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FOUNDERS' DAY – 26 JANUARY 2007 & LAUNCH OF PIANO FUND

BY PAT McCRINDLE (née Butler, E1952)

I have just returned from the most delightful function any Old Girl could attend and I thought I must tell you all about it!

This comparatively new event takes place each year on the last Friday in January (first day of A P Jones' sale!) and the ROGU Committee has arranged to have its AGM and lunch on the same day. It starts at 10am and I arrived, by chance, at the same time as Mary van Blerk. We were welcomed at the School Door by one of the smiling prefects who conducted us to the Thomson Hall, chatting to us on the way with the obvious intention of making us feel "at home". And we did – even more so when we were immediately drawn into one of the groups of Old Girls already renewing acquaintances with stories of bygone days. Another Headmistress, Jo McIntyre, was there and newly-retired Deputy, Marian Lennox – Dr Fullard unfortunately had to make her apologies. We now met the Acting Headmistress, Mrs Susan Schnetler, who is running the School so efficiently in the interim.

I was impressed by the poise and politeness of the "waitresses" serving us tea or coffee and simply delicious school-made scones and brownies, but seemingly all too soon a bell rang for us to go to the Kemp Hall where the school and staff were already seated – girls on the floor as of old – but we "oldies" on chairs behind them (it felt like quite a privilege!)

The Founders' Day Service began with a short welcome by Mrs Schnetler, followed by the beautiful "new" School Hymn. There was then a reading from Ecclesiasticus by the Head Girl and prayers by the two Deputies. Music plays a big part in any School function and the Choir, trained by the Head Music Teacher, Elizabeth Sole, and the large Orchestra, conducted by Ms Janet Kirk, were absolutely excellent. There are two Choirs and the Chamber Choir has just won a competition for High Schools. The Anthem they sang was Psalm 121, commissioned by the Music Department when Dr Fullard retired. It was very beautiful and featured a soprano solo and flute by a pupil and Ms Kirk.

Mrs Sarah Rowan (née Johnson, E2000) then delivered a most stimulating address – she lectures at UCT – and the girls loved it as she was so amusing. This was followed by the presentation of the ROGU Diamond Jubilee bursaries for the top Senior Certificate pupils of 2006, 2005 & 2004 and the Ubuntu Award for the girl who has felt compassion for other

people and done something about it! We then all stood to sing our same well-remembered School Song (only now it is sung much faster!) and the National Anthem.

Thereafter we went back to the Thomson Hall for the very short and undemanding AGM, chaired by Jeanne Jackson (née Logan, E1954). After her report she asked us to support the drive to raise funds for a much needed GRAND PIANO for Charlie's Hope, now used for music classes and concerts. But the best was possibly yet to come!

To be treated to a lunch of the calibre of this one is a chance not to be missed – Smoked Salmon Mousse, a fantastic Rolled Chicken affair with roast vegetables and wild rice – and unbelievable desserts in the shape of Decadent Double Espresso Chocolate Cupcakes and Cream Puffs “festooned with caramel”. This was accompanied by chilled orange juice, white wine and finally coffee – and all was prepared and served by the School's Bon Appetit catering club, for just R60 a head!

It was all over by 2.30pm and I hope I've convinced you by now IMMEDIATELY to diarise this date – the last Friday in January 2008 – and if you have to miss one day of Summer School, I promise you it will be worth it!!

GRAND PIANO FUND

Pat McCrindle and Jeanne Jackson have started the ball rolling to establish a fund to contribute towards the new Grand Piano, estimated cost R99,000, needed for Charlie's Hope after its' refurbishment has been completed.

Your contributions would be greatly appreciated. These may be deposited at Nedbank or paid by EFT into the ROGU Nedbank account number 2046666046, branch code 104609, with your name and telephone number as the reference. A minimum of R100 may be deposited. Please advise Maureen Mantell (tel/fax (021) 671-1996 or e-mail mmantell@absamail.co.za) of your details so that we may acknowledge your contribution.

From MARY ROSE BERRISFORD (Trainor 1956, staff 1989-1998)

Dear Old Girls

For the first time since being on the staff, I was at the final assembly of 2006. Rustenburg impresses as always. The assembly was taken most ably by acting headmistress, MRS SUSAN SCHNETLER. My reason for being there was the retirement of GILL COCKRAM and MORAIG McLEOD, two Rustenburg stalwarts who started teaching at the school way back under MISS THOMSON. The farewell format is for girls to come on to the platform and, sometimes tearfully, give tributes and thanks. Emotional scenes there were. Gill's girls told of how they had decorated the Christmas Tree for the Carol Service with paper baubles of Shakespeare's sonnets for her, they recited a poem Gill had found particularly moving, described her as a wise owl: 'We honour and thank you from the depths of our hearts'. Gill's response was to be speechless, 'I'll make mistakesI've learnt so much about teenagers'. She talked of the fun she had had with her most recent two C classes. Susan Schnetler ended by thanking Gill for spending more than half her life (34 years) at Rustenburg with loyalty and dedication. Moraig gave us a wonderful slideshow of highlights from her life including many from the 29 years at

Rustenburg – Umfolozi, RGHS winning all the trophies at the main gala, dramas in the science lab, tours to Zimbabwe and the UK, being chosen as a cricket Springbok in her first year at Rustenburg, Argus Cycle tours. When she first met Miss Thomson, Tommy remarked that she had not ever seen a Rustenburg 'games mistress' wearing a dress and stockings. (Certainly I have no memories of very long-serving teacher, MISS CHAMBERLAIN (Po), in anything other than divided skirt and tackies. MRB) In the 2006 school magazine are tributes to Gill and Moraig written by ADRIAN SKELLY and ELIZE LIVINGSTONE.

There were tears and hugs aplenty as Afrikaans classes, particularly Eerste Taal, said goodbye to HELENA VAN DEN BERG who joined the staff in 1998. One quote, 'agter die skerm altyd 'n glimlaggie, die enigste konstandse mense in ons lewe.' There were also farewells to MARGARET KOPKE (Guidance) joining her husband in London, MS HANNIE FUTCHER (Home Economics), MISS MINNAAR, going to study medicine. SANDY STRYDOM was thanked in absentia for her work, formerly as Bursar and recently as a part-time assistant in the finance office.

STAFF

The very sad news is that DIRKJE MOUTON died in hospital at the end of December. Dirkje, a much-loved Afrikaans teacher, had a very special place in the Rustenburg family. This was clearly evident at her funeral service where we estimate there were more than forty of her Rustenburg colleagues and pupils. A tribute and account of the service will be under In Memoriam. My apologies to SHANNON DOWDALL who is still very much on the staff. It was her colleague, MARGIE KOPKE, who retired. I understand that she is enjoying life in England, spending many weekends in the country. IVAN KILIAN retired at the end of the first term and has the pleasure of choosing music to be played on Fine Music Radio. He, Elize Livingstone and DR ELIZABETH FULLARD were guests for lunch at Gill Cockram's recently. Elizabeth loves her work as part of a team assessing schools with a view to helping them. Daughter, ALEX PINNOCK has joined her in this endeavour.

MARY LERMER, House mistress from 1994, has retired from Erinville but still comes in on some Sundays, which she enjoys, although no longer taking prep means it's more difficult to learn the names of the girls. She is living in Muizenberg, sees MRS MAXWELL, who at the time, was looking after Mrs van Blerk's house while she was away visiting game parks. I hear that librarian, ELLEN EDDY (See Marriages) lives in Durban and, with her husband, takes tour groups to game reserves. One of Ellen's successors, VAL CLEVELAND, retired at the end of the first term. Long-serving head of Biology, GILL HASS lives in Simon's Town is, according to daughter, TANIA DUYS (1989) – see Births -, being a very keen grandmother; reading, knitting, taking to school. Girls who enjoyed Ecology Club trips with JANE MOODIE (Jeffery, staff 80's-90's) will not be surprised that she and husband Ian, organised an amazing 6-day 'Mountain 2 Coast' adventure for the Grade 7's of Applewood School, Elgin, where Jane teaches. Starting in the Swellendam Mountains, the group travelled on foot, on bicycles and in canoes to Cape Infanta at the mouth of the Breede River. MR Z NONGQOTHO, Xhosa teacher for the past 8 years, is moving across to Rondebosch Boys' High. RONELLE KEMP (Staff '80's-'90's) was visiting Betty's Bay recently, enthusiastic and living life to the full as usual. On hearing that the Gingko tree in front of the school had been cut down, she raged. What you see on the front of your hard-copy newsletter is history. For news of another Biology teacher (and English and Maths) see KATHY JOHNSON in The Eighties.

