

# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 50

December 2009

## FOUNDERS DAY - 29 JANUARY 2010 AT RUSTENBURG HIGH SCHOOL

10h30 TEA, 11h30 ASSEMBLY, 12h30 LUNCH + AGM OF THE ROGU.  
LUNCH BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

COST IS R70 PER PERSON FOR A DELICIOUS THREE COURSE MEAL  
PREPARED BY THE BON APPETIT GIRLS

Please email RUTH ROMBURGH at rcromburgh@gmail.com OR TELEPHONE  
083 3241919 BEFORE FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY 2009, TO MAKE A BOOKING.  
TABLES MAY BE ALLOCATED TO YEAR GROUP REUNIONS. ALL BOOKINGS  
NOT CANCELLED BY 22 JANUARY WILL BE LIABLE FOR PAYMENT

Dear Old Girls

This has been a busy, successful and exciting year at Rustenburg Junior School. The happy atmosphere and eagerness to learn is evident throughout the school. The 2009 theme, "**Grow Bright Brains.**" concentrated on the right environment in which to 'grow' our brains. Just as a plant can only grow if the conditions are right, our brains need the right atmosphere to learn and retain knowledge and skills. Throughout the year we focused on the values which are named in our school's mission - caring, commitment, pride, honesty, respect and generosity.

The **Academic** Portfolio has had a successful year. The teaching staff has constantly found ways to maintain high standards while making learning both interesting and fun. Interactive whiteboards, installed in a number of classrooms this year, have added a new dimension to teaching and learning. We hope to expand this programme to the Foundation Phase in the near future. The Western Cape Education Department once again acknowledged the excellent academic programme of the school with a prize for consistently high scores in the Systemic Evaluations over the last few years.

The **Art and Culture** Portfolio had a busy year. The combined Junior and High Schools concert was a memorable occasion, much appreciated by all who attended. The Senior Primary Play, Bugs Musical and the Spring Concert were delightful occasions involving a large number of girls.

**Sport and Extra Mural activities**, an essential part of school life, add value to the school programme. Galas and Sports Days were fun-filled and enjoyable and

many teams enjoyed success in Inter schools competitions. New activities such as Creative Needlework, the Eco Club and the Outreach Club proved popular with the girls.

**Community service** is an important part of life at Rustenburg. Through a number of civvies days we have donated money to a variety of charities - children, animals, the elderly and environmental organisations. In addition, the girls paid to wear their colourful House shirts with pet food and groceries which were donated to underprivileged animals and people.

We have **linked with a number of other schools** this year. In July a group of Grade 7 girls visited St Johns, in Wales and our AfriTwin School, Newport Primary, in Devon. This was an exciting trip which resulted in the exchange of ideas and the forming of lasting friendships. We also strengthened our ties with Hlengisa Primary, in Nyanga, and SACS Junior. In anticipation of World Cup 2010 we held a soccer tournament together. We also travelled to Nyanga for a music morning in which all three schools participated. This was a memorable and emotional event. Sport and music are both wonderful ways to bridge the gaps between communities.

Although we value our traditions and honour the past we are definitely a progressive and dynamic school. Rustenburg Junior continues to provide an excellent education and instill good moral values while stepping, with pride and confidence, into the modern world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Diane Berry**

**Headmistress: Rustenburg Junior School**

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Dear Rustenburg Old Girls

A dichotomy seems to emerge when reflecting upon our past year at Rustenburg High School for Girls; for 2009 has been both a time of change, but also a time of great consistency and constancy. This balance is not necessarily between two polar opposites, rather it has been the result of careful strategic planning and forward-thinking by all Rustenburg stakeholders. We want our precious school to grow and be in keeping with the development of our country, South Africa, *and* we want to be able to use its reputable stability and steadiness as relevant and appropriate benchmarks with which we will face the future.

Rustenburg's "Vision 2010 and Beyond- a Strategic Conversation", a weekend workshop to which all staff, parents and learners were formally invited, was a very important example of this. Here interested parties gathered to debate and discuss their experiences of the school, from a wide variety of equally important perspectives, with a view to creating a modern Mission Statement and levers by which these important goals could be attained.

One of Rustenburg's greatest assets remains its incredibly hard-working staff. We look forward to welcoming only two new staff members to the team in 2010. This is just one sign of significant stability at Rustenburg.

We also remain very proud of four distinctive assets which Rustenburg will continue to boast. Firstly, as an all-girls' school, we continue to nurture and guide young women in an environment which provides them with contexts in which they can explore their hidden potential, both academically, culturally and on the sporting fields.

Secondly, Rustenburg is going to maintain an abundance of leadership opportunities, with the ultimate aim of equipping courageous and confident young women to take their place proudly and rightfully as South African leaders.

Thirdly, the school, in recognising that each of the girls in its care is unique with distinctive interests, will retain its 'Open Curriculum'. This infers that learners are able to submit their own choices for FET Subjects and that Rustenburg will manage its timetable around the individual requests of its girls as far as possible.

And lastly, the steadfast body of "old girls" who remain faithful supporters of their alma mater. It has been a privilege and honour to meet the girls at their various reunions held at Rustenburg this year:

Proof of Rustenburg's success in balancing change whilst maintaining constancy came by way of praise from the national *Sunday Times* newspaper. On the front page of the publication Rustenburg was lauded as the fifth most successful school in South Africa. What an incredible achievement and honour! Only a marginal discrepancy differentiated those schools which the *Sunday Times* placed in its Top 5.

The challenge, now, is for Rustenburg to maintain the exceptional standard set by her predecessors. This goal will best come to fruition as we, the Rustenburg community, successfully manage change whilst maintaining constancy and respecting those traditions which have served us well in the past...

**Laura Bekker**  
**Headmistress: Rustenburg High School**

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**Newsletter from MARY ROSE BERRISFORD (1956 and staff in the 90's)**  
**[mberrisford@xsinet.co.za](mailto:mberrisford@xsinet.co.za)**

**DEAR OLD GIRLS**

I write looking out over the greenbelt to a grey sea under grey skies and wonder when we'll have a long enough stretch of good days to justify calling this summer.

