

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 44

JUNE 2006

Dear Old Girls

This will be my last communication to you as I shall be retiring at the end of the term. A successor has been nominated, but as we are still awaiting the WCED's decision on this, I am unable to divulge any details.

My time at Rustenburg has flown by at a cracking pace and it is hard to believe that it is seven years since I first made a contribution to this newsletter. It has certainly been an eventful seven years with many changes to the curriculum and the expectations of staff, parents and the department becoming more demanding and intense. They have also been interesting years and it has been an experience – in more ways than one – to be part of driving some of the better, as well as some of the more bizarre, aspects of the new educational dispensation.

The most teasing thing about change is to find creative ways to accommodate it within existing structures. This we have tried to do and it is a credit to the strength of the foundations upon which Rustenburg is built, that this has been possible. The call to be creative is being answered by the school community and I believe we are in the process of building new traditions which are more suited to the needs of the modern age without compromising some of the decades old principles upon which this school is built.

It has been a particular pleasure to meet so many Rustenburg Old Girls during my time here. I am delighted that the concept of Founders' Day now seems to be firmly rooted in the school psyche and hope that this will continue to provide a platform for uniting past and present. I hope that this event will grow from strength to strength over the years and be the scene of many reunions, of renewing acquaintance with Old Girls and even for new friendships. As Rustybugs you all share a strong bond which unites you as strongly as any family ties. Perhaps the ties are even stronger for some if one recalls the saying that you "choose your friends, but tolerate your family"!

And so, formally, this is farewell. Informally, I am sure that many of our paths will cross. I do hope so. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to your midst and for your continued support of the school. The interest and involvement of Old Girls will be an even more vital aspect of Rustenburg's well-being and progress in the years that lie ahead. I like to envisage a time when old boys' unions will pale into insignificance beside the powerhouses of the girls' schools alumni organizations!

My very good wishes to you all. May Rustenburg (continue to) excel!

Elizabeth Fullard

ROGU WEBSITE

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.wcape.school.za/rghs/ROGU/main.htm>

APPEAL FOR ROGU DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

If you are able to make a donation or a bequest to ROGU, this would be greatly appreciated. The proceeds may be deposited into Nedbank Claremont Account No 18246567/9998 in the name of Rustenburg Old Girls Union.

Confirmation of your deposit, with details of name and address, can be mailed to ROGU, P O Box 19058, Wynberg 7824 or faxed to +27 (0) 21 671-1996.

News from Mary Rose Berrisford (E'56, Staff 1989 – 1998)

Dear Old Girls

This Founders' Day had to be an especially memorable one for me as it was the occasion of the 50 year Anniversary Reunion of my class, the E's of 1956. It was also the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart. This meant that the address was given by CHARMIAN PLUMMER (Marais) headgirl in 1956 and that the Chamber Choir and soloist, performed a most beautiful work by Mozart, *Laudate dominum (Psalm 117 and Gloria Patria)* from *Vesperae solemnes de confessore, K339*. Fifty years ago, Rustenburg held a Mozart Week, the highlight of which was the performance of 'Bastien and Bastienne' written by a very young Mozart. Three of the four girls involved were present at Assembly fifty years later; Charmian the Magician, DENISE RUBINSZTEIN (Biall) from Sydney, the accompanist, WENDY VAN RENSBERG (Thompson), the heroine, while the hero, MYRA SERCOMBE (Siebrits) was still restoring tsunami-damaged villages in India.

I am including extracts from Charmian's address which is of particular interest as it leads up to the presentation of the Ubuntu Cup, a new award.

We are delighted to celebrate our special 50th reunion here today. We realize that we come from a distant generation for many of you and that we are separated by time and huge differences. ... However, some things remain constant – through the ages. Some universal truths – that Shakespeare recognised in his many plays, which is why we can still identify with the themes today. And this is why we are connected to this generation and can pass on some advice from our years of experience.

Like a ship – it has a prow and a stern and the busy body of the boat in between. It sometimes sails powerfully, beautifully and dutifully, but it also faces storms, is sometimes becalmed and often faces danger. It depends largely on the people on board, bound by the railings of the ship and is moved by the strength, training, values and attitudes of the crew. The good thought is that between these two extremes, birth and death, there is a LIFE lived.

The question is: HOW DO YOU LIVE THAT LIFE?

It is no good asking at the end of life, "What did I achieve?"; "What did I learn?"; "What did I do?"; "Did I make use of my opportunities?" etc. These are questions that should be asked now, as you board the ship of life and start the journey....

Plato's secret recipe was this: Simplicity is the wheel of the ship, beauty the environment and youth the setting. Then excess, false beliefs and poor values will not appear on your horizon....

Life aboard involves two approaches: Look after yourself – or serve others.....

Some people spend their lives, acquiring possessions, positions, status or self- advancement. None of these have real value. Monetary value certainly is important, in perspective, but then again money is worthless on a sinking ship! That is when relationships come into play, which are far more important. So, keep your journey simple (we complicate things far too much); keep your journey honest (there is too much greed, corruption, deception); keep your journey worthwhile (there are far too many things that are chased aimlessly today). Stay on course. As Mahatma Gandhi said, " BE the change you want to see in the world."

Finally, have an ability to say thank you for what you have, then realize what attitudes and values actually are valuable, and then: CHOOSE . Just knowing what is right or wrong is not

enough – you actually have to decide now, in a personal, individual, committed way, that whatever values you have chosen are significant, important, worthwhile to you and that the future tenets of your life are going to be lived along these lines. ...

What we require is a spirit of Ubuntu within. We hope that this trophy that the 1956 Matrics are handing to the school (to be presented at Founders' Day in the future), will go to a girl who has understood what was said today, who recognises and chooses the right values and who serves others in the right spirit. We believe it is the most significant prize to be won!

The citation on the cup reads: This African cup is awarded to a learner who has shown an awareness of, and concern for, the plight and needs of others and who reacts compassionately and humanely to these needs. The Ubuntu prize was awarded to Caroline Bowers.

In presenting or rather telling the school about gifts the 1956 E's had chosen for the schools (a cheque for R2000 had been handed to RGJS for its Development Fund, during a visit the previous day), I did say I was sorry the girls would usually not be allowed to sit on the pretty curved bench under the pin oak in the Quad. (It has been enjoyed by teachers and by visitors to the school, including an ROG from the 30's and her husband, visiting from England.) The plaque in the bench reads, '*Presented by the 1956 Matrics, on 27 January 2006, in memory of Margaret Thomson, our much respected Headmistress*'

The very large framed aerial photograph of the school, with the girls forming the letters RGHS on the hockey field, will be hung on the wall of the Kemp Hall foyer. To the obvious delight of the boarders, we gave Erinville a DVD player. The balance of the funds will go to the high school library which will use the money to buy 'The Cambridge Mozart Encyclopaedia', a very fitting choice.

The next item on the programme was the presentation by JEANNE JACKSON (Logan), President of the ROGU, of the ROGU bursaries and awards. The main ROGU bursary, the Diamond Jubilee Award goes to the top student in the Senior Certificate Exam, if that is what it is still called. Winner for 2005 is KATHERINE PATTERSON who came 2nd in the Western Cape in Biology. She is studying medicine at UCT. KHADEEJA BASSIER (2004) is an actuarial science student also at UCT, while LESLEY VAN HELDEN (2003) is in her third year of veterinary science at Onderstepoort. The next two awardees are both training to be Foundation Phase teachers, KATE LOGAN, winner of the Mavis Wakeford bursary, at Stellenbosch and GILLIAN WILSON winner of the Bridge bursary (money raised by ROG bridge drives), at Cape Tech. Three other matrics of 2004 were there- SARAH JANE FRITH, UCT psychology and law student, ASHLEY PETERS, who with Khadeeja, is a survivor still left in the second-year actuarial science class at UCT, and JESSICA WATERMEYER, at Rhodes studying science and law.

As usual the three-course lunch served by the Home Ec girls, was as delicious as it was attractive. The AGM of ROGU was held, a fairly brief affair. The U-shaped arrangement of tables for the 58 members of the class of '56 looked particularly festive with blue and gold flowers, gold napkins, flags from the countries from which people had come and, at each place, an information booklet with Rustenburg blue cover, with gold lettering and the school badge. DENISE RUBINSZTEIN (Biall) from Sydney and ADRIENNE DE GROOT from Toronto both spoke about what Rustenburg had meant to them.

