



# From the Bridge

October 2018

S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund



GBOBA BF Practical Training is supported by NSRI and sponsored by SAIMI



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**“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”**

The Bursary Fund champions real life experiences alongside theoretical training. It is this mission that makes the Bursary Fund unique to the Maritime Industry. After months of preparation and many meetings with the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) and the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), 16 participants or Trainee Crew, gathered at “Around the Bend” in Swellendam, for an intense practical education and training camp. Grade 10 and 11 Bursary Fund students were joined by 5 Lawhill Maritime Centre Students as well as 4 Sea Cadets of *T.S. Woltemade* in Lakeside.

Mr Mark Beneke and Mr Rico Menezies of the NSRI, guided the participants on and off the water. It was, undoubtedly, a camp that will never be forgotten, as lessons of team unity and resilience supported the practical training and education program. The team of NSRI trainers, Bursary Fund mentors and the river lodge crew dedicated the time spent together to the sharing of skills. After the resounding success of this camp, the administration team has already begun work on the practical training program for 2019.



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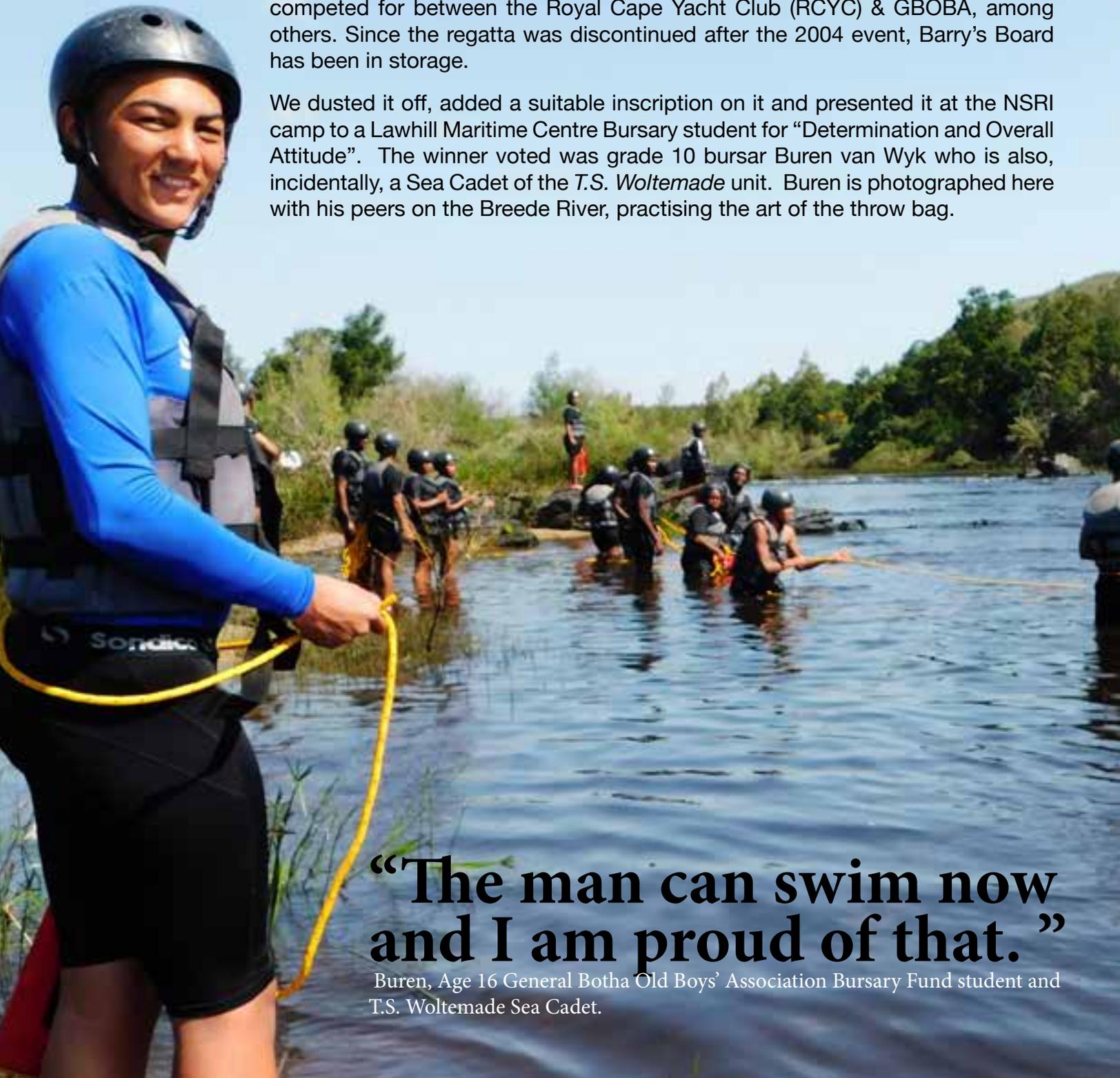


