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September 2011

Northlands Old Girls' Association

Issue: 06

Newsletter

DATES TO DIARISE

Founders' Day Special Assembly and Tea	Friday, 16 September
NGHS Quiz Night	Friday, 16 September
General Reunion Lunch	Saturday, 15 October

Dear Friends,

Yes, another NOGA newsletter already! We have so much news to share with you, and we don't want to make the newsletters too huge and bulky.

Two reunions were held on 20 August and we have lovely photos from both of those functions. Thank you to the ladies who go to so much trouble to organise reunions for their friends' enjoyment: Vicky du Preez and Carol Chixaro for the Class of 1991, Chané Roodt for the 5 year reunion of the Class of 2006, and Sandra Reardon for the very successful 30th Reunion of Class of 1981 at Durban Country Club in July. Most of us are happy to go along and enjoy the party as long as someone else does all the work! Fortunately, in each year there is usually a willing and competent person, but some classes really battle to get things going, like the Classes of 1971 and 2001, who still haven't arranged reunions for this year.

We have two events planned for Friday, 16 September. Founders' Day takes place from 12 noon, when we would like to see many old girls in the hall for the Special Assembly, which will be followed by a delicious tea with the staff. There is no charge for the refreshments, and we would like to welcome as many past pupils as possible to take this opportunity to visit your Alma Mater. Founders' Day is becoming a great tradition and a wonderful opportunity for past pupils to share in the life of the school, so we hope to celebrate our school's history with the present staff and learners again this year. Please contact Dawn Bailey on 031571100 to RSVP for catering purposes.

At 6pm on Friday, 16 September we invite you to the NGHS Quiz Night. Get a team together, bring your own snacks and drinks, and be prepared for a very enjoyable evening. The cost is only R30 per person, paid in advance to Pat Oswell at Reception, or into the school bank account..

Hopefully lots of you will be able to support at least one of these functions if you will be in Durban on the 16th, especially those of you who are celebrating special anniversaries this year.

We have received quite a few emails in response to our queries about Department Badges, and we thank you for your input and amusing recollections about the dress code and appearance in days gone by. You may be interested to know that the uniform is in the process of being changed, and the familiar brown skirts will soon become relics of the past like the white dresses and brown hats.

Looking forward to seeing you at school soon!

Sincerely,
Laurelle Barnett
(Chairlady and Committee)

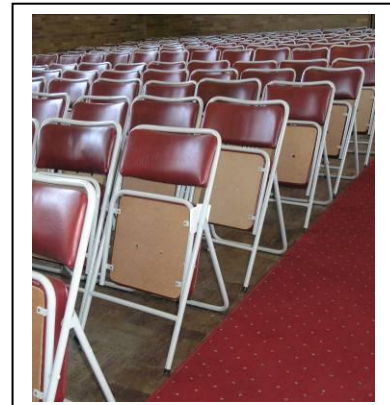
CHAIR APPEAL

Many thanks to all the individuals and reunion groups who have contributed already!

We are hoping for more donations in order to complete the project of revamping the hall chairs. Each chair costs R295 and will have your name on a plaque on the back. Please pay your money into the school account [**First National Bank, Durban North - Branch code 220426 - Acc No 50791006221 Northlands Girls' High School**] and clearly indicate that it is for the chair appeal.

Latest donations received from :

Deborah Sewell (Dillon) (Class of 1987)
Jill Buzzard (Phillips) (Class of 1965)
Avril Lemon-Warde (Smith) (Class of 1961)
Sarah Odendaal in memory of
René Nortjé (Dinkelman) (Class of 1970)



NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

ENGAGEMENTS

Lloyd, son of **Patrick and Karen Lunn (Cummings 1982)** is engaged to Nina Landro (16 August)

BIRTHS

Evie Edy (Eigenmann, Head Girl 2001) and husband Paul, welcomed a son Jonas

Craig and Samantha Coxon (Frost 2000) had a third son, Troy Andrew, brother for Cuinn and Murray, in August.