FOUNDERS' DAY

SARAH ROWAN (Johnson 1998) was the excellent speaker at the Founders' Day assembly. Her words appealed to the full range in her audience from the Grade 8's though staff, the retired deputy head, to the oldest ROG. Comments I heard were, 'excellent; pitched at the girls; a lot of thought; sound advice; came across very well; humorous; people of all ages said how good she was'. I wish I could give you the entire speech. This is an edited version.

Sarah began by using her experiences over the past four years as a lecturer in the English Department at UCT to let the audience think about the nature of time.

".....since I started lecturing at the University of Cape Town, I have learnt a lot about the nature of time.....theoretically, if you took a long journey at a very high speed, you might return to find that you had aged less than the people you'd left behind. I have experienced this very thing many times – not, alas, on long high-speed journeys, but in lecture theatres on campus.....

I must thank Rustenburg for inviting me to address you today. It was an honour, first of all, which I deeply appreciate; and secondly, it provided me with an excuse to spend December and January being nostalgic and working my way through old school magazines and diaries, reliving my high school days. A good dose of nostalgia is healthy; and I think perhaps nothing is more likely to produce it than memories of school. It may not seem that way to you now – or perhaps it does – but I assure you that when your ten-year reunion is just around the corner, you too will be able to work yourself into a frenzy of excitement at the thought of seeing your fellow matriculants again..... You're probably aware of the famous Rustybugs from the years before mine – Nicky Greenwall, who presents Showbiz Report on etv, the singer, Louise Carver, who's just released her second album; and Hlubi Mboya, who plays Nandipha on Isidingo. (See In the News).

I have never been surprised that ex-Rustenburg girls should be so successful, both privately and, publicly, and when I've asked them, none of my school friends have been surprised either. We expect it of each other; we expect it of you. But our expectations are not founded in a collective arrogance, a misplaced pride about the school producing generations of Superwomen; they're founded on a truth we learned right here in this hall, and in the classrooms around it – the truth that when we leave we can do whatever we like.....

...I'm not talking about believing anything at all; I'm talking about knowing something. And knowledge, practically speaking, trumps belief in the power stakes every time.

There's a misunderstanding, I think, among women today about what constitutes power – and I mean power on a personal level, and perhaps also on a gender level..... For me, power is about choice. Having power means having the choice to do or not do certain things; the choice to stay at home or to run a business or to combine them; the choice to have children or not to have children; the choice to marry or to stay single or to go some other route altogether. If we are constrained in our choices by anyone or anything, then we are in a position of powerlessness.

I spoke a moment ago about why Rustenburg girls are successful in so many different ways, and I said that it had to do with knowledge – not academic knowledge, although that comes in handy, but the knowledge that as Rustenburg matriculants, we can choose to do what we like. Rustenburg educates us, above all, to be powerful women, women who know that no career, no personal possibility, is closed to us. And this is an exceptional thing for a school to achieve, because everywhere else you go, now and when you leave here, you will be told that you cannot do certain things. Maybe engineering and similarly scientific fields are reserved for men. Or it's a woman's duty to stay at home with her children until they're at least eighteen. Or you're simply too emotional, as a woman, to run an office. You won't only hear statements like this from men – you will hear them from other women..... This knowledge we hold as Rustybugs, this power, is not a fragile thing and it is not easily threatened; and you won't believe the people who tell you one day that you have no choice, because you'll have spent five of your most formative years learning that you absolutely do have a choice.

When Miss Ryan asked me to talk today, she said I should speak about how Rustenburg has stood me in good stead since I left it, and my first thoughts were of my academic education here – how outstanding the teachers are, what an enjoyable and excellent musical education I received at Rustenburg, and how I was encouraged to rise constantly to the expectation that I was an adult and a lady and compassionate human being. I thought too of the friends I made and have kept from school, the more I thought about it, the more I realised that these are not necessarily the things that make Rustenburg unique. There are excellent teachers at other schools. Friends are to be had in more than one place. No – the difference I see between Rustybugs and pupils from other schools is the presence, in Rustybugs of the assurance – a relaxed, unhysterical, easily-worn assurance – that they are capable of whatever they put their minds to. And the reason that Rustenburg is able to guarantee this where so many other schools cannot is the same reason I am here today, the reason we're having this assembly – it's the result of generations of Rustenburg women (and I believe a few men here and there in the old days) learning to choose and widening the choices available to subsequent generations. The passing on of that power to choose is a Rustenburg tradition, though one that goes unnoticed, so commonplace is it at this stage in the school's history.

I began this morning by talking about time and its ability to change speed depending on how fast we travel, or, in my lecture example, how fast we speak. When I consider my high school years from today, what I remember most – and marvel at most – is the speed at which I lived. My life was busier than it has been since, with work and meetings and choir and orchestra and sundry duties here and there. I woke up at an ungodly hour of the morning. They were good years, not least because of the velocity with which I lived them – they were marked not only by an intensity of activity, but by an intensity of experience. I imagine that many of you are dashing through high school in the same way, and I applaud you; but I encourage you, too, to remember that there is value in those moments of stillness that become available, moments of slowness – which often occur in Maths class – in which you can pause and look around you. Your memories of this time in your lives – and I promise you, no matter how you feel now, you will one day want to remember this – your memories will be all the clearer and more vivid for the days when you slowed your pace and took a breath and watched the faces of those around you. Thank you. "

There was the usual ROG tea before assembly and lunch afterwards. Both were somewhat quieter and emptier than last year as there was no reunion. The two oldest ROG's, MAY FOSTER Billie Trainor 1935) and CATH COATON(1936) were given a special mention and treated to lunch. BIDDY RYAN (1977) dons her ROG hat for tea and I saw her talking with learners from last year. They included KAREN WIESE, CATHERINE ROBERTS and LISA STIRRAT. Karen, daughter of JENNIFER (Parfitt 1979), is at UCT's Medical School. She 'achieved a distinction and excellent subject results, despite having missed many months of schooling and having had to deal with the effects of chemotherapy just prior to the start of the final exam.....she showed courage, tenacity and dedication...' (From the fortnightly RGHS Newsletter edited by MARIAN LENNOX, retired deputy). The three recipients of the ROGU Bursaries were 2006 CARMEN HARTMANN, 2005 KATHERINE PATERSON; 2004 KHADEEJA BASSIER; only Katherine could be present. CHARMIAN PLUMMER (Marais 1956) presented the Ubuntu Award which her class gave to the school on the occasion of its 50 years reunion last year. This carved wooden cup is given to the girl who shows awareness of and concern for the plight and needs of others and reacts compassionately and humanely to these needs. CLARE JOHNSON (1995) was there to listen to her sister Sarah. Clare has been in asset management but was planning a change.

"ON THE SLOPES OF TABLE MOUNTAIN" sung in the Himalayas

One of ELIZABETH FULLARD's (HM 1999-2006) friends sent her this gem from BETTY DAVIS (1937-1947).

In April 2007, 7 middle-aged women were lying cheek by jowl in our sleeping bags in a yak herder's hut in the Himalayan foothills in the tiny Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan. Outside the snow lay thick on the ground as though it were having a last fling before the spring. We were a group of friends from South Africa who had planned a two-week trekking and sight seeing trip in this remote country which lies between NE India and Tibet.

Our Bhutanese tour guide, Sonam, had led us to this remote spot when the weather had deteriorated, visibility was reduced by a snowfall and it became evident that camping was out of the question.

There were two rooms in this draughty set-up – each about three and a half metres square. Our Bhutanese cook soon had a fire going and soup was served. The ever-efficient Sonam had appointed herself as "matron" and proceeded to organise the other room as a dormitory for the nine people. She cleared the floor of all movables, laid out a tarpaulin and mattresses and, as our packs were unloaded from the horses, called in, two by two, ordered us to take off our boots, find a sleeping spot, lay out our sleeping bags and wait for supper to be served. There just wasn't room for us all to be milling around and getting in the way of the kitchen staff and horsemen, all of whom had to be accommodated in the limited space.

