



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

# Nurturing Sea Fever

MARCH  
2026





## CHAIR'S REPORT

We are experiencing difficult times, especially for those living, working, or visiting the Middle East. Many people have read about attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf region, such as the Sonangol Namibe – a Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker – which has faced multiple incidents involving explosions and suspected hull breaches. The vessel was struck by a blast while anchored near Iraq's Khor al Zubair port.

These events demonstrate the persistent risks that shipping faces in the Persian Gulf, particularly given ongoing tensions involving the US, Israel, and Iran. The Sonangol Namibe's recent experiences highlight the vulnerability of vessels in this area and reinforce the importance of vigilance and caution for everyone involved in shipping.

Many Angolan crew members serving on Sonangol tankers received their training here in South Africa. We stand with our African neighbours during these challenging times, supporting each other as we navigate this difficult conflict.

**The Bursary Fund is proud to report that a growing number of our past Lawhill Maritime Centre at Simon's Town School (LMC) learners and tertiary funded students are now making their mark in the maritime sector,** proving the long-term impact of your support. Ongoing support is especially vital during challenging periods like those our seafarers are experiencing today.

**This year the Bursary Fund and our sponsor partners will fund twelve students in Grade's 10, 11 and 12 at LMC and seven students for maritime tertiary studies at Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Durban University of Technology.**

**In addition, the Bursary Fund's Sail and Motor Programme continues to expand** as a practical complement to LMC's maritime curriculum. Forty-five Grade 10, 11 and 12's will participate in various stages of this programme this year. Nineteen LMC Grade 10's have recently completed a Learn to Swim course which will be followed by NSRI Pre-Sea training. Thereafter weekend training in their choice of rowing, motorboat, or sail training takes place. This programme thrives

due to the dedication of volunteers and qualified skippers, exemplifying true intergenerational mentorship.

**We are proud to report that twenty-two learners have achieved their Sailing Day Skippers certification and thirty-one have a Category E Motorboat license.** The objective of qualified skippers giving back to the programme is also being achieved as past participants now assist with the training. The programme has provided some incredible opportunities for employment not only in the merchant navy but also in the international superyacht industry.

Your financial assistance enabled us to manage the increasing expenses related to education, training, and associated costs effectively. Nevertheless, we are committed to further expanding our investment in youth development, particularly as some funding sources experience financial challenges and income declines. Your continued support is greatly valued.

**We invite you to review the following pages and stay engaged with the Bursary Fund, as it belongs to you, and your feedback plays an essential role in sustaining its vitality.**

Simon  
Pearson



## VISIT TO S.A. NAVAL MUSEUM *by Rob Gardner*



On Saturday the 7th of February our Grade 11 and 12 bursary students spent the morning at the S.A. Naval Museum. There they learned the history of the Training ship *General Botha* as well as heard talks on career opportunities and how to prepare themselves for their studies over the next few years, so that when their final exams come around, they can give of their best. A walk through the *General Botha* section of the museum and some laughs at how we old boys looked then as to how we look now, was followed by lunch at the yacht club. Old Boys attending were Tony Nicholas, Hugh James and Rob Gardner.

## KGUTSO NKOANE – HEAD BOY OF SIMON'S TOWN SCHOOL

Congratulations Kgutso on this well deserved honour. The Bursary Fund's **first head boy** in it's 15 years of existence!



## WAR MEMORIAL EVENT

The Training Ship *General Botha* Association held its Annual War Memorial Service on Jubilee Square in Simon's Town on the 15th March. Bursary Fund learners Kgutso Nkoane and Londiwe Ngcongco laid a wreath in honour of those who gave their lives in service of the country on behalf of LMC.



## STAFF NEWS

As the Bursary Fund enters its 15th year in 2026 changes are afoot.



**Dana Retief the Bursary Fund Administrator is moving on.** Dana's quiet, efficient, sincere, and helpful manner have been a true pleasure to work with. She has been a real asset to the team, consistently offering strong support to the General Manager as well as being a "sister" to the learners and students who are part of the programme. We will sincerely miss her presence and the positive impact she has had on the Fund over the past three and a half years. We wish her every success as she embarks on her studies and pursues an exciting new career path.

## SWIMMING

**Grade 10 Learn to Swim Programme is a highlight of the year for many, especially the 19 participants who first underwent a medical by Dr Cleeve Robertson and colour vision screening by our Chair Simon Pearson.** Ongoing funding from TK Foundation, Cape Town Sailors Home and a loyal supporter of this programme in Germany make these life changing lessons possible.



### **This report on the six lessons provided by Swimming Coach Sarah Sandemann says it all:**

This year was an exceptionally rewarding time, the students were some of the most respectful, helpful, keen and supportive ones of any group I have ever experienced.

I love knowing my students and getting a big group where some are “larger than life” and others shy into the background is always a struggle to give each student the attention I feel they deserve. However we make it work and it is one of the most rewarding times of my year. Each student seemed to soak up the knowledge and put so much effort into improving and supporting one another. Each student improved greatly throughout the minimal time

spent together, so I can't even highlight a particular student. **The thing that impressed me most this year was the “number one’s” that were almost too scared to put their face in the water at the start and by the 3rd session were pushing off and doing some form of swimming,** despite not being able to come up for a breath without putting their feet on the ground they were forging forward and swimming. The “number fours” which could swim reasonably well, do a length, jump in the deep end and get back to the side safely were a great help with safety and assisting with demonstrating. The bravery and eagerness to learn this year was something I have not experienced in a very long time. It was, as always, a pleasure to work with the well-mannered, respectful and willing to learn students of LMC.

