



# The Old Stanfordian

The Official Newsletter of the Stanford Lake College Alumni Association



## EVENTS

**24 JANUARY 2020**  
Alumni Hockey  
abennett@stanfordlakecollege.co.za

**13 & 14 MARCH 2020**  
Open Weekend  
admissions@stanfordlakecollege.co.za

**15 MARCH 2020**  
WIK Triathlon  
<https://www.facebook.com/WikTriathlon>

**20 - 21 MARCH 2020**  
Beaulieu Derby (Away)

**8 - 9 MAY 2020**  
St Dunstan's Derby at SLC

**9 MAY 2020**  
Alumni & SLC  
Society Event at SLC  
(Details TBC)

# 2019



*"It always seems impossible until it is done" - Nelson Mandela*

By Miss Nicola Verreyne (Admissions & Assistant Marketing at SLC)

I was rushing through the aisles of a supermarket this week, with the heat and crowds overwhelming me beyond belief. Christmas décor and bargains so plentiful, distracting me from what I was actually meant to be looking for. Through the craze and rush to find my necessities, I just wanted to escape it all at once. It suddenly dawned on me that another year drawing to a close and that this, itself, is something one can't avoid - one can't help but feel reflective.

Another year filled with the unexpected, the beginning of many things, the celebration of life and the surprise of this year being an even shorter year than the last. I have been fortunate enough to share all that Stanford Lake College's students, staff, past pupils and society have achieved throughout 2019. It has been an enlightening task, with such brilliant standards and talent, one can not argue that the College has built an immense foundation for its students to go on and reach their full potential when embarking on the next chapter of their lives.

It is difficult to determine the future, as everyday brings new opportunities. If you live for the 50% you have predicted for the day, and allow the other unpredicted 50% to lead you towards new experiences, you will grow. The journey to where I stand today has been an unexpected experience and one thing I have learnt is this: It is not about the opportunities being handed to you, it is what you do with those opportunities that allows you to embrace your true potential. I will end by saying thank you to those that have kept us informed of your incredible achievements and special events. I look forward to sharing more of these attainments in the new year with you all!

Wishing everyone a blessed festive season and a happy new year!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stanford Lake College



## MEET THE HEADS OF STANFORD LAKE COLLEGE 2020

We would like to announce the following students who have been elected as the Executive Committee of 2020.



Deputy Head Boy  
Owen Venter

Head Boy  
Marthinus Maritz

Head Girl  
Danica Altenroxel

Deputy Head Girl  
Malaika Mohlaba



Back L to R: Head of Lakeside – Courtney Penrose; Head of Founders North – Ntsako Madlala  
Front L to R: Head of Serala – Mahlatse Manaka; Head of Day Scholars – Lia Revelas;  
Head of Founders South – Rofhiwa Nevhutalu; Head of Ken Shuter – Dimpho Mohuba



Stanford Lake College was awarded a Golden Arrow Award at the PMR.africa Limpopo Provincial Survey Business Excellence Awards Ceremony held at Bradbury Estate and Function Venue, Polokwane on 13 September 2019.

Miss Tamara Nel recently attended a prize giving function in Gordon's Bay to receive the Top Performing School in Limpopo Province Award of the South African Mathematics Olympiad on behalf of Stanford Lake College.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stanford Lake College



## A TRIBUTE TO MR ED HILLARY

Ed Hillary, a past board member at Stanford Lake College, sadly passed away on Sunday, 17 November 2019. The Hillary Field was named after him and his family's large contribution towards the construction of this area and involvement in the school's early years of development. Our deepest sympathies to the Hillary family during this difficult time. He will be sorely missed by his family and this tightly knit community.

The following, special tribute was shared by his daughter-in-law:

*"This day in future we will celebrate your incredible life and the amazing person that you are. Thank you for the stone pillar you were to all of us, Ed you were the legends of all legends. We love you and are going to miss you so terribly, nothing besides Jesus' love will be able to fill the void we are left with. Rest peacefully in Heaven, we will love you forever and though we are heartbroken, we are so relieved that you are no longer suffering."*



## A TRIBUTE TO REBECCA DESMET

Rebecca Desmet, a past Honours pupil at Stanford Lake College, sadly passed away on Sunday, 6 October 2019. Rebecca was an exemplary student who was the epitome of what it means to be a true Stanfordian. Our sincerest condolences to the Desmet family at this tragic time.