The last Friday in January will be Rustenburg's Founders' Day and I want to specially encourage you to be there. Be part of the morning tea, attend the impressive assembly and enjoy the festive lunch. For the first time there is no clash with UCT's Summer School although no doubt the opening of AP Jones' Summer Sale will still be competition. In Charlie's Hope you'll see the new Kawai grand piano. As you look at it, be very grateful to the efforts of the TRIBELHORN sisters, JUNE WATSON (1971) and LORRAINE SMIT (1974) assisted by NATALIE LE ROUX (Tait 1952) in raising R45 000 by organizing a Golf Day. Donations from ROG's totalled R40 500, including an anonymous contribution of R20 000, leaving a mere R25 000 from the entire body of past pupils of Rustenburg. The original target in December 2007 was R99 000, the final price paid in the region of R125 000 (the balance was paid by the school). It seems to me a rather feeble effort when one thinks of the school's proud record in music – See below. What highlights the dismal result of the campaign is that this year our brother school received R100 000 from an Old Boy, Sir Frank Berman, and it has been decided that it will go towards a music scholarship to be known as the Sir Frank Berman Music Scholarship. Frank may be remembered by debaters of the fifties, the magazine of 1956 records him as one of the speakers in the annual Rustenburg-Rondebosch debate. Perhaps as our younger ROG's fill important positions all over the world, there will not be such discrepancy in donations to alma maters.

## **IN THE NEWS**

Where in the world are JOANNE and Oscar? As reported in the Cape Times of 7<sup>th</sup> July, JOANNE LEFSON (1989) and Oscar, the shelter dog pictured in front of Pisa's leaning tower, were in Ladakh, northern India, taking a few weeks off their travels by staying in a donkey sanctuary founded by Joanne. Oscar was adopted by Joanne from the Cape of Good Hope SPCA in 2004. His journey round the world, funded by Joanne, aims to change the perception of shelter dogs. He has flown over the Victoria Falls in a microlite, swum in the Zambezi. A documentary is being filmed and there are plans for a book.

In The Cape Odyssey of Aug/Sept 2009 there is a scholarly, illustrated article, 'From Sea Bamboo to a Botanical Feast' by GERALDINE GARDINER (Forster 1948). Geraldine traces the discovery of the treasures of the Cape flora from the first recorded mention which surprisingly is of kelp. Vasco da Gama wrote, "On ...the day of All Saints, we found many signs of land, which were seaweeds that grow along the coast". Three days later he landed at St Helena Bay.

ANNEMARIE SAINSBURY (Praetorius 1962) is shown in cycling kit, reclining between two scarecrows in the July 2009 issue of Country Life. She was one of seven participants in the Tour de Krantz, a route through passes of the W Cape from Prince Albert to the Wilderness in April 2008. Riding with her or in the back up team were the parents of CAREY MCKENZIE (1991), SARAH ANDREW (1991) and ROBYN CULLIS (1995).

CAROL COLLINS (Brooke Sumner 1984) received an accolade from the Director of the Cape Gourmet Festival in Restaurant Week 2008 for, "superlative service, top quality cuisine and stylish ambience". Carol's restaurant is Readers in Church Street, Tulbagh.

CARYL BECKER (1984) is featured in the recent Souvenir Edition of the Tatler, commemorating twenty-five years of this leading community newspaper. In 1984 the Tatler had a headline, 'Caryl leads WP girls' cricket' and a picture shows Caryl at the crease. Today, Caryl, is head of therapies and chief physiotherapist at the British Olympic Association (BOA) where she had been working since 2001. Still a leader in her field, she has led the therapy team of the BOA in the development of the intensive treatment and rehabilitation programmes and has been head or a member of the British Team at the Winter Games in Calgary and the Olympics in Athens and Beijing as well as Youth Olympic Festivals in Europe and Australia. As for cricket, Caryl says, "The women's game has progressed enormously since I played especially in the UK." In 1984, Rustenburg's cricket coach, MORAIG McLEOD (Staff) was selected for the SA Women's Cricket Team to play an English touring side. CLAIRE COWAN (1999), another of Moraig's cricket stars, is part of the commentating team for the current men's series against England.

The monthly Social supplement of the Cape Times featured the launch of a bedroom accessory shop in Claremont. Pictured with son and daughter-in-law was ANN WALLIS-BROWN (Martin 195?) of HWB Communicators.

## MUSIC

CERYS RICH (1988), mother of three and a violinist in the Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, is a member of the Pinnacles Quartet which recently toured Australia as backing for a well-known pop group. Normally the quartet gives concerts in the city halls of Freemantle and Perth.

CATHERINE FOXCROFT (1986) Senior Lecturer in the Music Department, Rhodes University, performed in Cape Town several times this year. On July 25, she was the soloist at the City Hall's Symphony Concert which earned the headlines: **'FOXCROFT SHINES IN PROKOFIEV CONCERTO Fine performances with Gueller at the helm'**. The work was the Piano Concerto no 3 in C minor. Deon Irish wrote in the Cape Times of July 1; 'I last heard Catherine Foxcroft in February 2002 when she played the Grieg Piano Concerto...There is a considerable gulf between the Nordic romanticism of Grieg and the astringent brilliance of Prokofiev, but Foxcroft's assured pianism is more than up to bridging that gap.... Foxcroft's technique is more than up to both styles....This was a fine account, with the soloist romping through the more declamatory variations ....The robust finale is a *tour de force* of pianistic athleticism, demanding precision chord-placing and nigh-mechanical fingerwork to bring off its huge technical and musical demands...Foxcroft and Gueller delivered an exhilarating account of the movement

and the enthusiastic audience response was wholly merited.' I felt privileged to be in the audience that night, and saw current head of music, ELIZABETH SOLE and staff member JUDITH DERNIER there too. Then, as advertised in the last issue, Catherine also gave a recital on the new Kawai grand piano in Charlie's Hope. ROSEMARY DAVIS (current staff) wrote in the RGHS Newsletter, "Ms Foxcroft selected a varied programme in which she was able to display the full range and flexibility of tone colours available on the new Kawai piano. There was a good attendance of past and present pupils and the ROGU representatives must have been proud of their acquisition which will bring delight to future learners at Rustenburg for many years to come." She concludes, "Ms Foxcroft demonstrated full mastery of the piano throughout this wonderful recital, both in her virtuoso skill as a pianist and in her sensitive and highly intelligent musicianship". Catherine played works by Scarlatti, Brahms, Debussy, Chopin, Liszt and Granados.

