

NEWSLETTER NO. 55

December 2011

FOUNDERS DAY – 27 JANUARY 2012 AT RUSTENBURG HIGH SCHOOL

10H30 IN THE THOMSON HALL, 11h30 ASSEMBLY, 12H30 LUNCH + AGM OF THE ROGU.

LUNCH BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

Cost is R80 PER PERSON FOR A DELICIOUS THREE COURSE MEAL PREPARED BY THE BON APPETIT GIRLS.

Please email RUTH ROMBURGH AT ruthromburgh@telkomsa.net OR TELEPHONE 083 280 2201 before Friday, 20 JANUARY 2012 TO MAKE A BOOKING.

TABLES MAY BE ALLOCATED TO YEAR GROUP REUNIONS.

ALL BOOKINGS NOT CANCELLED BY 20 JANUARY WILL BE LIABLE FOR PAYMENT

Newsletter from **MARY ROSE BERRISFORD** (Trainor 1956, and staff in the nineties)
mberrisford@xsinet.co.za

Dear Rustenburg Old Girls

Way back in 2001 I wrote my first ROG Newsletter, now as 2011 draws to a close, I begin my last one. It's time to pass on to a younger ROG, one who is in touch with people through Facebook and Twitter and whatever other IT communications network there are, someone who can manage photos with ease - I have struggled with this but have really enjoyed the many pictures I've been sent. Keep them coming!

KARIN VAN DER LAAG (1989) presented the prizes at the Academic Awards Ceremony for the Grade 12's. Her address included anecdotes from her own school days. At that time, she confided, she was not that great an actress but she'd had a dream and had pursued it. This meant a degree



in Drama and English at UCT with two appearances on the Dean's Merit List along the way; a Grade 5 singing exam passed with Distinction; a Diploma in Speech and Drama and a Theatre Sports Course. Much later she did a Multicam Director Training Course at Isidingo, SABC 3. Karin must be best known for her lead role as Maggie Webster in that popular and long-running soapy; another important role was that of Tante Sannie in the film "The Story of an African Farm". In the nineties, Karin regularly appeared in performances of Shakespeare at Maynardville, she has been in dramas, comedies, musicals on the stage, in film and television. Her performance as Fairy Godmother in "Sinderella" earned her FNB National Vita Awards for Best Performance by an Actress in a Comedy Role as well as the Most Outstanding Performance in Musical Theatre. As Nastasja Ivanovna in "Drie Susters 2" she won the Fleur du Cap Award for Best Actress in a Supporting role. Karin is sought after as MC or performer at corporate functions. She lives in Auckland Park, Johannesburg.

As part of her address, Karin read this poem which she wrote incorporating some reworked quotes by Emily Dickinson, Oprah, and Eve Ensler:

"Be bold, be full of beans, laugh uproariously yet respect your sadness. Value your friends. Thank your teachers. Literal and emotional. Delight in lipstick. Wear your hair braided. Just because. In fact add ribbons, just because. Use cloth napkins. Be proud of your vocabulary. Celebrate your intelligence. Don't skip meals. Fight injustice with your whole heart. Try to separate the false prophets from the true. Sob in sad movies. Go for walks in "certain slants of light on winter afternoons" Smile no matter how oppressive the cathedral tunes. Try not to be judgemental. Avoid negative people. Love the smell of tar after rain. Carry jasmine inside you, and laughter and the landscape of poets.

Understand frailty. Be patient with yourself and others and when your garden is small paint the patio stones in vibrant green. Kick in the knees of cynicism – it is anyway the refuge of all romantics. Decide if you want to be liked or admired. Know your strengths. Don't second guess yourself too much. Be kind to animals. When people show themselves to you, believe them.

In your handbag, always have lipbalm, headache tablets and hand sanitizer. Travel over the colourful map of countries with a pencil. Erase nothing. Step off trains into cold champagne air. Activate nerves in each soft foot and tune your voice to the sound of water. Distill your thoughts into sweet perfume and release the raw material of your rage. Continue into the dark brilliance of womanhood. Have ballroom bravery and chocolate chip innocence. Put glitter on your belly button and experiment with pearls,

And though your future might hold burnt toast and babies, green swimming pools and unshaved legs, coffee cups, mundanity and fears, let's hope you throw huge dinner parties and love yourselves through the wrinkles and psychoses. Let's hope all fights will end in laughter. And through each great and small disaster let's rejoice in ever after, so that Grandma Cinderella can pass down her slipper to you on the brink, woman-to-be and smile from her fire with hopeful desire and that eternal twinge of irony. I wish you beauty and singing in showers. I wish you flowers to scent your evening time. I wish you eternal summertime."

STAFF

Rustenburg had two Deputy Principals in the 80's and 90's but since the retirement of LESLEY REELER, first MARIAN LENNOX and then SUSAN SCHNETLER have been on their own. Now the school has again appointed a Second Deputy Principal (Pastoral). She is GILLIAN BLACKSHAW, a member of the Geography Department and coach of the very successful Touch Rugby teams (she herself plays for Western Province). Gill was at Pinelands High but she is the daughter of JESSIE BLACKSHAW (Anderson 1961). She will be responsible for discipline, leadership and extra-mural activities.

My last communication with ADRIENNE MILLER (Staff in the 90's) – See Births -was an email showing amazing rock art which her 14-year old son had discovered on their southern Namibia farm that very day. Last year she was in Swakopmund and saw BETSY LOFTY EATON (Home Ec staff in the 90's) who has backpackers there; Betsy's two sons are at school in Swakop.

At the December 6th Carol Service, there was a congregational hymn sung in Afrikaans, Kom, kinders, besing met 'n vrolike stem dedicated to Mev LOUIE BLACK who retires from the Afrikaans department after seven years of loyal service.

From the last school newsletter of the year, I gleaned that yet another ROG is on the staff; she is PERDITA NORVAL (1979). The School Magazine of 2010 records, "This year the Life Orientation department welcomed a new member to the team: Ms Perdita Norval, with her years of teaching experience, curriculum development, as well as her counselling skills, Ms Norval had already, in a short time, become an invaluable member of our department." The reason for Perdita's appearance in the Newsletter was that she and staff member MEAGAN REES (1999) were photographed dressed in school uniform for a picture to head the ROGU section in the 2011 School Magazine.

RUSTENBURG CAROL SERVICE

For the first time in nearly twenty years I went to the Rustenburg Carol Service. It was a revelation. Our old school has kept up with the times, not only does the orchestra accompany the carols but there are groups of instrumentalists, including electric guitars, performing with the classes. The D's still sing Silent Night but there was Yohan Chun on the piano, next to her Gladys Kisela playing with great feeling on the saxophone and Lynne Donson (cello); further away were Cheryl Muchapondwa (percussion) and vocalists Fraiche-Rosee Baloubeta, who sang the first verse in French, and Simone van der Merwe. Then the whole standard sang as D's have always sung "Silent Night". The A's sang "God Bless us Everyone" from Disney's "A Christmas Carol" with a wonderful array of instrumentalists including PAT McCRINDLE's (Butler 1952) granddaughter, Samantha, on the piano. As always "O Come All Ye Faithful" was sung in Latin, that is the middle two verses were, the outer ones we sang in Xhosa. The Chamber Choir sang several Karl Jenkins arrangements including a very lovely "In dulci jubilo". As would be expected the many readers were uniformly very good; they had been trained by BIDDY RYAN (staff for many years and E 1979). Recently an ROG from the fifties read a lesson at a funeral service in St George's Cathedral and was commended by no less a person than Archbishop Tutu. Rustenburg girls

through the generations can sing carols (those from Miss Dosé's years remember all the words) and read clearly with meaning.

