

June 2024

From the Editor

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We look forward to celebrating Youth Month and Women's Month in the next few weeks. We celebrate YOU, being the star you are in whatever you do in life.

In Q2, we enjoyed international reunions including one in London and inspiring talks to high school learners from alumnae, Maria Cupido E16 and Nina Schiff E04. We can't wait to reconnect with you in our upcoming events including reunions for E84, E04, and E14, an alumnae Mother and Daughter Breakfast, and RGHS Quiz Night, there is so much in store for everyone.

To you to our generous donors who are making it possible for us to place deserving learners and learners from disadvantaged communities at Rustenburg Junior and High School. This act of kindness has a life-long impact and goes a long way in transforming the lives of those in need of assistance. We invite all alumnae to participate through sponsorship opportunities, mentorship programs and assembly talks.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Stay connected, share your stories, and celebrate our vibrant alumnae community.



Asonele Kotu Rustenburg Alumnae Co-ordinator

Alumnae Events

E94 London Reunion by Claire van der Linden (nee Marek)

"The E94 30-Year Reunion took place in the heart of London on Saturday, April 20th with a delightful bottomless brunch at 1 Lombard Street. The food was incredible and the drinks kept flowing. A DJ played some fun, low-key music that served as a perfect icebreaker and created a lively and welcoming atmosphere. Everyone had such a good time that we continued the festivities at another bar for a few more drinks.

The reunion was attended by 16 ladies in total, with 12 coming from various parts of the UK and 3 flying in from overseas. Here's to many more reunions and the continued celebration of our lasting connections! Facebook Post by E07 Nicole De Abreu"



The attendees included:

Claire van der Linden (nee Marek), Ana Stichini-Haler (nee Stichini), Alex van Maasdijk (flew in from Amsterdam), Caroline Lawson (nee Duncan), Cathryn Diesveld (nee Beck), Sarah Easter (nee Carver), Simone Myburagh (nee Hansen) (flew in from Scotland), Dawn Paczulla (nee Stanford) (flew in from Bulgaria), Louise Tumazos (nee Rowe-Roberts), Anna Phocas (nee Rossi), Katherine Digance (nee Bungard), Patricia Kearney, Lucia Hardwick (nee Thompson), Janna Turner (nee Cook), Suzanna Carsen, Stephanie Bentz (nee van Niekerk) (flew in from the USA) and E07 Nicole De Abreu.

E74 Celebrates 50th Reunion by "Ruth Canning (nee Romburg)"

"Founders' Day 2024 was a significant celebration as Rustenburg Girls' High School marked its 130th anniversary. For the E74s, it was an even more special occasion, celebrating 50 years since graduation.

Ten of us, including two from Johannesburg and one from Barkley East, attended the School's Birthday Assembly and the Alumnae lunch. The next morning, we had a lovely brunch at Café Paradiso in the Gardens, which included classmates who couldn't join us at the school events. It was a heartwarming gathering where we shared life stories and reflected on our journeys. While the reunion was joyful, it was also bittersweet as we realized that about 10% of our year group had passed away. This added a poignant reminder of the importance of cherishing our time together."





Some of those who attended were Beverley Jaffe (nee Cohen), Helen Winter (nee Timoney), Jane Hofmeyr (nee Albertyn), Jennifer Hunt (nee Lobban), Karin Evans (nee Memmel), Michele Tameris (nee Bruwer), Robyn Stacey (nee Beneke), Ruth Canning (nee Romburgh), Susan Pendlebury (nee Spence) and Wendy Haddow (Grobler)

Alumnae Mixer at Tokai Estate Retirement Village



On 11 May 2024, the E63s and others gathered for a heartwarming reunion at Tokai Estate retirement village. Eleven alumnae enjoyed a delightful lunch to reminisce about old times and celebrate their lasting friendships. Amazingly, 13 members of the E63 group now live on the Estate, making it the perfect spot for their gathering.

The reunion was exclusive to those living at Tokai Estate, creating an intimate and close-knit atmosphere that the group plans to maintain for future events.