The following, beautiful tribute was shared by one of Rebecca's good friends:

*"A rare soul filled with curiosity and kindness. A quiet yet attentive observer, an avid adventurer, a conservationist, a literary wizard, a wealth of knowledge and a deep well off love."*

*Rebecca will forever be a strong presence in the hearts and minds of her friends, respective schools, community and all those who were lucky enough to encounter her dedication and diligence. She was ever so loved and will be sorely missed."*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stanford Lake College



## WELCOME TO THE BOARD

It is with great pleasure that we welcome two new members to the SLC Board of Trustees.

Shirley Scriven joins the PR & Marketing leg of the Board. She has a wealth of experience in the fields of strategy, project management, public relations, copy writing and editing, with a focus on internal communications. She currently works as a freelance communications specialist. Outside of the office, Shirley is a keen sports enthusiast.

### SHIRLEY SCRIVEN & BERNARD SCHOEMAN



Bernard Schoeman joins the Finance sub-division of the Board. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant and founded the Tax Shop Franchise which he has expanded and grown to a portfolio of over 80 branches across South Africa. He is a keen tennis player and also enjoys swimming, cycling, running, theatre and drama.



### FAUSTO DI PALMA CLIMBING THE RANKS

Congratulations to former Stanfordian, Fausto Di Palma (Class of 2005), who was appointed Director of Sectional Title Solutions (Pty) Ltd in April this year. Fausto graduated from Rhodes University, Grahamstown, with a BCom LLB in 2011. Since joining Sectional Title Solutions in June 2015, Fausto has established a highly systemised and functional legal department to monitor Community Scheme loans and levy collections, and the legal team which he manages offers high-level legal support to the group and its business. For further details about Fausto and Sectional Title Solutions visit:

<https://www.stsolutions.co.za/staff-member/fausto-di-palma/>

## LEBOGANG PUBLISHES HIS FIRST BOOK



Congratulations to former Stanfordian, Lebogang Ramoshaba (Class of 2017), who published his first book on Amazon titled "Mama I'm Free". His book is about his journey to healing through poetry. Lebogang has dedicated this entire year to compiling this book and hopes that his journey to healing may help others. He is also currently studying Civil Engineering at UCT and mentioned that he just crossed a major milestone by publishing this book. Well done Lebo, this is a fantastic achievement and we wish you all the best with your studies, whilst inspiring others!

Here is the link to the book on Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/Mama-free-journey-healing-growth-ebook/dp/B0819XTH1C/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=mama+im+free&qid=1574760973&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Mama-free-journey-healing-growth-ebook/dp/B0819XTH1C/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=mama+im+free&qid=1574760973&s=books&sr=1-1)



# ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

ACADEMIC & SPORT



**Nyasha (Chitate) Lebea**  
**Class of 2010**

MSc in Civil Engineering at UCT (cum laude), specializing in transport studies.



**Yasmin Malik**  
**Class of 2009**

MMed in Physiology at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, considering to do her PhD.



**Robert Retief**  
**Class of 2017**

FGASA Field Guide Level 1 (NQF1), working at Maninghi Lodge in the Balule Nature Reserve.



## TEAM RED ANTS

Congratulations to SLC alumnus, Steve Willson (Class of 2001) and Brian Gardner (Class of 2002), who represented Team Red Ants with their teammates at the Drakensberg 120km Kinetic Adventure Race beginning of November. They managed a 3rd position overall in the race, well done guys!

