into the transepts. *"Speakers and suspended microphones were tried but were never effective. This is one issue which will be solved easily by installing a digital instrument."*

Accommodating a larger pipe organ would have necessitated substantial renovation to the chapel, and so the decision to install a quality digital instrument has been widely welcomed as the most practical musical solution, especially given the versatility of the digital instrument as a recital instrument beyond its immediate function as an accompaniment instrument.

Harty is one of many who have a sentimental attachment to the Rushworth & Dreaper pipe organ. *"During my time at the school I played it twice every Sunday and three times during the week for school services. We became good colleagues! So, I'm delighted that it will be preserved in the new music department,"* he says.

Organ builder Werner Hurter, who has maintained the organ for some years, has been commissioned to manage the moving of the instrument - from dismantling, refurbishing and installing it in its new home. He says the project, which will entail the overhauling of all parts and preparation of the instrument for the new building, will take about 83 working days. *"This organ has 634 speaking pipes and they all need to be cleaned out,"* he says.

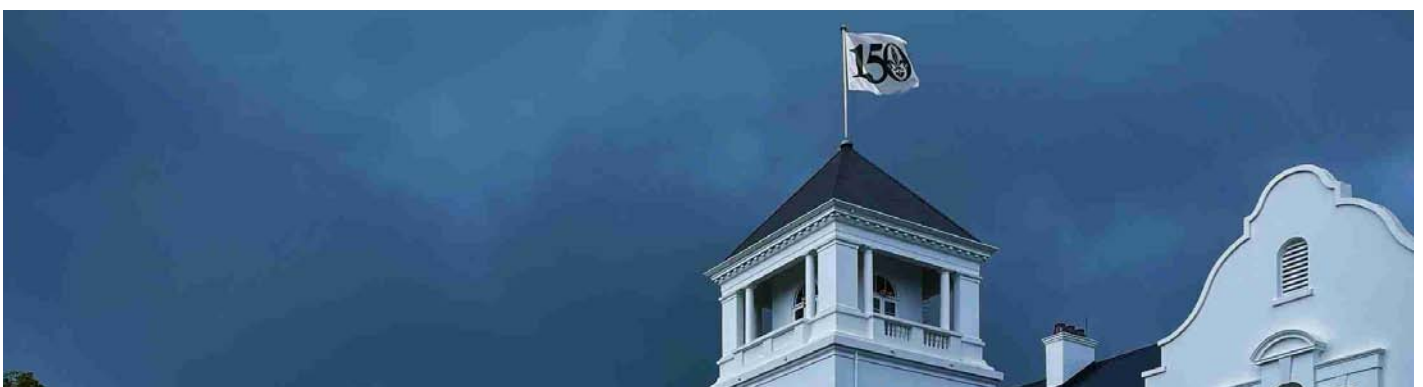
In its new home, a small concert venue that seats 120 (as opposed to the chapel which seats around 580), the pipe organ will have a fuller tone, Hurter says. *"I have had to change the layout to make it fit optimally into the new building. The end goal is to maintain its original character to preserve the heritage that this instrument represents,"* he says.

Crookes says taking a pipe organ from the sacred space of a chapel and moving it to the secular space of a concert hall opens new opportunities for the use of the instrument. *"It's so important to bring the organ into a concert venue where it will be used regularly - to open minds to its uses and encourage people to hear it and to play it."*

Bruce MacLachlan, the school's Heritage Curator, sums up this accessibility well: *"The concert hall in the music department will host concerts, where there will be choir work, organ recitals and orchestral work. In the chapel, there will be organ recitals, day-to-day singing and concerts with other choirs."*

With two organs in contrasting choral spaces on the same campus, Hilton College is really pulling out all the stops.

Angelique Ardé is the Communications Manager



## MEET THE 2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

A big congratulations to the 2022 Leadership Team. Head of School for next year is Thomas Roy and Deputy Head of School is Olwethu Kweyama.

### Heads of Houses

Churchill: Sfiso Sithole  
Ellis: Siya Buthelezi  
Falcon: Ryan Basson  
Lucas: Keitshupile Makola  
McKenzie: Chris Bagnall  
Newnham: Declan Sawyer  
Pearce: Jack Waterhouse

### Portfolio Heads

Academics: Tanner Bailey  
Culture: Marumo Selane  
Community: Matt Rout  
Conservation: Jono Ferguson  
Pastoral: Ross Taylor  
Spirituality: Thomas Dyer  
Sport: Andile Matsa  
Sustainability: Matt Sara  
Transformation: Spencer Wright



## ON THE POLITICAL STAGE

At the age of 30, Christopher John Pappas, who matriculated from Hilton College in 2009 (Churchill), is becoming familiar with surprising people. In the run-up to South Africa's 2021 local government elections, the relatively unknown provincial politician claimed the national stage when a video of him on the campaign trail for the Democratic Alliance (DA) went viral on social media. It showed young Pappas campaigning in fluent Zulu.

