

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 50

July 2009

Dear ROGU Members

They do say that "time flies when you're having fun". I am contemplating that saying as I sit down to write this letter conscious of the fact it is already August. Before we know it, we will be practicing for our Carols Service and the end of the year will be upon us.

Fortunately we now have a wonderful Kawai Baby Grand Piano installed in Charlie's Hope. I should like to add my personal thanks to ROGU and the ROGU Committee for all their efforts to make this possible. We have already enjoyed one recital in June and look forward to another in October.

Founder's Day will be held on Friday, 29 January 2010. We look forward to seeing you all and to show you our newly refurbished hall. The slope has been leveled, the floors sanded and varnished, the walls painted and the wooden panels refurbished. We will be tackling the foyer during the course of 2010.

I am particularly looking forward to the 60th reunion of the E's of 1949. They will be visiting the school and holding a function at Erinville. I do encourage you to visit the school when planning your reunions as I would love to meet you all.

Past boarders are most welcome to visit Erinville. One of the girls or staff members would be happy to take you around. The Dining Room quad is undergoing a facelift and will soon look lovely. Mrs Van Dyk (our Superintendent) would like to collect "memories" of Erinville from past pupils to include on our website. If you could "pen" some of these for her she would be most grateful. Kindly e-mail them to her at vandykp@rghs.org.za or post them to the school address.

I should like to appeal to you to consider sponsoring or contributing towards a worthy but needy girl. We have identified a few girls in this category who are desperately in need of assistance with their fees. Some of our teaching staff are in fact sponsoring the school fees of two such pupils this year.

Do look at our school website at www.rgjs.org.za . There are links to ROGU and to Erinville on the website which should be of interest.

LAURA BEKKER
PRINCIPAL

Website addresses:

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

Junior School: <http://www.rgjs.co.za/>

High School: www.rghs.org.za

From MARY ROSE BERRISFORD (Trainer 1956, staff 1989 – 1998)

Dear Old Girls

First an important notice

RECITAL ON THE NEW GRAND PIANO

CATHERINE FOXCROFT – PIANO

Senior Lecturer in Piano at Rhodes University and ROG

Wednesday 7 October 2009, 19:30

Charlie's Hope, RGHS

Tickets R60/Scholars R20

Only 80 tickets available so phone early. Tel 021 686 4066

FOUNDERS' DAY

"On 30 January (2009) Rustenburg High School for Girls turned 115 years-old, an event which was celebrated at a special Founders' Day assembly. The guest speaker for this auspicious occasion was ANNELI VISSER an Old Girl who, in 1999, placed first overall in the Western Cape's Senior Certificate examinations. Anneli told the audience how she had decided at a young age that she wanted to be an architect. This goal was, as she explained, largely set in place after seeing a photograph of Frank Lloyd Wright's design of Falling Waters. She spoke about how she had "sustained an enthusiasm for beautiful buildings" all through high school. After matriculating, Anneli toured Europe where she was further inspired by the mighty vistas of Florence and London, before enrolling at the University of Cape Town where she completed her Bachelor of Architecture degree. She is currently employed by the prestigious Louis Karol firm and has been responsible for drawing up plans for both shopping malls AND the Green Point 2010 football stadium. Anneli described how she attributes much of her success to "an intensely competitive nature" as well as "thorough hard work."

The above is by staff member Adrian Skelly and is taken from the fortnightly Newsletter of RGHS still edited by MARIAN LENNOX (retired Deputy Principal). I was not able to be at Founders' Day. The programme records that ROGU Diamond Jubilee Bursaries for top Senior Certificate students were presented to RUDI BOTHA (2008), KIRSTEN ROWE (2007), CARMEN HARTMANN (2006) and KATHERINE PATERSON (2005). A Mavis Wakeford Bursary was re-awarded to FRANCES-ANN ERNSTZEN (2007) daughter of MEG MOODIE (1977). A feature of the Founders' Day lunch was the gathering of twenty from the class of 1954.

THE GRAND PIANO

The Kawai Piano has been bought. The Old Girls' Union contributed R85 500 with R45 000 coming from the very successful Golf Day organized by JUNE WATSON (Tribelhorn 1971) and her sister, LORRAINE SMIT (Tribelhorn 1974). There will be two recitals this year, on Monday June 22nd there will be a performance of Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' with Tertia Visser-Downie, piano, and Philip de Vos, verses and narration. In October, Rustenburg's CATHERINE FOXCROFT (1986) will be the soloist – See above for details.

AN APOLOGY

Apologies to GAYNOR MOODIE (1996), her mother NOREEN MOODIE (Taylor 1966) and all readers who were shocked by the qualified announcement of the passing of Gaynor in the December Newsletter. Very happily Gaynor is very much alive and leading a busy life in London. This is what her mother wrote

"It is with great shock that I write to you this evening, shock after reading an unconfirmed report of Gaynor's death! Not only is she alive and well, living in London, but she has had an enormously successful career since graduating from Stellenbosch with a BA (Art) degree. She worked for magazines such as Glamour in Cape Town, then moved to London where she is now Art Director at Brides Magazine, part of the Conde Nast group in Vogue House, Hanover Square.

Another daughter, ALISON, who was also at Rustenburg, is presently in New York having been accepted at Columbia University to do her Masters degree in Journalism. She has written articles for Newsweek, and has also worked for OK! both in London and New York. She appeared as an extra in the movie, Sex and The City!

A third daughter, LOUISE, who attended Rustenburg Junior School, is at present in her second year at Bristol University studying Finance and Accounting.

Myself? As an Old Girl and one who paid for a life membership way back, I have never received any acknowledgement by way of newsletters that I have actually paid my dues as an Old Girl. I did teach at the high school for a while in the nineties after a career in Television at the SABC in Johannesburg as a director of music programmes for which I received 5 Star Tonight Awards over the years. My husband, Jan, was the Production Head of Documentary and Magazine Programmes at SABC-TV, before we relocated to Cape Town in 1993. I initially did a B. Mus.degree at UCT, then much later got a BA Hons.(Psychology) at Unisa, and even later an M.Mus. in Musicology through Unisa.