STAFF

The main news is that MISS JOUBERT, much-loved Afrikaans teacher and Vice-Principal for so many years, died peacefully on 4th April, 2006 – see In Memoriam. Her memorial service was held on the Friday afternoon at Huis Vergenoeg, Paarl where she had been living. MRS McINTYRE gave an address, which will be included below. MARIAN LENNOX, ELIZABETH FULLARD, JUDITH GORDON, (Stewart Watson 1964), MARY VAN BLERK, PAT HANGER (Noble 1961), GILL COCKRAM, (Staff), DAPHNE BURGER (Colburn 1968), and ANGELA DE VILLIERS (Worth 1958) of Paarl, were among those who attended. Angela had alerted the ROGU and organized flowers from the Union. Miss Joubert's ashes are to be scattered in the garden of

Rustenburg. RUTH DOSE is one of the few teachers left from Esmé Joubert's time. She looks very good in spite of having had a knee replacement last October and a bad fall in January. Her flat overlooks the pretty garden at Norfolk Place where she is the librarian. An ROG was visiting her when I stopped by at her door momentarily, last week.

I have seen JANE MOODIE (Jeffery) in action in her first full-time position since Rustenburg. She was leading her Grade 2 children, boys and girls of Applewood School, Elgin, down to a swimming gala. It was obvious she was enjoying it. The school is out in the country, looks most attractive. DIRKJE MOUTON has had to have a new series of treatments and has had to be on leave from Herschel for the first part of the year. Last year after a trip to Kruger, Dirkje visited her friend from the Afrikaans Department, MARIETJIE LE ROUX in Johannesburg. Marietjie has moved from Parktown Girls' to Roedean. A bit of luck saw us having breakfast in the Botanical Gardens near Johannesburg with RONELLE KEMP, up from Marloth Park, Mpumalanga where her landscaping and irrigation business flourishes. Literally at a stop street in Newlands, I chatted to ARLENE BROWN (art teacher in the 90's). She is happy teaching at Abbott's in Claremont and is delighted with the good progress daughter, Tessa, is making as a pupil at RGHS.

FIVE GENERATIONS OF RUSTYBUGS

At Founders' Day, LESLEY LOW (McMurray 1958) told me how her granddaughter, Caroline Schreiber, whose mother is LINDSAY SCHREIBER (Low 1984 – see Births), started at RGJS this January in Grade R (Reception, for you oldies). This means five generations from the family have been at Rustenburg. Caroline's great, grandmother was BETTY LOW (Gearing 1927) whose aunt was MABEL POSTLETHWAITE (Gearing). When Rustenburg opened in January 1894, Mabel, aged 14, was the very first pupil on the roll. There has been a host of other members of this extended family at Rustenburg over the years as recorded in the history of the school, 'White Stoep on the Highway', copies of which are still available at both schools.

POETRY AT SUMMER SCHOOL

The Rustenburg English Departments of the fifties and the nineties can take some credit for ROG's having had the monopoly when it came to poetry at the University of Cape Town's Centre for Extra-Mural Studies 2006 Summer School. MARCIA LEVESON, (Honikman 1954), formerly Professor of English at the University of the Witwatersrand, presented an extremely 'well-received' course of five lectures on *Poetry and Passion: the transforming imagination*. Marcia is currently busy as a researcher, writer and publisher with a particular interest in poetry. Formerly a President of the English Academy she is now a co-ordinator of the Johannesburg U3A (University of the Third age) where her courses on poetry are over-subscribed. SARAH JOHNSON (1998), described as 'poet and lecturer' gave a five day writing workshop, *Poetry in the Making* – "suitable for anyone who has already attempted writing poetry, whether for private enjoyment or publication".

MUSIC

First item in the directory of the National Arts Festival, Grahamstown – 2006, is 'Symphony Concert' an all Mozart programme with the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra and "Celebrated pianist Catherine Foxcroftsoloist for the popular *K487 Concerto in C Major*. " CATHERINE (1986) is also giving a master class in the Winter School. She is a lecturer in piano at Rhodes, living on a hill above Grahamstown with American husband, Gary, and small son, John Benjamin. Catherine made her debut as a soloist in the National Youth Festival at the Nico Malan Theatre as it was then, while still at school in 1986.

Towards the end of last year, SYBIL WHITEMAN MORRIS (C 195) released her second CD featuring music by Rameau, Bach, Schumann, Beethoven and Chopin. I read of this in an article in the Cape Times written by FIONA CHISHOLM (1955). Sybil made her debut with the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra at 17 and has given recitals and broadcasts in the Netherlands and Germany as well as all over South Africa. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music, London, at

the Muzieklyceum in Amsterdam and, much later, at UCT where she completed her MMus. These days she lives in Bergvliet with husband, Alan, is a clarinetist, regular Sunday organist and superb wildlife photographer and lecturer. She has earned her Associateship of the Photographic Society of SA. In discussing making of the CD with Fiona, Sybil said that this is a way of preserving pieces of music which she has loved. Also she is having a bit of arthritis in her hands, "stabbing pains in my fingers. I couldn't risk that happening to me in a recital, but I do hope to continue to accompany other musicians and to perform chamber music"

An ROG who graduated MMus recently is MARGARET BARLOW (1973), still teaching music at Hersche and, of course, conducting the choir.

DOROTHY HOLDER (Hart 1973) obviously enjoys her work teaching in the large music department at DSG, Grahamstown. There she teaches 'a range of instruments to a range of ages as well as subject music and choir.' She writes, 'despite my long time in the Eastern Cape, every now and again I experience pang of longing for the Western Cape, not the least when the ROGU newsletter comes with all sorts of snippet that take one back in time and remind one of whose many acquaintances and teachers.' Her children are growing up, two in the UK and one in Matric at DSG. Very much involved in Guiding, running two units and being District Commissioner for Grahamstown, Dorothy met AVERIL KELLER (1974) at a Guide Trainers' Training in Port Elizabeth. This is what Dorothy wrote about Tommy:

I spent 5 years at RGHS with Tommy at the helm. I can say quite categorically I remained terrified of her for all those 5 years, although my respect for her has always been unbounded.

My clearest memories of her include the way she taught maths to the matrics. She held a voluntary Saturday morning maths practice class for anyone who was interested. No one dreamed of missing those classes! I had a music lesson at the College of Music later on in the morning, and it was always with a great degree of trepidation and guilt that I would have to finally excuse myself...

Tommy had a unique way of marking class work. She would cry, "Now girls! Get number 1 ready!" And we would find the first exercise and place it at the ready at the edge of our desks. Tommy would come charging down the aisle, marking as she went, with enormously long, red ballpoint ticks that sometimes scored into several layers of paper and occasionally tore the page! Little did she know that we had a competition going for the longest tick and no sooner had she passed than we were out with our rulers to measure the latest batch!

JANE BADDELEY (1979) has a variation on this tick story – see Seventies. I think Tommy would have known about the record keeping.

PATSY WAY, AGE 100

Warmest congratulations to PATSY WAY (192?) who celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, 22 January in fine style. Pictures in local papers showed Patsy in Elgin astride Hobbit the horse, 'her back ramrod straight', holding champagne aloft. A great animal lover, Patsy trotted, 'I wanted to make him canter, but he wouldn't'. Her ride was to raise awareness for her favourite charity, International Fund for Animal Welfare. Patsy learned to ride in her teens when she was a boarder at RGHS. Living in Namibia, then South West Africa, she travelled by boat from Walvis Bay. Her family had two wild horses caught in the Namib for her and she became the only female jockey at the Windhoek German Sports Club, later riding in the first ladies horse race at Kenilworth. Patsy has turned her hand at a wide variety of activities – driving trucks in WW2, teaching riding at Herschel, chaffeur to sisters in Soweto with Trevor Huddleston as one of her bosses, cowhand on sheep and cattle farms in the Gordonia district and more, including being all-round helper at the Janet Bourhill Institute in Claremont, (a charity supported by one of the houses at RGHS in the fifties, thanks to the interest of JOAN KENT (Maths teacher)) Patsy has followed a Buddhist lifestyle, actively helping others and was recognised by Rotary with an award for outstanding and devoted service to the community. Many ROG's would have seen Patsy at UCT's

Summer School which she attended well into her eighties. She now lives at Bowden Park, Somerset West. Well done, Patsy!

