



150

BUILDING
HILTON
TOGETHER

1872 - 2022

WHAT A YEAR!

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

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FRANKLIN

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In Black & White

ISSUE 53 | DECEMBER 2022 *"Building Hilton Together"* - An update to all Old Hiltonians

FOUNDED ON A FRIENDSHIP

Pete Storrar

"Hilton College was founded on a friendship." So reads the first line of Neville Nuttall's book *Lift Up Your Hearts*, which was so aptly quoted by former chairman of the board of governors Alistair Franklin at the 150th celebration gala dinners in April. Newnham and Lucas could never have imagined in the 1870s how many friendships they would inspire.

This year, more than 10 000 people visited Hilton College to mark the 150th anniversary, 35 year-group reunions took place, and Old Hiltonians gathered in their numbers across South Africa and around the world, highlighting the many, many thousands of friendships forged at our school.

These are friendships with deep roots and to see so many people from such diverse backgrounds connect, and across generations, has been something to behold. Many Old Hiltonians have been, and continue to be, very generous to our school.

Fee-paying parents cover most of Hilton's day-to-day running costs, at increasingly great sacrifice, with education inflation having run above CPI for the past generation. The magnificent buildings, sport fields, and estate owe their existence to generous benefactors, and the boys on our financial assistance programmes are indebted to donors too.

The fruits of this generosity can clearly be seen in the Hilton of today. Our academic offering gives boys the opportunity to gain admittance into the world's best universities with both our IEB and A Level programmes growing from strength to strength. The world-class new Chamberlain Music Centre was opened last month, our theatre has hosted several outstanding productions this year and the Hilton Arts Festival made a triumphant post-Covid return. Hilton's sports teams continue to do terrifically well.

What a legacy that single initial friendship and the many thousands that have followed have left us! If you're not yet a contributor, please join your fellow Hiltonians in supporting our cause. It shouldn't take more than 10 minutes of your time to sign up.

Easy ways to give:

- * [Become a monthly donor.](#)
- * [Buy into the cattle project and own an ox.](#)

* Email to leave a bequest in your will.

advancement@hiltoncollege.com

Storrar is director of advancement

HILTON COLLEGE
Building a legacy

"My greatest joy in all this is that it belongs to us; that it is a gift, in trust, from the Old Boys. It is a trust that you and I must honour. It is a gift that we must keep safe. We can do that by giving; by building up an endowment that will make it completely safe and independent for prosperity."
"WAC" Campbell

Lift Up Your Hearts
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Vula
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A year in pictures

150 



A year in pictures

CHAIRMAN'S GALA DINNER ADDRESS

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the celebration of Hilton College's 150th year, a momentous occasion in the life of our great school.

I arrived here in Hilton's centenary year of 1972, a wide-eyed, terrified 14-year-old new boy, and now, exactly half a century later, I have the extraordinary honour of addressing this magnificent assembly of Old Hiltonians and friends of our school at its next great landmark.

Congratulations to Paul Rayner, Peter Storrar, Brett Armstrong and their team for successfully delivering this stellar event after many months of planning.



Oscar Wilde once said to his society hostess as he was leaving her particularly dull dinner party, "Madam, I've had a wonderful evening, but it wasn't tonight."

I do not think we will experience similar sentiments here, for this is an evening of unashamed nostalgia as we each look back at our own eras at Hilton and re-tell old stories with our contemporaries, literally hundreds of whom have travelled from the far reaches of this country and the world to participate in the 150th celebrations. That the first gala dinner was sold out in eight minutes and that there has been no accommodation in the greater Hilton area since July last year, illustrates the reverence and affection in which old boys and parents hold this school.

Whatever era you may belong to, there are many common experiences which bind us. No one will have forgotten the school grace, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" and how each time the grace ended in the dining hall in our era, 400 knives would lunge at the butter dish in the hope of securing the largest blob.

And regardless of what era you belong to, the intervening years will have done nothing to dull the sheer thrill of driving through the avenues towards Hilton College, along that snaking road, past familiar landmarks, until with a rising sense of anticipation, the incomparable beauty of Hilton's Cape Dutch buildings is finally revealed, and you drive with exhilaration through those McKenzie gates. How lucky we are to be here.

To enjoy the festivities with us are a host of special guests. We welcome the headmasters and headmistresses of many fellow schools. Being the head of a school in the 2020s is as demanding an assignment as the world can currently offer, I think. So let us thank the heads who are here for their unfailing commitment to the cause of independent schooling in South Africa.

Present also are some of the fellow chairs of our closest schools, all selflessly heading their institution for the love of their alma mater.

