

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 45

DECEMBER 2006

FOUNDERS DAY - 26 JANUARY 2007

**10h00 TEA, 11h00 ASSEMBLY, 12h30+
LUNCH + AGM OF THE ROGU.
LUNCH BOOKING ESSENTIAL!
COST IS R60 PER PERSON FOR A TWO-
COURSE MEAL. PLEASE E-MAIL MAUREEN
MANTELL at mmantell@absamail.co.za OR
TELEPHONE (021) 671-1361 BEFORE
WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2007**

ROGU WEBSITE

Our excellent website has been relocated and is kindly hosted by Rustenburg Girls' Junior School at:-

<http://www.rgjs.co.za/ROGU/main.htm>

Many topics of interest are included, thanks to MELANIE WATSON (CALLAGHAN 1994), who designed the website. Please contact Melanie for any website assistance: mel_cal@iafrica.com or telephone & fax: (021) 683 2767, Cell: 082 770 5344

APPEAL FOR ROGU DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

Many people feel the need to make some contribution to society and what could be better than making a donation or bequest to a worthy cause through ROGU.

Besides our newsletters to keep all members informed of the activities of past pupils, ROGU is able to grant bursaries and awards to deserving past pupils.

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, savings account number 2046561015, branch code 104609 in the name of Rustenburg Old Girls Union. Please fax a copy of the deposit slip / proof of payment to the Treasurer Maureen Mantell at (021) 671-1996 for our records.

Confirmation of your deposit, with details of name and address, can also be snail-mailed to ROGU, P O Box 19058, Wynberg 7824 or emailed to rogu2000@hotmail.com

Newsletter from the editor, MARY ROSE BERRISFORD (Trainor 1956, staff 1989-1998)

Dear Rustenburg Old Girls

Very many of you from the 80's to the present will be delighted to learn that it was GILL COCKRAM who handed out awards at this year's senior Awards Ceremony, again held on a Tuesday morning prior to the Valedictory service. For thirty-four years, Rustenburg has enjoyed the gentle, reassuring presence of Gill, first as a teacher of Needlework and when that subject was phased out, as a keen member of the English Department. Gill was introduced by fellow English teacher, ADRIAN SKELLY.

A special feature of the ceremony was the presentation of the Sybil McGregor History Prize for Research in Grade 12. 100 years ago the prize for History was awarded to SYBIL MCGREGOR who subsequently had a brilliant academic career and so her family gave an additional history prize in her name. Sybil married and her daughter, JOAN DICHMONT (Corbett 1942) followed her to Rustenburg as did Joan's daughters, ANN (1972), ULRICK (197) and PENELOPE (1975). Both Ulrick and Penelope were winners of the History Prize named for their grandmother. To mark the centenary of the award of the History Prize to Sybil McGregor, her son, Chief Justice Corbett, attended this Awards Ceremony. His daughters are MARGARET (1968) and FELICITY (1971). Sybil's husband used to attend prize giving regularly even after his 100th birthday. The 2006 winner of the prize was Caroline Timoney, the daughter of HELEN TIMONEY (Winter 1974, who did a BA at UCT, qualified as a librarian and worked at the South African Museum) and Paul Timoney, whose sister is Anne Däpp (Timoney 1972) - the current Treasurer of the Rustenburg Governing Body. Caroline is the granddaughter of PAT WINTER (Hogg 1944).

ELIZABETH FULLARD

Dr Elizabeth Fullard retired as Headmistress of Rustenburg at the end of the second term of 2006. MARIAN LENNOX, retired Deputy Headmistress, kindly sent me copies of speeches made at farewell functions. The first is by KERUSHA PADAYACHEE, Head Girl for 2006 and was delivered at the girls' Tribute to Elizabeth Fullard, "Alice in Rustyland" on 22nd June.

Dr Fullard, it is wonderful that Alice and The White Rabbit finally found you. We hope that your journey through Rustyland has been filled with many happy memories. This evening's performance was a culmination of your life at Rustenburg and we are presenting it as a gift to you, because what you have seen this evening is what we are allowed to receive a Rustenburg because of you.

Who would have foreseen the great changes at Rustenburg over the past 7 years? Positive and welcome changes. Who could have predicted our having a soccer team or accounting and drama as added subjects? These changes have occurred only because you had our interests at heart. Very few schools offer as many foreign languages, or Xhosa as a 2nd language for instance, but it happens here, because of the guidance of a wise woman.

Life at Rustenburg is a melting pot of diversity and even though this brings excitement, it can also bring difficulty, yet Dr Fullard, you handled this successfully and succeeded in becoming the Queen of our Hearts.

You were game for new ideas, yet still respected and upheld the traditions of Rustenburg. You are an innovator, yet still instilled order and discipline. Most importantly you set an example. The prefects march across the stage chanting set an example, disciplined people and that's exactly what you did, but in a way that was most humane. Our good results alone are a perfect example of your leadership.

Along with the structure you instilled, you were also very approachable. We all remember the old boarding school story books, and how no one dared go near the headmistress and how being summoned to her office was only because you had done something wrong.

Like Disney's (what happened to Lewis Carroll? MRB) Queen of Hearts you could easily have shouted "off with her head!" if a girl had done something wrong, but you chose not to; you chose to work everything out properly.

You were democratic and diplomatic. You were dedicated, sincere and loyal. Your empathy was clear in your "thoughts for the week" that you so regularly read to us at our Monday assemblies.

A Grade 8 learner I interviewed said that she was sorry that she has had only 6 months with you and wished that she could have got to know you better. She remembered being nervous at her first interview, as we all are, but she described you as having been warm and friendly.

You did just that for the rest of us. You made an effort to get to know everyone and taught Grade 8 classes to help you with this.

You have such a presence and this, along with your great sense of humour, will always be remembered.

A typical Dr Fullard quote is "If God sends you along a stony path, wear strong shoes" and we wish this for you.

What set you apart is that you know where you are going in life. You take people with you and people have great respect for that.

