

# PETER PAN says

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YEAR END EDITION - 2025



OLD  
WOODRIDGEAN  
ASSOCIATION



# Welcome!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the year-end edition of Peter Pan Says for 2025, the school's official Old Woodridgian Association (OWA) publication.

Keeping our alumni informed about the activities on and off campus, we're thrilled to share the latest details & news from the past year. Enjoy!

#EnsuringTheExperienceLivesOn



#MoreThanASchool





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A MESSAGE FROM...  
OWA CHAIRMAN, GRANT PUTTERGILL

Hello!



Where did the year go!

This was another very successful year, filled with Cricket matches, a Golf day, Reunion weekend Premier 500 draws and more....all in true Woodridge spirit of course!

As you browse down in this newsletter, you will find more on the shenanigans that went down at these events.

Another event that stood out for me this year, was when we tried something new for our annual 6-A-Side cricket day, and auctioned one school boy player to each team. This was by far one of our best ideas yet!

Not only was it fun, it also gave us the opportunity to get to know these young players (and soon to be Old Boys) on a new, better and exciting level.

Then there was the Induction of the class of 2025! This was in particular an extra special evening as my own son, Oliver, and Natasha's daughter, Nicole, got inducted as Old Woodridgeans, together with the Deputy Head, Mr Botha's daughter, Becky.

What an absolute honour to stand proudly and watch our children become part of our story.

With that, I say a huge thank you to all our committee members for all their hard work and dedication. With such a great team, I look forward to what 2026 will bring!

I wish everyone and their loved ones a beautiful Christmas season. See you in the new year!

Fideliter!

**Grant Puttergill**

Chairman, Old Woodridgean Association



# Reunion!

## rendezvous

Three days of new memories between old friends!

We bounced into Reunion 2025 on quite a musical note, by starting the weekend with different musicians from professional to in-house Woodridge pupils entertaining us at Remo's in PE. The weekend followed with a lovely headmaster's breakfast & lunch, a Founders Day service, some campus tours and our famous cocktail evening.

On the Saturday, we headed off to the OE course and joined the wall challenge. The old boys proved that they definitely still got it.....If you have not seen the clip yet, jump onto our Instagram page and have a look or click [HERE](#). They were simply awesome and the whole world get to see it now!!

From there the evening was nothing but fun and once again ended on a very high note....





More

# Memories



"There is nothing like returning to a place inside that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered." – Nelson Mandela



Feel free to download or look at more reunion pics at the following link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1slrfD3rg5pUrcx3iL\\_YKm6ILGF7v\\_9EA?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1slrfD3rg5pUrcx3iL_YKm6ILGF7v_9EA?usp=sharing)



# Happy Times!



OWA Chairman, Grant Pttergill, and Peter Bailey

Another special moment!

We recently had the privilege to induct Peter Bailey as an Honorary Old Woodridgean! Peter started working at Woodridge in January 1974 as a 19 yr old.

He is the son of the late William "Willie" Bailey, who brought his whole family down from Grahamstown in the 1960's to help with the building of the College. The Baileys have been an integral and faithful part of the Woodridge family since, with Baileyville being named after them.

Oom Piet, now 70 yrs old, is still the kindest, most patient person who treats everyone with the utmost respect. He always has a plan and never shies away from teaching his many skills to those around him, with the energy of a 30 year old. It has been an honour and a privilege to have him as part of this close knit family called Woodridge!

We want to hear your stories. Share your best memories with us!

[owa@woodridge.co.za](mailto:owa@woodridge.co.za)





# Class of 2025

# Welcome

On Wednesday 8 October, we formally welcomed the class of 2025 to the Old Woodridgean Association during an Induction Dinner.

This was an evening filled with laughter and pride.

For us, it was an honour to socialize with these youngsters and getting to know them on a different level.

Also a bitter sweet feeling, as many of them grew up in front of us, from tiny pre-schoolers to stunning young adults.....time truly does fly.

We wish all these brilliant young men & ladies only the best for their future endeavours, we know that they will do us proud.

May each one of them enjoy their well deserved break as they await their final exam results! Good luck!

"Your education  
is a dress  
rehearsal for a  
life that is yours  
to lead."  
– Jacqueline  
Kennedy Onassis



Feel free to download or look at more Induction pics at the following link:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jRuUVQzc5\\_\\_QLZUmk\\_koskE5VBLy5kd\\_?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jRuUVQzc5__QLZUmk_koskE5VBLy5kd_?usp=sharing)



## All the

## Sports!



Within the first few weeks of term 1, we already had some cricket matches and an excellent Golf day under our belt.