The family moved to the UK in 2006 after we were involved in an armed robbery in our home, and we are now very happily settled in Gloucestershire. I have a private music teaching practice near Cheltenham and my husband is a translator.

Perhaps the positive aspect of the unconfirmed report in the newsletter is that you're finally getting news from the Moodie family, news that after schooling at Rustenburg, each member has gone on to achieve well in their chosen fields - a tribute to the school."

Gaynor did write, with the very important correction of being alive and well, that she'd prefer a one-liner about her career but it is a mother's prerogative to give the full picture. The origin of the wrong report was the return of a previous ROGU Newsletter sent to Gaynor with "Deceased RTS" on the envelope. Staff at RGHS was not able to confirm it. Once again, I offer my very sincere apologies to the Moodies and their friends.

Jean Bernadt

Thank you to Marian Roberts (nee Bernadt: E 1961) for this tribute to an outstanding Rustenburg Old Girl.

I was very pleased to read online, in the ROGU December 2008 Newsletter, mention of the awards of the Order of Luthuli (Silver) to each of my parents.

What I would like to highlight here is that my mother, Jean Bernadt (nee Alkin) is *herself* a Rustenburg old girl, matriculating aged 16 in 1930. Her younger sister, the late Sylvia Close, matriculated a couple of years later.

The Award accords recognition to Jean's lifelong struggle – manifest in both her philanthropic and political work - against the injustices of apartheid. She was centrally involved, for example, in the establishment of the first nursery for coloured children in Athlone in 1949; in the founding both of the

Blouvlei Creche near Retreat in the Western Cape and of a crèche in Guguletu. Also in Guguletu, she was the moving spirit in the establishment and development of Tembaletu, an educational centre for physically disabled children. She continued to be actively involved with Tembaletu into her early 90's, receiving the informal accolade of being called 'Mrs. Tembaletu'. For many years she participated in the making and sale of Christmas puddings, the proceeds of which funded several charities for children.

Her political involvement over all her adult life was with various radical causes and with organisations such as the National Council of Women, the Congress of Democrats, The Federation of South African Women and the Black Sash. These commitments resulted in her being subjected to a banning order between 1959 and 1964, persistent security police surveillance during the 1960's, and being detained without trial during the 1960 Emergency.

The family home, 'Crystal Pool' in Kenilworth, renowned for Jean's generous hospitality, its fine South African art, and for its warm welcome to a wide circle of friends of all races and creeds, provided a safe and secure house to former President Nelson Mandela during the negotiations between the apartheid regime and the African National Congress. It enabled him and his delegation to discuss freely their course of action during those negotiations.

Jean, now in her 95th year, lives in her own home, well supported by devoted carers, and visited frequently by her three children and their families, all of whom live abroad.

I do hope this clarification is a helpful record and can be included in the next Newsletter.

PS. My work in the mediation field continues – practising as a mediator in family disputes, teaching graduates at London University, and writing on the subject [*Developing the Craft of Mediation: Reflections on Theory and Practice* (2007) was a finalist in the publications category of a 2008 Award for Excellence in ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)].

Ballet class (twice a week) is still a great pleasure. (Mothers of MARIE ELDER (Van Oudtshoorn 1956 and CAROL BLATCH (Thompson 1961) were also involved in the founding of the nursery schools in Athlone and Blouvlei)

IN THE NEWS

I was in a Parkview coffee shop idly reading the first 2009 issue of 'House and Garden'; an article, 'Master Gardener' by Francesca Watson caught my eye; then there was the jackpot – Rustenburg's headgirl of 1961, SANDY OVENSTONE (Nash), was looking out of the page and I read: "Sandy Ovenstone is the creator and curator of the breathtaking Stellenberg Gardens which have rightly taken their place among the great gardens of the worldthe distillation of her own flair, her travels to gardens around the world ...The gardens at Stellenberg perfectly offset the Cape Dutch house and feature traditional ideas with provoking plant combinations." There was also a stunning picture of part of the garden.

There was a picture of ANTHEA THOMPSON (1986) as Sara Jane Thompson in Assassins in the Cape Times of December 12.

CLAIRE COWAN (1998) could be seen as a commentator on television for the cricket matches against Australia in South Africa earlier this year – the men's teams! At school, Claire was captain of both cricket and hockey. CAROLINE STEWART (1979) is the only other ROG TV sports commentator I can think of.

I scan the monthly Society supplement of the Cape Times and found in the April issue pictures taken at the opening by FW de Klerk of the new Townhouse Conference Centre at the hotel in Cape Town. Looking glamorous was PEGGY DAVIDSON (Albertyn 1937) of Betty's Bay, niece of RENÉE FOURIE (current staff)

There is a great picture of CARRIE BEGG (1990's) in the February issue of 'The Guild News' of the British Guild of Air Pilots' Benevolent Fund. Standing in front of a light aircraft, Carrie is wearing her green RAF flying suit and a Guild badge. The story is that she was given a scholarship to train as a pilot from the Fund through Flying for the Disabled. The report tells that Carrie wept with happiness on hearing of this award. She lives in England but chose a six-week pilots' course in South Africa and the picture was taken in East London, SA. She is quoted as saying, that after learning to fly a light aircraft there is no way she could not carry on and obtain her PPL in the UK.

In one of the newspapers I read a review of a book by a first-time author not realising that she was our ROSAMUND KENDAL (1995). The book is 'Karma Suture' see The Nineties for details.