I make special mention of Gary Ralfe, former chair of Michaelhouse and doyen of private school governance in this country. His contribution has been enormous. I cannot resist telling you however that Gary has four daughters, two of whom had the good sense to marry Old Hiltonians, Anton Jooste, our head of old boys and tonight's MC, being among their number, and so order is happily restored.

Our association with these schools spans decades, making this in reality a gathering of old friends. Our fellow schools assist each other to an extent which I find particularly heartening. We stand together in often turbulent times caused by a bewildering sea of modern problems. Long may this support last. Thank you to those from fellow schools who have joined us tonight.

The full extent of this cooperation is demonstrated by the following story concerning our oldest and greatest rivals, Michaelhouse.

A third-generation Hilton old boy, who for the sake of anonymity I shall refer to as Adrian Short, once told me of his great excitement when his eldest boy first came to Hilton, and he could not wait to watch him play in the annual Hilton Michaelhouse encounter. His son was duly selected for the U14 rugby team but because of a severe flu epidemic in Balgovan at the time, at the last minute his son was drafted to play for the Michaelhouse team instead. This unexpected setback for Adrian was greatly compounded when his son went on to score a try against Hilton.

And then we welcome former headmasters and teachers who were themselves at Hilton, once part of that formidable engine room of endeavour which drives every school. Old boys and parents will have the opportunity of catching up with some of their teachers after dinner and will no doubt by now be bold enough to call them by their nicknames. I single out Peter Ducasse, who took over as head here in 2013 at a difficult time for our school. Pete was born at Hilton. He was a schoolboy here in the 1970s. His father Des (Duke) Ducasse was second master at the time and later became headmaster. Pete's departure at the close of 2016 ended 59 years of continuous service to Hilton by two generations of Ducasses. I must say that makes even the Queen look flighty and uncommitted by comparison.

And then I would like to welcome members of the Hilton board of governors and former members of the board, who do such a great job for the school.

Finally, we welcome our benefactors. In his understated way, Newnham famously said, "I took a farm and started a school on my own account." Hilton's operations are funded by the fees paid by our parents, but what you see around you on this campus is almost exclusively the gift of benefaction. The extent of it is staggering as you think of the famous buildings which make up this vista: the Crookes block, the Campbell block, the Gilfillan Field and so many more familiar landmarks. We salute the long parade of those who have given unselfishly to Hilton. I am happy to say some of them from our more recent past are here tonight. I do wish to make special mention of the Chamberlain family, the Dunn family, the Zungu family, the Gain family, the Haynes family, the Meachin family, the Saunders family and the Ross family.

At a Benefactors' Breakfast held this morning we acknowledged their and others' contributions, but let me say publicly tonight: your generosity is highly appreciated and the splendour of the Hilton campus will always remind us of your extraordinary contribution to our school. So, thank you. Reaching our 150th milestone reminds us that Hilton depends very heavily on the generosity of old boys and parents and it is the fervent hope of the Advancement office, which Anton Jooste is so diligently and painstakingly shepherding, that Hilton will continue to enjoy fresh injections of benefaction as we recalibrate for the next 50 years.

Different eras in the life of a school are largely defined by their headmasters. I have great faith that the era presided over by George Harris, our current headmaster, will go down as one of Hilton's best ever. Along with everyone here, I thank the headmaster for the superb way in which he is guiding the school, together with his very devoted staff.

One of my favourite quotations is from Winston Churchill about how people love to examine their past. It goes like this: "History, with its flickering lamp, stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and to kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days."

As we Hiltonians stumble down the trail of our past, we see William Orde Newnham and Gould Arthur Lucas, we see William Falcon, Henry Vaughan Ellis, Raymond Gordon Slater, all names which still roll off our tongues thanks to the famous poep's test we all feared so much. We think of familiar locations on the estate - Gwens, Big Rock, Pinnacles, and Beacons - and recall tubing down the Umgeni as though it was yesterday.

But, most significantly of all, we think of the people we were taught by and the friends who we met here.

In the staff department back in my day, we encountered some memorable characters with very creative nicknames and any number of curious characteristics. "Cuff" van der Merwe used to lift us up by our sideburns and smack us about the head if we erred in reciting *die trappe van vergelyking*.

"Caesar" Jenks taught us Latin, of course, and if we couldn't *amo, amas, amat* properly he would thunder in stentorian sentences and lament about what "witless oafs" we were.

Our biology master had spent years with Bunsen burners and messy chemicals in the sample cupboard and he was given the glorious nickname "Fungi".

"It is the shared experiences in a location so extraordinary that it evokes emotions in us decades after we have left the place. It is the feeling of appreciation for the Hiltonians who have gone before us."