KATE PEAGAM

In the last issue I said there would be an account of the life of this remarkable ROG since she matriculated in 1985. Then I was lucky enough to meet up with Kate and her parents over lunch at Newlands during the cricket test. I could see what an amazing recovery Kate has made since being in a coma for 9 weeks in 1993 and also how much pleasure she derives from sport although her own mobility is restricted. Kate's passion has always been sport and having played hockey at WPCC, she is now an honorary member of the club (in the category for clergy!) and seldom misses a match at Newlands. In the rugby season she is a guest in the Chris Burger-Petro Jackson suite, for disabled sportsmen. After Rustenburg, Kate studied librarianship at the Cape Technikon then completed a BA in History and English at UCT. During her final year, on holiday with 3 school friends, she was in a car accident and fractured her spine. This did not affect her studies as she had access to the Disabled Unit between lectures. The next year, 1992, she spent 9 months travelling New Zealand and Australia, hiking the length and breadth of those countries. At the Great Barrier Reef she learnt to scuba dive and did many dives off the Australian coast. On her return to Cape Town, in January 1993, she started working for the UCT Jagger Library. Early in March, wanting to ensure her diving certificate remained valid, she arranged with a member of a dive club to dive off Oudekraal. He had borrowed equipment for her which, as it turned out, was partly perished. On being washed from a rock, she was taken down by her weights but not able to breath. Other divers brought her to the beach, where there was a doctor and part-time paramedic who were able to get her heart going. Her parents found her at Somerset Hospital in a deep coma. On coming out of the coma, she had to learn how to speak and 3 months after admission, the doctors said that being back at home would help her wake up. Physiotherapy, which had been given throughout the coma, continued for 2 hours each day. A speech therapist worked with her for 2 years and she had occupational therapy at Groote Schuur. Kate's library manager at UCT, suggested she return to 'work' in the library to 'remind' her brain of what she had been trained to do. Initially she could cope only with very short periods but it was good stimulation. Presently Kate spends 3 mornings a week at UCT working behind the scenes, using the computer and doing various essential tasks. She still has physiotherapy, primarily aimed at helping her balance, has hydrotherapy weekly, occupational therapy once a month and exercises daily on bars installed in her parents garage. Kate can now stand alone leaning on to something and walks with only her wrists being held. She is an avid reader again, can write legibly, though mostly uses the computer. Her mother writes:

'With Kate having to live at home again, we take her on holiday with us and know well the poor facilities for the disabled in SA. So much more could have been done by now and building planning is very insensitive to their needs.

We have also taken her to England a couple of times and in 2000 she spent 14 weeks at the National Rehabilitation Centre where all aspects of recovery are dealt with.

She went with us on a cruise where nothing was a problem to the crew – including going ashore on side tours!!!

This year (2005) we are hoping our decision to take her to the USA will be alright. Doing bookings for a disabled person has been very encouraging, so it looks good.

We take Kate to shows and movies, often having to teach people to understand the needs of people in a wheelchair.'

10 years after the near-drowning, Kate asked for a party for all participants in her recovery whom could be traced, to celebrate with her. The first 4 doctors who treated her were all there and said how rewarding it was to see the extent of her recovery. Published work indicates only 2 to 3 years of progress after such an accident. The doctors believed the brain and neural routes could recover with ongoing stimulation, re-education and exercise. The young men who pulled Kate from the sea have remained in contact. To end, the words of Naomi Peagam,

'Although progress is perhaps slower now, we are aware of change from year to year.

Perhaps the most encouraging is meeting doctors and other allied medicals that are amazed and then tell Kate never to give up on trying!!!'

THE JAFFE FAMILY

LARNA BRONSTEIN (Jaffe 1951) of Johannesburg, sent a cheque for life-membership for her niece JOSEPHINE JILL SIEFF (Wiener 1967), a birthday present from Jill's mother, FREDA GWEN WEINER (Jaffe 1943) who is Larna's sister. I had already had a letter from her niece, JAQUELINE GREIS (Jaffe 1971) – see Seventies - and was delighted to have further contact with the family. Please see - Sixties - for news of Jill. The Jaffe family is featured in the chapter, 'Great Families' in JO McINTYRE'S history of the school including two photographs, one of two Jaffes, PHYLLIS LEVENSTIEN (192?) and REEVE BERMAN (1936) as girls with ZOË ORTON (1925 - headmistress of RHJS 1945 – 1967) and her sister, ETHELINE (192?). At an ROGU, lunch perhaps in the 80's; I was lucky enough to sit with Phyllis and Reeve and Phyllis' elder daughter JENNY PICHANICK, an actress from Texas. What a good time we had; so interesting for me listening to the sisters reminisce.

THE THIRTIES

On Founders' Day, the four ROGU's from the thirties were honoured by having their names read out in Assembly and given lunch on the house. They were MAY FOSTER (Trainor 1935), KATH COATON (Coles 1936), WINIFRED (Dunseath) and .Another. AUDREY BENTLEY (Goodwin 1936) sent in a change of address and a welcome contribution to posting costs. She is in Umdloti, KZN.

THE FORTIES

PHYL HEWITT (1940) wrote to us about her move to 'Rosedale', the S.A.Legion complex near Rosebank station, 'Almost in the grounds of Charlie's Hope '(that is the original Charlie's Hope). She says she is still in contact with certain old school friends of her era, 'there are still a few of us around'. Good news is that she leads an active life, hiking and swimming and with regular visits to the Fitness League. For 37 years she worked for the Johannesburg Building Society and its successors. Rustenburg is often in her thoughts as she drives past the high school most days. She ends, 'Long, long may it survive with its excellent teaching, strong traditions, and principles.'

THE FIFTIES

Seen gazing round the Quad on Founders' Day, filled with nostalgia, was MARIAN GRASSOW (Salisbury 1950) making her first visit to the school since her schooldays. She lives in Doone Village, a Durban retirement centre on 54 acres with 3 dams. With her was NANCY SKINNER (1950) who had nursed with Marian at Grootte Schuur. Nancy had spent 10 years as a missionary nurse and has now retired to Claremont. They told me of classmate MARGARET KING (Fletcher), well known in the art and fashion world in England. She had advised Prince Charles and dressed Margaret Thatcher.

News of ANN ROOS (Scott 1955) is that she has retired and is living at Port Alfred.

AUDREY McGEORGE (Hughes 1959) lives in Betty's Bay, helps son Cuan with his picnic/take-away business. She has walked the Annapurna circuit and spent 2 months completing the route to .Santiago de Compostella.

THE SIXTIES

At an April wedding, I witnessed a rare Rustenburg meeting. SANDRA OVENSTONE (Nash 1961) of Cape Town met up with CAROL CASSIDY (Bam 1962) of Pietermaritzburg. What is special about these two ROG's is that in successive years at the Junior School both were awarded the Honour Prize and then both went on to be head girl in the Senior School. It is not often that the outstanding girl at RGJS went on to lead RGHS. Needless to say both were looking very good.

The Cape Times ran an interview with Chet Sainsbury, husband of ANNEMARIE (Praetorius 1962) and organizer of the Two Oceans marathon for 26 years. This is what he said about Annemarie who was race secretary for 21 years, 'I was delighted when the race committee decided on the

name Sainsbury Medal for those finishing between 4 and 5 hours This is just as much recognition of Annemarie's contribution as my own.'

