

MAY 2020

Jody-Terri Muleshi, a bursary student at the Aquarium

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



Nurturing Sea Fever

SWIMMING TRAINING EXTRA – CURRICULAR PROGRAM

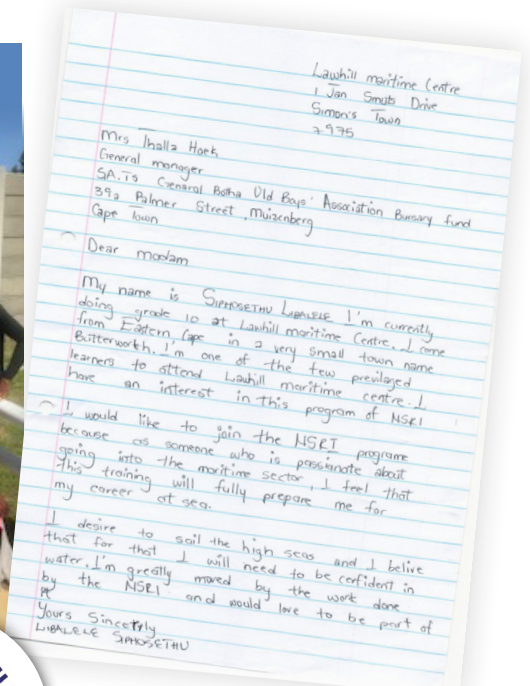
AS PART OF THE BURSARY FUND EXTRA – CURRICULAR PROGRAM, SWIMMING TRAINING IS PROVIDED TO GRADE 10 BURSARY STUDENTS AS WELL AS TWO SEA CADETS AND SELECTED STUDENTS FROM LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE (LMC). THIS IS STEP ONE IN THEIR PREPARATION FOR THE NSRI INTRODUCTORY CAMP WHICH NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN THE SEPTEMBER HOLIDAYS.

This year we were overwhelmed by the response from LMC students who were interested in joining the program, testament to the positivity that the NSRI program has generated over the years. It was heart breaking to read through the well written letters of application and make hard decisions about which students would not be included.

This program starts with a medical for each of the selected students which was conducted gratis by Dr Cleeve Robertson CEO of NSRI. Sarah Sandmann is the professional swimming coach

employed and during the first session she assessed the students so that she could coach them according to their ability. At this stage four of the students were nervous to even put their faces in the water. The incredible determination and enthusiasm shown by all the swimmers but especially these four is proven by the fact that after only five lessons, all of them except one could swim a width of the pool unaided!!!

This is a life changing experience for some – one of our Bursary Students shared towards the end of the training that her twin sister had drowned in Durban when they were five. She was so excited to be able to show her Mom that she could now swim! Thank you to all our sponsors and partners who assist the Bursary Fund to uplift and change the lives of young South Africans.



Written by Captain Tony Nicholas (Chairman of the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys' Association)

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH WAS THE SCHEDULED DATE FOR THE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION TO HOST ITS ANNUAL WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ITS CENOTAPH IN CENTRAL CAPE TOWN. THIS TO HONOUR EX CADETS OF OUR FAMOUS TRAINING SHIP WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING WWII AND SUBSEQUENT CONFLICTS IN SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY, SOUTH AFRICA..

The date is a poignant date to the association, it being the exact date the first draft of cadets joined the training ship in 1922. Due to inclement weather on the day the event had to be held at Mission to Seafarers.

The City of Cape Town was represented by the Deputy Mayor Alderman Ian Neilson with the illustrious South African Navy Band in attendance. **A moving service by Reverend Ralph Thornley who highlights the short life of two of the young men whose names are inscribed on the memorial.**

All our bursars were in attendance and laying a wreath on behalf of Lawhill Maritime Centre of Simon's Town School were Grade 12 bursars Nikita Adams and Buren van Wyk. This they did with decorum and dignity under the



*Grade 12 bursars
Buren Van Wyk
and Nikita Adams
preparing to lay
the wreath.*

*Left to Right Midshipman
Mikayla Pillay, Captain Swart
and Captain Burchell*

watchful eye of our Old Salts, Bravo Zulu to them. No doubt all the youngsters, Cadets and Bursars alike enjoyed the "sticky buns" after the service.