Robyn Smith (Gould) (2000) and husband Kelly had a daughter, Hannah Grace in August

OBITUARIES

Susan Ferguson (Prefect 1991) lost her father in August

Sarah Rudd (1998) - granny Jean Pistorius died in August

OTHER NEWS

Trisha Soni (2004) was promoted to Director - Deloitte Tax

Angela Dramowski (Head Girl 1994) has secured one of 2 FIDSSA-GlaxoSmithKline Research Fellowships of R100 000 for 2011. The research will be on 'Non-vertical HIV transmission in children: active case-finding and development of a national registry'.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Laurelle, Patty Frolich, Jill Buzzard and Margie Bydawell from the Class of 1965 met for lunch at Europa in La Lucia Mall on Thursday, 1 September. Patty (Ansell, Dux 1965) was in Durban for one day - she lives in Melrose, JHB - and very kindly took us for lunch and a lovely catch-up about recent travels and our precious grandchildren. Jill met up with another old friend, Joy Lorden, at Grandparents' Day at their grandchildren's pre-primary while Joy was visiting from Cape Town.



A Mother/Daughter morning was held in the school hall on Saturday, 20 August. Spotted among the attendees were old girls **Sharon Murray (Marks - Class of 1976)** with her daughter, **Maxine and Tracy Wakefield (Sugden - Class of 1986)** with daughter Caitlin, currently in Matric.



(Photos courtesy of Northglen News)

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1991 - 20 YEARS

A leisurely afternoon was spent at St James on Venice. Old Girls enjoyed the famous High Tea and Pimms and lemonade in the St James Courtyard. 25 past pupils enjoyed reminiscing and catching up on their last 20 years of life.





BRIEF HISTORY OF SOME OF THE LADIES FROM THE CLASS OF 1991

Lea Hollinshead (McLaughlin)

Studied at Durban University; overseas in the UK for 3 years working and travelling; married to Jonathon and has 2 boys (James 4 and Thomas 1); working at Nedbank Corporate and living in Durban North.

Jenny Walter-Girout (Bulloch)

Danced professionally for 9 years after school; married for 11 years and has 2 kids (Kelly 8 and Luke 4); own dancing school in Durban North.

Tanya Gafney (Morgan)

Married for 15 years with 2 daughters (Meagan 18 and Paige 12); partner in laser clinic business in Umhlanga.

Paula Lawson (Bell)

BScDiet at Pmb University ; now a dietician ; married with 2 kids (Amy and Georgia); still living in Margaret Maytom Avenue ; happy!

Melinda Gould (Blackburn)

Married to Gary for 14 years ; has 3 kids (Tegan 8, Travis 5 and Giselle 4); physiotherapist ; never lived anywhere but Durban.

Gina van de Wall (Walker)

Working in media for the past 12 years ; has a wonderful husband and 3 gorgeous kids (Denham 11, Gabi 9 and Indie 3) ; says she is still besties with her old school friends.

Clare de Goede (Wilkinson)

Married for 8 years to Clinton with 2 daughters (Maya is 6 and Lily is 4) ; had her own school for 10 years and now owns a catering company.

Gill von Buddenbrock (Jackson)

Married for 13 years with 3 kids (Claudia 8, Brigitte 5 and Luke 3) ; living in Ballito; runs an online marketing and advertising company and has been recruiting executives for 11 years.

Julie Loom (Paul)

Married for 16 years ; Son, Bryce 5 ; textile designer; runs her own business.

Carol Chixaro

Engaged ; living in Jhb for the last 4 years after 10 years in London ; currently looking into Project Management.

Brenda Hopewell

Lived in London from 1999-2007 ; travelled extensively ; now living in Jhb and running an office there for an IT company ; has never grown up and still single!