In the school magazine photograph of the orchestra of 1984, BRIDGET RENNIE (1984) is standing next Catherine Foxcroft. Would the conductor, MISS LIEBENBERG, have imagined that twenty-five years later, in one year, these two would both be a soloist with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra? BRIDGET RENNIE-SALONEN was the flautist in Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp in C major on 12 November. Sadly, a gremlin has hidden my copy of Deon Irish's very complimentary review. JEAN COHEN (Trainor 1968) was in the audience that night and said Bridget gave a very fine performance. Both Jean (full-time piano) and Bridget (part-time flute) teach at Michael Oak School, Kenilworth. It is noteworthy that CERY S RICH (see above) was the leader of the Rustenburg Orchestra of 1984. CAMILLA DRIVER (1992) is currently a viola player in the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra.

A picture on the Cape Times Leisure page of July 31 showed MONIQUE HELLENBERG (2000) with the caption, 'Monique Hellenberg will front the new Kwaai Caliente ensemble at Albert Hall on Saturday night'.

SUE COLLINS (Robertson 1956) reports that, CECILIA PALM (?1953) gave a recital on the grand piano in the clubhouse of Oasis Retirement Complex, Century City where they both live together with at least five other ROG's.

TRACEY BURGER (Hall 1989) played the flute in the ensemble FESTA at a lunch hour concert in the Endler Hall, Stellenbosch in July. A live recording was made for the group's next CD.

In a recent issue of Classic Feel we read of LOUISE CARVER (1996) being part of "SA's rich goldmine of female musical talent – now we have a new breed of exciting young women who are contributing to our country's evolving musical legacy".

In August there were two performances in the City Hall of Vivaldi's Gloria sung by the choirs of Rustenburg, Rondebosch and SACS. ROG's in the choir were MICHELLE MEYER (1996) now on the staff, BABALWA MPULU (200?), and REBECCA THOMSON

(2007) while BRIDGET RENNIE SALONEN (1984) was in the orchestra. The night I attended, all the roads around the City Hall were blocked off for a rehearsal for a parade; some members of the audience turned around and went home. I was very proud of one of our oldest ROG's, BILLIE FOSTER (Trainor 1935) who gamely walked five blocks through the streets of Cape Town to the City Hall ( a gallant Rondebosch OB saw us back after the concert)

## EDUCATING RITA

FIONA CHISHOLM (1955) wrote a preview in the Cape Times of this play by Willy Russell presented at the Kalk Bay Theatre in September, beginning: "It promises to be a treat for theatre-goers. Popular actors ANTHEA THOMPSON (1986) and David Dennis have teamed up...She quotes Anthea as saying, 'Rita? What's she like? She's a sort of Eliza Doolittle character who sets out to break free from the kind of culture she's stuck in. She wants to get away from the inevitability of her life with karaoke in the pub and having a baby and living in a council house. She wants to become free and literary and to make more of her life...As Rita discovers during the play, she has a choice. So do I....that's why I'm perfectly suited to this profession, because it changes constantly, offering me new challenges. From acting to directing, to producing to writing, to voice-overs. Always something new to do around the corner'

Then in the Cape Times of September 2, there is a heading, '**Spot-on acting an education**' by Steyn du Toit. He writes: 'A large chunk of its (the play's) success, if not the vast majority of it, depends on the competence of its cast. And Anthea Thompson and David Dennis most certainly deliver almost too well. So spot on is their acting one can easily get lost in their performances only to realise that parts of the plot have been lost to the viewer because of this. Thompson, one of this country's most accomplished actresses, manages to pull off the (very) rough diamond that is Rita.... Thompson's accent is spot-on and mannerisms range from awkwardly deducing to hints of a hidden heart of gold..... the outstanding acting cannot be ignored. That is reason enough to see this play.'

## ART

A headline, '**Of myths and metaphors**' in the Mail and Guardian of July 24 to 30, was accompanied by a photograph superficially looking like a lace doily with the caption, 'Fritha Langerman's Subtle Thresholds'. FRITHA was deputy headgirl in 1987 and is a Senior Lecturer at the Michaelis School of Art at UCT, teaching printmaking and drawing. For some months this year a large gallery in the Iziko South African Museum (the museum in the Gardens) held her exhibition, '**Subtle Threshold: the representational taxonomies of disease.**' Miles Keylock in the M and G article writes, 'Images and objects drawn from the collections of the Iziko South African Museum, UCT and the Wits Adler Museum are juxtaposed with her exquisitely detailed printed collages to highlight the complex ways in which humans attribute meaning to information. Situated in the gallery between the social history

and natural history displays, the exhibition creates a conceptual bridge between the two areas...presenting a complex visual network of the interrelationships between the zoological, human and microbial worlds. In doing so, Subtle Thresholds hopes to unravel some of the cultural and historical mythologies that have contributed to the perception of disease as a state of otherness and separation. In the Cape Times of September 17, Melvyn Minnaar's review **A GRAND, AMBITIOUS PROJECT Invisible beauty of sickness probed** is lengthy and detailed with a photograph of a stuffed animal (a beaver?) holding a stethoscope with surgical scissors and a collage in the background. Some quotes; " Being a skilled and precise graphic artist, Langerman takes up on the curious loveliness in the geometric and other patterns that constitute representations of microscopic organisms like viruses and uses these to visually define the various parts in all their density of texts and objects. All of the latter are naturally offered in the highest of curatorial presentation. At the same time, there is a delicious, even amusing feeling ...(with) the wacko dramatic flair of an off-beat Madame Tussauds set-up....the installation employs scopes, light, shadows reflection, projections.....Subtle Thresholds is a major, pioneering art work, which took Langerman two years to research and construct. It literally employs hundreds of bits and pieces.....A 68-metre timeline - that includes a biblical concordance of disease – together with a running list of thousands of species, charts the display....Light boxes with viral images made from pharmacological lab plastics.....art-historical images of healing....