The system worked well. Supper was served in bed amid much heckling and laughing. Too early for sleep so we sat about entertaining ourselves. Who can sing? No response. So BARBARA WILSON (1967) and I volunteered to sing our school song. "On the slopes of Table Mountain...." rang out into the now dark snow fields as never before. We were not complimented on our rendition but, secretly, I think they were all jealous as none of them could produce such an original school song.

Thank you very much, Betty! MRB

WEDDINGS

Summer in the Cape is wedding time. Here is a selection of celebrations with a distinct Rustenburg flavour. When ROBYN CULLIS walked up the aisle two of the three bridesmaids were her classmates. They were KAREN LISTER and SUSAN DUXBURY (Newton). (Back in 1995, all three were contenders for the Biology Prize – the bride was the winner!) Karen, a physiotherapist, lives in Cape Town, while Susan came from the UK where she is a doctor. It is a life she loves but she and Mike do plan to return to SA. Robyn is a registrar in paediatrics at the Red Cross Children's Hospital. Her godmother, YOLANDE TRAINOR (Ahrens 1962), said the grace at the reception and of course the three Cullis aunts (1960's) had helped with the flowers. MARIA VIANELLO, who runs a ballet studio, was among the guests. Robyn's gorgeous gown was designed by ROBYN ROBERTS (MacGregor 1985)

Robyn Roberts was responsible for dressing not only the bride but also the bridesmaids when CLAIRE WINTER was followed down the aisle by sister, CATHERINE MITCHELL (1991), and VANESSA (Ann Turnley Jones 1994). The reception was held at The Vineyard Hotel. Vanessa held a lunch for the bridal party in her Constantia home two days before the wedding. Claire lives in London.

JANET WHITMAN (1995) was another lovely bride who chose The Vineyard for her reception. This wedding couldn't help but be a Rustenburg occasion. Her mother is ANGELA (BOYES 1966), her bridesmaids, dressed in gorgeous burnt orange, were classmates LUCY SCHOLTE – See engagements – and JANINE KOCHANNEK (mother is JENNY (Davies 19??)) and AMY SCOTT who was at the Junior School. Two of Angela's granddaughters, one from Wimbledon and one from Guernsey, were flower girls. Again the bridal party were dressed by a ROG, in this case, DEBBIE HENSHILWOOD (Wilson). Angela reports that Janet's oyster gown was exquisite and she was very pleased with her own pistachio outfit. (I am remembering that Angela is no mean needlewoman. She and Lucy's mother held terrific sewing sessions with volunteers making very attractive goods for the Autumn Fairs of old).

The marriage of JENTY ALSTON to Christopher Young at St Peter's, Hermanus, was a very special occasion. The service was particularly fitting and was taken by the Rev Elizabeth Cherry; mother of PAMELA CHERRY (1980). The frock JENTY chose for her wedding was many-coloured, patterned, beautiful. She and Chris, both radiant, walked into the church together to a lovely John Rutter solo Music was a feature with more two more Rutter songs, ending with his blessing. Jenty's son Kieron was best man but after the service had to travel to Wellington to be best man at JEAN BROOKE-SUMNER'S (1997 - still in London) brother's wedding. LYNDALL ALSTON (C 1997) was out from England, looking well and happy. SARAH ROWAN (Johnson 1998) there with her husband, was the only one of Jenty's past pupils there. ADÉLE CUTTEN (Griffiths 1968 – daughter of science teacher, the late Anne), a great friend from Jenty's UCT days came especially from the Eastern Cape. A photo was taken of Rustenburg teachers with Jenty. They were MAUREEN BURCHELL, PIPPA VISSER, REVIVA SCHERMBRUCKER, LINELLE HOLLAND and your editor. DIRKJE MOUTON had been on the original guest list; GILL COCKRAM had her sister from England; MARIETJIE LE ROUX was in Egypt. The reception was at a restaurant high up above the Hemel and Aarde valley with a string quartet playing (a violinist was son of JEAN COHEN (Trainor 1968)). Honeymoon was in Nature's Valley before Jenty and Chris went back to work in England.

The next Saturday, a very different wedding but with a large Rustenburg contingent. The venue, Yzerfontein beach, the bride our daughter, ALISON (1993), in a gown of the palest blue. We lead her along the sands with following barefooted bridesmaids dressed in rich reds and gold: sister FIONA (1989) and Ali's classmates GENEVIEVE FORDER, JEANINE GOMES, MANDY HOFMEYR, LINDY BRIERS-DANKS (Crisp). There were ROG friends, aunts and cousins. Two of the many doctors were Rustenburg classmates SALLY LE ROUX (Masterson), with tiny Emma, – see Births and HELEN WRIGHT doing a Master's in Sports Medicine. KATHARINE ROBERTSON (Foster 1967) was out from Scotland; ELEANOR QUINTON (Tindale 1966) was in South Africa for a few months from the UK before immigrating to Australia. Great aunt, BILLIE FOSTER (Trainor 1935) was probably the most senior guest. I couldn't help mentioning in a speech that no lesser person than MISS THOMSON had given approval for the match. She had known two of the groom's great-uncles, 'Very good stock' she'd said. (A PS on the Rustenburg connections of the bridesmaids; Genevieve is daughter of ERICA (Westall 1954); Jeanine daughter of MAUVEEN (Gomes staff of the 60's) MANDY is daughter of CILLA (Whitehead 1967), granddaughter of PHYL (Smith 1942) and great-granddaughter of EFFIE (Macquiklen 192?)!!)

I didn't have time to get many details of MARIE BUCHOLTZ'S (1998) wedding but I did learn that she too had a flock of Rustenburg bridesmaids round her as she was married in the Kirstenbosch sculpture garden. They were her sisters, KIM (2000) and LESLEY (2002) and GABY LE ROUX (1998). Rustenburg friendships endure. A decade or more after school it is Rustenburg friends so often chosen for special roles, bridesmaid or godmother.

..... **AND AN ENGAGEMENT**

I don't expect I shall ever again be the very first person - other than the couple - to know of a Rustenburg engagement. It was very special and it happened like this: KATHY JOHNSON (Fish 1985), her husband, Steve, children Daniel (8) and Amy(6) and I were having a snack stop in the forest of Leopard's Kloof, Betty's Bay. Coming up behind us was a familiar figure, CHIARA WALLERS (1997) and her boyfriend, both out from Bristol. We chatted and they went on ahead. When we reached the top pool, I noticed Chiara and Gary sitting very close, Gary's trouser legs were wet. Later they passed us, eyes shining, 'We've just got engaged' said Chiara, 'Gary went down on his knees in the water'. Chiara was expecting Rustenburg friends among them INGE DE BEER and TRACEY WATSON at the weekend. They will have been celebrating.

IN THE NEWS

Once a month I scan the Cape Times Society supplement. The December issue had a bumper crop of ROG's. There was national director for Habitat for Humanity, DONNÉ CAMERON (Jones 1990), at 567 Capetalk's birthday celebration when the station's staff builds houses. NICKY GREENWALL (1996) was pictured with Robin Fryer at the Appletiser Summer Sunset Series at Kirstenbosch, a special evening for local media. DAPHNE NUNNELEY (Schernbrucker 1963) was one of five finalists for KFM's 'coolest teacher' in the Cape. 3 500 teachers had been nominated by their pupils. Daphne is on the staff of the Junior School. DIANA SEGAL (Duffett 1956) and her husband had attended the Cape Times 'Business Personality of the Year' award presentation.

My children were amazed that I bought the December issue of 'In Style South Africa'. Reason was on the cover, 'EXCLUSIVE! The private side of Nicky Greenwall'. Inside was, "She's travelled the world and witnessed serious A-list celebrity life, but there's no place like home for Showbiz Report's Nicky Greenwall. It's where her heart is". Home is a Green Point apartment she shares with partner of three years, model, Rob Fryer. Nicky comes across as the Nicky we knew at Rustenburg, fun, independent, with friends and family all-important. More than a million viewers tune into her show in etv every Saturday night.