Having a good day of camaraderie on the Golf course or any sport field for that matter, is always the best way to get the spirits going for the year!

We cannot thank all our sponsors and team players enough for their unending support at these events.



## The Support...





We “bowled” into the new year with our first match in January - Old Boys vs Woodridge (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Teams).

The spirit between all four teams was definitely something for the books, and we are proud to say that we can still give the youngsters a run for their money...

1st Teams declaration match - drawn

2nd Team - Old Woodridgeans won by 90 runs.

In October we held our annual 6-a-side cricket tournament. After a few hours of bowling and batting the day ended with the Bench Warmers defeating last year's champions, The Prep Scorchers!

A big shout out to SwiftVEE online auctions for sponsoring a spot on their site for us! We upped our game this year by auctioning a schoolboy player to each team. This was great fun and we thank all the captains for being such great sports, while also building new and stronger relationships with the younger players.

"The only way  
to prove that  
you're a good  
sport is to lose."  
– Ernie Banks



We will have our first Cricket match for 2026 on 8 February.



# These two ladies... Now!

Caylin Maree - class of 2020  
&  
Edith Molikoe - class of 2019

These two girls play hockey and they play it well!

## Just have a look at Caylin's current achievements:

SA U21 Captain at JAFCON (Gold)  
SA Women's AFCON Team (Gold)  
Maties Women 1st team (Gold at USSA)

Part-time Educator at Wynberg Girls High School 2026

This is what Edith had to say:



I've had an exceptional year, marked by these proud highlights:

- **Player of the Year** – Tuks Hockey Club
- **Co-Captain** – South African Women's Indoor & Outdoor Teams
- **Represented South Africa** in key 2025 tournaments:

### Indoor Hockey

- FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup – Poreč, Croatia
- Indoor Africa Cup – South Africa (World Cup qualifier)
- Nkosi Cup – 5 Nations Tournament – Cape Town

### Outdoor Hockey

- African Hockey Cup of Nations – Ismailia, Egypt
- FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup – Warsaw, Poland

Next year Edith will be catching up on her practicals for her BEd that she missed due to two Olympics - playing for Tuks university and of course the rest of her national commitments





# The Way



Each year the Grade 10 pupils set off on an unforgettable adventure through wild spaces, in search of inner growth - The Way.

Over a 21 day journey and through 400kms of rugged terrain, they face plenty of challenges, and make many new discoveries while camping, cycling, hiking, canoeing and more.

There's long days, and moments that test both body and spirit.... However, each step, paddle stroke, and pedal turn builds strength and resilience, one piece at a time, until together they form something unbreakable.

Each one of them challenged themselves, led with purpose, and discovered the strength that comes from community and perseverance.

Here's to courage, determination, and going the distance!

" From the first step to the last sunset, these young explorers showed courage, resilience, and a true spirit of adventure"





# Surf Lifesaving

Our Surf Lifesaving team had another exceptional year. It was another incident free season, and not only did these athletes compete and train, they also offered hundreds of hours to community service.

And...as always our two Old girls, Amica de Jager and Nicola Marcus represented South Africa's senior team in New Zealand at the International Surf Challenge, and at the Commonwealth Games in the UK.

Like any other sport, it also comes with its own challenges, the biggest being for SLC in South Africa, is that general membership is strained as the pupils are not always available, mostly due to other sporting commitments on weekends....

Therefore, let us keep supporting them and help them stay strong!

*Just WOW!!*

During the SA Inter Provincial Championships, held in Gauteng on 5 April, our individual & team results for the Woodridge athletes representing the Eastern Cape was just phenomenal too, with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places all over the show...!

*The apples didn't fall far from the trees....*

## Provincial Representation

1. V Horak
2. D Marcus
3. L Schweitzer
4. G Moolman
5. M King
6. A Moolman

## National Representation

1. V Horak - CR Team - European Championships
2. L Schweitzer - SA Presidents Team - Commonwealth Games
3. D Marcus - SA Presidents Team - International Surf Challenge New Zealand
4. G Moolman - SA Presidents Team - Commonwealth Games
5. J Marcus - SA Presidents Team - Commonwealth Games and SA National Team - International Surf Challenge New Zealand

## National Awards

1. J Marcus - SA Junior Lady Competitor of the Year
2. V Horak - SA Senior Male Competitor of the Year





# What's *Happening*

## OWA Golf Day

In aid of the Juffrou de Wet fund



*Save the Date*



TOGETHER WITH THE  
**PREMIER 500**

DRAW 1 OF 2026  
DETAILS TBA

**27 March 2026 | PE GOLF CLUB**

OLD WOODRIDGEAN ASSOCIATION

SAVE *the* DATE

**17-18**

**JULY**

**REUNION 2026**



## 2026 OWA CALENDAR

LOADING ...