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The late Old Boy, Barry Wallis, GB 1983, donated a sailing trophy in 2000 for the quadrangular yacht race. The trophy was named Barry's Board and was competed for between the Royal Cape Yacht Club (RCYC) & GBOBA, among others. Since the regatta was discontinued after the 2004 event, Barry's Board has been in storage.

We dusted it off, added a suitable inscription on it and presented it at the NSRI camp to a Lawhill Maritime Centre Bursary student for "Determination and Overall Attitude". The winner voted was grade 10 bursar Buren van Wyk who is also, incidentally, a Sea Cadet of the *T.S. Woltemade* unit. Buren is photographed here with his peers on the Breede River, practising the art of the throw bag.



**“The man can swim now  
and I am proud of that.”**

Buren, Age 16 General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund student and  
*T.S. Woltemade* Sea Cadet.

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A holistic approach to the mentoring program includes technology and maritime education. The students were required to complete the NSRI Trainee Crew e-learning program prior to the practical camp on the Breede River this October. In the spirit of competition, the prize for the first four bursary students to complete the e-learning program was a tablet. The winners of the competition and photographed below are Ludwe Ntshete, Nikita Adams and Sabelo Mithumkhulu. Andy MacLennan, SAIMI representative, handed the students their tablets during the NSRI camp Sailing Dinner Awards.



Apelele Ntshinka is the fourth student to receive a tablet for completing the e-learning program. She received her prize and certificate at the Annual Lawhill Maritime Centre Awards evening.

She is photographed with Bursary Fund mentors (from left) Mr Peter Coetzee, Captain Tony Nicholas and Captain Keith Burchell. Apelele travelled to Spain during October, with her peer and fellow GBOBA BF student, Thapelo Moletsane. Marine Inspirations and the BIG BOTTLE WINE PARTY raise funds for an annual trip to Spain and under the mentorship of Phil Wade and Captain Anthony Just, hope to inspire “dreams beyond the horizon”. You can read all about this trip on the Bursary Fund website.



The camp mentors, Captain Blackie Swart and Nicole Burchell congratulate Mpilo Mthethwa, Lawhill Maritime Student and Tyrick Herwel, T.S. Woltemade Sea Cadet with the “Attitude Over Altitude Award”. In addition to their skill, the students proved that success lies in one’s attitude. The Bursary Fund is proud to share the opportunities that are planned and provided for our own students, with other disadvantaged communities also Nurturing Sea Fever.