In a Mail and Guardian in December, AURELIA DRIVER (1987) of Monkey Films was listed as one of the judges for the 2007 MultiChoice Vuka! Awards. Judges are asked to look for the 'finer nuances of how the commercial was crystallised'. In the same issue, Aurelia's cousin, AMELIA VAN DER MERWE (1993), is listed as one of three researchers who wrote, 'powerful essays' to accompany renowned photographer, Angela Buckland's images of her autistic son in zip zip my brain harts.

LOUISE CARVER (1996) From the Cape Times, "Experience the music of the South African songwriter composer and singer at the (Oude Libertas) amphitheatre on December 17..Under the Stars with Louise Carver is part of the twilight concert series.....Carver's latest album, Silent Scream was produced in England (y the same production team that produces the music of The Corrs, Mariah Carey, Sting and Tina Turner.....is a blend of folky rock and catchy pop. Play the Game, a song she wrote and sang with Kenny Howkins, was in number one spot on the Belgium national dance charts." I heard Louise being interviewed about the time of this article and learnt she was an Honours graduate, I think from UCT.

I have four different newspaper pictures of DR JOAN PARKER (1956) and the beautifully rehabilitated garden along the banks of the Liesbeek River in Bishopscourt Village mentioned in an earlier issue. First she is in a group of prizewinners in the W Cape Gardens of Pride competitions representing the Bishopscourt Village Residents' Association, which was the winner in the corporate category. Joan has always been the prime mover and worker in this endeavour. Over 100 indigenous trees have been planted over an area of some 4 400 sq m, there are paths, benches, rustic picnic tables - the main 'lounge' can be booked for children's parties. Now there is a 65m wheelchair access boardwalk funded by the City Council and opened by Executive Mayor, Helen Zille. The other pictures result from the opening and are of Joan on the boardwalk with Matthews Moetsi the gardener and of Joan sitting on a bench donated by the BVRA to honour her. A fellow resident said, 'Why a bench? She never sits.' Joan is a retired microbiologist. We can be very proud of this ROG for transforming a thieves' hideout to a public amenity.

TRACY DE KOCK (1983) received an excellent review for her performance in a Geraldine Aron play done by the Milnerton Players late in March.

'....actress HLUBI MBOYA, who plays the HIV-positive character Nandipha on soap opera Isidingo' was part of the caption of a photograph of UCT's Aids Memorial. Hlube (1995) spoke of how her television character had humanised the realities of life with HIV and provided a role model for living a full life despite being HIV positive.

The Thirties

WINIFRED LOWN (Dunseith 1934) sent a letter saying how much she had enjoyed Founders' Day, although at nearly 89 she had found it tiring. About the newsletter, she writes, " How

interestingly impressive are the lives and careers of the past pupils of our wonderful school". She takes great pride in being a past pupil.

The Forties

I had the most welcome letter from MARION BUTLER-BOWDEN (Pollock 1943, staff 1953 – 1955) from Adelaide, Australia, where she has been living since 1964. Marion and her husband left SA for England in 1961 with four sons, and then had a son and two daughters (total seven!) in Adelaide. She went back to teaching when the youngest was four and is still teaching. For the past 15 years she has been teaching Shakespeare and poetry at the University of the Third Age. As a pupil, Marion's friends included JESS MATHEW (Mills 1943 – grandmother of JULIE, diver of 1997) and JOAN HARRINGTON-JOHNSON (Hogg 1943). Marion had enjoyed the various links in the Rustenburg family connected with the Sybil McGregor History Prize, had known PAT WINTER (Hogg) and LORNA (a great friend) and CAROL DICHMONT. MISS LENTIN was her A1 teacher, Miss Roper HM of RGJS. When she joined the staff, her special friends were the late ELIZABETH CARTRIGHT and GERALDINE VAN WAGENINGEN (Cellarius – where is she now? Ed). Marion's "mentor and confidante was Mrs Berrisford, the French teacher, did you marry one of her sons?" PRISCILLA HALL (Blagden 1955) was, "my most memorable studentbecause she wanted philosophy lessons – and was clearly extremely intelligent and articulate". They still correspond. Marion's husband very sadly died in 2001. In 2002 she came to Cape Town to see her nephew, David Pollock, the orthopaedic surgeon whose wife is ROG, CYELLE. Marion sees SUE MYBURGH (1969) - see Dec 2006 issue – as Sue's mother is a friend. Adelaide is a city known for its Festival of the Arts and Festival of the Mind. Marion lives just 3 km from the centre so can easily enjoy theatre, opera, ballet and concerts. Unknowingly she must have seen the works and listened to members of her erstwhile mentor, Enid Berriford's sister's family, all very active in the cultural scene of Adelaide at one time. Marion's children are in Australia, England and the Netherlands. We thank her very much for heeding the plea for donations in the last issue.

Look under The Nineties to read about the granddaughter of MAUREEN SHEPHERD (McCann 194?) of Plumstead.

The Fifties

NATALIE GEARD (Davison 1952) lives in Bellville. She had five children, three of whom matriculated at Rustenburg, CATHERINE (1978), DEBORAH (1979) and BELINDA (1982). Natalie holds a Dip. Pharm and a Dip. Beauty Cult from the Cape and Wits Technical Colleges.

MARTINE WARD (Praetorius 1957) a physiotherapist, spent years in Saudi Arabia, came home to nurse her brother and was returning to the UK to do caring but a broken ankle from, 'a slight slip' in the Wemmershoek mountains put paid to that. She is remaining in Cape Town with sister, ANNEMARIE SAINSBURY (1962) until she visits her daughter MARIANNE NEWELL (Ward 1985) and her first grandchild in Texas See Births and The Eighties.

PEGGY WYNNE (Duffett 1956) and husband, Jeremy, have just returned to Kleinmond after spending four months in Tallahassee, Florida, partly to see grandson Jake and also to collect her green card. Their plan is to move to the USA in the next few years.

Look under The Eighties to read about the daughters of SANDRA BRICE (Sibley 1957)

The Sixties

PENNY PURCHASE chrispenny@telkomsa.net (Smedley 1962) has promised a piece for the next issue as she has just retired as Librarian at Michaelhouse. In the meantime, she lives in the same road, Flamingo Drive, Hilton, as her head girl, CAROL CASSIDY (Bam) – 'Amazing!'.

CORRINE MERRY (Lee 1967) is organising the 40th Reunion. Please contact her at bmerry@iafrica.com or 021 712 0042.

News of LESLEY GREEFF (Van der Schyff 1968) came from her sister Mary. Lesley lives in George and has been married for 34 years to Peter. She has a son and 3 grandchildren in the USA and a daughter in Cape Town.

Visitors to the new Links Golf Club at St Francis Bay will see in a very large and grand entrance, on a very grand table, two large volumes of pressed flowers. These are the flowers which occur naturally on the golf course. Both are inscribed "To Caryl and Bart, With deep appreciation for opening my eyes to the wonders of the flowers of this area, Jack Nicklaus". Our CARYL LOGIE (Todd 1962) and her husband had been appointed Botanical Specialists to minimise disturbance of the natural flora as the course was being built. Designer of the course, Jack Nicklaus, became a good friend. Caryl was a formidable champion of the local flora. Bart recalls how the experts recommended that the approach to the eighth green should go to the left of a small hill. Caryl was firm that fewer plants would be affected if the approach was on the right. Jack Nicklaus said, "If Caryl says right, it must be to the right". Caryl taught Grade 1 at Woodridge School outside Port Elizabeth for many years. Bart was also a teacher there becoming headmaster of the Prep. Their three daughters went right through the school. Now retired, the Logies live at St Francis Bay. Not only are they experts in natural history but local history too. Good companions on a walk.

The Seventies

MARY BARSON (Van der Schyff 1973) lives in Hout Bay where she has been teaching in the local school for 18 years. Her initial qualification was in teaching from Mowbray Training College but she then worked for the municipality for a number of years before obtaining a BA and HED (Pre-primary) through UNISA. She has a daughter, Amber 14, at Camps Bay and Lee who works in London and was to be married in Poland in April. Mary is very disappointed that there is seldom news of her class and that there has not been a reunion. (Somehow you have to find like-minded classmates and get started – MRB)

Look under The Eighties to read about the daughter of GLENDYR BUSBY (Shepherd 197?) of Johannesburg.

