

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 48

JULY 2008

Dear Rustenburg Old Girls

A year has passed since I joined the Rustenburg community and I feel so privileged to be part of the family. I recently had the pleasure of meeting a really special "old girl". Margaret Bremer, Head Girl and Dux in 1935 also played western province and district hockey. Margaret or Greta as she is affectionately known, started her tertiary studies at Dartford Physical Training College in London and returned to South Africa two years later to complete her BSc Physical Education Degree at the University of Stellenbosch. In 1942 Greta married and has six children. Greta went on to lecture at the Pretoria Teachers' College and later at the University of Stellenbosch, where she ultimately completed her MA degree in Afrikaans Cultural History – and this at the age of 80!

At the age of 90, most people slow down to enjoy a relaxed life surrounded by family – but not this lady. Greta's hobby is setting children's stories to music and then working out an appropriate exercise for them to do while they listen. The programme is aimed at four to eight year olds.

Greta enjoyed a tour of the school and joined me for tea. An invitation was extended to attend our Founder's Day on Friday, 30 January 2009 and we hope that many of you will meet her there. Filled with grit and determination, I believe Greta Gericke (nee Bremer) is an exceptional person and a source of pride to our school.

The School Governing Body has had a busy year. Two building improvement projects in particular need to be mentioned. The refurbishment of Charlie's Hope included the hall area, tuck shop, additional rooms and ablution facilities. Charlie's Hope is a multi-purpose venue that meets the needs of the music department, who will have the use of a percussion room, an area for storage and a performance venue. The venue will also be home to after-match hosting of sports teams and an additional hall for society and general school functions. **And Charlie's Hope will be an ideal venue for hosting ROGU reunions.**

The administrative block has been reorganised and refurbished, which has significantly improved the working conditions of the administrative staff. The school also boasts new telephone and intercom systems. The reception area will be completed in the next few weeks which will offer a warm and inviting waiting area for visitors to the school.

Future plans for this year include sinking a borehole to help keep water costs down and to ensure quality sports fields, upgrading the swimming pool facilities and maintenance repairs to Erinville.

Please continue to support us as we strive to keep Rustenburg as one of the leading girls' schools in the country.

Best Regards
Laura Bekker

ROGU GRAND PIANO FUND

Charlie's Hope is well on its way towards completion of its improvements but so far we cannot say the same of our fund-raising efforts towards the piano. To date we have raised just over R20,000 towards the estimated R99,000 required to replace the old piano.

At Founders' Day all present made generous donations and the 1956 Matrics have also made a concerted effort in raising funds for this cause. Jean Hunneyball (Anderson 1956) made a donation in memory of her mother, Nan Anderson, a former music teacher at the school, who had started the choir and inaugurated the custom of carrying lit candles around the quadrangle at Christmas.

Your assistance in helping us obtain this urgently needed piano will be greatly appreciated by current pupils and staff and those in years to come! To all those who have already made a donation, many thanks!

Please deposit or electronically transfer your kind donations into Nedbank Claremont savings account number 2046666046, branch code 104609, Swift code NEDS ZA JJ (for overseas deposits/transfers), giving you name and telephone number as the reference.

Please advise Maureen Mantell (tel/fax (021) 6711996) 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

FOUNDERS' DAY

This was the first Founders' Day for new headmistress, LAURA BEKKER. She seems to have fitted easily into Rustenburg. We were warmly welcomed by her as we made our way along the cloisters* to the Thomson Hall. There was a good crowd for tea ranging from very new ROG bursary winners and their supporters, to the fairly ancient who delight in all the proceedings. Speaker at the assembly was DR BRENDA MORROW (Stupart 1991) with a very well presented and well judged address which I am very happy to present to you below. Brenda has a PhD in Physiotherapy and is a postdoctoral Research Fellow in UCT's Division of Paediatric Critical Care and Children's Heart Disease. She is based at the Red Cross Children's Hospital. Brenda is married and has a two-year-old daughter, Tia.

"Good morning; Ms Bekker, staff, old girls and young ladies... thank you so much for inviting me to speak here today. It is a great honour, and a pleasure to return to my alma mater. Thank you for your formal introduction; but now you have heard about my academic life on paper, I want to briefly tell you the more personal story of how I got to where I am today.

When I was five years old I had a best friend, as one does. She was a very tiny girl, with an infectious laugh and when she passed away at the age of only seven, gave me my first experience of loss. This little girl is also one of the main reasons that I stand before you today. She had cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease that mainly affects the lungs and growth. I remember watching her get a physiotherapy treatment one day when I was playing at her house. It seemed barbaric to me then,

and still does today. She was turned upside down and beaten until she coughed and cleared her lungs of the glue-like phlegm which was clogging her airways. At the time I wondered whether there wasn't a better way of doing things...she had to experience this treatment at least twice a day, every day of her short life. So at the age of six I decided to become a physiotherapist: I wanted to work with children with cystic fibrosis; and I wanted to do it better.

Throughout my schooling, I remained focused on becoming a paediatric physiotherapist, and after eventually qualifying in 1995 I was lucky enough to get my dream job at Red Cross Children's Hospital across the common. I cannot express to you the degree of work satisfaction in helping a disabled child learn to walk, in seeing critically ill babies healing and coming back afterwards with smiles and deep appreciation from their families. I started working in the intensive care unit and at that stage virtually every child on life support ventilation systems received chest physiotherapy, which again involved turning them and bashing them, and then pushing a tube far down their throats to suck out the phlegm which had been loosened. I started asking questions again – should we be doing this at all, and if so isn't there a better way? And I didn't just think about these things, I discussed them with one of my mentors, a very experienced paediatrician who has headed the intensive care unit for many years. Luckily he took the concerns of a young physiotherapist seriously and suggested that we start looking objectively at paediatric chest physiotherapy. These questions, and the research that followed led to my doctorate – but this was not an end. In fact, I consider myself to still be in the starting blocks with a long road ahead... But, as a result of my research completed thus far now only a few specific children get chest physiotherapy, and we don't turn them upside down anymore and we don't beat them. Where possible we achieve the same effect by playing games: blowing bubbles, making noise, walking, jumping, throw balls and basically allow hospitalized patients to become children again!

The last part of the story completes the circle: in 1998 I started working in the cystic fibrosis (CF) clinic; with the same doctor who had treated my little friend 20 years earlier (and incidentally he remembered her very clearly). Although chest physiotherapy is an essential part of the daily care of children with CF, we have changed how this is done: it should not be painful, and we actually try and make it as pleasant and even as fun as possible! As a result of improved medical and physiotherapy care, children born with CF today can expect to fulfill long and productive adult lives.

I missed out an important bit in the middle: my five very busy years experiencing pretty much everything Rustenburg had to offer. I would probably have been considered a bit of a nerd; but at least I was a very well-rounded nerd...I took all the subjects needed to get into Physiotherapy (Science, Biology, Maths), but I also did Art as a creative outlet; and do ceramics now for the same reason. After hours I was quite a serious dancer, practicing five days out of seven. At school I took piano lessons; sang in the choir; joined the orchestra; performed in school plays; played hockey; was a member of the debating team; did public speaking and joined the Interact society.

Despite being so busy with extramural activities I achieved well academically; but what equipped me most for my current career was being given the freedom and the confidence to ask questions and to find my own ways of answering them, beyond the curriculum. I think things are quite different now with outcome-based education, but in my day this was not a common teaching style! And I remain deeply thankful to certain teachers for giving me this freedom of learning.