## THE ROAD TO THE ROOF OF AFRICA



Greg Reynolds (Class of 2008) has completed a series of off-road endurance races this year, in preparation of competing in The Roof of Africa event, which takes place from 4 - 7 December 2019 in the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. Greg raced his last training race on 9 November in Pilgrims Rest and managed to place 7th in the A Silver Class division in a total time of 3h 14min 15sec. He also placed 1st overall in the Lowveld Enduro Championships series, held throughout the year with the highest points accumulated for taking part in the various racing events. Well done, Greg, we wish you all the best with The Roof of Africa.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## BUSINESSES & SPORT



### CICADAS CUISINE & HOSPITALITY



Cicadas Cuisine and Hospitality is a small scale business, founded by Mike Willson (Class of 2005) and his wife, Teri. They provide a service to the Limpopo area by pre-stocking self-catered guest houses with local seasonal produce and products. The name, Cicadas, comes from the Cicada beetle whose song fills the night during the summer months. Cicadas are beneficial to the area as they help prune large mature trees. They lay their eggs on the weaker branches signaling to the trees which branches no longer need nutrients. Cicadas microgreens, also grown by Mike, supplies local restaurants with the highly nutritious microgreens consisting of a mixture of pea shoots, sun flowers, radish, broccoli, beetroot and mizuna. Le Bamba fresh market, one of his main clients in Hoedspruit distribute his microgreens to all the high-end safari lodges in the Greater Kruger area such as Royal Malewane and the Thornybush collection to name a few.



**Contact Mike or Teri: [terileewillson@gmail.com](mailto:terileewillson@gmail.com)**

### THE MOUNTAIN BEE CO.

The Mountain Bee Co. is a small business, established by Steve Willson (Class of 2001), which helps farmers and locals in the Haenertsburg area with everything bees. What started as a hobby and a way to teach his children the importance of environmental awareness, Steve decided to launch the company as a way to create more awareness as to the importance of bees. The company currently owns a number of hives in the Haenertsburg area and is helping local farmers with crop pollination and general hive management. There are plans to expand the business into a profitable company within the next 5 years.

**Contact Steve: [steven@slc.co.za](mailto:steven@slc.co.za)**



### MAE BOOTE PREGNANCY & POSTPARTUM MASSAGE THERAPY



Maegen (Emmerich) Boote (Class of 2005) completed her Honours Degree at The University of Pretoria and graduated as a Biokineticist in 2011. In 2012, she moved to Durban and practiced as a Biokineticist for 5 years. Maegen went on to complete her Postgraduate course in Pre and Postnatal Massage Therapy in Edinburgh and is accredited and trained through the Federation of Antenatal Educators (FEDANT). In November 2018, she opened the doors to her practice, Mae Boote Pregnancy & Postpartum Massage Therapy, at the Umhlanga Medical Centre – a first of its kind in the area. Her practice is dedicated to the highest standards of evidence-based bodywork for women during their childbearing years, from preconception through postpartum and beyond. Through advanced education and training, Maegen's aim is in providing individualised care, nurturing and emotional support to all woman through therapeutic massage and bodywork. Congratulations Maegen in celebrating your first successful year with your practice!

**Contact Maegen: [info@maebpregnancymassage.co.za](mailto:info@maebpregnancymassage.co.za)**



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## BUSINESSES & AMBASSADORS



### NATIVE DÉCOR

Vusani Ravele (Class of 2004), established Native Décor in 2015. He started this business as a part-time hobby from his living room after receiving a cordless drill as a Valentine's Day gift. He simply couldn't stop making and drilling holes into things. Fast-forward to a year later and he found himself making history on M-Net's Shark Tank SA TV show. Vusi became the first entrepreneur to benefit from a lucrative investment deal with his present day business partner, Gil Oved, of The Creative Counsel. Native Décor creates visually pleasing products that are both innovative and functional using sustainable timber. His minimalist style, which underpins all of his designs, is mostly inspired by the beautiful country, South Africa.

Vusi has accomplished many achievements with his business such as being a facilitator on the First Watch Whiskey Entrepreneur competition; featuring in the GQ Magazine: Four young South Africa Entrepreneurs You Need To Look Out For; resident speaker at Seamless Southern Africa; featuring on other platforms such as Entrepreneur Magazine, CNBC Africa, Metro FM, Power FM, You Magazine, News24, Payfast blog and Cliff Central.

Currently Native Décor is a fully online distribution business manufacturing white label products such as furniture and décor and on the cusp of launching an office furniture range to acquire more business to business (B2B) clients. Today Native Décor products are found on the following top online clients/partners platforms: Superbalist, Takealot, Zando, Yuppiechef, Knus, Netflorist, Ebucks and many others.