The Eighties

A welcome email came from GILL SCOTT (Pritchard 1980). Great that she still is so involved in hockey. I think there was a time when Rustenburg had two members of the national team, Gill and JENNY JANES, also a 1980 E.

I received an email totally out of the blue with some details of membership which I will look up and remit as soon as I can. I have been reading the newsletters on the website which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I met and married an Aussie, Nick, while still living in Cape Town in 1992 and we moved to Adelaide, South Australia in September 1999 with our two daughters Julia and Jacqui (then 2 years and 7 months old) now 10 and 8 years respectively!! I am now a full time Mum having worked at SBSA for 16 years after leaving school. I represented WP in hockey for many years (1985 - 1995) and then also RSA from 1989 to 1993. I am still playing club hockey here (Div 2) and represented South Australia at the ripe old age of 38 in 2002!! I then came to my senses and played in the Vets competition the following year. I do quite a bit of volunteer work at the girls' school and last year got Mini Hockey up and running at the school, which has proved to be very successful and popular.

Also an E of 1980 and living in Australia is PAMELA CHERRY. She lives in Melbourne and has two quite grown-up children

KARIN DIONNE BRICE (1981) sent in her details from Hermanus where she has lived for a decade or more – that gleaned from the fact that Karin has been on the executive committee of the Hermanus Whale Festival since 1996. In the same period she has been involved in Events Organisation and Travel and Marketing and from 2004 to 2005 she was Chairman of the Hermanus Tourism Association. Initially Karin graduated B Soc Sc from UCT and worked for 15 years as a SAA Flight attendant. I am very grateful to her for mentioning the other ROG's in the family; her sister is artist LISA BRICE (1986) now living in London. The Hanel gallery published a book of Lisa's works several years ago; their mother is SANDRA BRICE (Sibley 1957) who I remember from the fifties.

JULIE NEWTON (1987) was married in July 2005 and lives in the UK where she and her husband are both teachers. They spend two months of every year in France with her French mother-in-law.

DEBBY FREDERICKSON (Kenyon 1989) sent an email announcement of her daughter's birth in Denver, 'We're all doing well! Oh, and it looks like she might have red hair! I'm sure many ROG's from the upper 80's will remember Debby's mop of red hair.

MARIANNE NEWELL shynspanner@hotmail.com (Ward 1985) graduated B Sc in OT from UCT in 1989. For a year she worked at Princess Alice Hospital and Tembaletu School in Guguletu. Next she spent 3 years working for Campus Crusade for Christ in the university ministry. A move to the UK resulted in a 12 years stay; studying and working at a Christian community and study centre, obtaining a Post-graduate Certificate in education from Canterbury Christ Church University and then teaching for some years in primary schools in Hampshire. In August 2005, Marianne embarked on a training course in the Charlotte Mason philosophy of Christian education in Fredericksburg, Texas. Within 3 months of arrival she knew that she had finally met the man of her dreams. The engagement was announced 3 months later and the wedding took place in Fredericksburg on 20th May 2006. Her husband, Shawn, has brought up two children from a previous marriage for the past nine years. Now he and Marianne have a baby son - first grandchild for MARTINE WARD (Praetorius 1957).jiddahward@yahoo.co.uk

KATHY JOHNSON (Fish 1985, daughter of Barbara (Lee 1954)) has embarked on a Master's in Science Education at the University of KwaZuluNatal. It is very satisfying to think of a ROG

contributing to development of education in this country. This is how Kathy is approaching her thesis:

My thesis is called "Conceptual hierarchies in Biology: a case study of the South African school curriculum". I am mainly interested in the "translation" of academic biology to school biology. I am looking firstly at the core concepts and hierarchical organisation of these in the discipline of Biology, mainly through the writings of the great 20th century biologist Ernst Mayr. I have written a paper on "Objectives for a school biology curriculum" in which I compare current objectives as delimited in the literature from the developed world with those in the curricula of four African countries (submitted to the US journal Science Education - still waiting to see if it will be accepted - will let you know!). Lastly I map out the content material of the SA curriculum, to see whether it has the capacity to lead students towards the core principles of the subject, and whether it shows clear conceptual progression towards these. I'm loving the process, especially the reading, but still feel I have a very long way to go!!

Kathy is also a busy wife and mother to Steve, Daniel and Amy.
Readand an Engagement for another snippet about the Johnsons.

Somehow I have a note which reads, "JOANNE LEFSON (1989) ½ naked up a tree – bad golfer calendar"!

The Nineties

What a surprise, one morning in March, to have a phone call from Wagga Wagga, New South Wales (3 hours by road from Canberra, 1 hours flight from Melbourne). ROG on the other end of the line was BELINDA AUSTIN (Foster 1991) belindaaustin@yahoo.co.uk wondering whether the December newsletter was out (a gremlin has been in the works affecting emails and website). We had a long chat covering her family and classmates, sadness about Dirkje Mouton and, belatedly, June Sacks, both of whom had taught Belinda, "Mrs Sacks was the best teacher I'd ever had; my only A". Belinda is married to James (ex Bishops), an anaesthetist, and they have a 2-year old son, Leith. Mostly she is a full-time mum but does help out at James' practice on occasion. The family travels often, young Leith has already made 30 flights and their 10th wedding anniversary was celebrated by a holiday in China. If only we'd known we could have had our talk face-to-face as just a week before they had been staying in Betty's Bay, not 150m from our house. Belinda spent the first nine years of married life in England where she was a recruitment consultant, had a year in New Zealand before moving to Australia in 2006. In Wagga Wagga, she is on a welcoming committee helping medical families find their feet, volunteers with a refugee resettlement programme, is moderator for a chatroom for people wanting to immigrate to New Zealand and coordinates various activities at the local church. JOANNE AUSTIN (1987) is Belinda's sister-in-law. A trained nursing sister, Joanne works in Cape Town, approving anti-retroviral drugs for medical aids. Belinda is in fact a 3rd generation Rustybug; her mother is GLENDYR BUSBY (Shepherd 197)who lives in Johannesburg and MAUREEN SHEPHERD,(McCann 1994) of Plumstead is her grandmother, still living in the street where she grew up. Friends of Belinda are JENNY GALLOWAY (Burrows) – see Marriages - who works with the youth of St James Church, Kenilworth, and ANGELA IVEY (Weaver), who has a job in marketing for the Richmond Borough Council, UK.

SHIRLEY SALEH (Crawford 1993) – see Marriages – is in Cape Town working for various television production studios. In her spare time she is learning Arabic as she and her Iraqi/Egyptian-raised-in-Casa Blanca, Morocco husband, Montassir, plan to return to the Middle East. How did our Shirley

find this exotic-sounding husband? After completing a BA in Sociology and Psychology through UNISA, she did a course in theology resulting in a job with the Students' Christian Organisation which opened up opportunities for travel to the US, Egypt, Cyprus, Uganda, and the UK. Back home in South Africa Shirley did a video production course at Media Village, worked in television in Cape Town then was asked by Media Village to help run a video school in Egypt. A 3 month stay turned into 6 months – Shirley had met Montassir doing a discipleship course. For some months communication was via webcam then Montassir came to Cape Town and within 2 months they were married.

Gleaned from her parents at Jenty Alston's wedding - JANE VENTER (Hood 1996) – see Marriages - has just opened her own occupational therapy practice at Richards Bay while her husband is a doctor in Empangeni. They live down the coast at Mtzuni. Jane studied at Stellenbosch, worked in a practice specialising in hands at Vincent Palotti before broadening her experience.

A chance meeting with an instantly recognisable NATASHA DIEST (1997) gave me news of her and friends. JOANNE HANSLO qualified as a pre-school teacher and taught Grade R at Herschel. She married in 2003 and was expecting a son. KIM WENTZEL had two years in London; back home she works for Musica. Natasha graduated B Com in Finance and Economics from UCT in 2001. After spending 6 months in Paris as an intern, she joined her family fishing business as financial director.