MAUREEN MANTELL (Mellish 1954) spotted unusual news in the Jelly Bean Journal of the Argus of 25 April. Under the heading 'Mutt of the Year' we read that JOANNE LEFSON (1989) of Camps Bay and Oscar, her 2004 SPCA Mutt of the Year, are setting out on an epic adventure, " a mighty mutt mission" to show the world just how good dogs from shelters like the SPCA can be. They will travel for six months through thirty-five countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, N and S America. Joanne and Oscar will link up with over seventy animal shelters. The idea is to persuade people to get pets from shelters and to have them sterilised to reduce the numbers of unwanted puppies and kittens. In a subsequent Cape Times there was a picture of Joanne and Oscar in Egypt.

CARYL LOGIE (Todd 1962) is a co-author of an article 'A tale of two floras. Bulb capitals of the east and west' in the June 2009 issue of 'Veld and Flora', the journal of the Botanical Society of SA. Caryl's input is a study of the bulbs - 65 of them - which grow on the Papiessfontein flats near Jeffrey's Bay. The exceptional number puts this small area as second in the world only to Nieuwoudtville for richness of bulb flora. Caryl is leader of a band of committed and concerned amateur plant enthusiasts from the Eastern Cape's Kouga Coast.

BETTY DWIGHT AND RONDEBOSCH COMMON

Betty Dwight (Bowker 1941) is another ROG amateur plant enthusiast and last year The Friends of Rondebosch Common published a comprehensive book about the Common richly illustrated by Betty. The second part of the book is just Betty's pictures with her handwritten observations following the seasons. Each one is a gem, the flowers, the animals, sometime the mountain or a path. Betty studied art at the Podolini Art Studio for three years and then worked at Continental Artworks, painting flowers on to lampshades and becoming the head artist. It was her mother who first suggested that Betty paint the flowers on the Common. In the seventies Betty started to plan how she would paint the flora and fauna month by month; then she chose a good year for flowers at the end of the decade and finished the project. The result is a collection full of delights. Betty was awarded the Lifetime Achiever's Award of the Cape Times Vodacom Environmental Awards ceremony in November 2007 in recognition of her dedication to Rondebosch Common.

This book will bring back memories for many a Rustybug even if way back it was only the tadpoles you noticed. I am remembering walks on the Common when I was on the staff, first with the late JUNE SACKS then with JENTY ALSTON and the late ADELE CLOETE and fun with biology classes too.

RUSTYBUG TRAINS AS AN ASTRONAUT

This item will have to wait for the next issue when all details will be available. It has to be a first.

THE TWENTIES

More about the late TINA BULL (Fortina Stavris 1925) came from her daughter, MARJORIE BULL (1949) – see The Forties. Tina is mentioned in 'White Stoep on the Highway' for having won an entrance bursary to UCT's College of Music on the result of her 1925 Matriculation exam. She was at

the College for four years obtaining the Teacher's Licentiate in 1929. Tina chose marriage to organist, Jack Bull and motherhood over being a concert pianist but she accompanied some of the leading musicians of the time including opera singers. She was associated with the Rosebank Methodist Choir for 40 years. Tina taught piano and in the 70's and 80's she accompanied many children, some now professional musicians, for their Royal Schools exams. At school Tina was an all-rounder, had been in netball and gymnastic teams, won prizes not only for music but also for art. Tina was 98 at the time of her death in October last year, surely one of the oldest ROG's.

Also mentioned in the same paragraph as Tina in White Stoep is the late ELEANOR MELCK (1925?) who was awarded a bursary of 30 pounds to study Medicine. Eleanor died in Hermanus about two years ago. Her daughter is JOY (Guthrie 1953), who has moved from Hermanus back to England.

THE THIRTIES

A 90th Birthday. One of our regulars at Founders' Day, BILLIE FOSTER (May Trainor 1935) enjoyed a round of festivities to celebrate her ninetieth birthday in April. Daughter, KATHARINE ROBERTSON (1967) came from Scotland, niece ELEANOR QUINTON (Tindale 1965) from her new home in Perth, Australia. There was a picnic in Kirstenbosch, a dinner at the Wild Fig, a tea party where guests filled the dining room at Pinewood Village and everywhere there were ROG's. Flowers for the tea were done by JUNE SUTER (Perkins 1946) and HAZEL CAMPBELL (White 1956); from the younger generation were great-nieces SALLY TRAINOR (1988), FIONA and ALISON BERRISFORD (1989 and 1993); other family were YOLANDE TRAINOR (Ahrens 1962) of Simonstown, JEAN COHEN (Trainor 1968) of Plumstead, and your editor; friends included JESSIE BLACKSHAW (1961) of Constantia, CHARLIE BARNES (Basson 1965) of Rosebank, LESLEY LOW (McMurray 1958) of Claremont, ROS WAGNER (left 1956) and KATH COATON (Coles 1936) both of Pinelands. The party had a swinging start with the singing of old favourites with Billie at the piano. At ninety, she regularly plays the old favourites at homes for the elderly.

THE FORTIES

MARJORIE BULL (1949) sent a letter with more details about her mother, the late TINA BULL (Fortina Stavris 1925) see The Twenties. In the seventies, Marjorie was Cataloguing Officer at the SA National Gallery which enabled her to write a thesis for an MA (Fine Art) on the paintings of the artist and Surveyor General of the Cape Colony, Abraham de Smidt, in the second half of the nineteenth century. This was later published as a book, a copy of which is in the Rustenburg library. Marjorie moved to the SA Library where she worked under Douglas Varley, father of GILLIAN (1954), BRIDGET (headgirl 1957) and ALISON. It was there that she met ANGELA VAN RENSBURG (Bolt 1956), still a good friend, and co-authored a history of early Cape photography.

THE FIFTIES

BARBARA FISH (Lee 1954) was visiting daughter, KATHY JOHNSON (1995) in Pietermaritzburg during May and was able to have a happy meeting with old friend, MAUREEN ROUX (Pentz D1953), who lives in Kenton-On-Sea with her retired Methodist minister husband. Maureen was staying in Hilton with their son, also a Methodist minister.