Some of those who joined the reunion were. E60s Lesley Hyne, Sandi de Villiers, Pippa Griffiths, Pam Mills and E65 Rentia Hidebrand. Jean Pyle finished in standard 8 in 1963 and Felicity O'Connor also only went up to standard 8 and E58 Fay Hughes.

E69 celebrates lifelong friendships and reunions!







In 1989, a small group of six 1969 matrics began meeting for tea every couple of months. This tradition expanded after their 40th Reunion, growing to a group of about 12 ladies who have met regularly over the past decade. Through their network and word of mouth, they managed to gather 28 alumni for their reunion, with attendees travelling from as far as the UK, Pretoria, George, and Cradock.

Years later, this group still gets together for meetups and reunions and attends the High School's Birthday Celebrations (previously known as Founders Day) together. They celebrated their 50th reunion during the 125th birthday celebration in 2019, and their connections are still strong.

The recent gathering was a heartfelt celebration of lifelong friendships and the enduring spirit of Rustenburg Girls' High School. The event highlighted the powerful bonds formed over the years, showcasing the unbroken ties that bind the alumni together, regardless of time and distance.

E16 Maria Cupido addresses assembly



On 3 April 2024, we had the honor of welcoming Maria Cupido (E16) to speak at RGHS assembly. Maria has made significant strides as a leader dedicated to African development. Her strategic vision and leadership have brought positive change to marginalized communities across the continent. Maria's journey from a standout passionate environmental athlete to а advocate is inspiring. Her recent recognition in Forbes 30 Under 30 for Africa underscores her unwavering commitment to Africa's progress. Maria shared invaluable her talk. During insights which remind learners that our actions shape our paths.

E06 Nina Schiff speaks at assembly



On 29 April 2024, RGHS was honoured to welcome Nina Schiff (E06) as our guest speaker at the assembly. Nina's journey from Rustenburg to Silicon Valley is truly inspiring. After matriculating in 2006, she pursued her passion for computer science at UCT and has since made significant contributions to tech giants like Amazon and Facebook as an Infrastructure Engineer.

Nina's impact goes beyond her career achievements. She's dedicated to empowering women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers, drawing from her experiences in male-dominated industries. From taking Computer Studies as a 7th subject at a neighbouring boys' school to leading global teams, Nina's story is one of overcoming challenges and breaking barriers.

Thank you, Nina, for sharing your journey and inspiring our students to fearlessly pursue their passions in STEM. Your story encourages us all to dream big and push boundaries.

Upcoming Events

E84 REUNION - LONDON



Calling all E84's based in London to join their 40th Reunion. Venue: 1 Lombard Street Brasserie, City of London Contact Sandi (Fish) Poles on s_poles@hotmail.com



E04 REUNION LUNCH - CAPE TOWN



Venue: Charlie's Hope, Rustenburg Girls' High School Time: 12:00 - 16:00 Tickets: R250.00 per person





E14 REUNION BRING & BRAAI - CAPE TOWN



Venue: Main Quad, Rustenburg Girls' High School Time: 12:00 - 16:00 Tickets: R50.00 per person





Join the E14 WhatsApp group

E94 REUNION - CAPE TOWN



To stay updated with your upcoming reunion activities you can contact Genee Bennett on <u>geneebenett22@gmail.com</u>



Join the E94 WhatsApp group

E84 REUNION - CAPE TOWN



Venue: Charlie's Hope, Rustenburg Girls' High School Time: 12:00 - 16:00 Tickets: R250.00 per person Contact: Cathy Baker (nee Booth) cathyb969@gmail.com

BUY NOW



Join the E84 WhatsApp group

E95 REUNION - BRUNCH & TOUR (2025)

12 April 2025 Venue: Charlie's Hope, Rustenburg Girls' High School Time: 16:00 - 18:00 Tickets: R250.00 per person

BUY NOW



INVITING ALL ALUMNAE MOMS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS WHO ARE/WERE LEARNERS AT RUSTENBURG SCHOOLS

Alumnae Mother & Daughter Brunch

CELEBRATING WOMENS MONTH!



We are calling all alumnae with daughters who are attending or have attended RGJS or RGHS! Join us for our special Women's Month Celebration Brunch.