MARGIE JOHNSTON (Morel 1966) is a happy swallow, home is in Beaconsfield, Bucks, UK but from November to March she can be found in the residential area of the V and A Waterfront, Cape Town.. Margie has been happily married to Stuart for 31 years and their children are Heather and Keith, both in their twenties. Stuart has had 'many and varied overseas postings' where Margie occupied herself with voluntary work. Margie has joined the ROGU and is hoping to hear about 'celebrations .to commemorate 40 years since we all left'. All I can say is that ANGELA WHITMAN (Boyes) was planning to contact headgirl, SUSAN (Caplan) in New Zealand to organize something. Angela said Sue's sister, BETTY BAERECKE, of Cape Town, headgirl 1968, had had a stroke but had recovered well. Margie can be contacted at margiejohnst@aol.com

ADÉLE CUTTEN (Griffiths 1968) came for lunch with her great friend JENTY ALSTON (Staff 90's). She is daughter of the late ANN GRIFFITHS who did so much for science pupils when filling in over the years. Adèle lives on a farm near Kleinemonde, Port Alfred district, in the Eastern Cape and is producing the most beautiful knitting yarn, 'magic balls.' These sell for \$30 each in the United States and were featured in the Saturday supplement of the Chicago Tribune. This yarn comes in a variety of colours and textures in one continuous line, based on mohair but including ribbons. Adèle employs over 60 locals as well as giving schoolgirls the opportunity of earning well in the holidays - money which goes towards their matric dance. The yarns are available locally, trade name Southseas Mohair, contact Adèle at adelecutten@telkomsa.net

In March, DEIRDRE VISSER (Barnard 1967) returned to Rustenburg to give a talk on her book about her life and her father, Prof Chris Barnard. This was a fund-raiser.

News of JILL SIEFF (Weiner 1967), a member of the Jaffe family, - see above - came from her aunt, Larna. Jill had married Leslie Sieff of Port Elizabeth, moved to England where both their son and daughter have graduated from Cambridge. Jill has established a school of English in London - 'The Hampstead School of English' - which has, 'an exceptionally fine reputation' says Larna, who sent cards from the school's calendar showing an impressive building and photographs of busy students. Read more about it on the website www.hampstead-english.ac.uk

THE SEVENTIES

JAQUELINE GREIS (Jaffe1971) sent in a welcome letter from Deerfield, Illinois, She and her husband, Anthony, a medical consultant, have been in the USA for 29 years, always in the Chicago area. They have a daughter who works for a feminist group in DC and a son studying at Brown University. She herself has been working for the past four years at a company that does precertification for high tech radiologic imaging for medical insurance companies. She visits Cape Town every year to see her 90-year old father, brother of the Jaffe sisters - see above. Jaqueline wonders whether there are any other ROG's in her area.

VERONICA WARREN (Nivison 1972) lives in Wynberg, and for the last 10 years has been Clinical Trials Manager for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals where she was recognised with a Pfizer Research Award. Prior to this she had 6 years in pharmaceutical trial research (surgery and psychiatry). She had trained as a nurse and midwife. Divorced, she is mother to Mark and ASTRID WARREN (1998) who I can picture very clearly. Where is she now? Veronica (Ronnie?) is regularly in touch with many ROG's especially JEN ROSS (Holloway 1972)

For news of DOROTHY HOLDER (Hart 1973) see Music above. She also has a Tommy's tick story.

JANE BADDELEY (1979) wrote that she was sorry to hear about Miss Thomson's death, 'I have many memories of counting the number of pages her tick marks had gone through in our maths books - 30-something was the record!!'

[DAPHNE BURGER (1968) comments, 'this is the snippet regarding Miss Thomson that I thought worth preserving for posterity - many girls will have the same vivid memory!'] Jane graduated M.A. (Organizational Analysis and Behaviour) in 1989 from the University of Lancaster, UK. This followed gaining a Mental Health Diploma in 1987 from Mount Royal College Calgary Alberta and her original training as a nurse at Carinus Nursing College in Cape Town. She is married to Raymond Gottschalk and they have four children, Francesca (14), Julian (12), Graham (8) and

Genevieve (5). She and her husband own a Sleep Disorders Clinic in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; they live in Brantford. Jane is Office Director of the clinic. She deservedly lists as special achievements, 'Mother of four amazing children and run a successful business with my husband'. E-MAIL ADDRESS: baddeleyj@sleep-clinic.ca

THE EIGHTIES

On a visit to her in-laws, I found LIS HART (Andersen 1983) with her family trying out new scooters in a quiet Constantia cul-de-sac. What a happy meeting! 5-year old Ulvard was keen to ride with dad, but 8-year old Anders chatted cheerily. Lis is a structural engineer and she and husband Rob run their own engineering business from home and are keen K1 canoeists. (Rob is a grandson of ISA HART (1915), one of the legendary six Parker sisters).

DIANNE RATTLE (Berkovitch 1986) sent in her details for Daphne's Data Base. Living in Lakeside, she is married to James with Kitty-Rose (10), Ben (5) and Ruby (2). For the last 10 years Diane has been a freelance magazine stylist and before that had 4-year stints at both Cosmopolitan and Fair Lady.

ANN LOUISE ALLKIN (Peagam 1987) has returned from England with her husband, Colin (SACS 1987) and has had an interesting career and travels to date. Her email is allkin@mweb.co.za They live in Lynfrae and have Andrew(5) and Emma(3) Ann's cousin, NATALIE CLAIRE WADE (19)is married and living in America.

FIONA ROUCHOS (Kenyon-Hoare 1986) lives in Welgelegen with Dimitri and their daughters, Anastasia, (15) and Katerina (10). She completed a diploma in Fine Art at Michaelis, UCT. LINDA BRAND (Baird 1986) – see Births – qualified in Personnel Management at Cape Tech and is currently working for the Foschini Group in human resource management and living in Pinelands. The FRASER sisters sent in updates, JULIA (1985) – see Engagements graduated BA (English and Sociology) from UCT, works as Visual Editor for Femina magazine and lives in Woodstock. SARAH (1990) is married to Brendan Bell and is mother to two-year old Garrick. She was at Stellenbosch, graduating BA (Psychology and Archaeology) and works for the investment products team of a financial strategist group. Home is in Plumstead. Looking at the 1990 magazine, I see Sarah's photo immediately after the next ROG mentioned – Chantell Forcioli

THE NINETIES

Buying flowers at a trendy Parkhurst, Johannesburg florist (a new grandson had been born that day), I found that I was being helped by one of the FORCIOLI sisters, CHANTELL LETHBRIDGE, (1990) - another happy, chance meeting. Chantell is mother to Isabella (2) and Scarlett (1). Her sister JEANNE MARIE (1994) teaches Phys Ed at RGJS. Also from 1990, is TRACEY STEFFEN, (Clover) who lives in Pinelands with husband, Chris and daughter, Kimberley (2). After leaving school, Tracey worked in the banking industry, then in IT, for the Old Mutual and in the UK. After five years away, she is happy to be, 'back in this gorgeous city and it definitely helps having family close by when you have children' She is contracting as a business analyst part-time and keeps in contact with quite a few Rustybugs, 'some of whom have been close friends since I was in Standard One.' DELIA HOPKINS (1990) was on a windy Betty's Bay beach flying a kite with Stephen and their children, James (4) and Kate nearly 2. It was only when she allowed our excited grandsons (mother is FIONA1990) to hold the kite that I recognised her. Delia was spending 6 weeks in SA. Home is in England, near Winchester where Delia, a medical doctor, is specialising in anaesthetics.

Now for a batch from 1991: SANDRA MARIA MIDDELMANN (Neto) – see Births – lives in Tokai. She has a string of qualifications culminating in M.Comm (Tax) CA (SA) MARGARET FOXCROFT and her husband, Alex Fokkens, have returned to South Africa and their daughter, Victoria started in Grade R at RGJS this year. Victoria is the third generation of the family to be a Rustybug. Grandmother is AUDREY FOXCROFT (Auld 1956). GAYLE MEYERIDRICKS (Steven-Jennings) is also daughter of an ROG, HILARY STEVEN-JENNINGS (Etherton 1966) and niece of the STEVEN-JENNINGS sisters, BRENDA SMITH, LYNN BRYANT and GILLIAN CLACK – 'matriculation dates I'm unsure of!' Gayle, husband Hermann and Neil (3) moved to their game

farm in the Waterberg, Limpopo Province, where they breed sable antelope and disease-free buffalo and nyalas. 'Our beautiful son, Neil, loves farm life as do his parents! We do not miss city life in the least!' It sounds idyllic after life in Gauteng, even though Gayle and Hermann lived on a large property there. Gayle had worked in IT until December, 2004. LEIGH BONAMY (Denny 1992) lives in the Kingdom of Bahrain where her husband is an airline pilot. They are expecting their first baby in April. She trained as a chef and in hotel management at the Culinary Art Institute of Africa and worked as executive chef for a safari company and in UK hotels. In a Michael Oak pre-school class, NIKKI LANGNER (1992) was with her children Khayla (4) and Tide (6). A full time mom, Nikki is in touch with many friends from school, 'We are all godmothers to each others children'.