FOUNDERS' DAY AND MISS DOSÉ

It is not at all certain that RUTH DOSÉ, singing teacher for so many years, will be able to be at Founders' Day but it still may be that a choir of ROG's will get together and sing at the lunch in her honour. Contact SHIRLEY CHURMS (1954) if you would like to be part of it - 021 531 1450 and Shirley.churms@uct.ac.za

FLOWER WALKER, LELIE VAN DIE KAAP

This was the headline of a whole page in Die Burger of 4 February, 2011 thoughtfully sent to me by PIP VAN COPPENHAGEN, (Theron 1955). FLOWER WALKER (1959) was ANTONETTE PAUL on the School Register, a boarder from Richmond in the Karoo. She said: "Die naam Flower het al van kindstyd of gekom. Dit het niks te doen met die blombesigheid nie ek was blommemeisie vir al daai vroue in die Karoo wat getrou het.....my hart se punt is nog al die tyd in Richmond. Dit was lekker dae"

Some paragraphs just have to be in the original Afrikaans; this is the opening:

"Sy het al die Cape Sun opgedollie vir koningin Elizabeth II; Elton John na sy asem laat snak met haar skeppings vir sy Vergelegen bal; en op Robbeneiland reggestaan vir Madiba en die Clintons"

Flower went to UCT to study education, married engineer and Intervarsity cheer-leader of renown, Bing Walker. At one point in the early days she had the only deli cum general dealer in Betty's Bay where the Verwoerd staff would buy supplies; then there was a house in Llandudno which they built themselves. A florist friend suggested opening a shop



together; this was Petals, where they started doing new things with flowers. In a few years Flower became the sole owner. She describes how Petals would at least once a week do flowers for a Union Castle ship:

"Ons het ook soms óp die skepe gegaan en die ruikers, gróót ruikers, daar gedoen. Hulle was versót op blomme! Blomme en die Union Castle-skepe was sinoniem. En ál hul vases was silwer. Soos wat die Bloutrein was. Dit was ongelooflike dae in die Kaap" There would be times when Flower would rise at four in the morning to go to the shop for flowers before going home to get the children to school; once they were in

bed she'd be back at work.

A bouquet, ordered by a politician for his wife, from Petals, hit the headlines. Flower sent him a letter denying that there had been a leak by one of her staff.

“Ons voer net opdragte uit. Ek gaan nie vie die man uit vra nie. Maar niks, niks word by hierdie besigheid uitgelek nie. Ek kon teen dié tyd al ‘n wêreld oorlog begin het net deur die verhoudings van mans en vrouens en bywywe en *you name it* uit te lap. Nóóit nie! My mense weert – hulle mág nie.”

Flower has arranged events for presidents, De Klerk, Mandela, Mbeki. In a hard covered book she has photos of fabulous occasions: “Marrakesh ambience at the ‘Nellie; Sundowners on Groote Schuur Estate; A gracious Anglo dinner on Vergelegen Wine Estate; Madiba’s 85th celebration; Kappel am Albis-Zurich Switzerland 09; A glorious French Chateau wedding celebration.”

“Wat ek nooit sal vergeet nie, is toe Clinton die eerste keer hierheen gekom het en daar die groot geleentheid of Robbeneiland was. Groot geleentheid. Almal gaan nou oor soontoe en ons *organise* nou die hele storie. Ons moet sorg dat daar verblyf is vir die mense.” Trouble was that the promised accommodation for Flower and her staff did not materialise and they had to sleep on cardboardboxes. That was not all, the wind was blowing, “Ons is almal op die eiland en ons wag nou vir Clinton-hulle. Nou moet hulle die bus oorbring om die mense op die eiland te vervoer. En die helikopter tel die bus op in Moulliepunt. Waar beland die bus? In die see. Splinternuwe Mercedes-bus... en nou moet hulle die ou busse inderhaas gryp en regkry.....Jy moet net so gou as moontlik ‘n ander plan maak.”

The story ends with Flower confessing to her love for arum lilies. “Vir my is ons varklelie ‘n absolute gunsteling blom. Hy is so sereen. Uit die veld uit. En as ek net ‘n pot varkleies het, is ek so gelukkig. Ek is nie danig oor die *hot-house*-blomme nie. Dit is vir my amper kunsmatic. Maar die blomme uit die veld uit wat so *struggle* om volmaak te wees – dit is nou vir my ‘n blom.

“En ek dink dit is miskien hoekom dit vir my so fantasies is. Want, maak geen fout nie, my lewe was nog nooit a *bed of roses* nie. Nog nooit nie.”

THE ARTS

It seemed that this would be a rare issue of the Newsletter in having no news of a performance by ANTHEA THOMPSON (1986) then came the Cape Times of November 23 with a long article on a new play, ‘Seashells’ by Rafiek Mammon. Anthea is the only person on stage, “Thompson faces the audience throughout the show, talking to her therapist with a heap of seashells arranged precariously on a desk. It takes no more than that to create a backdrop for the full range of emotions.” She plays Ella, a 40-something twin. The reviewer, Tyrone August writes, “... the choice of Thompson in the role of Ella was inspired: when the role requires her to be funny, she delivers the lines deliciously, and when she is meant to be in pain, she is equally convincing.” ‘Seashells’ was on at the Artscape in November and December.

MALIKA OMAR, (at RGHS until Grade 10 sometime in recent years) a performing and recording artist living in Dubai recently launched a song, 'New Hope' which she composed in support of a non-profit and non-political organization, the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

Her performance can be viewed at <http://www.perf.net/?p=6434>. Malika not only wrote the music and the lyrics but she performs the vocals as well as the piano. LIZ SOLE says she periodically hears from Malika who is grateful for the way Liz encouraged her to be ambitious when she left Rustenburg.

On reading that the 1981 reunion had taken place in the studio of JEANNETTE UNITE (1981) - see left and below - it made sense for me to find out more. This is what I learnt:

"Jeanette has been exploring Africa's industrial landscape for more than a decade. In 2009 she embarked on an African research journey to Kenya, the Rift Valley, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Ghana and Nigeria. Unite takes photographs and gathers minerals, mine dump dust and site specific sands integral to her process of making her own pastels, paint and firing glass containing industrial waste. Her artworks thus portray landscape through the land itself in a 'beauty-from-waste' aesthetic. Unite has presented work at the Tashkent Biennale, Uzbekistan, Dublin, Kumasi, Ghana, Innsbruck, Austria, Madrid, Spain and at the Beijing Biennale."





THE SOLOMON CLAN AT RUSTENBURG

The four Solomon sisters (MOIRA, KATHY, JENNY and HELEN) attended Rustenburg from 1949, when Moira started in Sub A until 1968 when Helen completed matric – a total of 20 years between them at the school. During this time their mother (also Moira) served on the School Committee for 15 years and also coached hockey. She continued to serve the school in the library long after her girls had completed their education there. Mother Moira (Russell) had been at the Junior School, spent a year or two at the High School before moving to Bloemhof, Paarl to improve her Afrikaans.

