

# ROGU Newsletter



Rustenburg Girls Schools, Cape Town



## Message from ROGU President

In the third term we hosted the one year reunion for the 2017 Matrics in Charlie's Hope. The girls who attended had a great time catching up with classmates they hadn't seen since they wrote their final exam last year. By hosting this reunion we hope to instil in the girls how important it is to keep contact and create a network for their future.

It also saw representatives from our committee attending the South African Schools Alumni Association conference held at Somerset College in Somerset West. It was great to have it in our province this year, thus enabling more committee members to attend and hear how and what other Alumni Associations do to bring their past pupils together. This Association aims to create communication between members, an environment where ideas can be exchanged and establish a fund to provide financial assistance to less privileged schools for developmental needs. Congratulations to Geila Wills (Marketing/PR) on

her nomination on to their committee.

This year we had personalised keyrings made for the 2018 matrics with a "save the date" tag for their 1 year reunion. These were added to the examination packs and the girls were very pleased with them.

## ROGU COMMITTEE

### President

Ruth Romburgh

### Vice President

Casey Korck

### Treasurer

Leila Sadien

### Secretary

Jane Hofmeyr

### Members

June Watson

Anel Lewis

Sakeenah Kerbelker

Pam Heiberg

I would like to thank all alumnae who have contributed, and are still contributing to the 125 Club Bursary Fund. There were not enough contributions to offer monthly draws, but the majority of contributors said they did not want a draw, they preferred all the money to remain in the fund. We have replaced the Mavis Wakeford Bursary with a ROGU Award worth R10 000. Any past pupil furthering her studies, in her field of choice, may apply. It has been awarded to three deserving young ladies who will each receive R3 300 towards their studies in 2019.

I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Festive Season and ask you to save the date for Founders' Day next year which is to be held on the 15th March 2019, when we will be celebrating 125 years with the school.

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## REUNIONS

Many reunions have been planned.

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## ROGU CHOIR

Wonderful opportunity to sing along.

# REUNIONS

## E58 Reunion

Now that the reunion is over and our visitors are winging their way home,

I thought that those of you who were unable to be present may like some news of our events. There was a terrific vibe and we were all so genuinely pleased to see one another after these many years. The friendships haven't changed, perhaps intensified, and new friendships made as we discovered shared experiences.

There were 24 of us who trudged around the Junior and Senior Schools and my, what an eye opener. Both schools are absolutely immaculate and so well cared-for, they've been beautifully developed and extended, but the major change has been in the change of attitude towards the girls and is no longer tough and unyielding. We were all quite stunned and quietly thrilled by the caring and kindness shown to all the girls in every small way. What a change! Over the years the staff, and no doubt parents, have worked very hard to eradicate the image of the school as being tough and hard

We finally left in the early afternoon and dashed off to a late lunch at the nearby Cattle Baron, but the real highlight was the celebratory lunch at Joostenberg on Saturday and suddenly we had another 10 participants, with 34 in all, around the tables.

For those who do not know, Joostenberg is an historic Myburgh family farm alongside the N2 on the way to Paarl, at present owned by Philip Myburgh who married Gill Fairhead. It was a glorious calm day at their event venue surrounded by the magnificent gardens which are Gill's speciality. Gill also did the most beautiful flowers for the tables, cleverly in Rustenburg blue. . We would like to add special thanks to Gill and Philip for their gracious hospitality and generosity with their fine wine and food as well as the helpful staff, all of which far exceeded the modest fee we had paid!



Gill Fairhead (Myburgh) and Lynn Muller(Neilson)

We read the Roll of Remembrance aloud to honour those no longer with us --- far too many, some 18 or more, of the 67 who were E's in 1958.

On Sunday, as a final farewell to those who had travelled from afar - from the UK, Canada,

## MY SCHOOL MY VILLAGE MY PLANET CARDS

Many of our parents have raised money for the school by choosing to support RGHS as their beneficiary. You raise money for your beneficiary every time you swipe your card at Woolworths, as well as being part of the Woolworths Loyalty Programme which automatically entitles you to savings on your purchases. If you are not part of this scheme already, please consider joining it.

Application forms are available at every check-out till in Woolworths, or visit [www.woolworths.co.za](http://www.woolworths.co.za) for more information.





Tinker Bedford (Pyott) Gill Robinson (Bailey) E64

Johannesburg and Graaff Reinet, there was a quick sail around the harbour, then a last seafood lunch to wish them all safe home.