It is not an easy, walk-through exhibition this. It takes time to read, see and figure out the layout and threads that the artist-cum-museum-curator has plotted for the visitor to follow, cross refer to, and come to terms with. The result is a most enlightening, eye-opening and fulfilling experience. It is simply brilliant."

(I happened on this vast exhibition while at the museum with a four-year-old grandson; I was awed, intrigued, baffled, and proud the artist was a Rustenburg girl.)

SYLVIA SMITH (WILLE) (1939) is still painting and running her art gallery at the Hemel-en-Aarde Village, Hermanus. She spent her childhood in Rosebank and attended Rustenburg from Kindergarten to Matric. In Matric she was fortunate to have Miss Z Caldecott as her art teacher and so she became an architect! She assured me I was not good enough to take Fine Art and make a living in this profession.

This Architectural life was a wonderful grounding to her becoming what she is today – she has never regretted it but was truly happy once she "retired" from it and began to paint. Her preferred medium is watercolour as she feels she can be more subtle in the media. Sylvia has had her own gallery-studio for about 25 years – first just a studio and now a little of everything art-inspired. She can be found daily working on her evocative watercolour paintings, reflecting the beauty and peace of her surroundings. A variety of pottery, sculpture & handwork are also on display in her gallery.

## **HEADMASTERS**

I knew that former headmaster of Rondebosch Boys High School, MIKE REELER was a ROG from an early Founders' Day Assembly when he addressed the school and famously said that his parents had wanted the very best start for their son and so had sent him to RGJS. He continued his education at Rondebosch. Only recently, looking through a history of Kingswood College, Grahamstown, did I learn that JOHN GARDENER, former headmaster of Bishops and in the 1970's, of Kingswood, started his education at our Junior School doing Sub A, Sub B and Std 1 in two years, 1938 and 1939. At Kingswood, John is remembered for admitting girls to the school for the first time – a result of his early days at RGJS?

## **THE SEYMOUR SISTERS**

News of the sisters came through a chance meeting with their mother. JUSTINE (1987) see Engagements, is a personal trainer and Pilates instructor at her own studio in Newlands. KERRY CAREW (1990) is married with daughters Hannah (3) and Amelia (1) and lives at Hout Bay. Kerry studied journalism at Rhodes; she and her husband have their own PR company. LAUREN (1990) did a film course and presently free lances based in Cape Town.

## **THE MILLS SISTERS AT RUSTENBURG**

Thank you, STELLA HOFMEYR (Mills 1940) for compiling this record of a legendary family's connections with Rustenburg.

Stella Mills passed Matric in 1940 and studied Medicine at UCT. She married Murray Hofmeyr whose sisters KAY and PEGGY were also at Rustenburg. Her daughters, MARY BATEMAN (1965) and ANN MOORE (1967) both studied Medicine at UCT and married doctors. Mary Bateman's elder son Andrew married LINDY WEBB (1992) who also studied medicine. Lindy's grandmother, ROSE BAKER (1923/4) and mother, ANTHEA SABIN (1961), and several aunts were also Rustybugs, and her father Prof. John Webb was on the school board. Mary's daughters, KATHLEEN and RACHEL BATEMAN spent some years at the Junior School but matriculated at Westerford. Kathleen is a Neurologist and Rachel a Chartered Accountant with Oxfam in Oxford, UK.

The second Mills sister, JESS MATHEW, was Head Girl of Rustenburg in 1943 and captain of the Netball team. Her three daughters all went to Rustenburg. SHEILA WINTER (Mathew) was Vice Headgirl in 1976 and played hockey for the school, going on to gain WP colours. She studied Occupational Therapy at UCT. ELIZABETH MARTIN (Mathew) was a Prefect in 1979 and studied Social Science at UCT. Her daughters have attended school in Gauteng. ALISON NEWBY (Mathew 1982) was also a prefect and studied Occupational Therapy at UCT. Her daughter, KERRY NEWBY, is in Grade 11 at Rustenburg at present. She is a long-range swimmer,

plays water polo and is on the Habitat Committee. Her father, David Newby, is chairman of the Governing body. Jess's granddaughter, JULIE-ANN MATHEW matriculated at RGHS in 1996, having been chairman of Scripture Union and a National springboard diver (and a happy member of my last biology class - MRB).

HAZEL KRIGE (Mills 1944) the third sister, graduated BSc at UCT and then added a Diploma in Nursery-School Teaching. She married Steyn Krige and assisted him in his drive for multiracial education in South Africa. Their daughters were schooled in Gauteng, but the elder, LYNETTE KRIGE, graduated BSc at UCT and taught at Rustenburg for a short while before moving to the UK.

The fourth Mills sister, CHRISTABEL (Ca) passed Matric in 1950 and qualified as a teacher studying BA at UCT. She married Stewart Wood and they produced four sons and no daughters. However they are rich in granddaughters, three of whom are carrying on the tradition this year. Their eldest son, Brian, lives in New Zealand and his daughter ROMY WOOD spent 2007 on exchange in grade 11 at Rustenburg. The second son, Roger has two daughters presently at RGHS; MELISSA is in Grade 9 and excels at ballet and music, whereas ABIGAIL in grade 8 is specially interested in Art. Alan Wood's daughter RACHEL is in Grade 11 this year, plays in the school orchestra and has made her mark in the world of gym (Protea colours in aerobic gymnastics) and also as a diver (Provincial colours in Diving).

## **A WILD COAST WEDDING**

KAREN LISTER (1995) lives in the Eastern Cape in the old Transkei and chose a remote spot for her spring wedding. Her dress was traditional white wedding, veil and all but the setting was unspoilt Wild Coast. Ndumbi Backpackers, the only conventional building around, was the scene for the marriage then the party moved on to a headland overlooking the beach for the reception. Cow-pats were natural hazards so high heels were definitely out for the bride and her attendants. One of her bridesmaids was classmate SUE DUXBURY (Newton) out from England with RBHS husband Mike and small son, Ben. Other ROG's there were SALLY MASTERSON (1993) who works at the same hospital as Karen, ROBYN CULLIS (1995) and SARSHEN MARAIS (1995) from Cape Town and BRONWEN LEE (1995) from Johannesburg.