Moira the daughter (1961) now lives in Somerset West with husband Ken Burt. She has 3 children. Two married sons living abroad and a daughter MARY DONNELLY (nee Burt) who matriculated at Rustenburg in 1994. Mary is a clinical psychologist, practicing with her husband Martin in Grahamstown. They have recently had a son, Liam, which brings Moira to a total of 3 grandchildren.

Kathy (1962) is married to Kerr Cruikshanks and they have retired to Cape Town after living in Japan, Singapore and London. She has three sons who are all married and between them they have produced 5 grandchildren. Kathy, always keen on sport, is now an avid golfer.

Jenny (1963) is married to Les Masterson and both her daughters SALLY (1993) and JILL (1996) attended Rustenburg high school. Sally and her husband Karl le Roux are both doctors working at Zithulele Hospital in the old Transkei and they have 3 children – Emma, Johan and David. Jill is a teacher and has been living and working in London for 8 years.

Helen (1969) also lives in Cape Town with husband Robert Hall. She has two sons and a daughter. Her daughter JUDY DAVISON (1994) now lives in Boston with her husband Hylton Southey. Judy is a Speech Therapist and works at a school for autistic children. She has two children, Nicholas and Abigail.

Once again (from 1989 to 1996) this family had four representatives at Rustenburg High. All four of these cousins were school prefects with Sally, Head Girl in 1993. We now await the possibility of the next generation of girls becoming Rustybugs!

Thank you, Jenny for this update on a Rustenburg family

FIVE Ph D's FROM THE CLASS OF 1956

Of course I feel the Class of 1956 is special, a bunch of doers, joiners and excellent friends. Recently I met LORRAINE LAWRENCE (Cooper) in East London after many years and was reminded that she had graduated PhD from the University of Zambia; this brought the class count of doctorates to a fine total of five. I felt proud and saw an opportunity to broadcast this collective achievement.

Lorraine graduated BA from UCT and immediately left for England where from 1960 to 1962 she taught English and History at schools in Oxford and Wolverhampton. A position in the British Council in London followed and marriage. She and her husband went to Malaysia where she taught English for three year. Then there was a move to Zambia which was to be her home for the next nearly twenty years. After teaching English and History in secondary schools in Lusaka, she completed a MA in Applied Linguistics from Reading University, graduating in 1980. Now she was teaching at the University of Zambia training teachers of English. It was then that she started working on her doctorate which was an evaluation of the English curriculum in Zambia. She worked at the University of Warwick, UK from 1989 to 1994 and it was then that she felt comfortable to return to South Africa. As a small child she had lived in Peddie, she had relatives there so with her background it was logical that she join the staff at the University of Fort Hare, living first in Kingwilliamstown then in East London where she still is. Again her work was in teacher education; one project was to train teachers to develop textbooks which are still selling. Then she joined a British government funded primary School improvement project, *Imbewu*, working with the Eastern Cape Department of Education; mainly in very disadvantaged rural and township schools in the Transkei and ex-Ciskei, "...the most important work I have done I think. Wonderful and upsetting; the schools are so under-resourced and in such bad condition that it is amazing that people can work in them, but they do – and with results." Fort Hare invited her back as an Adjunct Professor in Education to research and write about rural schools and supervise master's students. Finally in 2009 Lorraine retired; she is not idle and is closely involved in the Peddie Women's Support Centre, raising funds and donations in kind for an impoverished community in Peddie Extension, for an After School Care Centre, for vegetable gardens.

Visiting the Museum of Rock Art at The Origins Centre at Wits in September, I was not surprised to see a picture of DR JANETTE DEACON (Buckland) among a group of foremost South African archaeologists. She and her husband the late Hilary Deacon were

described as ‘two of the leading exponents of Stone Age archaeology in South Africa’ in a review of their book, “Human Beginnings in South Africa.”

Graduating BA from UCT Janette spent two years working there before moving to Grahamstown where she worked at the Albany Museum. Two children were born in the 60’s which makes it especially commendable that she graduated MA with distinction from UCT in 1969. For three years in the 70’s she was a lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at UCT, and after the birth of her third child, Janette joined the University of Stellenbosch as Senior Research Officer in the Department of Archaeology. She then moved to the National Monuments Council as Archaeologist and Acting Head of Professional Services Division, retiring in 1999.

That is the record of Janette’s formal employment; always she has had a particular interest in the interpretation, conservation and management of San (Bushman) rock paintings which can be encapsulated in an award and a book: in 2010 Janette was presented with the UNESCO medal for rock art international archive, commemorating 60th anniversary of UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention (1972); the book is “My Heart Stands in the Hill” by Janette Deacon and Craig Foster. In the preface, Craig writes: “In 1997 I was introduced to Janette Deacon. By chance we discovered that she had been working on of the major rock engraving sites in the N Cape for many years. The artists had embarked on spiritual journeys that so moved them – imagine having all this explained, in your own language by somebody who has spent 20 years studying their art.....(I could) help her achieve her dream of making a beautiful book to celebrate the rock art and the people who made it Janette and I kept going back to the landscape year after year.” It is a very beautiful book.

There are more awards, including the SA Archaeological Society’s President’s medal in 2004 and in 2008 Life Membership award and medal of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists. International recognition has also come in positions Janette has been appointed to; in 2011 she became Vice President of the International Council for Archaeological Heritage Management; from 2008 she has been a member of UNESCO World Heritage Advisory Committee on Prehistory; she is a member of the Board of Trust for African Rock Art, Nairobi; a mentor for the Ugandan nomination of Nyero for the World Heritage List. Back in South Africa, Janette is still involved in many organizations, among them UNISA where she is Honorary Professor, Dept Anthropology and Archaeology; Wits where she is an Honorary Research Associate, Rock Art Research Institute; UCT, where this year she was co-organiser (with Pippa Skotnes) of a conference to celebrate the centenary of Specimens of Bushman Folklore.

In the nineties she was a member of the Writing Teams for Bills to do with National Heritage, for the White Paper on Arts and Culture Policy. Janette says she is still writing from her Stellenbosch home and she is doing work with guides to rock art sites, she also trains volunteers to locate and record rock paintings in the Red Cederberg Conservancy. One of these activities meant she could not come to the 55-year Reunion in March.

Dr JOAN PARKER is the scientist and her CV shows she was at the cutting edge of transplants back in the 70’s.”Completed my BSc at UCT in 1959 and after working at the Department of Health laboratories in CT for a couple of years, making rabies vaccine, I went to the UK to work at Guys Hospital. I was a research assistant working with surgeons

on a variety of projects including breast cancer. I returned to UCT in 1965 to do an MSc at the Medical School in Virology, which I completed in 1966. I was lured back to Guys with offer of a lecturer post and to do a PhD in transplantation immunology. I graduated from the University of London with a PhD at the end of 1969. On my return to CT, I was employed at the Provincial Blood Grouping Laboratory at Medical School for 5 years and my research was in experimental bone marrow transplantation which culminated in the first human bone marrow transplant at Groote Schuur Hospital.