- OWA Cricket vs Woodridge - 8 Feb
- PE Golf Day - 27 Mar
- Premier 500 draw 1 - 27 Mar
- Premier 500 draw 2 - 18 July
- Reunion - 17-18 July
- OE Day - 18 July
- Class of '26 Induction - 7 October
- Class of '26 Valedictory - 8 October
- Six-a-side Cricket - tba
- General Get togethers - tba

*Further Details*

will be shared via email

&

social media



The Premier 500 is registered with  
National Lotteries Commission with  
registration nr NLC. 00474/03

No under 18's permitted to join the club



# From the school's side

Woodridge College and Preparatory School warmly invite all Old Woodridgians to reconnect with the school at our upcoming series of marketing events showcasing the vibrant, modern Woodridge experience.

These gatherings offer a unique opportunity to see firsthand how Woodridge has evolved over the years in order to remain relevant with its academic offering, outstanding co-curricular activities, and supportive community spirit.

We encourage our alumni to join us, rediscover the school they love, and share these exciting events with prospective parents who may not yet be fully aware of everything Woodridge has to offer. Together, let's celebrate our past and inspire new families to become part of the Woodridge legacy.

## Marketing calendar

### **ADDO: Tuesday, 27 January**

Time: 17:30

Venue: Tangelo Restaurant, Addo Wildlife, R335 Addo

### **ROYALSTON ESTATE, PORT ELIZABETH: Wednesday, 28 January**

Time: 11:00

Venue: Javali Cafe

### **CAMPUS OPEN DAY WOODRIDGE COLLEGE & PREPARATORY: Friday, 30 January**

Time: 15:30 - 19:30

Venue: Woodridge College & Preparatory, Thornhill

### **PORT ALFRED, MEET & GREET, Wednesday, 4 February**

Time & Venue: to be communicated on registration

### **EAST LONDON, Wednesday, 4 February**

Time: 18:00

Venue: Blue Lagoon Hotel & Conference Centre, 21 Blue Bend Place, Blue Bend

### **JOHANNESBURG, Wednesday, 4 February**

Time: tba

Venue: Grayston Preparatory

### **GARDEN ROUTE, PLETTENBERG BAY, Friday 6 February**

Time: 17:30

Venue: Barrington's Plett, Erf 2104 Piesang Valley Rd, Piesang Valley

### **GRAAFF REINET, Wednesday, 11 February**

Time: 14:30

Venue: Hello You Restaurant, 52 Somerset Street

### **CRADOCK, Thursday, 12 February**

Time: 09:30

Venue: True Living Old Karoo Restaurant, 8 Albert Street

**Feel free to share the above dates with potential parents.**

**Visit [www.woodridge.co.za](http://www.woodridge.co.za) to RSVP for any of the above events.**



# The Prep is indeed turning 90!

## **From the Headmaster's Desk - Mr Reed** **Celebrating 90 Years of Woodridge Preparatory (1936–2026)**

As we look toward 2026, it is with immense pride and heartfelt appreciation that we prepare to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone in our school's history: 90 years of Woodridge Preparatory.

Since 1936, generations of pupils, parents, staff, and Old Woodridgians have helped shape the warm, community-oriented school we cherish today. The coming year offers a wonderful opportunity to honour that legacy while celebrating the people and moments that continue to define Woodridge Prep.

Our celebrations will begin in a simple yet meaningful way—a balloon archway at the car park, welcoming pupils as they step off the buses and onto campus. This bright and joyful entry point will set the tone for the year ahead, giving our children an immediate sense of excitement as they walk into a campus rich in history and alive with celebration.

Throughout 2026, our families can look forward to an exciting and diverse calendar of events.

Each of these events has been designed to bring us together in the spirit of joy, gratitude, and shared heritage—values that have long defined the Woodridge story.

All celebrations will culminate in a very special Founders Celebration, where we look forward to welcoming many Old Woodridgians back home to honour this significant moment in our school's journey. It promises to be a gathering filled with nostalgia, pride, and deep appreciation for the enduring legacy of Woodridge Preparatory.

