



VGHS Old Girls Union Grahamstown Branch Newsletter November 2008

- Message from the Chairperson of the VGHS Old Girls' Union, Grahamstown Branch
- Report on 2008 Matric Induction
- Founders Week-end **6 & 7 March 2009**
– book this date in your diary now!
- From the Principal's desk...
- News from our 'Old Girls'
- Have you joined the **VGHS Victoria Girls High School** group on Facebook yet?
- General Information



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

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

Herewith the bi-annual newsletter for the VGHS Old Girls' Union. I hope you enjoy reading about what has happened over the past few months and what will be happening in the not to distant future.

The **2008 Matric Induction** was highly successful and the executive believes that we have found the perfect day for this celebration of our young women of VGHS. Read about the induction held on Women's Day 2008 in this newsletter.

Please diarise the **2009 Founders Weekend** to be held on the **6 & 7 March**. 'Old Girls' who will be celebrating reunions over the weekend, please let us know so that we can be of assistance where possible. Also, whether you would like to organise a reunion for your year or whether you would simply like to know whether a reunion for your year is being organised, please contact us if we can be of assistance. 2009 will be my 30th year reunion, so I am looking forward to seeing some of my 'old' friends...

Peta Bezuidenhout
Chairperson – Grahamstown Branch



Induction of the 2008 Matriculants

On Saturday 9th August 2008 (National Women's Day), a new record was set. For the first time since the Old Girls Union was re-established, all 80 Grade 12 pupils were inducted with life-time membership. The Grade 12's along with a few of their mothers, were welcomed by Peta Bezuidenhout, Chairperson of the Grahamstown Branch of the VG OGU, and treated to a scrumptious mid-morning tea.

Mrs Dlukulu, mother of ex-Headgirl Lumka, was our guest speaker. Being a retired nurse and now working for Hospice, Mrs Dlukulu spoke on topics that were relevant to society today; HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancies, the importance of getting a good education and cherishing one's youth. Her message was strong and clear – be responsible, stay in school and get an education you can be proud of. And an education from Victoria Girls High School **IS** something to be proud of.

Holding the induction ceremony on National Women's Day was highly successful and we are pleased that we can now welcome our new 'Old Girls' in a more relaxed style.

Karen Ehrich Kouari (Class of 1991)



Induction Tea Photographs





FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

6 & 7 March 2009

To the girls who matriculated in 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969, 1959, 1949 (and perhaps even 1984?) join us in celebrating your reunion over Founders' Weekend 2009.

This promises to be a week-end of great fun, catching up with old friends and possibly even past principals and teachers. There will be entertainment at the VGHS Supper Theatre, you will enjoy the Old Girls Breakfast followed by the Old Girls vs Current Pupils hockey match, as well as other exciting events. Or you may simply use this opportunity to walk around the school and reminisce about days gone by.

Get a round-robin e-mail going with your school mates from your year and make sure you are at your reunion! For more information, contact the school secretary, Denise Heathcote on +27 (0)46 6361550 or e-mail her on office@vghs.ecape.school.za



From the Principal's desk...

Our school has had a phenomenal year, thanks to our past and present girls and staff, our parents, and many others. Not only were we recognized as an Alan Gray Orbis Foundation Circle of Excellence School, we were awarded the PetroSA HomeGrown Award for the South African Educational Institution of 2007! This award pays tribute to aspects of development that are more subtle, but no less important, than academic or sports results. It acknowledges the importance of holistic development, service and leadership training, of celebrating diversity and being Proudly South African.

Holistic education results in girls who question, who deal with challenges, and this gives them the edge and turn them into the social capital our country needs. At VG, our girls learn not just to accept. We question, debate, assess, go back, do over. We challenge. We know, like life, nothing is a certainty. By taking responsibility for oneself and finding oneself, one turns that core into a solid pillar of strength that can survive many a storm and give hope to others, including one's elders. One of our Gr 12s has had a harrowing few months and says she has always had her family to support her, but more importantly, when her life started falling apart, she realised that one's perspective of things have to change. A Gr 12 thinks about the meaning of life, of death; she gets up and goes on. She does not accept life as she knows it now is a certainty, and therefore appreciates it all the more.

I can give you many more examples of girls at VG, the young women who raise their siblings, who care for the sick, who are always there for others who **achieve small miracles daily**. In the words of Helen Reddy, our girls are phenomenally, phenomenally woman. Our ladies are who they are, proud of their heritage, grounded. They know where they are going.

Many people wonder what turns schooling into a life-changing experience for staff and learners. The answer is simple: what the people put in to make teaching and learning happen, and what the recipients give back to their communities. That is what you, our Old Girls and ex-staff did and continue to do, wherever you are. That is what we continue to do at VGHS.

Madeleine Schoeman.



News from our Old Girls

Verona Birch (Rigby) and Syd met the Longs when they recently arrived in Perth, Australia. A very pleasant morning with lunch at the Perth waterfront was enjoyed by all.

1977

Maryann O'Hagan (nee Stirk). Maryann went to Nursing College and qualified in 1982 and is currently working in a pathology laboratory in East London. She got married in 1984 and has two children Kerry-Lee born in 1986 (she is working as a travel consultant in East London and has just had a baby girl dob 21/02/2008) and Kyle born in 1988 (he is currently studying BSc at Rhodes in Gtown).

Diane Clayton (nee Trennery) - Married Mark Clayton and now living in UK and have been for last 10/11 years. Three sons - Eldest 22 and twins now 19. Diane would love to hear from anyone that remembers her.

1979

Peta Bezuidenhout (nee Myers) – “I am married with two children (Stephen 22 and Samantha 20) who are currently students, I am lecturing at Rhodes and loving it. Come on gals – it’s our 30th reunion in 2009, let’s make it one to remember. Contact me on L.Bezuidenhout@ru.ac.za to make sure everyone is there.”

1991

Rebecca Whisson is engaged and is getting married in May 2009

Brigid Bennett Furness is moving to New Zealand in the new year

Sarah Stern is getting married in Addo in May 2009. She has settled in New Zealand.

Fiona Stewart is engaged.

1992

Alison Ambi (nee Harry), Alison is living in, Ontario, Canada and is working as the "Information Services Manager" of The Career Centre at the University of Western Ontario, where she recently finished a Master's of Library and Information Science. Alison says, “My favourite winter activity is cross country skiing ... but I do miss the beaches of sunny South Africa!”



News from our Old Girls cont.

1994

Louise Bower. Louise is living in London, UK and says “After VG I went to Rhodes, finishing my Bachelor of Journalism in 1998. I worked in Jo'burg for a while before going to the USA to work as a summer camp councillor. From there I moved to the UK, eventually moving into event organising and I'm currently the Conference and Events Organiser for the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. Not married, no kids, but have been with my boyfriend Philip Dawson for the past three years (so maybe soon!).”

1999

Kirsty Ashley (nee Wilson) . Kirsty comments, “Well I now live in a very small New England town, Ashburnham, Massachusetts, that makes G-town look like a huge city. I am married with no children as of yet. We just bought our first house a couple of months ago. I graduated with a BA in Geography with a concentration in Environmental Studies and I now saving up to go to grad school to do a masters. I currently work as a manager at a restaurant.”

Tanya Bekker : “I have since moved from SMAT into a complete career change, working as a consultant for a leading recruitment agency Headhunters. I work with an amazing team! I also contribute articles with regards to topics surrounding the industry. I am contactable on either tanya@headhunt.co.za or bekker.tanya@gmail.com. And am looking forward to the reunion next year!



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 (nee Ehrich) 1991 on 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

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 We would love to hear from you.