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GENERAL BOTHA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

http://www.generalbotha.co.za

May 2013

JOINT NEWSLETTER

Has your address changed? Please send your updated details to Tony Nicholas Chairman Cape Town (details above).
Do you have an interesting article for this newsletter? Please send your contributions to Dennis Henwood, dhenwood@iafrica.com Phone: +27 (0)21 6716373. Fax: +27 (0)86 6706710.

Can you read this Newsletter? If not please let us know. We can send you larger print if it is necessary.

APEAL - HISTORICAL PHOTOS OF THE BOTHIES

The GB Trust and the GBOBA Committee are looking for good quality photographs of a historical nature from the Ship through to Granger Bay. These would be official pictures of the establishments, or various classes or parades or items recording the history of the Bothie, rather than snap shots or personal albums. If anyone has such contributions please be in contact with us through the above contact details.

FORTHCOMING CAPE TOWN EVENTS – JOINT LUNCH GBOBA/SOMMSA.

- Tuesday 11th JUNE, 1130 for 1200 – Pub lunch, Royal Cape Yacht Club.
- The speaker is Okke Grapow who has recently published a book on the Wolraad Woltemade and John Ross tugs, "A tug at my heart". Before lunch he will give an informative background talk on the subject. He may also have some copies for sale and autograph.
- NOTE the earlier start time. Cost R50 per person
- Booking for the lunch is important, please RSVP by Sunday 9th June to:
  - Kathy Nicholas: phone 021-788 5957
  - Email: cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za
  - Facsimile: 086 604 0811

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER – MARINE BURSARY GOLF DAY

- See further details on page 11 below.

MARITME MAESTRO OF THE YEAR – by class mate Barry Cullen 1953/54.

SAMSA, the South African Maritime Safety Authority (formerly DoT, Marine Division - the ones who examined us for Masters, Mates and 2nd Mates) (for those of the overseas ones who will never have heard of SAMSA) are on an upward surge to promote and encourage South African youngsters to look "at" and "go" for a sea career. There's a lot of interest and enthusiasm out there – just needs to be channeled in the right direction!

As part of this, SAMSA and other sponsors have established several awards -this is where we become personally involved. At a glittering ceremony at the "Lookout" in the V&A Waterfront last Friday 19 April; **Okke Grapow** [class 1953/54] was honoured with the top award -**Maritime Maestro of the Year**! He received a standing ovation. I can tell you; he was thrilled.

The citation (a bit dry, especially last four words!) reads, "This award aims to recognize individuals in the maritime industry who act as ambassadors for the industry who, in their personal capacity and in their own time and at their own expense, promote the development of the industry and promote awareness of the industry in a manner that goes above and beyond their current job description."

(Substitute last four words with "the normal course of duty." But who am I to say!!?)

There's no stopping Okke at 75! Works full time for SAMSA as their top maritime organizer/adviser/consultant. Recently South Africa made the "Agulhas" available for the latest British Antarctic Expedition moving personnel and equipment to Antarctica - and he was the man behind it. Including a trip to London with South African cadets, a huge adventure! Currently, working with SAMSA, shipping companies and maritime training colleges, Okke is setting up an ambitious and far reaching training program for SA youngsters.

Heartiest Congratulations to our shipmate! He's earned and deserves this award.

FROM THE BRIDGE OF s.s. CAPE TOWN

Another AGM and Commissioning Day celebration past during an eventful March. First was the 56/57/58 Year Intake reunion held in Mossel Bay. Ably coordinated by a team headed by Van [Laurentious van Rouendal] and Rita it was a very successful three day event. Many travelled from afar including Australia and UK. Kathy and I together with Gordon Stockley 1949/50 were honoured to attend as guests and proved to be very entertaining. Someone shall one day tell the entertaining story of someone falling overboard after a day at sea on a yacht. Believe me, a true story.

This was followed by a class 1973 reunion in Cape Town. Again many classmates travelled from afar and by all accounts a most rewarding few days together.

Such reunions set the bench mark for other class reunions and trust some shall take up the rewarding task of initiating these. Such a pity class 1972 missed last year but perhaps they can make up for it in the interim. What is also extremely important is the AWOL class mates that are tracked down and welcomed back onto membership. Please keep this up. Peter Blackett is busy arranging his class 1974 reunion for next March; we look forward to a full turn out.

A highlight of the recent maritime industry calendar was the awarding by SAMSA of the Maritime Maestro of the Year award to none other than Okke Grapow 1953/54. A man who has continued to toil tirelessly for a lifetime past retirement age. Bravo Zulu sir.

Unfortunately Denys Pitcher 1943/44 has resigned as a trustee of our GB Trust, this after serving since the inception of the Trust. Denys has worked tirelessly throughout and has been an invaluable source of knowledge. Again we record our sincere appreciation to Denys and wish him a well earned rest. Peter Rogers 1956/57 has succeeded Denys as Trustee and we thank Peter as well for accepting this important position on behalf of the association.