Teaching is important as you equip girls for the future not only for tests but for life and how they carry themselves; you prompted enthusiasm and participation, building blocks of a foundation for us to go out and add to.

The performance tonight isn't all we're giving you because every time we touch lives and when we make a contribution to the world, it's a type of thank you to you.

Because of who you are, we are able to be. Your departure is so difficult for us because you were not only part of Rustenburg, but at the heart of it.

You take with you when you leave, our admiration, respect, gratitude and love.

Below are extracts from a speech given by CLIVE ROOS at a farewell function given by the Governing body for staff, past members of the Governing Body, members of the PTA, friends of RGHS, principals and particular friends.

Dr Fullard ...is not someone about whom it is possible to make a bland speech, she is clearly alive and very much with us and should I try to reduce her life and achievements to a list of items I am likely to miss tomorrow morning's plane...

However, there are perhaps a few facts about Elizabeth Fullard that not enough of us know and which do help us understand her enormous contribution. She has always reflected a diversity of activities – teacher, university lecturer and Professor, psychologist, College Rector, holder of senior positions in civil society and high school principal. Along the way she acquired two doctorates – one in Educational Psychology

and one in Curriculum Studies and learning disabilities. She is also a mother and grandmother – all in all, a full, well-balanced personality.

For various reasons, not enough people outside the formal public school system come to a real understanding of how demanding and complex the job of being the Head of a large public school has become. And by no means does all of this complexity arise from the political and social changes that have taken place in South Africa during the last 12 years. The delivery of public education has become a massive challenge in most countries as economies, technologies, philosophies, priorities and young people have changed.....

In these circumstances it is very easy to retire to metaphorical trenches, dig in one's heels, fight against change – often in the commendable name of maintaining quality.

However, schools blessed with wise, strong professional leadership have done the opposite. They have embraced and managed change and the future. In terms of education, they have thought and planned strategically. They have moved to accommodate transformational issues while keeping their eye on the real basis of quality education – high academic standards, good support and quality classroom teaching.

I know that Dr Elizabeth Fullard has provided at Rustenburg Girls' High School this strong professional leadership. She has done this by staying interested and up-to-date and she has encouraged this in her staff. She listens to the people around her and takes in what they are saying. She respects the professional expertise of her colleagues at the school and in the wider education fraternity. She provides wise, professional guidance but gives people space. Because she has done all of this well she has people's support - the community, her school governors, her staff and the learners.

She has not achieved all of this through mere acceptance of what is decreed. She recognizes and supports two very important rules that apply in large public school systems:

- A damn fool idea supported by a million people remains a damn fool idea
- The rule of unintended consequences

In this way she has helped separate fashion from lasting value and prevented the school from being swamped by a media-drive, instant gratification culture – a very important function of a school system.

For this reason she is known to be someone who stands up for lasting principles – and is not afraid to speak out to education authorities who try to impose ideologies and untested policies. In this respect her academic curriculum background has stood this school in very good stead. It was the philosopher, the late Edward Said who spoke about *The courage of those who speak the truth to power*. My experience of Elizabeth Fullard is that she has always been a person who has spoken the truth to power – not aggressively but with dignity and from well thought through positions. As a result she is respected by the WCED and its officials.

For all of this Dr Fullard deserves our thanks and respect. And she has achieved this while remaining a real person, open and accessible, caring and wise.....

We all hope that Dr Fullard will not be lost to education broadly and that she will find the time and energy to continue to add her value to this crucial component of South African life.

Elizabeth, please accept our sincere thanks.

STAFF

Rustenburg this year is saying goodbye to the three teachers remaining from Miss Thomson's time. As well as Gill Cockram, MORAIG McLEOD, stalwart of the Phys Ed Department and SHANNON DOWDALL (Kell,) Guidance, are ending their long service to the school. They both joined the staff in 1978, with Shannon having a break to be with her children. Tributes to these three loyal Rustenburg people and their plans for the future will be in the next newsletter. I have gleaned that Moraig, already teary at the thought of saying goodbye, will let her house in Claremont for a year and try living in Sedgefield. HELENE VAN DEN BERG (Afrikaans from 1998) is also retiring.

JENTY ALSTON (English staff in the 90's) has had a good year – See Engagements. Earlier she graduated MA with distinction I think at the University of Sussex. Her dissertation dealt with the use of biography in education. Daughter, LYNDALL (C mid 90's) was at the graduation and is now doing a post graduate degree in Occupational Therapy in England. DIRKJE MOUTON (Afrikaans) has sadly had to be medically boarded from her post at Herschel. At a recent visit I found her, her cheerful self and good company. SIMONE DE CLERCQ (Hammer Biology) is still teaching at Parel Vallei High School, had a full-time post at this year and says "never again". With her delightful children, Leo (11) and Emma (9) a part-time post is ideal. Her brother-in-law is married to LIZETTE DE CLERCQ (Forbes, Home Economics 1982-1986). Simone tells me that Lizette's entire Home Ec class travelled to East London for her wedding. Thereafter Lizette and Johan farmed in Prince Alfred's Hamlet, moved to Wellington for a spell but are now settled in Somerset West. Simone remembers a Rustenburg gathering at Lizette's bedside when her first daughter was born – there was SUE LINLEY, ANN BUCHANAN, JANE MOODIE (Jeffery). That baby is now in her 2nd year at Stellenbosch and her twin sisters are in Grade 10. Lizette gives cookery classes at all levels for domestic workers in her home and of course loves to entertain.

Two of the retired headmistresses, JO McINTYRE and MARY VAN BLERK, have chosen the high seas for holidays. Jo sails for Rio at the end of November and Mary took a container ship to England. There is a monthly coffee gathering of ex-heads of Rustenburg with Elizabeth Fullard, Marian Lennox and Hazel Lentin joining the other two.