EMMA MASPERO (1996) was at a baby-shower (BETSEY JOUBERT'S (Cullis 1963 daughter-in-law) in Stellenbosch. Emma has been very happy to call Stellenbosch home since she began her studies for a B Econ in Logistics Management and Industrial Psychology. This was followed by Honours then a Master's in supply chain management sponsored by CSIR Transportation research. Part of her studies included a 6-week spell in Copenhagen. For the past 5 years she has worked for the CSIR Built Environment section as 'Supply Chain Analyst, Logistics and Quantitative Methods'. This all sounded very technical. In fact what Emma does mostly is to work for poverty alleviation in small communities in the W Cape and the Karoo which she has found very rewarding. Now she hopes to gain international experience in her field.

Congratulations to KAREN VAN DER SPUY (1997). She won the prize for best student in Primary Health Care at the end of her 4th year at UCT's Medical School.

The Twenty-first Century

TARYN McPHERSON (2001) sent in her details of living in Cape Town, of studying through Varsity College for an Advertising Diploma and Damelin; a Bookkeeping Certificate. She has worked for Cobalt Communications, Clicks' in-house radio station and is now a radio presenter and voice artist. She asks about a reunion for her class. That is always arranged by members of that class. I can strongly recommend getting involved in reunions; lots of fun, new friendships, very rewarding.

NANCY ENSLIN (2004), a drama student at UCT, returned to Rustenburg to be one of the three adjudicators at the very successful House Play Festival. Nancy had obtained the 3rd highest mark for Drama in the W Cape in 2004.

BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FOLLOWING:

ENGAGEMENTS

LUCY SCHOLTE (1995) to Paul Copson in October 2006 in Cape Town (home is London, December wedding in Hermanus)

LEIGH SNELLING (??) to Rich Purucker on 30 October 2006 in Charlotte NC USA (v helpfully the notice read 'ex-Rustybug')

HELEN SCOTT (1992) to Geoffrey Cross on 28 December, 2006

TAMSIN DE JONGH (1995) to Tom van Vlaanderen around the end of December 2006

CLAIRE BLOM (1997) to Brett Pearce in March 2007

ELAINE BURGER (2000) to Jeandré (JD) Pienaar in England at the end of March 2007 (wedding planned for October 2008)

CHIARA WALLERS (1997) to Gary Broom at Betty's Bay on Tuesday 27 March 2007

MARRIAGES

ELLEN CORIGALL to Jan van Gent in December 2005 in Cape Town

SHIRLEY KERRIDWEN CRAWFORD (1993) to Montassir Samuel Wadie Saleh at Gardenfly Nursery, Somerset West on 28 April, 2006

ELLEN EDDY (Librarian 1990 – 2000) to ? in 2006

JENNY BURROWS (1991) to Andrew Galloway in May 2006 in Cape Town

SARAH NIXON (1995) to Wynand van Schalkwyk at the Rickety Bridge, Franschoek on 4 November, 2006

JANE HOOD (1996) to Rudolph Venter at Matjiesfontein on 9th December 2006

MARIE BUCHOLTZ (1998) to Bruce MacGregor at Kirstenbosch on 5 January 2007) (Marie is daughter of ANN BEDFORD (1972))

ROBYN CULLIS (1995) to Hayden Hobbs at St Thomas's, Rondebosch, and the Vineyard Hotel on 13 January, 2007

CLARE WINTER (1993) to Mark Bridgens at St Andrew's, Newlands, and the Vineyard Hotel on 27 January 2007

JANET WHITMAN (1995) to Gregory Cuff at St Thomas', Rondebosch, and the Vineyard Hotel on 3 March, 2007 (Janet is daughter of ANGELA BOYES (1966))

GILL SCHOLTE (C 1996) to Graham Denys at St Andrew's and Kirstenbosch on 10 March 2007

JENTY ALSTON (Staff 1993 -1996) to Christopher Young at Hermanus on 31 March 2007-04-02

CARYN BROWNELL (1997) to Alex Starey at Stellenbosch on 31 March 2007

ALISON BERRISFORD (1993) to Stewart Mears on the beach at Yzerfontein on 7 April 2007

BIRTHS

To LINDA WEBB (1992) and Andrew Bateman, a son Murray, brother to Jonathan and Ruth, in November 2006 in Cape Town

To MARGARET FOXCROFT (1991) and Alexander Fokkens, a son Jack Andreas Leo, brother and "already adored by his three ladies-in-waiting, Victoria, Naomi and Nadia" on 18 November 2006 (grandson to AUDREY 1956)

To JACKY CHAMBERS (current Head of Art, also a ROG) a son Jasper on 30 November 2006

To ELIZE O'CONNOR (current art teacher) a 4.7 Kg daughter also around 30 November 2006

To TARYN LUITINGH (1995) and Clint Vosloo, a son, Jagger, brother to Sienna on 30 December, 2006, in Cape Town

To ALISON ABERT (1989) and Brendan (Nossa) Coyle, a daughter, Tessa Lilly, sister to Spencer in January 2007 in Auckland, New Zealand

TO DEBBY KENYON (1989) and Channing Frederickson, a daughter Alida May on 17 January 2007 in Denver, Colorado, USA

To JENNY McMURRAY (1993) and Andrew Leaver, a son, Nicholas James, brother to David on 25 January 2007 in Weybridge, UK.

To SALLY MASTERSON (1993) and Karl le Roux, a daughter, Emma Margareta Du Pré on 7 February 2007 in East London (Sally is daughter of JENNY (Solomon 1963))

To LIESL VON BENEKE (1993) and Frank Böttger, a daughter Daniella Lee on 22 February 2007 in Cape Town (Liesl is daughter of GLENDA (Fish 1963))

To FIONA BERRISFORD (1989) and Christopher Berens, a son, brother to Peter and Nico on 18th March 2007 in Cape Town (5th grandson for MRB)

To KIRSTI LEWIS (1993) and Duncan Gutsche a daughter, Katherine Susan, sister to Samantha, on 20 March 2007 in Cape Town

To JANICE ABERNETHY (1993) and Mike Proban a second child in March in Cape Town

To ADRIENNE MILLER, (Staff in the 90's) and Jörn, a daughter, sister to Thomas 9 and Alex 6, on 24 March 2007 in Windhoek

To DIANE GALLIE (1994) and Mike James a son, Daniel John (a whopping 4.56 Kg!) at 6am on 1 April 2007 in London

To TANIA HASS (1989) and Martin Duys, a son Conrad Leslie, brother to Oscar in May in Cape Town

To MARIANNE WARD and Shawn Newell a son, Jonathan Pieter Keith Newell on 19 May 2007 in Texas. (8lbs and 19' 5")

To ZARGILAY RABEH (Arend - Biology Staff) and husband, a son, Achmat, on 24 May 2007 in Cape Town

IN MEMORIAM

SUSANNAH KROLL (Minchuk 1954) We offer deepest sympathy to the family of Susannah.

JENNIFER McCULLAGH (Beyer 1955) died in the spring of 2006 after an illness. The church was full of poppies and people. To daughter, ALANA McCULLAGH (1997) and the family, we extend our deep sympathy.

EVOL THOMPSON (Moys 193?) died in Cape Town on 2 March 2007. Her family scattered her ashes on the top of Table Mountain because Evol's first job was in the curio shop up there. Evol is mother of the five Thompson sisters – see the last issue and the obituary for her daughter Pam.

COLONEL DENZIL LOVELAND, one of our few Old Boys.

.....

HILLARIE MCGILL (? 192?).....1908 – April 2006

Hillarie died in Hermanus last year. She matriculated at Rustenburg, taught in Kalk Bay and Rhodesia before going to London for training at a Bible College in Wimbledon. On her return she worked as secretary of the YWCA holiday home in Muizenberg and in 1945 married a Scottish missionary, Andrew McGill. His work took them to Adelaide in the Karoo where they were much

involved in the missionary field. As a widow, Hillarie moved to Hermanus where she has lived for nearly 40 years. At Huis Lettie Theron home, Hillarie was known as the 'prayer warrior'. Even when bed-ridden she was always keen to know about the work of mission so she could pray for them. At the age of 90 she started broadcasting an intercession programme on Radio 7. Was she the oldest broadcaster in the world? Also in her nineties, she started painting for the first time since school. Her cards and bookmarks were sold for missions; she was mission-minded all her life. Hillarie is survived by her only child, Graeme, of Cape Town. To him and his family we offer deep sympathy. Hillarie must have been in contention for being the oldest ROG.