SCRANBAG

W.W.B. LEARMONTH 1958/59 #E14. 1960-66 University of Cape Town, Civil Engineering and Quantity Surveying. 1966-68 with Babbs Labdon & Partners in Cape Town. 1968-78 Asphalt Roads and Roofing Contractors, senior management responsible for operations in the Western and South Eastern Cape. 1978-79 Murray & Stewart as Senior Contracts Surveyor on various multi million Rand projects and developments. 1987-1990 Vadek Paints, director responsible for Cape operations,

manufacturing and sales. 1990-2008 Neil Muller Construction, director of Procurement and Property Development and shareholder. Sold shareholding in 2006 and retired 2008. Does ocean sailing and motor racing. *And attends class reunions.*

S.C. PROCTER 1973 #2453. Stewart left the Merchant Navy 1981, worked for Rennies Shipping and then Caleb Brett. Joined Total [SA] in December 1983 and stayed with them until March 2007. Worked in various capacities in various towns and cities until retirement in 2007. At the time at Bend Plant Durban. Came out of retirement and joined Saint Giles Association for the handicapped in August 2008.

M.E. HULLEY 1973 #2442. Morris was previously at sea with Safmarine, in fact we sailed together in 1970, and later a Marine Surveyor for SGS based in Cape Town. 1994 - A stowage coordinator with Safmarine's Cargo Department. 1998 - left Safmarine and moved to England. 2013 working in London for Borchard Lines, a family owned shipping line operating 14 container vessels which run around the Med and UK/continent.

N.G. TALBOT 1973 #2458. AWOL Norman was found by his reunion sleuth working in Dubai, Jebel Ali. We know not what exactly but his email address reads *pilotnorman.* Do let us know Norman.

P.F. BLACKETT 1974 #2465. Much to my surprise received an email from Peter in Angola, appears the Middle East was too *dry* for him. . "I joined Svitzer up in Angola. It seemed like a good idea at the time. We did start a branch of the GBOB's up in Soyo on the Congo River. Tony Da Silva [class 1972] was told to be President. Ian Carrasco [class 1974] and myself are members and have casting votes. I will chat to *Cracks* when we are together up there again and we will see how we go."

G.M. DOUGLAS 1978 #2626. Graham surfaced at Durban branch AGM recently. 1977 to 1985 at sea with Unicorn, thereafter with Land & Marine, Safmarine, Pentow and Smit, at sea and as salvage master. 1997 - Tug Master with Portnet, Richard's Bay. Received a bravery award whilst in Richard's Bay. 1998 - joined Pentow Marine, Durban. 1999 - Master on a Dive Support Vessel operating out of the Bonny River, Nigeria, for an American Company, Stolt Comex Seawan. 2005 Sub LT in S.A. Navy, completed FTO 1 Officer's course and served on a missile strike craft. 2006 to 2007 lecturer at Durban University of Technology before joining Svitzer. Thereafter with various tug and salvage companies before joing Alan Brink & Associates Durban in 2012. *Graham, please elaborate on the bravery award you received.*

R.B. MURRAY 1980 #2697. Unfortunately Ron missed the Cape Town *Bothie weekend* this year. "Double edged sword up here. I have been promoted to Harbor Master for the port of Mesaieed as of a week ago. Good thing! Bad though I can't really take over and go on leave so I will have to miss this year's AGM. Please table my apologies." *Next then Ron.*

R.J.D. DUIGAN 1982 #2759. Ronald has left the Shaw Group U.K. but fails to tell us where he is now. Look forward to hearing from you.

G.H. CLACK 1973 #2432. Graham another reunion attendee who had, and still has, an interesting career. "10 years with Safmarine. Then Safmarine (Arthur Bluett) seconded me to Bothie for 6 months as lecturer/instructor. Came ashore for a while to start a family and joined Sea Harvest at Saldanha Bay holding Fleet Training and HR portfolio. Then spent 9 years with Irvin & Johnson in various posts: Marine Superintendent Development, Freezer Fleet Fishing Master, Senior Marine Superintendent and acting Marine Manager. Thereafter did a stint of farming in Tulbagh and found it was more profitable to be in the Marine Industry and joined Portnet in Cape Town as Tug Master also obtaining a 10,000 tonne Pilot License and did some piloting in Cape Town during my spare time. Thereafter joined OCTO Marine later known as Smit Terminals and was back offshore as Master on the Deep Salvage 1 (dive support in Oil & Gas) on the west coast of Africa and later the Tinitini. Involved with start up of new marine oil terminals (GPC) in Georgia for 2 years, followed as Marine Superintendent at start up of new terminal in Russia for 2 years. Then SMIT Terminals moved me to the UAE as HR Manager. After a total of 8 years with SMIT I joined Noble Denton Middle East as Senior Marine Surveyor and later Principal Surveyor and Marine Consultant. In this position I did some interesting projects for Saipem as Project Marine Advisor on the 4 billion dollar Dolphin Project in Qatar & UAE (offshore construction) - we chartered a total of 85 offshore vessels for this project to carry out diverse offshore works. Also enjoyed consulting for Maersk Oil Qatar on an oil field extension development project in

the Al Shaheen field. After 5 years with Noble Denton, Zakher Marine International requested me to join them as Special Projects Manager carrying out Strategic Corporate Development projects. I was building capacity within the company for a supposed 2 years but ended up spending 3years with this company before finally throwing in the towel and settling down in Cape Town. In 2010 I started a business in the Green packaging technologies (Earthly Directions EcoPack (Pty) Ltd) known as EcoPack which is now flourishing. I am also actively developing related "Green Tech Businesses" within the "Earthly Directions" brand. I am really enjoying my time back home and having fun with business!"