Our English master was studious and cautious and wore alarmingly thick glasses and was called "Bond", James Bond. There was one boy in our English class who irritated Bond to distraction. He would methodically tear each page of his set-work out of the book and toss it into the bin, as Bond finished reading it. We used to wear those enormous great army coats in the cold winter months, but on one swelteringly hot summer's day, this boy wore his great coat to Bond's English class. Bond tried to ignore him but eventually couldn't and shouted at him, "For goodness sake, take that ridiculous great coat off!". He did, but then sat at his desk for the rest of the lesson going "brrrrr", shivering against the imagined cold.

We all know Neville Nuttall penned the famous opening line in his history of the school: "Hilton College was founded on a friendship." Is it not remarkable that under way over this celebratory week are no fewer than 35 separate year group reunions where Hilton friendships are being rekindled once more, and by all reports, in an atmosphere of unbridled hilarity.





*Some of the reunion groups:
Top (l-r) - 1972, 1981, 1983.
Bottom (l-r) - 1993, 2004.*

In 2017 Hilton hosted a very special reunion because assembled here we had Old Hiltonians who wrote matric 80 years ago. They were the Class of 1942. They were at the school when World War II was still raging and all of Europe was in Hitler's grip. One of them recalled the whole school gathering together in 1939 under the bell tower to listen to Chamberlain's declaration of war. How proud I was to welcome this cohort of gentlemen from that distant time. How special it is that those men played sport on the same fields as the boys do now, roamed the same estate as the boys do now, and that they proudly wore the same Fleur-de-Lys as Hilton boys of today have on their chests.

And talking of elder statesmen, we are delighted to have with us tonight, from the UK, Sir Terence English, the 89-year-old former president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a Hilton matriculant in 1949.

Hilton is, of course, an academic institution, but I think it is true to say that not all of its boys have always been completely devoted to their books, as is reflected in the following report which was penned at Hilton in the second quarter of 1955.

Housemaster: "John has devoted most of his considerable mental energy to devising ways and means whereby he might avoid any work. In this quest he has been singularly successful."

Headmaster: "I feel, though it sounds an unkind thing to say, that although John always seems to be satisfied with his own performance, very few other people are."

There are many disparate elements which coalesce into the "spirit of Hilton". But what is that spirit? Why are we so proud to wear the Fleur-de-Lys on our hearts? For me it is the sense of tradition which abounds here. It is the shared experiences in a location so extraordinary that it evokes emotions in us decades after we have left the place. It is the feeling of appreciation for the Hiltonians who have gone before us.

And it is the qualities of honour, devotion and courage that are emphasised at this school which I believe successive generations of headmasters seek to capture when they say that, "Hilton boys should be synonymous with gentlemen"; and what they wish to convey is that the old virtues still prevail, no matter what age we live in, and that if you trace the high points of human endeavour, you will find a consistent display of loyalty and integrity and consideration and courage; and that Hilton wants to put out into the world people who embody these virtues and follow the Hilton ethos in whatever pursuits they take up after their time at this school.

Hiltonians are part of a brotherhood forged in the dormitories of these famous boarding houses and on the playing fields of this beautiful place. These friendships and these memories last a lifetime. No other five-year period holds such a place in our affections. How moving it is for us to hear the school belting out, "Oh Boys of Hilton" through the mist hanging over the Gilfillan Field; and to feel the history which envelops those occasions; and to enjoy the warm rush of memories of the times we spent here ourselves.

Hilton is an institution made up of its beautiful buildings, its unparalleled estate, its devoted staff, its boys past and present and, above all, its ethos and its history. It is a school which must be forever preserved and defended by that great company of men who keenly feel its enormous worth because they too have passed through these gates.

It is all of this which causes Hiltonians, enthusiastically, and with one accord, to "Lift Up Our Hearts, Unto the Lord."

Please rise and drink a toast to Hilton College, the 150th.

Alistair Franklin

Chairman of the board of governors June 2015 - June 2022





OPENING OF THE CHAMBERLAIN MUSIC CENTRE

The opening of a cutting-edge music centre at Hilton College will provide much-needed performance space in KwaZulu-Natal and attract musicians from all over the country seeking top-notch acoustic venues in which to perform.

The multi-million-rand two-storey building - measuring 1340 square metres - is centrally located between the admin block and Gilfillan and includes a recital hall, performance spaces spilling out on to sports fields, classrooms, a music production computer lab and a recording studio.

Brett Udal, the subject head of music at Hilton College, says the Chamberlain Music Centre is the realisation of a dream shared with music lover and benefactor David Chamberlain (1962, McKenzie), who has been a strong supporter and advocate for music throughout his life. "Dawie's an avid singer and was in the choir when he was at Hilton."