## **PINEWOOD VILLAGE PARTY**

ROG's living in Pinewood Village, Pinelands, had a second Rustybugs party on October 9, 2009 in the Village Community Centre. This is what MARGARET MORTLEY (Gardener 1949) wrote about it:

Fifteen of us attended the party from all vintages, BILLIE, as usual, being the oldest and the youngest was IRENE BECKETT (Jackson) who did matric in 1959. We also had five apologies. KATH COATON (Kippie Coles) had taught about four of the

other old girls who all had such lovely things to say about her. We had one headgirl who had just moved into the village, GWENDA FREEMANTLE (Pugh), 1947. She mentioned the privilege she had had having tea with Princess Margaret in 1947 when the Royal Family visited South Africa.

Some had happy memories, some not so happy. However, there were also many anecdotes that kept us laughing. Included in the party was MARGARET NORTJE who had taught at the Junior school, but had had her education in the old Rhodesia. Those who attended were (I don't remember all their dates): MARGARET NORTJE (teacher), MURIEL RAYNER (Housdon/Meintjes) 1948; GWENDA FREEMANTLE (Pugh) 1947; SHEILA CHISHOLM (1949); LIZ SINGER; SYBIL MATTHEWS (Thomson); BARBARA MARTIN (Pyper - spelling?); JUNE SUTER (Perkins 1946); KATH COATON (Kippie Coles 1936); BILLIE FOSTER (Trainor) 1935; PHYLLIS GERTH-Van WIJK (Marriner 1948); IRENE BECKETT (Jackson) 1959; JUNE DU PREEZ; MARGARET MORTLEY (Gardener) 1949; BETTY GOBLE (Elizabeth Ipsler) 1949 - the last two having been in the same class.

## THE FORTIES

Below is a letter from Jeremy ([jeremydebeer@mweb.co.za](mailto:jeremydebeer@mweb.co.za)), the son of PEGGY DE BEER (Lawrance c 1940). Perhaps there is someone out there who remembers sprinting down the hockey field with Peggy and who could share reminiscences.

"My apology for a somewhat frivolous request but I was wondering whether the school archive retains records dating from circa 1937 to 1940 when my mother (nee Miss CATHERINE "PEGGY" LAWRENCE) attended RGHS. She was apparently an outstanding track athlete (who regularly won all the sprint races she entered) and hockey player (who subsequently played wing for Western Province and was invited to attend national trials) as well as a highly competent gymnast.

She is now 85 years old and suffering from mild Alzheimer's disease which has affected her short-term memory but not her long-term memory. Otherwise she is in fairly good physical health and can walk several kilometres at a stretch. We are in possession of a picture of the circa 1940 RGHS all-conquering hockey team in which she starred. She has mentioned (although I am not too sure of the veracity of this claim) that she managed to achieve the erstwhile Olympic qualifying time in one of the sprint events but (being wartime) this was of little importance. She is most interested to know whether she still holds the 400m record - although I am sure that this is most unlikely.

I must admit that I am most interested in learning whether there is any information in the school archive to corroborate my mother's anecdotes of her athletic, hockey and gymnastic prowess. It would also (imho) be a truly wonderful gesture if any such information could be shared with her while she is still in a condition to appreciate it. She is still extremely proud of her alma mater.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance with this deeply personal matter."

The Class of 1949 produced a marvellous booklet at the time of their reunion. It has a colour photo of the entrance of the High School on its cover, short sketches of the lives of some forty of the class, some sadly under In Memoriam, the photo of the prefects, photos of all who attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion, the matric pass list from the Argus and a collection of signatures in a poetry text book from 1949. It is a treasure. Some snippets gleaned there will be of interest. ROG's studying Law through UNISA may have chosen a course, 'Women and the Law' which was introduced by LESBURY VAN ZYL (Wagener 1949) now an Emeritus Professor of Law. Lesbury obtained her doctorate at 61, has published books on Divorce Mediation and Maintenance. When she studied Law at Stellenbosch there were only two women in the final LLB year; the other was her Rustenburg classmate, ENA HARVEY (Rossouw 1949). Ena was admitted to the Bar in Cape Town then married a member of her class who was in the Department of Foreign Affairs; her children were born in The Hague, Cape Town and Athens. Her husband was chief of State Protocol from 1993 to 1996 which meant that Ena was heavily involved in President Mandela's inauguration and was, on a number of occasions, asked to act as President Mandela's hostess – 'what a privilege'. MARY SMITH (Nyman 1949) lives in Pinelands and wrote how she was one of four ROG's in the first post-war Protea Hockey team to tour Europe and the UK. The team was chosen from the SA universities. Mary does not say who two of the ROG's were but the fourth was her classmate, SUZANNE FITZHENRY (De Villiers 1949). Suzanne went on to play for the Springboks in 1954 and on the tour to Australia in 1956. She married a sheep farmer in the Aberdeen district and currently lives a full life in Aberdeen.

## **THE FIFTIES**

At a Rustybug lunch hosted by MARY ANNE LE JEUNE (Droomer 1951) in her Claremont home, there were two astonishingly young great-grandmothers, MONETTE BADNALL (Allison 1951) who lives at Somerset West, has three children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, NATALIE LE ROUX (Tait 1952) has three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Also at the lunch were ROSEMARY HALES (Bowley 1951), SALLY ROBINSON (1951) – sister to JILL SIMPKINS (1956) of Pretoria and ELIZABETH DAVIES (1957), in the UK – MARINA BREWSTER (Kramer 1951), and JEN DAVIES (Mouatt 1951).