As we step into our 90th year, I could not be more excited for what lies ahead. This is more than a celebration of history—it is a celebration of people, community, and the lasting spirit of Woodridge. I look forward to sharing this landmark year with each of you.



1936 - 2026



**WOODRIDGE  
PREPARATORY**

*celebrating 90 years*





1936 - 2026



WOODRIDGE  
PREPARATORY

*celebrating 90 years*

*Save the  
dates!*

-  *Family Steak Evening  
13 February 2026*
-  *Kids Rock  
27 February 2026*
-  *Prep Golf and Padel Day  
6 March 2026*
-  *Movies Under the Stars  
17 July 2026*

*Invitations to follow!*



# Fabulous FOUNDATION



Dear Woodridge Alumni,

As we come to the close of the year, I wanted to take a moment to share a heartfelt update from the Woodridge Foundation and to thank you — our alumni — for the enduring role you play in the life of our school.

This past year has been one of quiet but important progress. We have focused on building strong, sustainable bursary pathways, welcoming new bursary recipients (including our first UK-based Fideliter Trust bursary), and strengthening the ways alumni can meaningfully engage with and support Woodridge, now and into the future.

We are also in the process of developing a very special initiative — the Tree Project — which will be launched in the New Year. This project is being thoughtfully designed as a living legacy on campus, offering alumni the opportunity to honour their time at Woodridge, mark milestones, and give back to Woodridge in a way that grows and endures over time.

As we look ahead to 2026, our hopes are simple but powerful: to grow our bursary programme, deepen alumni involvement locally and abroad, progress important legacy and infrastructure projects, and continue nurturing a school where every child can belong and thrive.

Our call to action is an open invitation: whether through supporting a bursary, adopting or planting a tree, mentoring a learner, or simply staying connected — there is a place for every Old Woodridgean to be part of this journey.

Woodridge is more than a school; it is a community that lives on through its people. Thank you for carrying its spirit forward and for helping us build something meaningful for generations still to come.

As we head into the festive season, we wish you and your loved ones a happy, peaceful and safe holiday, filled with time to rest, reconnect and enjoy precious moments with family and friends.

With warmest thanks and festive wishes,  
Trenwyth Pledger  
Chairperson: Woodridge Foundation



# THE WOODRIDGE foundation

The primary objective of the Foundation is to generate, receive & manage funds that will enable continued excellence of enhanced educational opportunities (through the provision of bursaries or similar funding), by supporting the school's infrastructure, academic, technological & outreach needs.

- excerpt from MOI

**The Foundation is authorised to issue Section 18A where the donation meets the applicable criteria.**

## Governance

The Foundation, registered as a non-profit organization (NPC) in terms of the Companies Act, is a separate legal entity from the

School and has Woodridge College and Preparatory School as its sole beneficiary. It also has Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) status and as such is authorized to issue Section 18 A tax certificates to qualifying donors.

This Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of independent alumni and ex officio representatives of the Woodridge Trust and the Old Woodridgian Association.



Click [HERE](#)  
and scroll down to view our  
Bursary Brochure



## Progress!

Remember the Fideliter Trust in the UK?

Well, now the Foundation has headed to the USA.....

We reported last year on the registration of the Fideliter Trust in the UK – a registered charity in England and Wales which has its own board of trustees, operates independently and abides by UK Charity Law and allows tax benefits for UK taxpayers.

This year we were able to formalise an agreement with the Rhodes University Trust USA which will allow our Woodridge family and friends in the USA to support Woodridge while taking advantage of the tax benefits provided to USA taxpayers by using their 501(c) (3) trust in America.

A comprehensive communication will be sent out in the New Year regarding our collaboration with the Rhodes University Trust USA and how to support us through their charity.

If you are resident in the United States and would like more information, please contact the Foundation Office at Woodridge ([foundation@woodridge.co.za](mailto:foundation@woodridge.co.za)).

Ensuring the experience lives on!





# The Welcomes & Good Bye's

Trevor



During the Founders Day service we paid tribute to everyone that we lost during this year. All of these losses are still weighing heavy on our hearts but mostly we take time to reflect and remember each one of them with the fondest of memories and respect. May they rest in peace.

Then we also had to say good bye to an incredible Headmaster, Mr von Berg, as he steps into retirement.

Trevor's leadership, kindness, and dedication have shaped Woodridge Preparatory School in unforgettable ways, which also earned him an honorary Old Woodridgean status a few years ago.