Luke Holder, the school's newly appointed director of creative and performing arts, says the new music centre will not only maximise performance opportunities for the school's learners, it will also create space for community engagement with the school through the arts.

Although it was only officially opened last month, the venue has already been used twice by the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra (KZNPO). Reena Makan, the marketing and sales manager for the KZNPO, says the centre's 120-seater recital hall is a perfect "one-stop shop" for performers. "The acoustic in the auditorium is exceptional and the overall design of the venue makes for a great experience for the audience and musicians."

Nicole Haynes, the arts administrator for Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra, says the centre is "a great asset" to the performing arts community in KZN, and specifically the Midlands. "Having space to host concerts at a high artistic level, with a venue that enhances the performance experience for all stakeholders; part of a great legacy that will continue to serve our society for generations to come."

A unique and stand-out feature of the building is the Dante networking throughout, connecting all of the rooms in the venue to a recording studio. Dante, an acronym for Digital Audio Network Through Ethernet, moves digital audio over hundreds of feet using fibreoptic cables.

"This means that the studio can serve as a control centre from which we can record from any of the rooms in the music centre. So, if you're in a practice room, you can record a student at play. If you're in the concert room, you can record," says Udal.

Holder says very few facilities in the world allow you the flexibility to record multiple environments from one central control station. "The beauty of Dante is that this can all be accomplished in real time," he says.

The school hopes the music centre will become a recording hub, not just for schools but for universities and professional musicians, since the Midlands has no such facility.



Musician and donor Stephen Crookes



Siya Mpofo

Another special feature of the facility is the 84-year-old pipe organ in the recital hall. The Rushworth & Dreaper pipe organ, which used to be housed in the school's chapel, has been fully refurbished and modernised to fit in its new home. It is ideally located now as a teaching and performance instrument.

The relocation of the pipe organ was funded in part by Old Hiltonian Stephen Crookes (2007, Ellis). 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 reading 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.

The spirit of the school

Udal says the decision to have performance spaces opening up on to the sports field was strategic. "The merging of arts and sports is intentional so that the spirit of the school can be seen here on a Saturday morning, during sports fixtures.

"The building has been designed to be a playful space."

Holder says that while the facility opens up new opportunities for Hilton College to deliver music as a curriculum, more than anything, it provides a space for the whole school to engage in the practice of music-making.

Udal says the flow is intentional. "We want the boys to come through here from sports practice. The idea is to have a piano in the gallery, something robust so that they can busk, and play, just by the by - jam. It might be a real honky tonk, but so what."

Although he is a classical musician, Udal says he wants the centre to be a working space for boys interested in music production, radio, DJing and podcasting. "Those are things boys gravitate towards and this place is designed for that."

The venue also boasts an art gallery and band room, an ideal space for the school's jazz band to rehearse.

The performance and rehearsal spaces were designed in consultation with Bruce Gessner, one of South Africa's foremost acoustic engineers, to create sound environments that maximise instrumental use and the acoustic experience of both the user and the listener.

Deeply traditional, refreshingly contemporary

Mark Ussher (2000, Ellis), the architect on the project, describes it as "a deliberate deviation from the traditional architecture of Hilton College, marking the beginning of the next 150 years, rather than the end of the past 150 years".

The challenge to design a building that is indeed "deeply traditional, refreshingly contemporary" was the most exciting aspect of the project for Ussher.

"The brief was to deliver a building that is unapologetically contemporary, but still appropriate within Hilton's campus - one which challenges the notions of the school's architectural style, and the history thereof. Finding this sweet spot was further complicated by the fact that the project is in fact an addition to the existing Hobbies Block and [old] museum, resulting in a direct juxtaposition and a genuine 'old meets new' theme."

He says the move away from Cape Dutch gables challenges the status quo, while the retention of the barn form, with identical roof pitch to the Hobbies Block, ensures that the new buildings retain a familiar and relevant form, echoing the old. "The inclusion of black face brick is also a break away from the all-white walls but reminds that Hilton was in fact originally a face brick school. In a way, this is therefore a feature which is both old and new."

"This project was the greatest privilege of my career as an architect," Ussher says. "Having taken music lessons in the old Hobbies Block, it was an honour to be so intimately involved in such an important project."



OUR BOYS' EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

This year has been an exceptional one for our boys. For the first time in our history, Hilton College had six boys selected to represent South Africa in schoolboy rugby and hockey this year.

In both sports, Hilton College boys were selected for leadership positions in their teams. Matt Rout was vice-captain of the SA U18A hockey team, while Thomas Dyer was stand-in captain of the SA U18 rugby team for most of the series. Joining Rout were Akha Mda and Daniel den Bakker, while Nicolas Snyman and Jack Waterhouse also played for the SA U18 rugby side.

