

RUSTENBURG ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

From the Editor

Spring is here, and with it comes a sense of renewal and warmth that touches us all. As the days grow longer and the flowers begin to bloom, we're reminded of the beauty of family, community, and the people who bring light into our lives.

This season has been especially meaningful as we welcomed alumnae back to our schools. Some travelled great distances to be here, taking time out of their busy lives to share their stories, wisdom and encouragement with our learners. These moments of connection - whether in a big assembly or a quiet one-on-one conversation - are what truly make our community special.

It's heartening to see the impact these incredible women have on our students. Their willingness to give back, to mentor and to inspire is a powerful reminder of the strength and love within our community. Let's cherish these bonds and continue to support one another as we grow, learn and move forward together.

We look forward to reconnecting with you at our upcoming reunions and events. 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

Thank You to Our Inspiring Alumnae

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following alumnae who generously gave of their time to host talks throughout Women's Month:

Amy Rusch (E08)

Robyn Woollands (E02)

Skye Revell (E10)

Farheen Mahmood (E15)

Dr. Tumeka Matshoba-Ramuedzisi (E98)

Samantha Kilian (E03)

Your contributions have made a lasting impact on our learners, inspiring and empowering them with your stories, insights and advice. We are grateful for your continued support and dedication to our school community. Thank you for making Women's Month truly special!



Dr. Tumeka Matshoba-Ramuedzisi (E98)



Robyn Woollands (E02)



Amy Rusch (E08)



Samantha Kilian (E03)



Skye Revell (E10)



Farheen Mahmood (E15)

Shameez Bartlett (E04): Physio for SA Surfing Olympic Team



Shameez Bartlett (E04), a proud alumna of Rustenburg Girls' High School, has become a leading figure in physiotherapy, particularly in sports health and rehabilitation. With over 13 years of experience, she has made significant contributions, especially as a key member of the Kaizer Chiefs Football Club since 2010. Her work has been crucial in maintaining the health and peak performance of athletes.

Shameez's expertise extends to international sporting events like the Commonwealth Games and World Para Athletics Championships. Her dedication to continuous learning and evidence-based practices keeps her at the forefront of her field. She represented South Africa as the physiotherapist for the national surfing team at the Olympic Games in Tahiti, further showcasing her skills on the global stage. Her journey from Rustenburg to the Olympics inspires future generations of physiotherapists.

Tamsin Metelerkamp: Sheds Light on Cape Town's Housing Crisis



Tamsin Metelerkamp, a 2015 matriculant of Rustenburg Girls' High School and a talented journalist with the Daily Maverick, has been making a significant impact with her in-depth reporting on the housing and homelessness crisis in Cape Town. Her work highlights the complexities and challenges faced by those affected by this pressing issue. Tamsin thanked her old drama teacher Mr Adrian Skelly for giving her first media 'job' as editor of the RGHS Magazine.

Don't miss Tamsin's latest documentary which offers a powerful exploration of the crisis.



Zoe Naude (E17): Congratulations on her first international match as a referee!

We are thrilled to celebrate Rustenburg Alumna Zoe Naude (E17) on her incredible achievement as she refereed her first international rugby match, overseeing the thrilling encounter between the Springbok Women and Barbarians Women! Zoe's hard work and dedication have led her to this prestigious moment and we couldn't be prouder.

Zoe's impact on the rugby world doesn't stop there: She is also the founder of the first-ever girls' rugby academy in the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town, *The Girl Power Rugby Academy*. This groundbreaking initiative provides girls the opportunity to play the game they love which empowers them both on and off the field.

In addition to her work with the academy, Zoe manages a girls' rugby programme for schools in underserved areas and supported by the JAG Foundation. Her role is vital in ensuring the smooth operation of the programme which includes coordinating transportation to and from games, organizing holiday programs, facilitating an annual tour and upskilling rugby coaches. Zoe's commitment to creating more opportunities for these young girls to succeed in their rugby careers is truly inspiring.

Zoe is an example of power, passion, and perseverance. Congratulations, we are proud of you.



Lisa Brice (E86): Internationally recognised artist visits RGHS Art Department

Esteemed South African artist, Lisa Brice, who matriculated from Rustenburg Girls' High School in 1986, recently made a heartfelt return to her alma mater. Now residing in London, Lisa has garnered international acclaim for her evocative paintings which draw deeply from her experiences growing up in South Africa during a period of political upheaval and also from her life in Trinidad.