Speakers of KwaZulu-Natal's mother tongue applauded his flawless use of the vernacular and DA supporters angry with the party's perceived racial laagering rallied behind Pappas. Within a week the DA won the uMngeni local municipality and Pappas was elected mayor, making him the first DA mayor in the province.



According to a *Sunday Times* report, Pappas got involved in politics at the University of Pretoria when he joined the Student Representative Council and was briefly president. He graduated with a degree in town and regional planning and then worked briefly as a development economist before joining the DA as KZN operations manager. He won a seat as a ward councillor in Durban in 2016 and was elected to the provincial legislature in 2019.

He has been the party's spokesperson on agriculture and Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs and he became Deputy Provincial Leader of his party six months before the election that made him mayor of uMngeni.

Pappas grew up in Mooi River and Howick, where he is known to many as "Mkhize". Having got an A in matric for Zulu as a second language, he is a firm believer in Nelson Mandela's words, which he quoted in the *Sunday Times* article: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart." Pappas is confident that he speaks to the hearts of the people in his constituency and "they hear me".



## BRANCH EVENTS

*After almost two years of being prohibited from gathering socially, Old Hiltonians came out in their numbers to connect at branch events countrywide over the past quarter. This bodes well for all we have planned for next year's 150th.*

### Dads and Lads Fishing Day

At the end of September, the Zululand branch hosted a Dads and Lads Fishing Day at New Mouth Richards Bay. It went swimmingly! Thank you to Old Hiltonians Dave Bell and Mark Hathorn who organised the event.



### UK Annual Dinner

At the end of October, the UK branch hosted an annual dinner at The Elgin - Maida Vale, in London. Owing to travel restrictions at the time, the headmaster, 150th coordinator and the director of international learning addressed the group via a pre-recorded video. We're thankful to UK branch chairman Simon Ellis and Old Hiltonian Rob Hallot for a superb job of arranging this event.





## KZN breakfast

In November, the KwaZulu-Natal branch hosted a breakfast at Beachwood Country Club. A massive thanks to the KZN branch chairman Adam Oldfield for hosting and organizing this wonderful networking opportunity.



## Kloof drinks evening

An informal gathering of a few Old Hiltonians took place on the 13th of October at the Kloof Country Club.



## Gauteng Get-together

At the end of October, the Gauteng branch hosted a drinks and snacks evening which included an update on happenings at the school, plans for the 150th anniversary. It was a well-deserved catch-up with friends after being prohibited from socialising for such a long time. Thank you to branch chairman David Heenan for organizing the event.







## OUR 150TH CELEBRATIONS ARE AROUND THE CORNER

*Brett Armstrong*

Hilton College turns 150 on the 29th of January 2022 - in just over a month! It is scary that this momentous occasion has arrived so quickly.

Over two years of careful planning by dedicated committees, with input from various experts, has gone into each project and event. We've made every decision with your and the school's best interests at heart - and believe that these decisions have been right considering some of the challenges we have been faced with. The feedback and support we've had from our community has been encouraging and has made this task so rewarding.

Our anthology of 150 stories, our 150th book, has gone to print. Thank you to all our subscribers who have made publication possible and will have their names printed alongside so many extraordinary Old Hiltonians. Putting this collection of stories together has reminded me of the diverse and extraordinary people making up our Hilton College community: Some well-known, some less well-known; all inspiring. You're now able to order your copy for arrival early in April 2022.

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/150th-book/>

In terms of event planning, Covid restrictions and uncertainty brought several challenges for us to consider. Our Black & White African Night 150th Gala Dinner on the 29th of April sold out in 8 minutes, which resulted in a second Gala Dinner on the 28th of April being launched almost immediately. These ticket and table sales continue to do well, so don't delay your bookings. Book your table or tickets here.

<https://www.howler.co.za/events/black-white-african-night-hilton-college-150th-gala-dinner-thursday-night-5153>

Besides several reunions happening on Thursday 28th April 2022 to kick off the 150th Celebratory Week, there will also be a Gathering of Friends (with a nominal cover charge) after the winter sports fixtures on Saturday 30th April, depending on Covid regulations. This event is an opportunity for everyone to join in, and we'll share more details about it closer to the time.

From our signature 150th wine collection to merchandise and more, there are several other special items on offer for those who would like something to commemorate this special year. Visit [www.hiltoncollege.com/150th](http://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th) to find out more.

