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November 2011

Northlands Old Girls' Association

Issue: 07

Newsletter

Dear Friends,

This will be our last NOGA newsletter of the year. Although it seems a bit early to wish you a Merry Christmas, we would like to say all the best for the festive season and may some of those dreams come true in 2012. All going well, we will be blessed with a new grandchild in February, and I can't imagine a more precious gift than a sibling for our Matthew.

The final events of the school calendar have now taken place. All that remains is for the girls to write their exams, and we wish them the success they deserve. To the Class of 2011, you are now officially "Old Girls" and we hope you will register on the school website and keep in touch with your *Alma Mater*. We are interested in all your news - careers, studies, travel and those all-important relationships! There is an official Northlands Old Girls' group on Facebook that you can join, and some classes have a group just for their year as well.

We had a rather unusual "Prize-Giving by Candlelight" on 13 October. Mrs Vat had no sooner commenced her Principal's Report, than the electricity went off and we were plunged into darkness and silence. With the light from cellphones, candles were found and placed on the steps to light the girls' way as they came up to receive their awards. The guest speaker, Prof Dennis Francis, was attired in a long turquoise silk gown, and we feared that his dangling scarf might catch on fire, but fortunately nothing untoward occurred. Prof Francis taught Drama at NGHS in the late 90's, and is now Dean of Education at the University of the Free State and he is married to Mrs Vat's elder daughter **Emma (Class of 1992)**.



Congratulations to all the pupils who received awards, especially to Dux Kriantha Naidoo and Runner-up Leyya Kasavan.

On 15 October we held our final NOGA lunch of the year, which was attended by 50 Old Girls, mainly from the Classes of 1966 and 1986, who decided to join us to celebrate their special years. The food was delicious as always and we would like to thank Lara Silson of Lara's Catering. Thanks to Elize and Jo for all their help with the bookings and displays. The tuckshop restaurant looked very attractive with the new curtains, chair covers and tablecloths, and the lovely green and white flower arrangements.



Thanks to Anna Kelly (Marketing Manager of NGHS) for all the interest she has shown in NOGA and the assistance she has given us this year.

Founders' Day on Friday, 16 September, was a most enjoyable occasion. Thank you to the Old Girls on the staff for organising the Special Assembly and delicious tea. **Melinda Gould (Blackburn 1991)**, who is a well-known Durban physiotherapist, gave an inspiring speech and certainly made us more aware of the importance of good posture and taking care of our bodies.



Vicki du Preez (Collier) (Head Girl 1991);
Melinda Gould (Blackburn) (Dux 1991);
Laurelle Barnett (Bridson) 1965

Well done to **Tracy Wakefield (Sugden)** and **Kerry Golten (Ladell)**, both of the **Class of 1986**, who shared the trophy for "**Service above Self**" this year. After the 50th Jubilee, Tracy and Kerry, with Wendy Ladell, re-started the Old Girls' Association, and they have been our most loyal supporters ever since. Both have daughters at the school, and this is really our aim - to have daughters following in their mothers' footsteps and building a rich tradition in the school.



The second **NGHS Quiz Night** was held later the same day. It was very well-organised and great fun, and some of the teams really got into the spirit of things decorating their tables and wearing team T-shirts. The reigning champions, the Barnetts, were beaten into second place by Vicki du Preez's team.



PHOTOS FROM QUIZ NIGHT

- 1 - Team Wannabees - Kerry Golten's team.
- 2 - Team Shamrocks - Tracy Wakefield's team
- 3 - Team Barnetts

One question arose at the NOGA lunch. **Lesley Starke (Waterman) (1970)** kindly agreed to bring her guitar and lead us in singing the school song, as we did last year. One of the Class of 1966 cried out, "There is a school song?"

We would like your memories on when we started singing the school song, "Hear our joyful voices ring, As of Northlands School we sing....." I thought everyone knew it, but apparently not!

