

## *MESSAGE from the President of The Guild - Jan Ross (Mullins, 1980)*

This year has flown by and once again it is time to send out The Girdle with news of Old Girls from around the globe. It is wonderful to see this publication growing and more women sending us their updates.

The Guild year has been an interesting one with a lot of work being done on the database and finding some of the girls on the "lost" list. Thanks to the Foundation Office for all their work in this regard. I have really enjoyed making contact with some of the women on the lost list and hearing about where they are now. I will continue working on this and hopefully find some more Old Girls with whom we have lost contact. Please remember to keep us up to date with any new details and, if you know of an old girl who moves home or gets married and changes their surname, please let us have their new details.

After much soul-searching, it was decided to retire the Centenary chapel kneelers which are now 45 years old! We have managed to make contact with many of the owners and have either returned them or been given permission to use them in a large mural or to send them to the Leeuwenbosch church – the home farm of the Fowlds/Birrell families.

We are having great response to functions organised in some centres and hope to be able to come to some other towns in the near future. We would be so grateful if you would be prepared to host a tea or lunch in your home and you would have full support from the Office. It does not have to be a big function to be worthwhile and fun.

Everything of the very best to you all from a thriving school and active Guild.

Kind regards  
Jan

## *Julie Streicher (Norden, 1965)*

Julie Streicher has moved from Cape Town to Lone Hill, Johannesburg, to be near her son Danny and family. She says Johannesburg is an exciting place, with no end of things to do and lovely people to meet. She is continuing her work as an English language editor and has joined Red Trumpet, a company specialising in language, communication and design.



### *Susan Lucas (Moss, 1979)*

We (the 79ers) knitted squares all over the world and then joined them all up to make a blanket in memory of Lynette Jolly and gave it to them when they were out from Australia in December to scatter her ashes at the Rubidge's Wellwood Farm outside Graaff Reinet.



*Pictured above is Jeff, Nic and Kate Jolly with Jenny Slack (Elliott) and myself.*

### *Gail Charley (Murdoch, 1982)*

Class of 1982

Gail Charley (Murdoch) lives in the UK and works in London. Gail visited Grahamstown in March and met up with Jocelyn Wortley (Mullins) for a tour of the school. It was a nostalgic visit, particularly sitting in the choir stalls in the Chapel, we both appreciated seeing all the positive changes. The school is looking lovely.

Gail travelled to Stellenbosch where she met up with Lola Nicholls (Hunting) on her wine farm, Mitres Edge, for a personal wine tasting and wine blending day; highly recommended to anyone visiting Stellenbosch and wishing to support a DSG Old Girl.

Early warning: 2022 is the 40th anniversary for the Class of '82 and I intend to contact as many girls as possible, with the help of the Guild, to make it a very special occasion.

### *Kim Hough (Whittaker, 1978)*

My husband, Jan and I moved from London, UK to Plettenberg Bay in 2017. We have a large house overlooking the vlei and live in one half and rent out the other half for holiday lets. Jan is a retired medical physicist. I still do freelance desktop publishing work and get to play a lot of Bridge! Robberg beach, a short 2 minute walk from the house, is where we walk our three very spoilt, Toy Poodles.

My mom has just moved into a townhouse up the road and my sister, Lisa, still lives on the family farm 7 kms away. We expect my other sister, Jodi, to join us here when her husband retires in 18 months' time. We are very blessed!

I recently went to the 1978 leavers' reunion with two best friends from school, Marike Viantis (Rawsthorne) and Barbara Hall (Lawrence), who had travelled from Hong Kong and Australia respectively. What a wonderful time we had catching up with the few Old Girls and St Andrew's boys who attended!

### *Elizabeth Trace (Rivett Carnac, 1955)*

I have just turned 80 and had the most wonderful series of birthday parties for friends from various 'Compartments of our Life'.