MUSIC

The passing of GERDA WEISBECKER (1936 and head of music at RHJS in the 40's) prompted a call from one of Rustenburg's very special musicians, PAT McKRINDLE (Butler 1952, staff for years at different times). Gerda and her sister LORNA (Bobby) WEISBECKER lived near the Butler home in Mowbray so it was to Gerda that a seven-year old Pat was sent for her first piano lessons. In time Gerda came to teach at the Junior School and the lessons continued there for some years until Gerda left to study Social Science. Pat remembers Gerda as being a solid, good teacher. Pat herself gives recitals in her home raising funds for St Margaret's church in Fish Hoek. She is enjoying having time to really practice. A footnote for very old ROG's, these Weisbecker sisters were nieces of ANNIE and AUGUSTA WEISBECKER both of whom taught at Rustenburg in the very early days, Augusta being music teacher from 1897 to 1929.

Early in August, the choirs of RGJS, RGHS, Fezeka Senior Secondary School and SACS sang Carmina Burana in the City Hall. The first half of the programme was devoted to orchestral and band items and it was good to see recent ROG's swelling the ranks of the strings. They were SARAH-JANE FRITH, CATHRYN GALLIERS and NANCY ENSLIN and CAROLINE REAY. MARY ENSLIN was in the Percussion section. All of these musicians

were from 2004. The Enslins, Cathryn, Caroline, and SARAH MIDDLETON then sang in choir.

On August 10th, the Music Awards Dinner was held with the speaker being CATHERINE DOMMISSE (1993). Catherine is a doctor who is a registrar in paediatrics at Tygerberg Hospital but still finds time for her other passion, music. She was the piano soloist at the 1993 Prize Giving. Mother is SANDY DOMMISSE (Fairweather 1967)

Rustenburg's Latest Release

The Music Department recorded a CD at the end of the Second Term, in honour of Dr Fullard's Retirement. It features the Chamber Choir, accompanied by the Orchestra and piano, performing various works commissioned over the years, written by South African composers.

The CD costs R50 and is available from the school.

WHITE STOEP ON THE HIGHWAY: THE SONGS

Chamber Choir and Orchestra of Rustenburg High School for Girls

Conductors: **Elizabeth Sole** (Tracks 1-4, 6) and **Janet Kirk** (Track 5)

Pianist: **Judith Dernier**

1. Stephen Carletti: Shout to the Lord in Triumph (Psalm 100)

Commissioned by the Centenary Committee on the occasion of the school's Centenary in 1994.

2. Andrew-John Bethke: Psalm 121

Commissioned by the Music Department on the occasion of the retirement of the headmistress, Dr Elizabeth Fullard, in June 2006.

3. Stephen Carletti: Levavi Oculos (Psalm 121)

Commissioned by the Music Department to mark the retirement of the headmistress, Mrs Mary van Blerk, in June 1999.

4. Allan Stephenson: Little Star of Bethlehem

Commissioned by the Music Department to mark the retirement of the deputy headmistress, Miss Marian Lennox, in December 2005 after 38 years of service to the school.

5. Grant McLachlan: Come, Colours Rise

A South African Christmas Anthem

For Richard Cock and the National Symphony Orchestra and SABC Choir, 1995.

6. Dr Barrow-Dowling: The School Song of Rustenburg School for Girls

Words by Miss Winifred Andersen, vice-principal from 1903-1910.

THE KEY

PAM MOYS (Thompson 1958) sent in a letter with a special insert with the true story of THE KEY. When visiting the Junior School on the occasion of their 45th Reunion, in 2003, the 1958 E's noticed in the Bleby Hall, a beautifully framed key, "Found in the grounds of the school by the girls". Could this be THE KEY? Here is the story of the key in the words of HELEN DICK (1958).

THE DAY THE TEACHERS BECAME "ACCIDENTALLY" LOCKED IN THE STAFF ROOM

On a certain day in 1952, at the end of the lunch break, the teachers suddenly found themselves unable to open the staff room door. They managed to call through the door to a passing pupil, who dutifully went and summoned Miss Stoffberg, who sent

messages to all the classrooms to tell the pupils to stay in their desks and behave themselves.

Then the fun began. The fire brigade was summoned for assistance and they must have tipped off the press, as the Cape Times reporter and cameraman arrived simultaneously with the fire brigade. The staff were assisted out of the staff room window, down a ladder, except for a few, (including the gym mistress, Miss Morkel!) who refused to climb down, but chose rather to wait for the locksmith to release them. The next morning a report appeared in the Cape times, along with a photograph of Miss Brooker halfway down the ladder.

We were all told that the lock on the door had failed – and so the story stayed until about 20 years ago.

At a tea party, to which I had invited a few old Rustybugs, there was a session of, “Do you remember?” – and out came the truth as follows, told by one of the perpetrators.

On that day in 1952 three Std V pupils were sent on an errand by Miss Stoffberg and, on passing the staff room upstairs, saw that the door was shut and the key on the outside. Of course, the temptation proved too much. They quietly turned the key in the lock, removed it and hastily exited the building. Once safely outside they nonchalantly tossed the key in amongst the hydrangeas.

The miracle is that those girls managed to keep their crime a secret throughout the remainder of their schooling, plus another three decades. Wow!

Their names remain a secret, although a few of us now know who they were.

Thank you, Helen. Perhaps after another decade you may feel comfortable about revealing all! Helen lives near Oxford, England and still keeps on with one or two night duties at an elderly peoples' residence. She completed a Big Walk in London and proudly display her medal awarded to the over 60's. Friends she keeps in touch with are HILARY FORD (Pryor) and LESLEY McGLASHEN (Quennell) in Scotland

SEVEN SISTERS

Gleaned from ESMÉ MARSHALL (Pentz) at the 1956 Reunion was the fact that in 1950 and afterwards for two years, all seven Pentz sisters were at Rustenburg. Did the eight POWIS sisters achieve this nearly a century earlier? For various reasons such as one suffering from polio and needing a smaller school (Rosebank) and another going to Nelspoort TB sanatorium, not all finished their schooling at Rustenburg. Esmé lived in Gauteng for many years helping her husband run a business before retiring to Port Owen and more recently Langebaan. HELENA WRIGHT (1950) worked at Trig Survey in Mowbray, was married to the chief ranger at Cape Point and now lives in Somerset West. MYRA STEYN (1950) trained at the Tech as a domestic science teacher, taught at RGJS and Westerford, moved to Sydney Australia 45 years ago where she completed a doctorate in Education.

