



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

# *Nurturing Sea Fever*

AUGUST 2025 |





## CHAIR'S REPORT

Those of us living south of the Equator are looking forward to warmer and drier weather and the opportunity to enjoy what spring has to offer especially up the west coast with its natural beauty and diversity of flowering plants.

Here in the Western Cape the scholars are into their third term and soon it will be final exam fever and sad farewells to the matric class of '25.

Lawhill Marime Centre continues to attract scholars from across the country starting with Grade 10 undertaking the three maritime subjects along with the standard school subjects such as mathematics and science. Lawhill will celebrate its 30th. year and much credit to staff and students for the progress achieved.

Our own Bursary Fund's Sail and Motor Programme has complimented the classroom activity and it's so rewarding to see our youth enjoying the sailing and motor boating and achieving their certification for their skippers' licenses.

Your hard-working committee is so thankful for the generous sponsors who make this maritime programme possible. Starting with swimming coaching, sailing on the yacht Homero and learning the art of safe boat work on the rigid inflatable – Sean Day. No opportunity is missed to put navigation into its practical application. Our trainees are well instructed in safe seamanship by qualified trainers.

On the 30th of October the Bursary Fund will have its annual golf day at Rondebosch Golf Club and if you have a yearning to get a hole in one, please let

us know asap to book a time with some friends. Our prime sponsor for the golf day both in Cape Town and Durban is Fairship SA and what a wonderful contribution they make to the tertiary education of the Bursary Fund's students.

Of concern is the challenge we face to get our youth out of their formal studies and onto a ship to get the necessary sea time required. One hears of the growing shortage of qualified officers worldwide and yet the international shipowners and their crewing agencies leave good potential on the beach crying for a berth.

Openings are said to be growing in the super yacht industry for South African crews who are willing to scrub decks and serve champagne to the well healed in far off waters and your Bursary Fund is doing its best to facilitate whatever opportunities become available for our keen graduates.

Please continue to support our endeavours to promote South African seafaring and the positive way this can be achieved is through the Bursary Fund of the General Botha.

**Send us your correspondence on how we can improve our progressive future to be an effective voice for the aspiring young men and women who wear their GB logo with pride and respect.**

Simon Pearson



Legendary Captains - Simon Pearson (centre) flanked by Board Members Keith Burchell and Nick Sloane at the recent AGM.

## OUTING TO FPT

In Term Two the eleven lucky LMC 2025 GB Bursary Fund learners had the interesting experience of visiting logistic company FPT's Cape Town premises at Duncan Dock. This was real exposure to dockyard action enabling Maritime Economics to come alive.



**Grade 10 Azaleah Josephs** wrote in her thank you letter, *"Seeing a Reach Stacker for the very first time was especially exciting it brought a real-world dimension to everything we've been learning, and it was inspiring to see such powerful equipment at work in a professional setting."*

## WORK SHADOW FOR CHINEDU KANU



Grade 12 Bursary Fund learner Chinedu (centre) is funded at LMC by **Hapag Lloyd** and **Solis Marine**. In the winter school holidays he was lucky enough to spend a week at **Smit Salvage** and a day with his funders Hapag Lloyd.

**Chinedu reported**, *"My week at Smit Salvage was a rewarding experience. It gave me real exposure to both the technical and operational sides of marine work. I gained hands-on skills, observed professionals in action, and got clarity on my career path in the maritime field."*



Grade 11 **Kgutso Nkoane** funded by **FPT** representing Lawhill with excellence during a presentation to visitors to the Centre, with Grade 10 Azaleah Josephs listening attentively.



## WRECKLESS MARINE OUTING

Term Three saw LMC GB Bursary Fund learners visit this ocean exploration company whose core activities include seafloor mapping, technical diving and marine research. During a trip onboard their survey craft in Simon's Bay learners were shown the technical aspects of the side scan sonar. This has certainly opened inquiring minds to new maritime related career paths such as hydrographic surveying, marine biology, oceanography, geoscience and maritime archaeology.

One of the highlights of the day was seeing past Bursary Fund matric 2024 learner **Jordan Heyburg** excelling in his employment with Wreckless Marine allied company **Blue Flash**.



*Jordan Heyburg with LMC Sub Committee Chair Tony Nicholas.*



Bruce Henderson kindly donated copies of their book **Wood, Iron and Steel** to the LMC library and as a prize for the upcoming **Fairship SA Marine Bursary Golf Day**. The book is a fascinating presentation of 60 shipwrecks that reflect the diverse maritime history of the Western Cape.