Both Waterhouse and Dyer are sons of Old Hiltonians. In his day, Rory Dyer captained the 1st XV in 1987 in his final year at Hilton College.

In this our 150th year, Hilton College has been ranked the top school in the country for rugby, hockey, cricket, soccer, basketball and water polo.

This is according to the saschoolsports.co.za website which has ranked boys schools based on the combined rankings in these six major sporting codes.

Ending a cracker of a year for Hilton College sport, Chris Bagnall won the SA Schools Inter-Provincial Strokeplay Competition - by 17 strokes - and James Moore claimed the title of the youngest ever Gold finisher in the Roof of Africa (aka Mother of Hard Enduro) motorcycle race.

Darryn Gallagher, the executive director of sport at Hilton College, says the school is proud of its star sportsmen, but prouder still of its teams.

"Rankings are impressive but they are not the goal. We believe in teamwork and in teaching our boys the disciplines that will set them up for success, and not only in sport."

It was not only in the realm of sport that we excelled this year.

On the cultural front, our Competition Marimba Band won all four open categories at Education Africa's International Marimba and Steelpan Competition. Competing against adult/professional bands, Hilton College won the following:

- Open Large Band: "Battle of the Bands" - Moth to a Flame by Swedish House Mafia and The Weekend
- Open Large Band: "In the Mix" - Crystallize by Lindsey Stirling
- Open Large Band: "Strictly Classical" - Maple Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin
- Open Prestige: "African" - Africa Rising by Brian Clarke

To win all four open categories is no small feat. The last time we did it was in 2017, when we won overall title of Best Marimba Band.

We are immensely proud of you, Masud Dakile, Ivan Jjuuko, Tim King, Ben Kok, Kukhanya Mahlangu, Keitshupile Makola, Similo Mkhungo, Siya Mpofu, Zipho Mpofu, Shailen Naidoo, Saphiwa Nzimande, Thuto Phakisi, BT Ramolefe, Lwenzi Sibiya and Jordan Udal.

Grade 11 learner Raheel Mottiar also did us proud. He has been selected, by the International Arts Talent Showcase, to perform in New York at the world's largest talent convention, in front of more than 300 agents, casting directors and music producers. And his classmate Khanya Mhlongo, next year's deputy head of school, attended an international debating symposium at Oxford University this year.

In the realm of academics, Ben Kok, another grade 11 pupil, was one of only two South African learners selected to join a NASA programme in Houston in the USA.



Matt Rout, Akha Mda and Daniel den Bakker



Nicolas Snyman, Thomas Dyer and Jack Waterhouse



James Moore



Christopher Bagnall



Raheel Mottiar



Ben Kok

TRUE AS STEEL

Serene, steady, and true as steel. That's Jabulani Kunene, who has worked as a lab technician in the science department at Hilton College since 1978.

"It has been my only job, and I've stayed because I love it," he says.

Born in the Hilton Valley, Jabulani was 16 when he started working at Hilton College, following in the footsteps of his parents, John and Alice, who worked in the laundry.

All three of his siblings have also worked at Hilton College. Jabulani's brother Elson worked in the dining hall up until he retired, and his sister Albertina does domestic work for families who live on campus. Their brother Samwell worked on campus for Broll before he died. His great nephew Ayanda Kunene starts at Hilton College as a Grade 8 next year.

Before taking occupation of his house in Howick West, Jabulani loved that he could walk from the valley to work. He says perks of the job include staff lunches, transport to and from work, and best of all, friendship with the boys.

He's especially fond of watching them play rugby and has been known to bet on our First XV when they play Michaelhouse.

"I have a friend who works in the science lab at MHS and his name is Jabulani too. We take bets [who will win the rugby] and have lunch together when we play there. I can't remember who has won more money because we're friends," he says, laughing.

Describing himself as "a good supporter", he watches our boys train in the afternoons and has travelled to Durban three times to watch the Sharks play.

In three years, Jabulani will retire after 47 years of service.

"I have smelled chemicals for very long. I look forward to smelling the fresh air," he says, chortling.

In retirement, he plans to start a business, farming chickens on a small scale "for my family and to keep myself busy".



His family includes his son who lives in the Eastern Cape, and his wife Nthombi.

"I will miss the boys," says Jabulani. "They are like friends. That's why when they play rugby, I follow them. I will always support them."

If he had advice for the boys, he says it would be: "Look after your job. Do the right thing. And respect one another."