A move to the University of the Western Cape in 1975 resulted in a change of career path. I was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology in the Dental Faculty and Professor in 1984. My research focused on the bacteriology of periodontitis and the



study of isolated populations up the West Coast.

From 1985-1989 I had a research post in the Department of Microbiology at UCT, involved with genetic engineering research, as well as setting up administrative laboratory procedures and accountability of research grants.

At the end of 1989, I called a halt to my academic career to go travelling with my late husband and to 'do' all the other things I wanted to do - restore a 1950 MGTD, (See Pic) undertake a rehabilitation project on the Liesbeek River and 'live a little!!'

German was the subject of the late Professor, Dr GRISELDIS CROWHURST-BOND (Crowhurst); since she studied for her doctorate in Germany and later was Associate Professor in the German Department of the University of Natal in Durban, (if it had been UCT someone would have known her) we know little of her academic history. Google had references to published articles such as in the Journal of Literary Studies: 'The language of violence in Alfred Döblin's novel *Berlin Alexanderplatz* and its translation into English'; in Acta Germanica: "Utopian Intention and Ideology: Kipling and Brecht" and there was also, "Childhood and myth in the modern German novel" to give an idea of her field of study. Although she did not attend class reunions, Griseldis sent a generous donation for the class gift to the school for the Forty-Year Reunion. She died in the mid-nineties.

I have in front of me a red book with pictures of people in strange dress; it is "A Family History in Java" by ADRIENNE VAN COEVERDEN DE GROOT (Fish); it is the book published in 2001 from her doctoral thesis. The book traces the history of her husband's family in Indonesia from the 1600's to 1950. Adie trained as a radiographer, worked in England and then married Frans, one of four De Groot brothers – she'd been to his Matric Dance – and had four sons herself. Always a very organized person, as a busy mother she

managed to study through UNISA, graduating BA in History and Art History. A visit to Greece had inspired her to study Greek Classical Culture and she began her studies while she rested in the nursing home after the birth of her fourth child. When he was six, Adie spent a year in the Education Department at UCT doing a S.T. D., teaching at Progress College and the Athlone Training Centre. In 1981 the family emigrated with Canada their destination, first living in a small town then in Toronto where their houses have been named Rondebosch and De Grootschuur. She had to redo her teaching qualification at Brock University and taught for a while at Sheridan College before she realised it would be more lucrative to work in Frans' office. In 1996 Adie and Frans travelled to Indonesia; she was intrigued with the connections between that country and South Africa, she writes, "I was fascinated by all VOC signs in the museums and of course Java was the reason that Dutch settled the Cape as a halfway station. On my return I decided to do my Masters at La Salle University and did it on comparing the racial policies of Indonesia with that of South Africa, where apartheid became law and not so in Indonesia." By now immersed in Indonesian history, she embarked on three years of reading and researching the history of the De Groot family in Indonesia for her Ph D thesis. In her words, "My prof wanted me to continue so I decided the best thing was to write on Frans's family in Indonesia as he was not so keen on my studies as you know what I am like ... I get too involved!! ... his grandfather and father were both born in Indonesia and I had great letters and resource material" On graduating, Adie joined two sons with Ph D's and doctor husband, so many Dr de Groots!

This is a proud record for a class from the Fifties; any challengers? I know that the E's of 1954 have at least three Ph D's: MARCIA LEVESON (Honikman) in English SHIRLEY CHURMS (Macintosh) and INGEBORG HARDING BARLOW both in Chemistry. From the E's of 1988 there are at least two with doctorates from Cambridge – NATASHA ERLANK in History and HAYLEY MCGREGOR

WATER, STONE AND LEGEND: ROCK ART OF THE KLEIN KAROO

This new book by Renée Rust and Jan van der Poll was assessed by Dr Sarah Wurz of the Institute for Human Evolution at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In her school days, archaeologist RENÉE (E 1964) would have been on the register as CATHERINE VAN NIEKERK. This boarder from De Doorns did her doctorate on the rock art of the Klein Karoo. The assessment of her book included:

"This book presents the rock art from the the interior region of the Western Cape, between the Swartberg and Langeberg ranges, north of Mossel Bay and George, in the Klein Karoo. The publication is timely and essential. The rock art images from the Klein Karoo are much less well known and celebrated than those from the Cederberg and the Drakensberg, but are as spectacular and complex as the art from these regions. This book provides new, previously unknown information on the rock art of the Little Karoo.... the striking images of the ostriches, the half fish-half human beings, and abundance of snakes are exceptional in the rock art heritage of South Africa. The rock art depictions are presented through high quality, well-chosen photographs and tracings. The interpretation of the imagery is undertaken from the well-known shamanistic paradigm, but also takes the folklore and myths still alive in the minds of the local populations today, into account. This level of integration is the result of Dr Rust's extensive communication and consultation with the

local communities and represents one of the unique and valuable contributions of this volume.

..... A theme that runs strongly through the book is that the rock art imagery shows 'ways of doing' in San religious expression, capturing the ritual practices associated with San spiritual life.

The last two chapters that relate stories about the "watermeide" and water beings bring the rock art to life through the powerful legends and imagery. These chapters are exciting and original and are exceptional in the way in which the landscape and its people are drawn into interpretation of the rock art. As the authors aptly convey "This is an extraordinary convergence of landscape, history, memory and legend in a way that continues to shape the living heritage of the local community." This contextualised approach is commendable and a major strength of this volume. This book disseminates original research within the field of rock art research in South Africa and would be a suitable resource for students and specialists in the field."

A short review of the book appeared in a November issue of the Cape Times.

THE FORTIES

Thank you, LYDIA WOOLF (Mandelbrote 1946), for sending news of a Rustybug who is a long-time resident of London.

"Thank you for sending me the most recent ROGU newsletter. I understand your problems with postage particularly in relation to the UK where I have been living for over fifty years. My e mail address is n.woolf@btinternet.com On looking through the newsletter, I could not find any reference to members of my matric year 1946.

I sometimes come across old "rustybugs" in London but none dating back to 1946. Are there any of us still around?

I retired from work in 2004 having first of all worked as a Child Protection Officer and later as a Children's Guardian representing children at risk in court cases.

Now I spend time attending French and Italian Classes at U3A and still manage Yoga sessions.

I have four grandchildren. Two grandsons have completed University degrees and are now doing teacher training courses. My youngest grandson is attending an American university in Tokyo. To keep us young we have a lively little granddaughter nearly nine years old who enjoys dancing swimming and tennis."

THE FIFTIES

News from OLWEN GIBSON (Jones 1954)

"The best part of doing the magnificent but rather tough Tour of Mont Blanc in late August this year was visiting my daughter, JOANNE EMMERICH (Gibson, Head Girl 1992) and family in Kassel, Germany afterwards. It was lovely to flop and relax with family, play games and read stories to my two grandchildren. Jo's husband, Roy, has completed a Masters in Renewable Energy and is now working in that field. Jo is teaching at the Montessori school that both Bronwen (8) and Jurgen (6) attend. Jo is employed as a native English speaker to assist in English classes and she also has a Grade 10 Chemistry class - a challenge to teach her old subject from a German text book though! The whole family is

fluent in German; Bronwen prefers reading German books which are easier for her as the language is phonetic. The highlight of my week in Kassel (two hours north-east of Frankfurt by ICE train) was harvesting veg from their share of an organic veg. and dairy farm “Frankenhausen”. The sun shone and we picked mealies, tomatoes, pumpkins, red cabbage turnips, carrots and more. Imagine the gorgeous vegetable soup once we got home, not to mention the spinach latkes and healthy salads to follow.