VAILÄ CREED (Chadwick 1952) sent in a traditional airmail letter. She writes: "I think there must be something about Rustenburg as so many of us keep in touch. The 1952 Es hold quite regular reunions either 5 yearly, ten yearly or just any excuse. I of course am living in the UK but each time I come out we get together and I correspond with at least 15 girls from my 1952 class every Christmas when round-robin letters take to the air. I visited Australia this year instead of coming to SA and was so thrilled to tie up with Myra (Pentz) and Louwrens Stein whom I hadn't seen for 40 years. They have a lovely home and look out to the Blue Mts. Sadly I was there in winter so didn't hit the Aussie heat but had rain like I've never seen & plenty of cold weather. It even snowed on the Mts after I left.

"In past years I have welcomed many Rustybugs to my home & we've had great fun but sadly age and exchange rates have meant we don't get the number of visitors now. I'm not on email but of the old school, so write letters as do most of my school friends, and it is great to get these so I look forward to the festive season with wonderful expectations. I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas & trust that you'll enjoy any events at the old school in the future... Carols, etc.

"I do miss the shows in CT so now have a good group who go to London regularly, the Albert Hall being one of our favourite venues. Every time we board the coach I feel like St Trinians, but only at Christmas when we cruise the Thames & tour the city & West End lights do we have quite a bit of fun. Supper at places like Dirty Dicks & ice-skating in the open air. We do have a great time."

PEARL KAY (Weinberg 1956) wrote "good morning from bonnie Scotland - actually rather grey this morning but still bonnie! So pleased that the piano has been installed - and sorry I can't attend on 07 October - have a meeting with the local speakers club on the 07th! I am sure that Audrey will be very proud with her daughter's performance!" - AUDREY FOXCROFT (Auld 1956). Pearl and her old friend BRENDA YAGIL (Lessem 1956) together sent a contribution to the Piano Fund. Pearl lives in Kirkaldy, Fife and Brenda lives in Beersheba, Israel.

From DENISE RUBINSZTEIN (Biall 1956) - "...here in Sydney I am still working in my psychology practice but more on a part-time basis. I have started to play the violin a lot more, taking lessons with a wonderful supportive teacher and playing in amateur groups. I now have 5 grand-daughters and one grandson and my husband, Arnold turns 80 next week! Time marches on." She sent best regards to Audrey and Catherine Foxcroft 'whom I remember as a young brilliant pianist when we were in SA'.

JANET DICKMAN (Wolpe 1956), also of Sydney, was in Cape Town for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of her mother. MARCIA LEVESON (Honikman 1954) was down from Johannesburg for the celebration.

ANN NICHOLSON (McMorland 1956) and her husband, Bill, visited South Africa and Namibia from their home in Northumberland. They stayed in Cape Town with SARAH ALEXANDER (Reddick 1956) and at Betty's Bay with your editor, lunching in Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens with CHARMIAN PLUMMER (Marais 1956), CORRIE NORRIS (Botha 1956), HAZEL CAMPBELL (White 1956) and BRUNSI VON ARNIM, and travelling to the Cedarberg where Ann and I rode in a donkey cart and walked from Pakhuis Pass to Heuningsvlei where we were joined by husbands to spend the night in the home of a long-time inhabitant of this outpost of the Moravian mission at Wuppertal. At Britannia Bay we stayed in the very comfortable B and B of ANN DIXON (Linton 1954). Earlier we had had a tasty lunch in the Tulbagh restaurant of CAROL COLLINS (Brooke Sumner 1984). Another Rustenburg connection was the excellent rock art guide we had from Clanwilliam; he had been trained by JANETTE DEACON (Buckland 1956). At the West Coast National Park

restaurant, we bumped into one of my ex-pupils, MICHELLE FEBRUARY (1998) – See The Nineties. Bill felt there were Rustybugs under every bush.

## **THE SIXTIES**

SHEILA FREW (Paterson 1965) of Durban wrote:

I joined up yesterday with schoolpals GLENDA HARKER (Gardener) and BRONWYN HOFMEYR (te Water) for tea here in Durban. We had a wonderful morning swopping old school photos and reminiscing about our days at Rustenburg. Bronwyn, who stays in Gordon's Bay, was up in Durban visiting Glenda.

## **THE SEVENTIES**

HEATHER EVRARD (Noble 1973) lives in Pinelands and is a remedial teacher as well as a NILD therapist in Tableview.

## **THE EIGHTIES**

JENNIFER MCGONNIGLE (Hurter 1988) married Kevin in 2005 and moved to England soon after. At school she was a member of an unbeaten Rustenburg first tennis team. Recently she wrote:

We now live in Surbiton, Surrey, UK and travel to Cape Town once a year to visit family. Nothing beats Cape Town and going home for holiday visits. On the tennis front I still play tennis for the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> team ladies at our local Surbiton Lawn tennis club which has 11 grass courts and 7 hard courts, a gym and squash courts. The Hurter family on my eldest brother's side, John Hurter (ex-Rondebosch boy and Victor Ludorum trophy winner) also has a budding tennis star - my niece & whom I'm Godmother to, Kimberly Hurter, who has made Springbok Juniors U/18 and she is 17 years old and is at Springfield High School. She recently toured Europe and was the only Springbok Junior who got as far as the quarter finals. My brother Mark Hurter, was also an ex-Rondebosch boy, lives in the UK, his wife had a lovely little girl called Abaigeal Rachel Hurter and I'm Godmother to her too. In addition, my husband & I are also very good friends with the famous Moodie's (Wesley & his wife Marcia). Wesley is the South African Springbok men's doubles specialist tennis player .... I've been wondering what's happened to the LOW sisters tennis (ex Rusty bugs, TESSA & LISA) who are very good tennis players?  
[Jennifer.McGonnigle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer.McGonnigle@yahoo.co.uk)

## **THE NINETIES**

MICHELE CRONK (Buchanan 1990) sent in a welcome contribution:

'I remember RGHS very fondly (I loved school!) and enjoyed all of my 12 years at Rustenburg. Was in the French class of 1990 and remember Miss Ryan from Geography and our French teacher (Monsieur) who were both fabulous! After leaving school, I studied a BSc (Statistics) and B Com (Accounting) at UCT before

qualifying as a CA. I joined BP shortly thereafter and have been with them for the last 8 years. I got married in 2004 to another UCT graduate, Darren Cronk, when we moved to Surrey, London in 2007, which we love. I'm still at BP and work as a senior analyst in the Alternative Energy division, but will be moving to internal auditing shortly. Darren is a very keen cyclist and triathlete and we love travelling and the outdoors, so have travelled whenever we can. I still keep in touch with NICKY LUCAS (Gouveia, 1990) who lives in Arizona with her husband Phillip and three kids. She is keeping well and is very happy in the US. I also hear from KRISTIN BAILEY (Giles, 1990) who lives in CT, and LINDY BATEMAN (Webb) who is living in the Isle of Man.