Jabulani's story forms part of the Humans of Hilton College (HOHC) series. HOHC is inspired by the lovely humans in our community. They are people of character and often behind the scenes; kind, curious and sometimes quirky. HOHC is modelled on Humans of New York.

For more HOHC stories, [click here](#).

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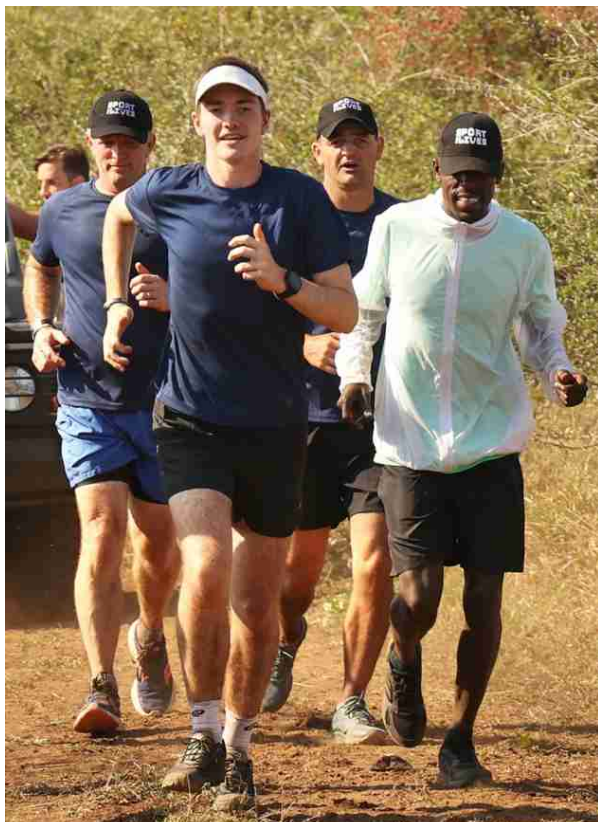
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For the first time in more than 60 years, the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera House will perform in South Africa, at the Hilton College Theatre, on 25 and 27 January! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to see a performance by soloists from one of the greatest dance companies in the world!

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FROM COMPETITION TO COMPASSION



**SPORT
FOR LIVES**

If it's true that "more is caught than taught" then it's imperative that teachers model the behaviours and values that they teach. Chris Kingsley, who has taught English at Hilton College for the past 13 years, is the school's newly appointed head of public good. He has co-founded two non-profit organisations (NPOs), one of which, Sport for Lives, has channelled R2 million towards NPOs addressing social ills in South Africa.

What's special about Sport for Lives is that it mobilises school children to respond to the need in the communities in which they live. Not only does this raise their levels of awareness and empathy, it empowers them to make a difference. For Hilton College, it provides our boys with opportunities to live out our school prayer that we may be "enlarged with a wider usefulness".

"South Africa is the most unequal country in the world. Sport has the power to change this, to bridge the great divide, through authentic relationships," says Kingsley.

The idea for Sport for Lives started with a conversation between Kingsley, who was coaching Hilton's U15A rugby team at the time, and a friend who taught at Selborne College. "His team was playing for a purpose - for a local orphanage - and so we decided to do the same and play for Thandi House orphanage in Pietermaritzburg."

Sport for Lives is about getting young people to play sport for a higher purpose - instead of only competing to win, they also play to fundraise for an NPO. Their motivation switches from an extrinsic one (an external reward such as recognition or rewards) to an intrinsic one - enjoyment and the personal satisfaction of helping others and making a difference.

Eighteen schools countrywide have launched Sport for Lives campaigns, of which there have been more than 100. Hilton College boys have taken part in 23.

"We often tell our kids to 'be the difference' they want to see in the world, but we don't provide them with the tools or opportunities to do this. When they get involved in helping a community organisation, the process that unfolds is actually more beneficial to them than the impact they are trying to make," he says.

While the movement started in 2017, Sport for Lives was launched in June 2021 with the Manguzi run/ride. This was in collaboration with the Kolisi Foundation and in support of Hilton College science teacher Kwanda Sibiyi's vision to help educate and provide for two children in his community, plus establish a science centre and library at his old school.

"This culminated in Kwanda establishing a foundation to promote his vision for his alma mater in Manguzi."

Earlier this year, Grade 12 learner Harry Bailey ran 100 kilometres over two days, raising R160 000 for rangers on the frontlines of the war against rhino poaching.

Kingsley says the campaigns that our boys have supported have changed them on a heart level, inspiring in them the desire to be involved in more campaigns and to play with a purpose. They are more focused in their training, he says, and they see value in sustainably supporting a non-profit over time - or committing to play for the same organisation over a number of years. Over time, relationships are built between our boys and the people in the community in which they are serving.