JUSTINE PETERS (1993) lives in a village in Hertfordshire, travelling to London where she works as a manager of account executives for the City of London Telecommunications. She helps her mother, MARILYN PETERS, of the Rustenburg Library, by buying books like the Mozart Encyclopaedia at special prices. In the Cape Times recently, ANÉL POWELL (1993) wrote of a meeting with writer, Bryce Courtney, in Cape Town to promote a new book. "He took both my hands when we met at the stately vineyard Hotel in Newlandsgreeting me like an old friend. When I revealed that we met at a high school literature quiz when I was only 15 years old, a sincere grin splays across his face, 'I remember you,' he exclaimed." Mid April, Anél was the writer of the main article and another on the front page of the Cape Times. In The Cape Argus, KARYN MAUGHAM (1997) co-authored a piece on the front page about the Zuma trial.

Also from 1993, MANDY RICHARDS (Lloyd) – see Births – graduated B.Nursing from UCT, and worked as a medical rep for an orthopaedic company, while NICCI FOORD (Lee)'s UCT degree is B.Sc(Hons) in Zoology – also see Births. Nicci worked as a nurse at Animal Welfare, Philippi until moving to Kleinmond where she is a fulltime mom, loving the area for its people and walks and is building a house. (Hope to see you and Luke around, Nicci – MRB at Betty's Bay) JANICE PROBYN (Abernethy) from the same year, is mother of Hayley, not yet 2, is married to Michael and they live in Claremont. Her qualification is a B. Econ from Stellenbosch and work has been in the UK, at the V and A Waterfront and XPLANE. (Janice, you are right, I did not receive your news. Please try again – MRB)

News from the 1995 Reunion from KAREN LISTER tells of CAROLY LEVIN, Chartered Accountant, working as an investment analyst, MEGAN ORFANG is a Woolies lingerie buyer and was to be married in February 2006, TESSA LOUW (Craig) is a women's fashion buyer for Pick and Pay, KIM CHALONER is Managing Editor for Discovery Magazine, TRACY McGIVERN, remembered as the only one in my form class to not tower above me, has lived in London and is now a student at UCT in Law. SARSHEN MARAIS is also at UCT in the Masters Environmental Management class. She is enjoying the change from physio. CHRISTINE SCHMIDT is Guest Services Manager for The Trafalgar Hotel, Trafalgar Square and says, 'Please call whenever you're in London, would love to catch up ChristineSchmidt@hilton.com . Also in London is TAMSIN DE JONGH, an interior designer. ANGIE HAUSNER (Pollock) is a graphic designer. Karen herself is a physio while a part-time BA student majoring in community development at a Christian college. TAMRYN JONES likewise is a financial administrator and a B Theology (Christian leadership) student. CANDICE DAVISON, not surprisingly, is an events facilitator at Adventure Works. ILANA KAHN, a B.Soc.Sc graduate, works in sports event management. When I saw TERESA ESPLIN'S name I thought, 'horses' and sure enough she is an assistant starter at the racecourse as well as giving specialist support to a recruitment agent. DEBBIE CRAWFORD and ROBYN NUNNELEY both teach very young children, MARIA VIANELLO runs a ballet school, TARYN VOSLOO (Luitingh) is a children's theatre drama teacher and a mum. Other mums are DOMINIQUE EMSLIE (Bigara) and CEREN LAUBSCHER (Anderson). MELANIE HARRIS (daughter of STEPHANIE (Clark 1960)) is a very well qualified dietician specialising in eating disorders. ROBYN CULLIS works at Red Cross Children's Hospital. Being a doctor has its drawbacks; Robyn has caught TB and now hepatitis. MICHELLE LIGHT (Dommissie) is an attorney 1967), See engagements for MICHELE RAWDEN's news. SARAH NIXON is engaged, a B.Com graduate, she work sat an investment company. MANDY WATSON is a journalist and copy editor. Altogether an interesting spread of careers. JANET

WHITMAN (1995) – see Engagements – studied Travel and Tourism which gave her a great career as she is now managing a Flight Centre ‘shop’ in London. Home is Wimbledon and of course she travels far and wide. Latest destination is Poland.

NICKY GREENWALL (1996), Arts presenter for e tv, was in Los Angeles to interview Oscar nominees. On the way she spent time in London with ABIGAIL HIGGS (1996). Nicky was pictured in the Cape Times at a picnic at Kirstenbosch to honour the White Ribbon awardees. These are women selected by Women Demand Dignity (founded by Jane Raphaely) in recognition for their making a difference in their communities combating violence against women and children. It wasn't clear if Nicky was an awardee or a member of WDD.

NATALIE FRITH (Moore 1996) sent in news of her daughter's arrival after she had had a five-year career as a primary school teacher– see - Births –. She now lives in Constantia. MEGAN BECKER (Coetzee 1997), remembered for the contribution she made to music at Rustenburg, graduated MSc in Geology at UCT, and now teaches in the university's Chemical Engineering department in the Mineral Processing Research Unit. Married to Gavin, Megan lives in Thornton.

I have such clear memories of a delightfully keen KIRSTIN PITTERMANN (1997) when she first came to the high school. Now she is in the SA Navy, has obtained her Bridge Watch keeping Qualification (2003), the equivalent of a driver's license for ships, and was the second female officer to qualify on a combat ship! Kirstin joined the navy straight after school as a Combat Officer. A year of Officer's training was followed by a stint at the Military Academy (University of Stellenbosch) from which she graduated B. Military Science (BSc). She has also graduated B. Phil (Maritime Studies) from Stellenbosch. Since then she joined the Naval Fleet where she has been navigation officer on strike craft and corvettes. At the moment she is undergoing further training. Home is Glencairn. Kirstin wondered if DAPHNE BURGER (1968) and she are the only ROG's to have served in the SA Navy.

I very much enjoyed hearing from EULALIA FRATER (Rauch 1997). Eulalia is daughter of an ROG (1970) and sister to ELIZABETH and BAMBINE. This is what she wrote:

Just to inform my old school mates that my husband, Robert and I welcomed our first-born son, **Adrian Robert Frater** into the world on 3 January 2006, we are thrilled to say that he is a bundle of joy and is the best thing ever!!!

We are still out living in the “sticks” in Paarl, and I still love the farm life. We are still in the wine industry, my husband makes the wine and I drink the wine HA HA.

Hope all other 1997 E's and everybody else are doing well, I am really looking forward to the reunion. PS. How do we find out who organizes these type of events or is it up to an individual, what a mammoth task!

Well, Eulalia, for Reunions you need to gather keen, hardworking ex-classmates together, make lists, spread the word, and plan the venues – a wine farm? You will be well rewarded. (MRB)

THANDI NKOMO (Tsukudu 1998) lives in Harfield Village with husband and small baby - see Births. She graduated BA in Community Health. Also from 1998, LINDY STARKE, sent in her details see Engagements. She graduated B. Eng (Civil) from Stellenbosch and works for consulting engineers in Sandton. Lindy and her fiancé are both keen on the outdoors and sport .An avid bird-watcher, Lindy can already identify 500 birds. Staying with the class of '98, COLETTE GORDON graduated MA in English with Distinction at UCT. She has registered for a PhD in English literature (Shakespeare) at Queen Mary's College, University of London. WILLEMIJN VAN DER WALT (1998) was waiting in the queue in the cloakroom at Newlands during the Test. Always good to see a face last seen in a Rustenburg classroom. Willemijn is well on her way to being a chartered accountant.

