



## S.A.T.S General Botha Old Boys Association Bursary Fund

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### **December 2013 – News Letter**

Dear Fund supporters,

#### **Our Bursars/ Bursaries**

How time flies -2013 is nearing its end and our first two bursars *Zusiphe Mzotho* and *Tsoso Hanong* have graduated and will continue their careers studying for S1 and S2 Deck Officer diploma's at Cape Peninsula University of Technology commencing in January 2014. Great news is they acquitted themselves very well at the recent tertiary bursary interviews conducted by the Society of Master Mariners and were granted Tertiary Education bursaries for both S1 and S2 studies. We look forward to seeing their Final Matric results which we are sure will be excellent.

*We are delighted, and very proud of them. They will be encouraged to participate in the mentorship of those following them through Lawhill and to undertake other outreach endeavours on behalf of the fund. We will continue to follow their careers and provide you with an update.*

Interviews of potential bursars for next year have been held by Lawhill. Final decisions will be made at the start of the 2014 academic year when the candidates' grade 9 results will be available for review.

Our current grade 10 students, *Lethabo Morovhi*, has made a tremendous effort to strengthen her mathematics, with extra tutoring, etc. and should achieve a satisfactory result at the year-end and continue on with our support into grade 11. She is well motivated, determined to succeed, and described as a role model in her class.

The Committee's intention is to fund an additional three - three-year full boarder bursaries commencing in 2014. The full boarding experience is considered to be the most valuable.

However Lawhill is by far oversubscribed for 2014 and we will be adding at least one further day scholar bursar in 2014 which will bring our complement to five.

In order to identify suitable and needy candidates for entry into Lawhill and for the fund bursaries, we have commenced looking at candidates from Sea Cadet and Sea Scout groups. Next year dependent on the final interview one of these candidates will join our Bursar group.

#### Administrators:

Capt. K.H.Burchell; D.K.Russell; P.D.Coetzee; P.Semark; Capt. N.C.Lawson; Capt. A.D.Nicholas;  
Capt. J. Hookins; Comm. (Eng.) D.J. Meyer (SAN Ret'd)



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### Fund Raising:

Our Fund Raising efforts are really having great success as detailed below:

- Our annual golf day netted R70, 000 for each of GBOBA and SOMMSA (Master Mariners) Bursary Funds.
- We received a two large individual company donations amounting to a total over three years of R166, 000 which are specific to supporting students that we identify on their behalf. These bursaries will carry both the donors and GBOBA name in order that they can be identified by the donors and the students careers followed by them. It is gratifying that we are attracting such donors who see the fund as a well-managed conduit for their donations supporting identified students on their behalf.
- Phil Wade's campaign to involve overseas donors in our fund is starting to pay dividends.

The success of these functions has encouraged us to spread our wings even further and a "Meet the Students" Brunch and Maritime Memorabilia Auction function is being organized for the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Details of this event will follow early in the New Year.

### Annual Donations

These funds build the funds capital which in turn guarantees the funds continued existence and sustainability.

*However this most important source of fund, the individual annual donations from our GBOBA members has been very disappointing.*

### **This fund is our legacy!!**

### Mentoring and Outreach programme

Our bursary support approach is distinguished by our commitment to ongoing personal mentoring of our bursars. This is particularly emphasized during their grade 11 year. The grade 10 study-programme provides the necessary foundation for them to relate profitably to the various extra-mural mentoring interventions, and is best left to the teaching staff, while the grade 12 year is virtually consumed by preparation for the matric examinations.

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Jerry Hookins one of our Fund Committee members pioneered this approach for us last year with our first two bursars, with great success. He shared these very cogent thoughts with the Committee after we had expressed appreciation of his contribution:

*"Thanks for your kind comments, but if you haven't got the proper seeds, NOTHING good will grow from them. As per usual in all these things it is a team effort, as the choosing of the right people in the first place played a massive role.*

*Just one thing I must share before I disappear into the Eastern Cape bush later this month, as I believe it is extremely important and relevant.*

*Quite early in the mentoring exercise, Tsoso made a comment that made me puff with pride as a "Bothie" Old Boy. He said: "What is it with you guys? You are all something different." Rather taken aback I asked him what he meant. He replied that he found it astonishing that all "guys from Bothie" seemed like they are from the same family.*

*When I mentioned that I had not seen some of them for over fifty years, he said: "But I bet it will be like yesterday when you meet and say hello again." And, when I joined the meeting in Cape Town earlier this year, indeed it was!*

*I think that we Old Boys tend to be forgetful or unaware of the close bond that exists between Bothie Boys, even when they don't know each other, and that, I think, is where the passion is. Now with these first two bursars we have started the development of a sort of breed of new Bothie people, who have recognised that bond, and to some extent already share it. I believe that we should remember that and keep them close to us all somehow."*

Hopefully this engendered friendship and bonding developed through our Bursar Group, will indeed develop a breed of "Lawhill" Old Boys

**BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DONARS FOR A JOYFUL FESTIVE SEASON SHARED WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND A FULFILLING AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

**Keith Burchell**

**Chairman**

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