He says he feels humbled and proud that the Hilton College community has "led the way in showing how generosity of spirit, talent, time and money can make a lasting impact in our country; doing something with our privilege rather than feeling guilty about the ways things are".

His vision for Sport for Lives is for every school community in South Africa to adopt a culture of campaigns for the public good. "It's more about building a relationship with the communities around schools than it is about money going to the NPOs in these communities, although money helps. It's the softening of hearts that is needed in our country."

For more about Sport For Lives, [click here](#).

SEAT OF POWER RESTORED

Bruce MacLachlan

Among the many treasures in our museum is a piece of furniture colloquially known as "The Chairman's Chair". It used to be reserved for the chairman of the board of governors to sit on at Speech Day. This practice ceased in 2008, and subsequently the chair lay unused and started deteriorating, ably assisted by the occasional Hilton boy.

Hilton College is indebted to Faizel Mohamed of Mohamed and Son Upholstery in Pietermaritzburg for his generosity in gifting his time, materials and expertise in restoring a piece of furniture which has a rich history.

The chair was given to our school by Newnham's youngest daughter in memory of her father.

The plaque on the chair reads: "Presented by Edith Lambert, daughter of the founder of this school in remembrance of her father. 1931"

The only reference I have been able to find, which I believe refers to this item, is in the minutes of a governors' meeting in August 1931: "Mr Fannin stated that Reids Cabinet Works had asked that the Headmaster's Chair be now taken from their showroom. It was decided that the chair be removed to the college and it was left to the headmaster to submit a suitable inscription to be engraved on the chair."

Edith Ellen Newnham was born in 1870 in Ladysmith. She would have known Hilton College in her early years before she, her siblings and parents moved back to England in 1877. She married Sydney Lambert, a medical doctor, in 1899. He passed away in February 1931. Edith was comfortably provided for: the probate calendar notes that he left to Edith effects to the value of £17 839, a handsome sum of money in 1931. We can only assume that some of this money was used to provide funding to donate the chair to the school her father started.

I believe it very likely that this is the same chair, given the commonality of 1931 in the various events outlined above. Clearly, the chair was intended to be the headmaster's. The portrait of headmaster Richard Todd in the dining hall shows him seated in this chair. However, in recent memory the chair was used by the chairman of the board at Speech Day, hence the name by which it is now commonly known, "The Chairman's Chair".

MacLachlan is heritage curator



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Edition 52 winner!



Seated are: Doug Dare, Headmaster Raymond Slater, Headboy Chris Phillips and Mike Bailey.

"Some boys find it necessary..."

Sent in from Clive Scotney



Win a 150th Old School Rugby Jersey!

1. Provide the year and names of people in this photo.
2. What is the significance of the captain of this team?



Submit your answers to Brett Armstrong via email to 150@hiltoncollege.com





STOCKMAN FUNDRAISER

Cattle as currency for school fees would not have been unknown in the 1870s, as legend tells of an early Hilton College pupil who arrived at school driving his fees before him. One hundred and fifty years later, the school now runs the Cattle Project, where oxen graze sustainably on the estate to raise funds for bursaries. This project was the brainchild of Patrick Eustace (1963, Ellis) whose father Charles, an old boy from the William Falcon era, referred to Pat's fees as "a span of oxen".

Pat's cattle project began in the early 1990s when he borrowed R20,000 from the Old Hiltonian Club to buy livestock, which he raised on his Underberg farm and on the farms of other interested old boys. "The project was a wonderful way to assist deserving boys with funding for their Hilton education and it has been very satisfying watching it move to the Hilton estate where there are now 800 oxen working for our boys."

His love of farming came from his father, who studied wool production overseas before settling in Underberg. Pat runs his business in a beef, sheep and cropping enterprise - with his son John; in 2019 they were awarded the National Cattle Farmer of the Year award. A true stockman, you will regularly find Pat on horseback, riding the mountains and checking the cattle and grass conditions.

It's hard not to be drawn to Pat's energy for family, farming and Hilton College, and it is rare to find a man who is so fulfilled. When asked how Hilton contributed to his success, he speaks of the discipline that the cadets at Hilton taught him, the team spirit and determination learned on the rugby field, and the enjoyment of nature, as learnt on the estate.

Pat served on the Hilton board of governors for 12 years representing the interests of the estate and the Hilton farm, both of which he sees as unique to the Hilton experience.

This is an extract from [Stories of Hilton College: An Anthology](#), published this year to mark 150 years of our school.

Sponsoring an ox is an excellent way to support your alma mater. It's also fun to watch the estate management team expertly caring for your ox - and stand the chance to win when your ox outgrows others!