**Contact Vusani: [www.nativedecor.co.za](http://www.nativedecor.co.za)**

### KGANYA SEBATJANE



Kganya Sebatjane (Class of 2015), who is currently studying Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University Of Pretoria, has been selected as a contestant for Mr. South Africa 2020.

Mr. South Africa prides itself on being a fair competition for all who enter, regardless of background or ethnicity. They look for qualities such as compassion, integrity, humility, motivation and determination. Mr. South Africa aims to find the best brand ambassadors to serve South Africa as role models for younger generations. To create a symbol of hope, equality and diversity and to showcase our beautiful nation and our caliber on the international world stages.

Your support and encouragement would be greatly appreciated to help Kganya reach the following round of the competition. This can simply be done by sending MRSA80 via SMS to 40439 or vote via Zapper by scanning the barcode in the image.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## BUSINESSES



### XYZA SAVANNA LUXURY HANDBAGS



In 2017, Xyza (Stander) Bothma (Class of 2010), went to the homemakers expo in Johannesburg. Together with her husband, Duncan Bothma, they bought some Nguni Rugs, and as they were about to pay, she spotted a gorgeous Nguni skin handbag on the top shelf that was for sale. She was fortunate enough to convince her husband to buy her this bag. A little later the lady said to Xyza that if there is a handbag that she would like to have done in Nguni, that they could do it for her. However, this meant she would have to take the handbag apart. At first the idea of having some of her existing handbags made in Nguni excited her extremely, but upon further analysis the idea of copying someone else's designs didn't sit well with her. She later said to her husband; if she was copying handbags, surely she could create her own designs and have them made up for her? This idea of designing her own handbag line was one that would intrigue her for the next two years.

Later that year Xyza resigned from a corporate role and came back to Tzaneen to renovate their new home. Once the renovations were completed, she and her husband had a 3-month sabbatical where they travelled around Europe. During their travels they went to visit leather schools and factories from where Xyza drew a lot of inspiration. More importantly, she learned about the importance of quality and precise craftsmanship during her visits.

Her next plan was to go back into corporate and save up to start this business when she returned. However, one evening they visited some family friends and she had told them about her dream to start a leather accessory business. The next day this family friend said that he would be interested in investing and that she should put a business plan together.

In May 2018, the funding from this family friend came through and she was able to start the development process. In November 2018, Xyza Savanna was launched. The name Xyza means 'by the sea' and Savanna means 'grassy plain in tropical and subtropical regions'. "These are my names, which I thought was fitting as Xyza is rather exotic and Savanna makes you think of Africa, which really encapsulates the essence of the brand," says Xyza.

Xyza Savanna, though still small, is growing from strength to strength. In the last year she has signed two Brand Ambassadors, namely Melinda Bam and Sarah Langa. XS has also been a part of an incredible editorial shoot that took place in New York City earlier this year, where her handbags were modeled by Janine Tugonon a NYC based model. She also earlier this month exhibited her handbags in Melbourne Australia at the Footwear and Leather Show Australia. She is also planning to exhibit her handbag at a Leather Show in New York during December. Congratulations Xyza, in celebrating your first successful year since launching your luxury handbag and accessories range!

**Contact Xyza: [www.xyzasavanna.com](http://www.xyzasavanna.com)**





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## ACADEMIC



### DR. BRANDON WRIGHT

We would like to congratulate Brandon Wright (Class of 2013), who recently attended the Oath Taking Ceremony for completing his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBCChB) degree with cum laude at the University of Pretoria.

Brandon received distinctions in the following subjects:

Surgery,  
Orthopaedics,  
Anaesthesiology,  
Urology,  
Family Medicine,  
Internal Medicine,  
Internal med Sub-groups,  
Psychiatry,  
Neurology,  
Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
Paediatrics,  
Community-based Education,  
Community Obstetrics and  
Diagnostic Laboratory Medicine.

He was also given the Department of Surgery Award for Top Student in General Surgery and the School of Medicine Award for the highest mark in the final year. This is an incredible achievement Brandon and wish you all the best with your future in medicine.



