

2009 VGHS OLD GIRLS UNION Newsletter

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Greetings to all the VGHS Old Girls!

As the new Chairperson of the VGHS Old Girls Committee let me start off by introducing myself. My name is Karen Kouari (nee Ehrich) and I matriculated from VGHS in 1991. After temping around Grahamstown in different work environments. I left Grahamstown in 1996 and lived in London until returning in 2005 with my daughter (who is currently in Grade 1 at Victoria Primary!). Having grown up in Grahamstown I felt this was the ideal place for me to raise my daughter. I have always had fond memories of VGHS and was a border in both EB and Beaufort House from Standard 5 (Grade 7). Many happy memories were made during my school years and I am lucky to say that friends made at VG are friends forever.

On returning to Grahamstown I started work at Rhodes University. My first post was at the School of Journalism and Media Studies and in 2006 I moved to the Humanities Faculty as Office Administrator. I have recently been promoted to Faculty Officer.

I have served on the VGHS Old Girl Committee since 2006 and hope to carry on the excellent work of Peta Bezuidenhout who, due to heavy work commitments unfortunately had to resign as Chairperson. I would like to thank Peta for all her efforts and time in getting the OGU up and running again.

We are constantly looking for old VG girls to help with events so if you are keen and have a bit of spare time please get in touch and let us know (contact details at the end of the newsletter).

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

FOUNDERS WEEK END 2009

2009 kicked off with another Founders Weekend which was held in March. A report from Leanne van der Merwe (nee Chapman) follows:

FOUNDERS WEEK END 2009 PROGRAMME

Saturday 7 March 2009		
10.00	Flag raising and Memorial procession of wreaths to small quad.	Front of school
10.15	Memorial Service	Small Quad
10.30-11.15	Tea for Old girls and Grade 12 pupils – no cost	Quad/ back of quad
11.15 – 11.45	OGU AGM	Quad/back of quad
12.00	Hockey VG girls vs Old Girls Tour of school, Vicky's and hostel.	Field
12.00	Join us for a relaxing steak braai (R50) and jumping castle for the kiddies – bring your own drinks please! Family and friends invited as well – the more the merrier!	Vicky's

Founders weekend 2009 turned out very successful, as we added a little spice and tried a few new things. We changed the structure a little by hosting a tea instead of the breakfast. Thankfully it was a beautiful day so we hosted the tea in the VG quad, with old girls catching up and with the background singing of the VG choir it proved to warm up the hearts of the Old Girls and bring back many memories for those visiting.

After the Old Girls had fuelled themselves up with cake and tea the morning was followed by the traditional hockey challenge between the old girls and the current VG team. The Old Girls went on to win unscathed with a massive score of 4 -1.

By lunch time the weather was a piping 30 degrees! Old girls decided this called for some reminiscing and splashing around in their old school pool. Helpful hubbies had the gas braai going with delicious steaks being braaied, kids AND adults were entertained with the jumping castle and ice cold punch was enjoyed in the HOT HOT sun! This proved to be another successful Founders weekend, but we would definitely like to see more and more faces every year.

So please start to diarise your dates for another fun filled Saturday next year **5th March 2010.**

Reunions for 2010:

2000 - contact Lee-Anne van der Merwe (nee Chapman): lvdmerwe@ru.ac.za

1990 - contact: Tracy Shaw (nee Coetzee Head Girl 1990)

e-mail: tshaw@midrand-estates.co.za or phone her on 079 529 5948

1985 – contact Janine Birch janine@mwebafrica.com

If you would like to organise a reunion for your class please let us know so we can put you in touch with other classmates.

NEW 'OLD GIRLS' INDUCTION 2009

Our annual induction of the Grade 12's took place in August this year. We have been most fortunate that the numbers of girls joining the VGHS Old Girls Union has continued to increase year after year. This year we had the entire Grade 12 joining. We thank those who have joined and continue to have a close relationship with the school. Our guest for the induction was Mrs Dorothy Dixon, who matriculated from VGHS in 1936. Things were a lot different then and we thoroughly enjoyed hearing about her experiences and seeing the school photographs she passed around. The uniforms sure were different back then!