Launched in 2009 with the donation of 40 oxen, our cattle project has contributed significantly to the Hilton farm and endowment fund, which in turn contributes to the Lift Up Your Hearts Fund offering financial aid to families of boys who can't afford our fees.

We've converted all our maize lands to Kikuyu pasture and increased our carrying capacity to between 700 and 850 oxen per season. This growth has happened through weaner sponsorship and the reinvestment of project profits.





ART FOR CONSERVATION

Old Hiltonian Glen du Preez (2008, Churchill) helped raise more than R500 000 for The Boucher Legacy early this year. Next year, in another Art for Conservation (ARC) auction, he hopes to raise even more for the protection of Africa's most endangered animals.

Du Preez is well known in the Midlands, where his art gallery - The Platform Gallery - showcases the work of local painters, sculptors, sketch artists and crafters, established and emerging. Du Preez and his wife Molly are the creative and entrepreneurial energy behind not only the gallery, but also The Nguni Guy and The Local Cafe and Eatery, all in Lion's River.

Going under the hammer at next year's ARC auction are fine art pieces by a variety of South African artists, many of whom are local to the Midlands area.

The beauty of ARC is that it is mutually beneficial to artists and a great cause: an investment in some of South Africa's most exciting artistic talents will result in a significant contribution to The Boucher Legacy, Du Preez says.



"We are all aware of South Africa's struggle against rhino poaching, but the growing number of endangered species in our country has further increased the need for funding. It was because of this need that the ARC initiative was born," says Du Preez.

Funds raised from this year's art auction went towards dehorning rhino, collaring wild dogs, and the rehabilitation and release into the wild of pangolin.

Dehorning is one of the most effective measures against poaching. Game reserves that regularly practice dehorning have seen a significant drop in poachers. Tracking collars have proved invaluable in the protection of wild dogs, saving 10% of the Kruger's wild dog population in the past year alone.

The auction will take place on 3 March 2023, in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands at The Far Side Farm. A beautiful day of music, food and beverage is planned in conjunction with the live auction. For more about the auction and to buy tickets to the luncheon, the proceeds of which are contributed to the cause.

SCOTT BREDIN ARTWORKS



Pinnacles and Gwens Valley
Oil - 83 by 110cm
R23 000.00



uMngeni Valley Bushveld
Oil - 120 by 165cm
R50 000.00



uMngeni Valley from the Point
Oil - 140 by 184,5cm
R65 000.00



Winter Aloes
Oil - 139,5 by 184,5cm
R65 000.00

Artist **Scott Bredin** is a direct descendent of the first pupil registered at Hilton College: Thomas John Allan. Thomas John was the son of Evelyn Thomas Allan, who arrived in South Africa on board the Lady Jane. He was a friend of Captain Gould Arthur Lucas, who bought the farm on which the Reverend William Orde Newnham opened a day school. Evelyn Thomas erected the first buildings on what ultimately became Hilton College.

Thomas John was born at Hilton and was the first pupil in 1872. His son, Arthur Vere Allan, was also born at Hilton, attended the school and was *dux* in 1906. Henry Vaughan Ellis, who was headmaster from 1878 to 1904, was his godfather.

Arthur fathered twins - a son, ET Allan, who attended Hilton, and a daughter, Mary Teresa. Mary married Waldene Bredin and had two daughters, Mary and Judy, and a son, John, who attended Hilton College from 1961 to 1964. John married Paulette Strachan and they had two sons, Scott and Murray, both of whom attended Hilton College.

Scott (Ellis) matriculated from Hilton in 1991.

Email 150@hiltoncollege.com to purchase any of these artworks and help grow the Hilton College Endowment Fund





Meet the
HEADMASTER

Tuesday
31 January 2023
Mpumalanga

[Click here to RSVP](#)

17h30
Q&A with the Headmaster for
prospective parents and Old
Hiltonians

19h00
Old Hiltonian dinner

*Venue to be confirmed closer to the time but will be within 30
minutes of Mbombela*



HILTON COLLEGE

Deeply Traditional. Refreshingly Contemporary.

LIMITED STOCK OF 150th MERCHANDISE STILL AVAILABLE!



SAVE R250

150th Veldskoen Range

Our Christmas sale has been a resounding success, thanks to you! For the last of our great deals, [click here](#).

Please be advised that orders for 2022 have closed, and new orders will only be dispatched for delivery after 13 January 2023. Thank you for your support.

Here's a big shout out to all of you for the part you have played this year. Here's to the next 150 years of **BUILDING HILTON TOGETHER**.

Have a safe and enjoyable festive season.