THE THOMPSON SISTERS

More news from Pam Moys is about her sisters. There were five of them, daughters of EVOL THOMPSON (Moys 193?). Pam was the second daughter and. she still lives in the big family home in Newlands. Her daughter, ESTELLE GAYLARD (1988) is a homeopath in Tokai practising under her maiden name. Eldest Thompson sister is WENDY VAN RENSBERG (1956) who teaches singing, piano, recorder, classical guitar, piano accordion, trains choirs and plays the organ at her church. Wendy's list of qualifications

in these fields of music is impressive. AILEEN PARKER (Thompson 1961) is married to a Methodist minister in Chulmleigh, Devon and she herself is a Methodist lay-preacher. CELIA HALKETT (Thompson 1963) has loved teaching music but now looks forward to retirement at the end of this year. She and a colleague produced a series of music theory books which apparently delighted and impressed MISS DOSÉ. LYNDA THOMPSON is remembered for her sense of humour, cheerfulness, bravery and understanding. She had cystic fibrosis, was not able to finish her schooling and died in 1977. Pam writes that their mother, Evol, is being well-cared for at Sunnyside Lodge but sadly does not recognise anyone. Long ago Evol was a member of the ROGU committee.

THE SALMON/LEBLOND SISTERS

Seen lunching at Kirstenbosch with their parents were PAT MILLNER (Salmon 1958) and JANE LEBLOND (Salmon 1965). In their day, Pat was editor of the School Magazine, Jane a prefect and president of the Senior History Society. Pat read law at Cambridge, lectured at Kings College at the University of London before moving to the Devon countryside where she still lives. Life did not slow down and Pat lectured in Family Law at Exeter University had a private practice in divorce mediation, studied psychotherapy and practised that at the North Devon Hospital. Her daughter, Nicky lives fairly near with the granddaughters of 10 and 8. Jane is mother of the LEBLOND sisters, NATHALIE (1963) – See Engagements –and the twins SUZIE (1996) – See Marriages - and CLAIRE. Nathalie graduated in Psychology at UCT, and recently returned to live in Cape Town after 7 years overseas. She is PA to the MD of Rentokil. Suzie studied horticulture and garden design at the Royal Horticultural Society in London, works in garden design there and will be settling back in Cape Town early next year. Claire lives in Auckland, New Zealand where she is an interior designer. Jane herself has had a varied career with many years as a school secretary and years running restaurants including The Crypt in St George's Cathedral where Archbishop Tutu was a good friend. The Leblond family are planning to all gather in Auckland at Christmas when Jane hopes to visit to EVELYN ABBOTT (Creese 1965) in Wellington.

IN THE NEWS

In The Tatler of 26 October under, "MOWBRAY MATERNITY CELEBRATES 90 YEARS" two ROG's were featured.

Sister Hilary Barlow of Bergvliet has unbroken service of nearly twenty years at Mowbray Maternity Hospital. She gave birth to all three of her children, Craig, Jennifer and Kirsten Crossland, at the hospital.

Dr Lucy Linley(1972) is head of the neo-natal unit at the hospital. She says they have about 730 deliveries a month, which is just over 8 000 a year.

In a recent issue of Country Life historic Readers Restaurant in Tulbagh was featured with its owner and chef, CAROL COLLIN (Brooke-Sumner 1984). Most appetising fare! In 'Weg' of November 2006 there are marvellous pics of MYRNA ROBINS (Cloete-Noding 1956) in full bosveld kit, - 'My vriendin Myrna, skrywer van 'n stuk of ses kosboeke, het pas agt maande in die Bosveld deurgebring. Sy het van Bosveld-oord na Bosveld-oord gery, geproe en resepte opgeteken. Haar reisverhaal (en die resepte) kry jy in haar jongste boek, *Bushveld Banquets: a Feast of Lowveld Flavours.....* did wil al lyk asof Bosveld-kookkuns vandag ietwat meer verfynd is as die dae toe oupa Knuts seekoei-peertjies vir aandete voorgesit het.

Journalist ANEL POWELL (1993) has articles on the front page of the Cape Times almost daily and sometimes KARYN MAUGHAN (1997) is there too. One day Karyn was reporting on Scorpion activities and Anel on Cape Town's future transport systems.

THE FORTIES

A welcome letter from PENNITH GREEN (Kernick 1947) gives a good picture of Rustenburg 60 years ago. Pennith is writing from Stillmeadow Farm, Choma, Zambia. This is a tale from a really OLD Rustybug....I started at Rustenburg Junior School on the main road in Rondebosch from day one, writing Senior Certificate as it was then called, in 1947 at the Senior School on the Campground. At the Junior School the Headmistress was Miss Roper, she was the "In the old Cape Governor's garden neath the oaks of Van der Stel". I and others rode on our bicycles from my home in Rouwkoop road to the Junior School. We played tennis and netball. I don't think the swimming pool at the Senior School was built until later

At the Senior School I played hockey and tennis and netball and swam. I was not very wonderful at sport but enjoyed it. One year Rustenburg won every sport that was played at the school in the Western Cape against all other girls' schools. WE were given a day's holiday by the Ministry of Education for that achievement.

At the Senior School the Headmistress was Miss Gwen Hazell, a Latin scholar who was VERY strict. Everyone including the Staff was scared of "Nut (she made my mother-in-law, ENID BERRISFORD (Staff 1949 – 1964) climb a tall ladder and wash all the windows in the school library before a parents' meeting. MRB) We all stayed in our classrooms and the teachers moved from class to class.... Pupils moved when going to gymnastics, to the laboratories for zoology or science classes. Most times visitors could enter that school and hear a pin drop, an amazing thing in a building full of healthy teenagers. Americans were amazed. However, everyone did as well as they were capable. The Senior Certificate results were outstanding in my time.