Four 150th Legacy Benefactors each own one of our nine Legacy oak tables. We thank them for their generous benefaction to Hilton College. We are also paying tribute to our many Benefactors with a breakfast for them on Friday 29th April 2022.

Celebrating 150 years is an amazing achievement, particularly for a South African school. We should all be proud of our school and take this time to reflect and be grateful. Had it not been for generous benefaction from people like "WAC" Campbell and the group of Old Hiltonians who donated the school to the Society, none of us would be enjoying the Hilton of today. Let's band together and celebrate our 150 years of success and embrace the Hilton of tomorrow.

Thank you to all the Old Hiltonians, parents and staff for your ongoing support, and a special thank you to Paul Rayner (150th Chairman), Anton Jooste (OHC Chairman), George Harris (Headmaster), Pete Storrar (Director of Advancement), my colleagues in the Advancement and Enrolment offices, and the various Committee Members and consultants that have helped us achieve so much. What a wonderful team we have.

Enjoy the holidays.

*Brett Armstrong is the 150th Co-ordinator*



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## 150th WEBSITE LINKS



### 150th WEBSITE

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/>

### A BLACK & WHITE AFRICAN NIGHT GALA DINNER TICKETS - Thursday night

<https://www.howler.co.za/events/black-white-african-night-hilton-college-150th-gala-dinner-thursday-night-5153>

### BECOME A LEGACY BENEFACTOR

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/legacy-packages/>

### PURCHASE MEMORABILIA

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/150th-memorabilia/>

### OWN A PINNACLES STATUE

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/150th-memorabilia/statue/>

### WHAT 150th EVENTS ARE ON

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/150th-events/>

### BUY THE 150th BOOK - AN ANTHOLOGY OF HILTON COLLEGE STORIES

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/150th-book/>

### HILTON COLLEGE SIGNATURE 150th WINE COLLECTION

<https://hiltoncollege.lavierge.co.za>

### BECOME A 150th SPONSOR

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/sponsorship/>

### LOOKING TO TRAVEL OR FOR ACCOMMODATION

<https://www.hiltoncollege.com/150th/travel-service-accommodation/>



## SCHOOL NEWS

Our matric class of 2021 walk out of the McKenzie gates for the last time.



Congratulations to our competition Marimba Band for being awarded three first places and one third place in the 2nd Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival late last month.



Pearce House acknowledged Mark Perrett's 32 years of dedicated service when he arrived for his last duty evening in November.



## YEAR GROUP AMBASSADORS

Each of the year group ambassadors have been invited to spend a night (or two) in Campbell House (old Pearce House) for our 150th birthday in January 2022. Please confirm whether you will be attending (or if you are sending a replacement) via WhatsApp to Brett Armstrong.



# AMBASSADORS

## Doberman

A weekend has been planned for each of the year group ambassadors to come back and enjoy a stay at Hilton College. Please make every effort to join us for these two days that coincide with Hilton College's 150th birthday, the 29th January 2022

This will be a time for us to enjoy the Hilton of today, see the school in action, and share this experience with our peers as a means of rallying the troops as we draw nearer to the 150th Celebratory Week from **27 April to 2 May**.

We will all stay in Campbell House (old Pearce), and eat in the dining hall. We will attend a class and be able to share stories with the current boys about our time at Hilton.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Friday 28 January 2022**

- 10h00: 150th Birthday Chapel Service
- Attend a class
- Eat in the Dining Room
- Visit the estate
- FDL Club Drinks

**Saturday 29 January**

- Sport vs. Westville
- Cocktail party
- Depart, or else on Sunday morning

Please let me know if you are able to attend.  
WhatsApp Brett Armstrong on 082 7745 835

**150** BUILDING HILTON TOGETHER

## OHs IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to **Kevin Benkenstein** who won the 2021 edition of The Munga. He completed the 1152.5km race from Bloemfontein to Wellington in 2 days 9 hours 24 minutes.



**Sebastian Negri** features in the new Perazza calendar. He plays rugby for Benetton in the Pro 14 and made his debut for the Italy national team in 2016.



# Compliments of the season

*For most people, Christmas is a festive time: a time of gift-giving and of making merry. It's also a time to reflect on the reason for the season: the message of Christ Jesus, the saviour of the world. Sadly, for many, it's a time of desperate loneliness and isolation - made worse during a pandemic and the risks associated with socialising.*

*As we contemplate a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, may our hearts be softened and expanded to reach out to those in our lives who are alone or separated from family and loved ones. May we be hospitable and generous, thoughtful and kind. May we make space for them - at our tables and in our hearts.*

*Warmest wishes from all of us at Hilton College.*