OLD GIRL NEWS

- **Claire Inglis (Howarth)** (1991) is expecting baby number two due on the 2nd of Jan although she is sure it will be a December baby! Claire and her husband Rob and 3yr old daughter Grace are still living in Johannesburg.
- **Jann Reynolds** Hi there! I got married in December and am now living in JHB, teaching Gr 00. Class of 98
- **Noxolo Mapara-Mokoena** I'll be giving birth hopefully early Jan 2010 to my 2nd child and would like the whole VG nation to know that I'm still alive and kicking and haven't stopped being me!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Jason and I migrated to Brisbane, Australia 3 years ago and are very happily settled having just built our first home. We have also just had our first child, Jesse Alexander - our little delight was born on 11 June 2009.
Nickél Turner (nee Marais) Matriculated in 2000
- **Fiona Stewart** (1991) married Dave Bell and is expecting her first baby in January 2010
- **Miranda Elaine Armstrong (1998):** I recently graduated with a Phd in Exercise Physiology from the University of Cape Town. I am now working as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist, based in the Cancer Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford.

- Hi Karen!
Thanks for all the hard work you are doing. I matriculated at VGHS in **2003**. No husband or children yet:-) I am in England for this year (January to December) teaching at Brighton College in Brighton. I am teaching English and Religious Studies and coaching a lot of the schools sport. I have a passion for teaching, but even more so for Leadership Development, so plan on possibly even changing my direction of work when I return to South Africa. I studied at Stellenbosch University for the last 5 years, BA in Sport Science and a PGCE. I was the head of a residence, Metanoia, during my time there and on the SRC from 2007 to September 2008. Kind regards, **Nadine Bailie**
- **Shelley Strimling (Schley)** was at **VG Std 6 in 1980** stayed at Eleanor Brown Boarding House when Mrs Mimi Long and Mrs Du Preeze were in charge - left for Cape Town after std 6 and have never forgotten the year of boarding school. Would love to hear from old mates that were at Eleanor Brown at the same time. I have since got my own catering and gift business in Port Elizabeth Bella Baskets & Catering and then also have a Sanitising business offering waterless sanitisers to the frail and long term ill.
- **Diane Clayton (nee Trennery)** matriculated **1977** Married with 3 sons and live in the UK
- **Tracy Francis** – Headgirl **1991** is engaged to Brendan and lives in Ireland.
- I am **Barbara Simond** from the class of **1990**. I am a primary school teacher living in Qatar in the Middle East. I teach at a private academy in Doha. I am married to Luke who is also a teacher. I have a 4 year old son and I have just had another baby, at the end of June - another little boy called Matteo. Strangely enough I have been teaching for 2 years with 3 other teachers who were also at VG, although they were older than me (in their 50's) Quite a coincidence to have 4 people in a random school, in a random country, who went to the same high school. Oh and there were 2 Graeme college old boys teaching in the high school! Weird or what!! Take care and regards Barbara
- **Brigid Bennett (1991)** Have moved to the other side of the world. We now live in Christchurch New Zealand. Boys (William 4 and Oliver 18 months) are well and I am pretty happy!
- **Margret Sweetnam:** I live in the USA. I was class of **1968** :)
- Hi, it's **Jackie Ruger (nee' Carey CLASS of 1990)**
We have our 20 year reunion next year (as you know which i was soo excited to attended) then I met up with a friend I knew but had not seen for 10 years and was a spiritualist healer and somehow I happened to pick up a book in the UK on my last day before flying out to Kansas and it was about a woman Elizabeth Whiter who is very well known among spiritual animal healers. She does Diplomas and it all felt like the dots connected (it's a much longer story), spoke to her, spoke to my husband and I have just completed a 3 day intense course to the introductory of spiritual healing and meditation and attuning and interviewed 1 on 1 and was accepted on the spot. Actually she had accepted me long before I had even arrived I just had to do the 3 day course to get me up to speed. The course is broken up into 4 modules over the year in the UK and at the end of it I will be qualified as a small animal spiritual and human healer. I then want to go on to do her Equine Healing course and then her Zoopharmacology course which is where animals self select herbs and oils to self medicate themselves for emotional, physical etc. needs of course all under the OK from a Vet. So that is my journey in a nut shell and I am therefore unable to attend the 1990 20 year reunion!
- **Rebecca Whisson (1991)** got married to Ray in May and is still working for Cosmo!

