



S.A.T.S. *General Botha* OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION BURSARY FUND

Nurturing Sea Fever

FEBRUARY 2021





Since the November issue of Nurturing Sea Fever the Covid 19 Pandemic has continued to severely impact the lives of all of us, not least of which is the young lives that the General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund aims to uplift.

THIS ISSUE SHOWCASES WHAT THE BURSARY FUND AND ITS STUDENTS DID MANAGE TO ACHIEVE WHILE OBSERVING COVID 19 PROTOCOLS TOWARDS THE END OF 2020. The thank you letters received from the students reflect their sincere appreciation for all that the Bursary Fund seeks to achieve. None of this would be possible without the support of our Corporate Sponsors as well as that of General Botha Old Boys' Association and the Master Mariners. It looks like 2021 will be a year of further storms but by battening down the hatches we hope to overcome this one and hopefully arrive safely in the calms of 2022!!

Unfortunately, the start of the school year has already been delayed from 27 January to 15 February which will impact on the students but by all working together we hope to mitigate these challenges.



★ **10** ★
YEARS

THIS YEAR THE BURSARY FUND CELEBRATES ITS' 10TH ANNIVERSARY. So much has been achieved and so many lives changed during the ten years that it has been in existence. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.



STUDENT MENTORING NEWS

LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE ANNUAL GRADE 12 AWARDS CELEBRATION

ONCE AGAIN A FANTASTIC EVENT WAS HOSTED BY LMC.

Sadly due to COVID, a very limited amount of guests were invited. The Bursary Fund was particularly proud to see previously shy Nikita Adams be called on to deliver a speech titled Learning under Lockdown.



Nikita Adams, Dave Main, Owami Zuma, Simon Pearson, Thalia Hock, Tony Nicholas and Buren Van Wyk.

BURSARY FUND GRADE 12 STUDENTS ALL RECEIVED AWARDS:



Nikita Adams – SAIMENA 2020 Spirit Award – For proactive, positive engagement and support to Lawhill staff.



Buren Van Wyk – Society for Master Mariners' (SOMMSA) Book Prize for Seamanship.



Learning under lockdown

I am Nikita Adams a proud General Botha Bursary holder.

During the lockdown period I had to live with some family members because the circumstances at home did not allow for any privacy or space for studying but the family member's I was at took good care of me – along with the Lawhill staff and the support from my sponsors.

Although my primary needs were met, I was still faced with the challenge of having to pass my most important academic year in 2020 with a pandemic and an economic crisis! Wild! And it was challenging because I love to learn in a formal and controlled environment. I'm aware that matric was always going to be difficult and with the added stress of "Dear fellow South Africans" it is easy to give up!

But this has taught me to endure because this lockdown was no pap-en-vleis. It was hardcore discipline; discipline to wake up earlier to do all that the day requires of you, discipline to reply to all the thousands of WhatsApp school group chats and discipline to apply yourself. To not sell yourself short or to consider all the "what ifs".

I struggled a lot to adapt to this dramatic and very sudden change. I spent hours on the phone while my fellow peers tried to share with me the bit that they knew. It was very tough – but it built bonds and confidence within one another. It taught us how to pay extra attention and how to prioritise. I think it is safe to say that this lockdown has taught us all how to appreciate our educators more and the people that care for us.

So yes, the lockdown was harder on some than on others but that does not give you a reason to give up because the world is filled with opportunities and discoveries waiting to be made. And look at us today – having an award ceremony! A ceremony to commend those who put in the extra little bit of OOMPH. And to those not being called onto this stage today you know the effort that you have invested in yourself, so be proud of it, be proud of yourself. And remember that a diamond cannot be a diamond without the applied pressure!



Owami Zuma – Professor Captain Dr ED Snyders Spirit Trophy and Award.

The Bursary Fund was also delighted to be able to award two laptops to Nerissa Sucram and Nikita Adams. These had kindly been donated to the Bursary Fund by Louis Willemse. Nikita and Nerissa were the chosen recipients as they had both been through



Nerissa and Nikita proudly displaying their new laptops.

the Bursary Fund's rigorous Tertiary Bursary Application process. Unfortunately due to limited finances as well as the preferred education institution SSTG no longer offering the OOW course, no Tertiary Bursary will be offered in 2021.