I had a drive to achieve in everything, a drive shared by a number of my closest friends from Rustenburg. Unfortunately one of these friends was a victim of her own single-minded ambition, and

despite excelling in her every endeavour, was so deeply unsatisfied that she eventually took her own life.

Today I want to give you a positive message from the very hard lesson I learnt, and that is a message about balance. In this day and age we all suffer the stress of infinite opportunity. Rustenburg quite correctly empowers women to know that they are capable of achieving whatever they put their minds to. However, here follows a note of caution that we all need to remember: yes, we can do anything, but we cannot do everything!

From an early age one gets caught up in the whirlwind of life, school, a career, a family... it is difficult when so busy to find the time and quiet space to understand yourself and your own goals. But this balance is essential in order to gain quality, and not just quantity of life. Balance involves managing time and managing boundaries - making choices and enjoying the choices you have made. It also involves continual reflection as to whether you are achieving your goals, whether you have new goals to achieve, and whether the process of achieving your aspirations is both fulfilling and enjoyable. Change is not failure.

On this important day I have had the privilege to return to the school that gave me so much: a school that, despite some cosmetic and demographic changes, fundamentally maintains the same ethos that I knew so well - providing a learning environment in which the unique potential of every girl is both valued and nurtured.

Nelson Mandela said, "There is nothing like returning to a place that remains largely unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered." So how have I changed? I take time for myself and my family; I work hard but I play hard as well; I make my own goals, not those that others have set for me. The measure of my own success is not based on the number of qualifications, or of research publications; it is not measured by how much I earn (physiotherapy by the way is not a lucrative profession); nor is it measured as much by the approval of others (although I have to work on this still). I try and tell myself that even if I do nothing more, because of me some children have breathed more easily, and have been given the opportunity to experience life. I have affected people's lives, and this is to have succeeded.

I urge you all to experience all that Rustenburg has to offer, and it has a lot, make your goals and realise your dreams; and above all, remain true to yourselves."

Brenda was warmly thanked by the head girl, Buhle Ngaba.

* (ELISE LIVINGSTONE (retired Staff) much-loved Afrikaans teacher would tell the story of how, when she first arrived at Rustenburg, staff would refer to the cloisters, the meaning of which was a complete mystery to a young woman fresh from the Border country).

Bursary Winners

ROGU President, JEANNE JACKSON, (1954) presented the ROGU bursaries. **Diamond Jubilee Bursaries** are awarded to the top Senior Certificate student in each year for a period of four years. These went to: KIRSTEN ROWE, (2007), a medical student at the Tygerberg Campus of Stellenbosch University, who is continuing with her singing and dreams of being a missionary doctor building community centres/clinics in rural African communities, CARMEN HARTMANN (2006), second year BA English at UCT, KATHERINE PATERSON (2005), third year MBChB at UCT, KHADEEJA BASSIER

(2004), who is in her Honours year of Actuarial Science at UCT, where she is a tutor for evidence based management and organised the orientation week programme for the Investment Society.

The **Mavis Wakeford Bursary** is awarded to ROG's intending to teach. This year's winners were: FRANCES-ANN ERNSTZEN (2007), daughter of MEG MOODIE (1977)), who is at Stellenbosch studying education, specializing in Foundation Phase, LISA KOTZE (1999) and MEAGAN REES (1999), daughter of GLYNNE ALLAN (1966). See The Nineties to read about Lisa and Meagan. Mavis Wakeford was an eccentric teacher of Scripture and English in the fifties, who bequeathed Rustenburg Old Girls' Union money for this bursary.

A special guest at the Founders' Day lunch was the new headmistress of RGJS. She is DI BERRY, who is enjoying getting to know little girls. For the past thirteen years she was a teacher at Wynberg Boys Junior School.

ROG'S at Founders' Day

Quite by chance **Rotary Exchange Scholar** DEBORAH HUGHES (1969 – 1970) was in town for Founders' Day. See The Seventies for her news.

Among the more senior ROG's present at the tea were the ASKEW sisters mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter. They are AMY (Peacock 1932) and JOAN (Peacock 1941), who married brothers, and very good they both look; both had driven to the school. Amy was nearing her 93rd birthday and she talked fondly of OLIVE RUNCIMAN (Cloete 1956) retired matron of Huis Nuweland where Amy lives. The sisters are mentioned in 'White Stoep on the Highway' as being present at the 75th anniversary celebration of Rustenburg when their mother-in-law, ETHEL ASKEW (Powis) (who was born in 1889) as the oldest ROG there, lit the candle on the cake.

Young ROG's included LAUREN KNIGHT (2006) and KARIN WIESE (2006) second year medical students at UCT. Also from that year was NICOLE WATSON with her mother, JUNE (Tribelhorn 1971). Nicole took a gap year when she spent two months in Australia. Now in her second year of Business Science at UCT she is a member of the RAG committee and enjoys playing the trumpet in the Cape Town Concert Brass. MARIA CARVAINES (2004) is in her fourth year of Business Science (CA) at UCT, where she is a tutor in Accounts. MICHELL MEYER (1996) was in and out of the social part of the day – See Staff.

JEAN COWAN (Wisdom 1957) stayed on for the lunch and told us of her amazing experience in Stockholm last year. Her mother, Doris Lessing, had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and although Doris Lessing herself was not strong enough for the rigours of the award ceremony, her family was entitled to take part in the week-long festivities. Jean and her two daughters attended the very impressive ceremony, met the Queen of Sweden, and were guests at lunch party given by the British Ambassador for British prize-winners and at other gatherings.

Together at the lunch were JENNY MASTERSON (Solomon 1963) and the ROWE sisters, SUE QUIRK (1963) and ANGELA McDONALD (B 1955), Angela being out from England. See The Fifties for her story.

CHARMIAN PLUMMER (Marais 1956) presented the Ubuntu Prize at Assembly. This prize is awarded to the girl who shows awareness of and concern for the plight and needs of others and reacts compassionately and humanely to these needs. It was given to the school by the Class of '56.

Forty Years on

The Headmistress read a letter from the Head girl of 1968, BETTY BAERECKE (Caplan)

"Dear Girls

When I was a little girl, all I wanted to do was become a teacher. Today, I am teaching at Wynberg Girls' Junior School and I am still passionate about my job!

Many moons ago, my sister Sue and I attended Rustenburg and 2008 marks my 40th year out of school. If you look in the gallery, you will see our photographs from 1966 and 1968, when we each served the school as Head Girl. I wonder what the prefects' room looks like now! In our day, we thought it was so cool!

Today I look back with pride on the fine education I received at Rustenburg – even though I dreaded certain things like those unseen Latin translations! I am not sure whether Rustenburg is one of the few schools that still offers such a subject! I remember with fondness our Headmistress, Miss Thomson, whose presence was always announced by her faithful dog, Shadow. I am still very good friends with a girl whom I met at the age of 4 and we were in the same class, right through Junior and High School!

I wish each one of you success and happiness for this year. Reach for the stars and achieve your dreams."