Her artistic journey took a pivotal turn when she moved to London in 1998 for a residency at Gasworks Gallery which led her to eventually settling in the vibrant capital. Her work, which intricately blends the influences of her South African heritage with the multiculturalism of London and the Caribbean, has been celebrated by Time Magazine. Thus cementing her status as a significant figure in contemporary art.

During her recent visit to Rustenburg, Lisa was accompanied by her mother, Sandy Brice, who matriculated in 1957, and her high school friend, Sue Stewart, a fellow member of the class of 1986. The trio visited the school's art department.

Lisa's journey from Rustenburg to the international art stage serves as an inspiration to current students and illustrates the powerful impact of cultural and personal history on the creative arts.



Above from left to right. Sue Stewart E86, Sandy Brice E57, Lisa Brice E86 and Jackie Chambers RGHS Head of Arts and Visual Design

Erinville Welcomes back Class of 2004 for reunion

Erinville was abuzz with reminiscences as the Class of 2004 returned to celebrate their 20th reunion. The morning began on a high note as the alumnae, some now seasoned professionals and some now parents, gathered at Erinville Hostel for a special brunch. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and lively conversation as they shared stories of the past two decades. The morning's highlight came when the group broke into a spontaneous rendition of their old school song. For the boarders, this was more than just a reunion - it was a return to a place that had once been a second home.

As the brunch concluded, the group embarked on a tour of the school. Walking through the hallways, they were transported back to their days as students, recalling the many moments that shaped their school years. The tour culminated in a symbolic moment as the alumnae finally stepped onto the once-forbidden lawn in the quad - a spot they had always been told to avoid at school. Now, 20 years later, they stood proudly on the grass as a fitting tribute to the passage of time and the enduring bonds of their shared experiences. The group even went on an adventure to find their old time capsule.

The day was filled with warmth, nostalgia, and a renewed sense of belonging and was a reminder that, no matter how much time passes, their ties to their school and each other remain as strong as ever. Thank you to the E04s for gracing us with your beautiful presence.



Reunion Attendees

Isadora Bishop, Stacey Davids, Kate Whitehead, Laura Beare, Nicola Marks, Chanel Willard, Jessica Van der Westhuyzen, Megan Noel, Sarah Atmore, Lauren Henry, Stacy Low Ah Kee, Hayley Petersen-Jones, Candice Bresler, Bielle Bellingham, Polelwa Nqoloba, Lana Overmeyer, Tashlyn Mafakala, Sameera Allie, Salma Booley Semaar, Nawaal Jakoet, Muneera Parker, Kavita Chetty, Suzanne Hansen, Tarryn Sankar and Kerry Roberts

Message from E75 Reunion Organisers

What an incredible journey it has been reconnecting with the Rustybugs of 1975 nearly half a century later! Building on the success of our 20th and 40th-anniversary reunions, we dove into the adventure of tracking everyone down. Thanks to the wonders of social media, we managed to find more than 93% of our class, and, with an active WhatsApp group, staying in touch has never been easier. We've also reconnected with many who shared our journey at Rustenburg, even if only for a few years.

It's been wonderful to catch up with old friends and make new ones, though the tech side of things was a steep learning curve for some! While most of us are still in South Africa, it's fascinating to see how our classmates have spread across the globe to places like the U.K., USA, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, France and beyond. The collective experience, talent, and knowledge within our group is inspirational.

We're eagerly anticipating a fantastic turnout for our reunion over the long weekend of **21 March 2025**. Exciting events and opportunities to reconnect are in the works, and we can't wait to make new memories together.

For any further information, please contact us at rustybugs75@gmail.com

Are you the next Palmam Meruit Award recipient?



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

Awarded to a 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.



Barbara Edith Fish (E54): Celebrating her Remarkable Journey

This year we're excited to celebrate with Barbara Edith Fish née Lee (E54) on her 70th reunion with Rustenburg Girls' High School. Her daughter, Sandra Poles (E84), shares the incredible story of her mom's lifelong dedication to her profession and community.

"Barbara graduated from Rustenburg at just 16 in 1954. By 20, she had a BA degree from UCT and was back teaching at the school. She continued to support Rustenburg through relief teaching and even took over as Sandra's English teacher during Matric when their regular teacher fell ill.