Tanya Newmarch (Southgate)

Married for 11 years; has two girls(Courtney 7 and Danielle 4); project managing for low-cost housing project

Catherine Tillard (Whitehead)

Married for 16 years ; Has two boys (Connor 9 and Mitchell 6); audit partner at Grant Thornton since 2000

Debbie Symons (Smith)

Married for 8 years ; has one boy (Connor 4 and Amy 3) ; human resources manager at Mass Discounters (Game) for the last 8 years.

Liz Richard (Moore)

Married for 12 years; has two girls; working at Remax in Umhlanga.

CLASS OF 2006 - 5 YEARS

The Class of 2006 held their fifth year out of school get-together at the school tuckshop on Saturday, 20 August.

Twenty-seven classmates enjoyed a chat and the delicious refreshments provided by Chané Roodt.

Joanne Silva took the photos.

Dear Mrs Silva, Mrs Dramowski & Mrs Barnett,

I just wanted to send you through an email to say a BIG Thank you for all your assistance in the 5 year Reunion held for the 2006 Matrics (20 August, in the Tuckshop).

I was so very impressed at how beautifully everything had been set out. Thank you for arranging the urn, with teacups and some jugs - everything looked perfect.

All the girls who did come said they had a fantastic time, and we are all so impressed at the new aspects the school has on offer, we also noted the name changes of many classes....Natural Science is now Botany, Computer Studies is now IT - It's all very posh!

I must say a personal thank you to Laurelle, you were amazing on the morning and so helpful, as well as Mrs Silva who popped in to say hello and take some lovely photos. Thank you to you both for giving up a part of your Saturday morning - that was greatly appreciated!

Before we know it, another 5 years will have passed - Once again, thank you for everything.

Chane Roodt

silentscreams1988@yahoo.co.uk



The 2006 girls are a unique bunch. Some girls are working in Scotland, England, Au-pairing in America, taking a gap year in Germany, studying for various Degree's and Master's in Durban, Joburg, Cape Town, and even abroad. Some girls are married, engaged, pregnant, or have had children, others have full time jobs, writing for magazines - but ALL are loving life!!



CLASS OF 1991 MEET THE CLASS OF 2006



REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 2011

15 Years – Class of 1996 - Chantelle Galbraith is organising a London Reunion Contact her at chantellegalbraith@hotmail.com.

Marilyn Ross is interested in getting together with classmates who are still in South Africa. Contact her at m.ross@vodamail.co.za

25 Years – Class of 1986 – 15 October at the General Reunion lunch in the tuck shop. Contact **Bridgette Landsberg (Marlin)** at blandsberg@telkomsa.net

45 Years – Class of 1966 – The reunion is on 15 October and **Pat Clarke** is your contact person – Email brandpunt@telkomsa.net

REQUESTS

My name is **Yvonne Wulff (Gustafson)**, I matriculated in **1994** and was wondering if there are any old girls that either matriculated in the same year or know me from other years at NGHS – please contact me.

Appreciate the help..
Thank you

Yvonne Wulff lawrencewulff@telkomsa.net

Thank you for this latest newsletter.

I had just read through the newsletter and noticed that it is possible to search for an old school friend by placing a short notice. (As someone has done on page 9 of the current newsletter.)

The friend I have been searching for (a number of years now) was **Mandy Kuhn**, we both matriculated in 1990. Since losing touch I heard she was married but don't remember her married name, which is why it has been so difficult to contact her.

I would really appreciate your help, or perhaps adding a notice to the next newsletter?

Kind regards

Debra Norris (Cholerton) (1990)

debraknorris@yahoo.com

EMAILS RECEIVED

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT BADGES

You asked if anyone remembered Department Badges: well my sister [**Gail Kruger (Smith)**] had one and I didn't. She was very hard - working and was Dux in her matric year (1962). She was quiet and industrious and took Eng. Afrik. Biol. Geog. Maths and Housecraft - with Miss Munnik and Mrs Grieve. I don't think there were any Department lessons - you just had to be upright and 'good', which she was. She used to study so hard and I hardly ever did - I passed matric though.