A final word of thanks must go to Angela without whom none of these events over the years would have taken place. She has worked tirelessly tracking down old E's and keeps an up-to-date database. This was all done at great cost to herself



L to R: Frieda Retief (Woolgar) Mary Thompson (Solomon) Irina Botha (van Holdt) Angel Worth (de

and in recent years Lynn has been co-opted to help. So hurrah for Angela and Lynn! And our famous schoo-ool!

So we parted with hugs and kisses and promises to meet again although we all knew there will be fewer of us - not enough time for some, and difficulty with travel for others, but we will continue to share that special and unbreakable Rustenburg bond.

## Reunions:

### Class of '99

The Class of '99 is planning their reunion in March next year. Any classmates who are interested, please contact Amy Cornfield at

amy@amycornfield.com

Tel: +27 (0)76 568 8178

### Class of '64

The Class of '64 is planning to have lunch together on Saturday 9 February 2019. If any classmates are interested, please contact Pam Field.

pamfield@mweb.co.za

Tel: 082 925091

## ROLL of REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy English Yvonne Bromfield Joan McEwan (Bevan) June Killa Ruth Turner (Briggs) Elizabeth Hurst (Gevers) Valerie Anderson Marion McConnell (Arnott) Brenda Ford (Campbell) Joan Thompson Pam Thompson (Moys) Jennifer Berrisford (Wood) Peta-Ann Davis (Nel) Kathryn Scully (Knoetze) Lorraine Jansen (Balfour) Julie-Anne Lee Jennifer Whitley (Wills) Margaret Holliday.

Irina Botha (van Holdt) (edited)

## Rusty bug Tea - Helderberg Region

### Allison Rutowitz (Adair E'65) and Mary van der Merwe (Mitchell E'64)

are living at Helderberg Village, Somerset West, and casually wondered who, of their fellow residents, had gone to school at Rustenburg. After a bit of research they ended up with a morning tea in August for those who live in the Village as well as in the Helderberg basin.

Mary writes:

Some 40 odd Rustybugs, ranging from Joyce Clark (E'44), Cynthia Barends (E'45), Maureen Edmunds



Charmaine Plummer E56 and Sally Calder E51.

(Whitney '47), to Charmaine Payne (Gray E'78) attended, and showed that the description "Old Girls" should be used with caution.



Class of '64 - Pam Pretorius Field and Bronwyn te Water Hofmeyr.

It was a joy to meet others, to catch up on what we had done with our lives, but most of all to reflect on how RGHS had played such an important role in our lives. As Rene Rust (Van Niekerk E'64) put it - "one could feel the ENERGY generated by a special flock of Rustybugs! Not much has changed after so many years..."



Group of 6, mainly '60's

## IN MEMORIAM

Judy Orpen, née Bain, (E'63) passed away in July 2018.

Aline Edmonds, née Collins (E'57) passed away in July 2018.

Pat McCrindle, née Butler, (E'52) passed away in August 2018. As well as being an Old Girl, Pat taught music at RGHS for many years until her husband retired, and they relocated to Fish Hoek. Thereafter she always attended Founders' Day if she could, and later proudly watched her granddaughters' progress through Rustenburg as boarders until Emma finished her schooling at the end of last year.

Vaila Creed, née Chadwick, (E'52) passed away in England on 7 November 2018.

June Suter, née Perkins (E'46) passed away on 18 October 2018. One of our legendary stalwarts, she watched her daughters, then her grand-daughter/s pass through Rustenburg, and was a regular at Founders Day and the Old Girls Luncheon. We shall miss her at our 125 Celebrations and Founders Day next year.



Group of 12, mainly E64 and E65.

What a happy occasion - we are planning a repeat next year, as there is a long list of ladies who were unable to attend. If there are any others who would like to be included on our list, (even those who might enjoy a scenic drive to the winelands) please send details to:

maryvdm1@mweb.co.za

## Class of '17 Reunion

The ROGU Committee hosted the reunion for the Matrics of 2017 in Charlie's Hope on Friday 7 September.

Despite concerns amongst the Committee that it seems too soon after leaving school for a reunion, it proved to be a happy occasion. When those present were asked for their opinion, the general consensus was that it was not too soon. There was much excitement and chatter, exchanges of telephone numbers, as they greeted one another and the noise level rose considerably! The teachers present also enjoyed chatting to the new "old girls" and finding out how they are adapting to the exciting world and its challenges beyond



Ms Sakeenah Kerbelker, Ms June Watson, Ms Leila Sadien

Rustenburg. Thanks go to the ROGU Committee for hosting and organising the occasion.