It may be a Rustenburg record for two sisters to have been head girls. The photographs of prefects are no longer in the gallery, probably stashed away in the archives. Rustenburg does still have a Latin department but read this extract from the school magazine of 2008 by subject head, JO SLATER:

"The six Matrics have had the privilege of reading Virgil's great poem, the *Aeneid* and have also been amazed by the splendid oratory of Cicero in his political speeches. All these girls have discovered that the rigorous logic required by Latin, as well as its human aspect has enriched them immensely. Our motto has been and continues to be *vitae non scholae discimus* – we learn not for school, but for life. It is with great sadness that I report that in the future Latin is no longer to be offered as an option in Grade 8 at Rustenburg"

STAFF

RUTH DOSE (Staff 40's to 60's) sounded very cheerful on the phone. She still drives but is not very mobile otherwise. There are now two ROG's on the teaching staff of the high school. BIDDY RYAN (1977) has been joined by MICHELLE MEYER (1996) who graduated B.Mus at UCT but is also qualified to teach Maths, which is what she is doing to grades 6 – 12. See "A Betty's Bay Summer" for more news of staff.

IN THE NEWS

The Cape Times of January 15, listed the nominations for amateur theatre awards. TRACY DE KOCK (1983) was in the category for Best Actress in a Play or Musical for her performance in *My Brilliant Divorce* by Geraldine Aron done by the Milnerton Players.

HILARY PRENDINI TOFFOLI is an old RUSTYBUG (Young 1959) – see last issue. I am grateful to ANNEMARIE CARTER (Baker 1955) for confirming this and reminding me that Hilary is the younger sister of JAY SMITH (Jacqueline Young 1955). Hilary writes a column, "Bites and Pieces" in Noseweek. In the April issue she writes, "Geraldine Aron, the playwrightsays *My Brilliant Divorce* has been staged in 23 countries, 'but the best production was by amateurs, here in Milnerton'". More kudos for Tracy de Kock!

ANTHEA THOMPSON (1986) repeated her role in 'Shirley Valentine', this time at the Kalk Bay Theatre. Headline to a review by Robyn Cohen in tgwsaturday of February 2 was "Thompson shines in 'Shirley V'", then the sub-head: "...play is a winner and the cherry on top is a virtuoso performance by an old theatre pro". In the body of the text is:

"Thompson is one of our most talented actresses who transforms herself, chameleon-like, in every role she takes on, so much that it is often difficult to recognise her. She has done everything from Shakespeare, gritty contemporary dramas to children's theatre in shopping centres and won awards for them too....she has embraced musical theatre and cabaret (such as the recent production, *Broadway Babes* at On Broadway). She also has a day job, lecturing at the Waterfront Theatre Company."

In the programme for *The KramerPetersen Songbook*, a Baxter Theatre production last December, is news of singer BRONWYN REDDY (2003). Bronwyn graduated BA Live Performance from AFDA, Cape Town, in 2006. She won the award for Best Musical Performer each year of her studies. In 2006 Bronwyn was lead vocalist in the Afro-Brasilian Jazz Band, TUCAN TUCAN. At the 2007 Grahamstown Festival she could be seen in a production, DENS WIT ME. Bronwyn was cast in the movie *Disgrace* based on the novel by J.M. Coetzee. She has sung as a back-up vocalist for Amanda Tiffin. Thanks to MARIAN LENNOX (retired Deputy Head) for the programme.

LOUISE CARVER (1996) has been singing at all the top venues, Kirstenbosch, and Paul Cluver Auditorium in the Elgin Valley. The Sunday Times of February 2 lists her as one of the models for a limited-edition calendar by a top South African photographer.

MONIQUE HELLENBERG (2000) was one of three singers (and the only woman) in *Strictly Come Jazz*, at On Broadway, Cape Town. The headline in the Cape Times of January 17 was, "Young singer pays tribute to jazz classics" and the long preview has, "Monique has the kind of chirpy voice that sounds like it could win over the toughest audience." February 5 has the headline, "Standing Ovation for Pop-jazz Golden Oldies" then "Monique Hellenberg, an award-winning jazz singer, must live and breathe the kind of music the show dabbles in because she performs songs such as *My Baby* and *Over the Rainbow* as if the last couples of decades of popular music never occurred. She even looks like a character from a silent movie with her big eyes and loopy charm." The Monique Hellenberg Band took part in a concert at Rustenburg in aid of the Lisa Hellenberg Bursary. Organized by the Matric subject music pupils, the concert raised over R20 000. Monique is mentioned in the magazine, *classicfeel*: "vocals by Monique Hellenberg" in the Standard Bank National Youth Band which performed at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival.

The Mail and Guardian of April 4, lists CATHERINE FOXCROFT (1986) as one of the soloists in the faculty concert at the Stellenbosch International Piano Symposium on April 8.

The Southern Chronicle of 19th March showed a picture of husband and wife team, MARGARET FOXCROFT (1991), accompanist, and Alexander Fokkens, Musical Director of the Cape Town Symphony Choir, before the choir's performance at the Last Night of the Proms.

NOT FOR EVERYONE!

Wandering round the Western Cape for a few days, your editor happened to encounter three days apart, two ROG's who were particularly enthusiastic about their days at Rustenburg (Pat Stapleton and Colleen Cox, see Fifties and Seventies). On an intervening day, she was in Belvedere Rd

Woolworths and watched three women meet up through a mutual friend: there was talk of schools, "Rustenburg..." and your editor approached, notebook at hand, but then "...my daughter said she wouldn't send a dog there...". Retreat of editor as the group, laughing loudly, moved off to the coffee shop.

A SCOTTISH TEAPARTY

Four ROG's in West Kilbride! One of our senior ROG's, BILLIE FOSTER (May Trainor 1935) was visiting daughter, KATHARINE ROBERTSON (1967) in Scotland. After church one Sunday morning they met up with another resident of West Kilbride, ROG MARY STRICK (Martin 1949), her daughter and their friend, HILARY FORD (Pryor 1958). Hilary works as an administrator at Melrose Hospital where there is another ROG, Dr SYBIL ANDREW (Watson) (names could be the other way round).

RUSTENBURG OVERSTRAND REGISTER

A lunch in Hermanus saw the first gathering of ROR, a body for Rustenburg Old Girls living in the Overstrand. For those of you unfamiliar with new municipalities, this area stretches from Gansbaai to Rooi Els. PAT VAN SCHOOR (Ryan 1953) has wanted to gather ROG's for some time. Spurred on by hearing about ANGELA DE VILLIERS' (Worth 1958) class reunion, Pat, assisted by Angela and CAROL LEIPOLD (Groenewald 1961) arranged a very successful inaugural function. Quite by chance, Pat chose as venue, the only restaurant in Hermanus which is owned and managed by an ROG. Owner of Bare Foot Cook is MARIE-CLAIRE DAY (Pittlo 1988); her garden was perfect for standing and chatting before the meal which was perfectly delicious. There were nearly thirty ROG's there, most from Hermanus but also from Stanford, Onrus, and Betty's Bay. I did not have a chance to speak to everyone but one thing which did stand out; that was how many of those present had had daughters, granddaughters and nieces at Rustenburg. One of the senior ROG's was AUDREY GRIEVE (Breusing 1946) grandmother of the BLOM sisters, LAUREN (1994) and CLAIRE (1997) who both live in Cape Town and are married to the Pearce brothers. DEBBY BROOKE SUMNER (Toy 1956) lives on a farm in Sandy's Glen beyond Stanford and is mother of CAROL COLLINS (1984) a restaurateur in Tulbagh. JENNY VAN DER BIJL (Cohn 1960) also lives on a farm and her daughter is KIM VAN DER BIJL (1991) who lives in London with her two children and is divorced. JUDY HUGO (Daneel 1962), like Jenny, grew up in Hermanus, I think their doctor fathers were partners. LIZ HUTTON (Malan 1962) had two daughters at Rustenburg: KIM REY (1985) lives in Johannesburg, has two children and has her own HR consultancy; SALLY ROWAND (1987) is also in Johannesburg, has three children and is a partner in law firm, Webber Wentzel. TRUDY BLACKSHAW'S (Gertrude Tebbutt 1954) older daughter is CATHY MILLER (1975) a physio in Cape Town. JANIS JACOB (Opie 1953) was there but she had sons. News of these ROG's under the Fifties. GLENDA VON BENECKE (Fish 1963) lives in Onrus and she works at a retirement complex in the area. Glenda has three daughters who were all at Rustenburg: CARLA (1987) is a doctor practising in Camps Bay, NICOLA (1989) is a rep for a plastics company and lives in Claremont while LIESL BÖTTGER (1993) is nearby in Kenilworth and has a one-year-old daughter. CAROL LEIPOLD gave news of her nieces; NICOLA DU TOIT (Groenewald 1988) –see Births - lives on a farm at Vyeboom while her sister, LISA O'MAHONEY (1993) is in Newlands and has a son Connor, 3½. RUTH BRIGGS (Turner 1958) grew up in Hout Bay and spent her married life on a farm at Agter Paarl before moving to Hermanus. She said she so met many of her classmates at a recent Bishops 50th Reunion that it was a mini Rustenburg reunion. MARIET SCHWARTZ (Van der Merwe 1961) grew up on a farm near Worcester then lived in Stellenbosch until three years ago. Of her three sons, one sadly died and the other two are both at Stellenbosch University. ROSALIND GRAHAM (Short 1948) was pleased to see Pat van Schoor as they