There were a couple of Department badges awarded every year. She did very well in English and went on to become a journalist. She still has the 'gift of the gab' and surprises me sometimes with the things she comes out with. She has 2 daughters, one of whom lives in England and one in Hillcrest.

I would like to contribute to your 'chair fund'.

Regards to you and thank you for all you do to keep the old girls together.

Avril Lemmon-Warde (Smith)

kenavril@polka.co.za

Great latest OG Magazine – I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Regarding the Department Badge – I have one and will gladly donate it to you girls, if you want it, together with my prefect's badge. I have kept them with pride over the last 50 and 50+ years, and they have served their purpose. I can only presume the Department badge was awarded if your posture was good, and with all my ballet years, maybe that is the reason I received it! So let me know, and if I can make the October lunch, I will gladly bring them along.

And once again, well done with the latest issue – I always look forward to receiving these.

Best regards,

Ann Cooke (Clinton)

anncathryn@telkomsa.net

Thank you for sending the newsletter.

I read with interest the note about the Department badge. I was awarded one in 1961 when I was in Std 8. I wore it with pride and had a little safety chain fitted so that it would not be lost. It was an honour to get this

badge and my name was engraved on the back. We have lived in Zambia, New Zealand and now in Australia and I still have it along with other treasured badges the school awarded at that time. They remind me of the marvellous rounded education we were given and were awards that we aspired to.

Louise Thomas (Davies)(1963)

louinoz@aapt.net.au

Hi Laurelle,

Those brown panama hats! I love the sketches. Mine was a real problem as we had to keep them on always and I rode my bike to and from school every day. Rain was a problem, and more than 1 hat got the droops after getting wet. But the worst challenge was to wear it whilst zooming down Old Mill Way at the fastest speed I could possibly go! I loved that part of the ride. I would sit back, no hands on the handlebars, one leg bent and the other straight as I shot down that long hill, all the way from the top at Northlands Drive to the very bottom. But the hat would not stay on! I had an elastic under my chin - brown of course - but even that could not hold up against the breeze. And if there was a bit of wind, well, obeying the command was almost hopeless. Sometimes I held it on with one hand on my head, and the other out like a wing, riding the airwaves like a bird. And sometimes I'd just take the dratted thing off and put it on my chest and let the wind hold it there as I sailed off down the hill into the wind. Oh It was marvellous!! But a teacher lived in my street and on more than one occasion she saw me, and she told me off! It was a detention offence. Gee those hats!! Now-a-days I guess the students wear a bike helmet - problem solved.

Best wishes,

Mo Pantall (aka Maureen Pantall)

m.pantall@saintnicholasschool.net

Hi Laurelle

Thanks for all the work you do for the Northlands Old Girls. I so enjoy reading the newsletters.

You asked about the Department badges. I received one in 1963 or 1964. I still have it. I remember it was always explained to us that it was actually for Comportment ie the manner in which we conducted ourselves, uniform, manners, behaviour, etc. I think very like the theme of excellence that you say they are now striving for. No, we didn't have to go to classes and walk around with books on our heads.

Best regards

Lynette Barnes (Dowse) 1964

lynralph@cybertek.co.za

GENERAL

Dear Elize, Laurelle and Joanne,

I completed my matric in 1974 and was lucky enough to have been among the small group known as 10F. It was great to see the pic of the Edgewood/ 1974 girls. I know Zelda and Jill were in my class and I did recognize the names and faces of the the other ladies. We have recently arrived back having spent 16 years in Gauteng and a few in the Cape. Durban feels like home.

I find myself studying faces when I am out and about and wondering if there is a classmate amongst them. I have two children, Brett 25 and Lauren 23. They are both completing their studies. Brett is doing his Masters in Marine Biology and Lauren is about to complete her Sports Science degree and go on to do her Honours. I married Hugh Reimers who attended NBHS and also matriculated in 1974.

I would love to get in touch with fellow classmates and have been lucky enough to see **Lindi Drummond**.