P.C. ZANDEE 1964 #2259. Another *retiree* who does not the definition of the word. 1965 joined Safmarine as Deck Cadet and later Chief Officer with Zapata Marine brining first oil exploration rig to South African waters. Joined BP in 1970 and rejoined Safmarine in 1975 in a shore based position as Marine Superintendent, special ships division. Attended outfitting of Ocean Tugs, Saldanha Bay Harbour Tugs and Kuswag vessels. Active in International rig towage, salvage, oil pollution abatement and ship management projects. 1992 appointed Managing Director OCTO Marine, based in Cape Town. Retired April 2009. Got appointed to the SCR (Special Casualty Representative) list at Lloyds.

A.H. SHARP 1961/62 #2214. Alex recently retired from employment in Shanghai, China, and has moved to Thailand.

R. HERMAN 1966 # 2280. Made recent contact with Ron. He is still based in Maputo heading a company exporting Iron Ore out of Swaziland. I await your postal address and phone numbers please Ron.

K.A. TATE 1976 #2542. Kevin sent apology for recent lunch meet. "My apologies, but still stuck in Clogland. Just got back to Holland today after a week in Wales refloating a grounded Ro-Ro vessel. CIUDAD DE CADIZ, purpose built Ro-Ro to carry A-380 wings from Mostyn in Wales to France." Interesting.

J.D. BAXTER 1961/62 #2197. John reports that he has recently moved back to Australia from New Zealand. The climate perhaps?

SOS

Brian. L. Heard 1955-1956, anyone have any information to assist us in locating him?
Mike Holm 1945-46, last known of in Johannesburg, gone AWOL. Where is he now?

ANCHORS AWEIGH

J.S. SMITH FISHER 1935/36. John was Founder Chairman of the Association's Australian Branch. Went to sea as Cadet at age of 16 years with Houlder Bros 1937 to 1942. Joined Union Castle Line and was on the "Richmond Castle" when hit by a bomb in a Liverpool blitz. Involved in convoy work in the North Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Obtained masters certificate at age 24 years. Appointed Master of the "Rovuma", a coaster on the Portuguese east African Coast at age 27 years. 1950 came ashore as Stevedore Manager for African Associated Stevedoring in Durban. 1962 immigrated to Australia and became manager of Smith Patrick's Stevedoring Company in Adelaide, specializing in loading bulk grain. 1983 retired to become a hobby farmer, bee keeping. In 1987 went back to sea again as Master of the Scientific Expeditionary Ship 'Sir Walter Raleigh', sailing on her for 5 months. Deceased 03/02/2013.

T.J. HOLMES 1955/56 #1947. After G.B. Trevor joined the mines as a learner Surveyor. Qualified as a surveyor in 1963 and decided to change to mining as a career. Eventually qualified as a Mine Manager and progressed to General Manager of a Gold Mine. Retired in 1992 and moved to Knysna. Enjoyed deep sea fishing and became involved with the Ratepayers Association. Also started to reactivate his hobby as a radio ham. Had a well equipped workshop and enjoyed woodwork. Deceased 12/03/2013.

C.E. BROMFIELD 1957/58 #2038. 1959 Clive started and apprenticeship as electrician with Virginia Gold Mine, O.F.S., during which time he mastered the saxophone. After the apprenticeship: spent a year playing the saxophone at Palm Grove, Margate, then another year with the Prison's Department Military band, Kroonstad, which led to 3½ years playing the saxophone in the South African Air Force

band. Then Clive resumed his trade as electrician and apprentice tutor at Braamfontein. Then on to Kloof Gold Mine where he completed his technical studies, and worked as a Hoist Technician. Clive then worked for Siemens for 8 years and then joined the SABC in the Transmitter Department, where he worked for 19 years up to his retirement in 2003. Deceased 13/04/2013.

R.M. *PEPSI* CALDER 1957/58 #2039. Robert worked at Playtex as the manufacturing director but retired when the company sold to Sara Lee. Deceased 15/03/2013. Memories from his daughter: "It's always heart warming to know that my Dad is remembered fondly by others because he will be sorely missed in our lives.

My Mum, Elizabeth, married my Dad 45 years ago and they had my sister, Chantal and me shortly after. Dad worked at Playtex as the manufacturing director but retired when the company sold to Sara Lee. He has 4 adoring grandchildren who called him 'Bobby' and even though the eldest is only 10 they will have loving memories of him.