Rustenburg Girls' Junior

School



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,				
B200.00				

R300.00 per duo

This event is more than just a brunch: it's a chance for us to come together, connect, and celebrate the incredible journey of womanhood. motherhood. sisterhood, "otherhood" and lasting friendships. Join us for a morning filled with fun, entertainment, networking, inspiring conversations, and the chance to forge new connections with fellow alumnae and their daughters.

Whether you're а seasoned alumnae or a recent matriculant, this event is for you. Together, let's celebrate our existence and achievements, empower each other, and pave the way for future generations of strong, confident women.

- Duo tickets are available at R300.00 for Mothers with daughters over 12 years old.
- Single tickets are available at R300.00 for Mothers with daughters under 11 years old.
- Additional plus ones (other siblings at RGJS or RGHS will need to purchase additional single tickets)

BUY NOW

Sponsorship Opportunity!

Join us as a sponsor for our event by providing gifts, vouchers, products, or monetary donations. Benefits of Sponsorship: Brand Exposure, Support for women's empowerment and education. Networking with alumnae from various year groups. Empowerment: Celebrate achievements and inspire future generations.

Contact: Asonele Kotu (kotua@rghs.org.za)

Alumnae News

E63 Daphne Nunneley 15 April 1945 - 27 May 2024

Daphne was a Rustybug from Grade R to Matric and then taught at Rustenburg Junior for 17 years, from 1994 to 2011! She was a LEGEND in the truest sense of the word. Daphne remembered being sent to the headmistress in Standard 1 (Grade 3) because she could not spell "mountain" and her punishment, after Miss Orton had shouted at her, was to stand with her face to the wall while the other girls went out to break!

In 2005, Daphne was appointed head of Sport and Extramurals at RGJS and organised many wonderful events. Daphne had many accolades in her life, one was receiving the KFM Coolest Teacher Award!

Daphne was a loving mother to Andrew and Robyn, the proudest grandmother to Morgan, Sasha and Jack, mother-in-law to Debbie and Liane and a friend to so many. Many current RGJS teachers shared their favourite memories of Daphne;

"Daphne, a beloved teacher with an infectious laugh and a love for warthogs, brightened lives with her joy and always remembered to spread birthday cheer. She will be deeply missed. - Liesl Ludik"

"Daphne was one of a kind. How can you not admire someone who loves warthogs? She was the zest in the school and a character of note, someone who cared for the girls and left a legacy. Go well, Daphne. - Jenny Wates"

"My favourite memory of Daphs was her incredible parties at her home, her infectious laugh, her messages every birthday of mine, her love of a glass of wine, her kindness, her fair and equitable leadership style, and her warthog obsession. She was also the most incredible teacher to my daughter who loved her dearly. - Tasneem van der Merwe"

"Daphne's kindness has made a lasting impact on both me and my daughter. Daphne's cheerful disposition was characterised by her constant positive outlook on life. She will be dearly missed. - Nongatsho Mtsi"



E71 Spotlight on Alison Mills (nee Stewart)

Alison Stewart, a distinguished writer and journalist, grew up in Cape Town, South Africa and attended Rustenburg Girls' High School. Now based in Sydney, Australia, Alison has authored nine novels, including seven for young readers and two for adults. Her works have been translated into multiple languages and have earned critical acclaim, with three shortlisted for literary awards.

Her young adult dystopian novel, "Days Like This," published by Penguin Australia, was a finalist in the 2010 YA Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award. Her debut adult novel, "Born into the Country," was also shortlisted for South Africa's AA Mutual Life Vita Young Writers' Award.

Alison's non-fictional narrative, "Cold Stone Soup," about growing up during apartheid in South Africa, won the Fellowship of Australian Writers 2013 National Literary Awards, the Jim Hamilton Award for a non-fiction manuscript and was a runner-up for the Varuna Writers' House Scholarship.

Travel journalism is another of Alison's passions. She has contributed to Fairfax Media's Sydney Morning Herald Traveller and Melbourne Age Traveller for the past decade, writing stories from over 50 countries. Her acclaimed travel piece, "Snails in the Mist," which details a walk on New Zealand's Milford Track, won first place in the Lane Cove Literary Awards 2019 travel story category.