had grown up together in Tamboers Kloof. GILLIAN HAZELL (1957) is a half-niece of Miss Hazell, the headmistress. Her sister-in-law was there too – RENÉE HAZELL (Pienaar 1958).

News of the rest and more will come after the next gathering of ROR. Any ROG's in the Overstrand area are most welcome to join the Register. Please contact Pat van Schoor at 028 314 0716 / vanschoor@hermanus.co.za , Angela de Villers at 028 314 1501 / pohl@telkomsa.net , Carol Leipold at 028 312 4465 / caroljean@hermanus.co.za .

A BETTY'S BAY SUMMER

Betty's Bay beach and lake are good places to bump into ROG's. JULIE MARCHANT (Mathew 1997) was running on the beach looking trim. Her news is that she, husband Billy and Abigail 2, are moving to Malawi where they will be working in a rural community. Julie is a teacher. NICOLA FREEMAN (1988) was at the lake with her husband and children and talking of a 20 year reunion. Also seen at the lake were the WINTER sisters, KATHERINE MITCHELL (1991) and CLARE (1993) having fun with Katherine's four children. I missed seeing CAREY MCKENZIE (1991) and HEATHER van Zyl Smit (Honeyman – staff till 2005) who were there at different times with their small sons – See Births and The Nineties for Carey's news. SALLY MASTERSON (1993) had introduced young Emma to the delights of the lake in November. I did enjoy seeing BRENDA SARA (Ellison – staff in recent years) on Pringle Bay beach with husband Alan, sons Matthew and Michael. She was about to move either to Johannesburg or East London

CEDARBERG HOSPITALITY

Over the years many ROG's must have enjoyed Cedarberg holidays at Krom River and Travellers' Rest. I wonder how many realised their hostesses were fellow Rustibugs. OLIVE NIEUWOUTD (Santilhanho 195?) and her husband ran their Krom River farm and guest cottages until handing over to the next generation. HAFFIE STRAUSS (Elsabe Olivier 1960) grew up on the farm next to Travellers' Rest and remembers how the journey back to Rustenburg meant a gravel road most of the way. She is still on the farm welcoming guests. She has a daughter in Cape Town and a doctor son who lives in the same house in the main street of Clanwilliam where Haffie's doctor grandfather practised.

THE FORTIES

Thank you for keeping in touch, FREDA WEINER (Jaffe 1943) freda@hampstead-english.ac.uk

Have moved and am now living in a flat in Hampstead - 21 Osprey Court, 256- 258a Finchley Road NW3 7AA, phone 0207 7943345. Mobile 07847449345. Still working for my daughter Jill Sieff (Weiner 1967) at her school, Hampstead School of English, Sculpting and playing a lot of Bridge. Would love to see any ROGU girls when they pass through London. Every good wish to you all. Sincerely Freda (Jaffe)

THE FIFTIES

Three 'Class of '51' were at a Hermanus brunch for MARY-ANNE LE JEUNE'S husband's 75th birthday. Head girl JEN DAVIES (Mouat) came from her home in Kenilworth, and MARINA BREWSTER (Krachmer) was there. She has lived in the UK, Lebanon and Dubai.

PAT STAPLETON (Becker B 1955) had come from Port Elizabeth for the Hermanus brunch. Pat did not matriculate at Rustenburg as her family emigrated to Rhodesia but she loved her time there and is an enthusiastic ROG, keeping up with friends and attending the 1958 reunions. Pat graduated BA from Rhodes, did social work in the then Salisbury where she met her husband.

ANGELA McDONALD (B 1955) left Rustenburg at 15 to do the 3year Ballet Diploma at UCT with Dulcie Howes and Cecily Robinson. At 18 she went to London and first joined the then Sadlers Wells Opera Company as a dancer. Then she fulfilled her ambition to join Ballet Rambert where she became a soloist. Marriage and a move to Ibiza, Spain ended her career in ballet. On moving back to England, Angela became a Yoga teacher and trained teachers for the British Wheel of Yoga Diplomas, worked in a hospice for 12 years and gave regular classes. After her husband's death, she moved to Somerset but winters in Cape Town, staying with her sister, SUE QUIRK (1963). Angela still has the very trim figure of a dancer.

JEAN VAN WILLING (Martin 1951) has moved to Helderberg Village, Somerset West.

PAT VAN SCHOOR (Ryan 1953), organiser of the ROR lunch at Hermanus, is a busy person, running a Bridge School, SANTA and Quest, a one-off version of Toastmistresses. She and banker husband John led a peripatetic life, on one occasion making the unlikely move from London to Mtubatuba. She started off working in accounts before moving to HR and for some years she worked for the Merensky Foundation conducting training in the field of agriculture all over the country. Hermanus had been a favourite place since she was 12 so it was the natural choice for retirement. Pat's sisters are BRENDA MOORE (1959) and VERONICA HAWES (1961)

ANNE BUSH (Hampson 1953) is a retired academic living in Bristol but with a flat in Fish Hoek.

JANIS JACOB (Opie 1953) moved to Hermanus in 2001 but is not yet retired as she still writes reading books for mainly the Foundation Phase, 6 – 8year-olds in the New Nation Literacy Series. She has to be flexible to adjust to the demands of the Education Department. Janis started writing reading books in 1963 when she could test them on her classes in Grabouw. Later, Janis lectured at the Teachers' Training College in Mowbray before becoming an inspector in the Western Cape Coloured Affairs. She has two engineer sons.

MARCIA LEVESON (Honikman 1954), Associate Professor, writer, researcher, editor and publisher gave a course at UCT's Summer School in January entitled, "Sex and Sensibility: a Psycho-Social Discussion of 19th Century Novels". This lecture series traced the ways men and women are depicted as they negotiate social and gender relations. Marcia lives in Johannesburg.