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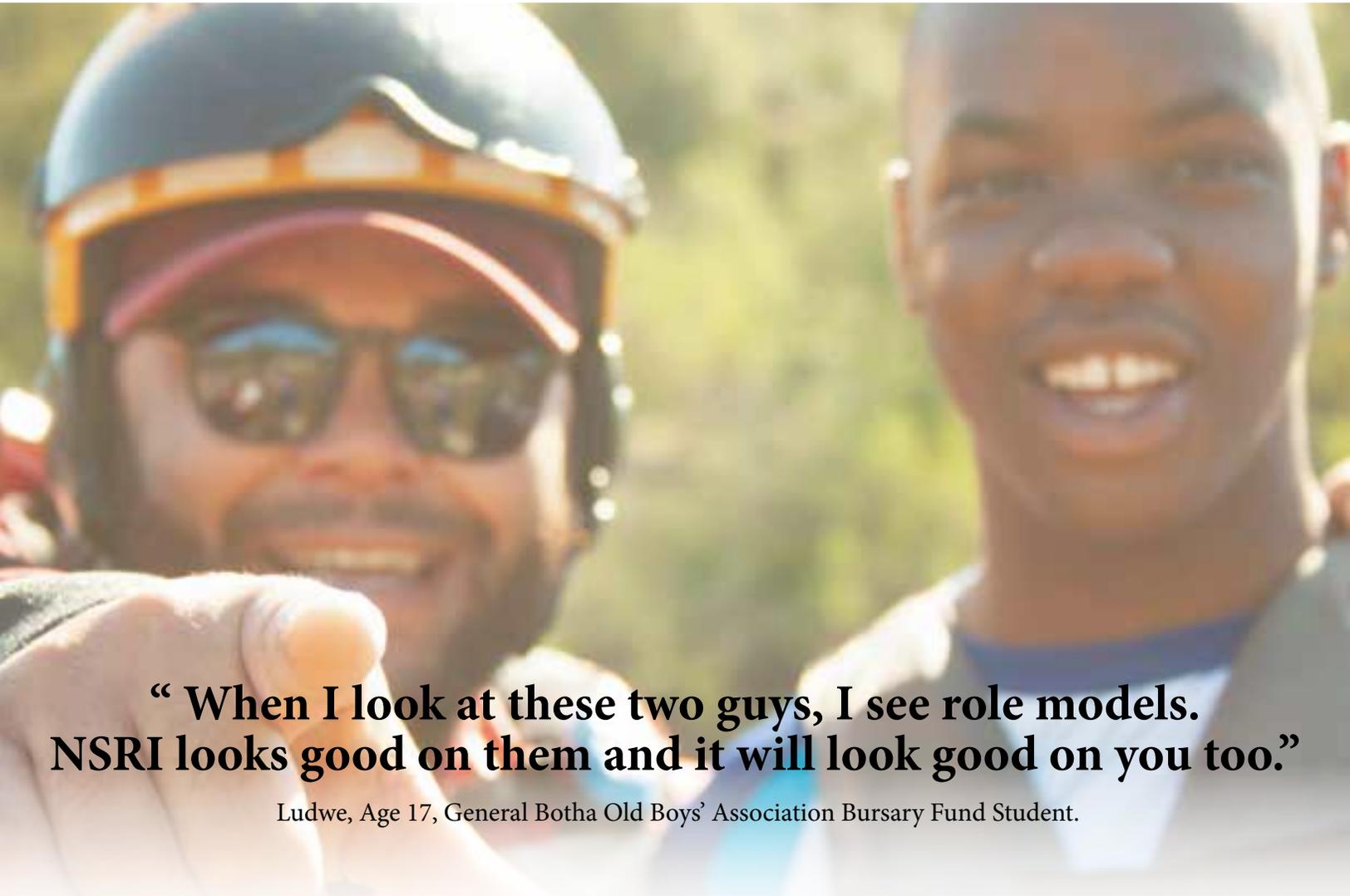
The Bursary Fund wishes to thank SAIMI for its sponsorship and support of the *General Botha* Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund mentoring and outreach program. We also wish to thank Andy MacLennan, SAIMI representative, for supporting the students from the river's edge and for also attending the Sailing Dinner Awards.

Thank you to team NSRI for sharing your experiences and expertise with the Bursary Fund and, in particular, our students. Thank you to team NSRI, Mr Rico Menezies, Mr Mark Beneke (photographed below with Sabelo Mthimkhulu), Mrs Meriel Bartlett and Mr Graeme Harding for being real life heroes. The Bursary Fund mentors,

Captain Blackie Swart, Mrs Nicole Burchell, Miss Salina Govendor, Captain Tony Nicholas and Mr Peter Coetzee, thank you for volunteering your time to *Nurture Sea Fever*.