Kind regards

Trish Reimers (Pat Dewey)

reimersh@mweb.co.za.

Hi ,

This is the first news letter from NGHS... that I have received, and it really brought back happy memories,.... I had a permanent smile on my face while reading it...

I look forward to the reunions and further newsletters..From the chicks of the class of 66'..

Regards

Margaret Wharren(Nicolay)

margaret_wharren@hotmail.com

Many thanks for sending me the Northlands Old Girls Newsletter.

I matriculated in 1969 and have been to one reunion.

It is lovely to read up about the girls and what is happening at the school.

Regards

Jane Janse van Rensburg (Sullivan)

jdbuchan@doctors.netcare.co.za

Hi there Laurelle

I don't know where you got my name and email address from but glad you sent me this. I am friends with Glenda Martins who started working there this year so perhaps she gave it to you or Helen Moffatt or Heather Leyden. I would like to receive your old girls' newsletter in the future. Thanks very much.

I am now working at Epworth Girls' School as a House Mistress and am enjoying the girls very much.

Bye for now.

Sue Hunter (née Warburg (1969)

shunter@epworth.co.za

Thank you for the regular installments of the Old Girl's newsletter. It is always so lovely to receive a little piece of history to remind me of the 'good old days'!

The sentiment in seeing the school logo, photos of the school and 'old' girls is always overwhelming as it brings back a flood of memories!! (All the adventure, carelessness and friendships). Such fond memories!! NGHS will ALWAYS hold a very special place in my heart :) I will be sure to pop around when I visit South Africa in November for my wedding :)

Just a very quick message to the current NGHS girls as I sit and type this,

"Make the absolute most of your years at NGHS, believe it or not they go by incredibly fast! Build friendships, get involved - join the choir, audition for productions, play a sport (even if you are hopeless at it!!!), attend at least one early morning swimming session, be punctual, be proud, respect the people around you, respect yourself, study for exams (and not the night before :p), live, love and laugh every day!! The corridors you walk through, the classes you learn in, all hold rich memories of pupils past... honour them and embrace them, make them count. These years are monumental in building your character, your future and your destiny! Don't walk

through your high school years wishing they were over or making them miserable for yourself and others... they are some of the best years of your life! BE TRUE TO YOURSELF - ALWAYS!"

Wishing you a great Thursday and sending a very special hello to Melanie, Jackie and Chantal who are now currently teaching at NGHS.

Love

Tamryn (Timothy) (2003)

tamryntimothy@yahoo.com

Thought this might be of interest.

In my family we have three generations and seven members who matriculated at Northlands, including two were Dux in their year. The dates run from the early years of the school, shortly after it was co-ed , up to the present year.

The first generation there were the three sisters, **Joan Young (1956), Margaret Young (1959) and Patricia Young (Dux 1963).**

The next generation were Joan's daughters, **Carolynn Chalmers (1985) and Debra Chalmers (Dux 1996) and Margaret's daughter Tracy Sugden (1986).**

The current generation is Tracy's daughter **Caitlin Wakefield** who is writing matric this year (2011).

Regards

Margaret Sugden (1959)

sugden@iafrica.com

Thanks Mrs Dramowski! Always nice to see what everybody's up to!

Looking forward to our 10 year reunion. I matriculated in the class of 2003, and I see Jacqui Peens (one of my former classmates) now teaches at Northlands. Please send my regards. Thanks again.

Take care! Zama



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Linda Clokie (Class of 1975) Swimming Captain of House Vaughan visited the school during August and donated her Honours Blazer to the school archive.