TRUDY BLACKSHAW (Tebbutt 1954) with her husband ran Carmel Guest Farm near George, and then lived in George where she was a hospital chaplain, moved to Oudtshoorn before retiring to Stanford. Trudy wonders what has happened to her bridesmaid, MARIE (Grundlingh 1954) last heard of in Ithaca, New York.

Trudy had met up with CHRISTINE (Starke 1954) at a cancer training course some years ago in Oudtshoorn. Christine had been widowed twice, had married for the third time and is living on a farm.

ADIE DE GROOT (Fish 1956) left cold, dark Toronto to warm up and visit classmate LIBBY PUCKETT (Melck) in North Carolina – news from Adie's sister GLENDA VON BENECKE (1963)

WENDY VAN RENSBURG (Thompson 1956) was going to visit her sister AILEEN PARKER (1961) in Devon. Aileen is married to a Methodist minister and is herself a preacher.

MERILYN LEWIS (Buckland 1958) has moved to Sydney for a year to help care for a grandchild.

RUTH KINGMA (HAMPSON 1959) lives in Toronto. She is now retired but was in a very senior position in the Toronto Library Service. Ruth has two sons.

THE SIXTIES

JANET PLUMBLY (Heathcote Marks 1961) is a widow and has a B and B in Paarl.

Also from the early sixties, JUDY ROBINSON (Kalisch) sent this update from Chesterfield, Derbyshire

I left Rustenburg in 1960, having completed D2 somewhat unspectacularly (I missed 3 months of school due to an eye op), then went on to Cape Tutorial College to do Matric in 1961, followed by two years at Cape Technical College for Commercial Art Diploma. Some of those in my year were Suzy Durr (Wiese), Bronwyn van der Merwe (Allenberg), Patricia Sadan (Blumberg), Sherrill Castley (Crouse).

I was having a clear-out and found the 'diaries' of the 'old girls'. It made very nostalgic reading! As you can see, my email address has changed to judy@jimrobinson.plus.com.

Other things that have changed - our son Nathan is now the father of twin boys, Noah and Jacob 4,... our second son Joel, now 32, announced his engagement at Christmas to Tracy, a lovely girl and teacher at a nearby primary school. They are now busy planning the wedding for August 2009 at Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire, which is about 10 minutes from where we live, and walking distance from their house. I am now retired, following a back injury which required surgery (and also now being an over-60), and Jim has been retired for several years due to cutbacks at Corus and ill-health (he has OPD/emphysema). So we do little these days, enjoy visits from the grandsons, who live about 3 hours away in Reading, Berkshire, and an annual holiday in the sun, usually one of the Greek islands.

GLYNNE REES (Allan 1966) is living in Durbanville with her husband, David. Their daughter is Meagan (1999).

THE SEVENTIES

DEBORAH HUGHES, Rotary Exchange Scholar 1969/70 visited Cape Town from the USA and was at Founders' Day. This is what she wrote about her return:

"Rustenburg was a wonderful place to study and meet new friends. This is my first time back in 39 years. The school is still lovely. I have been an attorney for 30 years and specialize in insolvency law. I'm married to John Kern and we are here celebrating our 25th anniversary."

Deborah was pleased to see someone from her year, WENDY ROBINSON (1970 Moore, formerly Peacock.) Deborah lives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and can be contacted at dhughes@ssbc-law.com or 717 651 1772 work / 717 234 0901 home.

Chatting to the audiologist after a hearing test, I discovered that she, COLLEEN COX (Hastie 1975), was a keen ROG. "If I'd had daughters they'd have gone there" Colleen had organized her class reunion, had been at Tommie's funeral. Recently lunching at Noordhoek with classmates, PAM WOOLCOTT (D'Auncey) and FIONA SMITH (Luck), she had enjoyed a chance meeting with JO McINTYRE. Fiona is mother of SIOBHAN SMITH.

JUNE WATSON (Tribelhorn 1971) was with her daughter, Nicole, at Founders' Day. When Nicole was at school, June headed the RGHS music parents' fund-raising committee. Now she is involved in developing the game of golf amongst school girls in the Western Province.

It is heart-warming that ROG's who left before matriculating; still feel part of the Rustenburg family. PATRICIA PETTERSON (Hopkins C 1971) is one of them. She has made contact with AVERIL KELLER (1974) and would like to contact other old friends.

I left Rustenburg at Std. 8 (1971) and went to Gardens Commercial for Std 9 & 10, matriculating in 1973. Now at age 53 (!) I've been living in England for the past 10 years and have one son, Vinny, aged 17

I lived in Rondebosch, Rosebank and Pinelands during my school-going years and married Howard in 1987 (his mom is also a Rustibug from around 1953 (?) NORMA PETTERSON (Gorton). She is still living in Cape Town (Edgemead) with her husband, Peter. After travelling backwards and forwards to the UK over the years we finally immigrated in 1997 through ancestry on my dad's side. I am an Executive Secretary for the Clinical Trials Director in a pharmaceutical packaging firm in Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire - wonderful part of the country. You can see my pic on: www.breconpharm.com About Us - Meet the team. Yes, I've let myself go grey!! Gave up the hair colouring several years ago

THE EIGHTIES

JENNIFER WHITTAL (Darcy-Evans 1985) jennifer.whittal@uct.ac.za needs help.

"I am trying to get hold of astrophysicist DR GUINEVERE KAUFFMAN (1985) and wonder if any other old girls have contact details for her, or know what she is up to."

It would be very interesting for the Newsletter to have details of the career of Guinevere so please forward any that come to light.

JACQUI BLOOMER (Low 1985) sent in her details. She is living in Mowbray, handy for her two daughters, Olivia and Jocelyn at RGJS. Jacqui graduated BA at UCT, stayed on for a HDE and taught for some years in Gaborone, Botswana, returning to the Cape in 2005.

LIANNE BOOTH (Lancaster 1986): lianneb@awards.co.za was at a class reunion last October and later sent in her contact details. She is living in Plumstead.

TONI VENTER (1988) toni.meyer@gijima.com – See Marriages - lives in Parklands and has a ten-year-old daughter, Aimee.

RENÉE DEKENAH (1989) studied Computer Science. She now lives in London and is a technical writer.

AMANDA BARRETT (1989) obtained a B. Bus. Sc. (1994) from UCT and is living in Putney, London.

THE NINETIES

News of classmates came from BRENDA MORROW (Stupart 1991) at Founders' Day: SUE ROUILLARD (Ritchie) is a physiotherapist who completed a Masters degree last year, a busy year for her – See Births for her and GAY WHEELER (Saxby) still in Switzerland. ROSALIND WATERMEYER (Newmarch) has moved to Reenen, she is the mother of Sophie 2, (Ros is daughter of MARION (Sneath 1960) and granddaughter of the late JESS SNEATH (Parker 1922))

I remember Brenda sitting near CAREY HILL (McKENZIE 1991) in a C Biology class. Carey writes:

I bumped into Alison at Bass Lake over the holidays and we caught up on news and it made me realise that I should really send you some of my news for the next newsletter.

I am currently living in Mtunzini on the Natal North Coast. I completed my MBChB at UCT in 1997 and went on to specialise in Radiology - passing my exams in 2004. I was awarded the gold medal for Radiology for the College Exams of 2004. I was married at Groot Constantia in May 2006 to Greg Hill, a farmer from Natal. He enticed me beyond the Liesbeeck river and I moved first to Durban in 2005 and then to Zululand after our wedding. The Cape Town city girl needed to do this transition in steps! Our son David was born in March 2007. I am currently working part time in a private hospital in Empangeni. I still regularly see HELEN DAVIES, MARLISA HARRIS (Groenewald) and SARAH BROOKE (Andrew) from the class of 1991. As my parents are based in Cape Town I still regularly visit the mother city.