- I completed my MSc (Biochemistry) from Rhodes in 2008. I then moved up to Johannesburg to take up a position as a Research Scientist at Mintek, a mineral research company in Randburg, where I'm designing a process for synthesising gold nanoparticles as well as investigating bioleaching strategies.
On a more personal note, Bob Grewar and I will be getting married in December this year so any spare time is spent making wedding plans! ;) Regards, **Tamsyn Riddin** (Matric 2001)
- **Michelle Short** (Class of 2000) - my maiden name was Coupé. I work in the Computer Science & Information Systems Department at Rhodes University and have just been promoted to a Grade 8 Office Administrator post. I married Greg Short in 2006 and we had a daughter, Ruby Mia, in May 2007. She is now two and the light of our lives!
- Well after 8 years in London I decided 3 years ago to move to Auckland, New Zealand. I fell in love with a Kwi :-) and got married in May 2009. I also started my own freelance hairdressing business about a year ago and it's going really well. I'm in the process of building a website so watch this space :-) **Sarah Davies (Stern) 1991**
- Thank you so much for you postcard recently received. News you say?
Where should I begin, for I'm not sure what you already know?
Here goes: Matriculated 1962 and went immediately into junior typist position at the now no-longer-in-existence, Eastern Province Building Society, where I was employed for a number of years. Subsequently changed jobs and finally, after having moved to the Transvaal (one of my allocated two brain cells being on vacation at the time), married and had two children I returned to the Eastern Cape. Much history in between, all of which is mostly boring, somewhat sad and at this stage of my life, rather irrelevant.

Having divorced my first husband at age 35 I returned with my two children Wayne and Asher, to my roots and family in the good Eastern Cape and have been here ever since. I have no wish to reside anywhere else. Asher attended VG for many years and Wayne was a pupil at Graeme College until the wheels came off and I was politely requested to remove him to education farther afield.

I was employed thereafter as a legal secretary for many years (believed it or not, even did a bit of teaching at GADRA) at this point my remaining brain cell departed and I remarried a teacher this time, one Colin Steyn(ex Cradock), in which most often happy situation I still find myself.

Colin taught for many years at Nombuleleo School in Grahamstown and then had visions of uplifting the children attending the Farmer field School, situated in the Salem area. This necessitated my moving to the country (at this point the brain cell had returned for a short spell) and Colin became principal of the school, in which position he remained until he was almost totally worn out. Oh! Who would be a teacher? He is now thankfully, retired but I am still trying to work out how thankful yours truly is. We think slowly in Lower Albany.

The great thing about the move was that we were now living in the country, the place where I will always be happiest and where we have subsequently purchased a small farm, what joy!

I was a member of the Grahamstown hiking club at the time and did tremendous amount of footing it through the hills and dales armed with lots of coffee (for the record, my only liquid weakness) and masses of 2 minute noodles yukk! On these jaunts I became interested in tress and have progressed to the stage where I can now say hallo to most of them in the area on a first name basis. And here I feel I must take my hat off to those poor, patient beings that endeavoured, day after day frustrating day, to enlighten me regarding the mysteries of history, geography, physiology and indeed, a number of other unmentionable things. It was beginning to pay off a last, albeit having been a long time coming.

So now here I am living in paradise having traded in my lovely long nails, nail varnish, delicate white hands and (sometimes) sexy gear for chipped fingernails, blisters, calluses and the odd thorn in the backside. I can also now boast of being adept at trail blazing (having plotted, and hacked and chopped to a large degree, the initial Assegaai Hiking trail on the farm of my neighbours. I loved every minute of it. I also have a degree or feel that I should have, anyway in gardening, fence and gate repairing, cattle dipping and management and jointed cactus removal; not forgetting housework. Oh and just in passing I'm also a Granny.

So yes solid value, care, commitment, energy. I can honestly say that these are the most important things you taught me which I have, to the best of my limited ability, applied to my life the history lessons are no longer since a dim and distant memory (no reflection on dear Miss Mathie, though, for she had extremely difficult material to work with.) As for "Kitty" she was synonymous with VG and I shall always remember her with great fondness.

VG, may you go from strength to strength; bless all those who nurtured me for the many years I attended the school. I deem it a privilege to have been part of it.

Yours very sincerely

Jeannette Steyn (former Barnard, born Truter)

- Thank you for the post card received about 2 days after my 80th birthday. It's wonderful to hear that there are still good standards at VG. It seems as if the world has lost discipline and respect in general.
I completed Gr 12 in **1945**, wasted 2 years at Rhodes, but enjoyed them. In 1948 I joined the Standard Bank and worked there for 35 years. I retired in 1983. My elder's granddaughter is now at Rhodes and will be in her 3rd year of Social Science. The youngest granddaughter has started at Stellenbosch for a Science Course. My son is a pharmacist. I hope that all the survivors are well and enjoying life.
I have been a widow for 20 year, but life is still good and I'm blessed with a wonderful family. Thank you again and best wishes to all. **Marjory Levey (Poole)**

Outstanding Achievements:

- Michelle Cocks was a joint winner in the category Achiever Award for a Women Researcher in the area of Indigenous Knowledge
- Kim Bernard was second runner up in the category Best Emerging Young Scientist Award.
- Roanne Shay Keeton (1999) and Miranda Elaine Armstrong (1998). They received their PhD at the University of Cape Town this year.
- What a surprise when I received the post card from the old girls union. It is wonderful for a school to keep contact with their family like VG does. I matriculated in **1975**, and now 30 odd years into the future I still think of my wonderful days spent at VG. I will always remember Kitty, Miss Mathie, Miss Wood, and dancing Matilda. "I also have fond memories of Miss Clegghorn, that took us for typing, and her utter dismay at me not being able to pass typing, but if she is still around I would like her to know that I went on to get my typing after school at the Grahamstown technical college, and even typing diploma level three!!! What about our Biology teacher, we used to call him " Mussie" I can't remember his real name. Since leaving school I studied through UNISA and obtained a B Admin degree, specialising in tax. I married Louis van der Merwe and had three sons. The oldest is married with two adorable little boys. I spent three years in New York city with my husband in the Consulate. I am now living in Pretoria, and enjoying my little grand- sons tremendously. My third son was born in New York a good ten years after his brother, a real laat lammetjie. I still have two sisters in Port Elizabeth, Lauren Olivier and Syndie Williams both ex VG girls. I would love to hear from girls that where in matric during my year. Lots of love **Charlene van der Merwe (nee Boardman)**

- What a lovely surprise when I received the Christmas postcard. Actually, I often think fondly of VG, more so lately because it is now 40 years since I was in the final throes of writing the matric exams.

The one and only reunion I attended was the 25th and it was good to see the old school and renew old friendships again. Sadly we have not kept in touch since then. I do however keep up a sort of on and off correspondence with Miss Mathie and have on occasions been to Grahamstown to visit her. What a dear soul she is. And so interesting!

When I left VG at the end of **1968** I started work immediately as a Tracer at an engineering firm. While working there I attended part time and night classes and after 4 years qualified as an architectural technician. Not being able to find work with an architectural firm, I carried on learning all I could about the engineering side of things - civil, structural, a bit of mechanical and a smattering of electrical. I stayed with the same firm for almost 30 years, taking a break after a few years to join the PE Municipality in the sewerage (of all things!) department. From there I was transferred to the electricity department, got married (the first marriage, he has since died), had two children, girl and boy, in that order. Then back to the old firm until about 4 years ago. I now work part time for another consulting engineer, an ex-colleague. In addition to that, I run a B&B and also do all my husband's typing, drawing work etc - all on the computer.

I studied art while at VG but unfortunately no longer find the time to paint or draw. In fact it was Arnold Spies (he taught at Karinus Art Centre, sadly he committed suicide a while after I left) who suggested that I follow an architectural career. Thank you to him, I have been very happy in my work.

My husband and I regularly travel overseas - we are very interested in archaeology and pre-history, also the architecture of different countries. This year we have been to UK, including Ireland and during April and May spent 4 weeks in Turkey. We love tramping about the old sites and are thankfully still fit enough to reach even the most inaccessible ones. If there are any other Old Girls who have also been bitten by the travel bug, I would love to hear from them.

Both my children have done well for themselves - my daughter also qualified in Architecture and works behind me in the office, is married, no children but has 8 Border Collies and 2 cats, all trained and most of them champions - and my son lives in Joburg and works in the computer industry, also travelling all over the world.

Apart from all my other irons in the fire, I love photography and am very active in raising funds for our local voluntary association, Cat Care, who look after the needs of the feral cat population in PE.

If there is anyone out there who can put me in touch with Dorothy Slotboom and Beverley Wilcox, also from 1968, please contact me. I last saw Dorothy (Dodo we called her) in 1968 and Beverley (Bugsie) in 1971. Beverley married Alan Morris and I think they went to live in New Zealand. I know Dorothy married and was living in Cape Town, but not knowing her married name I have no way of finding her. They were two of the best friends I had at school and I would love to hear from them again. Kind regards **Helen White (Hattingh)**
- I matriculated in **1979**. I am **Chantal Simson nee Wessels**.

I live in Port Elizabeth and am a legal secretary working for an Advocate. I have 3 children and they are all still at school, the youngest being 9 years old. Will be so nice to hear news about all the other girls that matriculated in the same year. Looking forward to hearing some news.
- Hi Old Girls, **Zikhona Miso** here better known as Ziki! I matriculated at VG in **2004**. I then went to University in Pretoria to study Journalism. I am currently working at the SABC as a radio reporter for SAFM and Umhlobo wenene. I'm also a jazz singer in my spare time, I'm a vocalist for a jazz band called the 'Dominoes' and have performed at various parts of the country. This was just a small update, hope it will help.
- It has been awhile, and it is good to hear from you.