I obtained a University pass and went to Rhodes University where I obtained a BA (Social Science) degree in the three years it took in those days. I met my husband at Rhodes. He is Peter Green to whom I have been happily married for 54 years and we have been farming in Zambia/Northern Rhodesia ever since.

I have 3 children all now middle-aged and 7 grandchildren from 25 to 5 yrs!

I attended the 50th anniversary of my class in 1997. Some of my school friends have died and many have moved away from Cape Town and from South Africa.

My life in Zambia has been interesting and eventful. We have gone from being a British Protectorate to an independent state and watched Southern Rhodesia/Zimbabwe do the same and now South Africa with majority rule. Many changes, both political and economic. Never a dull moment! Friends of my vintage who I keep in touch with are PEGGY STERN (Gillette), MARY ROSS (Schonegevel) and ALISON HELYHUTCHINSON (Simpson). CYNTHIA WATERMAYER (Boyes) has passed on. So far I and my husband keep well and active on the farm which is run by our sons but farmers never retire, and like old soldiers never die, we hope.

THE FIFTIES

I very much enjoyed a letter from VAILA CREED (Chadwick 1952) who lives in Rickworth, WD3 1HT.

It is truly wonderful where ROG's land up, in which parts of the world. I have attended a few reunions now being 70+ and they are great fun, yes we ROG's are very much a

family and a very privileged one at that....My year 1952 had an exceptional Domestic Science class with many prefects, head boarder and prize winners in our ranks. Many of us at 70+ have retired but when I see the work many have done, aims achievedthe Domestic Science girls can do it. Rustenburg leads the way.

I live in England and have done for the past 30+ years. Many ROG's have crossed my doorway, slept over and met me in London. I in fact often know more about old girls than those living in Cape Town. LUANNE WADDINGTON (Starke) and daughter (was that SHARON who was at RGHS in the 70's? MRB) were the most recent but WENDY HURWORTH (Young), NANCY TZEMIS (Winch), VALMAI SCHOEMAN (Van der Hoven) all keep in touch regularly. Christmas as a wonderful time when the cards come in with their news of Golden Weddings,JOY COETZEE (Gerber), granddaughter's 21sts, babies. It's fantastic.

We are getting to the age where obituaries are becoming commonplace so having had a wonderful 50th reunion it's been decided to have a 55th and not wait for the 60th. This will be in October 2007. I think our 40th reunions was best of all where we gathered at the entrance of Charlie's Hope and tried to guess who was who as they crossed the hockey field, the fat or thin, the grey or white-haired. It was tremendous fun and then to sit for tea with so many old friends including Miss Thomson, Miss Dosé and Miss Dale just like old times. A truly wonderful family.

I am secretary of a few clubs, run theatre trips for about 100 folk, also a toddler group and so you see well-trained in my Rustenburg blue, what does age matter?

ROSEMARY HALES (Bowley 1950) and MARY ANNE LE JEUNE (Droomer 1951) have travelled and trekked in many parts of the world together with their husbands, Max and Denis. This year Peter and I had the great privilege of joining one of Denis' Asian trips which saw three ROG's slogging up 24 Bends in Tiger Leaping Gorge in Yunnan, China, in pouring rain (guide book says, 'rather more than 24 gruelling switchbacks'). Home that night was a tea house with no running water but there were burning braziers soft duvets and great food. Thousand of granite steps were climbed in the company of thousands of Chinese to reach the top of Buddhist and Daoist Holy Mountains – Emei Shan in Sichuan was over 3000m –sometimes we did take cable cars. In Lijiang we rose at dawn to climb Elephant Hill to see the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain at its best. In Chengdu we stayed in luxury, saw giant pandas before flying over hundreds of snowy mountains to Lhasa. Journeying through Tibet we saw the highest of them all, a distant but clear Everest. At a remote monastery we were in the bedroom of the 3rd ranking leader of Tibetan Buddhism, also in exile, and Max found among his boyhood books, 'Wind in the Willows.' In Nepal I thought to have a photo taken of the Rustybug trio. In north India I bathed alone in a fast-flowing Ganges. And somehow there was time for Rustenburg memories.

SANDY MULLER (Mills 1957), my one-time tennis partner, has moved to Woodside Village after many years in Pinelands. Married to John, brother of LYNN NIELSEN (1958), Sandy played squash for Western Province, was a secretary for many years and now regularly goes off on skiing holidays. She has a married daughter.

Pam Moys' letter also had recent news of her Junior School friend, ROSEMARIE GILCHRIST (Lyons-Montgomery A 1954)) whose home is in the West of Ireland. Monty as she is known was the speaker at Founders' Day last year, talking about the early days of the original Charlie's Hope where here grandmother had lived as a child. Pam and Monty maintained a correspondence for 30 years before meeting up last year. Monty

and husband Peter so enjoyed their visit to Cape Town that they have bought a house and will be spending time here each year. Pam writes, "more than anything I have Rustenburg to thank for so many great friendships. What a lovely lot of girls were in my standard."

The 1956 reunion showed some extraordinary links the class has in England. CAROLINE MARRIOTT (Hoffa), who lives in Harpenden, found that two of her grandchildren in Hertfordshire, had been taught by the son of PAT MALAN (Phillips) of the Strand. Caroline is Director of a Music School where at one stage one of the teachers was longtime girlfriend of the son of JILL BROWN (Amyot) Jill is in London. Then when Caroline was in Bristol auditioning for a national youth orchestra she organizes, she was introduced to the mother of a promising cellist. The accent was South African, the face just familiar, "Rustenburg?" she asked. It was TONI ESPINER (Buncher) who had left South Africa shortly after matriculating and who had lost all contact with her class. We were so happy to have found her and she very much enjoyed reading the mini-biographies of the matrices of 1956.

ANGELA VAN RENSBERG (Bolt 1956) and her husband have recently moved to join other ROG's at Peers Village, Fish Hoek. On a visit to daughter, BRIDGET (1983) and 2 granddaughters in Sedona, Arizona they went down to Mexico and were involved in a mini revolution with burning buses and barricaded streets. Their car was one of the last vehicles able to leave the city.

