

PETER PAN

says

EDITION NO. 1



OLD
WOODRIDGEAN
ASSOCIATION

Welcome!

Peter Pan Says is the school's first official Old Woodridgian Association (OWA) publication. Here you'll find news about the latest contributions and achievements attained by the school's alumni, staff and students.

Whether you're a pupil from the past or one at present, **Peter Pan Says** celebrates the memories and support Woodridge has garnered over generations. Welcome!



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A MESSAGE FROM... OWA CHAIRMAN, GRANT PUTTERGILL

2022
BEGAN
WITH
a bang



For a start, we formalised the OWA Committee. In addition to myself and OWA Secretary and Treasurer, Natasha Reid, it gives me great pleasure to introduce three new members: Trenwyth Pledger (class of 1995), Kurt Foong (class

of 2003) and Wade Inglis (class of 2012). We are looking forward to collaborating with our loyal Old Woodrigeans. Together we will achieve great things.

In early March we were able to host an OWA cricket fixture for the first time in many years.

We put together three teams, comprised of vastly different ages, to face current Woodridge students. On top of all the fun, we won all three of our games. This proves (I'm chuffed to report), we've still got what it takes on the cricket pitch.



March also saw us welcome the class of '82 back on campus. It was so enjoyable giving them the grand tour of our beautiful school so they could fully appreciate the building upgrades and new additions. Our nostalgic trip down memory lane culminated in an evening of camaraderie

and delicious food. Special thanks go to Nicolette Copley and Lynette Steffens for the spread they arranged for this special group.

The evening doubled as a platform to perform The Premier 500 Club draw – a real highlight and one of our major fundraising initiatives.

Congratulations go to our prize winners: Michelle Bester (1st) and Ranel Taljaard (2nd) who won R25 000 and R7 500 respectively.

Our next draw is planned to take place at the end of June.

Have you bought [your tickets?](#)





5 PREMIER 500 CLUB POINTERS

1. Anyone can join the club!
2. Lucky draws are held three times a year
3. Choose to buy tickets monthly for R53 each or annually for R600 (includes three draws over any 12-month period)
4. Prizes: 1st R25 000 (non-attendance), 2nd R7 500 (attendance). Plus, many more cash and non-cash prizes up for grabs
5. Purchase tickets [online](#) via [email](#) or WhatsApp Natasha on +27 83 521 8203

Save the date! The official Reunion of 2022 is taking place on 30 September and 1 October, and we are really looking forward to welcoming you all. Each matric year group is invited. Don't wait for your five- or 10-year reunion interval. Instead, simply come along and reconnect with old friends – you'll make a few new ones, too. Keep an eye out for the Reunion 2022 programme, which will be published soon.

Finally, please keep us informed of any changes to your contact details on owa@woodridge.co.za and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for regular updates.

Here's to a bumper year of connecting past, present and future.

Yours sincerely,
Grant Puttergill
Chairman,
Old Woodridgean Association
Fideliter

#WeAreWoodridge

OLD WOODRIDGEAN ASSOCIATION

GET PREPARED

REUNION 2022

30 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER

SAVE THE DATE

Who we are...

“As an association we strive to make continuous improvements, not only on the school grounds, but also on an individual level for current and past pupils.”

– Grant Puttergill, OWA Chairman

ORIGINALLY FORMED IN 1958 WITH JUST 56 MEMBERS, THE OWA HAS BLOSSOMED AND NOW HAS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF STAKEHOLDERS. OUR SHARED PASSION IS TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY THE SCHOOL'S FOUNDER MR LESLIE CARTER STARTED DECADES AGO.

Go to our [website](#) for more information about our various [fundraising initiatives](#). You'll also find [donation links](#) as well as useful OWA merchandise.

For assistance, please contact Natasha on owa@woodridge.co.za or +27 83 521 8203.

Through the OWA we hope to inspire and facilitate real connections and friendships. Nurturing lifelong relationships is fundamental to who we are as Old Woodridgeans.