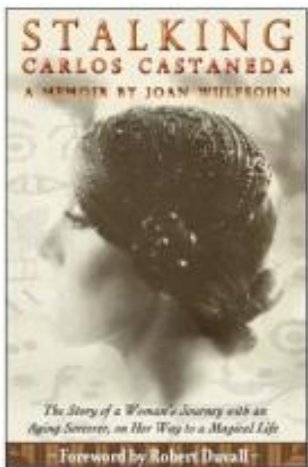
I spent a morning at the Montessori school as the activity for the English classes who had been taught appropriate questions to ask someone from South Africa. “How old are you?” was the first one. Jo has done the Montessori course and likes their methods: small classes, combinations of ages invisible boundaries (no bells or fences - the school borders on an extensive beech forest, but the kids don’t wander away).



It seems that the family will be settled in Germany for some years to come and then Roy would like to employ the hybrid energy systems he is accumulating experience on in a country where he can get sponsorship to set them up - Africa perhaps? Who knows? Jo could always use her varied teaching skills and for me and Tony it would be good to have them nearer home.”

JOAN WULFSOHN (Myers 1956) Joan, resident of Los Angeles for many years, has carved an intriguing career through dance to developing her own healing touch therapy. JOAN PARKER (1956) is on the mailing list for Joan W’s publicity and forwarded this:

Joan has been described as an “extraordinary dancer/healer who understands Sacred Geometry, space energy, color and the human body,” and a “medicine woman, who channels angelic energies and carries within her the deepest wisdom and insight.”



Joan is best known in the healing community for developing the body technique known as Cellular Recall Therapy: a soft, non-invasive, hands-on type of bodywork which addresses cellular memory and optimally hones the connection between mind, body, and spirit. Prior to innovating this approach, Joan was an acclaimed dancer in South Africa, and dance teacher in Paris and other cities worldwide.

As her life path continued to unfold, Joan became drawn to the teachings of Carlos Castaneda, under whom she studied personally, as well to the Feldenkrais method.

Combining the similar philosophies of the Nagual and Moshe Feldenkrais of economizing energy, retrieving lost energy and exploring personal history, Joan's technique of Cellular Recall Therapy was born. Joan uses this approach to help people worldwide access a spiritual path through the body. Joan currently lives and teaches in Los Angeles, California. She is the author of the exciting new book: 'STALKING CARLOS CASTANEDA' available in 2012". A second flier advertised the Los Angeles Green Festival in October 2011 where Joan was to conduct a Feldenkrais-inspired Barre Stretch Class For more info on Joan go to: <http://cellularrecalltherapy.com/> or <http://cellularrecalltherapy.com/about/massage-magazine-profiles-joan-wulfsohn/>

News from LESLEY LOW McMURRAY 1958):

"2011 was a special year for the E58's - we celebrated our 70th birthdays! In November nine of us met for a luncheon at Joostenburg, the lovely farm home of Philip and GILL MYBURGH (Fairhead). Present were ANGELA DE VILLIERS (Worth), BOBBIE CAMPBELL (Ford), GILL BAILEY (Robinson), IRINA BOTHA (von Holdt), JANET RODGER (Kenyon), LESLEY LOW (McMurray), LYNN NIELSEN (Muller) and ROSE HALDANE (Truter).

After pre-lunch drinks, and lots of chatting, we sat round a beautifully decorated table where we enjoyed a delicious lunch. "Do you remember?" took us back to our years at the Junior School. What fun, nine Grandmothers going back to the classrooms of 60 years ago. On the farm is a crèche for the small children of the workers and we were happy to take gifts of toys, books and toiletries for them. We returned to our homes, after a wonderful day together, each with a large posy of beautiful flowers grown and arranged by Gill.

THE SIXTIES

It was good to see this email from JENNIFER WILSON (1960) in the Inbox:

"My copy of Newsletter 54 arrived in Stratford upon Avon last week and I was summarily reminded that I could/ should organise to receive same via email so here is my email address!

I am one of the matrices of 1960 and, while I reside in Stratford upon Avon, I am very much a South African and return whenever I can.

It is, as Cathi Albertyn says, 'the place that defines me and makes sense of who I am'.

Since leaving what was then the Cape Town College of Education in 1997 where I was first a lecturer in English and later Head of Academic Development, I co-authored a series of language books for OBE. I was then living in England but was not allowed to work in the UK so travelled back to CT to plan books with the editor and co-authors and then returned to get on with the writing. Good ole email.

For the past nine years I have been a chaperone for the Royal Shakespeare Company, work which happily combines my love of theatre and interest in the development and welfare of children.

The hugely successful musical Matilda debuted in Stratford Upon Avon last November and was a sell-out! As the children needed tutoring I found myself heading a team of teachers and running a mini-school until the end of January of this year. Quite a challenge but we did it! I really admired the youngsters who, sometimes after performing the night before, were in the classroom by nine the next morning in the middle of a cold hard Winter!

I read the Newsletters with keen interest scanning to see whom I remember and, now, wondering who lives near me.”

THE NINETIES

For news of JOANNE EMMEREICH (Gibson 1992) see the account her mother, OLWEN (Jones 1954) wrote of her visit to Jo in Kassel, Germany under **THE FIFTIES**

PHILIPPA ASHMEAD (1992) is in Dar es Salaam with her husband Robert. They are contemplating sailing South on their Yacht but piracy seems to have become a consideration, “so we shall have to wait and see.” says her father, married to ROG HEIDI.

ROBYN-LYNNE REID (Board 1992) was one of a group of 22 girls who in August 1990 spent a Monday to Friday “cross-curriculating” on the farm of HAYLEY MACGREGOR’S (1988) parents just outside Nieuwoudtville. A day’s hike in Oologskloof was part of the programme. This is what Robyn-Lynne wrote recently:

“At the end of last year I took my family to Oorlogskloof just outside Nieuwoudtville based on the awesome time I had experienced there all those years ago.

My life is rather hard to summarise but I’ll give it a shot. I spent 4 years studying at UCT (B.Sc Logopaedics - Speech/Language Therapy and Audiology), then went and worked in the UK for 2 years.

I came back craving the bush and hence became a game ranger at Sabi Sabi, where I met my husband. We then spent the next 8 years in various game reserves (Madikwe, Ndumo, Shamwari, and a game reserve outside of Graaff-Reinet) before becoming more city-based due to the arrival of children. We have two boys (10 and 7 years of age already!!) and have made our home in George - the Karoo is just over the mountain!!

I look forward to hopefully being more involved with the Old Girls' Union in the future.” It’s not surprising Robyn-Lynne made the career change; in the 1992 magazine she wrote, “BSc Conservation Biology/Wildlife Management” as her study path.

JANNA COOK (1994) is one of many ROG’s living in England, her home being in Shepton Mallet, near Bristol. She is mother to Thomas 6 and Nicholas 4 and as she hoped in her school magazine entry, she has followed a career in interior design.