Instead of gifts, I asked for donations to two charities I am interested in - and I can't tell you how much more enjoyable and satisfying it was than receiving presents we no longer need or even want at our age. The joy and sense of purpose I experienced in helping these charities truly surprised me, especially on discovering that both projects were in dire need of a cash injection for important projects: Rape Crisis does wonderful work offering caring counselling and support to survivors of rape, incest or childhood trauma. They were in dire need of a Security System for their Charity Shop which provided most of their income, as it was being regularly burgled. I thought Old Girls might be interested in this, as an alternate way to celebrate one's birthday.

Masikhule run training courses for unemployed women, as well as crèches and pre-schools, and they needed money to produce an Afrikaans "A is for Apple, B for Banana" type aid, to teach preschool children the basics of reading.

Apart from that, my husband, Crispian and I are both fit and well, visit our old haunts and friends in Zimbabwe regularly, and are loving our new home in Helderberg Village in Somerset West. Our children Jaci (Trace) van Heteren and family have a wonderful life owning and managing game lodges, with their daughter Savannah a continual source of joy, and their twin boys Tristan and Dane at Maastricht University in Holland, having a ball and also passing their exams! James and his family live in Johannesburg. He is involved in developing a computer programme to measure the thickness of mining sieves, and both his sons are doing extremely well at school.

### *Lucia Toich (2000)*

Lucia now lives in Cape Town with two of her sisters who are also Old Girls, Maria and Rosa. She is an attorney and works as a Client Account and Business Development Manager for Cognia Law, a next-generation legal services company. She is working on the leading-edge, providing innovative and technology-augmented legal services to clients in South Africa, UK and USA. She is getting married to her long-time partner, Brett Quy, in 2019 and plans to start a family soon.

### *Nan Hyslop (Murray, 1961)*



My three sisters were with us for our fiftieth wedding anniversary.

*Pictured from left to right: Jan, Rose, Nan and Sue.*

### *Margaret Dicey (Hutton, 1960)*

Lynne Siesser née Gradwell and I spent twelve years together at DSG, matriculating in 1960. Lynne was Headgirl. We went on to the Grahamstown Training College, whereafter Lynne taught at Prep, while I went to teach in East London.

We met up again teaching in Cape Town. We went to live in New Zealand, and Lynne and her husband Bill went to Nashville. We had the most wonderful catch up this June.

Here we are outside their home. We're travelling around the States in our pick up which you can see behind us.

We're both descended from 1820 Settler families.

How about a reunion for our 1960 class?



### *Inge Harding-Barlow (1949)*

I want to thank you so very much for the lovely card and wishes for my 80th Birthday!

My years at DSG were happy ones. My first year 1947 was eventful – the murder of two of my classmates and the Royal Visit! Question - has the DSG Cookbook we sent for the Royal Wedding ever been re-printed in this version? I still have my 3 class prize books, plus my DSG blazer pocket badge, plus an Old Girl's brooch.

I became a Junior Lecturer in Chemistry at UCT in 1969 and got my PhD there in 1961. I think I may have been one of DSG's first PhDs, certainly in Chemistry. I think Jennifer Loggie in the year above me, became a medical doctor. Because I worked for many years as a Toxicologist, I am usually known as Dr.

As you know, in 1961 there were very few overseas scholarships available to women (no Rhodes scholarships, etc). I was lucky enough to get one of the only 9 AAUW (American Association of University Women) post-graduate scholarships, then available, worldwide. However, I may not have been the first DSG woman to receive one of these scholarships. I know Molly Brown, who graduated from Rhodes and whose parents lived in Grahamstown, received one 5-7 years ahead of me, but I do not remember if she ever went to DSG. In between the two of us, as far as I know, no South African received a fellowship from AAUW.

After finishing my AAUW fellowship, I remained and worked in the USA. I received my permanent resident's "Green Card" in 1966, although I have kept my UK citizenship to this day.

In 1969 I worked on the first Moon Rocks, as soon as they came back to earth. The first South African, I think, to do so. My PhD professor only worked on them later.

I was lucky to travel worldwide as a Consulting Toxicologist. When I turned 70, I retired from being a Toxicology Consultant. However, when I was 74, I turned a hobby of mine into my second profession, namely, teaching History and Genealogy to 50+ adults. I hope to continue teaching and consulting on this topic until I am 90+.