Our appreciation to TS Woltemade, African Marine Solutions (AMSOL) and the S.A. Navy Band for their valued support.



I'M JODY-TERRI MULESHI AND I'M VERY PROUD TO BE ONE OF GENERAL BOTHA'S BURSARY HOLDERS.

Since childhood I've always had a passion when it came to the ocean. When I got to grade 10 I came across my Marine Science teacher talking about a Young Biologist Course at the Two Oceans Aquarium and immediately asked her for more details. ***Only fifty grade 10 students were accepted out of 500 students and I was fortunate enough to be one of the lucky 50 students.***

The young biologist course consists of 7 days, 4 of the days are spent covering theory and the remaining 3 days of the course are spent at a local environmental education campsite, where you focus on practical course work and team building.

The Two Oceans course really helped me a lot, it gave me the opportunity to get to know the outside world, communicate with various people, think about my career path and definitely helped me gain more confidence.

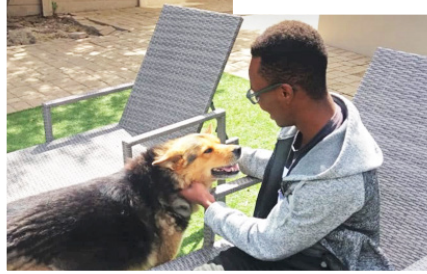
The Bursary Fund encourages students to focus on their Nautical Science and Maritime Economics subjects in order to prepare themselves for a maritime career but for some the new addition of Marine Science as a subject for Grade 10's and 11's is very enjoyable.



TERTIARY BURSARY HOLDERS FOR 2020

APELELE NTSHINKA AND SABELO MTHIMKHULU ARE BOTH NOW WELL SETTLED INTO THE OFFICER OF THE WATCH COURSE AT SEA SAFETY TRAINING GROUP AND THEIR ACCOMMODATION IN BLOUBERG.

The course is continuing online despite the COVID-19 lockdown, so they are happily able to carry on studying in the comfort of the suitable accommodation that is provided to them as part of their bursary.



Sabelo Mthimkhulu and Apelele Ntshinka happy at their digs during lockdown.



FUND NEWS

COVID -19

LOCKDOWN MEANT THAT ALL LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE BOARDERS WERE SENT HOME BEFORE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WERE DUE TO START. MANY OF THEM LIVE IN LESS THAN IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES SO THE BURSARY FUND WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THEIR FAMILIES WOULD COPE HAVING AN EXTRA MOUTH TO FEED FOR AN UNPLANNED EXTENDED PERIOD.

An appeal for financial assistance was sent out and the Bursary Fund is most grateful for the fantastic response that was received. As a result, we were able to provide food and pharmaceutical vouchers to needy families and data to all Bursary Fund students both present and past in order to ensure that they are able to access the many online learning opportunities that are available. The Student Mentors have maintained contact with the students through WhatsApp groups to provide support and encouragement through this challenging time.

Unfortunately, a number of planned activities have had to be cancelled, the foremost being the NSRI Advanced Camp that was due to take place in Saldanha from 25-31 March. A lot of organisation had gone into this already and it is really hoped that it will be possible to reschedule it. It is recognised that sadly the Bursary Fund Extra-Curricular activities for 2020 will be very different to what was originally planned!

The S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund continues to operate remotely during the lockdown. Please contact the General Manager, Thalia Hock at gm@generalbotha.co.za or Chairman, Captain Simon Pearson at simon@sjpearson.co.za should you have any queries.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys' Association Bursary Fund AGM is scheduled to take place on **Friday 26 June** at the Maritime Room, Survival Centre, Mouille Point, Cape Town.

Grindrod Shipping Marine Bursary Golf Day - **19 November 2020** at Rondebosch Golf Club.