# WEDDINGS 2019



**Rina & Jacques Brits**  
(Rina van Niekerk, class of 2010)  
Married on 9 February 2019



**Dominic & Marguerite Obojkovits**  
(Dominic Obojkovits, class of 2012)  
Married on 22 February 2019



**Nicola & Antony Pretorius**  
(Nicola Pirie, class of 2008)  
Married on 23 March 2019



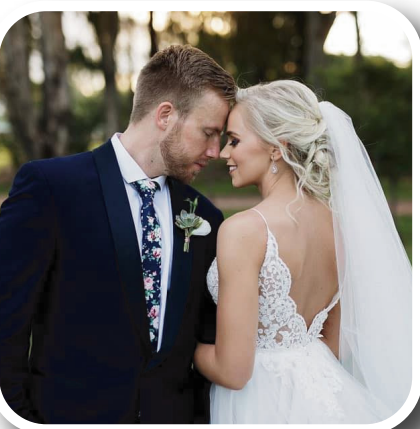
**Patrick & Rebecca Lambert**  
(Rebecca Tooley, class of 2006)  
Married on 20 April 2019



**Mark & Talia Burke**  
(Talia Da Silva, class of 2005)  
Married on 13 July 2019



**Dillen & Kayla McGaffin**  
(Dillen McGaffin, class of 2011 &  
Kayla Janke, class of 2012)  
Married on 19 October 2019



**Brandon & Ulrike Wright**  
(Brandon Wright, class of 2013 &  
Ulrike von Maltitz, class of 2012)  
Married on 23 November 2019

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the above Stanfordians and their loving partners. We wish you all the best with your future endeavours and many years of happiness together. We would like to ask that our Stanfordians stay in touch with us about their achievements and special events in their life as we are excited to walk the path with you.



# ALUMNI BABIES



**Stuart & György-Lee Hillary  
welcomed  
Robert Georg Hillary**  
on 23 March 2019  
(Stuart Hillary, class of 2011)



**Nyasha & Itumeleng Lebea  
welcomed  
Isheanesu Leonel Lebea**  
on 30 April 2019  
(Nyasha Chitate, class of 2010)



**Ryan & Danielle Hyde  
welcomed  
Jack Hyde**  
on 1 May 2019  
(Ryan Hyde & Danielle Souchon,  
class of 2008)



**Douglas & Chanté Pirie  
welcomed  
Caleb Pirie**  
on 23 July 2019  
(Douglas Pirie, class of 2004)



**Raymond & Hannah Siebrits  
welcomed  
Edward Michael Siebrits**  
on 16 September 2019  
(Hannah Baleta, class of 2005)



**Arnold Eshmade & Ursula Stubbs  
welcomed  
Nathan Eshmade**  
on 16 September 2019  
(Ursula Stubbs, class of 2002)

**Congratulations to the above mentioned Alumni and their partners on the newest member of their family. Blessings and good wishes to all of you for good health, happiness, and prosperity now and in the years to come.**



# SLC SOCIETY



## OLD BOYS & GIRLS HOCKEY EVENT



Stanford Lake College would like to invite all Alumni to an afternoon/evening of hockey on our state-of-the-art, water-based and FIH accredited astroturf on Friday, 24 January 2020.

Those that are interested, please let Mr. Adin Bennett know by latest 15 January 2020 at: [abennett@stanfordlakecollege.co.za](mailto:abennett@stanfordlakecollege.co.za).

There will be a social bring-and-braai gathering after the games, all are welcome to join. Further details will follow after 15 January 2020.



Stanford Lake College is part of the MySchool, MyVillage, MyPlanet fundraising programme. The card system allows supporters to raise funds for their beneficiary (school or charity) every time they shop at one of the partner stores. Supporters apply for a free MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card and select up to three schools and/or charities as their beneficiary/ies.

When you purchase items from participating retailers, simply swipe the card with the purchase. A percentage of the transaction is then allocated to your beneficiary.

You can apply for a card through the following site: <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/>

The funds raised so far have been put towards completing the astro turf down at the 'dream an' do' Centre as well as installing the electronic timing system in the pool at the High Performance Centre.

## SLC BUSINESS DIRECTORY



We have started to compile an Alumni Business Directory that will be shared among SLC Society and Alumni in support of the businesses listed.

Should you have a business or service that you offer and would like to be listed on the directory, please email us at: [admissions@stanfordlakecollege.co.za](mailto:admissions@stanfordlakecollege.co.za) with further details.