LEIGH BONAMY (Denny 1992) and her family – See Births - have spent the past 3 years in Bahrain. They are looking forward to their next move to Lisbon, Portugal in May.

The BEGG sisters were in Cape Town from the UK for their mother's 70th: FIONA MATHIESON (1992) has delightful young children, Tilly and Findlay. CARRIE (199?) was being a good aunt.

News of the MAREK sisters came from their mother, Penny, the extra-drama teacher at RGJS. Thank you so much, Penny. Could do with more mums' contributions!

I thought I would keep you up to date with what my daughters have been up to over the past few years. CLAIRE (1994) has been back in Cape Town for the past four years having spent about 7 years working in London, travelling Europe in a campervan and a year in Sydney, Australia, where both sisters ended up as flatmates. She's currently running the art department for Rogz, the designer dog lead specialists, and loving it. So those graphic design lessons were not wasted.

KATE (1998) is still in London where she has spent the past 4 years but heads back at the end of December for two months before making her way to Melbourne, Australia, to meet up with her boyfriend. She started working as a chef for the celebrity chef Aldo Zilli at his flagship restaurant Zilli 2 in London and is now with a top catering company, Rocket, doing celeb functions such as film premieres, company launches and Burberry lunches, so her home economics lessons were not wasted.

I had heard from MARIAN LENNOX (retired deputy head) that the wife of the school's new Computer Centre head was an ROG. She turned out to be NICOLE MASUREIK (1993) who recently sent in this update:

My news: I have just returned to SA permanently, after nearly 8 years of teaching in London. I'm still teaching (and yes, the kids in the UK are as bad as you've heard) - at Pinelands High School now. I have one gorgeous daughter, Janel, who has just turned 2, and lost a second, Zoe, at full term in March 2007. On our return to SA a few months back we discovered that there are currently no support groups for this specific type of grief in SA. As a result, my husband (Graeme Broster, RBHS E88) and I have started a support group called 'Born Sleeping' for parents who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or neo-natal death. (Anyone interested in knowing more can check out the Facebook group of the same name, or email us on bornsleeping@gmail.com.)

I'm also starting up an eco-nappy company, Lovely Laities, selling my own brand of shaped cloth nappies and providing a free advice and information service for anyone interested in eco-nappies. The website is www.lovelylaities.co.za. Needless to say, this should prove to be a very busy, challenging year, but I'm looking forward to it!

I was so pleased to hear from CARLA LOUREIRO (1995), someone I remember well from biology classes and who I last saw seven years ago. This is what energetic Carla has been up to:

I think the last time I saw you, was after popping in to your house in Constantia after you had seen me riding a horse down Brommersvlei Rd. That must be nearly 7 years ago. How are you?

I would love to catch up and chat; it has been so many years.

I found a ROGU newsletter by chance on the website after "Googling" Nadine van Ginkel. . It was wonderful to read back to the last year's news letters and see what everyone has been up to.

So much has changed since I saw you, I graduated in Psychology (it was studying the nervous system in biology that created an interest for me) in 1999 from UCT and then completed my honours in 2000. I also majored in English. I have stopped horse riding; I traded my horse in for a bicycle and started cycling competitively in 2002. I have completed 6 Argus' and my best finish is 3h06 (top 50 women in SA). Cycling got too much, so I started running and swimming and have been competing in Triathlon since 2004 – I LOVE IT! I have started to compete quite seriously and went to World Triathlon Champs in Switzerland in 2006 as apart of the South African team. It was the most amazing experience. I also completed the Jailbreak Ultra Triathlon (2.2km swim, 100km cycle and 25km run) in Dec 2007. My boyfriend, Tristan Kelly, is also a triathlete and we will be racing a 70.3 (Half Iron Man) in Michigan on the 2 Aug 2008. I also run a triathlon club; Atlantic Tri Club is the biggest and fastest growing club in the country and have over 230 members. We started in July 2006 and have had amazing success. We have just launched a Girls Only run which has taken off amazingly.

Between the club, racing and training, I do manage to find time to work, and am at Touchline Media as Advertising & Marketing Manager for our Custom Publishing division. I have been here since 2006 and am really enjoying my job.

LOUISE HITCHINS (1996) lhitchins@rchmail.com who I remember sent this good news:

Many thanks for the update and the e-newsletter. It was great to hear everybody's news. I am currently living in the UK so sadly I am unable to attend on the 25th January. I miss the lunch by two weeks, I arrive in CT for wedding prep Feb 9th - such a pity. Just some personal news from my side, I will be getting married to Gavin Day on 16th February 2008 at the Vineyard Hotel.

I was especially pleased to see bursary-winners, LISA KOTZE (1999) and MEAGAN REES (1999) at Founders' Day. Both were in my last C Biology classes back in 1997. Both have studied widely before deciding to further their studies in education. This must be a cause for rejoicing. I wrote about Meagan in the last Newsletter. An update is that she is at Stellenbosch and studying at Rhenish. When she left Helen Zille's office, Helen said if she wanted to come back, all she had to do is give a call.

Lisa graduated in Psychology at UCT going on to a PGCE there. This prepared her for a teaching post at Rustenburg Junior School in 2005 and 2006. Honours in Psychology followed (her supervisor was son of MAY FOSTER (1935)). Now Lisa is doing a Masters in Educational Psychology at Stellenbosch.

MICHELLE LENNOX (1999) - See engagements – lives in Plumstead and has been teaching Grade 1 at Wynberg Girls for the past four years. She sent in welcome updates of her family and friends. lennoxmichelle@hotmail.com

COLLEEN MOORE (1999) has been working in the UK for the past 2 years and is due back in Cape Town January 2008.

LAUREN DYKE (Hawkins 1999) will be living in Australia from Jan 2008 – See Marriages

KRISTIN SLEIGH (Hawkins) (1997) is married to Gareth Sleigh (RBHS 1996) (Melanie Sleigh's brother?) Has been living in the UK for the past 3 years and is currently working for the guide dogs organisation.

Read more news from Michelle in The 21st Century. Thank you, this is just the kind of email I like to receive, especially as I can picture all of the above in my biology classes.

News from NATASCHA EMMA BRACALE. (1999) natascha_samurai@yahoo.com

I always receive the newsletter which I thoroughly enjoy reading and would like to send you some of my own information.

After matriculating, I studied to become a Personal Fitness trainer. I worked in a private personal training gym in Sea Point and also for Virgin Active for 2 years. I then went overseas for 3 years. I travelled to London and Sydney with my boyfriend, Steve Kitshoff. I worked for the designer Alexander McQueen as his Office Manager before missing Cape Town too much and coming home in March 2006.

I have been doing karate full-time for 8 years and have just graded to Senior 2nd Dan black belt. I have represented South Africa and competed in 2 World Tournaments one in Berlin in 2000, and one in Birmingham in 2002. I got a 3rd and 4th place ranking in 2 different divisions. I am competing in Zurich, Switzerland in 2008 in the next Kimura Shukokai International World Karate Tournament.

In 2001 I also won my 60kg women's U21 division in the WPC World Power lifting Championships held in Cape Town.