Again many thanks for the card and the interesting stamp.

### *Andy Thesen (1975)*

I live in Cape Town, work as an editor and designer, married with two adult children.

### *Kirsten Ribbans (1989)*

After school, I studied law at UCT and worked as an attorney for a few years before completely changing course and turning to software programming.

In 2000, I moved to Zürich, Switzerland and now work at Swiss Life Asset Managers running the IT department.

I have an 11-year-old son, and live with my Swiss partner and his two children. We visit my family in Plett at least once a year, usually in April. My brother Kevin lives in Cape Town and is a music producer / DJ / lecturer. The photo on the right is of the two of us.



I am still in close contact with many of my DSG friends: Dorothee Schobert lives near me in Zürich, Juliet Bennett (Kroon) is a medical doctor and living with her family in the UK, and Mary Veale pops in to Zürich once a month for work. I see Nikki Spottiswoode, Deirdre Biggs and Alexa Todd when visiting SA. They are still my closest friends.

I am looking forward to seeing more old friends at next year's reunion!

### *Sarah Wehbe (Boshoff, 2010)*

My name is Sarah Wehbe nee Boshoff and I matriculated in 2010.

I have been teaching at the American School in Johannesburg and will be moving overseas to a more permanent post in the new year.

I have one son, Zane, who was born on 25th June 2018.

### *Lynne Siesser (Gradwell, 1960)*

We have lived in Nashville, Tennessee for 39 years. I was working as the Executive Assistant to the President of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center until my husband, Bill retired from Vanderbilt University (Geology Department).

We spent 2005 on a Grand Tour of the World, with the last six months of that year in the Village of Lavenham in Suffolk. On return to Nashville, I was not quite ready for retirement, so I joined the Retina Division of the Vanderbilt Eye Institute as administrator to the eye surgeons and co-ordinator of the fellowship programme.

In 2013 I retired, but continue with volunteer work and a great deal of bridge.

### *Yvonne Quin (Baines, 1957)*

I did my nursing training in Cape Town, then worked in Durban as a nursing sister.

I married Brian Quin in 1970. We farmed in the Harrismith district until 2007, when we retired to Howick, where we are still living. We have a son and two daughters, and 7 grandchildren.

### *Joan Kemp (Inglis, 1957)*

My husband (David Kemp) and I came to live in Perth, Australia in 2003, returned to Durban for 2 years and then came back to Perth at the end of 2007, making this our permanent residence now.

In Durban, we had a lovely flat overlooking the Umgeni River and ocean where we spent 3 months each winter, but have now sold that at the end of 2013. We miss our sojourns back to Durban, but the time comes when one has to make the final break. Our two daughters also live in Australia.

I am in contact with Delia Geddes (ne Kulling) who lives north of Sydney, but have lost touch with other DSG Old Girls. My other contact in Durban was with Rosa Smith, who died in March 2014.

### *Angela Rowe (Gay, 1956)*

We left South Africa in 1973 - the saddest day of my life! We had 2 children and now have 5 grandchildren all living within 5 miles of us, for which we are very grateful.

I attend the USA/North American OA/DSG reunion every year and this year had the honour of being asked to propose the toast to the DSG.

I would love to go back to see all the changes, but my parents are no longer alive. My dad was John Gay, who taught at St Andrew's for many years and as I was a day girl, I was always very popular around leave out days. I wonder if they still have them?

Hoping there is someone out there who will remember me.

### *Jean Taylor (Slater, 1964)*

One of the amusing stories from my time at the DSG (1957 to 1964) was one Saturday afternoon when three of us girls, who were in Espin House at the time, (Mrs Winkler was the Housemistress), were wishing for something sweet, so we decided to raid the 'sweet' cupboard. Although locked, this cupboard was never fully closed, as the tins were a bit larger than the shelves. Anyway, Julia de la Harpe was the look-out and Bev Shaw was holding the stool for me, so that I could get my hand into the top sweet tin – mine – and as I had my hand in the top, Julia said Mrs Winkler was on her way. I jumped off the stool and with nowhere to go, I ran into the toilet (Mrs Winkler's) and Bev and Julia jumped into the very large laundry baskets. I hid behind the door, but unfortunately this is exactly where Mrs W was heading. So guess who she found behind the door?