Alison collaborates with her husband, Rob Mills, a Walkley Award-winning journalist. They share a love for hiking, cycling, and engaging with diverse cultures. Rob's travel writings are featured alongside Alison's in "Rob Mills' Travel Stories."

Alison continues to work on her memoir while maintaining a robust presence in travel journalism. Alison and Rob have two adult children, Georgia and Angus.



E69 Betty Baerecke (nee Caplan) shares Rustybug escapade

"As I look back on my school days in the 1950's, one particular memory never fails to bring a smile to my face - a mischievous escapade shared with my closest friend and forever etched in my mind.

It was during our Sub-A years, that my friend and I devised a playful plan. We agreed to meet in the cloakroom during morning classes. As I slipped into the cloakroom, Little did I know, my friend lay in wait, ready to spring a surprise that would leave me startled and we burst out with laughter. With a sudden leap from her hiding spot, she caught me completely off guard. Our laughter, however, was short-lived as the sound of heavy footsteps heralded the arrival of a stern teacher. She instructed us to report to her at break time, my friend and I spent the remainder of the morning nervously awaiting our fate. Break time arrived, and with it, our punishment - a scene straight out of a bygone era. We were bound to an oak tree in full view of our peers during the entire break time. That was the punishment in those days.

As I reflect on this memory, I'm reminded of the innocence and spontaneity of childhood. Though the world may have changed, and disciplinary methods evolved, the laughter and happy moments shared with my friend remain as precious to me now as they were all those years ago."

E90 Jill Jurgens (nee Nicholls) remembers Rustenburg

Penned by Jill Nicholls E90, this reflection on Rustenburg Girls' High School captures the enduring essence of cherished memories.

"The 90th birthday celebration, where free ice creams brought joy akin to an early Christmas, stands out as a testament to the school's vibrant spirit. Unexpected events such as bomb scares leading to impromptu theatre outings, fostered camaraderie amidst uncertainty. I remember navigating the school's strict traditions, from meticulously maintaining hats to facing the stern discipline of teachers like Mrs. Dugmore, who instilled the values of discipline and accountability."

As Rustenburg continues to shape future generations, Nicholls' words serve as a poignant reminder of the school's rich legacy, woven with threads of camaraderie, resilience, and tradition.

E03 Azra Isaacs : A Journey of Musical Excellence and Community Engagement

Azra Isaacs, an alumnae of Rustenburg Girls' High School, has built an impressive career in classical music since matriculating in 2003. She holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree in viola performance from the University of Cape Town's South African College of Music (SACM). Joining the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra (CTPO) in 2009, Isaacs became Associate Principal Viola in 2017. She also teaches viola and string repertoire studies at SACM.

Returning to her alma mater to perform was particularly special for Isaacs. "It felt very special to be back performing at my former school," she recalls. "I have such fond memories of performing in that very hall with the Junior school orchestra." Isaacs participates in the CTPO's outreach education program which brings classical music to young learners. A highlight was performing Sergei Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf,' where each instrument represents a character in the story and makes classical music engaging for students.

Isaacs' journey from student to professional musician and educator is inspiring. The community engagement exemplifies the transformative power of music and ensures that the tradition of classical music will thrive for future generations.





E10 Sonya Solanki : Curating History and Heritage in Simonstown

Sonya Solanki, an accomplished researcher and independent curator, has a rich background rooted in her school activities which included Jazz Band, Orchestra, Wind Band, Guitar Ensemble, Choir, and the School Magazine Committee. This diverse involvement has clearly influenced her multifaceted approach to curating and research.

Solanki opened a public exhibition in Simonstown titled "A History of 130 St George's Street: The Simonstown Clothing Store (1962-1998)." This exhibition, hosted in association with the Simon's Town Museum, is based on her Master's thesis which delves into the history of her late grandfather's men's outfitters.