I am a full-time karate instructor now working at Samurai School of Karate in Claremont. I also had the opportunity of travelling to Japan for a week in November to watch a karate tournament. I am currently making plans to go to Japan in 2009 to train karate and learn the language for 6-8 months.

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

RACHEL BARLOW (2000) is married and living in Pretoria where she is still very active in fencing.

LAUREN WILLIAMS (2001) was hoping for a Rustenburg string quartet for her wedding and writes: I was wondering if it's too late to submit info of my big wedding day? I'll be getting married to the sports anchor, presenter and TV personality of ETV and Let's Fix IT, Samm Marshall on the 28th November 2008.

JODI ALLEMEIER (head girl 2002) brought us up to date with her life. Thank you, Jodi.

"I enjoy receiving the ROGU newsletters - thank you for your efforts in compiling and coordinating this. I must admit that it is at times difficult to read of teachers and staff who had a huge impact on one's life moving on or passing away, but it is equally fulfilling to read the good news of new pastures, and personal and career successes of staff and old-girls alike. I have not contributed in the five years since matriculating, so here's an update.

After matriculating in 2002, I was fortunate to study at Stellenbosch University, where my excellent schooling placed me ahead of the pack, despite the language barrier. I completed a four-year degree in Social Work (cum laude) and was affected significantly by my work as a social worker on the "cape flats", where people are simply not afforded the type of educational, health and economic opportunities that I was privileged to receive. Realising that our country has far broader socio-economic/socio-political challenges to address, I completed an Hons in Public and Development Management (also cum laude), while working at an economic-development consulting firm in Mowbray, where I am still challenged on a daily basis with exciting, mostly public-sector, development project sand research.

On a personal note, I married my long-time partner, Pascal Brandt (Rondebosch '02), in June last year and we are happily living in our very own place in Kenilworth. He is working as a software developer in Rondebosch, so we are very much back in southern suburbs where we first became friends at a Std 5 "disco"!

Other news that I can provide is that CARLING ERNZTSEN, also matric 02, has embarked on a promising acting career - she has been in a few small feature films, as well as the E-Tv series "Shooting Stars" and the SA Comedy film "Big Fellas" (you can see all her achievements through the wonders of Google). ALEXIS DE KOCK, also matric 02, is studying Forensic Psychology at Liverpool University, but promises to return home as soon as she qualifies. My sister, NICCI ALLEMEIER (matric 00) spent two years in the UK and returned to complete a degree in HR at UCT. She and her long-time boyfriend will be joining the herds in London in February this year, to advance their respective careers.

That's all for now - simply wanted to "drop a line" and express my great appreciation for the foundation that Rustenburg has afforded me."

More news from Michelle Lennox:

SUZANNE LENNOX (2004) Studied interior design at Design Time College. Currently working for Reto Kitchens in Wynberg.

CHANNON KERRIGAN (2004) spent a year in Australia after school as a teacher assistant and is currently doing her BED Foundation Phase at CPUT (Cape Tech)

STORM HAWKINS (2004) worked at Pinelands North as a teacher assistant for a year and is currently studying marketing at CPUT.

NAAZNEEN SALOOJEE (2002) wanted to know whether it would be possible for the ROGU newsletter to be e-mailed to instead of posted, as she has moved away from Cape Town. Her address is nsaloojee@investec.co.za. What about news, Naazneen?

[Database administrator's note: It is not only possible to be notified of the Newsletter via email, it is very desirable! Of the over 3500 ROGU members, we only have just over 1000 email addresses, leaving us with a huge bill for postage twice a year. Please notify your emails to rogu2000@hotmail.com and keep us informed should it change.]

Warmest good wishes, congratulations and as Miss Thomson would say, "Felicitations" to all who have recently had a very special event. Thank you for sending in a few more announcements but I still have to rely on the network and Cape Times for most of these important milestones.

ENGAGEMENTS

MICHELLE LENNOX to Richard Laughton in 2007 in Cape Town. Wedding planned for March 2008
TISH LANCASTER (Laetitia 1993) to Sean Fraser in January, 2008 in Cape Town (Tish is daughter of ANN (Gold 1967)
MEGAN VINCENT (1996) to Charl Kruger in February, 2008 in Cape Town. (Megan's mother is GILL (Lee 1967) who in turn was the daughter of the late ETHEL LEE (Peers 1933))
TRACY GRAHAM (19??) to Russell in 2007 wedding in Australia in December 2008)
CATHERINE HANGER (Birdie 1988) to Graham Campbell, both of London in December 2007 in Cape Town (daughter of PAT HANGER (Noble 1961))
CATHRYN BECK (1994) to Alistair Diesveld in January 2008.
AMANDA GRAHAM (1989) to David Rich in February, 2008, in Cape Town. (David is brother to CERYS (1987). Wedding planned for Tulbagh in August 2008.
KATHRYN HENSILWOOD (1998) to Kristin van den Berg in April 2008 in London. (Kathryn is daughter of DEBBIE (Wilson late 70's or early 80's)
JANE UPTON (1988) to Patrick Cox on April 15 2008

MARRIAGES

LAUREN HAWKINS (1999) to Jason Dyke (brother of NATALIE DYKE (1999) in March 2007
MANDY HOFMEYR (1993) to Brendan Hughes at Langverwacht on 10th November 2007. Bridesmaids were her sister KAREN (1995), LINDY BRIERS-DANKS (Crisp 1993), JEANINE GOMES (1993), and ALISON BERRISFORD (1993). GENEVIEVE FORDER (1993) was there having a break from travels through Africa. Mandy is daughter of CILLA HOFMEYR (Whitehead 1967)
TONI VENTER (1988) to Henk Meyer on 24th November 2007 aboard a yacht at the Royal Cape Yacht Club.
LYNN HANGER (1994) to Anthony Afonso at Langverwacht on 19th December (Lynn is second daughter of PAT HANGER (Noble 1961), her sister, Cathy/Birdie was bridesmaid)

BIRTHS

To SUE RITCHIE (1991) and Francois Rouillard, a son Marc in about April, 2007

To CARY MCKENZIE (1991) and Graham Hill a son, David in the first half of 2007
To JOANNE BRUCE (1988) and James Reid, a son, William Albert Donald, brother to Benjamin and Ella, on 15th June, 2007 in Cape Town
To HEATHER HONEYMAN (Staff until Dec 2005) and Richard van Zyl Smit, a son Timothy in July 2007 (Heather is daughter of VAL (Powell 1960))
To NICOLA GROENEWALD (1988) and Francois du Toit, a son Sebastian in October 2007
To GAY SAXBY (1991) and Cecil Wheeler, a son Luke, brother to Angelica 2, around October 2007 in Züg, Switzerland
To KATE LINDSAY (1983) and ? Szczepaniak, a son, Luke, brother to Rachel 8 and Peter 3 in November 2007 in Perth
To LEIGH DENNY (1992) and Franck Bonamy, a daughter, Juliette Therese, sister to Charlotte, 20 months, on 11th December 2007 in the Kingdom of Bahrain
To MANDY LLOYD (1993) and Bruce Richards, a son, Jack Ian, brother for Kate, on 27th December 2007 in Cape Town
To AURELIA DRIVER (1986) and Nic Dawes, a redheaded daughter, Hannah, 3.6Kg on 2nd January 2008 in Cape Town
To GEORGINA MORROW (1992) and Blair Russell, a son and brother to Grace on 13th February 2008 in New Zealand
To TAMRYN JONES (1995) and Dylan Bishop, a daughter on 9th March 2008 in CapeTown. (Proud aunts are DONNÉ (1990) and KERREN (1993))
To MARGI McMURRAY (1987) and Mark Satchel, a daughter, Kiera Leigh, sister to James and Caitlin in Weybridge, England Mark.Satchel@ukomfs.com
To ALEX FULLARD (1994) and Brian Pinnock, a son, James William Alexander brother to Michael on 31st March 2008 in Cape Town (Second grandson to Elizabeth Fullard)
To ANNEMARIE DASHWOOD (1987) and Warwick van Reenen, a daughter, Gabriella Calverley, sister to Erin Rose on 10th April 2008
TO ESTELLE MOYS (1988) and ? Gaylard, a second child on February 11th 2008 in Cape Town (Estelle is the daughter of the late PAM (Thompson 1958))