JULIET WELLS (Turnbull 1993) is married to Buddy, cousin of INGRID HUGHES (D 1992) of New Zealand. Juliet and musician Buddy live in Muizenberg with their children, Dan, Rachel and Sam. Juliet has been involved in Yoga teacher training, pressure point technique and kinesiology. Her mother-in-law, MEGAN WELLS (Hughes) was at RGHS for a short period.

The mother of DIANE GALLIE JAMES (1994) - See births – gave me news of some of the E's of 1994. CARMEN BARKHUIZEN (Gold) lives at Stonehurst, a newish suburb above Tokai with her family; her children are Leah 6 and Ryan 5.

LUCIA HARDWICK (Thompson) is married to English Neil and lives in England.

KAREN APSEY (Melrose) married Justin (RBHS); they have two children and live in Durban.

SARAH RADE (Montgomery Campbell E95) sent this welcome update:

“I'd just like to give you a quick update as, after 12 years in the UK, I moved back to Cape Town with my husband, Jason (a Herzlia old boy) and son, Jacob (who will be 3 this month) two years ago. We live not far from RGHS and I am working as an account manager at Ernst + Young”

AMANDA WILSON-SMITH (1998) sent in news of important milestones – See Marriages and Births. She is yet another ROG who returned to teach at the old school being a Grade Two teacher and later a Grade Leader at RGJS for 7 years. Amanda graduated Bachelor of Education, BEd Foundation Phase from the Cape Technicon. Her Rosebank home is not far from the high school.

THE TWENTIES

HAYLEY McINTOSH (2002) sent in her details for the Data Base. Another budding Rustenburg Ph D, Hayley graduated BSc Information Technology in 2005 and BSc (Hons) the following year, both from UCT. Right now she is back at there working on a doctorate in Atmospheric Science with a completion date of 2012. In between, Hayley took part in a research exchange to University of Oxford (2008), another to the University of Michigan (2008) and the Young Scientists Summer Program in Vienna, Austria (2010). Leisure activities include ballroom and Latin dancing. Looking back in the School Magazine of 2002, I see that Hayley won the prize for Computer Studies.

Some news of WENDY ACTON BURNELL (2003) who is a vocalist in an all-girl punk band, Junkyard Lipstick and lives in Richwood. She studied Performance for three years at The Cape Academy of Dramatic Art.

CANDICE LE NOURY (2004) has a blog - thegorgeousgourmet.blogspot.com and was a contestant in the Masterchef SA auditions on 10th December. Candice graduated BA at UCT in 2007 (Political Science and English Language and Literature)

AMY-MARGARET YOUNG from matric 2006 works as the pastry chef at the Greenhouse Restaurant at the Cellars Hohenort Hotel in Constantia - the restaurant has just been voted the top restaurant in the country.

REUNIONS

1961 Some of the pictures from the March 50-year reunion (maiden names used)

Lunch at the Wild Fig. Pat Noble, known to thousands of ROG's as Mrs Hanger, is in red; Miss Dosé is talking to Valerie Webster



Tea at Stellenberg, home of Sandy Nash. Note Miss Dunt with Marian Bernardt







Visit to the Junior School

1981 REUNION FROM JEANNETTE UNITE

It really was quite a wonderful evening.

52 of our class of 98 matriculants attended the reunion at Jeannette Unites Art Studio in Buitenkant Street in town. Through a dogged effort and lots of enthusiasm by MICHELE CROCKER (Erasmus) - 95 of the class were accounted for. The first two hours were filled with shrieks of embarrassment, fond laughter and lots of hugs. A brief rush for name tags passed as everyone gained confidence in their identification skills. For the rest – most people suffered at least a handful of complete blanks and just went on to have a good evening anyway.

We had a good chuckle at the 180 picture slide show of you all in distinctly 70's style group shots and an impromptu wall of photos was tacked up.

We thought of you in England, Germany, Australia, Canada, the States and Chile but were thrilled that FIONA GRAY came from New Zealand, ALISON BROOKS from England. MICHELLE MARSHALL (Boonzaier) flew in from Botswana, TRISCH VAN BILJON (Reiss) from Namibia, MICHELLE SCHLEIFER (Ashpo) and NATALIE Payne from Johannesburg, GAYLE CROOME (Innes) from Durban, CAROL CHRISTIE from Port Elizabeth, JOANN VISSER (Hahn) and KIM EUSTON-BROWN from Sedgfield, JEANNE ROSSOUW and GILLIAN VILJOEN (Robson) from the Worcester area. Almost all of the greater Cape Town local contingent was present.

SUE BYRNE (Hardcastle) generously provided 4 magnificent arrangements and candles from her Flower Warehouse, brightening up an unusual venue for a reunion. The smokers gathered in the yard amongst glass kilns and Jeannette's artworks in process. CLARE Bock did the catering. SHARON HOSKING brought wine from Vergelegen and GILLIAN VILJOEN from BC wines – an impressive number of half-full bottles of wine found in the

morning clean-up were a poignant indicator that 30 years on some are wiser and that we have all learnt to enjoy life.”

1991 REUNION from MICHELLE KHAN



Michelle created this collage of the 1981 Reunion.

The Es of 1991 were treated to an extended celebration to mark their 20-year school reunion in September 2011: it was decided to have a morning tea at the school, a boarders' sleepover at Erinville (more about that elsewhere in this newsletter), a cocktail evening at the Mount Nelson, and a family day picnic on the school hockey fields.

The day of the school tea (attended by 27 "old" girls) coincided with the school's Heritage Day assembly which was to be conducted by the girls themselves. We were excited to be able to attend. Even though we were sure the girls would consider us extremely aged, for us it was hard to believe that we had been away for 20 years! It was wonderful to be present at the assembly, to see the mix of cultures and religions at the school, and to witness the talents and confidence of the girls. Assembly was followed by tea in the library where we were joined by former teachers, Moraig McCleod (visiting from Sedgfield), Gillian Cockram and Brigit Ryan. Mrs van Blerk, our headmistress for the last six months of our matric year, was also able to attend. Unfortunately Mrs McIntyre was not able to be there as she wasn't well, but sent her very best wishes to a year she remembers fondly.

Tea was followed by a tour of the school with Laura Bekker who showed us, amongst other things, the computer labs (we recall having only a small computer room with about six computers that were hardly every used), the wonderful new drama class room, the redesigned gym change rooms (very smart!) and the beautiful new quad between the hall and the music block. We were most impressed with all the changes to the buildings and by the passionate staff members we met on our tour.

Saturday night saw the old girls gather for drinks and canapés at the Mount Nelson – a venue that is a Cape Town landmark, making the evening even more memorable. The wide-eyed staff had to witness 48 squealing women greeting each other as if they were long-lost friends – which, of course, we were! There were girls who had travelled to Cape Town from elsewhere in South Africa especially for the reunion, and even some from Australia and the United Kingdom, which was particularly special.

Carey McKenzie was persuaded to say a few words and reminded us of many of the good times (and some of the bad times) we'd had at school. She also reminded us about those girls who were unable to make it to the reunion. Especially remembered were our classmates who have passed away since matric: Patty Molyneux and our headgirl, Michelle Schram. Though the food and drink flowed that night, nothing could compete with our chatter and laughter. Many girls had kept in touch through the years, but just as many were seeing one another for the first time since 1991. It was wonderful to catch up and see how so much changes and that people drift apart, but that Rustenburg girls will always have a very special connection.