LESLEY McGLASHAN (Quennell 1958) sent in a change of address in Edinburgh. She has three children. She obtained an L.R.A.M., BA (Hons), Dip Mus, ALCM from the Royal Academy of Music, Open University, London College of Music and has taught piano for many years.

THE SIXTIES

CAROL BAM (1962) is one of the band of ROG's making a name in the art world, having had her first exhibition in Pietermaritzburg. Before me I have a photo of Carol with one of her landscapes, dunes and sea. This came from the very attractive Cassidy Family Letter, the first for four years and full of interest. Gardening is Carol's other recreational activity and there is a picture to prove this. Carol, a friend and a Zulu Catholic Sister, make weekly journeys to a desperately poverty-stricken area of Sweetwaters to bring the Gospel, plus literacy skills training, and food; they market crocheted blankets made by the Zulu women in a self-help project. Carol has joined her husband, Michael, on missionary journeys in both Africa and overseas and speaks herself usually on marriage and family issues. She and Michael were given a trip to the Antarctic last year which they describe as the adventure of a lifetime. Did Carol do the Polar Plunge? (Your editor did, total immersion at -2 degrees!). Probably she didn't as she has had to have two knee replacements. Carol's Granny labours "have brought endless joy" and mean journeys to Johannesburg, Cape Town and Georgia, USA. Carol sent a welcome donation for the Piano Fund.

On Easter Sunday the STARK sisters, LIBBY (1961) and GILL (1963) walked past our Betty's Bay house with their hostess, SANDY MULLER (Mills 1957). We talked Rustenburg, the sisters telling of their life in the Boarding House, I think they were from Botswana. Libby lives half the year in Fish Hoek and in September will be heading back to the UK for six months caring. Gill is a radiographer at Red Cross Childrens' Hospital and is looking forward to retirement. As I write she is on her way back from Australia via Mauritius. Sandy and husband John live in Woodside Village.

THE EIGHTIES

I discovered the writer of an email about GUINEVERE KAUFFMANN (1985). It was DEBBIE MACKAMAN (Marshall 1984), Skype debbiemackaman who wrote. "After matriculating in 1984, I spent a year in Stillwater, MN, USA as a Rotary Exchange Student. During this time, I met Dan, who later moved to Cape Town for a few years, where we were married. We returned to Minnesota shortly thereafter, where we have been living ever since on the shores of Lake Minnetonka, just west of Minneapolis. We have one daughter, Erin, who is 10"

ZENA WIGRAM (1984) has been living in England with husband Roger for many years. She is very active in the Ealing Light Opera Company and last year was Josephine, the lead, in HMS Pinafore.

News from LINDY LUGER (Smith 1985) is that her family relocated to Sydney, Australia, at the end of 2008. New contact details are 10 Boyne Place, Wahroonga, 2076, New South Wales, Australia and lugerfamily@gmail.com

This email came with an attractive GCC letterhead flashing 'strategy, marketing, new media': "My name is GILLIAN CORY and I matriculated from Rustenburg High School in 1986. I was also a pupil of Rustenburg Junior School from Sub B onwards. My days as a Rustibug are bittersweet. Firstly, because I am not a morning person and found it difficult to stay awake in the early morning classes. I used to wake up during first break. And secondly, I have always been a talker and found it difficult to keep quiet walking in the corridor between classes. With that said, at the age of 40 I do look back at my years in that beautiful school with pride. Being a Rustenburg Girl instilled discipline and a love of learning in me. That led me to complete a Bachelor of Journalism with a major in Economics at Rhodes University before tackling the business of life. When entering the job market, I learnt pretty quickly that company politics was not for me and I would earn more working for myself. So I created GCC

(Gillian Cory Communication) in 1999. The company specialises in Digital Media. Thank you Rustenburg for giving this girl, who likes to talk, such a good foundation. Kind regards Gillian Cory ps.

if that French teacher had given me half a chance I would have been really good, but thanks to him I took art instead and that led me to enjoy, and make money, from visual media. However, I still intend to master French”.

KATHY JOHNSON (Fish 1985) normally a resident of Pietermaritzburg, is spending over four weeks on an island in Sweden where her scientist husband, Steve, does field work every spring for a number of years.

“We're staying once again in the "granny cottage" of the Thorvaldsson family, who have been just as good to us as ever. The homestead is about 120 years old, but as this is Sweden our lives are a rather odd mix of low and high tech...for, eg. the loo is a "short drop" in an old shed in the garden, and our house opens with a huge old ornate key and a complicated double latch system, but our car operates on a card and buttons only (no key) and the windscreen wipers come on automatically and adjust their own speed when it rains...scary!

Sweden is very easy on the eyes and very good for the soul...red barns, yellow canola fields fringed with red poppies and blue cornflowers; ancient stone walls grown over with moss; hares, horses, magpies, skylarks...everyone cycles (especially the elderly)...the tone is warm, respectful, understated; children and nature are very highly valued and treasured...this really is a society that seems to have got so much right, but without the slightest hint of arrogance.

We LOVE the food, so will have to make up for it by following the active outdoor life here; lots of soccer has happened in the field behind our cottage, especially when my sister and her family were with us; the Thorvaldsson children are also keen players, including their youngest, Kristina, who has become a good friend to Dan and Amy, and has taken them to school with her for two days (10 in the class; no uniform; a teacher addressed by her first name). The family has also loaned us bikes and we are hoping to cycle across the island tomorrow - if the weather improves - it was perfect on our arrival and has got steadily colder and wetter - has been below 10 degrees the last few days and shows no signs of improving soon!

We spent a very happy first week with my sister SANDRA POLES (1982) and her family when they came to stay in the little cottage behind ours; this week we have attempted a bit of school/project/Masters work; we are trying to decide about going to the neighbouring island of Gotland in our last week - lots to do and see there (eg the original "Pippi Langkous" house from the TV series, which was filmed there) - but the cost is a bit scary so we are waiting to check out the weather to avoid booking and spending three days there in the rain!