News of JILL FARMER (Zoutendyk 1958) came from sister, Disa. Jill was a fencer at school and she is today the club champion of Wimbledon Fencing Club. Widowed, Jill has stayed on in the same house in Wimbledon.

JANET RODGER (Kenyon 1958) was lunching at Kirstenbosch with her husband. They are back in South Africa after years of living in Europe (Holland and Germany), where her 2 sons were born, and 9 years in the United States. Grandchildren are in the US and Australia. Janet still keeps in close touch with LESLEY LOW, (McMurray) and they enjoyed it when their granddaughters had a happy time playing together.

THE SIXTIES

BEATRICE LÖFSTRÖM (Magnusson 1964) has lived Sweden since leaving school (She was Deputy Head Prefect) but comes back for visits. This year she stayed with BERIT MAXWELL (Selander 1961) and visited ANN ALBERTYN (Silberbauer C 196?). Beatrice lives in Säro, 30 Km south of Gothenberg, 5 minutes from the beach and very near her golf club. Beatrice is matron in an old-age complex and has two daughters and two grandchildren. (Long ago I drove the lovely Beatrice and my brother to the Bishops Matric Dance!) Ann matriculated at Herschel where her mother was Headmistress. She and husband Pieter retired to Napier after many years on the family farm near Bredasdorp. Ann is a keen and very able member of the Bredasdorp Bowling Club. She has 2 sons and 5 grandchildren.

DISA CORRIGALL (Zoutendyk 1964) was at a concert in the City Hall with her friend from Junior School days (JUDITH GORDON (Stuart Watson). Disa and her husband live in Qatar and she was out to supervise the building of their retirement home at Struisbaai. Judith has visited Disa in Qatar. They remembered being at the same table in standard 4 art classes when MISS TRIBBLE used to call them, "girlie",

CAROLYN JACOBSON (1961) has recently moved to Bellville. Married to Dr Jack Jacobson, Carolyn is mother of two sons. Sadly she is one of several ROG's who suffers from multiple sclerosis.

Also from 1961 is GILLIAN PALMER (Donnal) who lives with husband Eric in Kenilworth and has recently bought a house in Montagu. Gillian has had a varied career with many years as a teacher, then teacher librarian, and contract librarian. She is a qualified tourist guide helping her husband with his tour company. Each year she spends a few months in the UK doing caring. On the academic front, Gillian graduated M. Bibl from UCT, and is completing a Masters in Biblical Archaeology through UNISA.

HILARY WILSON (Lewis 1961) and her husband recently moved from Blairgowrie, Johannesburg to Sundowner, Randburg.

SUE MYBURGH (1969) writes from Adelaide, Australia where she is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Communications, University of South Australia. Rustenburg can be proud of this ROG with her distinguished academic career, summarised below.

PhD (University of South Australia); Master Info Tech (AIIM); MSc. (Inf. Sci), Simmons College, Boston, Mass., B.Bibl. (Hons), UNISA, Grad Dip Lib and Inf. Sci (UCT); BA (UNISA).

Academic at University of Cape Town until 1989; Present position at University of South Australia from 1994 to present.

Silver Jubilee Award, UCT, 1980; Fulbright Fellowship, 1982-1983; Britt Literary Award (US), 2001. Widely published, including a recent book (The New Information Professional, Oxford, Chandos, 2005). Frequent presenter at international conferences, including invited keynotes. Widely travelled, and lived in US and UK for extended periods; travel frequently to South East Asia, less often to South Africa.

Sue is mother to Theresa Georgina, a marine biology student at the University of Adelaide and Carl Martin studying at the Australian Defence force Academy (University of NSW). She is divorced. Her sister, MELANIE (1970) also lives in Adelaide with her family, husband Simon and children Grace and Harry.

THE SEVENTIES

JENNIFER WIESE (Parfitt 1979) has been a parent at RGHS for the last 5 years. Her daughter, Karin was consistently top of her standard and was appointed one of the Deputy Head Girls for 2006. Very sadly, Karin was stricken with cancer and missed most of the year. Marian Lennox invigilated at Jennifer's home while Karin wrote Matric exams.

THE EIGHTIES

News of the THOMAS sisters from Australia comes from JEANNINE (1987) who is married to New Zealander, Patrick Bawden, a winemaker, and is mother to Oliver and Tristan – See Births. Jeannine graduated BA and M Comm from the Universities of Sydney and the University of NSW. Her work is in human resources. Recently she was transferred by ANIP (Finance) to New Zealand and was due to move from Victoria in August 2006. CATHERINE THOMAS (1989) qualified as a gemmologist in 2005 and works for a gem company in Queensland.

Also in Victoria, Australia is BRONWEN WOLFF (Boerlage 1989). She has been in Melbourne since 1996, was divorced from Chris in 2006. For a year from May 2005, Bronwen travelled to great destinations like Russia, China, Canada, Botswana and more. Now she is working as a travel consultant for a firm specialising in concept tours such as cycling tours in France, Spain, Italy, shopping tours to Thailand with tours to Africa in the pipeline.

Welcome news came from JEANNE-MARIE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (1982) in East London. JO McINTYRE is very proud of this group of medical students from 1982 and writes about them in her 'White Stoep on the Highway' – 'one of the largest contingents from any one school....in the Medical Faculty.....an impressive record of class medals'. Later on in the book there is a picture of the five at the time of their graduation. 1982 was a year that Rustenburg had the highest number of A Aggregates in the Cape Province.

After matriculating in 1982, I went to study Medicine at UCT along with 4 of my classmates – Sybilla Mohl, Brigitte Ranta, Madeleine Wiggelinkhuizen and Dilys Woolley; we all graduated in 1988 together! I did my internship at The Frere Hospital in East London, followed by 6 months in a medical officer post in paediatrics. I then left for Canada, working initially in Northern Manitoba where the winter temperature often dropped below minus 40 deg! I married a fellow doctor (paediatrician) Mark Painter in 1992, and moved out west to British Columbia. Our first 2 daughters were born there – Jaime in 1994 and Gabrielle in 1996. Homesickness finally got the better of me, and we returned to East London, South Africa in April 1998. Our third daughter Chloe was born in June 1998 – our first SA-born child! Since then, I have been involved in emergency medicine, and have headed the accident and emergency (trauma) unit at St. Dominic's Hospital for the past 3 years.