I think I was given a 'house mark' for this episode and a very stern warning not to do it again. Fortunately, Julia and Bev were not discovered and jumped out when the coast was clear. We all had a very good laugh about it.

Being a boarder at the DSG was a very happy time for most of us, as we had plenty of 'naughty' fun and went away with many good memories.

### *Annie Hughes (1967)*

We have lived and worked in Tasmania for the past 28 years. After 15 years, we sold our dental practice and travelled around doing locum work: Bahrain, Central and South Australia and around Tasmania.

During the last few years, we have worked on the islands north-east of Tasmania - Flinders and Cape Barren Islands. Luckily we worked together.

I catch up with Sally (Howell) Hawker once or twice a year. I'm in touch with most of my family that were at DSG and College, but have not heard from any class mates!! Sal has kept up with a few friends and it's always good to hear DSG news!

Our 6 grandkids keep us busy, though with 3 in South Australia and 3 in Brisbane, it's long distance travelling!!

I would love to know if any "Old Girls" live nearby or anywhere in Australia.

### *Yvonne Taylor (Castle, 1972)*

Myself, Lenni Wilson (nee Stampa) and Janet Gosling (nee Malcomess) from Matric 1972 class, met up for the first time on 22 May 2018, at the Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island British Columbia.

Here is a poem!

"Us DSG Old Girls once again in the fold  
A mention of teachers and what we were told  
Fond memories of school friends too many to mention  
Hope to stay fit when we receive our Pension

Us three ladies who resided in the house of Crewe  
Met in Victoria to find out what is new Janet  
has 7 grandkids from 8 to 1  
Lenni has 2 girls and Yvonne 2 big sons

From Pacific Northwest to those further east  
Again we may meet on another date and feast."



The poem was a joint effort... hope everyone likes it.

### *Jennifer Schaug (Dean, 1967)*

This is the first time I am writing for The Girdle. I enjoyed being in the DSG choir and going on tour.

Since I left, I was in the Rhodes Choir and our Church Choir in Cape Town, where I met interesting people and had great fun. I completed the Secretarial Practice course at Rhodes and worked for a property investment company in Cape Town.

I married an architect, Erik Schaug, and we lived for nine years in Bristol, England. Our son, Andrew, was born there. He now has his Ph.D. in Maths and is working in New York.

Erik, Andrew and I came back to South Africa when Mandela became president and we now live in Hout Bay. I have enjoyed training our German Shepherd and taking her for agility classes.

Erik and I spent some time traveling around the United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe and Norway, where Erik has relatives. Three of my nieces are also old girls at DSG. They are Alison, Debbie and Catherine Dean, now married and doing well.

I look forward to receiving The Girdle.

## *Class of 1980*

What a happy time we all had over a weekend in May!

Holly Hutchinson-Keip, Ros Paul (Fowlds), Debbie Loggie (Birrell), Debbie Horak (Thompson), Shirley Pittaway (Baker), Sally Ziegler (Allanson), Nicole Whyte (Bowker), Di Napper and Sally Purdon (Hart) were hosted by Andrea Semple (nee Hall) (and two friends Debs and Sue) in Elgin. Legs were sore from hiking (!!)

but ribs ached more from laughter. It was time spent as if never apart. A true reminder of how friends come together when needed most, such an incredible support group - treasured friendships.



## *Jocelyn Wortley (Mullins, 1982)*

I had the pleasure of meeting up with some dear friends this past year. Firstly Alison Jennett kindly flew in for the opening of my first solo art exhibition 'Move'. It was very special having my dancing friend from DSG days by my side at this exhibition that reflected on my journey in dance. Ali lives in Pretoria, where she teaches and runs Life-skills workshops for grades 4-7 from a number of different schools.