LEE PHILLIPS (Van Zijl 1999) sent, 'a little piece on my life after matriculating'. She is married to Gary, - see Marriages - her postal address is Grahamstown, and she works in Port Elizabeth as Materials Planner at the General Motors Manufacturing Plant. Lee did what she said she would in the School Magazine; study Business Science at Rhodes for four years. She writes:

It's crazy to think that I would end up in such a “man's world”. I am enjoying work and expedite parts from steel suppliers to support the Isuzu Bodyshop line. So yes, I do from time to time have to go into the factory and wear those crazy safety shoes with metal tips! In December

2004 my long time boyfriend, Gary Phillips, proposed to me. We got married on 10 December 2005 and celebrated a fairytale wedding on our Game Reserve, Lalibela. We then travelled to America for a 3 week honeymoon. Old friends please contact me at lee.phillips@gmsa.com.
ROZANNE VALCARCEL (1999) lives in Auckland, New Zealand where she studied at the university for a B. Comm in Marketing and presently works as an account coordinator.

THE 21ST CENTURY

A cheerful letter from SIBU JOSEPH (2000) tells of years spent at the Cape Technikon studying Nutrition (Food Science) followed by Dietetics at UWC, part-time, while working at Old Mutual.

HELENA EISEB (2003) is shown in the 2005 school magazine as the twelfth Rapport Miss Peninsula. Entrants to this competition are expected to have a sound knowledge of the working of South Africa's democracy, recent current affairs and have to raise at least R1000 for the charity, *Reach for a Dream*. Helena is a former WP netball player who speaks English, Afrikaans, Xhosa and studied German with Miss Fourie. She impressed the celebrity panel with her strong stage presence, her intelligence and sharp wit. Prizes included a new car and her own website.

CATHERINE BOWEN (2000) graduated B.Soc.Sci (Organisational Psychology) from UCT and is working for fashion designers in Cape Town. CLAIRE DOCKING (2001) – see Engagements – graduated B. Soc. Sci and obtained a PGCE at UCT achieving a Golden Key and a place on the Dean's Merit List. She was moving to Windhoek and would be teaching at a primary school.

VICTORIA COLLEY (2002) – see Engagements – moved to Port Elizabeth in April 2005. She said nothing exciting had happened to her friends from school but she would be sure to pass word if anything comes up. That's what I need - MRB.

MARIA CARVOUNES (2004) is in her second year of Business Science (CA option) at UCT where she has been on the Dean's Merit List. She teaches dancing (Greek? – she writes she enjoys Greek dancing) and is a tutor at a high school. That makes me think of VASSI SAPKIDIS (1994) doing Greek dancing in the classroom to welcome MARY VAN BLERK as headmistress in 1991.

ENGAGEMENTS

LINDY STARKE (1998) to Mark Beckermann in June 2005 in Johannesburg.

SARAH NIXON (1995) to Wynand van Schalkwyk in November 2005 in Cape Town

VICTORIA COLLEY (2002) to Stuart York on 12 November 2005 in Port Elizabeth (wedding planned for September 2006)

GILLIAN SCOBLE (1989) to Graham Lilley (ex RBHS) in January 2006 in Cape Town (wedding planned for April 2006)

LAUREN BLOM (199) to Kean Pearce on 31 January, 2006 (Lauren is granddaughter of ROG AUDREY GRIEVE

JANET WHITMAN (1995) to Gregory Cuff on 7th February 2006 (daughter of ANGELA (BOYES 1966))

CLARE WINTER (1993) to Mark Bridgens, both of London, on 28 February 2006 in Cape Town (wedding planned for January 2006)

LAUREN HAWKINS (1999) to Jason Dyke in March 2006 in Australia. (hawkins.lauren@gmail.com)

CLAIRE DOCKING (2001) to Justin Teek recently.

MICHELE RAWDEN (1995) to Michael Kruger (wedding planned for March 2006)

MARRIAGES

MICHELLE DOMMISSE to Kevin Light in May 2005 (daughter of SANDY FAIRWEATHER 1967)

ROBYN LLOYD (1993) to Gavin Bradley (SACS) in June 2005 in Cape Town

LEIGH DENNY (1992) to Franck Bonamy in 2005

LEE VAN ZIJL (1999) to Gary Phillips on 10 December 2005 in the Eastern Cape.

BRONWEN PICKERING (Sneath 1962) to Chris Orpen on 7 April 2006 in Franschoek

BIRTHS

To CAROLINE BARTY (1989) and Brendan Drummond Haye, twin sons, Oliver and Cameron on 18 July 2004 in Cape Town

To SANDRA MARIA NETO (1991) and Nick Middelmann, a son, Matthew on 7 January, 2005

To DEBBIE BROWN (1993) and Dougal Paterson, a daughter, Malia Morgan, on 30 April 2005 in Cape Town

To NICCI LEE (1993) and John Foord, a son, Luke on 7 June, 2005 somewhere near to Kleinmond?

To THANDI TSUKUDU (1998) and Vusi Nkomo, Bukhosi, born on 20 June 2005 in Cape Town

To LINDA BAIRD (1986) and Paul Brand, a daughter Grace-Ann on 19 July 2005 in Cape Town.

To CERYN ANDERSON and Richard Laubscher, a son, Christian Sean on 24 August 2005

To MANDY LLOYD (1993) and Bruce Richards, a daughter, Kate on 11 November 2005 in Cape Town.

To ANITA LE ROUX (1990) and ? Roussouw, a fourth child and I think fourth daughter recently.

To NATALIE MOORE and Ryan Frith, a daughter, Abigail Anne on 12 December, 2005.in Cape Town

To BRENDA STUPART (1991) and Carl Morrow a daughter, Tia Lee, on 14 December, in Cape Town

To GRETA NANSON (1989) and Rob Henley, a daughter, Noa in Cape Town in December. Greta and Rob live in Hong Kong

To KATHERINE BRODERICK (1992) and Ricky Arenson, a son, brother to Daniel in Perth, Australia in December 2005

To EULALIA RAUCH (1997) and Robert Frater, a son, Adrian Robert on 3 January 2006 in Paarl

To KATIE OSCROFT (1993) and Alistair Kane, twin daughters, Lucy and Rachel on 7 February 2006 in Cape Town

To ALEX FULLARD (1993) and Brian Pinnock, a son Michael Joshua on 14 February 2006 in Cape Town. (First grandchild for Elizabeth Fullard)

To LINDSAY LOW (1984) and Michael Schreiber, a son, Nicholas David, on 23 January, 2006 in Cape Town

To TESSA KOSTER (1991) and Arno van Wyngaarden, a son, Carl, brother to Sarah on 30 January 2006

To GAYE SAXBY (1991) and Cecil Wheeler, a daughter, Angelica, on 28 February in Switzerland

To WENDY FRANZ (19) and Steve Turner a daughter, Rosie, sister for Andre, on 15 March 2006 in England

To GEORGINA MORROW (1992) and Blair Russell, a daughter, Sienna Joy, on 29 March 2006 in Auckland, New Zealand

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following ROG's:

HB GUDMANZ in Vancouver, Canada, recently.

JOAN MARION DOLLERY (Woolley 1943) on 24 June 2005 in Johannesburg.

IRIS PEPLER (Priestman 1935) in February 2006 in Cape Town (Iris was a cousin of WENDY and PATRICIA IMPEY and CECILIE and JOAN GARDENER)

MARGARET WILLIAMSON (? 194) on 12 January 2006 in Cape Town

ISABEL MARY ATTCHISON (Vardy 1934) on 11 August 2005

ESMÉ JOUBERT (Staff 1956 – 1985) on 4th April 2006 in Paarl.

HELGA BEHNSEN of Windhoek, Namibia, on 11 December 2006

MARGARET WILLIAMSON (Griffin) 9. 1. 1930 – 12. 1. 2006

Margaret, of Molly as she was known to her friends, was a lifelong resident of Pinelands, attending Pinelands Primary before going on to Rustenburg. Her name will be familiar to many as

she was a well-known journalist; for years, for the Cape Argus, and also with Fairlady magazine. After graduating BA at UCT, Margaret went to work in the library of the Argus. She started writing news reports and in the early days was the only woman in the newsroom. In 1966, Margaret married Ernest Williamson and the couple had a son, David. Ernest was a keen yachtsman and climber and Margaret joined him on expeditions. At her funeral service her nephew said, "Over the years they moved through good times and bad times, mountain climbing and sailing, travelling to many corners of the earth, two individuals with their own thoughts and lives and yet, they were always together if not in body, always in spirit." Margaret was passionate about writing and after a break at home with David, went back to the Argus, becoming editor of the Women's Argus, a weekly supplement. A highlight of her career was going to cover the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981. Her first book was about her brother's climbing expedition to Bolivia. Next she wrote *Haunted Corners*, a collection of historical ghost stories. After retirement, Margaret continued to write as a freelance journalist. Her last published article was in the Cape Argus in July 2004 about the ghost in the Leeuenhof, home of the Western Cape premier. Margaret was president of the Pinelands Writers' Circle until her death. Her family described her as a brave person, dealing with health problems over many years while still being a successful writer. Last year she was in Greece despite these difficulties. Margaret's funeral was held at the Pinelands Methodist Church where she was a member of longstanding.