Heather



Trevor's wife, Heather, has also played a fundamental role in the school, as the PA to the Deputy Head of the College. She has given the OWA incredible support over the years and her friendly smile will be missed, as she joins her husband in retirement.

The prep also said good bye to Mrs Almarie Geyer after 38 yrs of service, a teacher, house parent but mostly a mom to so many young pupils. Luckily, we will still have Hannes around for a tiny bit longer in the Roger Carter Clubhouse.....

We wish both Trevor, Heather and Almarie, nothing but the best for a well-deserved retirement!

Almarie



With this, we welcome Mr Clifford Reed into his new role of Head at Woodridge Preparatory School from 1 January 2026.

At the heart of Cliff's educational philosophy is a child-centred approach, where every aspect of the school's work serves the growth and development of each child. Inspired by the guiding principle, "We prepare children for the road ahead, not the road for the children"

Cliff's family is firmly rooted in the Woodridge community and holds a deep commitment to the school's founding Christian philosophy that continues to nurture children of significance.

As Cliff steps into this exciting next chapter, he does so with a clear purpose: to lead with conviction and humility, champion academic excellence, foster character formation and authentic belonging, and give back to the school that has given him so much.

We look forward to the continued growth and success of Woodridge Preparatory under his dedicated leadership.

Cliff





# How to?

Our readers are offered a self-service option to manage their preferences and to update their contact details.

## And this is how.....

The first time you update your contact details, you might get a POPI notification like this

**WOODRIDGE**

**Protection of Personal Information**

- I declare that all the information supplied by me on this form are true and correct.
- I hereby consent that my data will be collected, used, distributed, processed and communicated for all necessary processes, which may include, but is not limited to, internal administrative processing, institutional and scholarly research, and third parties rendering database management support.
- I understand that in terms of the POPI Act and other laws of the country, there are instances where my express consent is not necessary in order to permit the processing of personal information, which may be related to investigations, litigation or when personal information is publicly available.
- I will not hold the responsible party for any improper or unauthorised use of personal information that is beyond its reasonable control.
- I confirm that I have read the notice and understand the contents thereof.

Do you accept these terms?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

Save | Next

powered by devman

Please note,  
if you **do not** accept the terms, no further communication of any sort will be received from Woodridge – so if you wish to be included in lists for invitations to branch events, or be invited to your reunion, you will need to consent to the terms.  
We promise that we will never sell our database to a third party.

If you wish to decline the terms, you will get a confirmation pop up first..... like this

Please confirm

Template confirm. Are sure to decline the terms

Yes No

*If you click on YES, you will be diverted to the OWA page on the Woodridge College & Preparatory School website.*

If you accept the POPI terms, the pages to update your contact details and subscription choices will pop up:

**WOODRIDGE**

Personal address

TITLE  
Mr

NAME  
Another

SURNAME  
Person

PREFERRED NAME  
Preferred name

PRIMARY EMAIL  
xxxxxx

PRIMARY PHONE  
Phone

PRIMARY CELL  
Cell

BIRTH DATE  
dd/mm/yyyy

Back Save | Next

powered by devman

**WOODRIDGE**

Physical address

COUNTRY  
South Africa

LOCATION  
address lookup

LINE 1  
address line 1

LINE 2  
address line 2

CITY/TOWNSHIP  
address city

PROVINCE/REGION  
address province

CODE  
code

Back Save | Next

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**WOODRIDGE**

I'd like to receive communication about the following:

- ☒ OWA Newsletters & Peter Pan Says...
- ☒ Reunions & OWA Events
- ☒ Foundation Newsletters and Correspondence
- ☒ College Head's Bi-weekly Newsletter
- ☒ Prep Head's Bi-weekly newsletter
- ☒ Regional Events

☐ I would prefer not to receive any information at all

Back Save | Next

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## Did you know...

The Advancement Office at Woodridge houses the Admission and Marketing Departments, the OWA and the Foundation.

This office has sent out over 69 805 emails to alumni and stakeholders so far this year.

We use the DevMan3 system to assist us with our communications .

DevMan3 helps manage all bulk communications and ensures that we are POPIA compliant

ATTENTION PLEASE

If you opt not to receive any information at all, your profile will be marked with DO NOT CONTACT, which will prevent any communications from being sent via subscriptions and when lists are sent to branches, the fact that you do not want to be contacted will appear on that list.

From our homes  
*To yours*



We wish you & your loved ones an  
incredible & blessed Christmas season!

*Thank You*





# 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.**

**T**he 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.

