



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

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February 2017 – Newsletter

Good day valued supporter. I trust you find our newsletter of interest. Our sincere appreciation for your continued support.

It is a great pleasure to report that all the GBOBA Bursary Fund bursars passed their year-end examinations and move on into 2017. It is particularly pleasing that the two grade 12 students obtained university entrance passes and Archie Leeu will proceed now to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, on a full AMSOL Bursary to continue his maritime studies at tertiary level, Keanon gained entry into CPUT but will have to make a choice in respect of taking up the GBOBA BF Bursary to SSTG or proceeding to CPUT without a Bursary. The extra-tutorial support that GBOBA Bursary Fund provides, being fully justified by their success. We wish them all ongoing success. This year, the Fund has its first bursar attending the maritime studies department of Durban University of Technology on the newly instituted three-year course, having been awarded the Captain Steve Ray Scholarship. It is very useful that Nomkhitha Mbele moved to Durban during 2016 and is representing the Fund there, providing local administrative support and mentoring for the Durban based bursars.

Four new boarding bursaries were awarded for grade 10 at Lawhill Maritime Centre in December, two of which are sponsored by the Royal Cape Yacht Club. One Grade 12 scholar has received a sponsored bursary as a day scholar and one a GBOBA Boarder Sponsorship. In addition, one grade 10 day-scholar award will be made during the first term, this will bring the total number of students at Lawhill during 2017 benefiting from the Fund's programme to 15. This is a truly remarkable growth from the original 2 half-bursaries awarded in 2012. This is a clear demonstration of the growing appreciation and support of the work of the Old Boys' Association, from both individuals in the GBOBA network and corporate sponsors within the maritime industry.

It was encouraging to be able to facilitate workplace experience for several of our bursars during the December-January holidays at MDSol in Cape Town and Sub Tech in Durban. This is a hugely beneficial experience for them and it is hoped that it will become a significant feature in the Fund's programme. The feedback received from their employers was very positive. These young people are excellent ambassadors in every respect.

Administrators:

Capt. K.H.Burchell; D.K.Russell; P.D.Coetzee; P.Semark; Capt. N.C.Lawson; Capt. A.D.Nicholas;
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The Fund goes into 2017 in a sound financial state thanks to the sustained support from sponsors and donors, both private and corporate. The annual golf day was a great success once again and has become a definite highlight of the Industry's social calendar. In addition, the Fund's management team has been strengthened significantly by several new volunteers: Lloyd Merriman, Yvette de Klerk, Colin Flockhart, Charles Kingon and Tiaan Rabe have all been welcomed aboard. The launching of the GBOBA/Marine Inspirations sponsored sail-training L26, *Homero* which was purchased by a donation from Mrs Caimari and named in honour of her late husband. The other funds raised at the Big Bottle Wine Party will be used to support annual maintenance and other running costs of the *Homero*. The *Homero* will enable hands-on seamanship and boat handling training for the Lawhill students.

This function together with the commissioning of the extensions at Lawhill, which increases it's boarding and classroom capacity, will launch us into 2017. The Old Boys Association cannot resurrect the Bothie, but it can ensure the continuation of its heritage of educating the youth of South Africa for maritime service through the work of its Bursary Fund. The voyage continues – "full ahead!"



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