(With thanks to writers of obituaries in the Cape Argus and the Tatler and Margaret's nephew.)

ESTHER (ESMÉ) JOUBERT 23.11.1926 – 4.4.2006

This is the address given by Mrs McIntyre at Miss Joubert's funeral.

Esmé Joubert came from two worlds - two continents really - in that she was both Afrikaans and English in background - , but more than that, she always seemed to have come from a different age - one where young women were 'young ladies, where refinement respect, consideration for others, modesty loyalty and intellectual pursuits were the norm. And these qualities were what she endeavoured to convey to her pupils in the classrooms of a lifetime.

Having spent some time in London as a young woman, moving in the diplomatic circles of her uncle and aunt, she became something of an Anglophile and her special interest was in the Victorian period, about which she read widely and of which she had a prodigious knowledge, as well as a collection of beautiful Victorian dolls.

Afrikaans was her subject and she was expert at teaching grammar, or so I was told by some of her pupils, but she did not just 'teach' - she 'educated' in the broadest sense, inculcating a love of literature in general, of beauty, and a respect for civilised behaviour.

She was a very civilised person herself - refined, retiring, intensely private. I always felt that she missed her true vocation - she should have married - either a professor or a farmer and had a brood of children of her own to care for, for she was a very nurturing person and 'mothered' her pupils. She loved to cook for others and regularly provided, out of the blue, comfort food for the staff when the pressure levels rose, for example during exam time. She loved gardening and animals. An enduring image is of her sitting at her desk in the classroom, with Buffy ensconced in a basket below it, - though several other companions' were to follow the fat little Jack Russell.

There wasn't a selfish bone in her body in her body. She would constantly give up precious time to help someone else with a problem. And it was always done unobtrusively. She was a quiet person. I never heard her raise her voice.

Persuaded at one period of her life to move elsewhere on promotion, she was not however equipped to protect herself from the attacks of malicious, ambitious and petty nonentities - though she never spoke of that damaging experience, nor did she ever condemn the perpetrators. That was not her style.

She came back to Rustenburg, to the school to which she had devoted herself, to her position as Vice Principal and to the friends who lived by the same values as she did – sadly most of those have gone now, too – Chloe Reid, Elizabeth Cartwright, Deline Erdis and, recently, Margaret Thomson.

It was only after she retired that I fully realised how much Esmé Joubert had contributed to the 'ethos' of the school as a whole.

We shall not see her like again.

In the school magazine of 1986, the year of Esmé's retirement, there is a collage of five photos of Miss Joubert holding Buffy and also a portrait of them both by FRITHA LANGERMAN (1987). In a tribute, the late ELIZABETH CARTWRIGHT (Staff 1952 - 1985) writes, 'My association with Miss Joubert started approximately 30 years ago when as young unfledged teachers; we cowered in a corner of the staffroom, totally overawed by the formidable ladies on the Rustenburg staff. ..through the years she has continued to provide moral support, a sense of humour to see our problems in perspective, and an inexhaustible fund of information on history in general, and the Victorians, her great love, in particular. She shared with me, as well as with her pupil, her sensitive appreciation of literature, both English and Afrikaans, and her talents in cooking and gardening. Her caring love and understanding was extended to all with whom she came into contact.'

ANN SCHLEBUSCH (Leeuwenburg 1969) wrote:

'Whole generations of girls have bloomed and thrived under the loving care of this remarkable teacher. ... I remember how my friends and I used to comment on what a wonderful mother Miss Joubert would have made. We knew that she "knew" us as only someone who loved could ... she gave and shared with all her heart.

Now that she and I are colleagues I see that her concern extends to mothering the staff as well. Whenever we are tired and irritable, a plate of tasty, soothing food appears.....Miss Joubert is a wise, fine person and Rustenburg will not find another to fill her place.'

My own contact with Miss Joubert goes back to the year she joined the Rustenburg staff. 50 years ago I was in her first Rustenburg matric class and by April 1956, I was, for the first time in my school career, really enjoying Afrikaans lessons. Esmé had just returned from her stay in London; her love of England showed but then so did her deep feeling for this country and her understanding of its history. Our set-work books could have been tedious but turned out to have been memorable. There is no doubt that everyone's marks improved by at least a symbol. Both Mrs McIntyre and Ann Schlebusch said how they felt she should have married. We shall never know the story, but I clearly remember a conversation in the library when Charmian Plummer (Marais) was telling Miss Joubert about her plans for the future, 'and then I'll get married' said Charmian. Miss Joubert said quietly, 'It's not so easy to get married'. In the years that followed, I had some contact with Esmé as she and my mother-in-law, the late ENID BERRISFORD (Staff), were friends. I remember visiting the historic Cape Dutch farm outside Wellington where she had grown up and how her stepmother told me, 'Esmé really loves Rustenburg'. She had retired once I joined the staff but was still very much a quiet presence. She walked Buffy in the grounds several times a day, she tended the flower beds at the front door of the school and she continued to provide the staff with treats from her kitchen. She sold wonderful rusks for some good cause. The late JUNE SACKS (Staff) had a regular order until she died. Buffy was followed by Gretel, a miniature Daschund bought by Mary van Blerk. Then Esmé's family felt she should move closer to them in Paarl. It seems very fitting that her ashes will be scattered in the Rustenburg grounds.

REUNIONS

1965 A letter from JENNY WALTERS (Creese 1967) told of a reunion lunch for the E's of 1965 to be held on 25th March 2006. I have not had any feedback but the organizers were RENTIA HILDEBRAND (Becker) and CAROLYN RODGER (Bocock). Jenny's sister, EVE ABBOTT (Creese) was coming from her home (since 1978) in Wellington, New Zealand for the reunion. As I read

her letter, I realised that I'd known Jenny when I taught her daughters SUSAN (1992) and JANE (1994). Where are they now?

I have had a glowing report of the 1965 reunion lunch from cousin, CHARMIAN WIGHTMAN (Cullis). It was a picnic at Buitenverwachting in Constantia. Seating was at tables and there were excellent opportunities for mixing. About 40 were there with Eve Abbott coming from New Zealand. Carolyn made a very good speech. Six of the class went to see Rustenburg and apparently had a photo taken sitting on the new bench in the Quad, the one presented by the '56 E's.

1995 KAREN LISTER (1995) sent me news of her class reunions last year. In Cape Town about 30 had a great breakfast at Suikerbossie and about 25 people met in London.

1960 Thanks to HELEN ESTCOURT for this account of the 45th Reunion of the 1960 E's, held over the long week end from Friday, 18th March to 21st March 2005.

Our team of organizers, who had started in May 2004 to track down class mates consisted of LESLEY HYNE (JEFFREY), HELEN ESTCOURT (PINCHIN), KAY BALES (HARRIS) and MAUREEN FIRTH (JOHNSON). Lesley Hyne proved an indispensable PI the way she tracked down so many of our classmates who had fallen off our address list.