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 R320 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 :

Chicks of '66 – 9 chairs

DIANA PEARCE (née Hill) 1966
BERNICE GIBSON (née Whyte) Head Girl 1964
WILMA TIP (PREFECT) 1960
KAREN FANNIN (née Adams) 1977
MARY LOU MELVILLE (née Aplin) 1977



REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 2012

20 Years – Class of 1992 – Lyn Gibbons (Pickford) wants to arrange a reunion. Contact her at lynn@suretysolutions.co.za

40 Years – Class of 1972 – A reunion is being planned for last Saturday in May 2012 at the school tuckshop – contact **Glynis Mun-Gavin (Mercer)** gmungavi@dgc.co.za

50 Years – Class of 1962 - The reunion is being planned for April 2012 and your contact person is **Sandy Moran (Shaw)**. Please contact her at moranclan@worldonline.co.za. They also want to include girls who left to go to Tech or start work at the end of Std 8.

Please contact us if you are involved in arranging any other reunions for 2012.

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

ENGAGEMENTS

Chantal Scheepers (1994) is engaged to Andrew Craig of Northern Ireland. Chantal is the daughter of Noel and the late **Jennifer Scheepers (Ley) (1966)**

Natalie Veckranges (2005) is engaged to Warren Beuster
Dominique van Moos (2001) is engaged to Kevin Deana
Simone Fuller (1997) is engaged to Richard Hirsch

MARRIAGES

Nadine Myburgh (2001) married Michael Olivier at the Caledon Hotel, Umhlali
Kerri-lee Francois (2003) married Cleaveland Alexander at the Durban Country Club

BIRTHS

Cristyn Laing (Morris) (1994) and her husband Ian, welcomed their baby daughter, Emily Grace, in October in Brisbane. A first grandchild for Robin and Athlone Morris (ex Maths HOD at Northlands)
Anthony and Grace Mason (Swanson) (Deputy Head Girl 1994) had a son, Luke James, brother for Holly, on 18 October in Sydney
Gary and **Suzanne Boruchowitz (Leibowitz) (1997)** had a daughter on 7 November in Johannesburg
Shane and **Leigh-Ann Duncan (McNeill) (1998)** had a daughter, Caylea Quinn, 14 September in England
Lara Chadwick (1993) and Sean Robinson welcomed Connor Chad Robinson on 15 November.

OBITUARIES

Joe Dramowski, beloved husband of Elize and father of **Angela (Head Girl 1994)**, passed away in Oct. Our sympathy to **Vivian Basing (Cochrane) (1973)** on the loss of her mother, Ellen Cochrane in Nov.
Wendy Anne Spengler (Gordon) (1977) passed away in Canada on 11 September, aged 51. Our condolences to her husband Keith and children Liam and Laura.
Condolences to **Avril Lemon-Warde (1961)** whose husband Kenneth passed away in November.
Anne Verster (McGlashan) (1968) advised of the passing of **Lesley Lovatt (Longford)**, who died of cancer last week.

OTHER NEWS

The **Class of 1965** had their annual get-together at the Bistro, Durban Country Club, on 12 November.



In the photo:

Carol Morgan, Marjorie Crampton, Gail Tofts, Margaret Bydowell, Laurelle Barnett, Jennifer Sumner, Jeanette Wilcock, Jean Viljoen and Beverley Rowbotham.

The **Class of 1970** were invited to join our 15 October lunch to get together with **Dianne Ellis (Goldsworthy)**, who is in SA for 6 months.

Only **Lesley Starke (Waterman)** from their year was able to attend, but we had several messages from their classmates:

So good to hear from you. Unfortunately, we won't be able to make it. We're having our own little reunion in beautiful Provence on the 15th. Yes, Jane Rix and I are meeting up to have a fab weekend of French food, music, wine and saxophone. If any of you can make it over, love to see you again.

Take care,

Suzanne Bayon de Noyer (Hoffenberg) baisuzhen@hotmail.com

Lovely to hear from you. I live in Worcestershire in the UK now but work between there and Leatherhead. Coming back to Durban late January for the first time in a hundred years but will be mainly travelling around the north coast, game reserve, battlefields and 'berg. Recently heard from Joanne Davies who now lives in the US and was travelling to the UK and Europe in September but unfortunately our diaries couldn't coincide. Visited Judy Robinson in Jo'burg just before last Christmas...she and her husband are currently in New Zealand for the rugby World Cup.