I matriculated in **2003**. I then went on to study a BA in Human Resource Management at the University of Port Elizabeth, which is now known as the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Graduated in April 2007 and currently busy with my honours in Labour Relations & Human Resources. Now I am currently working for Hewlett-Packard (HP) as their HR Graduate.

I am really happy and excited, that I got the opportunity to be working for a multi-national company, because the sky is the limit from now onwards.

Regards **Mmantai Lesoro**

To: VG Old Girls Union.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I am Ed Nuthall and I am married to **Brigid Ewan**, who is an old VG girl who originally grew up in a house with her parents in 18 Prince Alfred Street across the road from Rhodes residences. We have 3 grown up children, the eldest being our 31 year old daughter Jacki, who is married to David Barnard with no children yet. Jacki is qualified as a Chartered Accountant working for a firm of auditors here in Cape Town. Then there are our 28 year old twins, Andrew and Bronwen. Andrew became a father of twins in September this year, also a boy and girl. He has completed his studies at Cape Tech. doing a 3 year course in Retail Management and will be looking for a post next year. Bronwen is qualified as a Primary School teacher and is currently teaching at a private school in Table View called Chelmsford.

Brigid's sister Fiona, who I believe was also a VG girl, is married to Roger Rowett who is retired from a senior post he held with the Chamber of Mines in Gauteng. They now live in George after first living in 18 Prince Alfred Street after the death of their mother Dorothea Ewan. Fiona and Roger also have 3 children, the eldest Leila resides and teaches in Australia, the second eldest lives in England, and the youngest, Paul qualified at Stellenbosch University and currently has a marketing post with a Private Game Lodge somewhere in the Eastern Cape. Fiona is a very good artist like her farther, Alfred was. Her paintings hang in board rooms of some large corporate companies as well as embassies of various nations. She has her own web site and sells thru various galleries in different areas of the country. It is unfortunate that Fiona has developed an illness called Tinitus which must be very unpleasant having a constant buzzing sound in the ears. Otherwise, everyone is in good health.

Well that is about all I can tell you but on behalf of Brigid she wishes to thank for the greeting card that arrived by Snail Mail in 6 days from date of post mark. Not Bad???. One of the plans I have for the future is to get email installed at home, then Brigid will be able to communicate in 21st century style.

I have also learnt something from your greeting card, I did not know that a education institution could qualify for a Proudly South African grading?

With Kindest Regards,

Yours Truly, Ed Nuthall

Ziphozihle Mabindla, an old Victorian of 2006. I started as scholar at VGHS in 2002(grade 8) when Mr Barnard was the principal and matriculated in **2006** where we were managed by Mrs Schoeman.

I am now at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, doing a Bachelor in Accounting Degree. As the year has ended now I am no longer a second year, I will now be doing my final year in Bcom Accounting(God willing). One thing that I will never forget about VG is all the morals we were taught. Ms Mc Crindle's favourite saying "Its about maintaining your image", and Mrs L'Ange "lovies, you better watch out, guys are dangerous", and of course Mrs Schoeman, "You must not be a leech, don't always take, and take, in life you must also give". I will forever be a Victorian, even in the corporate world, as what I learnt whilst at VG has and will groom me to be a strong and successful woman. The Victorian spirit was planted in me, and is definitely a growing seed that will prosper.

Sybil Enid Kopke (nee Jury) is my mother and matriculated at VG in **1958**. She lives with my father, Desmond Kopke, in Port Alfred.

Lyn Dee Bonifacio (nee Kopke), matriculated in **1982** and live in Jozi with my husband Carlos and our surprise baby, Charles. Charles is now a year old and my pregnancy at 42 came as a

big shock but he the most adorable blue eyed blond and the light of our lives. He is also my parent's only grandchild so we are all blessed indeed.

I am a JD Edwards consultant and have been working for Deloitte for the past 6 years or more. We also have an apartment in Port Alfred and will be enjoying a well earned break there this festive season.

Ann Graham Haselau matric year 1959. Have just retired from the Kwazulu-Natal University. And am going overseas to do carework for awhile. Live in Pietermaritzburg My sister Mary May Davidson (Haselau) matric year 1961 (I think) Mary May has just retired from the Library in East London and she and her husband Ian are living with me for the moment.

