

# UPPA



## UPLANDS PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION



A custodian of the culture and ethos of Uplands

### NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2012

Dear Uplands Past Pupils, Past Parents of Uplands and Friends of Uplands,  
This is the first quarterly UPPA newsletter for 2012 and as such, there are issues of interest and relevance to report to the past pupil, past parents and friends community of Uplands Prep and Uplands College.

#### THE UPPA AGM

Most significantly, UPPA was able to hold its inaugural Annual General Meeting, as a properly constituted organisation, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 at the College Sports Pavilion. Following the formal meeting, a social gathering was held. While the evening was an all-round success, we need to strive for a greater number of past pupils at the forthcoming 2012 AGM.

Looking back on the work of the Interim UPPA Committee over the past year, the Chairman, Murrough Davies-Webb was able to report the following:

- The need for a past pupils association had arisen from perceptions that the influence of past pupils had been eroded on some governance and operational issues, such as the closure of the Prep boarding facility which has had a negative impact on both Prep and College.
- In spite of the Prep having been in existence for eight decades, and College for two decades, still no formally established alumni existed.

Against this background, Murrough reported on progress made by UPPA as follows:

- A constitution for UPPA had been drafted, and it is posted on the UPPA website.
- An UPPA brand has been established, an UPPA website developed and UPPA is posted on Facebook.
- Governance had manifested as a critical issue. Accordingly a workshop, facilitated by ISASA (Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa) had been held on school governance issues for both Prep and College. Much has been achieved in this area over the past months, but there is still work to be done.
- UPPA has representation on the Prep Board (Guy More), on the Joint School Board (Murrough Davies-Webb), on the Schools' Governance Committee (James

Sheard) and on the Committee on the Re-establishment of Boarding facilities at the Prep (Duncan Macgregor).

### **The Way Ahead for 2012:**

While the work of UPPA, as outlined above will continue, there has to be a concerted effort on the recruitment of past pupils as registered members of UPPA (presently there are only 253 registered members).

Equally UPPA's focus has to be on fund raising for bursaries.

*UPPA will become irrelevant if membership numbers are not significantly increased and if UPPA is unable to make any contribution to Prep and College in terms of financial contributions for bursaries and capital projects.*

***An appeal is being made to all past pupils to sign up as UPPA members. Please also assist in recruiting any past pupils you may know to join UPPA. The future of UPPA and its influence on maintaining the ethos, as well as the development of both Prep and College depends on the strength of its membership.***

### **OTHER MATTERS**

**Scrapping of UPPA Membership fees:** Please note that following discussion and consideration regarding this matter, it has been decided that the payment of a fee will no longer be required for registration of membership. The initial fees received from our "founding members" allowed UPPA to be established, without looking to Prep or College for assistance. *Thank you* to all those founding members who did contribute.

The UPPA website is soon to be updated and will include, on regular basis, items of interest, achievements etc. from both Prep and College.

**Congratulations** are extended to Prep and College for the excellent academic achievements of their school leavers and for their outstanding sporting achievements during the current season, especially in swimming and athletics..

**Uplands Festival:** UPPA will be running a stall for the second time at the Annual Festival. Please visit us there where you will be able to register (free of charge!), buy some UPPA branded items, such as golf shirts, fleeces, caps etc. and to catch up and socialize with other past pupils. Look out for the UPPA Stall and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Included in this newsletter as attachments, please see:**

**Term 1 Report from the Chairman of the Chairman of the Prep Board:**

The report covers the recent inclusion of a representative of the PTA on the Board; Academic Achievements; Sporting Results; Uplands Schools (Joint Schools' Board) and Leadership and Control;

and

**College: Deputy's Diary:** which covers Lowveld Results; Grade 8 Camp; Grade 8 Concert; Mountain Biking; Squash; End of Term Bus; Moms in Touch and Forthcoming Attractions.

**Remember, please register for UPPA membership at [www.uppa.co.za](http://www.uppa.co.za) and visit the UPPA Facebook page to play your part in being a custodian of the culture and ethos of Uplands.**

Best wishes to all past pupils, past parents and friends of UPPA.

**Murrough Davies-Webb**

**Chairman: UPPA Steering Committee**