This Programme continues to grow and evolve with the help of supportive funders, fantastic partnerships, dedicated staff and a special team of volunteers all working together to ***Nurture Sea Fever***.

The **NSRI** online and practical Presea training is an important early part of the programme this year eighteen learners participated. **The lifechanging impact of this event is best illustrated through this recent LinkedIn post by a previous participant.**

**Facing fears and taking a leap can be a really good thing.**

**I remember a few years ago when doing my pre-sea training with the NSRI, I was so scared to jump off the pier because I couldn't swim. In the end, I jumped, and it was actually quite freeing.**

**If I didn't have to finish my training, I probably would never have done it and then not overcome my fear.**

**I try to hold onto that memory now whenever I'm faced with something I'd rather avoid.**



## ULLMAN SERIES LADIES RACE

Thanks to **RCYC Sailing Academy** six qualified LMC lady Day Skippers from our programme were able to participate in this exhilarating race.



## GRADE 10 OPEN DAY

Annually after completing our Learn to Swim Programme and Pre Sea-Training the Grade 10's visit **False Bay Yacht Club** to experience the yacht club as well as motorboat *Sean Day* and L26 yacht *Homero* before they begin their weekend training. The assistance of the Grade 12 Motorboat and Sailing Captains on this day and throughout the year has been very much appreciated. We thank you Nomathamsanqa, Lukhanyo, Kwanele and Alwande!



Lukhanyo and Milani.



Nomathamsanqa and Lydia.



Sailing Trainer Nikki Berry introducing Grade 10's to Homero.

## CATEGORY E MOTORBOAT QUALIFICATIONS



Four recently qualified Category E Motorboat licensees from left to right Sikelela Phetshana, Mushfeeq Minnies, Natalie Makande and the Bursary Fund's Moipone Moopela funded by **Fairship SA**.

**31** LMC LEARNERS AND SEA CADETS HAVE NOW RECEIVED THIS QUALIFICATION



Thank you to **AMSOIL**, programme participants now have a trendy T-shirt.



Seen behind the qualifiers from left to right: Blackie Swart, Thalia Hock, Pete Daly and Digby Thomson who all assist in making this achievement possible.

## MSC REGATTA

Durban University of Technology Nautical Studies Bursary Fund students Simnikiwe and Sbonga participated in the exciting and challenging MSC Regatta through our partner **Sail Africa**.

*Bursary Fund family past and present; Afika Mabaso, Amanda Gasa, Simnikiwe Vundla and Sbonga Sibiya flanked by Jackie Barnard – Sail Africa and Innocent Motua – MSC*



## PAST STUDENT NEWS

A much-desired milestone has been reached with past LMC GB Bursary Fund recipient **Lethabo Morovhi** being voted onto the Bursary Fund Board at the recent AGM. Lethabo matriculated in 2015 and after dipping her toes into Maritime Studies at CPUT went on to complete a LLB at University of Johannesburg. She is presently working in the Marine Speciality Division at Hollard. The long-term goal of the Bursary Fund is for former recipients to be at the helm. **Welcome aboard Lethabo.**

FUNDRAISING



## FAIRSHIP SA MARINE BURSARY GOLF DAY – DURBAN



Another successful Bursary Golf Day in aid of maritime tertiary bursaries took place at Mount Edgecombe Golf Estate in June. Thank you, to Roy Scallan for your hard work in heading up the Golf Day Committee and Fairship SA for the outstanding support to the Bursary Fund over many years.

*Fairship SA Managing Director Glenn Cheary with Bursary Fund Durban Branch Chair Nomkhitha Mbele.*

BOOK  
YOUR  
4 BALL!



**FAIRSHIP  
MARINE SA  
BURSARY  
GOLF DAY**

**30 OCT 2025**

**CAPE TOWN  
RONDEBOSCH  
GOLF COURSE**

Contact: GM@generalbotha.co.za  
Bookings: Dhenwoods@iafrica.co.za



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

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

141B, The Left Bank, Main Road, Muizenberg  
[gm@generalbotha.co.za](mailto:gm@generalbotha.co.za) | [www.gbbursaryfund.co.za](http://www.gbbursaryfund.co.za)

---

### BANKING DETAILS

S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys Association Bursary Fund  
Nedbank, Constantia  
Branch Code 101-109  
Account Number 10111 33164  
Swift Code (Foreign Transfers) NEDS ZA JJ