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DIRKJE MOUTON (Sommers)... 8 12 1958 – 30 12 2006

Retired Afrikaans teacher, ELIZE LIVINGSTONE writes about Dirkje's sixteen years at Rustenburg.

Dirkje and I were colleagues for 16 years. She taught first and second language from grades 8 – 12. From approximately 1992, Dirkje and I were in charge of the Afrikaans department, as heads of Eerste Taal and Tweede Taal respectively.

Dirkje was a resourceful, wide-thinking and patient person. I truly admired her insight and understanding of financial matters. It was re-assuring to have someone liked her when it came to presenting our yearly subject budget to the Governing Body (Teachers are not known for their financial brilliance – otherwise they probably would not have entered the profession!!)

Dirkje had great organisational skills. I think of the huge and daunting task for ordering text books for the teachers as well as organising second-hand book sales for all the grades. Thanks to her girls were able to order and receive their stationery requirements before they left for the summer holidays. In this way she played a big role in enabling the whole school to get on with the academic work almost immediately after school opening in January.

As teaching methods, approach and systems changed (not always for the best) our workload became more and more demanding. Thank goodness for our other two excellent and dedicated colleagues – MARIETJIE LE ROUX and HELENA VAN DEN BERG. I always think of those years as the golden era of the Afrikaans department and Rustenburg. We supported each other wholeheartedly and stepped in for one another without fussing about it. Dirkje was an innovative teacher who could always offer good AND workable ideas to handle some of the new methods thrust upon us. Between the four of us, we must have had more than fifty years experience. We were determined not to allow the new approach/system to lower the quality of our teaching, of to be to the detriment of the girls. It was a frustrating time, eased by that great life-saver, a sense of humour!

Dirkje and I shared an interest in and the enjoyment of watching cricket. We went to ODI's at Newlands together on a number of occasions. Being language teachers, we enjoyed all things beautiful – including tall, athletic fast bowlers running in to bowl: Waqar Younis of Pakistan was one of our favourites! We worked hard, but also maintained a balance. One of our (the four of us) favourite places was the Wild Fig where we usually went on the last day of term. There were so many memorable school outings, like taking girls to Klein Plaasie near Worcester, theatre outings, visits to places of cultural interest. At school, in the late nineties, Dirkje and Marietjie organised a

Potjiekos competition for the parents. Valentine's Day saw classes presenting Afrikaans liedjies, short plays or even a Cupid show. We had fun and enjoyed our teaching.

Dirkje will be remembered with much love and gratitude for everything she brought to our lives. She was always a good listener; wise in the advice she offered. It was a privilege and a pleasure to work along side someone with so much personal and professional integrity.

Thank you, Elize, for this picture of a devoted teacher, wonderful colleague and also superb team-teaching. Elize and Marietjie (down from Johannesburg) visited Dirkje in hospital the day before she died and recalled that golden era of Afrikaans teaching at Rustenburg. On the last afternoon, Dirkje's husband, Ian, phoned Moraig and me and perhaps others, from her bedside. Strong bonds there are in friendships forged in the Rustenburg staffroom. VENELIA, a member of the school cleaning staff, remembered her predecessor and friend, the late VERA speaking very highly of Mrs Mouton, saying what a caring person she was.

In her last month, Dirkje could be part of two landmarks in her children's lives; she was at her daughter Rosalind's twenty-first birthday party and heard her son Johan's pleasing Matric result. She spent her own birthday in hospital but was able to be at home for several hours on Christmas Day.

The memorial service for Dirkje was held at the Constantia NG Kerk on 16th January. 2007. The church was packed and there were many of her colleagues and pupils from Rustenburg as well as those from Herschel where she had headed the Afrikaans department after leaving Rustenburg.

I am listing those from the Rustenburg community I recognised to show what an impact Dirkje made on people, even when teachers had been at Rustenburg for only short period. From the Afrikaans department over the years: Elize, Helena van den Berg and her husband, Hanneke de Bruijn, Teresa O'Reilly, Vanessa Muller; the headmistresses; Jo McIntyre, Mary van Blerk, Elizabeth Fullard, retired deputy, Marian Lennox; Moraig McLeod (down from Sedgfield), Gill Cockram, Simone de Clerq (Hammer) - Jane Moodie (Jeffery) had a teaching commitment in Elgin – Reviva Schermbrucker, Linelle Holland, Mariette Wagener, Imke Hartley; current staff, René Fourie, Biddy Ryan, Sally Michel, Shannon Dowdall, Jackie Weston, Z Simpson, Denise Cowan and the music department's Liz Sole, Judith Dernier, Ivan Kilian. Past pupils from Dirkje's 1997 1st language class included TARYN SMART, ANNETTE OLIVIER, SAM CENTURIER-HARRIS (Fick). They had been in her class for five years. KIM BUCHOLTZ (2000) was there with her mother, ANN (Bedford 1972). There were more past pupils I missed in the throng. Johan was supported by Wynberg Boys' High's first rugby team. We learnt that, not surprisingly, Dirkje had been head girl of her school, Zwaanswyk, before studying at Stellenbosch. She and Ian had been married for twenty-eight years. To Ian, Rossie, Johan and Mr Sommers, Dirkje's father, we extend our deepest sympathy. Donations in memory of Dirkje can be made to 'The Sunflower Fund'

The service sheet ended with these words:

We wish to thank all relatives and friends for your prayers, kindness, visits, flowers and condolences over the past three years with Dirkje's parting words to us all

"Live life to the full"

.....

LYNDA ANN MITCHELL (McMillan 1970) 26 1 1953 – 27 9 2006

I am grateful to the writers of the obituaries of Lynda in the Bishops magazine and the Mountain Club of SA's Mountain Ears, both of December 2006. Lynda was so clearly a much-valued member of both communities. Her aunt, VIVIENNE CLARK (Jagger 1956).gave me details of Lynda's mother's family. JO McINTYRE very clearly remembers Lynda as being 'such a nice girl' in Jo's very first English class at Rustenbug.

Lynda was born in Worcester, Cape, middle daughter of ALDYTH McMILLAN (Jagger 1940's). She was at both the Junior and Senior schools, met her husband Rob while still at school and became engaged when she was at the Mowbray Training College, studying for her primary School Teaching Diploma. Marrying in 1974, Lynda was amongst the early teachers to obtain the Diploma in Remedial Education from UCT, and established the remedial teaching programme at SACS. Once her son Anthony had passed through the Bishops Pre-Prep, Lynda was persuaded to accept the post of Entrance Class Teacher. In this position she excelled, her "real legacy at the Pre-Prep is her work done in introducing progressive teaching methods. She pioneered the introduction of Teacher Aides and in so many ways nurtured the change from the old establishment and the move towards a more open and progressive school". In the same way, at the Mountain Club of SA, Lynda made a great contribution in establishing the Outreach Programme. At her funeral service in the Bishops War Memorial Chapel, there was a busload of young children from the Cape Flats who had been able to enjoy the mountains through Lynda's efforts. Although she had been a hiker for only six years and a member of MCSA for only four, she was wholehearted in her activities, doing many 5-day trails, leading climbs, kloofing, rock climbing. At her very first rock climb she arrived with bright red fingernails, makeup on, hiking clothes neatly pressed - the climbers were stunned - she managed the climb without problems. Lynda was to have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with friends this January. With Lynda's passion for mountains came a passion for painting wild flowers. She was very proud when four of her paintings .were accepted for exhibition at the Kirstenbosch Biennale just a few weeks before her death. A lifelong interest was ballet and in 1999 at the age of 47 she was thrilled to be a 'guest extra' in the Cape Town City Ballet's production of La Bayadere. Lynda took part in several memorable staff plays at the College.

One would have thought from all of this that Lynda had enjoyed robust health. In fact she had had to overcome the limitations of asthma, extreme allergies and a pacemaker. She and Rob had taken early retirement in 2002. Lynda's family always came first and it was in retirement that she could enthusiastically follow her chosen pursuits. In the end she died quietly in her sleep.

To Rob, her children Anthony and Helen, and her sisters, SHIRLEY WITTRIDGE (McMillan 1967) of Pinelands and WENDY McMILLAN (197?) of the University of the Western Cape, we extend our deepest sympathy.

