



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

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November 2016 – News Letter

Dear valued supporter. We trust you shall find this newsletter of interest.

Lawhill is sailing towards the shores of year-end with every academic sail set and the students working hard to maximise their success in the final examinations of the year. We wish them all a safe passage into 2017, particularly our two grade 12 bursars, Archie Leeu and Keanon Daniels, who are aspiring to continue their maritime studies at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. They were given a special boost during the mid-year school holiday with a one-week intensive tutorial course in mathematics and science, taught by Charles Reid and Hugh James. The feedback from everyone involved has been very positive and it is planned to include this type of intervention in the annual mentoring programme for the Fund's bursars.

While the focus of the Committee is always on the progress and wellbeing of the bursars, it is never forgotten that amongst the Fund's general objectives is the preservation of a consciousness of the culture and legacy of the S.A.T.S. *General Botha* as a significant part of South African maritime history, through the encouragement and education of young South Africans to pursue careers in the maritime industry. There can be no better indication of the Fund's success in this regard than the acknowledgement, recognition and appreciation of the GBOBA's contribution through the Fund expressed repeatedly each year by industry speakers, faculty members and students at Lawhill's annual student awards evening in October.

This year was especially celebratory as it was the Lawhill Maritime Centre's 21st. The Fund's bursars featured prominently throughout. **Archie Leeu** spoke of his sailing experiences with Phil Wade's Marine Inspirations in 2015 and others spoke of theirs and **Loyiso Jantjies** (our Grade 11 Bursar) experiences in June 2016, when they were on winning yachts in a major super yacht race in Spain

Archie, a Speciality Metals Scholar, made a powerfully inspiring speech describing how his years at Lawhill had transformed his life. In addition, **Archie** also received one of the main awards of the night, a full Smit Amandla Marine tertiary studies bursary for next year.

Archie and **Keanon Daniels** were both awarded performance certificates for grade 12 nautical science and maritime studies. **Menelisi Mkhize**, a grade 10 bursar and Master Yachts Scholar, received an award for outstanding merit in nautical science and maritime studies, achieving 95% in both subjects. Two Fund bursars participated in the Centre's excellent choir (singing far better than

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we OBs at our annual commemoration service!) which was very ably conducted by a third bursar, **Avela May**. Avela is in grade 10 and is a Marine Data Solutions Scholar. It is most gratifying that, *the Legend lives on*; evidently well beyond the Association, amongst this next generation of future seafarers. *May it long continue to do so.*

The Committee is, of course, watching the current developments on university campuses with concern, and is formulating strategies for responding to whatever the outcome might be for our bursars. *Rough weather or fair, the voyage continues.*

There has been a major development in the structuring of the SATS GBOBA Bursary Fund with the recent agreement to incorporate the *Society of Master Mariners South Africa Bursary Fund*. The formal changes to the constitution remain to be made and ratified, but in practice it consolidates the administration of both funds, allowing for a seamless continuation of funding and mentoring support from the secondary school level into tertiary education. It is very encouraging that several SOMMSA members have volunteered as representatives to continue serving within the new structure.

They Charles Kingon, Colin Flockhart and Tiaan Rabie are *welcome aboard* greatly strengthening the Tertiary Selection and Mentoring sub-committee. In addition, the Committee was pleased to co-opt and welcome Yvette de Klerk and Lloyd Merriman onto the committee. Yvette is the founder and managing director of *Maritime Training Enterprise*, with significant seafaring and maritime industry service. Her wide experience in the training and placement of seafarers is going to be invaluable to the Committee and as Secretary of the Tertiary S&M Committee. It is a further pleasure to welcome Peter Coetzee *back on board*, having been a founder member-*Peter has re-joined the crew after a period of shore-leave.*

Sadly, however, Derek Russell has retired from the Committee. As a founding member, his valuable contribution as committee secretary will be sorely missed. *Go well Derek – thank you!*

The Fund's bursar mentoring programme is a key element of its success and, therefore, a major aspect of the Committee's annual work planning and budgeting exercise at this time of the year. A review workshop was held in early September to facilitate this. Sixteen invited guests attended, all of whom are directly or indirectly involved with the programme. The frank and wide-ranging discussions were very useful, providing a comprehensive basis for further initiatives next year. It was most encouraging to receive such enthusiastic and valuable input – thank you! In addition, heartfelt thanks are due to Mary Burchell for providing an excellent finger-lunch to complete the morning's work. Simply marvellous Mary!

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The annual golf day is already working out to be a great success this year, with 4 ball Bookings booked out three months in advance. It is not only the core of the Fund's fundraising, but it has become a major feature of the maritime industry's annual brand marketing and social programme. In the agreement on incorporation of the SOMMSA bursary fund, it was agreed that the 50% split of funds from this event, between secondary-level and tertiary-level bursaries, will remain.

The Fund benefited from two donations of valuable maritime memorabilia this year. Old Boys Roger Shearer donated his valuable sextant and Alan Smith donated a magnificent model of a naval corvette, which was beautifully mounted in a glass display case by Derek Russell. An e-auction of the two items was held midyear, raising a total of R16,500. *Bravo Zulu to all concerned!* This was the second successful auction of this type and we plan to have an annual e-auction, *so any donations of this type will be most welcome.*

Although not directly related to the Fund, there is much excitement about the donation of an L26 yacht by committee member, Phil Wade and Anthony Just's Marine Inspirations to Lawhill Maritime Centre through the Bursary Fund. The yacht will be based at the FBYC in Simons Town, with club generously providing mooring and management of the maintenance and sailing program as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility program. Thus making it available for giving serious boat-handling experience to Lawhill students. This will broaden the opportunity to gain essential seamanship skills beyond the few who are able to benefit through sailing with the Marine Inspirations team in Palma, Spain, annually. This will add a valuable dimension to the Lawhill experience. Phil and Anthony besides arranging the original purchase are arranging a Big Bottle Wine Party (BBWP) on the 3rd December to fund the original purchase and ongoing maintenance. *Yet another Bravo Zulu, Phil and Ant!*

And so it goes. It has been a busy, fascinating and successful year for the Fund. *Nothing could have been achieved without your continued support. Thank you!*
We wish you a great voyage into 2017.

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