Alex Smith Ms Ruth Romburgh (ROGU President)  
Adrienne Clynick Jenna Frost Cynthia Augustine



Rafiqah Anwar Taskeen Parker Neeta Chavda  
Nokukhanya Zondi



## ROGU Choir

The Rustenburg Old Girls' Choir was formed earlier this year by Mr. Hendrik Marais and old girl Lauren Davis (E'12).



ROG Choir with Director Hennie Marais(left) and Liz Sole (rt), who attended the Concert

After Ms Elizabeth Sole's retirement concert in 2016, the realization of the phenomenal musical talent amongst the old girls was highly evident and a choir was created. The journey so far has been one of friendships, memories and wonderful music making which has proven to be a legacy that we can be proud of. If anyone would like to join us in the future, please contact our Facebook page (ROGU choir) or get in touch with the ROGU office.

On the 26th of September, the debut concert of the newly formed Rustenburg Old Girls' Choir took place at the St. Paul's Church in Rondebosch. This venue was chosen as many members of the choir had reminisced about their days when they performed on the same stage.

It was encouraging to note that the church was full and that the concert was well received. The choir sang a range of songs from "Agnus Dei" to "Tula Sizwe".

Donations were accepted and all the funds were donated to the African Scholar's fund.

The next performance is a carol service scheduled for the 4th of December 2018, at 19:00 at St. Paul's Church Rondebosch.

## OPENING OF THE WATER PURIFICATION PLANT

Our Water Purification Plant was officially opened by Ms Debbie Schäfer, Minister of Education in the Western Cape,



at a ceremony held at the treatment plant site and Charlie's Hope on Thursday 2 August 2018.

Mr Michael Gates, Ms Debbie Schäfer

Thank you to those who braved the elements to attend the opening ceremony.

We also wish to thank the Old Girls who have made donations towards this worthwhile project. We have not yet reached our target of R800 000, so any donation, no matter the amount, would be gratefully received. Contributions are tax deductible, and the finance office will provide the necessary documentation for you to claim your tax benefit. Please mark any donations made through EFT with the following code: H2O2018.



Mr Michael Gates, Zahra Mohamed (Head Girl 2018), Ms Debbie Schäfer - testing the waters...

# Annual Golf Day

## Rondebosch Golf Club

Despite the windy and sometimes wet conditions, our annual Golf Day at Rondebosch Golf Club on 13<sup>th</sup> September, was enjoyed by parents and



Debbie, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left

sponsors alike. Pictured at the event, is Old Girl Debbie Netto Jonker, who was one of our sponsors, as well as a player.

Also seen cheerfully participating in the day, are a group of fathers, with their custom made sweatshirts.

Next year we hope that more of our Old Girls will join in the fun.



# Heritage Day Assembly:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September



L to rt: Ashley Gardiner, Jonathan Shapiro and Laura Hartmann

A special Assembly was arranged by our History Department to celebrate Heritage Day on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Jonathan Shapiro, aka Zapiro, was invited to address the girls, and Old Girls, Ashley Gardiner and Laura Hartmann (both E'14), asked to perform the song which Emma Bergh (E'14) composed in 2013 for Heritage Day.

## Isolomzi Outreach Program

Alex Smith (E'17) and I have been part of an outreach team which has travelled to Isolomzi Secondary School in the Transkei for the past 3 years.



Lauren with two of her pupils

The programme was started by ex Rondebosch maths teacher, Rowan Harmuth, Marion Wasdell. Every year, a group of students from Rondebosch Boys High, Rustenburg Girls' High and Springfield



Lauren and village children

travel to Isolomzi Secondary School in the June/July holidays for about two weeks to tutor Grade 11s and Grade 12s in Maths, Maths Literacy, Accounting and Life Sciences.

This initiative has been life changing, not only for the

students of Isolomzi (who achieved a 100% pass rate for the first time in 2017), but also for the students from Cape Town, who learn so much from the students and their community. Each day we travel half an hour to the school from where we are staying, to teach the students at their school. The trip is also focussed on providing help to the community, as we support a local old age home by providing them with clothing, blankets and other essentials. The trip is truly a cultural experience as well, as we have the opportunity to visit a local sangoma, tour the Transkei Gates, and interact with the village children and their families.