Everyone left with a goody bag of sponsored products courtesy of Lannice Snyman Publishers, Haute Cabriere, Inne-sense Beverages, Angelfoods Fudgery, Desray Designs and Elephant Pepper – an extra touch to remember the evening by.

A few families gathered on the hockey fields the following morning for a quiet family picnic, and a last chance to see those who had travelled from far for the weekend. It was an opportunity to meet husbands and children and remind ourselves just how grown up we have all become!

Many thanks to the school, especially Jackie Weston and Laura Bekker, for hosting us on Thursday and Sunday, and to the organising committee of Hilary Hefer (Fichardt), Tessa

van Wyngaarden (Köster), Sandy Skillicorn (Pimenta) and Sandra Middelman (Neto) for all their efforts in organising what was a fantastic reunion. Here's to the next 20 years! All in all, 50 1991 Es attended the reunion. They were: Alexandra Carter*, CJ Lingard (Talbot) and Laurianne van Jaarsveld (Cloete) from the UK; Belinda Austin (Foster) and Tamsin McKeown (Voigt) from Australia; Elaine Thompson (Kirby) from Namibia; Carey Hill (McKenzie) from Mtunzini; Marlisa Harris (Groenewald) and Susan Hudson (Heydenrych) from Johannesburg; Gayle Meyerdricks* (Steven-Jennings) from the Waterberg; and, from around Cape Town, Angeline Wilkinson (Beute), Astrid Haupt, Barbara Elshove-Schmidt, Belinda Levine (Mowatt), Brenda Morrow (Stupart), Bonnie van Ginkel (Newton), Bronwyn van Niekerk, Catherine Mitchell (Winter), Helen Davies, Hilary Cloete (Hester), Isabella Van Zyl* (Meiring), Janet Slater* (Hughes), Janine Binneman (Joubert), Jenni Galloway (Burrows), Joanne Duxbury, Julia Parsonage, Justine Stewart *(Damp), Karen Schmidt, Kim van der Bijl, *Kirstie Nielsen-Bean, Lisa MacLeod (Sinclair-Smith), Louise Smith, Lucinda Brown (Lee), Margaret Stramrood (Fosseus), Margie Alt, Marlene Jordaan (Haasbroek), Michelle Kahn, Milena Laubscher (Oliveira), Natalie Becker, Natalie Smith-Chandler, Philippa Sales* (Allen), Renee Venter (Smit), Rosalind Watermeyer *(Newmarch), Sally Estcourt,* Sandra Middelman (Neto), Sandra Skillicorn (Pimenta), Sarah Veenstra (Crabtree), Sue Rouillard (Ritchie), Tahra Sergeant, and Tessa van Wyngaarden (Köster).

* All daughters of ROG's - there could be more - MRB

1991 -A night back in Erinville by ELAINE THOMPSON

“When Sandra Middelman (Neto) phoned me in early 2011 and told me that a group of 1991 Es were organising a reunion and said, “We think it’ll be so much fun to spend a night at Erinville, for old time’s sake,” I sincerely hoped that I wouldn’t be the only one spotting the supreme irony in that statement. After diligently plotting our escape from Erinville week after week and term after term while we were boarders, to voluntarily go back to the scene of our incarceration (clearly, there’s still naught as dramatic as a hard-done-by teenager) was just a little, well, mad.

Still, on Friday 23 September, eleven 1991 Erinville Es– Sandra Middelman, Sandra Skillicorn (Pimenta), Justine Stewart (Damp), Michelle Kahn, Gayle Meyerdricks (Steven-Jennings), Kim van der Bijl, Sarah Veenstra (Crabtree), Laurianne van Jaarsveld (Cloete), Alexandra Carter, Tessa van Wyngaarden (Koster) and I, Elaine Thompson (Kirby) – made their way to the boarding house and signed in for the night. Times may change (there’s a TV in the matric sanctum, for goodness sake!), but signing in is still compulsory.

After lots of shrieking and hugging as the Es arrived, we met some of the girls currently living in the boarding house. Karin Evans, one of the house mistresses and a Rustenburg old girl herself, asked us to introduce ourselves to the girls and to tell them where we were originally from and what we’d been up to in the last 20 years. There was much laughter and comparing of notes on Erinville then and now – there were gasps of horror when we told them about only having two ‘out weekends’ a term and having to wear church dresses on Sundays, while we marveled at the fact that weekly boarding is now an option and that there is a computer room where D-Comm used to be, and a pool table taking up space in the common room!

We were offered a guided tour of the boarding house, which we accepted with alacrity. There were shouts of amazement when we saw how huge Justine's tree in the dining quad had become (it was a sapling when she planted it back in 1988 after causing the destruction of the tree that previous grew there...), and then twinges of envy on our side when we were shown the open-all-hours kitchenette where the tuck room used to be (no more using a submersible element to heat up water for packet soup!), and the funky pink dispensary upstairs that now purveys chocolates, chips and other such comforts instead of the unsticky plasters, furry Dispirin and lashings of TCP of our time, which must rank as a huge improvement in anyone's book.

Once upstairs we engaged in furious debate as to who had been in which dorm when. It was sobering to realise that, 20 years on, one's fierce allegiance and sense of home in a particular dorm could be dulled to such an extent that one is, in fact, capable of forgetting where 'home' was in which year! Collective memory came to the rescue though, and we all enjoyed comparing our experiences of the best and worst of Erinville real estate. Enthusiastic consensus deemed F-Dorm still the most likely to house the naughtiest of boarders.

We also had a good giggle about the rules and peculiarities of our day: the most desirable cubicles were the outside 'cubies', which faced the road, garden or hockey field. More plebeian were the inside ones that overlooked the washing and dining quads. All outside cubies had shutters that had to be closed by 19h00, while the inside shutters didn't need to be shut, which was good on a swelteringly hot Cape summer's night, but really bad if your neighbour in the next-door cubie was a sleepwalker with a tendency to climb onto window sills in her sleep...

More notable changes in the house include the conversion of the upstairs "matric" balcony (which was never used) into bedrooms for two matric girls, and the fact that all dormitory passages now sport wall-mounted heaters. These will make the dormitories a lot cosier, as the characteristic Erinville sash windows may look pretty, but have absolutely no heat-retaining properties when winter has settled in.

During our time at Erinville, the cardinal rule of the boarding house was that no boarders were allowed to use the stairs at the front of Erinville (that is, on the Rondebosch Common side) that lead from the foyer outside what was then the headmistress' flat to the landing between A and B dorms. Flouting this rule would earn the transgressor a lifetime of detention... hence, they were known as the Holy Stairs. It stands to reason then that the one thing we all were going to do on our night back at Erinville was march up and down those stairs with abandon!

Something that made an impression on all of us was the demonstratively affectionate and caring relationship between the boarders and house mistresses. This is a huge departure from what we experienced as boarders, and we were all really pleased to see it. The atmosphere in the boarding house is one of respect and kindness, and there's a real feeling of 'gemütlichkeit'. Well done to PAM VAN DYK (Goss 1974) and the house staff – it's a very important thing to have achieved.