As a footnote, Lynda's mother was one of three Jagger sisters; the late AUDREY DAVIDSON whose three daughters were all at Rustenburg, Lynda's mother, ALDYTH who died in 1986, and the much younger VIVIENNE CLARK (1950's). The current secretary to the Headmistress, Jackie Weston is Viv's daughter and Lynda's cousin.

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I am grateful to JUDITH GORDON (Stuart Watson 1964) for this obituary for her mother.

JOAN STUART-WATSON (Parsons 1931) 30 11 1914 – 15 03 2007

It is with sadness that we record the passing, on 15 March 2007, of Mrs Joan Stuart-Watson (born 30 November 1914). Her long and many-faceted connection with Rustenburg dated back to 1928 when the Parsons family moved from Durban to Cape Town: Joan entered Standard Seven, and her older sister, Enid, went into matric. Joan remembered her schooldays with happiness: her friends included Helen Austin, later Robinson (mother of Dorothea, now Natrass, Matric 1964.)

After gaining matric in 1931 a few months before the High School moved to the Erinville site, she continued her education at Mowbray Training College, gaining her Teaching Diploma in 1933 and her kindergarten qualification in 1934. She taught at Lansdowne Preparatory School for six years before moving to Rustenburg Junior School in 1941. When World War II ended, Bill Stuart-Watson arrived in Cape Town with other demobbed soldiers from England on the ship, the Aquitania: Joan Parsons was on the quayside to meet him and the next year, on 24 August 1946, they were married. In due course Judith and Campbell were born.

Judith entered the kindergarten at Rustenburg in 1954 and when Campbell started attending Rondebosch Boys' School in 1958, Joan returned to teaching, first at Micklefield School, and then to a full time kindergarten post at Oakhurst in 1961. After twelve very happy years she returned to Micklefield, and retired completely in 1978 while Judith was teaching at Rustenburg High (1971 to 1983).

After Bill died in 1985 she moved to a flat in Kenilworth, later spent two years in Pretoria with Tim and Judith, returned with them to Cape Town in 1999 and moved to Huis Nuweland in December 2001 where she spent more than five happy and peaceful years.

Joan loved all animals, and there was a succession of cats at home as well as a black dog called Meggie who was devoted to her. Having taken Botany for matric, she also enjoyed plants, especially flowers and trees, and remarked constantly about the beauty of the trees in England during her visits there in the 1970s.

She played the piano, having been taught at one time by Helga Bassel, the mother of Pieter-Dirk and Tessa Uys whom she remembered as children. She sang in various choirs, and played hockey and tennis at the Claremont Club. Pat McCrindle, pupil at Rustenburg in the 1940s and 50s, wrote in a letter dated 17 March 2007 to Judith (whom she taught, together with Margaret Duck, now Cockburn):

It's strange what a lasting impression that year in her class, so long ago, made on me, and that some people just remain special, although one seldom sees them again. She always seemed so serene, highly intelligent right into older life and so interested in others, as well as in current trends and affairs.

She is remembered with love by family, friends and past pupils.

(I remember, gratefully, Mrs Stuart Watson as a wise, warm and sensible teacher of my children in Sunday School - MRB)

PAMELA JOYCE MOYS (Thompson 1958) 18 10 1940 – 29 05 2007

The last newsletter had a heading, 'The Thompson Sisters'. This was as a result of a letter from the second-eldest, Pam, a letter that was delayed on account of a serious bout of asthma and its aftermath. It was another bout which suddenly ended the life of Pam, known to her family as Pom-Pom. Her memorial service was held at the Rosebank Methodist Church. The organ was played beautifully by the eldest Thompson sister, WENDY VAN RENSBURG (1956). The photograph on the front of the service sheet showed a youthful Pam on her scooter; inside were the words of four hymns, chosen with particular tunes, by Pam herself and written in the back of her Bible. Together, the picture and words showed this was to be a service of rejoicing and thanksgiving for someone for whom Rosebank Methodist Church was a lifelong, second home. Pam's husband, Colin, opened the service talking about her life. Family had been central: Pam had rejoiced in her children and their achievements and had had the greatest joy from her three-year-old granddaughter (ESTELLE is the mother). Rustenburg had played a significant part with friends being all-important. He mentioned a number starting with ROSEMARIE GILCHRIST (Lyons-Montgomery RGJS 50's) with whom she maintained a steady correspondence and met again after 30 years, and ending with LESLEY LOW (McMurray 1958). Each Tuesday morning Pam and Lesley had a phone chat and had done so on the last day of Pam's life. In Pam's own words, "More than anything, I have Rustenburg to thank for so many great friendships. What a lovely lot of girls were in my standard. "Pam and Lesley trained together at Mowbray Training College and later both taught at Observatory Primary. Lesley read a passage beginning, "I have fought a good fight".

Pam lived her whole life in her family home but for two spells in Switzerland as governess where she learnt to crave Toblerone, and 9 years in Durban where, 41 years ago, she had met her husband to be, Colin. Living with her father who was in the motor trade, Pam developed a passion for watching Formula One. It was said there were two men in her life, Colin and Michael Schumacher. This and much more came from her three children as they talked about their mother and also took part in the service. Son Garth used the Formula One metaphor – his mother was not given pole position in life, the engine sputtered, there were pit-stops but she faced the set-backs, rejoiced in the good times and finished first, as a wife, mother and friend. Daughter ESTELLE GAYLARD (Moys 1988) spoke of Pam's love for ballet and one of her lifetime-highlights: seeing Margot Fonteyn perform in Durban. Other highlight were being at the first School and Varsity camp at Victoria Falls, accomplishing a challenging climb on Table Mountain but Pam's usual activities were not physical. Younger daughter, JEANNE-LOUISE (she lit the candle representing the Future at Rustenburg's 90th birthday in 1984) spoke of Pam the homemaker who loved domesticity, who was a nurturer par excellence, who created a magical world for her children. Her sister CELIA HALKETT (1963) spoke of Pam as a survivor, a squirrel, a lover of the natural world who would have rejoiced in the full moon that week. Phrases from the concluding word of the Rev Tim Atwell – a wonderful collage, full of joy and love; radiant faith; she loved the cadences of the Christian faith and finally "she enriched the life of this congregation and will continue to do so." Pam had chosen a blessing to be read from Ephesians specifying the King James Version. Tea in the hall was provided by the Wednesday Club which Pam had lead for many years. Among the throng were FIONA WATSON (Stewart 1953), ROGU Vice-President AVRIL KELLER (1974), PAM THOMPSON (Ball 1956), and DIANA BOOTH (Walker 1958). There must have been others I didn't recognise. Pam was a faithful member of ROGU, attending the Founders' Day gatherings. Nobody mentioned it but at the Junior School, Pam was awarded the Honour Prize; in the year of the School's Diamond Jubilee.

To Colin, Estelle, Garth, Jeanne Louise, and the Thompson family we offer our very sincere condolences.

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Reunions

1967 Please contact CORINNE MERRY (Lee) at bmerry@iafrica.com or 021 712 0042 about your reunion. There will be morning tea in Erinville at 10am – in the boarding house as the school is hosting an interschool hockey tournament that day. Lunch will be at Blues in Camps Bay. Corinne will be away mid-June to mid-July so contact SANDY DOMMISSE at dommisse@netactive.co.za

There must be other reunions on the go. As you come together, please think how your class can contribute to the school, either with specific gifts or by a donation to the ROGU Bursary Fund. Rondebosch Old Boys' has embarked on a campaign to raise R10 000 000 for the school in honour of the 100th birthday of the Old Boys' Union (Some of the money will be spent on staff housing).

I am seeing rainbows in the spray driven up high by a wild wind. Winter is here.

Best wishes to you all

Mary Rose
Betty's Bay

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

From time to time we receive requests to locate former pupils. Can anyone help with present contact details for the following?

Linda Hofmeyer (maiden name) who was at RGHS between 1968 and 1972

Jean Purkis (or Purkiss) who would have left school between 1948 and 1952. She lived in Pinelands during those years and many after.

If they (or someone who knows their whereabouts) could get in touch with the database administrator, they may obtain information about the persons trying to get in touch with them. No details will be passed on without their express permission. Send an email to rogu2000@hotmail.com or call Daphne Burger on (021) 683-1597 (after hours).