Besides our commitment to celebrating the school's significant past, we are equally dedicated to ensuring its future is bright, too. We do this by giving back to the school that has given us so much.

Consequently, the OWA provides an ideal platform for pupils past and present to unite or reconnect, while helping to improve and preserve the school for future generations.

School maintenance and enhancement projects are sustained by a strong commitment to fundraising and promotional activities aimed at growing student numbers.

The Woodridge Experience

“The 2021 matric group had a top end of very academically talented pupils and a bottom end of pupils for whom academic achievement did not come easily.

I am proud of every single pupil who gave it their all and achieved as well as they could.”

– Dr Catherine Logie,
Director of Academics

2021 **MATRIC RESULTS**
by NUMBERS

117 **DISTINCTIONS**

75
PUPILS
WROTE

7
DIPLOMA
PASSES

62
DEGREE
PASSES

3
HIGHER CERTIFICATE
PASSES

ACADEMICS

TOP Achievers

8 distinctions

Arné von Hagen
Rachel Botha



Arné von Hagen



Rachel Botha

7 distinctions

Olivia Cockcroft
Jitesh David
Marichen Meiring

6 distinctions

Suubi Sebuyira

5 distinctions

Thandekile Mvulana
Sebastian von Hagen

4 distinctions

Michael Asimwe
Larissa Giacomini
Karla Venter

Outstanding Achievements

Arné von Hagen's marks placed him in the top 1%. He was ranked on the Outstanding Achievement List for performing within the top 5% in 6 or more subjects. Notably, he achieved 99% for Mathematics, 97% for AP Mathematics and a level-7 rating in Life Orientation.

Rachel Botha and **Marichen Meiring** were also placed in the top 1%. Both featured on the Commendable Achievement list for achieving within the top 5% in 5 subjects and attained a level-7 rating in Life Orientation.



College Event *Highlights*



THE COLLEGE HAD A BUSY SUMMER SEASON SPORTS PROGRAMME WITH EVERYONE THRILLED TO BE BACK IN ACTION.

Surf Lifesaving

Eastern Cape Surf Lifesaving Champs

In February the Woodridge Surf Lifesaving Club (SLC) competed in the Eastern Cape Surf Lifesaving Champs at Nahoon Beach, East London. We won the event!

Both team and individual performances by the Woodridge Surf Lifesavers were excellent.

Top awards went to:
U17 Victrix Ludorum: **Nicola Harcus**
U19 Victor Ludorum: **Luke Leggatt**

Massive thanks to coach Rob Smith (a.k.a Spook) for his generous guidance and support.



South African Surf Lifesaving Champs

In March the Woodridge (SLC) participated in the SA Champs at King's Beach, Port Elizabeth. We came 8th overall out of 32 teams.

Well done

to 16-year old Nicola Harcus who has been included in the Under 19 SA National Lifesaving Squad.



College *Tala*



Liam's Long *Woodridge Legacy*

Liam Schweitzer is the 2022 College River Mile Champion

His mother, Elsje, is Haydn Holmes's cousin

Liam's dad, Blake, was head boy in 1992 and grew up at Windygates

Blake's father, Tony, was the Estate Manager

His mother, Rose, taught at the Prep

Keith Starck, the Founding Headmaster of the College, was Blake's uncle



Results at a Glance

2022 Champions: Carter House

New records broken...

N Harcus:

U16 Girls 50m Butterfly – 31,9
(old record held by Elizabeth Gibson, 2006)

U16 Girls 100m Backstroke – 1:12,5
(old record held by Rebecca Wessels, 2003)

U16 Girls 200m Individual Medley – 2:35,5
(old record held by Denni-Lynn Tanner, 1992)

A Moolman:

U16 Boys 200m Individual Medley – 2:34,5
(old record held by Haydn Holmes, 1990)

4 FAST FACTS

1. Rebecca is esteemed cricketer Kepler Wessels' daughter
2. Denni-Lynn is now Mrs Canny and a Woodridge mom. Her Grade 11 son, Mark, is the fastest swimmer in Woodridge history. Her daughter, Aimie, represented SA at the Tokyo Olympics and is the current SA Individual Medley Record Holder
3. Nicola's achievement in the Individual Medley event matches the time Haydn Holmes achieved in 1990 when he held the record in the U16 Boys category – impressive!
4. Until recently, Haydn coached Nicola Harcus, Arthur Moolman and Liam Schweitzer



ART AND DRAMA

THE COLLEGE INTER-HOUSE PLAYS, DIRECTED BY CAREN BESTBIER, WERE HIGHLY ENTERTAINING AND A ROARING SUCCESS – AS USUAL.