NSRI END OF YEAR EVENT

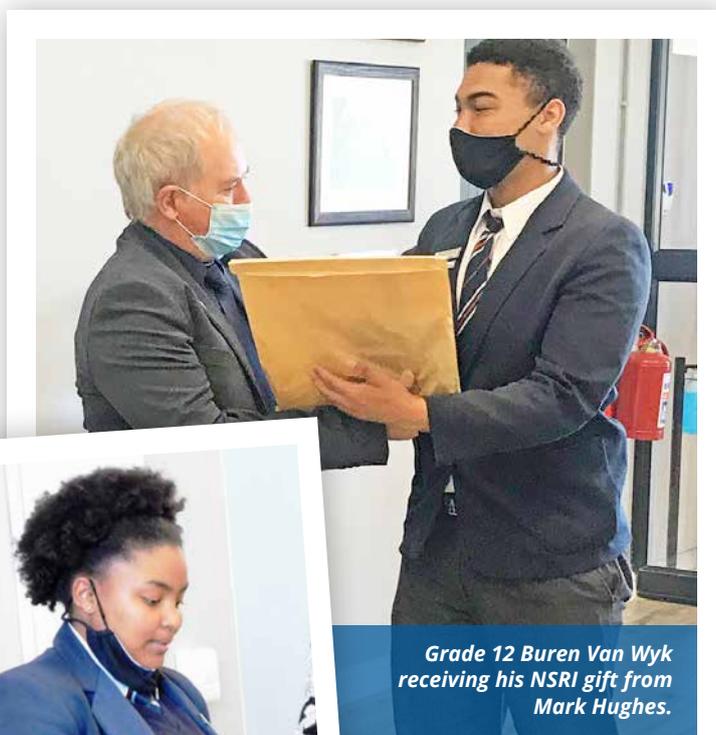


ON 31 OCTOBER 2020, AN END OF YEAR EVENT WAS HELD AT NSRI'S NEWLY RENOVATED STATION 10 IN SIMON'S TOWN.

THIS TOOK PLACE IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THE NSRI EXTRA MURAL PROGRAM WAS LARGELY PLACED ON HOLD IN 2020 DUE TO COVID.

Students who were eagerly awaiting the Advanced NSRI Camp in March were disappointed and the Introductory Camp students were only able to complete swimming training as that took place just before the pandemic hit.

Some of the students were in Grade 12 so there will be no further opportunity for them to complete their NSRI training.



Grade 12 Buren Van Wyk receiving his NSRI gift from Mark Hughes.



A touching thank you from Grade 12 Nikita Adams.



Grade 12 NSRI participants proudly displaying their certificates together with Mark Hughes.



Getting a taste for becoming a NSRI volunteer by watching them launch their boat.

The event was attended by; all NSRI Program participants which includes Bursary Fund students as well as selected Lawhill Maritime Centre (LMC) students and Sea Cadets, Bursary Fund EXCO and staff as well as Admiral's Teutenberg and Potgieter who have agreed to be part of the Bursary Fund's Extra Mural Program going forward. Mark Hughes, a Director at NSRI, was on hand to inform the students about NSRI and to present certificates and gifts. *The Bursary Fund is most grateful to the NSRI Station 10 Commander Darren Zimmerman for hosting the event and look forward to a great partnership with this Station in the future.*

STUDENT END OF YEAR LUNCH

THE NSRI EVENT WAS FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH AT FALSE BAY YACHT CLUB ATTENDED BY THE BURSARY FUND'S EXCO AND STAFF AS WELL AS THE ELEVEN BURSARY FUND STUDENTS AT LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE.

Each table of students had an EXCO member at it and this was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and to make up for the lack of face- to- face mentorship in 2020.



Chairman, Simon Pearson delivered a motivating speech.



Vice Chairman Dave Main together with Grade 11's Jodie Muleshi and Luyanda Dlamini.



Simon Pearson with Grade 10's Gracia Pillay, Juvandre Williams and Nqobile Khuzwayo.



WORK SHADOW AT FAIRSHIP

FAIRSHIP HAVE BEEN MUCH VALUED PARTNERS OF THE BURSARY FUND FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS THEY HAVE FUNDED NIKITA ADAMS AT LMC.

In the school holidays Nikita, together with fellow Grade 12 Nerissa Sucram, were hosted by Adelinde Kotze at Fairship, Saldanha for a week long Work Shadow Program. Fairship kindly put them up in a local hotel so the experience was not only enlightning but also a much needed break during their torrid Grade 12 year!

PLEASE INFORM THE GENERAL MANAGER THALIA HOCK gm@generalbotha.co.za SHOULD YOU BE WILLING TO OFFER A WORK SHADOW OR LEARNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT YOUR COMPANY.



Nerissa and Nikita with Saldanha Port Captain Yolisa Tshangela.

*Thank you
Letter to Fairship*



Dear Mrs Kotzè

We trust that you and everyone in the office is doing good and that Avery's foot is healing. We are writing this to extend our appreciation for allowing us to spend time at Fairship, where we have truly learnt so much!

Being Maritime Economics students, we were previously introduced to the basics of Ship Agency procedures but being able to be present while these procedures take place has broadened our knowledge about ship agency to a whole new dimension. Thank you for not only vaguely telling us about what you do but for actually making us participate in order to learn. Being at Fairship was not only a work shadow experience for us but being there everyday inspired us to work harder at accuracy and time management.

We would also like to thank you for the port visit. It was fascinating to see the ships we always learn about up close. The most exciting however - was the visit to Harbour Master, Captain Yolisa Tshangela. She inspired us and made us realize that as females, we are allowed to take up space, to cement ourselves and to speak up if/when we do not like something.