Lynette Smit nee McKenzie matric year 1966 I have 4 grown up children and 3 grandchildren. I run a baby clinic which I thoroughly enjoy.

Thank-you for the postcard which i (**Lorraine Nel...nee McLean....matriculated 1990**) received via my brothers who are still in Grahamstown. I am currently in the process of relocating from East London to Port Elizabeth. I have been living in East London for the past 12 years & been working for a radiology practice dealing with all their admin work for all their MVA & IOD cases. I got married to Anton Nel in 1996 who lectured at the Buffalo City College & studied part time to qualify as a electrical engineer. Thus our move to Port Elizabeth as he has taken up a post with a consulting engineering firm. We have one daughter, Stephanie, born June 1999 & who will be attending Collegiate Junior (all girls!!) in PE in 2009. When I think of VGHS I think of Mr Long & his famous saying: "The more you put in, the more you will get out". How true. I have even taught Stephanie that. The more she puts into her school work & everything she does the better the results. Thank-you very much for your correspondence. L.Nel

My matric year was 1964. I was **Doreen Breetzke, now Doreen Shand**. I have been living in Cape Town for the past 31 years. I have not taught for many years and find the home, family and business matters as well as voluntary work keep me very busy. My sisters Audrey Barnard and Yvonne Briscoe live at Kenton on Sea. We had the very sad loss of our sister Val Wood who was living in UK at the time, after they had lost their farm in Zimbabwe. My husband Mike is a civil engineer who is formally retired but still continues to work as a consultant. Our son Brian is married to Olivia and they have 14month old Jonathan. They live in Cambridge, UK where she is a surgeon and Brian is a Computer scientist. Our daughter Lindsay is married to Barry and they moved to settle in Cape Town at the end of last year after 5 years in Johannesburg and a year of travel. I am always pleased when there is a VG Old Girls get together here. The last one was well attended. Look forward to hearing more about some of the old girls I knew. Many thanks for keeping the records going.

Thank you for the Post card that I received, and thank you to all that are keeping the Old Girls involved in the precious school that has largely shaped us into what we have become. Just a short bit of my news: I studied at Stellenbosch University and obtained a degree in Sport Science as well as a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. In 2008 I taught at Somerset College in Somerset West and will be starting a new teaching position at St Anne's Diocesan College in January 2009. I have kept up my passion for sport and continued my hockey dreams making Western Province u21 and Women's teams but realizing that you cannot play hockey professionally in this country and so pursued a career as my number one priority and keeping hockey close by just playing provincially. I hope to do the same in playing for Natal this year. Have a good year! **Robyn Pearson (2003)**

How delightful to receive your postcard and to get news from my Alma Mater. I matriculated in 1954 and completed my degree in Science at Rhodes. Consequently I spent many happy hours in Grahamstown. Since then I have taught both in Zimbabwe and Namibia, lectured to would-be teachers in Zimbabwe and kick started the Young Scientists' programme in Namibia

in order to increase the number of youngsters to pursue a career in the broader field of science.

I have also managed a large U.S.Aid project on Environmental education for several years in Namibia. Currently I am retired and live in Cape Town. Would love to track some of my friends who were at V.G. with me Sincerely **June Horwitz**

My name is **Nadine Bailie** and I matriculated from Victoria Girls' High School in **2003**.

I have studied at Stellenbosch University over the last 5 years (BA Sport Science and PGCE)

I am responding to the post card which was sent to me at the end of last year.

I came over to England on the 1st of January 2009 and am currently teaching at Brighton College in Brighton. I will be helping in the games department, English and RS (Religious Studies). I will be here for the next year or two, depending on how things go / work out.

Please keep my address as is, since my dad will ensure that all necessary post gets to me.

Kind regards to a wonderful, successful school!

Completing matric in **2006** was a major achievement in my life and was greatly recognised by my family. I learnt a lot of leadership and responsibility during this year and it gave me direction. I served on the Functions, Socials and Academic Support Committees where I also had a chance to give insight and provide them with some of my ideas on how things could be done.

I would like to thank all the teachers for their support I enjoyed school very much it was an experience to treasure and never forget.

In 2007 I attended Gdra Business and Computer Studies Centre where I was allowed the opportunity to further my studies the course consisted of 6 subjects with the Qualification being International the Examinations were set by Pitman, but the name of the Qualification is City & Guilds who have taken over from Pitman.