## OUTING TO *GOOD HOPE 65*

Sail and Motor participants were treated to a visit to this newly built cutting edge Jacobs Bros. yacht before it headed out on its maiden voyage to America.



## WATER SAFETY TRAINING

With limited funds for vital swimming lessons, it is important to continue with water safety for those training on *Sean Day* and *Homero*.

Swimming with a buoyancy aid and being able to climb back onto the boats has now become a regular exercise at False Bay Yacht Club.

## NIKKI BERRY – SAIL AND MOTOR COORDINATOR

This growing aspect of the Bursary Fund's endeavours to Nurture Sea Fever has expanded such that it has been decided to **appoint experienced sailor and Simon's Town resident Nikki Berry to oversee this busy portfolio**. Welcome to the Bursary Fund family Nikki.





## MOTOR TRAINING ON SEAN DAY

**Jordan Heyburg** (2nd from the right) **qualified with his Cat E motor boat licence through the Bursary Fund in 2024.** He is presently employed in the marine tourism industry and has recently qualified with his Category A licence. He is now giving back to the Bursary Fund by assisting with training when he is available on weekends. Thank you Jordan!

## SAIL TRAINING ON HOMERO

**Eighteen LMC participants have regular weekend sailing sessions on *Homero*** with three skippers assisting to make this exhilarating experience possible. The goal is a South African Sailing Day Skippers qualification for those participants who have the enthusiasm and aptitude for this challenging credential.



## PAST STUDENT NEWS



Present and past Mariners attended the Nautical Institute Seminar in January. From left to right, Tony Nicholas, Avela May, Anele May, Juvandre Williams and Dennis Henwood.

## SBONGA SIBIYA

“I would like to share some wonderful news. I have secured a cadetship with African Oceans. This opportunity is a major step forward in my journey toward becoming a professional seafarer and I am truly thankful for the chance to begin my career at sea. I have successfully completed my STCW courses and I am currently in the process of finishing my medicals. I am very excited for what lies ahead and cannot wait to step onboard and start gaining experience and learning as much as possible.



Sbonga (far left) and his teammates celebrating their win at the SA Sailing KZN Pacer 27 Invitational.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to African Oceans for giving me a chance and the Bursary Fund for grooming me into the seafarer I am today. The support, opportunities and guidance I have received have played a huge role in helping me reach this point. A special thank you goes to Captain Mike Melly, who has been mentoring and guiding me since day one. His support and mentorship have made a meaningful impact on my journey and I am truly grateful.

*I will always be thankful for the role the Bursary Fund has played in my development and I look forward to making the most of this opportunity with pride and dedication.”*



## ANELE MAY

**Excellent news, Anele May has passed his South African Maritime**

**Safety Authority OOW Certificate of Competency.**

Thank you to MUR Shipping who funded his schooling at Lawhill Maritime Centre and MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping and The Rotary Club of Newlands for funding his tertiary education together with the Bursary Fund at SAMTRA.



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

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

**FAIRSHIP**

**FRATERNITAS MARIS**

**SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINING SHIP**  
**GENERAL BOTHA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION BURSARY FUND**  
(INCORPORATING THE  
**SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS BURSARY FUND**)

**BOOK YOUR 4 BALL NOW**

**FAIRSHIP SA**  
**MARINE BURSARY GOLF DAY**

**WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2026**  
**MOUNT EDGECOMBE COUNTRY CLUB - THE WOODS**

**COMPETITION: FOUR-BALL ALLIANCE STABLEFORD - WITH 3 SCORES TO COUNT ON THE PAR 3s**

**SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES**

- GOLD** - R25 000  
PRIZE GIVING DINNER
- SILVER** - R10 000  
HALFWAY HOUSE
- PAR 3s** - R2 500  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> OR 15<sup>th</sup> HOLES

**ADVERTISING & SPONSORSHIPS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> TEE, 10<sup>th</sup> TEE, 18<sup>th</sup> GREEN OR THE PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN  
R2 000
- GRASSED AREA IN FRONT OF CLUBHOUSE  
R3 000

**SPECIAL PRIZES**

- NEAREST THE PIN ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup>
- NEAREST THE PIN IN TWO SHOTS ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 17<sup>TH</sup>
- PLACES - 1<sup>ST</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup>

**CONTACT US**

FOR BOOKINGS / SPONSORSHIP / DONATION OF PRIZES  
ROY SCALLAN  
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FEE: R3 250 PER 4-BALL (EXCLUDES GOLF CARTS)  
CARTS MAY BE BOOKED DIRECTLY WITH THE PRO SHOP ON 031 502 1010

### BANKING DETAILS

S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys Association Bursary Fund  
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Branch Code 101-109  
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Swift Code (Foreign Transfers) NEDS ZA JJ



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