Those who attended were: MARY WEBSTER (ANDERSON), GILLAN BOWIE, MARY DRAKE (BOWSER), STEPHNE HARRIS (CLARK), GILLIAN SMITH (DOUGLAS), JUNE KRAUKAMP (EDWARDS), EILY BATES (EVANS), JILLIAN JUPP (FAIRBROTHER), KAY BALES (HARRIS), PAM ROBBS (HOLLOWAY), MARGARET GRODNER (JAMES), LESLEY HYNE (JEFFREY), MAUREEN FIRTH (JOHNSON), MARGARET PLANTEMA (KIDD), JILL KENNEDY (McINTYRE), PATRICIA IMMELMAN (McKENZIE), GAIL LOUW (McKENZIE), YVONNE PAUTZ (MELLISH), VERONICA LAMSON (MORRIS), BEVERLY KIRSCH (NEWSTEAD), NITA HOFMEYER (OLIVIER), HELEN ESTCOURT (PINCHIN), VALERIE HONEYMAN (POWELL), JEAN LUGER (SARGEANT), SHARON MCGILL (ASHBURNER), MARION NEWMARCH) SNEATH, EKIN KENCH (THOMPSON), HELEN ELDRIDGE (TREMBATH) ANITA BESTER (VILJOEN) ELIZABETH LEE (VINE), JEAN DE VILLIERS (WATERMEYER), MARGARET LOCHNER (WEBB), ILONA McINTOSH (WELL), MARGOT RATCLIFFE (WHYTE) and MELODY HOAL (MARTIN) from Zimbabwe, ANNA MURPHY (LATHAM) from New Zealand, CAROL LOW and HILARY DUPLESSIS (McKIRDY) from Australia, GAIL WEBSTER (McMURRAY) and JENNIFER WILSON from England and MAUREEN FERRIS (PATTERSON) from Ireland.

Our reunion started early in the year when SHIRLEY FOXCROFT (DAY) visited from Texas to visit her Mother for Christmas. We had a very noisy, happy lunch at Helen's home in Rondebosch attended by 15 other classmates. The overseas ladies began arriving with Anna Murphy (Latham) from New Zealand and Maureen Ferris (Patterson) from Ireland, and Gayle Webster (McMurray) from UK and we all gathered at Kay Bales's home in St James for another rather noisy lunch all catching up and reminiscing. Carol Low arrived from Australia on the Friday and joined us at the High School outing.

The first activity was a visit to the Junior School. It was a beautiful morning and 16 girls gathered to be warmly welcomed by the Head Mistress, Mrs Joyce Conway, in the library, in our day, the Assembly Hall, who gave us a short talk on education at Rustenburg today. We were then entertained in the Orton Hall to a musical dance recital by some of the pupils who were introduced by none other than Eily Bates (Evans) a 1960 E who was one of the music teachers!! To our surprise and delight each one of us was presented with a lovely posy of flowers and a very attractive birthday calendar and a bookmark to commemorate our visit by one of the learners. It was pointed out to the children that it was 50 years ago that any of us had entered the Junior School!! We were treated to a delicious tea which was followed by a trip around the school ending with a photo being taken on exactly the same steps as had been done 50 years ago when in standard 2!

On Friday afternoon we met Dr Fullard, the Head Mistress of the High School who took us on a tour of the new school buildings and also included the boarding House which the day girls had never seen before. The only boarder to join was Helen Estcourt (Pinchin) who noted that not much had changed except that a few more luxuries were allowed. We proceeded to the home of

Dick and Margot Ratcliffe for a wonderful cocktail party which was attended by old girls and their partners. Dr Elizabeth Fullard gave us a very informative talk on the running of the present day school and the various difficulties in education today.

Our main event was a Dinner on Saturday evening at the Wild Fig Restuarant which was a memorable occasion. The three course meal was excellent and Ekin Kench gave us a talk on "Learning for Life". Once again the noise level was huge and the evening a tremendous success. On Sunday morning it all ended with about 25 girls gathering for tea and scones outside under the oak trees at the Jonkershuuis in Groot Constantia.

A quick vote was taken as to whether we have a 55th Reunion or now opt for a 50th and all agreed that we would like to have a 50th in 2012 so hope to see you all there and many more who couldn't make it. Keep well and remember, please let us know when and if you change your address or better still, let us have you email addresses which have proved fantastic.

1966 Nothing planned yet. Angela Whitman (Boyes), 5 Hellenburgh Rd, Newlands 021 683 0339 is thinking about it and Margie Johnston (Morel) is in contact with girls in the UK, margiejohnst@aol.com. An email just received: Hullo there - this is Sue van Rossum - Sue Caplan of 1966 - living in Auckland NZ - since this is an important year 40 years on....I wondered whether despite being scattered all over the place and despite the fact that Margaret Thompson will not be there with us, there was some interest for a get together. Perhaps anyone with ideas can contact me at my email address: reachsuevan@hotmail.com and we can see what develops! I have emailed Robyn Kipps (Heugh) and hope to hear back from her. Best wishes to you all and looking forward to the response, whatever it may be! SUE.

1956 As for the gatherings of the 1956 E's, the formal programme took place over three days but small groups continued to meet and have fun for months. Founder's Day lunch was followed by a tour of the school, conducted by Dr Fullard, while Erinville prefects showed '56 boarders how much the hostel had changed. That night some 44 girls enjoyed a supper party at JOAN PARKER'S home. Highlight was a performance by WENDY VAN RENSBERG (Thompson) of a Gounod aria with her own words starting, "Miss Thomson said, 'How dare you have the audacity?'" Next morning cars were parked in the high school grounds and 40 people boarded a bus for a day's outing. First stop was Llwandle township outside Somerset West where CHARMIAN PLUMMER (Marais) has worked as a volunteer in many capacities for years. At the Migrant Labour museum, which was Charmian's brainchild, we saw exhibits, videos, were shown into grim hostel rooms left as they were when they were single quarters, watched a performance of African jive by schoolchildren. Nobody except Charmian could have organized this – and tea and rusks! Next stop, also Charmian's inspiration, –a wine tasting at Rustenberg Winery. We sat at a long white-clothed table under the oaks, no other visitors, and winemaker, Adi Badenhorst giving us all his attention. The scenic drive to lunch would have been scarcely noticed with all the chatter but tour guide, NORMA BRIDGMAN (Law) was allowed a few words. Hillcrest Berry Farm overlooking the Banhoek Valley, did us proud with a private side-terrace out of the wind, a specially-headed menu for the quite outstanding three-course meal. Dessert plates all had 'Class of '56' written in chocolate, marvellous mountain views and old, dear friends, in some cases, new friends to enjoy it all with. Back to School at five, free evening then, on Sunday, for the first time, partners were invited to a self-catered picnic in our Betty's Bay garden. Great fun, with a Rustenburg surprise at the end; many ordered picnics from a little shop in Betty's Bay. On returning the baskets, the proprietor produced his mother's copy of the 1956 Rustenburg magazine with A Hughes B3 written on it. – see Fifties for news of Audrey.

Travellers from overseas were, from England, ANN NICHOLSON (McMorland), GILLIAN HUGHES (Pope), CAROLINE MARRIOTT (Hoffa) and JILL BROWN (Amyot); from Canada, CHARMIAN DELPIERRE (Horn) MARGRIET SARGEANT (Roukens de Lange) and ADRIENNE DE GROOT (Fish), from the USA, LIBBY PUCKETT (Melck). DENISE RUBINSZTEIN (Biall) was the only one from Australia. FREYA DARBY (Erikssen) was to have come from her island home in Finland but her husband needed treatment just at that time. Many came in from farms and villages in the Western Cape, JEAN TORRANCE (Leslie) came from Durban, JILL SIMPKINS (Robinson) and

DOREEN VAN WYK (Van Niekerk) from Pretoria, PHYLLIDA WARREN (Murray), HELEN ARNETT (Calder) Johannesburg.

The feeling of the reunion is reflected in this email:

I have been wallowing in this warm bath of belonging, accepting and special
I don't know that I deserve this, but as long as you bestow it upon us,
I will gladly and graciously accept it as if it were my right
I am tearfully proud of our head girl and her team, for choosing such caring, fun and lovely
activities;
for setting the tone and enveloping us in their warm and tender care
Thank You Love Bosky Andrew (Roberts)
(Team was Charmian Plummer (Marais) – CEO of the first rank, Joan Parker – brilliant secretary,
Peggy Wynne (Duffett) – meticulous treasurer, MRB – scribe. What fun we had!)

I am signing off in mid-April, before we leave to climb holy mountains in China explore Tibet and
trek in N India - in the company of two other ROG's.
Please keep the news coming in. Great to have so many Births!
With best wishes
Mary Rose