Dad was an avid Arsenal soccer fan and a dedicated Sharks and Springbok rugby supporter. There were often a few loud outbursts from him either yelling at the referees on TV or in the stadium when he didn't agree with the decisions made on the field.

Unfortunately Chantal and I were not too talented in the sporting department but he tirelessly watched and encouraged us in our ballet and modern shows and performances.

The theatre was another passion of Dad's and he took us to many a pantomime and musical theatre performance whenever the opportunity arose.

Dad's health started to deteriorate some years ago when he was diagnosed with renal failure, liver disease (even though we didn't know him as much of a drinker), low platelets and towards the last few months, a lung condition. The numerous trips into hospital wore him down and eventually he chose to discontinue treatment. A brave decision which ended his life.

We never knew much about his life at Botha's so it is so lovely to hear a few stories – thank you. He probably filtered out a lot of it because he didn't want to let us in on how naughty he was and give his girls any ideas.

He was a truly wonderful Dad, who lived his life for us and provided for us selflessly and for that he will hold a very special place in our hearts."

M.J.D. TURNER-DAUNCEY 1942/43 #1268. Deceased October 2011. Below received from his son.

"After the war Dad left the sea and moved to Kenya to join his father who was involved in the game hunting industry. After a few years he was employed by the government to conduct locust control and moved throughout East Africa conducting this task. It was during the early 50's that he met my mother ,who was on holiday from Germany, at her uncles ranch. They were married in 1954 and had a happy few years in Tanzania where Dad had won a job as a game park ranger. This was a time of unrest in East Africa and the Mau Mau crisis was the catalyst for the young couple to move to the UK to start their family. They had 3 children and after 8 years in the UK decided that the climate was just too cold for their liking. They immigrated to Australia as 10 pound poms in 1964. They were always happy with their choice to start fresh in this country.

At age 50 Dad got itchy feet again and decided to return to the sea. He and Mum gave up their comfortable existence in the suburbs and purchased a small yacht. Dad quickly fell into the life at sea and he and Mum went on many wonderful adventures around the South Pacific. Often stopping to work and build up the kitty along the way. After about 15 years of this wandering they decided it was time to move back ashore. I think the cruising lifestyle was one of the happiest periods of his life. After selling their boat they decided to become mountain people and moved to a little cottage on top of Mt Mee on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Dad also enjoyed this quiet country existence and he became quite an expert curry maker entertaining friends, his adult children and grandchildren."

A.N. DU PLESSIS 1938/39 #975. Norman joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman RN, Middle East then took up Dentistry practiced in Farringdon, Overseas League Rugby player. 1986 retired but an excellent water colour artist. Deceased February 2013.

J.E. NORTH 1944/45 #1373. Sadly deceased 17/12/2012. Information of his career will be appreciated.

M.T. FIELD 1948/49 #1549. Michael was unable to go to sea because of eyesight failure. 1952 working in Cape Town as a Cashier with the Natal Building Society. Subsequently returned to Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe] and later back to South Africa where he worked for Permanent Building Society until retirement. Deceased January 2013.

P. THOMAS 1958/59 #2129. 1960 Peter indentured to Ellermany & Bucknall. 1963 joined a furniture manufacturing business as Dispatch Clerk and Pantechnicon Driver Code 11. Early 1964 joined an Engineering Supply Company Reunert & Lenz as Store man and later internal Salesman. May 1968 joined a Local Electrical Wholesaler R.J.D. Old Electrical as rep/internal salesman/chief buyer. Company was taken over by Voltex Group April 1990 and continued as Branch Manager until retirement in April 1996.

1968 was a founder member of N.S.R.I. Station 7 (East London) and left the N.S.R.I. as Station Commander in 1981. 1969 joined the S.A. Navy Citizen Force and was attached to S.A.S. Port Rex with rank of Lieutenant Commander for many years. Peter also formed a GBOBA East London branch arranging many lunch meetings and drawing Old Boys together. Peter was an Associate Member of the Border Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association. Deceased 22nd February 2013.

M.J. AVERY 1952/53 #1749. Michael joined the Marines which was later transferred from the S.A. Army to the S.A. Navy. Served on numerous vessels and also served as Master at Arms on many S.A. Navy ships and shore establishments. Also became a well known figure in the sailing fraternity. Deceased 16/01/2013.

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH-----Ted Fisher

I'm afraid very little on news items this month!

Social: Doug Wrathmall (56/57) together with myself and Barbara joined some dozen Conway Solent members and their ladies at lunch in The Silver Fern Warsash on Sunday 7 April---an excellent 'jolly' occasion.

Having advised in the February Newsletter of a proposed visit by the Association of Old Worcester's to the newly restored ''*Cutty Sark''* on 8th May in Greenwich, there have been no requests for additional information!!!

On a personal note, my thanks to Doug Wrathmall for returning the Bothy Flag following the ''Three Intakes Reunion'' last month….we appreciated his report on a rather fun occasion in Mossel Bay! Also grateful to him for bringing over my copy of Okkert Grapow's fabulous book **A Tug at my Heart**---for those who have not signed up for a copy it is a fabulous read a collection of narratives by those who were around to experience the super tugs ***'Wolraad Woltemada'*** and ***''John Ross''*** (Smit Amandla) and very well illustrated.