To Lawhill Maritime Centre and in particular Mrs Debbie Owen and *T.S. Woltemade* Sea Cadet Base, Lieutenant Commander Paul Jacobs and Lieutenant Gaylene Pillay, thank you for sharing your students with us.

To NSRI CEO, Dr Cleeve Robertson and Bursary Fund Chairman, Captain Keith Burchell, thank you for the vision for this camp, and other camps, and for your dedication to maritime education.



**“ When I look at these two guys, I see role models. NSRI looks good on them and it will look good on you too.”**

Ludwe, Age 17, General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund Student.

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# “ When we arrived we were non swimmers. But today we are new swimmers ”

Ngabelwa, Age 17, Lawhill  
Maritime Student



Click on the image to watch a short video on SAIMI's perspective on maritime education.  
Read below for a transcript of the video.



“We realize that we need to repackage the cadet program and we're not 100% convinced that recruiting from college or university, after having completed academic studies, is the right place for an intervention.

We believe that we need to rather go down to school level to get people exposed to the sea and to experience what the water is all about and to become familiarized with the career at sea. During this time we mentor them and we support them so that when they get to matric, we know that when that person chooses to go to DUT, CPUT, NMU or SSTG, they're making an informed decision because they've been exposed a bit more to what life is like; they also have been given skills and this is where this particular program fits 100% with what we think we need: The kind of skills that

enable you to make a better contribution than you would have done if you were just left alone to do your own thing.

We support something like this and it's because we see that it fits exactly with the way we want to go. The self discipline that you guys are being taught, the trust, the communication skills, the mutual respect; I think it's great. All the work that's been done and all of your feedback on the confidence that has been built and the communication and the trust; everything that has been said by all of you is exactly what we were hoping for.”

*An edited transcript of Andy MacLennan, SAIMI representative, during the SAIMI sponsored S.A.T.S General Botha Annual Training Camp October 2018. The video can be viewed by clicking [here](#).*

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# And in other news

It is with great honour that we announce Tsoso Hanong as the first Bursary Fund Officer Of the Watch. Tsoso and his peer, Zusiphe were the first two students to be mentored and sponsored by the *General Botha* Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund in 2011. The late Jerry Hookins, GB Old Boy and ex-Master mentored the pair during the school holidays in their home town of Durban. At the end of the 2013 academic year, the students matriculated with a number of distinctions and university entrance passes.

In 2014, both Tsoso and Zusiphe commenced study at Cape Peninsula University of Technology and, as they say, the rest is history. We are proud of Tsoso's achievements and of Zusiphe's journey so far, but mostly, we are proud of the growth of the Fund and the generosity of the maritime industry. We wait in anticipation for Zusiphe's qualification and look forward to sharing the news with you.

Tsoso Hanong, *General Botha* Old Boys Association Bursary Fund's first Officer Of the Watch with Mr. Brian Ingpen of Lawhill Maritime Centre.



## Calendar events for quarter 4 of 2018

### **22 NOVEMBER**

AMSOL Marine Golf Day 2018

4 balls are for sale and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Please contact [Neil Lawson](#) should you wish to support this event.

### **30 NOVEMBER**

The Big Bottle Wine Party hosted by Phil and Anne Wade of Marine Inspirations.

Please contact the [administrator](#) should you wish to support this event.

### **Communications to and from “The Bridge”**

We appreciate and thank all of our Fund sponsors and supporters for your ongoing support in nurturing sea fever and suggest that you, together with us, watch and enjoy these bursars and other students as they grow and prosper and as a result of our programme. Follow and “Like” us on the Fund and GBOBA Facebook page,.

We are also using bulk mailing systems to send news and other such information regarding maritime education and Fund matters to our sponsors and supporters all over the world. Please contact the [administrator](#) should you wish to subscribe.

If you are not receiving these publications or have other difficulties in this respect please contact the Administrator at [administrator@generalbotha.co.za](mailto:administrator@generalbotha.co.za).



**“We are a step  
ahead of many kids  
out there.”**

Shukri, Age 17

General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund Student