This time is about more than just R&R in a beautiful place; it is also learning about life, family and relationships when removed from the structures of everyday life, and has not been without its challenges! But how do we grow, if not through being challenged...”

KELLY SMITHEMAN (Weston 1982) sent a change of address so I asked her to write about herself then discovered she holidays at Betty's Bay so I must have seen her at the lake.

After matriculating, I took a gap year & travelled in Europe with Marilyn Denbigh (also ex Rustenburg) and worked on a Moshav in the Negev Desert, Israel. I then studied Graphic Design at Stellenbosch University & later went on to study Design Communication at Kingston University, UK. I am married to James Smitheman (Bishops) & we now live in the UK, with our 3 sons aged 6, 9 & 11. After living & working in London for many years, I set up my own small Graphic Design & publishing business. After my second son was born, I stopped work as a Graphic Designer and retrained as a Garden Designer. James & I now run a Landscape Design & Construction business and I teach Art at a local school part-time.

THE NINETIES

I do enjoy catching up with LINDY STEELE (White 1991), who I probably first saw as a tiny Christmas Fairy at one of the legendary fund-raising parties.

"It seems that every time I get in touch it's from a different continent! First, there was life in Zambia, then the move to Scotland, after which we moved back to Africa (Kenya) and now we're based in Washington DC. And did I mention, I have had another daughter! I think the last report was from Scotland. After two years in Glasgow, Tim and I were both desperate to get back to Africa, so when he was offered a position with the UN in Nairobi, we packed up and shipped out. That was October 2007. In December, a week before the Kenyan election, we flew back to Cape Town to celebrate Christmas with family. And then found ourselves delaying our return as election results were contested and violence broke out. In early January we felt confident enough to return and were fortunate that the only hardship we really suffered was getting stuck in the most awful traffic as Condoleeza Rice's convoy left the city. The same cannot be said for most Kenyans - everywhere you looked people were being displaced as the country tried to enforce geography along tribal lines. I volunteered at an IDP camp teaching high school children maths and it was heartbreaking to see hardworking children lose hope for their futures as politicians battled for power. At the time, no one was sure which way the country would go and, when Tim was asked to represent the UN in a combined project with the World Bank in Washington DC, he accepted the post. So, after only ten months, we were on the move again. I should add that, by the time we left, Kenya was looking fairly stable again.

We loved our time in Kenya and were very sad to leave. Hopefully we will get the chance to live there again someday. We travelled to some of the most incredible game parks in the world - the Masai Mara (yes, we caught some of the migration) and Amboseli (in the shadow of Kilimanjaro) being our favourites. And we also squeezed in a trip to Zanzibar while we were in the region which was very special. It was also where I found out I was pregnant again.

We moved to the States in July and Hannah Iris was born in October. She is a thriving and happy little girl, much loved by all but most especially by her big sister, Caitlin.

America, or at least the State of Virginia, is treating us well. We've met such warm people who have been introducing us to a perplexing array of American traditions - Halloween, Thanksgiving, holiday sales...We're looking forward to the Inauguration next week and feel quite privileged to be here during this historic time.

I hope this email finds you well. I look forward to the next ROGU newsletter!"

Also from the Class of '91, HELEN SCOTT has returned to South Africa and is an associate professor in UCT's Law Department. Helen spent 10 years in Oxford, graduating D.Phil from University and being a Fellow of Trinity and St Catherine's Colleges.

I was so delighted to have a change of email address from CARMEN BOWNES (1992) who was in my E form class – See Engagements. This is what she wrote:

"Wow, what a lovely surprise to hear from you. I have been living in Durban now for the past 6 years and finally getting married in July to a lovely Englishman. We are both very involved with horses and horseracing. I finished my B.Sc. degree at Stellenbosch and unfortunately I am not using it at all, which is quite sad. I wish to do forensic science sometime but need to get through the big day first. Thanks to Facebook I have kept in touch with VANESSA KATZ (married with 2 girls, living in USA), SKYE STEVENSON (married and living in Australia) and a few others. I would have loved to have studied equinephysio but my marks at varsity needed to be in the 90's, which was not possible. Studying at Stellenbosch were the best years of my academic life."

This May, in Johannesburg, ROBYN CULLIS (1995) and her husband were both admitted to the College of Medicine after passing their fellowships in Paediatrics and Orthopaedics respectively.

Robyn will continue to work at the Children's Red Cross Hospital (rated by Clem Sunter as South Africa's only world-class hospital) until January 2010. Then she and Hayden will move somewhere overseas for about two years before returning home. She had news of other doctors from her year: SUSAN NEWTON - see Births –has resumed her training in Emergency Medicine at a hospital in Oxford, UK; TARYN PIENAAR and her doctor husband have been in George for a year and are now back in Cape Town; ROS KENDAL has added a degree in Creative Writing to her medical degree and has published a novel, 'Karma Suture' about a young doctor in South Africa. Physiotherapist, KAREN LISTER – see Engagements - has joined SALLY LE ROUX (Masterson 1993 see Births) working at Zithulele Hospital near Hole-in-the-Wall on the Wild Coast.

CARLA LOUREIRO (1995) is now Managing Director of Navigate Interactive Design, a digital design studio launched in November '08, that specialises in the design of websites and web related art work. It has been born as the sister company to Just Design, a design and packaging agency who found that their interactive work was growing to such an extent it made strategic sense to launch a separate company to cater for their clients' digital needs. Its by no means all work and no play for Carla, she writes, "I ran a 3 day stage race in Kleinmond 2 weekends ago – 23km day 1, 44km day 2 (my first marathon) and 23km on day 3. I have never done anything like that before, and it was all off road, so very hilly and hard, but wonderful at the same time."

Sitting at the hairdresser, I was greeted by the young woman next to me. She was NICKI HIBLING (Franz 1995) who gave me news of various Franz ROG's – see Weddings - . Nicki herself lives on Old Boyes Drive, Muizenburg, and is mother to Leila 3 and Jack 1 and runs the office for her husband's business. A true Muizenburg girl she is learning to surf and met NICOLA LOUW (1997) at a recent lesson. Cousin WENDY FRANZ is married with a child in England.