Plans ahead perhaps, well, watch your emails sometime?

Ted Fisher Tel: +44(0)1903 744400 Mob: +44(0)7702 635017 Email: tedefisher@aol.com

GAUTENG BRANCH NEWSLETTER

The Commissioning Day Luncheon was held at the Victoria Lake Club Germiston on Sunday 10th March. Despite a few regular attendees being temporarily billeted in Mossel Bay, and thus AWOL from their home branch, thirty five Old Boys partners and guests stood by tables at 13:00. Some cadets who up until now had maintained a low profile were exposed and encouraged to attend. I trust that they and their partners were made to feel welcome and can be relied upon to continue to support our branch in the coming years.

In an attempt to bring a little extra nostalgia to the event, the local Sea Scout troop based at Victoria Lake, carried the Bothie OBA flag ashore from a gig, and broke the flag on the yacht club mast, which is rigged in front of the function venue. I'm sure many memories of cold painful hours in cutters and whalers were brought to the fore while the long time ex crews and coxswains watched enthusiastic and proud young lads and lasses perform for such an auspicious audience.

The six tables had to earn their "bord kos" for the day, as they were given a very broad spectrum quiz to complete. The ladies had to assist in finding the answers to questions covering entertainment, modern media, housekeeping, and cooking, topics which I suspect most gentlemen present were

hopeless at. Their chance came to excel on the nautical section questions, but some memories were apparently in need of a little Brasso to get the patina removed.
Ultimately Ivor Little's table won the quiz by a handsome margin, despite the rife trade in answers going on. The winners were rewarded with a bag of chocolates and bragging rights to divide amongst themselves. The aim of engendering lively discussion and enjoyment between young and old, boys and girls was I think achieved.
Sincere thanks go to Graham Bray 2523 of '76 for sponsoring the table wines.
Cadets present and correct, including their ladies were, in alphabetical order:- Vic and Lucy Albert ('52/3), Graham Bray and Jenine Stanley('76), Mike and Monica Crewe('52/3), Alan and Jenny Ford('71), Henri and Emma Fouche('68), Tom and Rina Fraser('69), Tony Hunter('53/4), Tony and Judy Jacquet('54/5), Wim and Charlene Keirsgieter('58/9), Ivor and Anne Little('53/4), John Orrock('54/5), Rene and Karen Poerner('48/9), Keith Quayle('53/4), Dave and Lynda Sharrock('74), Jeremy Thorpe('74), Frank and Shirley Wheeldon('41/2), Ian Thurston (W '59/61).
The next Branch gathering will be the Spring Garden Party, details closer to the time.
Alan Ford.

AUSTRALIA BRANCH NEWS

Our AGM and Commissioning Day lunch was held on 16th March. Thanks to Al Snyders and Andy Fotheringham for the organization. *The picture below lists the names of all who attended.*
The committee was reelected and the branch approved the changes required to the Constitution as requested by Tony Nicholas.
Special note was made of the passing in February of the co-founder of the Australian Branch,
Captain John Fisher (*see Anchors Aweigh on page 3 above*). His funeral in Adelaide was attended by John Hussey and Mike Carrington. The Bothy Old Boy's flag was draped on his coffin.

Front Row; Andy Fotheringham, Fred More, Maureen More, Jenny O'Hare, Jill Hoatson, Brian Hoatson.
Back Row; Mike Pomfret, Simon Reynolds, David Greenhaulgh , Peter O'Hare, Loriol Williamson (Conway) , Alasdair Snyders, Geoff Rae (Pangbourne).

The mid-year lunch will be held in Sydney on Saturday 20th July at the Great Northern Hotel in Chatswood. Drinks will commence at 1200 with lunch at 1300. Please note all food and drinks will be paid for individually. They have a great menu priced at only $10 for the over 60's!!!
In May there will be a weekend of celebrations at Brisbane held by the Conway Worchester Pangbourne Association which includes invitations to all General Botha old Boys. Dates are May 23-26. The main dinner is on Saturday evening 25th. Please contact Loriol Williamson email loriol@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.
Regards to all and please get in touch if you are going to be "Down Under".
Grenville Stevens (2189 60/61) Chairman
Andy Fotheringham (2525 '76) Vice Chairman
Peter O'Hare (2247 '64) Hon Secretary, Australia Branch.
Email peteroh@bigpond.com Telephone 0417 028809.