This provided me with a chance to apply for Internship at Rhodes University where I applied and was successful in applying. After being short listed I wrote six tests which I passed and these six tests were all my strengths, because we were tested on different elements. After the tests I went for an interview and was chosen as an Intern out of 13 candidates, because only 10 were taken. I started working at The Data Processing Unit at Eden Grove doing data capturing and after 7 months a post was advertised for a Data Capture Clerk in the Office I was working in I Applied and out of the 5 Candidates I was the successful one. **Melanie Appollis**

Thank you for the post card at the end of last year - the school is looking good. **Brenda Weir - 1967**

I am an old girl from VG and left in **1967**. We have a B & B which my husband manages and I am still the Functional head at the Lyttelton Clinic in Centurion which is part of Tshwane.

I hope all is well at VG. It's always nice to hear news from Grahamstown and especially VG.

Regards **Anne Hide (Nee Wright)**

Keri Pheasant (married name: Woods) Matriculated in **1999**.

Lived in America for a year working as an Au Pair, worked in UK as a Carer, and lived in Denmark for 6 months. Married in Sept 2006. Graduated 2008 BA Social Work (Hons) and currently work at FAMSA PE. Thanks for the updates. Nice to see what old class mates are up to:) Regards, Kerl

I matriculated in **1978** with Elsbeth Dixon (can't believe it was 30 years ago!). My maiden name was Wells. Ess and I still see other and chat regularly but I have really lost touch with everyone else. Ess and Nadine Tarr and I had lunch last year. **Janette Cumming** Director - Paracon SA (Pty) Ltd

Dear VG family,

I graduated in **1973**. I then went to Addington hospital in Durban and did a four year nursing diploma in general nursing, psychiatric nursing and midwifery. I then did private nursing in Johannesburg for a while before traveling around Europe for three months. I then did a year at the Natal Technikon in Durban, studying Community Health nursing. I worked as a factory nurse with BlueBell Wrangler until I left to go to live in America with my husband in 1982. I married Gavin McGown, an orthopaedic surgeon in October 1980 in Durban. I lived in Houston, Texas, for ten years before moving to Nacogdoches, (East Texas) in 1992. (the town where the space shuttle, Columbia, exploded over on reentry into earth's atmosphere) We had two sons while living in Houston. The eldest Andrew, was born in August 1983, and he will graduate at the end of May this year with a degree in Fine Art (film). He plans on going to Hollywood to seek fame & fortune. My second son, Simon, born in April 1987, graduated from university in December last year with a degree in architecture. He plans on going to graduate school in August to study for his Masters degree in Architecture. He is engaged to be married in 2010, and hopes to come to South Africa on his honeymoon. My husband has been retired for eight years now, after working as the director of the Emergency Room (Casualty) for the time we have lived in America. I did my nursing exams when I arrived in Texas, but have never worked, having chosen to be a stay at home Mom. We have traveled quite a lot: Europe, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and of course to South Africa many times as we still have family there.

We have driven passed Victoria Girls High several times over the years, but it was always during South African school holidays, so never stopped and visited. I wish you continued success, and I thank you for keeping in touch. **Roslynn McGown** (nee Moorcroft), USA

My name is Teheré, (Larkin, Rautenbach) now Hempstead. I was at VG FROM **1980 - 1983** (Std 7 to Matric) - I did not complete the matric year due to having a baby. Josh was born in September 1983, he is now 25years old and has just had his 1st child, Kayl who is now 9 months old. I am married, and living in Port Elizabeth, we moved to EC, in August last year, after living in Gauteng for the last 15years or so, including a 18 months stint in Cape Town. I am a Research and Information Planning Officer.

Thank you for getting in contact and for the card over Christmas which I received via my parents.

Tehere Hempstead

I thoroughly enjoyed my 20 year reunion in September 2008. The school looks much better than when we were there as the first Std 8 class in the new building. The gardens look amazing and all of the artwork and decor inside makes it really homely and filled with character. The marimba band was also really great, and much more in line with the times than the strict, stiff and starchy Orff Orchestra in which I played. Well done! I have been in Johannesburg since 1995 and I am married to Michael with 2 children, Douglas (5) and Hollie (3). Many thanks. Regards, **Georgia** Brown (nee **Wylie**) **1988**

Thank you for the PC received via my Moms address in December! Its taken me that long to send this email! How fast time goes by. My matric year was **1979**, nee **Natalie Anderson**, I have been in Cape Town since 1981. I have two daughters. Carmen is 3rd year Stellenbosch University and Kirsty Grade 11 at Edgemead High School. I have been running my own Picture Framing business, Nat-Art, since 1988. For the last 7 years have owned Nat-Art Self Catering Accommodation (3 units) and now I also run another Guest House (6 units) down the road in Edgemead.