ANDREA RESSEL (Eden 1996) lives in Rondebosch with husband Peter and son Daniel 1. She and Daniel might be recognized in adverts for nappies and other baby products. Andrea graduated from UCT in Film and Media, worked in the multi-media unit at UCT and still consults once a week and does free-lance writing.

PHILIPPA CRISP (1997 - see Engagements) works as a merchandiser for Mr Price in Durban

LAURA ESPEY (Comrie 1998) See Marriages – wrote, "I graduated from UCT as a medical doctor in 2005 and am now specializing in Psychiatry in Johannesburg. My sister, CAITLIN COMRIE (1996) is currently living in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is a qualified architect & is busy completing her second master's degree.

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

MELISSA STANFORD (2001) now living in Wimbledon, UK, spent all her twelve years of schooling at Rustenburg "then I went on a Gap year to the UK where I worked as a 'Stooge' at a school called Blundell's in Devon. There I coached the 1st team boys and girls hockey teams as well as teaching extra maths lessons to A-level students. I also travelled around Europe for a few months backpacking and exploring whilst meeting many interesting people. Once I returned to Cape Town I attended Stellenbosch University where I attained a degree in Commercial Accounting. There I met many new friends as well as old ones. I was the lead in our Vensters play and head of the cheerleading squad of Serruria Girls residence. After Stellenbosch I returned to Cape Town and studied a Post Graduate at UCT in Enterprise Management. Once I graduated I moved to London in Jan 2007 and pursued a career in Investment Banking. I have worked at Goldman Sachs for 2 years now and live in Wimbledon area close to many Rustybugs. We have a weekly dinner club with 10 of the girls in my year at Rustenburg- some familiar names JESSICA SOLOMONS, LINDSAY FISH, KAREN BEWERUNGE,

KAREN WILSON, CATHY DALY, KIM HENDRY, KATE TIMM, RACHEL KENDAL, VICTORIA DONALDSON and KAERIN-ANNE SANDEROFF. I still come back to Cape Town each year to visit because there is no better place than home after all. I am keen to organise a reunion for the 2001 matrics so anyone from our year please contact me on melissa_lauren_stanford@yahoo.co.uk"

Warm best wishes and congratulations to all who have had landmark events in their lives.

ENGAGEMENTS

CARMEN BOWNES (1992) to Mike McGeever at Hartford House, Summerfield Stud, Mooi River KZN in April 2008. Wedding planned this July for the same venue.

PHILIPPA CRISP (1997) to Jason Sharman in Hermanus, December 2008

LEITHE HULLEY to Stephen Gie in Cape Town in January 2009 Leithe is sister to ADRIENNE MILLER (Hulley – Staff in the 90's) who lives on a farm in southern Namibia

KAREN LISTER (1995) to Roger X in March 2009. A Coffee Bay wedding is planned for September. Karen is daughter of the late DAPHNE LISTER (Pinchin 1962)

MARRIAGES

MURIEL HOUSDON (Meintjes 1948) of Pinelands was married to William (Buzz) Rayner of the Island of Great Brak River on 16 June 2009. Muriel and Buzz were childhood sweethearts growing up in Cradock, met up again about a year ago and are now residing in Pinelands Village.

ROBYN STEER (1989) to Sean Anthony on 28 February 2009 at Cedar Hotel, Devon Valley, Stellenbosch. Robyn is daughter of MOIRA PETERSEN (BAYMAN 1954).

SHELAGH HOFFMANN (1994) to Michael Hughes on 13 December 2008 at St Michael's Church with the reception at the Wild Fig. Bridesmaid was JACQUI WALLACE (1994)

JENNY FRANZ ((199) to Glen Napier on 11th April 2009 at Port Alfred. Sister Nicki Hibling (1995) – see The Nineties – and ROBYN LLOYD (1995) were bridesmaids

KATHERINE HANGER (1988) to Graham Campbell of the UK on April 17 at the Mowbray Catholic Church with the reception at Harbour House, Kalk Bay. Bridesmaids were sister LYNNE AFONSO (1994) and SALLY TRAINOR (1988)

LAURA COMRIE (1998) to Gregory Espey (SACS 1991) on 3 Jan 2009 in Stellenbosch. He is the brother of NICOLETTE MEE (Espey 1994) nephew of FIONA ESPEY (1960's).

KERRY WHITE (1996) to Keith Buhr in Oudtshoorn at the Yotclub B&B on 25 October 2008

Miss Thomson (Headmistress 1952 – 1979) once said to me (editor), "These days only one's intimates know one's surname." Tommy died four years ago in June.

BIRTHS

To CAMILLA DRIVER (1992) and Boed Carver, a daughter, Maru in July 2008 in Cape Town

To SUSAN WYNNE (1994) and husband Iwan van Wyk, a daughter Lilian Ruth born on 9th December 2008 in Milnerton, Cape Town.

To CHIARA WALLERS (1997) and Gary Broom a daughter Chloe Elizabeth on Christmas Day 2008 in England. Wish I could include the photos too.

To SUSAN NEWTON (1995) and Michael Duxbury a son, Benjamin in March 2008 in England

To CARYN BROWNELL (1997) and Alec Starey a son Kai Alexander on 30 December 2008 in Stellenbosch. Kai was christened in Betty's Bay on Sunday 31 May.