DURBAN BRANCH

It is with regret that the Durban branch sees the departure for the fairest cape of our secretary Ernst Nellmapius who is to settle in Sedgefield. Ernst has done a sterling administrative job and is to be

sorely missed. Howard Jackson Moss has stepped in to take on the Secretarial and treasurer duty. Sadly we also see the departure of Ryk van der Krol and Graham Douglas who are also moving to the mother city. Rick's input on the committee will also be missed and we wish both bon voyage.
Some 20 of us gathered for a very sociable AGM at the Westville country club with Roy Martin filling the vacuum left with Ryk's departure.
I would like to appeal to O.B's in KZN to try to make the occasional lunch – while we realise that travelling is no more a cheap option we would nevertheless like to see our monthly luncheons gain more support.
Many thanks to Laurentious van Rouendal for a great effort in organising the re-union in Mossel Bay – most enjoyable indeed.
Regards, Derek McManus (still chairman). (*Please refer to the letterhead on page 1 for contact details of the Durban Chairman & new secretary*).

SOUTHERN LUNCH

The next ***General Botha*** **Southern Lunch** will be held at the Seven Seas Club, Simon's Town on Tuesday 16 July 2013 at 1200 for 1300. Those wishing to attend are requested to telephone Brad Wallace-Bradley on 021-786-1957 or Ian Manning on 021-782-1559 before Friday 12 July 2013 to make reservations.

A BOTHY (sent in by Charles Kingon)

A bothy is a basic shelter (that's about right :-)), usually left unlocked and available for anyone to use free of charge (not sure about that though!). Bothies are to be found in remote, mountainous areas of Scotland, northern England, Ireland, and Wales (and at Granger Bay :-)). They are particularly common in the Scottish Highlands (but related buildings can be found around the world, e.g. in the Nordic countries there are wilderness huts). A bothy was also a semi-legal drinking den in the Isle of Lewis. These, such as Bothan Eoropaidh, were used until recent years as gathering points for local men, and were often situated in an old hut or caravan.

South African Nautical College General Botha, Gordon's Bay
'56 '57 '58 Intakes Reunion, Mossel Bay. 12 – 14 March, 2013. – Submitted by *Jill Marais*

The reunion of the Bothie intakes of '56 '57 '58 at the Diaz Hotel in Mossel Bay, in March of this year, was a memorable occasion. For the organizers, Van and Rita van Rouendal, the planning of the event was a labour of love. Their initial exploratory e-mails started hitting the airwaves some two years ago. Van and Rita were determined to contact every '56, '57 and '58 Old Boy, no matter where on the globe they happened to be. Their efforts paid off. For three days in March 2013, forty-one General Botha Old Boys had the chance to rekindle friendships and to recall their school days with warmth and much mirth.

Gerard Marais sings the hits of the 50's

As groups of Old Boys and their partners gathered each evening to attend the dinners and braai, so the years rolled back rapidly. Capt. Legassick and his wife Pauline, and their Sunday evening dinners were fondly recalled. Old photographs in school albums, which some Old Boys had brought along, caused much musing and merriment. Van and Rita organized entertainment at each evening meal, with some of the Old Boys sharing their past experiences with slide presentations, accompanied by music and song.
The days were filled with activities. Some groups visited the George motor museum, others took a mountainside trip on the Power Van. Many visited the Mossel Bay Diaz Museum or took a sailing trip out into the bay. Some couples remained at the hotel to socialize and drink in the magnificent ocean views that the Diaz Hotel offers.

The gala dinner, which was catered for by the hotel staff using Rita's favourite recipes, was a fitting finale to three days of camaraderie that no one who was there will ever forget.

MOSSEL BAY REUNION – Letter from Bruce Joubert (1956-57 #2007)

We have just returned from the re-union in Mossel Bay and now that the dust has settled and life returned to normal we would like to say how much we enjoyed the get together!

We left Hogsback on Tuesday the 12th March in bright sunlight and had a most pleasant trip via PE to Plettenburg Bay where we linked up with Malcolm and June Clark and spent the night with them and Malcolm's sister June who kindly put us up in her garden cottage.

The next day we motored down with Malcolm and June to Mossel Bay calling in at the little Brak river to meet up with Van and Rita van Rouendal who invited us to share a most welcome and delightful lunch with them. After lunch we motored into Mossel Bay where we met up with Gerard and Jill Marais who had very kindly arranged a chalet at the Golf Estate Time Share, which the four of us shared. We settled into this superb little chalet with great ease and were most comfortable, although we spent only the sleeping hours there. After a quick spruce up we left for the Re-union braai, which began at 6 pm with a general get together. Malcolm and I found we had another 9 Bothie boys from our year also present and thank goodness for the name tags as without them there would have been great difficulty in recognizing each other. One only has to look in the mirror to realize what the ravages of time have done. We are no longer the cherubic boys we were 55 years ago! It was a start to a grand evening and much reminiscing of the old times together and up-dating of events that have filled in the time interval since those days at Bothie. This was followed by a braai, at which without doubt some of the most tender beef and delicious food was provided. This with the ambience made it a braai to be remembered. The Braai was followed by the evening's entertainment at which, Malcolm Clark and Peter Rogers were the very able masters of ceremony both of whom deserve a hearty word of thanks. Then I gave my presentation of a trip to the Antarctic. This was quite nostalgic for me and I enjoyed giving it. Some of the best years of my life, without doubt were spent down in the Antarctic. Then came Gerard Marais with his songs from the 50's, Thanks to Gerard for his guitar playing and for reminding us of the good old Elvis Presley and Bothie days.