I still receive news of Rustenburg on a regular basis as my cousin's daughter is at school there (Kirsten Dolley, mom Sandy Joubert, 1980)

JENNIFER McGONNIGLE (Hurter 1988) has moved to Surbiton, Surrey.

ANNEMARIE VAN REENEN (Dashwood 1987) is lucky enough to live on a farm just outside Knysna, on Rheenendal Farm, Rheenendal. Annemarie, I am sorry there must have been a gremlin in the works as I did not receive your earlier email. "

After matriculating in 1987, I did a 1 year Executive Secretarial course (my first gap year), followed by a 3 year Diploma in Food and Clothing Technology at the Cape Technikon. I then secured a position with Fedics Food Services as a Catering Manager, firstly at Foschini Head Office in Parrow, then at Libertas Hospital in Goodwood. Thereafter in 1994 I left for the UK and travelled extensively around Europe, Israel and Egypt (my second gap year). I decided to stay on in the UK and became an Investment Banker specialising in Dividends where I remained for the next 9 years, working my way up the corporate ladder. (I was looking for a career that had more sociable working hours - but that was not to be!). In 1999, my first boyfriend, Warwick van Reenen, who I had met in 1988 (although we had gone our separate ways but remained good friends), proposed, and after an agonizing 3 year long distant engagement, I returned to Knysna and we married in March 2003. (A true "When Harry met Sally" scenario). I then worked as an Estate Agent in Knysna selling exclusive waterfront property on Thesen Islands for 2 years, until our daughter, Erin Rose was born on 24 August 2004. I now work flexi-time from home as an Estate Agent for Seeff Properties in Knysna as well as managing my brother-in-laws cottage on Thesen Islands, doing holiday rentals. We live on a farm just outside Knysna, surrounded by pine plantations and indigenous forest. My husband is a Director of a family business who have been growing pine trees for 4 generations and we have a pole manufacturing plant.

I enjoyed reading the December newsletter, but would encourage other 1987's matriculants to write in! Should anyone wish to contact me, my home phone number is (044) 389 0171, cell number 082 566 7775. Email: wv20@mweb.co.za. Address: P O Box 71, Rheenendal, District Knysna, 6576."

I would also like to add that it is great to read news from our teachers of the 80's, especially of Jane Jeffrey (now Moodie) and her 3 children! I encourage more teachers to write in! Is there any news of Lizette Forbes (Home Economics) - she was my favourite!

I am glad you enjoy hearing what has happened to teachers. See above under Staff for news of Lizette.

THE NINETIES

CLAIRE BLOM (1997) was pictured in a feature on women lawyers in the Weekend Argus. Claire is one of 9 women professionals, out of a total of 15, in a firm specialising in personal injury law. This firm believes that women 'approach this challenging area of the law with particular compassion, empathy and vigour.'

JULIE-ANN MARCHANT (Mathew 1997) is married to Billy, mother to Abigail- See Births - and lives at Parklands. A Stellenbosch graduate in English and Sports Science (Julie was a star diver) Julie has taught in London and at Table View High School. Her grandmother is JESS MATHEW, one of the MILLS sisters from the 40's.

Apologies to NATALIE FRITH (Moore 1996) for the gremlin that gave her Abigail's date of birth a week late (Natalie's Abigail is almost the twin of Julie's Abigail). Natalie has moved to Pinelands.

SUSAN TAYLOR (Maspero 1992) emailed in August from the UK where she has been living for the past 10 years. Married to Peter, she then had 20-month Jake and was expecting to give birth to a daughter in three weeks - another hockey and squash star?

MELANIE REINECKE (Sleigh 1993) - See Births - graduated B.Com at UCT, Qualified as a chartered accountant doing her articles in Cape Town before moving to London where she was contracted for 4 years. Recently she and her husband John started an accounting practice in Putney, London.

Another from the nineties in England is CLAERWYN HAMILTON-WEEKES (Howes 1991) who has moved to live in Surrey - See Births. I specially enjoy hearing from Claerwyn who I can picture as a very smiley little girl at Micklefield.

Also in England, is WENDY BRASLER (1994), teaching children with special needs in Barnes and living in Wimbledon.

News of KATRINA CORNELL'S engagement came from KAREN VEN DER SPUY (1997), actually from Karen's mother. Karen is finishing off her 4th year of Medicine. Katrina - and the details came from her mother - met her fiancé while they were studying Environmental Science UCT. Both of them are very active in the music at St Thomas' Rondebosch. Katrina is really enjoying singing with the group. She has always wanted to work with animals, and so is now with a vet in Pinelands as receptionist but also assisting with operations.

WISAAL CUPIDO (1999) sent in her database update form to record that she completed her BSocSci (HR and Org Psyc) at UCT in 2003. She moved to Johannesburg after graduation where she is a Key Accounts manager with Procter & Gamble.

THE 21ST CENTURY

I remember TRESIA HAITEMBU (2003) collecting Player of the Year awards for netball and was delighted to read her email. Any ROG's out there in Windhoek? Time was there would be a whole contingent of Southwesterners making the long train journey to Rustenburg.

Hi there, my name is Tresia Haitembu, E2003. I am back in Namibia after spending 5 wonderful years at Rustenburg and Erinville spending most of my time playing netball for both Rustenburg 1st team and WP for 4 years. Its so nice to receive the newsletters, to read up on the latest happenings with ex-rustybugs. I have not met any ex-rustybugs from Namibia except all the ones I know from Oranjemund as lived there my whole life till about 4 years ago, are there any in Windhoek that you may know of?