(Disclaimer : We reserve the right to publish your submissions unless specifically requested not to)

NEWS FROM OUR VERY OWN POET, GAIL DENDY (CLASS OF 1973)

Dear Laurelle

A bit of an update from an 'old girl'. I've just had my seventh collection of poetry published by Dye Hard Press in Johannesburg. The book is entitled *Closer Than That* (cover image attached). Given that poetry is not a huge seller anywhere, simply managing to have published these various collections is something of an achievement. I've cut and pasted info from my publisher's website below, and appended some biographical info re me as a writer at the end of this e-mail. There is a recent interview with me entitled *Gail Dendy: Dancing in Verse* which can be found at: <http://dyehardinterviews.blogspot.com/2011/08/gail-dendy-dancing-in-verse.html>

I'll be sending a copy of the book to NGHS for the library, but if anyone wants to purchase a copy, they can either do so through me personally (just e-mail me at gmdendy@iafrica.com), or through Gary Cummiskey of Dye Hard Press (e-mail: dyehardpress@iafrica.com) as this will be cheaper than buying through Exclusives.

My husband and I embarked on extensive home renovations last year and are currently putting the final touches to this. Mean time, I'm still working at White & Case LLP, still doing ballet (did you ever find a ballet teacher for the school? Are there regular classes?), and pandering to the whims of three new kitties!

With warm wishes,

Gail Dendy (nee Saul)

<http://dyehard-press.blogspot.com/2011/07/forthcoming-publication-from-dye-hard.html>

Forthcoming publication from Dye Hard Press: *Closer Than That* by Gail Dendy



Closer Than That
a new collection of poems
by Gail Dendy

ISBN: 978-0-9869982-0-1

Gail Dendy is one of South Africa's most unmistakable and unique literary voices. The singing quality of her poetry soars and swoops, transporting the reader into a world of glittering magical realism. In this book a moon ripens in the window 'whole and lemony once more', mothers express longing and love, the sun and moon argue, there are gypsy women, and a fantasy piece with Shakespearean characters. This book is truly alive, presented in language that 'rings like a gong from here to the far end of the world'.

Gail Dendy has grown in stature as a poet ... Her poems are intriguing and at times playful, and she is in complete control of her subtle lyrical gift and delicate technique. Gus Ferguson

Gail Dendy moves across the landscape of a remembered past, and fictionalises into imagined other lives. ... An important voice in South African poetry, Dendy's words are delicately polished jewels. Arja Salafranca

Gail Dendy's seventh collection is elegant, sensuous, intelligent and sensitive. Michelle McGrane

I was delighted to publish your poems ... Harold Pinter

Closer Than That is scheduled for publication at the end of July 2011 and will be available from bookstores throughout South Africa. Estimated retail price R120.

Some general information:

Gail Dendy has published seven collections of poetry. Her first collection, published by Harold Pinter, was *Assault and the Moth*, Greville Press (UK) 1993. This was followed by *People Crossing* (Snailpress, 1995), *Swimming in the Long Dark Sound* (Stride (UK), 1998), *Painting the Bamboo Tree* (Arc (UK), 1999) and *The Poetry of Norman Corwin and Gail Dendy* (Shirim (USA), 2002), and *The Lady Missionary* (Kwela/Snailpress, 2007). Her new collection *Closer Than That*, was published by Dye Hard Press in Johannesburg in August 2011. Gail is married and lives in Johannesburg. Her poetry appears in journals and anthologies both in SA and overseas, including an anthology of Greville Press poems (Carcanet, UK, 2010), which also features works by Harold Pinter.

Throughout the 1980s and early '90s Gail pioneered Contemporary Dance in South Africa and was nominated for the inaugural AA Vita Award for Best Performer.

She was a Finalist in the South African Science Fiction Society's Short Story competition, 1992;

Finalist, Dalro Award 2007,

Commendation, Dalro Award 2008 and 2009,

Winner of the 'Playwriting' category, SA PEN Millennium Competition, 2000;

Joint Winner of the cash prize for the Herman Charles Bosman Literary Award, 2008,

long-listed for the prestigious Plough Poetry Prize (UK),

and shortlisted for the Thomas Pringle Award 2010.

Over the years she has worked, inter alia, as a university lecturer, copywriter, and radio news writer. She is currently the Information Specialist for an international corporate-law firm.