To INGRID HUGHES (D 1992) and Chris Graham, a daughter Niakala, sister to Nathan in Auckland, New Zealand

To LEIGH LANGSTON (1995) and Ashley Hogarty, a daughter (4.4Kg), Gemma Wilma, on 21st March 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. Aunt is SUSAN (1996), also of Melbourne

To SALLY MASTERSON (1993) and Karl le Roux a son, Johan Pieter Du Pré, brother to Emma on 6 April 2009 in East London. Johan weighed 4.7 Kg and was pushed out with ease by Sally. Grandmother is JENNY MASTERSON (Solomon 1963)

To CATHY McMURRAY (1990) and Morne Joubert a daughter and sister to Emily on 7 April 2009 in Cambridge, UK

To CAROLINE PRYCE (1992) and Richard Slater-Jones, a daughter, Ona on 5 May 2009 in Cape Town (Step-granddaughter to FIONA CHISHOLM (1955))

To ELIZABETH FOXCROFT (1993) and Gavin van den Berg a son, Harry Edward, brother for Callum on 20 May 2009 in New Zealand (umpteenth grandchild to AUDREY (AULD 1956))

To NATALIE MOORE (1996) and Ryan Frith, a daughter, Dominique Stella, sister to Abigail Anne, on 2 October 2008 in Constantiaberg, Cape Town

To EULALIA RAUCH (1997) and John Robert Frater a son, Connor Wessel, brother to Adrian on 26 January 2009 in Paarl (- wish you could see the photo of Eulalia and sons).

IN MEMORIAM

TAMSIN RAFFLE (Murray 1940's) died at home in Norfolk, England after a short illness on 30 May 2008. Tamsin was at Rustenburg during the war years, finished her schooling at Collegiate in Port Elizabeth and studied at UCT. After her marriage she lived in Malawi, then Nyasaland and Botswana before moving to Norfolk, her husband's home county. Tamsin is survived by her two daughters, Carolyn and Rosalind and her sisters, MARGOT and PHYLLIDA (C 1954) to whom we offer deepest sympathy.

MELODIE GREEN (Fish 1936) died on 27 June 2008 in Cape Town. She was one of a number of ROG's living in Pinewood Village, Pinelands.

MARGARET LUCKE (Frame) died on 20 August 2008 in Cape Town. Margaret was born on 25 March 1912 lived in Cape Town where she was very involved in the Mowbray Presbyterian Church. She has two sons to whom we offer sincere sympathy.

JOAN ELIZABETH BROOKE (Coetzer) died in Australia on 18 November 2008 after a mercifully short illness. Her son, Alan of Canberra sent an account of her life which she sent for the Rustenburg Centenary and photographs referred to below. He said her friends and memories from Rustenburg remained always with her. Her last two years were particularly happy. Here are some extracts from Joan's life story. "I have travelled the world, lived in far-flung countries and met so many different people from all walks of life, I have felt more than adequately educated and prepared for life in general. For this I must thank my parents and in particular, Rustenburg and the comprehensive and well-rounded education which I received there." Having trained at the Cape Town Training College and taught in Cape Town, Joan with MOIRA GAZEBY (Gordon) and PHYLLIS MARRINER (Gerth van Wijk) travelled round Europe. Returning to Port Elizabeth, Joan was on the staff of Collegiate, met husband, Tim, an architect, whose professional life took them to London, Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea for ten years where they loved the lush vegetation, the beaches, the coral reefs and where Joan did relief teaching and was intrigued to find South African textbooks being used for the Motu-speaking children and finally, Canberra. In retirement, the Brookes travelled to England every year where they had an estate which needed restoration and development. On the way they would visit South Africa, the East, and America. Travel was one of Joan's three ambitions in life and it certainly was achieved. So too the others, "to own a perfect Pekingese" - she had nine - "and to build up a good music collection" which she did. Joan ends by saying she has led "a fortunate life". We extend deepest sympathy to Joan's sons, Alan and Nicholas and thanks to Alan for sending this material..

IVA MARTIN (Wakefield (193?)) died in Marondera, Zimbabwe on 2 December 2008, close to one of her sons. A grandson, Donovan Cooper, sent these details of her life. Born in June 1916 in Windhoek, Iva lived in Walvis Bay for much of her childhood so she must have been a boarder. After moving to Salisbury, she married Harry Rowan Martin and spent many years in Harare (Salisbury), Zimbabwe. She had four children, two boys and two girls. One of the girls followed in her steps becoming a successful florist. Iva ran the Forget-Me-Not florist in Harare for many years where she was a well known figure in the community. She studied architecture and also obtained a private pilots licence. Iva had the sharpest wit, was an extraordinary scrabble player, widely read and had an amazing knowledge of the Latin names for almost any plant. She is deeply missed by her family to whom we offer sincerest sympathy.

JEAN BOSHOFF (Hofmeyr 1957) died in George on 28th December 2008 after a long illness. After 12 years at Rustenburg, Jean trained as a nurse in Port Elizabeth and shortly after qualifying, married Jack Boshoff, living in PE, Oudtshoorn and then for the past 40 years, in George. Jean shared her husband's interest in vintage cars and was secretary of the very active Vintage Car Club, taking part in many rallies which she greatly enjoyed. She did spinning and weaving and won competitions with her creative knitting. Jean leaves Jack, a daughter, three sons and five grandchildren; we extend deepest sympathy to them and to her brothers and sister.

CLAIRE ROUSE died tragically in a car accident in May 2009. We extend our deepest sympathy to Claire's family and friends.

MAUREEN STERN (Berold 1954) died in San Diego after a long illness borne with courage and dignity. Her family recorded that she was a loving devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, and will be sorely missed by all whose life she touched; she was truly a cherished woman of worth. Five years ago she was at her class's 50 years reunion looking stunning. We extend sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

JOAN KENYON (Staff 1956 – 1960, 1979) died in Cape Town on 10 June 2009 in her 91st year. Joan was teacher of History at Rustenburg before becoming the first headmistress of San Souci Girls' High School, Newlands. After retiring in 1978 (she was succeeded by FIONA WATSON (Stewart 1953)), Joan returned to Rustenburg at intervals to help out in the History Department. CHARMIAN PLUMMER (Marais 1956) remembers her as an excellent teacher, small in stature and large in History. Joan was active in the SA Council for English Education, and was "a respected and admired Honorary Life member of The South African Association of Woman Graduates. Joan and her sister, LOUISE KENYON (1945) grew up at the Royal Observatory with the DAVIS sisters, DOROTHY (194?) and BETTY (1947). We extend sincerest sympathy to Louise.

