



# VGHS Old Girls' Union

## Grahamstown Branch

### Newsletter January 2008

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# Message from the Grahamstown Branch of the VGHS Old Girls' Union

Dear Old Girls, current and past members of staff and other interested parties,

I hope you enjoy reading about what has happened over the past six months, and what will be happening in the next six months.

Please diarise the events you may be interested in attending, it would be great to see you there.

In particular, please remember the

**Founders' Weekend over the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March**

and our annual

**Old Girls' Dance to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> August (Women's Day!)**

For details on how to join the Old Girls' Union, where to send your news and how to update your contact details, the names of the people involved can be found on the last page/slide.

If there is other news you would like to hear about, please let me know, and we will make sure that we include some in our next newsletter.

Peta Bezuidenhout

Chairperson – Grahamstown Branch



# FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### Programme

It's that time of year again and the Founders' Weekend is just around the corner. Here is a list of the "What's Happening?" for the weekend. Old Girls are welcome to attend all events.

#### **Friday 7th:**

- 07h40 Star Relay
- 11h15 Assembly
- 18h00 Sundowners – No cost
- 19h00 Supper Theatre – R50 per person

#### **Saturday 8th:**

- 09h00 Flag raising and Procession
- 09h15 Memorial Service and Wreath-laying ceremony
- 09h30 Breakfast - R30 for adults; R15 for children
- 10h30 OGU AGM
- 11h15 Inter-House Singing
- 12:30 Tour of School
- Hockey and Tennis Old Girls vs. Scholars



# FOUNDERS' WEEKEND cont

Tickets for the **Supper Theatre** are for sale at R50.00 per person. A three course meal is planned for this event, with tickets available from the school office – 046 636 1550.

This promises to be a spectacular musical with theatre-goers being entertained with music, song and dance right from Sundowners to the meal-with-a-difference.

An event not to be missed!

**Hockey and Tennis** against the girls is always a lot of fun, but we need players to be able to compete... Please let Leanne van der Merwe [l.vdmerwe@ru.ac.za](mailto:l.vdmerwe@ru.ac.za) know if you are ready, willing and able to keep the Old Girls' flag flying high!

Delicious **steak rolls** will be on sale for lunch for those who have worked up an appetite during the sport and for all of their supporters: parents, spouses and children! So invite the whole family to attend this fun event.

Its always great fun joining up with all the old girls AND chatting to past principals and teachers (both **Mr Long and Mr Barnard** have indicated that they will be at the breakfast on Saturday morning!) so please pass the word on and gather up the crowds for yet another memorable weekend at VG!

If you would like to plan your **class reunion** for this weekend – please contact Karen Kouari on [k.kouari@ru.ac.za](mailto:k.kouari@ru.ac.za) for more information



# Induction of the 2007 Matriculants

The ceremony inducting the 2007 matriculants as VGhS 'Old Girls' took place during a cocktail party held at Vicky's on the 2nd October. We were delighted that a record number of girls decided to join the Old Girls' Union and we look forward to the contribution they will make in years to come.

Parents, friends, teachers and members of the Grahamstown Branch of the Old Girls' Union were present to enjoy this festive occasion and to celebrate the evening with the girls.

Thank you to the Music Department and the Marimba Band for providing musical entertainment for the evening...

## **Future Inductions**

Over the past two years the induction has taken place during the first week of the fourth term, a week of extreme pressure for both the school and for the girls. It has been decided that in future this will take place at a tea to be held (appropriately) on National Women's Day.

We look forward to welcoming the 2008 matriculants as new members of the Old Girls Union at the event to be held on the 9th August 2008. This event will precede our annual VG OGU Dance which will be held in the school hall that evening.



# Induction of the 2007 Matriculants





# VGHS Old Girls' Dance!

## 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008

If you are going to be in or around Grahamstown on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, please make a note to join us for our annual Fundraiser Dance, to be held in the school hall.

If the 2007 dance is anything to go by, much fun will be had by all.

So, regardless of your age, make sure you join us for this fun evening, where the music is guaranteed to get everyone on the dance-floor.



# News from our Old Girls

Gail Bean, Married William Hayes of N. Ireland 1972 who died 1998 in SA. Have 3 sons, William 32, James 31 and Angus 24. William is IT Personnel consultant in London, James IT contractor in Canterbury and Angus attorney in Johannesburg. Live alone in Port Elizabeth with dog and two cats and teach English part time at a small private school.

Mary Hoole 1939 married Monty Bean 3 Children, Gail Hayes, Meryl Duncan and David Bean. Was widowed last year 7 months short of 60 year anniversary.

Would love to hear from girls of 1960 - 1966. Veryan Edwards, Hazel Phillips, Cecelia Goldberg, Cathy Craig.