ENGAGEMENTS

ALISON BERRISFORD (1993) to Stewart Mears on 30th April, 2006 in Cape Town (Yes, at last my younger daughter settled MRB)

STORM BALLARD (1995) to David Robotham on 30th April 2006 (wedding planned for June in Suffolk, England)

NICOLA DALL (1998) to Agostinho de Abreu on 28th July 2006

THERESA MACGREGOR (1987) to Rob Kerr in August 2006 in Richards Bay.

KIM CHALONER (1995) to Harry Bell on 1st September 2006-10-26

MANDY HOFMEYR (1993) to Brendan Hughes in Paris in September 2006 (CT is home)

NATHALIE LEBLOND (1993) to Stuart Harper in September 2006 in Cape Town (wedding planned for March)

JENTY ALSTON (Staff in the 90's) to Christopher Maugham Young on 28th October 2006 in Hermanus (they live in Chichester, UK, wedding planned for 31st March in Hermanus)

KATRINA CORNELL(1997) to Mark Samuel in July 2006, in Cape Town (wedding planned for May)

MARRIAGES

SUZIE LEBLOND(1996) to Michael Harris in February 2006 on the Harris farm in Constantia. Suzie is daughter of JANE LEBLOND (Salmon 1965). Michael is son of STEPHANIE HARRIS (Clark 1961) and brother of MELANIE (1995)

VICTORIA FOXCROFT (1997) to Brendan Hoffmann on 2nd September 2006 on Zorgvliet Wine Estate. (Tori was attended by sister MARGARET (1991) and Margaret's two little daughters. Brendan is son of SUE in the office and sister of SHELAGH (1994)

VICTORIA COLLEY to Stuart Andrew York on 9th September 2006 in Port Elizabeth

BIRTHS

To CLAERWYN HOWES (1991) and Alisdair Hamilton-Weekes a daughter, Sara Judith on 1st December 2005 in England

To JULIE-ANN MATHEW (1997) and Billy Marchant a daughter, Abigail Jess on 23 December 2005 in Cape Town

To LEIGH DENNY (1992) and Franck Bonamy a daughter, Charlotte on 11th April 2006 in the Kingdom of Bahrain

To ELIZABETH FOXCROFT (1993) and Gavin van den Berg, a son Callum on 21st April 2006 in Taddey, near Oxford, UK

To MELANIE SLEIGH (1993) and John Reinecke a son Michael Jonathan on 19th May 2006 in London

To JEANNINE THOMAS and Patrick Bawden a son Tristan Frederick, brother to Oliver, on 30th May 2006 in Victoria, Australia

To FIONA BEGG (1992) and Colin Matthieson, a daughter Tilly on 28th May 2006 in High Wycombe, England

To RENÉE WOOD (1985) and Barry Sutton a baby son in June 2006, brother to James and Roxanne (family live at Pringle Bay)

To ANGELINE BEUTE (1991) and Warren Wilkinson a son, Samuel Nicholas, brother to Josh on 7th August 2006

To NATASHA ERLANK (1988) and Neil Klug, a son Daniel Klug-Erlank on 29th August 2006 in Johannesburg

To LYND SAY VOS (1995) and Alexander Cyprianos, a son, Jacob Gavin brother for Luke on 10th November 2006 in Cape Town

IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET ANDERSON (Ralston 1955) suddenly in Plettenberg Bay on 28th August 2006. Margaret had been living for some years with a daughter and 2 grandchildren in Plettenberg Bay. She handled the accounts of the local golf club following a career in IBM in the early days of computers. Margaret's sisters are DR ANN RALSTON (1953) of Strand and MARY (1957) of Holland and to them and her family we extend our deep sympathy.

LORNA ABBOTT (Hedding c1922) passed away peacefully in mid-June 2006, just short of her 96th birthday, in Cape Town. Lorna was mother of MOIRA ABBOTT (1965). Her son Tony (founder of Abbotts College) wrote that his mother always enjoyed receiving the newsletter and insisted that he read them to her from cover to cover! They were both saddened to read of the death of Tommie, who had been such a pillar of strength to Moira during and, for a long time after her time at Rustenburg. Our sympathy to Lorna's family.

GERDA ANN WEISBECKER (1936) on 7th July 2006 in Cape Town. Miss Weisbecker was head music mistress at the Junior School in the Forties before following a career in social work. She graduated in Social Science from UCT and then worked for CAFDA for many years. Our sympathy to her sister, Miss Lorna (Bobby) Weisbecker.

NORMA WATERMEYER (Peperett 1956) in late October 2006 in Fish Hoek. In 1996, Norma wrote that she had been lucky enough to live in Fish Hoek her whole life. She had been working part-time at her daughter's print and graphic studio. Stricken with motor neurone disease, Norma was optimistic about coming to at least one event of her class reunion in January. The decline, however, was rapid. A group of her friends from the class did go to see her soon after the reunion. She leaves her husband Tracy, son, Lance daughter, Kim and her sister LOUISE (1965). To them all we extend deep sympathy.

REUNIONS

The 1952 E's are planning a 55th anniversary reunion in October 2007.

Thank you to CAROLYN RODGER (BOCOCK) for this account of the 1965 MATRIC REUNION:

Somewhat unconventionally, the 1965 Matrics celebrated the Fortieth Anniversary of their matric year with a "picnic" lunch at Buitenverwachting in Constantia on 25 March 2006.

After much detective work, 39 attended, with Eve Abbott (Creese) coming all the way from New Zealand and the others from Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal and the Eastern and Western Cape.

The food was delicious and abundant, the weather ideal and the venue felt as if it were in the depths of the countryside rather than ten minutes from two major shopping centres. The informality of the occasion lent itself to easy mingling and the conversation was fast and furious.

Small groups of friends also gathered on Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday. One group revisited old haunts and investigated new additions at the High School.

It was agreed that another reunion should be held in ten, or perhaps even five years' time.

1996 KERRY WHITE emails that the 1996 E's are having drinks at the ALBA BAR , Waterfront Cape Town from 6pm on 14th December 2006. All Teachers and Girls are welcome. RSVP to kerry.white@bp.com or phone 079 344 3230

Please keep the news flowing in.

With very best wishes to you all for Christmas and 2007.

Mary Rose