NAOMI WARR (Pearl 1995) lives in Durban with James who she married in 2007. A music graduate (M Mus) of UKZN, Naomi is a tutti violinist with the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra and also teaches violin at two schools. Naomi has had two career breaks when she worked as a cabin crew with Emirates based in Dubai and as a merchandising administrator for the John Lewis Gift Food buying office. This gave her the chance to travel around Europe with James. They returned at the end of 2006 when their visas expired.

NATASHA THOMAS (Kleinhans 1997) lives with husband Brandon in Milnerton. An Arts graduate, Natasha is a HR Consultant for the Foschini Group.

MICHELLE FEBRUARY (1998) was using her holiday to explore the West Coast National Park when I met her. She had graduated in Tourism at the Cape Technikon - a four year course- and then lectured in Tourism at the Oval College in Cape Town. Now she works at the Waterfront's One and Only Hotel in the Kids Only programme, organizing games, crafts, and excursions to places like the aquarium, Butterfly World and Simonstown. Michelle is the International Commissioner for the Girl Guides both for the Cape West Region and nationally. AVRIL KELLER (1974) is President of the Cape West. Michelle is in touch with KATHERINE DU PLOOY (1998) who is still doing interior design and THANDI TSUKUDU (1998), who is married and has at least one child.

CARLA GLASSPOOL (Nussbaum 1999) is living in Gaborone, Botswana, with her husband Roy. Her great-grandmother, MARJORIE FLORENCE was the third of five Bennett sisters at Rustenburg way back.

From NATASCHA BRACALE (1999):

"Here is the latest news from my side of the world. I went to Zurich, Switzerland, in July 2008 to compete in the Kimura Shukokai World Karate Championships and won a Bronze medal for Individual Kata and a Gold medal for Unison Kata, which placed me 1st in those divisions in S.A. What an awesome experience! Since then, my life has taken quite a different turn. I started paddling in January 2009, namely surf-ski and canoeing, because of a (lucky) chance meeting with a guy named Ian Trautmann, Captain of the Peninsula Canoe Club, who is now my coach and

boyfriend! Since then I have completed my river proficiency, achieved a 2nd place in the mixed doubles of the Breede River marathon, and so far won the first 2 Ladies short course races (and beaten most of the men too! :- ) of the Mens Health/Discovery Surfski series taking place all over Cape Town.

I train every day, and I hope to make it first into the S.A team next year August and then into the K1, K2 and possibly K4 Canoe sprint team for the Olympic Games in London in 2012. I have just been featured in the October issue of 'Gsport...For Girls' online magazine and have a website that is under construction, and will have all the info about what I am doing very soon! [www.refuse2Baverage.com](http://www.refuse2Baverage.com). I am currently living with my boyfriend on the water in Marina da Gama to be closer to my training and loving it!

I am also currently involved in doing stunt work and hopefully will be shooting a movie within the next few months. Will keep you updated as things progress!"

## **THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

EMMA WIID (2002) lives in Vredehoek and is currently doing Post Graduate studies in Psychology through UNISA. She obtained her Bachelor in Social Science in Psychology and Political Thought from UCT. Emma asks for her newsletter to be emailed rather than posted to, 'save a few trees in doing so' (and save the Union postage),

NATALIE FEBRUARY (2003) graduated in Sports Management from the Cape Technikon and is working at Virgin Active in Green Point.

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**Warm good wishes and congratulations to all those who have recently had a special landmark in their lives.**

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

NADINE LEDESMA (1997) to Allan Harper on 29 November 2008. Wedding planned for 20 March 2010

JILL BROWN (Amyot 1956) to Harald Copenhagen in London. Wedding planned for next May with a visit to SA in September. Harald is the brother of ROSALIND JONES (1956) (Jill sent a contribution to the Piano Fund)

CATHRYN BECK (1994) to Alistair Diesveld in 2008 (I think I've heard of a wedding this year - MRB)

LYNDSAY HOLLOWAY (2002) to Neil Hart in July on Du Toit's Kloof! Wedding planned for Feb 2010 in Kenilworth and Constantia.

JUSTINE SEYMOUR (1987) to Stephen Parker in August 2009 in Cape Town. Wedding planned for January 2010

NINA MAURER (1998) to Richard Smith (Bosch '97). Wedding planned for 15th of December 2009

DEBBIE MILLER (headgirl 1996) to Eric ? in Cape Town. Wedding planned for March/April 2010 in Cape Town

CLAIRE NIXON (1993) to Brett Deacon. Wedding planned for February 2010 in Cape Town where Claire now lives after years away.

## **MARRIAGES**

AALIYAH BACKHOUSE (formerly Charise Backhouse (2002) to Nadeem Petersen on 21st March 2009 at Zeekoeivlei Yacht Club.

CLAIRE WINTER (1993) to Richard Pomario on 22 August 2009 at Rickety Bridge, Franschhoek. Richard's sisters are MICHELLE MITCHELL (Pomario 1986) and RENÉ TODD (Pomario 1988)

KAREN LISTER (1995) to Roger Galloway on 12 September 2009 at Ndumbi Backpackers near Coffee Bay with a reception on a headland overlooking the beach.

CASEY FITZGERALD (2001) to Greg Korck on 19 September 2009 in Paarl. Sister, TIFFANY FITZGERALD (2004) was one of the bridesmaids.