Jane Rix

jane.rix@atkinsglobal.com

While the 'girls' of '70' were meeting in Durban North on 15 October, Suzanne Hoffenberg (now Bayon de Noyer) and I had a reunion lunch in Aix en Provence – and raised the odd glass of wine to our school days. I was visiting Suzanne in France for a long weekend and this is a picture of us with her husband, Bernard, on the Sunday. We were very fortunate it was such a beautifully warm and sunny weekend for mid-October. Hope the lunch in Durban North was as happy.

Love

Jane and Suzanne



I am so sorry and disappointed that I missed the lunch. On Friday evening I was in such excruciating pain that it just wasn't possible. Will require back surgery for squeezed nerves in spinal column.

Sue Renton (van Straaten) suerenton@mweb.co.za

This is another voice from the past ...!! Unfortunately I won't be able to make the lunch on the 15th October, I have another commitment. Weeks go by with nothing special on the social calendar, then it all happens at the same time. I'm really sorry as it would have been nice to have seen all of you again, especially Di Ellis (Goldsworthy).

Please remember me for next year, or whenever the next get-together is arranged, as I really enjoy these lunches, and catching up on everyone's news. I'll certainly think of all of you on Saturday.

Regards,

Brenda Tarboton (Sawyer)

tarboton@ukzn.ac.za

My apologies too. Would have been really great to reconnect, except when buddies say "you haven't changed a bit" and you remember yourself as an overweight geek-a-zoid!

But pressure aside, it has been so great reconnecting through the NOGA forum. I am amazed at how the years (lifetimes?) in between just roll away - and am continually amazed at the memories of some girls. Hazel Cornish (now Jeffery) has amazing detail recall I can barely remember my own name :)

In the Western Cape we thought of having a 'local' get together, if anyone is interested (ahem: Roni are you listening??) - they are welcome to contact me or Hazel (hazeljeffery@gmail.com)

Have a great get together - will be with you in spirit! Look forward to seeing the photos.

PS: Has anyone got any contact details for/ news of Susan Duthie?

Regards to all
Brenda G Sudano
brendasudano@hotmail.com

I will be thinking of you on Saturday from this dark, wet part of the world. It is amazing how time has flown. I keep in touch with the guys I graduated with, who are scattered all over the world. It was Sude Walters and I that started together in the class with a dearth of females. Hard to believe that was 40 yrs ago! It has been amazing reading about what you are all up to. Perhaps these get together need to be more frequent. Thank God for emails...it is hard to believe we used to think that photocopies were great and had to get them done by the secretary next to Miss Watt's office - probably so we would not break the photocopier!

I would love to meet up if anyone is ever in London. Jane, Di, Brenda and whoever is in this part of the world -how about a Jan or Feb. get together?

Regards
Charmaine Hast
charmaine.hast@TWMSolicitors.com

REUNIONS HELD

CLASS OF 1966 - 45 YEARS

Thanks, once again, for your assistance with our 1966 Reunion - there were such compliments! You are truly amazing the way in which you devote so much time in keeping the "old girls" united - well done again!

Joy Wellbeloved (Mincher)

Many thanks for arranging the old girls & reunions lunch today. So many compliments were made about the flowers, food etc. Please pass onto Lara too.

I know that the Chicks of '66 really enjoyed today's reunion, so our hard work paid off.

Please also thank Jo for her input on the board - just wondered what happened to the 60's music!

Thanks again Laurelle - sorry my brain was a bit mushy, and I forgot to thank you during my speech, but the 1986 speech maker talked for all of us I think.

Patricia Clarke (Beerta)



BRIEF HISTORY OF SOME OF THE LADIES FROM THE CLASS OF 1966

JOY WELLBELOVED (MINCHER)

Blessed with 41 years of happy marriage to Bob! By May next there will be 6 little grandchildren, all living in close proximity to us and life is just so fulfilled being able to devote special time to family

JOCELYN SUTHERLAND (PAYNE)

1 year Pmb varisty dropout! ; 8 years as conveyancing clerk ; married Stewart (matric boyfriend); divorced after 17 years ; 2 children – daughter is also a past pupil of NGHS ; manager of Exclusive Books La Lucia for the past 7 years ; retiring in December to continue to travel ; Far East and India is my passion.