Deceased from 1966:

Jean Webster

Barbara Timm



# News from our Old Girls - cont

Hi! My name is **Erica Ann Wulfse**, and my maiden name was Gillard. I matriculated in 1985, and was a boarder. Living in Australia (Perth) with husband and two teenage kids (boy and girl). E-mail is [wulfse1@bigpond.com](mailto:wulfse1@bigpond.com)

**Blanch Nonqane** (matric 2006) works at the Civil Aviation Authority in Gauteng (and just might have insider info on the Nationwide story...). She is getting married on 3 May - and will have her reception in the MG Richardson Hall.

## **Reef Branch of the VGHS Old Girls' Union:**

Corrie McCarthy (secretary of the Reef Branch) was in Grahamstown where she stayed with Naomi Hule (Naomi and her sister, Issie Pienaar, are both Old Girls and VG's trusted matric exam invigilators). Corrie invites all Gautengers to their Annual General Meeting:

When: 15 March, 14:30

Where: at the home of Claudia Dickson, 12 Notwani Road, Emmarentia

RSVP: 011 782 7128 or 012 662 0769



# Messages from past and present VGHS Principals...

## **Greetings from Trevor and Denise Long:**

We remain fit and well and full of the joys of life. Many thanks to those of you who keep in contact – address changes, baby photos and significant events, etc. We really enjoy hearing from you.

Please remember to send me e-mail address and physical address changes to [tlong@intekom.co.za](mailto:tlong@intekom.co.za). It is so frustrating when we send out letters to have a significant number returned as e-mails have changed.

Best wishes to all of you!

## **A message from Angus Barnard...**

It is on occasions like this that we are able to renew friendships and to recall precious memories of the past. One tends to lose contact with many of those who were at some stage in the past so much part of our lives. And when it is all over and we return home, we will be filled with renewed enthusiasm for those special days spent at the greatest of all schools, VG.



## Message from Madeleine Schoeman

Lois Bassett, Founder Member of the Reef Branch of the VGHS Old Girls' Union, celebrated her 80th birthday last year. She, like so many of our Old Girls, is a remarkable woman and her family and friends paid tribute to her on many an occasion. On behalf of VG, I did the same and I would like to share an extract from the letter with you as you are all, in some way or another, Lois Bassetts to those of us left at VGHS:

*"I have always been aware of the incredible heritage of VGHS, the hard work that turned it into the success it is; I have been grateful to my predecessors and been committed to its continued success. I realized that Old Girls are important but I cannot begin to describe to you how your selfless commitment to our school keeps me going. It is so easy to get bogged down by the powers that be in education, by the endless bureaucracy, the negative press, and 15 year olds who have the answers to life (and sadly, who have experienced far too much of life). People like you, Lois, are keeping education going. You help us by constantly reminding us of our history and our obligation to the future. You and our Old Girls keep us grounded and focused.*

*So, actually, you had no idea what you let yourself in for when you made your promise to keep the VG flame burning up north!"*

*To all our girls all over the world who are still so proud of VG, to the Reef Branch committee for years of service, to Peta and her team in Grahamstown, to the Longs, Woods, Mathies, Barnards and many, many more: thank you."*

Please join us over Founders Weekend and take some time to browse our website. Our school is dynamic, produces leaders and is indeed a centre of excellence for young women of Africa.

Looking forward to meeting you.



# Facebook...

## a great way to keep in touch

Facebook remains a great way to keep in touch with past friends and to make new friends...

You can use Facebook to:

- \* Share information with people you know.
- \* See what's your friends are up to.
- \* Look up old friends and colleagues.

To register on Facebook...

All you need to do is go to the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com>

1. click on the link to register
2. Fill in you details
3. and login - *Voilà* three simple steps to join Facebook

Be sure to search for the **VGHS Victoria Girls High School Group** and join in!



# General Information

## **Becoming a member of the OGU:**

To become a member of the Old Girls Union please contact Karen Kouari (Ehrich – VG1991) on [k.kouari@ru.ac.za](mailto:k.kouari@ru.ac.za) for further information.

## **Contact Details:**

Please keep your details up to date. This ensures that you receive the OGU Newsletter as well as any other news and information. Please e-mail your name, e-mail address and what year you matriculated to Mr Trevor Long at [tlong@intekom.co.za](mailto:tlong@intekom.co.za)

we are trying to update the OGU database but cannot do it without your help!

## **News:**

Please send your news to either Mr Long or Karen, at the e-mails provided above, or send to Peta Bezuidenhout on [L.Bezuidenhout@ru.ac.za](mailto:L.Bezuidenhout@ru.ac.za) We would love to hear from you.