Alex and I first went on the Isolomzi trip in Grade 11 and then again in Grade 12, and it will forever remain one of the highlights of my school career. Despite being out of school, Alex and I really



A few of the tutors in the classroom

wanted to go back to Transkei, so this year we went as "Old Girls" and took up more responsibility, helping plan the trip, and also teaching Grade 11 Maths.

This program is extremely close to my heart and I have built many friendships with the students at Isolomzi whom I look forward to seeing every year. The students at this school are truly inspirational, with a hunger to learn and to succeed. Provided with the right resources, these students are able to achieve anything they set their mind to. Seeing their passion and willingness to learn and succeed, despite the obstacles which they face, is truly humbling and inspiring. I couldn't imagine spending my holiday any other way, and am hoping to go back as an old girl again next year. I'd like to encourage everyone to watch the recently made short documentary about the program, "Ukongeza Ithemba - Adding Hope" - a film by Matthew Eaton, on YouTube. For more information about the programme and to find out how you could get involved, visit the Isolomzi Outreach Page on Facebook.

Lauren Schaefer (E'17)

## Achievements

**Congratulations go to Kim Buchholtz (E'00), who was nominated in the Mail and Guardian's 2018 Top Young South Africans (Health Section).**

We are proud of her achievements since leaving Rustenburg and wish her well in her research and career.

She grew up in a physically active family, and is a cyclist and runner in her spare time.

Kim completed her BSc in Physiotherapy at UCT, and is a lecturer in the Physiotherapy Department. Earlier this year she gave up her physiotherapy practice to focus on academics.

In 2014 Kim worked as a volunteer physiotherapist for the Australian Blind T20 Cricket Team, in the tournament which was hosted in Cape Town. She was appointed head physiotherapist for the team during for the 2017 tour of India, and then again in 2018 for the tour to the United Arab Emirates.



Kim writes:

I am currently doing my PhD in Physiotherapy/ Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, investigating injuries in cycling, specifically focussing on multi-stage mountain biking events at this stage, broadening eventually to all types of cycling, to improve cycling safety.



I am also a research assistant on a study with Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, assessing rehabilitation for Achilles tendinopathy, and looking at the viability of 'tele-rehabilitation', i.e. rehab from a distance via video call. This holds particular interest for me when considering the lack of resources in South Africa, and how we may be able to advance rehab services into under-resourced/distant areas.

I am currently supervising 8 masters students (in Exercise and Sports Physiotherapy), who are all doing research in the monitoring of training loads in a range of sports (school boy rugby, triathlon, cycling, dancing/ballet) as well as motivations or barriers to physical activity in a South African setting.

Kim Buchholtz  
BSc Physiotherapy (UCT)  
MPhil Sports Physiotherapy (UCT)  
Lecturer at UCT

## WCED National Teaching Awards

Congratulations to Mrs Berry on her NTA award in the category: Lifetime Achievement.

We, the staff at Rustenburg, are very proud of you, and for what you have done for both RGJS and education. It was wonderful that you were nominated and acknowledged by the WCED at the National Teaching Awards Cluster Ceremony last Saturday. Mr Cleophas, our Circuit Manager, presented the award to Mrs Berry at our staff meeting on Monday 27 August 2018.



## Junior School Grotto

After almost 10 months of construction, the upgrade and renovation of the Rustenburg Junior School Grotto Swimming Pool was completed,



and the Complex was officially opened on Friday 7 September. The 100 foot swimming pool has been converted into a 25m swimming pool, and a 7m "learn to swim pool". The diving pool area has

been converted into an underground reservoir. This reservoir feeds the two pools and is currently full from all the recent rains we have had. The change rooms have been moved downstairs and the upstairs facility is now a multi-functional room



with a viewing deck. RGJS is looking forward to many hours of swimming for our Rustybugs in the new pools. With full water tanks and a diving pool reservoir, we are guaranteed to start swimming classes next term.

Pam Heiberg (E '87)  
Marketing RGJS

## Past Teacher

Seen recently at a social gathering of friends,

Ms Pam Heiberg (E'87) and Ms Simone de Clercq (nee Hammer). Ms Hammer taught Biology and General Science, (and Pam) at Rustenburg for a number of years, until she moved to Stellenbosch



Image Miss Hammer and Pam Heiberg

where her husband was employed. She has two children studying at Stellenbosch University, and is a full time Life Science teacher at Parel Vallei HS.

## Learnerships at RGHS

Saeeda Bassardien (E13) and Emily Harty (E12), both past pupils and now student teachers, have been at Rustenburg for their teaching practicals this term.