Barbara has stayed connected with her classmates, attending almost every Founders' Day and participating in reunions. Although the organizer of their 70th reunion has passed away, Barbara's spirit remains strong.

Besides her work as a co-editor and proofreader for Bible reading notes with Scripture Union, Barbara is studying for an online theology degree and running the library at Pinelands Place. Her passion for learning never stops; she even studied Greek and the classics in her forties."

Barbara Edith Fish's story is inspiring, showing her lasting commitment to education and family.



Pictured Mother and Daughter alumnae.

**Left to right;
Sandra Poles (E84)
Barbara Edith Fish
(E54)
Kathy Johnson (E85)**

Applications for the Rustenburg Alumnae Tertiary Education Bursary are open



Applications for the 2025 Rustenburg Alumnae Bursary are now open! If you're an alumnae pursuing tertiary studies, this is your opportunity to receive financial support on your academic journey.

Don't miss out - applications close on **31 October 2024**. Submit your applications to kotua@rghs.org.za

[Download the application](#)



Upcoming Events

E14 REUNION BRING & BRAAI - CAPE TOWN

5

October

Venue: Main Quad, Rustenburg Girls' High School

Time: 12:00 - 16:00

Tickets: R50.00 per person

BUY NOW



[Join the E14 WhatsApp group](#)

E84 REUNION - CAPE TOWN

23

November

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](#)

2025 REUNIONS


**Class of
2010**

Join us for a lunch and tour



Saturday, 22 February 2025



Rustenburg Girls' High School



12:00 - 15:00



R250.00 per person

BOOK NOW



 **E95
REUNION**

Calling all E95 Rustybugs to join us for a reunion brunch.

Date: 12 April 2025

Time: 10:30 - 13:00

Venue: Rustenburg Girl's High School

Ticket Price: R250.00

Contact Person: Tamsin Van Vlaanderen

Email: tamsinvanvlaanderen@gmail.com



BOOK NOW

Tickets are available on Quicket

E70 REUNION

You are invited!



12:00 - 15:00



Rustenburg Girls' High School



10 May 2025



R250.00 per person

BOOK NOW

E10 Reunion



E95 Reunion



E70 Reunion



Join us for brunch!

Alumnae Mother & Daughter Brunch



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.



12 Oct 2024



Grotto Pool
4 Grotto Rd



11:00 - 13:00



R300.00
per duo
R150 for a
single

This Rustenburg Girls' Junior School 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 a seasoned alumna 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.

BUY NOW

Calling all alumnae golfers to join us!

SAVE THE DATE

Rustenburg Girls' High School & Rustenburg Girls' Junior School

130 Birthday Golf Day



Thursday, 31 October 2024

Rondebosch Golf Club

R2600 for an early bird four-ball.

Includes halfway house voucher, prizes and light dinner.

Tee and prize sponsorship available.

Contacts: marketing@rghs.org.za (RGHS), pamhei@rgjs.org.za (RGJS)

Calling all alumnae golfers to participate in our golf day. 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.

BOOK NOW

Inclusivity, Diversity, and Transformation (IDT) at RGJS



Belinda Petersen
RGJS Principal

Rustenburg Girls' Junior School is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and diversity. In 2016, the Inclusivity, Diversity and Transformation (IDT) Committee was established to bring together learners, staff, parents, alumnae, and the broader community to drive this mission. Alongside the committee, an Inclusivity, Diversity, and Transformation (IDT) plan was implemented. As part of the school's current 5-year strategic plan, the committee developed a tool, in partnership with The Greenlight Movement, to measure its effectiveness in IDT implementation. The first survey was conducted in August 2023.

The Junior School has also hosted diversity training sessions for staff to increase awareness and create safe spaces of belonging. This year, the second annual IDT survey was conducted in August, gathering input from parents, staff, and Grades 4-7 learners. The results will guide the school's strategy for 2024/2025, with feedback shared after the School Governing Body, School Management Team and IDT Committee have reviewed the findings.

Rustenburg remains committed to creating a more equitable and inclusive environment, reflecting the societal change needed for a better future in South Africa.

RGJS bids farewell to Business Manager Leon Moser.

Rustenburg Girls' Junior Communications and Marketing Manager Thapelo Phukuje and Asonle Kotu from Rustenburg Alumnae have a chat with RGJS's former Business Manager to reflect on his 7 year journey with RGJS. Listen to the UTube podcast by clicking below.