After each of us claimed a cubie in B-dorm (which had very nicely been made up for us – thank you!) and dumped our bags, we all made our way down to the common room, which

was to be ours for the night. The first order of business was to order pizza from Butlers – it was all legit this time; no more imploring them to sneak their delivery guy into the grounds and having him post pizza boxes through the burglar bars in sanctum. We were armed for a good night of catching up, with the requisite soundtrack (80s cheese), favourite films (Pretty Woman, which wasn't watched – too much talking to do), photo albums, incriminating video evidence (our matric German oral – the shame!), and 20 years' of life experiences. We remembered the fun times of the past (Fancy Dress, the BBC and flying milk tarts) and shared our lives now (jobs, kids, husbands, divorces, new beginnings), spoke about those who couldn't make the reunion (Catalina Morales, Jeanine Oosthuizen and Maddy Dalton), and paid tribute to Patty Molyneux, who lost her battle with leukemia at the end of our matric year, but who was with us in every shared memory and every laugh.

As our evening progressed, 20 years just seemed to fall away, as did any niggles or awkwardness dating back to those angst-y teenage years. We felt a wonderful familiarity and ease with each other; after all, this very select group of contemporaries, who have known you at your worst (those blooming teenage years again), are now uniquely able to help you celebrate what it's taken you 20 years to become. No doubt about it, the friendships we forged in the trenches, so to speak, are friendships that will sustain us for a lifetime. I'd like to thank everyone involved behind the scenes for making our stay at Erinville possible. It was a madcap idea, but completely inspired at the same time (and totally worth the serious case of back-to-school butterflies as we turned into Campground Road!).







REUNIONS PLANNED

1964 PAMELA FIELD (nee Praetorius) is looking ahead to organizing the 50th reunion for the Class in 2014 and “I.... do not have a clue where to begin.... can’t find my Matric photo.” Find Pam at pamfield@mweb.co.za

1972 GRETТА MELCK (Tapscott) sent this message from co-coordinator MARTINE VAN HEERDEN, who is co-coordinating their 40th reunion in November 2012. Greta's contact details are: 083 645 6425; 021 689 2036

Forty Year School Reunion 2012

yes - it's true.

it feels like yesterday that we left the old school in Camp Ground Road

some of us left sedately and some in a donkey cart or on motor bikes - but we all had to go.

but it wasn't yesterday - it was a long, long time ago. where has it all gone?

LIVED, LOVED, LOST or whatever, life never promised us a thing, but at least we are still ALIVE.

with a few more aches and pains and loads of wrinkles (ok some of us have done away with them whilst others call them lines of life) we have all lived.

what have we done and where to from here?

It's time to share our experiences of the past forty years with all the Class of '72 who can manage to get their zimmer frames (or whatever) back to Cape Town in November 2012.

I am happy to help co-ordinate it from Knysna but will need some help from an old girl nearer to Cape Town

step 1 - forward this to all the 1972 RGHS Old Girls in your address book as well as back to me

step 2 - spread the word via Facebook or Twitter if you know how or are we of the technologically challenged generation?

step 3 - get back to me with feedback.

the 1971 reunion was held this month and it was reportedly a great hit to all of the reluctant attendees

martine van heerden on martau@mweb.co.za

1992 Class of 1992 - Where are you?

ROBYN-LYNNE REID (nee Board) on the e-mail address: rmreid@polka.co.za or cell number 084 608 6546 writes, ". Since I am along the Garden Route, SHELLEY NELL (Vos) is organising things in Cape Town. We are planning the reunion for the weekend of the 13th -15th of April 2012 and a few ideas are being bandied around. Interested parties can contact Shelley at shelly.nell@hotmail.com or they can go onto Facebook and read up what is happening on the groups link Rustybugs1992.

Warm congratulations to all ROG's who have had a special landmark in their lives:

MARRIAGES

AMANDA WILSON-SMITH (1998) to Christopher Gourlay in Cape Town on April 3rd, 2011

LINDY EDMUNDS (current staff at RGHS) to Peter Waller on December 10 2011.

BIRTHS

To ADRIENNE MILLER (Staff in the 90's) and Jörn Miller a son, Michael Joshua Schuster on 7 March 2011 in Namibia. He is brother to Thomas, 14, Alex and Hannah

To PNINA BOONZAIR (1994) and Gavin Wood, a son Caleb on May 1, 2011 in Cape Town, brother to Chloe (2). Pnina works in interior design.

To AMANDA WILSON – SMITH (1998) and Christopher Gourlay, twin sons, Connor and Gabriel on 14th July 2011 in Cape Town

To LEIGH LANGSTON (1995) and Ashley Hogarty, a daughter, Sage, sister to Gemma on Friday 12th August 2011 in Melbourne

To CANDICE JOHNSON (1994) and ? Hansen, twins, Anna and Thomas brother and sister to Jack 3½ in August/September 2011 in Cape Town

To KATHERINE DOMMISSE (1993) and Mark Wiseman a son Daniel on 24th September 2011 in Cape Town. Katherine is the elder daughter of SANDRA DOMMISSE (Fairweather 1967)

To DIANE GALLIE (1994) and Mike James a son, brother to Daniel 4½ and Joseph 3½ on 6th October 2011 in Cape Town. Diane lives in Lynfrae.

To ROBYN NUNNELEY (1995) and Michael Stakemire, a son, Jack, in Cape Town in 2011. Robyn is daughter of DAPHNE (SCHERMBRUCKER 1963 and RGJS Staff for many years)

IN MEMORIAM

We extend deep sympathy to the families of these two ROG's:

CLAUDINE DOROTHY MARGARET BUTLER (Brown 1938) died in Somerset West recently, news we had from her daughter:

“This is to let you know that perhaps one of your oldest “old girls” has passed away peacefully in her sleep on 27 August 2011 at age 89 years of age.

My Mom, born Claudine Brown, born 13 April 1922 matriculated from Rustenburg, age 16 in 1938. Her last few years were spent in Somerset West, close to me, her one daughter. We were hoping to have a big 90th birthday family celebration for her in April next year, but that was not to be. She always spoke highly of her school years at Rustenburg and was very proud to have been a “Rustybug”. “

It was just about a year ago when Claudine sent in her data base form saying, “This is really just to let you know I am still alive aged 88! Still a ROG!”

JESSIE SILBERBAUER (Wood 1940) died recently in the Princess Christian Home in Kirstenhof after being frail for some time; she had not been able to attend the 70-year

reunion of her class last year. Jessie was married to Ivan, a lawyer who predeceased her by many years; they had a son and a daughter and four grandchildren and lived in Rondebosch. They spent many holidays at Betty's Bay, building a shared holiday home with George Dall. Jessie qualified as a social worker at UCT as a mature student when her children were quite old; she then worked at Groote Schuur.

For the last time I sign off, with regrets but with a store of wonderful memories of the Rustenburg family. My knowledge of this great family has now extended well beyond my own school days, those of my daughters, Fiona and Alison, and my very happy time as a teacher in the nineties. How much my life has been enriched by these years of immersion in the lives of Rustenburg Old Girls. I'll still be a newshound, can't help it but will be glad not to have a deadline coinciding with the summer holidays and Christmas at Betty's Bay.

Best wishes to you all for the coming year; start it with Rustenburg's' Founders' Day, January 27th.

Affectionately

Mary Rose