Saeeda had the following to say:

"In anticipation of returning to Rustenburg for teaching practice I had mixed feelings. When I matriculated in 2013 I felt that the whole world was open to me, and my school had a big role to play in allowing girls to believe in their dreams, and facilitating the foundations to do so. I did not know



if it would have improved or degenerated when I returned.

I was pleasantly surprised to see all the refreshing ways in which RGHS remained an environment conducive to the realisation of the potential of the girls. Being a past member of Earth Children and RCL, I am grateful and awestruck at the eco-work that has been implemented and improved upon in the past five years, in and outside the classroom.

Naturally, the biggest benefit to this is that an appreciation and sense of responsibility towards

the environment at a school level will prime young minds for greater responsibility beyond school.

Being on the other side of the staffroom door also gave me a sense of appreciation for the hard work that goes on behind the scenes by the staff. The fact that they remembered who I was, also speaks to the sincerity with which the teachers perform their meaningful work and treat the girls as much more than mere numbers on a class list.

It is good to see the policy changes demonstrating that communal success comes about when pluralism takes precedence over protocol. This is only befitting of one of the top schools in a transformative South Africa.

Although there are changes at the school, its principles and values on which it is based remains the same, and I couldn't have asked for a better foundation."

RGHS and the Old Girls' Union wish Saeeda and Emily all the best in their teaching careers.

## Weddings

Yohan Chun (E'12) and Francois Botha got married on 22 September 2018 in Noordhoek



Yohan and Francois

Sarah Yang (nee Westwood E'09) married Captain Eugene Yang at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland on 22 September 2018. Sarah and Eugene met at Oxford University (UK), where they were both pursuing postgraduate degrees in 2016. They now live in North Carolina



Sarah and Eugene

where Eugene works as a Marine Corps officer and Sarah splits her time between working for a non-profit organization called The Positivity Project, and working with a team to build an investment firm. Leaving Rustenburg

## Leaving RGHS

Tessa Brown (E'05), who has been the Maths Literacy Teacher at RGHS for the past four years,

has decided to start a business venture of her own, which will reflect the more creative side of her nature.

We will miss Tessa, who grew up amongst us (her mother, Arlene Brown, was an Art Teacher here for a number of years), became a pupil from 2000 - 2005, and finally a Staff Member in 2015. We wish her well as she embarks on her new career and seeks wider horizons.

## Sports Awards 2018

Ms Kristin Bellingan (E'16) was invited as the Guest of Honour at our annual Sports Awards Ceremony on 9th October 2018. Kristin is studying full time towards a Diploma in Sports Development and Management at Varsity College, as well as continuing with her swimming career.

In April this year Kristin represented South Africa at the Commonwealth Games held on the Gold Coast, Australia. She swam in the 200m, 400m and 800m events as well as the 4 x 200m freestyle



relay. Next she represented the South African Senior Team at the Lifesaving World Championships held in Adelaide, Australia, in November 2018. She currently holds two South African records in Stillwater Lifesaving events.

During her speech at the Awards Ceremony, Kristin gave a brief résumé of her journey to the Commonwealth Games, emphasizing the need for total dedication; the drive to succeed against all odds and an enormous amount of self-belief. All of which can be applied to whatever you choose to do in life. She thanked the School and Staff for their encouragement and support during her years at Rustenburg, which enabled her to combine both academics and sport.

We thank Kristin for giving up some of her precious time to return to school and inspire our girls to go higher and further.

We will follow her achievements with great pride, and wish her well in her journey.

## Grade 12 Awards Ceremony

Ms Tarryn Mentoor (E'04) was invited as Guest Speaker to our annual Grade 12 Awards Ceremony

held on 11 October 2018. Tarryn completed a B.Bus.Sc (Hons) at the University of Cape Town. After completing her articles with Ernst & Young in 2012, became a Chartered Accountant. She spent two years at Old Mutual Investment Group, before joining Future Growth as an Investment Analyst. She has now embarked on a new phase in her life, with added responsibility - motherhood! - and is currently on maternity leave.



Adwoa Danso & Tarryn Mentoor

Tarryn's speech was well pitched and relevant to the current generation, full of sound advice, rounding up with a message to the Matrics of 2018 to "dream bigger, aim higher, fight harder, and, when in doubt, remember: YOU ARE RIGHT".



Head Girl Zahra Mahomed & Tarryn Mentoor