Celebrating the Evolution of the HIGH School Badge



Michael Gates
RGHS Principal

After a year-long collaborative process of exploring the symbolism behind our current school badge, we are excited to introduce our new school badge to our school community. Our new badge represents our school community's values, history, and future vision. It has been thoughtfully designed to reflect our commitment to excellence, integrity and unity. This project, led by the school's Transformation, Equity, and Belonging committee, has been a true collaboration with alumnae, learners, and staff, ensuring the new design resonates with the Rustenburg of today.

The feedback from alumnae, staff, and current learners through a questionnaire revealed an overwhelming consensus across all three groups. Everyone wanted to retain the iconic feel of the badge, incorporate elements from the local natural area, remove the old turrets, and fully embrace the school's core values. Your input was invaluable in shaping this thoughtful redesign.

We are grateful to our alumnae for their contributions throughout this process. Keep an eye out for the official launch of the new badge in Term 4! We are excited to share this symbol of our school's evolution and the values we continue to hold dear. Thank you for being part of this important chapter in the Rustenburg Girls' High School story.”

Support the Altius et Latius Trust

In an inspiring initiative, Rustenburg Girls' High School, together with Rondebosch Boys' High School, has supported over 62 learners through the Altius et Latius Trust to provide funding opportunities for disadvantaged learners since 2021. The Trust offers businesses a unique way to meet their B-BBEE requirements by directing their existing skills development or socio-economic development spending towards empowering South Africa's future leaders.

As one of the Top Public Schools in the Western Cape, Rustenburg remains committed to academic, cultural, and sporting excellence, ensuring every learner has the tools to achieve their full potential. By supporting the Altius et Latius Trust, businesses are directly investing in the education and empowerment of these young leaders, helping to secure the future of South Africa. For more information or to get involved, please contact **Ms. Andrea Slater** at slatera@rghs.org.za.

RGHS invites alumnae to join TEB Committee



Norma Ceasar
HOD: TRANSFORMATION

Rustenburg Girls' High School is dedicated to becoming a more inclusive and diverse institution and to achieve this, they have established the Transformation, Equity, and Belonging (TEB) Committee. Alumnae are invited to nominate themselves each other to serve on this important committee.

The TEB Committee plays a key role in:

1. Upholding RGHS's vision of respect and inclusivity for all.
2. Advising the School Governing Body (SGB) on ethics, values, diversity, and change, impacting school policies.
3. Identifying and addressing barriers to access, equity, and belonging.
4. Promoting cultural literacy and inclusive practices within the school.

Joining the TEB Committee offers you a chance to contribute to the ongoing transformation at RGHS. The committee meets quarterly, with working groups convening beforehand to provide feedback to the SGB.

If you are interested, please complete the nomination form below. Your involvement can make a meaningful difference in our school's journey toward inclusivity.

[Apply / Nominate](#)



Obituaries

We honour and remember the lives of those who have recently passed away. Our deepest condolences go out to their families and loved ones during this difficult time.

E94 Emma Lynham

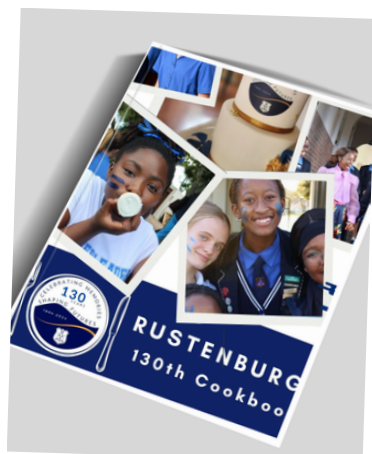
E74 Penelope Anne Trevett (nee McIntyre)



Above Penny Trevett (nee McIntyre) with husband

Order your 130th Memorabilia

Celebrate with Us: Our 130th Anniversary Cookbook!



As part of our 130th birthday celebrations, we have created a special cookbook to celebrate this milestone.

Thank you to all the 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 Asonela 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.



Follow us on social media

We want to keep in touch, add your details [Alumnnet](#) yet?

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also join our new [Linkedin](#) page.

We would appreciate any news of alumnae, updates and interesting stories, please send them to Asonela Kotu - kotua@rghs.org.za for inclusion in future newsletters.