JANICE FORBES (MARLOW)

Worked for Barclays Bank and then onto Allied – ABSA ; married in 1974 ; 2 children ; granny to 8 month old little boy.

MAUREEN TURNER (POWELL)

Worked in South African Reserve bank until I had children ; Happily married for 42 years ; involved in church work, schools and lots of hobbies ; travelled a lot.

ERNA POLLECUTT (WHITFORD)

Went to Edgewood ; taught at Pinetown Junior from 1970 to 2009 ; married in 1070 to Barry ; 2 daughters ; retired and loving every minute of it ; doing lots of crafts.

CARYL MISSELBROOK

Did nursing and midwifery ; married Peter but divorced in 2001; 2 children ; active in sport - scuba and have climbed Kilimanjaro ; danced Latin and Ballroom dancing with a blind man ; involved with a ministry to new couples with babies ; involved with preparing and birthing women in water birth.

ANNE TAYLOR (SYKES)

Qualified as a pharmacist ; owned Stella Pharmacy for 10 years ; 2 daughters ; presently involved in work with HIV Aids and outreach programmes for children.

BEV BURDEN (McMURRAY)

Left NGHS in Std 8 ; Commercial Matric at Dbn Business College ; Married Brian in 1976 and divorced in 1990 ; 2 children ; eagerly awaiting grandchildren ; still live in Durban North.

HEATHER MUTCH (SMITH)

Left NGHS after Std 9. Commercial Matric at Dbn Business College ; married Ernie in 1972 ; 2 daughters ; no grandchildren yet!

BETH LOUBSER (BARLOW-JONES)

Started nursing at Addington in Jan 1967 but left after 6 months ; then went into medical technology ; qualified as microbiologist in 1971 ; married Mike in 1971 ; 2 children ; no grandchildren yet!

JEANNE KING (BREWIS)

Worked as draughtsman for corporation ; married ; 2 children.

MERRILYN MISSELBROOK (HOPKIRK)

Did nursing at Addington ; married ; 1 daughter ; worked as an ultrasonographer until 2001.

CLASS OF 1986 – 25 YEARS

Many thanks for assisting with our 25 Year Reunion which was held in the school tuckshop on 15 Oct. It was wonderful to join the matrices of 1966 for their 45 Year Reunion and such a privilege to share the afternoon with them – gosh we weren't even born when they matriculated!

The flower arrangements were gorgeous, compliments from Speech Night, the display boards very interesting (thanks to Jo Silva), the food delicious and the company great fun. It was wonderful to catch up with old friends and reminisce about the past; it felt like yesterday that we were back at school. It was also great to hear compliments from the ladies on how good the school was looking, and on how well the girls are doing academically; we are all so proud to be associated with NGHS, well done to all concerned and thank you for the effort you put into the NGHS Old Girls' Association - it is greatly appreciated.

Regards

Bridgette Landsberg (Marlin)



BRIEF HISTORY OF SOME OF THE LADIES FROM THE CLASS OF 1986

BRIDGETTE LANDSBERG (MARLIN)

Married for 21 years ; 3 children ; living in Kloof ; worked in advertising for 13 years ; now stay-at-home mom looking for new challenges!

KIM PRICE (HAYWARD)

Married to Gavin ; 1 son ; medical rep ; living in Durban North.

KARIN LOOSE (CLAASE)

Engaged to Henry ; 1 daughter ; working in Logistics for 22 years ; living in Umgeni Park but relocating to Johannesburg at the end of the year.

LYNETTE STANDER (ISAACS)

Married to Rory ; 2 boys ; work for a corporate travel agency ; love the ocean and photography.

PETA BODLEY (KOREVAAR)

Married to Rob ; 2 children ; financial manager to two companies ; love art, painting and anything creative ; go to www.southafricanartists.com to see some of her work.

