



Murray & Roberts

ADVERTORIAL

Year of Highlights

Having recently celebrated its first year of existence, the **Murray & Roberts Running Club** can look back on a terrific first year of racing that delivered more than 100 wins and 250 podium positions, gold medals in all the major races in South Africa, and more. These were just some of the many highlights.



Philani Buthelezi

Instant Success

At the first official outing for the club at the Dis-Chem Half Marathon in Johannesburg in January, **Philani Buthelezi** announced the arrival of the new club

by winning the men's title, with teammate **Benedict Moeng** finishing third. In the women's race, **Charne Bosman** led a wave of Murray & Roberts athletes home to sweep positions two to eight! On the same day, **Nolene Conrad** won the Nutribullet Bay to Bay 15km in the Cape, and a week later **Kesa Molotsane** finished first in the women's 10km race at the SA Cross Country Trials in Pretoria.



Kesa Molotsane

Germiston in April. Two days later he lined up in the 5000m and added a silver medal to his haul. Another Murray & Roberts silver medallist was **Tumisang Monnatlala**, who finished as runner-up in the men's 3000m steeplechase, while

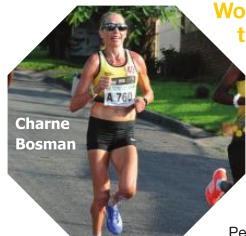
Kesa Molotsane, in her first race back in SA after representing the country at the World Cross Country Championships in March in Aarhus, Denmark, earned a bronze medal in the women's 5000m.

race (and first KZN woman over the line), with **Charne Bosman** (8th and first veteran) and **Mary Khourie** (10th) also claiming gold medals. **Val Watson** won the women's grandmaster category.

Vories Retain Their Title



At the annual North Vaal Cross Country meet in Pochefstroom in August, the **Murray & Roberts Vorentoe Running Academy** continued its glorious domination of this prestigious meet. Having won no less than 17 overall titles in the previous 18 years, the Vories youngsters weathered the early pressure from several strong schools to once again take the title for a record 18th time.



Charne Bosman

Women Sweep the Peninsula

In February the Murray & Roberts women's team put on a display of sheer dominance in the Cape Peninsula Marathon in Cape Town, with the first five positions going

to the team in black and yellow, and a further two in the top 10. First home was **Jenna Challenor**, followed by **Charne Bosman** in second place (and first veteran), and **Kerry-Ann Marshall** rounded off the podium, with **Mia Morrison** fourth and **Janie Grundling** fifth. Finishing seventh was second veteran on the day **Ulrica Stander**, to claim the Western Province Champs title in the process, and she was followed home by **Salome Cooper** (third veteran).

The Next Generation

Athletes from the **Murray & Roberts Vorentoe Running Academy** raked in a serious number of medals at the SA Schools Championships in Port Elizabeth and the SA U18 & U20 Championships in Paarl, both held in March. This included national titles for **Tshepo Ntuntwana** (Boys' U18 2000m steeplechase), **Lethabo Makgoga** (Women's U20 3000m steeplechase) and **Frans Matlala** (Men's U20 400m), and **Dipuo Mashamaite** (Women's U20 5000m).

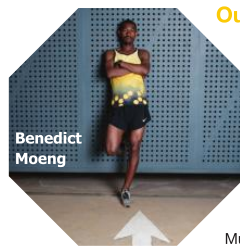


Jenna Challenor

Goldrush at Comrades

The black and yellow of Murray & Roberts Running Club made an astounding debut at the 2019 Comrades Marathon in June, with eight women in the top 20, several podium positions across the different

categories, as well as first place in the women's team competition and third place in both the elite and veteran men's team competitions. The highlight of this was **Jenna Challenor** finishing sixth in the women's



Benedict Moeng

Our First World Champs Athlete

Having already represented SA at the 2015 Track and Field World Champs in Beijing, **Benedict Moeng** became the first Murray & Roberts club member to make Team SA

for the World Champs when he was selected to run the marathon in Doha, Qatar at the end of September. With his PB of 2:10:21, run in 2014 in Xiamen, China, Benny is one of just 21 SA men ever to post a time of 2:10 or faster for the marathon.

End of Year Awards

In November, the club celebrated its terrific first year by holding its inaugural Annual Awards, and top road, cross country and track performers, **Kesa Molotsane** and **Philani Buthelezi**, walked away with the 2019 female and male athlete of the year awards respectively. //A

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Middle Distance Medallists

Continuing his fine year, **Philani Buthelezi** won the national 10,000m title at the SA Senior Champs in