Lastly, we would like to thank you for the wonderful accommodation you provided us with - for a moment we thought that we were on vacation. In all honesty, we think it was just what we needed before we take on our final exams.

Thank you very much once again.

Yours faithfully

Nikita Adams and Nerrisa Sucram



Nerissa and Nikita together with Adelinde Kotze.

CONGRATULATIONS

THE BURSARY FUND IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT APELELE NTSHINKA AND SABELO MTHIMKHULU HAVE BOTH PASSED THEIR OFFICER OF THE WATCH COURSE AT SSTG.

We sincerely hope that they will be able to secure Cadetships in the near future. Thank you to **MUR Shipping, FPT and Captain Robin Kilby** who partnered with the Bursary Fund to make this a possibility.

At the end of 2020, a Tertiary Student Farewell Lunch took place at Royal Cape Yacht Club. It was wonderful that sponsor Garrick Fletcher of MUR Shipping was able to join this happy event.



Garrick Fletcher of MUR Shipping and Sabelo Mthimkhulu.



Chairman of the Tertiary Sub Committee Dennis Henwood, Sabelo, Apelele and Chairman Simon Pearson.

THE DIFFERENCE THAT BURSARY FUND HAS MADE



Captain Simon Pearson and Tony Nicholas
c/o Ms Thalia Hecke
General Manager - GBOBA
Palmer Road
Muizenberg.

Letter of Appreciation

My name is Luyanda Dlamini, currently doing grade 11 at Simon's Town School, Lawhill Maritime Centre. This is my second year at Lawhill Maritime Centre.

From a school in the township of Clermont in Durban to a very skilled and amazing school with great skills and knowledge is an absolute dream come true. All this has been made possible by your sponsorship, support and commitment towards nurturing young seafarers like me. Without your continuous love and support I wouldn't have got a chance to be part of this Maritime program.

There is no doubt that this has been a very disturbing year, a year that come with a lot of challenges especially on my academics, not attending school for too long really come with a huge challenge of having to balance and adapt studying at home, in a noisy environment.

Your support and encouragement during this difficult time really salvaged me in my academics. With the Sail Africa programme got a chance to catch up and do my utmost best to work as hard as I could. During the lockdown, there were a lot of challenges in my family, one of them was financial problems, but with you everything was made easier for me, from giving me data to access online learning platforms to providing assistance with food at home. All of the support is highly appreciated.

With everything that had happened during this strenuous period I have learnt a lot personally. I have learnt to be a caring sister, friend and citizen, knowing very well that whatever I will be doing will definitely affect the next person. I have learnt to persevere and approach everything with a positive attitude, with the encouraging words from Captain Mike Melly, that I should let this year be the year that I performed beyond even my own expectations.

Thank you so much for the support, inspiration and love that you have given me since I became part of the General Botha family till today. I will forever be grateful for all that you have done for me and many others.

Yours sincerely
Luyanda Dlamini



Thank you

The General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund is most grateful for all the support received in 2020 but as with many NGO's Covid has negatively impacted on our funding. Please consider partnering with us in 2021 to NURTURE SEA FEVER and uplift the lives of young South Africans.

SATS General Botha Old Boys
Association Bursary Fund
Nedbank-Constantia Village
Branch Code: 101109
A/C: 1011133164
Swift Code: NEDS ZA JJ

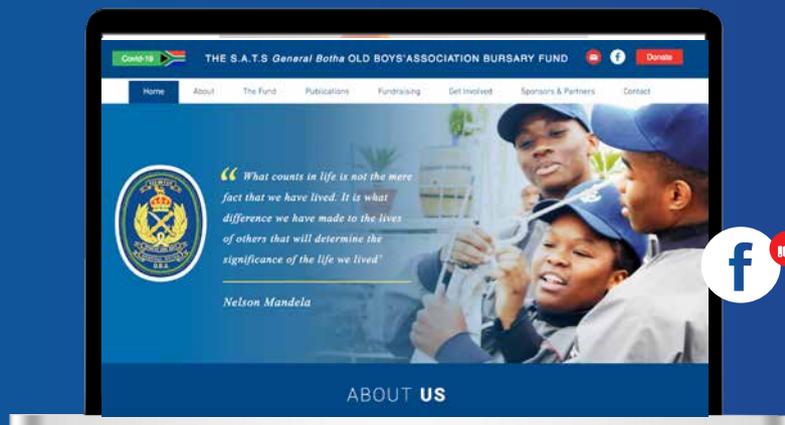
SAVE THE DATE! 2021 GOLF DAY 18TH NOVEMBER

PLEASE PUT IN YOUR DIARIES FOR AN
EVENT WHICH WILL ALSO CELEBRATE
10 YEARS OF THE BURSARY FUND.



S.A.T.S General Botha OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION BURSARY FUND

PBO Exemption No 930 037 633 | NPO No 091-875



DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE

141B, The Left Bank, Main Road, Muizenberg.

gm@generalbotha.co.za | www.gbbursaryfund.co.za