IN MEMORIAM

Erratum: ALANA BOND (McCullagh 1997) sent in the following:

I recently came across the ROGU newsletter of June 2007 and just wanted to correct an error on the "in memoriam" section. Jennie McCullagh was my aunt, who passed away in May 2007 after a short illness. (Her 4 children did not go to Rustenburg as they grew up in George.) My mother, Colleen McCullagh was from Kimberley, hence not an old girl, and died in July 2006 after battling cancer (but yes, the church was full of poppies and people!) Someone must have got the information a little muddled.

GWENDOLINE HARDIE (Wendy Hurst 1951) died peacefully in Cape Town on 21st February, 2008. She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Keith, children, Frances, Diana and John and six grandchildren. To them and to her friends we extend deep sympathy. A memorial service was held in the Muizenberg Methodist Church. Wendy had a distinguished career as a student at UCT as recorded in ROGU Newsletters of the fifties. In 1953 we read: "Wendy Hurst, now in her second year B.Sc, has done extremely well in her studies at UCT, and won class medals for mathematics and chemistry". In 1955, "Wendy Hurst, who has won a Hiddingh Scholarship, is at the Medical School at the University of Cape Town ", and in 1956, "Wendy Hurst, has won the Jagger Scholarship for a second year"

ERICA DAVIDSON (Van Selm) passed away in Cape Town aged 92 from complications after a hip operation. We offer our sincere sympathy to her children, Ian, Judy and Denise. There was a Memorial service at St Stephens Church, Cape Town. The Newsletter of 1954 lists Erica as a new member of ROGU.

MARGARET LEGUM (Roberts 1949). This is an obituary written by **Gerald Shaw** for Business Day, appearing in November 2007:

Margaret Legum, human rights advocate, economist and chairman of the South African New Economics Network, has died in Cape Town at the age of 74 following surgery for cancer. Born Margaret Roberts in Pretoria, she studied economics at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and at Cambridge.

A committed anti-apartheid activist, she went into exile in Britain in 1962, returning 30 years later and becoming a prolific contributor to South African newspapers on poverty eradication, tax reform and social justice.

As a member of the Iona Christian community, she was active in the J L Zwane Memorial Presbyterian Church in Guguletu, near Cape Town, taking part in their ministry among people who are HIV positive.

Professor George Ellis of the University of Cape Town paid tribute to her as a passionate fighter on behalf of the underprivileged.

With her late husband the journalist Colin Legum, she played an influential role in the campaign for economic sanctions against the apartheid regime, particularly through their book "South Africa: Crisis for the West," published in 1964, which resulted in her being banned from this country.

Together, Colin and Margaret Legum provided much support for the South African exile community in London and for African refugees arriving in Britain. On her return to South Africa, she campaigned and run workshops on issues like racism, and fought an unrelenting battle for a fairer international economic system and for the Basic Income Grant (BIG) to be introduced in South Africa. As a founder of the South Africa New Economics Network, she published a book "It doesn't have to be like this" arguing that there was something badly wrong with the global system of trade and finance, "where money for its own sake is valued above jobs and peoples' lives." As Clem Sunter wrote in his foreword, Margaret Legum was arguing for an economic system built up around ordinary, decent human values. She moved in many social circles with relentless energy, and recently published a delightful poetry collection called "Learning to Saunter."

Margaret was a bright and generous spirit on the local scene who will be sorely missed.

Margaret was the sister of MARY ELLIS (1951) and BOSKY ANDREW (1956). Below are extracts of an address written by Bosky and read at Margaret's funeral.

"When I was a child and Margy a teenager she was already a tour de force.

In the mornings, getting ready for school she would be standing in front of the radiogram, wildly throwing her arms around, conducting music.

.She went to formal dances wearing long dresses and long gloves;

She won trophies at the Rosebank show on her beloved horse Trooper.

She complained to our mother about me.....in writing

She passed on a few things to me; some clothing; her university (Rhodes); a brown dog that she had won in a raffle; a hockey stick and a discarded, but still useable, boyfriend.

We really only got to know and respect one another as adults in London in 1958.

As couples, Colin and Margy and Paul and I have been close friends and have delighted in one another; across continents and decades; in spite of banning orders and restrictions. We have shared trips and adventures in a physical sense and also weathering the upheavals and excitements of social and political change. We have shared commitments and passions. Amazing to think, but we have actually seen apartheid come and go.., Margy has never put down her baton for social justice, leaving a half written article on her computer.

My elder sister was ... formidable in her strengths, achievements and firmly held convictions."

I am grateful to Bosky and to Gerald Shaw for giving permission to use these tributes.

JUST RECEIVED: Notification of the death on 4 May 2008 of DR MARY ELLIS (ROBERTS 1951).

REUNIONS

1958 This class will celebrate their 50th Anniversary of their matric year in style in October. Contact ANGELA DE VILLERS of Hermanus at 028 314 1501/083 702 2382 or pohl@telkomsa.net The reunion starts on Friday 10th with a full programme; assembly and morning tea at the Junior School, lunch at Kirstenbosch, and tea at Erinville which will include the Boarders' Farewell. Saturday there is lunch at Mowbray Golf Club, and a pasta evening. On Sunday they will enjoy a gourmet picnic at a wine farm. This class is proud of being pioneers in the extended reunion celebration when they celebrated twenty-five years after matric at the Mount Nelson.

Some members of the class of 1959 would like to organise a reunion in 2009 for their 50th anniversary of leaving school. Please contact Audrey McGeorge (Hughes) in Bettys Bay on 028 2729819 or 072 4803058, or email her at mcgeorge02@gmail.com.

45th Reunion for Rusty Bugs Matrics of 1964. A group is keen to arrange a Reunion over the weekend of either Fri 27 - Sun 29 March 2009 or Fri 17 - Sun 19 April 2009. Contact Margie Garratt (Briggs) at margie@inno.co.za with your preferred weekend, contact details or classmates' contact details for our guest list. The event will be held in Cape Town.

Elsabe Ketteringham (her daughter is currently in Grade 10 at RGHS) who was Elizabeth Groenewald (1970) is trying to arrange a reunion – the first one they have ever had. Would Old Girls from 1970, or people who know of girls from that year, contact her on 028 3131896, or 084 4829233, or email ketttersmail@gmail.com

On the subject of reunions, I have just heard that attendance at the Rondebosch 1958 Reunion was eighty-eight out of an original class of 120, with thirty-three coming from overseas, (twenty-four are deceased). I don't think a Rustenburg class has matched that record!

Well, that's the end of the news of the Rustenburg family for the first half of 2008.

With best wishes

Mary Rose