Inter-house Plays



Best Cameo performance: John Kirsten

Best Supporting Actor: Tristan Torrance and Aidan Paine

Best Supporting Actress: Storm-Grace Campbell

Best Actor: Oyama Jikwa

Best Actress: Kate Lagan

Best Script: Carter House

Best Director: Kohler House

Best Play: Kohler House



A look at our Prep,
a wonderland
if ever there was one...

Musical *Magic*

Our budding musicians charmed us all at the Prep Music Concerts in March and April. Pupils did exceedingly well in a wide variety of musical genres. From solo singing, choir performances, marimbas, recorder, violin, electric guitar, drums, carefully executed piano pieces and even some djembe drumming. Each performance was a delight to watch. Kudos goes to the inimitable guidance of our dedicated music staff.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Great Tri/y

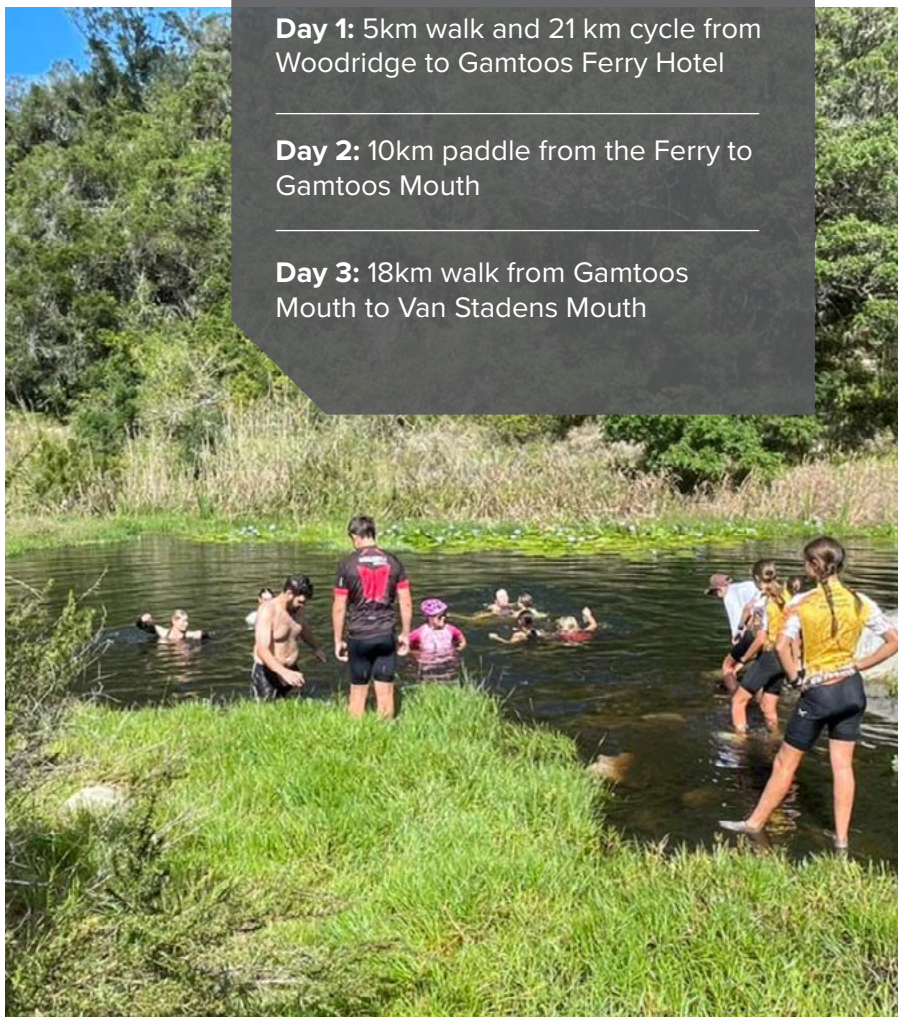
OUR UNIQUE OUTDOOR EDUCATION (OE) PROGRAMME EXPOSES PUPILS TO VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. NURTURING AND APPRECIATING NATURE HELPS THEM OVERCOME PERSONAL FEARS, AND DEVELOP SELF-DISCIPLINE, RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP QUALITIES IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