The next day we all met at the Diaz hotel for a welcome breakfast and prepared for the day's events. We, decided to visit the Mossel Bay Museum, followed by a pensioner's lunch at the Kingfisher and a trip to the Lighthouse. After that we visited the Model Shipyard in Mossel Bay, all of which was most interesting and relaxing and which provided much opportunity for reminiscing and enjoyment.

The masters of ceremony this evening were John Dugmore and Mike Lundy thanks to these two for a job well done. We were then treated to some sailors songs, songs of the Garden Route and re-union songs by Arie Boom and Viljee Joubert which were amusing and entertaining.

Having taken our places at the tables Reverent Holden gave a short but amusing talk on how he was, although a seaman at heart, unable to go to Bothie because his mother believed that all sailors ultimately became drunkards! This was followed by a most appropriate Grace.

We were then invited to help ourselves to a sumptuous buffet reunion dinner, which was made all the more enjoyable by the lively reminiscing, the various amusing stories and anecdotes, which all contributed to a most memorable evening, my only regrets was that there was not enough time to talk to or bid farewell to everyone.

As a conclusion to this letter we would like to thank Van and Rita for their tremendous effort! Well done to you both!! To Hannes Smit and Brian Watt as well as all the organizers, donors and helpers who contributed to making this re-union such an occasion to remember, thank you all, we really appreciated your efforts and enjoyed the mementos and gifts we received. The ambience, camaraderie and general feeling of being amongst a 'Band of Brothers' throughout the re-union, made this a most special and memorable occasion, a time, which we will remember for the rest of our days! Yours Sincerely, Bruce and Elena Joubert.

The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, and the realist adjusts his sails (William Arthur Ward).

CLASS OF ’73 REUNION – from Gavin Durell

First off - a huge vote of thanks to all those who attended the various events over the weekend of 15-17th March, especially those who came from, Jo'burg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Langebaan, etc. Phil Theunissen was due to come out from Canada to attend but unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute. A few more cancellations closer to home did bring the numbers down a little but such is life. It was a great weekend getting together again after all these years. Some of us hadn't seen each other for m-a-n-y years and it was good to catch up, remember old shipmates and share a good many stories of those good 'ol days. Some have weathered the years better than others (according to the wives anyway!) but one thing's for sure - the spirit of the Class of '73 is undimmed. We kicked off on Friday with a lunch at our old stomping ground, Vasco's a.k.a. Vasco da Gama Tavern a.k.a. The Portuguese Embassy, founded in 1972 and still going strong!! Much like some of the party who finished up much later nearer pumpkin hour talking crap and swapping yarns. Some things will never change. The AGM lunch was well attended, also bolstered by a few more wives and a good time was had along with those of 1963, 1953 and a few from decades prior to that! More stories, accounts of famous escapades and much mirth and camaraderie shared with fellow Old Boys that lasted until well into the late afternoon.

After a short break we reconvened again at the Oceana Power boat club in the evening for an informal braai and more tales of yesteryear. It seems that the proximity to the sea once again brought out the best yarns and much fun and laughter was had. Some photo's will no doubt be passed around once aging brains have downloaded and digitally removed greying hairs, expanded waistlines, wrinkles and sagging chins, etc. Thanks again for your efforts to keep in touch and attend. It may be a long time before we all gather again but you can all rest assured that the Class of '73 made their mark and the legend lives on.

Obscure mathematics teacher leaves skilled mariner in dry dock

Pim Zandee class 1964 Trondheim 22nd February 2013

The 2,025 mile 12 day coastal voyage onboard Hurtigruten’s “Nordnorge” from Bergen to Kirkenes and back with the objective ‘hunting the Northern Lights’ is a trip to be recommended, even in February’s winter weather. What is green in summer now consists of more than fifty shades of grey with white and black being dominant.

NORDNORGE in Kirkenes

Hurtigruten is Norwegian for ‘Coastal Express” and the Line has been in existence since 1893. The 451 berth “Nordnorge” (built 1997, LOA 123m, 9,000 kW on two screws, stern and bow thrusters) is one of 11 of the Lines’ vessels that depart from Bergen on a daily basis.

All the vessels are of multipurpose design i.e. a car & passenger ferry, cargo vessel and cruise liner. A side door for RoRo activity quickly loads or discharges parcel of cargo transported between the 33 harbours the vessels call at during the six day Northbound voyage, repeating the calls after turning around in Kirkenes. There are three days during the voyage when the vessel calls at seven ports each day!

People constantly embark and disembark between the various harbours – the Hurtigruten vessels arrive and depart at set times and local inhabitants can set their watches so consistent is the daily service.

Port calls vary from 5 minutes (yes, five minutes) through 15 minutes, a half hour to three hours in the main Ports such as Alesund, Trondheim, Bodo, Tromso and Kirkenes, the latter located in 69^0 06’ North,30^0 06’ East. This places Kirkenes at the around the same longitude as Istanbul, Alexandria and Durban.