ANEL POWELL (1993) to ? Lewis some time this year

## **BIRTHS**

To CAREY MCKENZIE (1991) and Greg Hill a daughter Anna, sister to David on 27 February 2009 in KZN

To LUANNE HENSHILWOOD (1994) and Trevor van Zyl, a son, Thomas, brother to Emma on 15 June 2009

To CATHERINE VAN HOOGENHOUC TULLEKEN (1999) and Ludik Burger, a daughter, Jaime, sister to Ella on 17 June 2009

To JENNY McMURRAY and Andrew Leaver a third son Christopher Harry on 29 June in Cape Town

To LAURA BIRD (1996) and Gareth Hall, a daughter, Amelia on 23 July 2009

To NICKY GROENEWALD (1987) and Francois du Toit a daughter, Philippa, sister to Sebastian in August 2009 in Cape Town

To KATY OSCROFT and Alistair Kane, a daughter, Heather Katherine, sister to the three-year-old twins, Rachel and Lucy, on 11 August 2009 in Cape Town

To KATHERINE BRODERICK (1992) and Ricky Arenson, a son and brother to Daniel and Adam in Perth, Australia on September 2009

To WENDY McMURRAY (1994) and Glen le Roux, a son and brother to Ben in Paarl on 14 September 2009

To AMANDA GRAHAM (1989) and David Rich a son, Michael John on September 15, 2009 in Cape Town (a nephew for CERY S RICH)

To SARAH NIXON (1995) and Wynand van Schalkwyk a son Jack in October 2009 in Cape Town

## **IN MEMORIAM**

DIAN JOYCE PRINCE of Southfield has passed away. Our sympathy to her son, Charles Prince, who sent us the news.

DOREEN NOBLE (Nel 1944) passed away peacefully on June 29, 2009 in Mossel Bay at the retirement village, Santos Haven where she lived with her husband, Ron. They would have celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 1 October. Our deepest sympathy to Ron and his daughters, HEATHER EVRARD (Noble 1973) of Pinelands and NELENE GOLD (Noble 1975) of Rondebosch, and her daughter, MELISSA GOLD (2007)

JANET CROWLEY (Turnbull 1949) died in Cape Town on 24 August 2009. In the class reunion booklet, Janet writes of her lifelong love of horses, she taught riding to the disabled and had a long association with the Cape Hunt, resulting in an award some years ago. We offer sincere sympathy to Janet's family including her two daughters, son and four grandchildren.

## **REUNIONS**

MARGARET MORTLEY (Gardener 1949) sent an account of the very successful reunion 60 years after Matric. Below is a summary:

On the Friday morning seven of us, who had been through the Junior school, visited the 'White stoep on the highway' and were shown around the old school. It was a most impressive visit. Mrs Diane Berry, the Headmistress, said she wished that more 'old girls' would come to the school, so that the present pupils could get a sense of continuity. It was the Junior School's Open Day, so we could move about freely.

Then came the great day that we had been working towards – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The weather cooperated after a week of rain and cold and dawned bright and cheerful. As you know the venue was the Boarding House dining room, which is now an

attractive room. Three tables had been set with a white cloth and a blue strip down the middle, and with blue serviettes and a blue and white flower arrangement, done by Sybil.

Girls started arriving at about 11 – one or two difficult to recognise, but their faces became very familiar after a short while. One of the last to arrive (by arrangement) was the only 'old' teacher – Ruth Dosé, as lively as ever and recognising most of the girls.

An amateur photographer (my son, Nigel) arrived at 12 to take a group photograph of us standing on the front steps of the Boarding House. After much talking and cajoling the picture was taken and we wandered back to the dining room where Kathy, the boarders' caterer had laid out beautifully and colourfully a delicious meal of cold meats, cheeses, attractive looking salads, biscuits and dips. There were

some very hearty appetites! Sybil welcomed everybody and thanked those involved in the preparation for the day, with a special welcome to the delightful new Headmistress, Laura Bekker and Miss Dosé.

Before we helped ourselves to the delectable puddings, Miss Bekker spoke to us saying how pleased she was that we were using the school as our venue. She is plump and jolly! Several of us asked if we could return to school and do our matric with her as our headmistress. Her talk was most impressive. Fruit juices and wine, supplied by a husband, were served with the meal and there were cups of tea and coffee available all morning and after lunch. Miss Bekker had planned to take the girls on a tour of the school, pointing out the many, many changes and extensions. Because I used to cycle to school, what impressed me most was that there is no longer a bicycle shed, for no one comes to school by bike these days. The old Charlie's Hope no longer exists. What is now called Charlie's Hope is a new building for the Tuck shop, a sports pavilion and a small concert hall with a brand new grand piano, recently bought after intensive fund raising. Marjorie tried it out and the few of us left sang the School Song because that was the only music that Marjorie had with her.....

We were sorry that there were so many 'absent friends'. There were 20 of us, plus the Misses Bekker and Dosé. Mary (Martin) had come from Scotland and took back with her booklets to send to Morag, Becky (Rebecca), Mary (Westwood) and Hilda. Ailsa had come from Plett, Tilda (Mathilda) from Kleinmond and Lynette and Evelyn (Lyn) from Hermanus and SCB from Wellington.

There have been other happy reunions this year. When planning them, remember that Founders' Day provides an excellent way of seeing the school at its best and a having good lunch as part of the deal.

Very warm wishes for the festive season, the summer holidays here in the south and a not-too severe winter for the many ROG's in the north.

Affectionately  
Mary Rose

#### PROSPECTIVE REUNIONS:

Class of 2000 - 10 years reunion: Contact Natalie Pollock (Le Brun)  
(nats.pollock@gmail.com)

1999: Contact **Ilpha Basardien** (head girl) (Ilpha.Basardien@shell.com)

DESPERATELY SEEKING.....

**Elizabeth Myerscough** (E approx 1958)

**Sally Anderson** (E approx 1979) – had a sister at RGHS around 1982/3? (Could this be Mrs DL Lindeque (Anderson 1982) who lives in Hampshire?)

Can anyone provide contact details for Elizabeth or Sally so they can be informed as to whom is trying to regain contact with them? Email [rogu2000@hotmail.com](mailto:rogu2000@hotmail.com) with any information.