This memorable OE event has challenged and inspired our Grade 7 learners since it was devised by Billy Teeton 14 years ago. The three-day adventure includes...

Day 1: 5km walk and 21 km cycle from Woodridge to Gamtoos Ferry Hotel

Day 2: 10km paddle from the Ferry to Gamtoos Mouth

Day 3: 18km walk from Gamtoos Mouth to Van Stadens Mouth





Earth Hour

On the 5th of April we celebrated Earth Hour with a captivating concert under a halo of twinkling stars.




THE GRADE 7 market day

On a sunny day in March this longstanding tradition was yet again a resounding success. From sweet treats on sale to interesting and creative activities – especially the water balloon throwing – it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ooh La La!

On the 2nd of April, the Class of 2022 enjoyed an evening of Parisian glitz and glamour at the Woodridge Matric Dance.

For a live-streamed recording of the event visit YouTube. 

NEWS

Wow, WHAT A WEBSITE

Ta dah! It gives us great pleasure to announce that the brand-new Woodridge website is up and running. Comprehensive, slick and beyond beautiful (we think!). You're invited to take a look around www.woodridge.co.za.

Wherefore Art Thou?

We want to dedicate a whole corner of this publication to what's been happening in the lives of our beloved alumni. But we need your help. Please share your stories! Send a short snippet and a recent pic (if you want) to Natasha on owa@woodridge.co.za or WhatsApp her on +27 83 521 8203 before the 23rd of June 2022.

Peter Pan's Statue

In the very early days of World War 2 identical twins, Ian and Robin Stewart, were enrolled at Woodridge Preparatory School. Their legacy still stands on the front lawn of the school, immortalised in the statue of Peter Pan. The head and face are those of the boys.

The artist responsible was their mother, Mrs H Stewart, also the creator of the statuette of Peter Pan's Wendy who stood for many years *"a robust, sturdy, wind-swept child...bearing a shallow bird-bath, her head thrown back with an air of interest and confidence"* in the courtyard of Collegiate Junior School on Castle Hill. This was to replace the original Wendy from 1928 when Collegiate Junior School moved into their own building on Castle Hill. Mrs Stewart's Wendy eventually succumbed to the famous wind of Port Elizabeth and literally lost her head, so that Wendy Mark III was sculpted in 1956 and was later moved to the new school entrance when the schools moved to their present site.

It says much for Peter's stamina that Collegiate are currently blessed with their fourth Wendy while the young man struggles on against the elements, although much repaired and considerably weather-beaten.

L.J.A.Carter, founding Headmaster and creator of stories for young minds, wrote the following in the late sixties:

"He has been standing there for nearly thirty years, Summer and Winter, on the old tree stump in the middle of the lawn. Softly he pipes (for those whose ears can catch the haunting melody) to those who have not been afraid to grow up – to keen ears and childlike understanding of the eternally youthful."

Sometimes on a moonlit summer's night, if you are very quiet, when everyone around you is asleep and you creep softly out of bed and look over the balcony, they say that you will see his friends, the wild creatures, gathered round him listening to his tunes of the forest, the rivers and flowers. Maybe you too, if you are very attentive and do not stir, will be able to catch a few wandering notes of the wild music".

The stump on which he stands has since been cemented over and encased in stone; previously it had held a bird bath, which served as the font when Julian Carter was christened there.