The exhibition sheds light on the store's operation from 1962 to 1998 and uncovers various threads of Simonstown's turbulent history. It explores the multicultural nature of the town before Apartheid's forced removals and highlights how clothing served as a symbol of identity for the shop's diverse clientele. Solanki's work demonstrates how familial and collective memory can offer meaningful contributions to South African heritage and reveal multiple narratives from a single entry point.

Solanki's dedication to uncovering and presenting these stories underscores the importance of remembering and understanding our shared past through personal and collective lenses.







Are you the next Palmam Meruit Award recipient?



You can self-nominate or nominate a worthy alumnae recipient before the 31 October 2024.

Awarded to а past pupil who has accomplished a noteworthy, impactful and incredible achievement in any area. profession or industry that they excel in. This can be in sports, culture, philanthropy, business, technology, medicine and basically anything under the sun.



E21 Kelly Johnson: A Rising Star in Hockey shines at Adelphi University:

A recent Rustenburg Girls' alumnae, Kelly Johnson, is making waves in collegiate hockey at Adelphi University. Known for her dedication and passion for the sport, Kelly's journey from South Africa to Adelphi is marked by impressive achievements.

Kelly's hockey career began with representing South Africa on the National High-Performance U16 Team and playing for the Western Province U16A and U18 Teams. In 2022, she joined St. Thomas Aquinas and was noticed by scouts and coaches that led her to Adelphi University.

At Adelphi, Kelly quickly made an impact, participating in 18 out of 19 games in her debut season. Her versatility on the field was evident as she contributed both offensively and defensively and achieved two goals and two assists. Her academic achievements also shone, earning her a spot on the NE10 Academic Honor Roll.

With her unwavering passion and commitment to excellence, Kelly Johnson is destined for greatness in the world of collegiate hockey.



Alumnae Giving helps us make an impact in someone's life!

We invite you to support

- RGHS graduates as alumnae pursuing tertiary education
- Deserving learners studying at or aspiring to study at RGJS and RGHS.
- Expand the RA Tertiary Education Bursary to deserving Alumnae to reach more people and to give a more impactful amount.
- Sponsor a deserving economically disadvantaged learner or a deserving learner on merit for academic studies at RGJS or RGHS.
- Sport, musical, cultural or leadership development at RGJS or RGHS
- Hostel accommodation at RGHS
- For companies seeking BBBEE ratings, an opportunity exists with Altius and Latius Trust, benefitting RGHS learners from a historically disadvantaged background

Proposed Awards and Bursaries The RA Committee administers awards that assist Rustenburg Alumnae and Learners at the Rustenburg Schools				
Contribute to the Rustenburg Alumnae Bursary Award for Tertiary Studies	Sponsor the academic costs for economically disadvantaged student at RGHS	Sponsor the academic costs for economically disadvantaged student at RGHS		
Sponsor a Rustenburg Alumnae for Tertiary Studies	Sponsor sport, musical or cultural development for a deserving learner	Sponsor sports, musical or cultural development for a deserving learner		
Sponsor sports, musical or cultural development for an alumnae	Sponsor annual hostel accomodation fees for a economically disadvantaged student	Join the RGHS BBBEE Programme through the Altius et Latius Trust		

For more information or a discussion contact us, we would love to hear from you:

Asonele Kotu kotua@rghs.org.za

Celebrate with Us: Our 130th Anniversary Cookbook!



This year we are celebrating our 130th birthday. We have created a special cookbook to celebrate the 130th of Rustenburg.

Thank you to all alumnae, past staff members and learners who contributed to this exciting cookbook. We are accepting orders for only R300 per book.

Place your orders soon by emailing Asonele at kotua@rghs.org.za. Don't miss out on this unique keepsake!

Get yourself a Rustybug Dog Bandana

We have limited edition dog bandanas available at R150.00

Email us (kotua@rghs.org.za) to place an order.



Limited edition keyrings

We have limited edition keyrings available at R60.00. All memorabilia orders can be picked up at Rustenburg Girls High School.

Email us (kotua@rghs.org.za) to place an order.

From the Junior School

RGJS Public Lecture for Teachers - Prof Maureen Robison

Rustenburg Girls' Junior is excited to announce the first-ever public lecture by Professor Maureen Robinson. As our school celebrates an incredible 130 years, we want to be intentional about our contribution to the education sector.