PENNY MUTTI (1990) died on 20th March 2009 in Cape Town after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Her sister BELINDA (1988) organized a beautiful celebration of her life on the 27th March at her dad's home in Newlands. Penny was diagnosed with MS in Nov 2000 and was so brave right up to the end. It was so tragic to watch someone who was always so full of life suffer such a debilitating illness. Penny was always such an active person at school and her passion for beautiful things was evident in her home, the way she dressed and her love of art. Her love of life to us all will be greatly missed.

Thank you to SARAH BELL (nee Fraser 1990) for sending this sad news. Penny was the daughter of the late HEATHER MUTTI (Burrows 1961) who died in March 2001. I remember Penny as a warm, vibrant member of my first Matric Biology class. Art was very important in her life and she not only took Art but also Graphics.

To Penny's father, Belinda and the friends we offer deepest sympathy.

PATRICIA VALERIE (PADDY) STRACHAN (Dawe 1952) passed away suddenly at her home in Claremont on Easter Monday 13 April 2009. She enjoyed 51 years of happiness married to John Strachan and they had three sons. She worked as secretary for St Paul's Church in Rondebosch for 30 years and was loved by all who knew her. I remember the happy times we shared especially at break with Negan Jones, Daphne Bowman, Jances (?) Opie and Marlene Smit. In Std 9 she went overseas with her family to visit the war graves where her father had lost his life during World War II, and brought out little gifts to us from Holland. She will be greatly missed and our sympathy goes out to John and the family. (Sent in by MYRNA PELSER (Sparks 1953).

REUNIONS

1948 REUNION From GERALDINE GARDINER (Forster 1948) came news of their reunion: Our class of 1948 had a very successful 60th reunion at the end of October 2008 with a lunch at Mowbray Golf Club. There were thirteen of us present. Five of us followed this up with an informal reunion which included IRIS ASHKEN (Platzky 1948) who was visiting me from Norwich, England, with husband Michael, a retired urologist. Iris is also a retired doctor. We met at ROSEMARY SUNDGREN'S (Wood 1948) holiday home at Pringle Bay in February. Other old friends were ASCENCIA TEBBUTT (Mordecai 1948) and MURIEL RAYNER (previously HOUSDON) (Meintjies 1948) – See Marriages.

1949 REUNION We, the 49 Matrics, have plans afoot to celebration 60 years out of school on Saturday 19th September with a luncheon to be held in the Dining Room of the Boarding House. On the Friday morning of the 18th we have been invited to be part of the Junior School's Open Day. Replies are coming in slowly, together with a short résumé of our activities during the last 60 years. These have been as different as each past pupil was. We hope to collate them and have a booklet available at the lunch. Please contact SYBIL A'BEAR (Andrews) at 021-782-3271 at mombear@cybertrade.co.za or MARGARET MORTLEY (Gardener) of Pinewood Village at 021-531-4750 or mortley@telkomsa.net

1969 REUNION HELEN FOTIU writes that there will be a luncheon to celebrate the 40th year since matriculating in 1969. The date will be the 26th September, and the venue the Vineyard Hotel in Newlands. Helen's contact details are: helenf@polka.co.za, and contact number 083 2367611.

1970 REUNION. We are hoping to get together in April 2010 - provisionally the weekend of 17 April. Contact **Elsabe Ketteringham** (ketttersmail@gmail.com)

1989 REUNION GRETA HENLEY (Nanson) Greta@union-swiss.com is co-ordinating the twenty-year reunion of the E's of 1989. The organizing team have contact with about 60 class members on a Facebook group but are missing quite a few e-mails/contacts.

1990 REUNION in 2010. Contact Bronwynne Stoddart (nee Lubbe) +27 82 990 1074 or Bronwynne.Stoddart@vodacom.co.za

I need to say a very warm thank you to everyone who sent in news. I wish we could publish the mother and baby photos which I enjoy immensely but I'm sure many those will be found on Facebook. I don't use that as a source as I know the young keep up that way and the supply of news would be endless. For the oldies, there have been photos you would enjoy – the late Joan Brooke busy at a Singer in a needlework class in the forties and one of her shortly before she died; there are pictures of gardens and grandchildren and of course, Betty Dwight's paintings of Rondebosch Common.

Rustenburg connections crop up everywhere. On a ferry in Chile we met a Viennese who had been a very good friend of the late FRIEDERIKE SPITZNER (1960); in Buenos Aires, by pure chance, I met the South African Military Attaché to Argentina, she is Captain LESLEY JOHNSON of the SA Navy; she was at the Junior school and both her mother and aunt were at RGHS. A varied and widely-flung family.

Affectionately

Mary Rose

HELP REQUESTED by OraRuth Rother (11 Lorian Close, Woodside Park, London N12 7DW, UK)

My mum's name is Shirley Abitz (her married name is Ostrofsky) and she lived in Claremont. I believe that she would have matriculated (I think she was rather young at 16) in either 1954/55 and then went on to study art at UCT. I know that she was an outstanding artist, but rather a shy and quiet pupil.

I am looking for any class photographs, artwork, articles, notes, prizes, reports anything that I can use to put into the book. I am sure that your archives will be a mine of wonderful past memories, and I am hoping will reveal something as I believe that there was a reunion last or the previous year, and albeit she was unable to attend, my mum contributed an article or note to commemorate the occasion. But it is the past history and her early years that I am most interested in.

I would be truly grateful for any information and if this could be supplied as **high res jpeg scans via email** that would be fantastic. I can be contacted either via email oraruth@hotmail.co.uk or via my home phone +44 (0) 208 446 4844 or via mobile on +44 (0) 7973 401 683.