I think that's all! I would love to get mail from VG as its really nice to keep in touch.

Kind Regards Natalie Huth

SPECIAL NEWS

Rene May wrote: On the **10th October 2008**, the Benoni City Times published a photo of Lois Bassett with an account of her unique achievements, entitled, "Swimming South Africa honours Lois Bassett" by Jarrod Cross, will be sending this article to you, fast mail.

The trophy is a heavy solid glass mould, with blue swirls of glass in the centre, very unusual. Lois, at the age of 81 years, donned her wet suit to be in the pool with her young learners for whom she has a committed passion. Sadly, she was diagnosed with cancer recently and had been receiving Chemotherapy, but due to the toxic consequences of this treatment, it interfered with her swimming commitments and she has discontinued the treatment. I, personally believe due to the toxic complications, she made the right decision, she is a brave unique lady. It is with deep sadness to let you all know Lois Bassett passed away on Monday 27th July 2009.

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Swimming South Africa honours Lois Bassett

Jarrold Cross

Benonian Lois Bassett was rewarded with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, at the Telkom Swimming South Africa Annual Aquatics Awards evening, last Saturday, at Vodaworld, near Midrand.

Bassett was contacted two weeks prior to the awards and asked if she would be able to attend the function, as she had been nominated for an award.

Bassett's passion for swimming started as a child, and she progressed to become both a provincial backstroke swimmer and provincial diver for the Eastern Cape Province.

Her love of swimming then progressed to a coaching/teaching career upon moving to Benoni, where she started the Benoni North-erns Swimming Club (today known as the Benoni Amateur Swimming Club).

Bassett has been involved in schools swimming, having coached at both St Dunstan's and Rynfield Primary School.

At the Benoni Amateur Swimming Club, Bassett nurtured the likes of Charlene Wittstock, Clair Archibald and Megan Scott - all of whom have represented their country at senior level swimming - in the early stages of their careers.

More recently, Bassett has given her time to the development of swimming for less privileged children, offering her services voluntarily for institutes such as Kids Haven, as well as children from underprivileged areas.

"I am proud to say that I have been fortunate to save hundreds of lives by teaching youngsters the life skill of swimming," said Bassett.

"The announcement of a nomination for a lifetime achievement award came as a very welcome surprise and it was a privilege to be called up on the evening to accept the award."



Benoni's Lois Bassett proudly displays her Swimming South Africa Life Time Achievement Award.

Obituaries

Lois Bassett, School Captain 1945 and Founder of JHB Old Girls' Union passed away on Monday 27th July 2009 after a long battle with cancer.

Quote: "I think that VG has lost one of its most remarkable 'Old Girls' may she Rest in Peace."
Rene May (ex VG 1950 Irene Pannell)

Jackie Baines, VG 1990 passed away on the 12th of July 2009.

Submitted by MyPortAlfred on Fri, 17/07/2009 www.myportalfred.co.za

PA teacher will be sorely missed

Port Alfred High School staff and pupils alike were deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the tragic death of popular Life Orientation teacher, Jacqui Baines, following a brain hemorrhage suffered en route to a Port Elizabeth hospital on Saturday night.

Baines, who joined the staff at PAHS some six years ago, proved herself an excellent gymnastics coach and successfully ran the gymnastics club at the school for a number of years. She taught exclusively in the High School (Grades 7 to 12) and was involved in coaching athletics and hockey.

She recently completed her second Comrades' Marathon and was often seen running along the streets of Port Alfred, a lone dedicated figure with seemingly boundless energy.

According to headmaster, Clive Pearson, Baines was a highly qualified teacher who was well-liked by her pupils.

"During the last two years, particularly, she showed remarkable resilience in overcoming a number of serious obstacles," Pearson added. "She will be sorely missed by staff and learners at school."

Baines' popularity was evident this week in the many posts left on the Facebook group website, "Rest In Peace – Jacqui Baines" at www.facebook.com.

The following two posts seem to sum up everyone's feelings: "I loved this teacher so much, guys. She can rest now, no running and training, she already won the race. The best race... the race to heaven.

Gonna miss you, ma'am"; and "You always knew exactly what to say to give us the motivation we needed and you believed in us even when we didn't believe in ourselves." - JANET HYDE

Mrs Violet Jenkins, died just before Christmas 2008. She was **vice-principal of VG from 1958 to 1970** - if you look at page 114 of "True Valour", the school history, you will see that she was very much involved and many of the old girls of the 60s will remember her.

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