On 26 July 2024, we will host a public lecture on "The Tightrope of Teaching: Keeping One's Balance in a Windy World." This event is free for all educators in the Western Cape. Please note that limited seats are available, so secure your spot using the link on the poster.

Prof Maureen Robinson has almost four decades of experience in education, having been a high school teacher; a lecturer and materials developer at the University of the Western Cape; and Dean of the Faculty of Education at both Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Stellenbosch University. Her abiding interest is how best to prepare teachers for the diversity of South African schools. She has taught courses to student teachers and published many articles and opinion pieces on this topic.



PUBLIC LECTURE

Rustybug Podcast: Leadership Corner with E94 Jeanne- Marie Liss (nee Forcioli) RGJS Head of Sports



WATCH NOW

This week on the Leadership Corner, the spotlight is on E94 Jeanne Marie Liss (nee Forcioli), the esteemed head of Sports at RGJS. Reporters Rustybuggy Afidi and Skye interviewed Mrs Liss, who shared insights from her remarkable 20-year journey with the school.

Watch the podcast and enjoy!

From the High School

Alumnae Women's Month Speaker Slots

The Alumnae Mentorship Talks represent an invaluable opportunity for our current learners to engage in enriching dialogues with accomplished graduates of our school. These talks, scheduled to take place throughout the year, aim to inspire, motivate, and broaden the perspectives of our young learners across various facets of life including business, career development, personal growth and more.

Each session will feature a distinguished alumnae who will deliver a talk designed to resonate with and empower our learners. We are delighted to announce the lineup of speakers who will grace our campus in the upcoming months:

- 12 June 2024: Samantha Kilian-Medonca E03 (RGJS Entrepreneurship Talk)
- July 2024: Amy Rusch (RGJS Environment Assembly Talk)
- 05 August 2024: Caitlyn Benjamin (E22)
- 12 August 2024: Farheen Mahmood (E15)
- 16 August 2024: Tumeka Matshoba (E98)
- 19 August 2024: Suaad Jappie (E03) and Samantha Kilian (E03)
- 26 August 2024: Nelisa Ngqulana (E99) and Zandile Matshaya (E00)

130 Birthday Quiz Night



Calling all alumnae brainy enthusiasts join us for a night of fun and competition.

Bring your friends and sign up a team of 8 or join us at the alumnae table.

The price includes a delicious meal and soft drinks available for purchase.



130 Golf Day Entry and Sponsorship Form



Calling all alumnae golfers to participate in our golf day and make up a four-ball. We are looking forward to seeing you at our 130 Golf Day this year at Rondebosch Golf Club on Thursday 31 October 2024. Please register below as either a single player, a four ball and/or as a sponsor.



Blankets for #Mandela Day Update

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Knitting and Crocheting Community

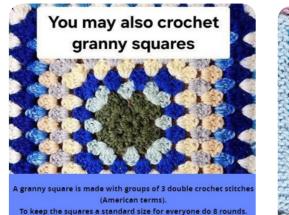
We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has been knitting and crocheting squares for our blanket project. Your participation and dedication is truly inspiring. A special thanks goes out to the families who have gone the extra mile and completed an entire blanket! Your contributions are invaluable.

To date we have collected an impressive 3,630 squares and our goal is to reach 6,240 squares. This will allow us to create 130 beautiful blankets, each made up of 48 squares. We are halfway there and, with your continued support, we know we can achieve this goal.

Now, we need your help to stitch the squares into blankets. We are looking for volunteers with the skills and the time to assist. Please let us know if you can help in this next phase as this is crucial to completing this meaningful project.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. Together, we are making a significant difference, one square at a time.









Use doubleknit yarn and a 5mm crochet hook

We want to keep in touch, add your details <u>Alumnet</u> yet? Find us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>. You can also join our new <u>Linkedin</u> page. We would appreciate any news of alumnae, updates and interesting stories, please send them to Asonele Kotu - <u>k</u>otua@rghs.org.za for inclusion in future newsletters.