BEV McGONIGLE (FRANZSEN)

Divorced ; 2 children ; nursing sister ; working at a school in Durban North.

CHERYL McCALLUM (VAN OS)

Divorced ; 2 children ; worked for FNB for almost 25 years ; enjoy gym and reading.

KERRY GOLTEN (LADELL)

Married to Neil for 18 years ; 2 daughters one of who goes to Northlands Girls' High School ; work in family business ; love doing family, cultural and creative things ; enjoy life and love living in South Africa.

HAYLEY ESTEVES (ELS)

Married to Jose for 13 years ; 2 boys ; pharmaceutical rep agency work.

TRACY SUGDEN

Married to Winston for 20 years ; 4 children – eldest, Caitlin, is in matric at Northlands Girls' High School this year ; work for aviation magazine ; enjoy camping, SA wine and being with family and friends.

REQUESTS

Dianne Ellis (Goldsworthy) (1970) would be very grateful for any books you can donate to the Meadowsweet School. This is a rural school near where Di and Colin live in the Winterton area of the Drakensberg. The children are from Grade One to Ten and the facilities are very poor - not even functioning toilets. Di is helping with the school library and they desperately need books. Just for example, the only set of encyclopaedias dates from the 1960's. Laurelle is happy to collect books and any other useful items at home or at school and will be able to deliver them to Di on 1 December. Contact Dianne at dicol@aol.com or Laurelle at kandlbarnett@telkomsa.net

EMAILS RECEIVED

Thank you Laurelle for a truly lovely newsy newsletter. I live in Dublin Ireland and so enjoy reading all about Northlands. I was in the class of '62 and I am wondering whether there is anyone from that class who might want to take on a re-union for next year? It will be 50 years on! I also read with interest that Linda Clokie visited Northlands recently and donated her honours blazer to the school. She is my cousin. I was 1 of 4 sisters, we were called the 'Gove girls' who went to Northlands, only 1 of us still lives in SA. This is Jenny Gove. I have very warm memories of my school-days, and oh dear how naughty I was! I enjoyed reading about Miss Munnik she was a great character not to mention a great set of lungs on her! Good wishes from an autumnal Dublin.

Lainey Ennis (Gove).

lainey@laineypennis.com

Thank you for always sending out such an interesting newsletter. Trust this email finds you all at NGHS well? Are Mrs Slack and Mrs Duminy still teaching there? If so, please can you send them my love.

I have now read in a few of them, that you request the names of any old girls who are teaching. I am currently teaching Grade 4, at a primary school in Cape Town. I actually studied to teach High School Geography, but never have! Once I had qualified, my husband and I went overseas, and taught English at a kindergarten. Honestly, I never thought I could enjoy working with such young kids, but I really do.

We are also thrilled in that this year we became first time parents! Our little boy, Zachary Ryan was born in April. What a delight he has been to us!

Kind Regards,

Kirsty v.d.Merwe (nee Raynor) devonkirsty@yahoo.com

Class of 2000

I think I must be one of the older readers of the newsletter. I love receiving it. I started at Northlands in 1953, it was still co-ed then. Not for long though and I remember us all standing on the bank and waving good-bye to the boys as they marched off to their new school in Kensington Drive. Mr Hardaker was our head when I started and he was replaced by Miss Manning when the boys left. I lived at No 96 Chelsea Drive right across the road from the school. Miss Smith was our Afrikaans teacher. In 1930 My daughter, Dianne Searle (Mowat) Started at Northlands and the head was Mrs Hartman, formerly our Afrikaans teacher Miss Smith. I love getting the newsletter and I pass it on to my daughter who of course is also an old girl. I am now retired and living in Harwich, Essex UK and my daughter is a teacher at an independent school in Ipswich, Suffolk where she lives. About 30 miles from me.

[Marjorie Mowat\(Keal\) \(1956\) marjoriem@sky.com](mailto:marjoriem@sky.com)

EVENTS OF A LIFETIME



Cristyn Laing (Morris) (1994) and her newborn daughter, Emily Grace, born in Brisbane in October