During late winter daylight hours are on the increase, an average of some 7 hours affording good photography opportunities of the fjords and the constant mountain ranges etched by glaciers of the last ice age of some 13,000 years ago.

Navigation is intense and whilst the coast line is well supplied with lighthouses and buoys, many of the passages are narrow requiring substantial course alterations. It is best described as 'rock dodging' and for the deep sea navigator, the distances off the land (hard rock!) take some getting used to.
Whilst the voyage is termed 'coastal,' the majority of time is spent sailing between the numerous islands and through fjords with the result that the total 'open sea' time is less than 24 hours of the six day one way voyage.
The sale of alcohol in all formats is a Norwegian State monopoly and is of a quantum to severely reduce normal intake. Draft beer onboard is the equivalent of R110 and a glass of the house wine sets you back R132- Cheers!
Hurtigruten provides a number of excursions during the trip. The outing to North Cape (71^0 10' 21") unfortunately took place during a "white out" and the sheer promontory remained unsighted.
The promise of a prize was the incentive for "guessing" the time, between 0630 and 0800 the following day when we would cross the Arctic Circle. I promptly scuttled on deck, dressed to the nines with windproof jacket, beanie, gloves and armed with courage to face the polar blast and spitting snow, with my cellular phone GPS in hand to measure the speed of the vessel, count the number of ports at which we still had to call, calculate the turn-around and manoeuvring times at the various ports, and the distance to the Arctic Circle obtained from an unsuitable scale chart displayed behind glass in one of the lounges.
At different times, my GPS gave me variable readings of speed, and after each reading I scurried back to my cabin, partially undressed, fired up my computer returning to my Excel spreadsheet, calculating times, averages, and estimated times of arrival at the next port. The deadline to post ballots was at 2100 that evening and I with a flourish confidently and proudly inserted my paper with my estimated time of the crossing – 0710 the next day, into the box
We were called upon to assemble on deck the next morning, at -4^OC to be congratulated on our crossing by an enormous King Neptune who stepped out of Norse lore. Crossing the line Baptism was by means of ice cubes dropped down one's neck and a very, very tiny shot of Aquavit, small compensation for the icy wind. "And the vinner is….." I waited exhaling icy breath as I listened to the Captain who in typical Nordic manner substituted V's for W's, making Wikings a common occurrence, "…the winner is ……..…." not me!
The headline explains it all. The winner was a self-effacing elderly gentleman, a previous teacher of maths who did a thumb-suck, guesstimate, without any calculations, probably ensconced in his warm cabin, cosy in slippers, doing no frenetic and undignified galloping around an icy deck, who beat me by 2 minutes. His time was 0712, the closest time to the crossing of the line. And the prize? A large used house flag!

THE GENERAL BOTHA OBA & SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS

Invite you to participate in our

MARINE BURSARY GOLF DAY

Venue: Rondebosch Golf Club

Date: Thursday 21st November 2013

Note: Further information to be advised – Watch this space! In the mean time please diarise and plan. ALL OBIES – IF YOU ARE ABLE TO BE IN CAPE TOWN YOU ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN CAPE TOWN BUT WOULD LIKE TO ENTERTAIN CLIENTS TO A ROUND OF GOLF, PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CAN FIND WILLING LOCAL OBIES TO HOST THEM ON YOUR BEHALF.

SLOP CHEST

These slop chest items all proudly display our association insignia and is available from Cape Town branch. Place your orders without delay with Kathy:

Phone: 021-7885957 fax: 086 604 0811 Email: cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za

TIE [STRIPED]	**R60**
PLAQUE	**R150**
PEAK CAP [BASEBALL TYPE]	**R115**
'n NAAM WAT SEEVAARDERS EER Geskiedenis van die opleiding skip.	**DONASIE**
A NAME AMONG SEAFARING MEN History of the training ship.	**DONATION**
FIRST DAY COVER 60th anniversary of our Old Boys' Association	**DONATION**
BELT BUCKLE	**R250**
DVD "THE SHIP" Filmed on board during the thirties.	**R40**
DVD "RED HILL 1946/47" Collection of Rex Chamber's photographs with titles and accompanying music.	**R45**
DVD "SOUTH AFRICAN NAUTICAL COLLEGE GENERAL BOTHA 1954". Filmed by Barry Cullen and Chris Copeland.	**R40**

PLUS PACKAGING AND POSTAGE!

Note: some items in the slop chest are available from Durban branch as well.

Cheque or postal order should be made out to "General Botha Old Boys' Association". Post to: P.O. Box 4515, Cape Town, 8000

Alternatively, the payment can be made by electronic fund transfer directly into our bank account. Details as follows:

- Bank: Standard Bank
- Branch: Thibault Square, Cape Town
- Branch code: 02 09 09
- Account name: General Botha Old Boys' Association
- Account number: 070835128
- SWIFT: SBZA ZA JJ

A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition (William Arthur Ward)

In nature there are neither awards nor punishments, there are consequences (Robert Green Ingersoll)