Next up was an impromptu reunion in Cape Town with a few friends. Loads of laughter and sharing of happy memories of our times at DSG were on the menu. Jane Hops (née Butler) lives in Plettenberg Bay with her partner Shaun. She has three children, all finished with UCT. She has a bakery in Plettenberg called Le Fournil and welcomes SAC and DSG Old Girls and OA's to sample their fare - and fine fare it is!

Kathi Minkley (née Bowker) is a physiotherapist and lives in Cape Town with her husband Mike and their two children, Ashley and James. Kathi and Mike enjoy cycling adventures around different parts of the world.

Genevieve Spalding (née White) lives in the UK with her husband Murray. She has two grown children - a daughter, Courtney, who lives close by and recently completed a Drama degree, and a son, Reece, who spent last year at Quest Africa near Grahamstown, and is now completing an apprenticeship in farming in the UK. Genevieve has her own interior design consultancy specialising in commercial interiors in London and the south of England, and more recently, a project has taken her to Florida to design a client's HQ office. Genevieve and I have just celebrated our 40th friendship anniversary. How brilliant is that?

And then I had a special walk around the DSG campus with Gail Charley (née Murdoch) and her husband, Sean. It was a perfect summer's day and the campus was looking beautiful, so much the same, yet so many changes adding value to our old school. We shared a quiet moment sitting in our old choir stalls. After the walk around, we managed a visit to the Highlander for a little something to quench our thirsts!

I am happily a Grahamstonian again, after living and working in the television industry in Johannesburg for over 20 years. I call myself a multimedia artist, as I love anything art and design. Although I haven't edited or produced any videos lately, that is still on the cards. I enjoy book layout design and am currently producing artworks via my iPad. Chris, my husband is a chemical engineer and our son, Ross, is a happy Rhodant studying 3rd year BSc Ichthyology with the hopes of sitting for Honours next year.

Please, if you find your way to Grahamstown, call in for a visit. I would love to catch up with old friends again.



## DSG Johannesburg Branch - Brunch on 28 July 2018

The Gauteng Guild spent a lovely morning walking and brunching in Johannesburg on Saturday, 28th July 2018.

They started off with a 5 km walk through leafy Parktown North and then treated themselves to a well-deserved brunch. It was wonderful to see ladies from a variety of ages in attendance on the sunny winter morning.

The ladies also had a special celebration for DSG's 144th birthday with delicious home-made cake. Every girl received a honey-infused lip balm made by our very own Margo Whyle of 'Whyle Bees' as a birthday treat.

We look forward to the next event, which is the [DSG Golf Day on the 19th October](#) at Parkview Golf Club.  
- Andrea Bassingthwaite (Crewe 2006)



From left to right: Julie Streicher (Norden), Andrea Bassingthwaite, Sandy Maree (Reynolds), Lu Dowell (Rance)



From left to right: Sarah-Jane Wilkinson, Julie Hayward, Ntombi Vabaza



## DSG Cape Town Branch - 9 August 2018

The DSG Old Girls in the Western Cape gathered for a wonderful brunch on Women's Day at The President Hotel. It was really well supported and was a great opportunity to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a while, as well as to meet DSG girls from other years.

We were privileged to have Gabi Lowe as our guest speaker. She is a truly remarkable and courageous woman. The way that she is forging on and honouring her daughter Jenna and changing the lives of so many is something we can all aspire towards.

We look forward to more events like this in the future.  
- *Simoné Blanckenberg (nee Lowe, Espin 1999)*



From left to right: Caroline Sullivan (Randon), Vanessa Randon, Jessica Allen, Taryn Augoustatos (Stone), Simoné Blanckenberg (Lowe)



Gabi Lowe



From left to right: Jessica Allen, Katie Davis (Niebieszcanski), Caroline Sullivan (Randon), Sarah Wilson (Bassingthwaite), Vanessa Randon, Nicole Nel (Ross)



From left to right: Megan Meyer, Lonwabo Godlo, David Wright, Sisanda Tshongwana, Jemma Houghton, Libby Meyer



From left to right: Sally Ziegler (Allanson), Helene Murning (Grundill), Di Napper, Jan Ross (Mullins), Kate Keey (Loggie)



From left to right: Annabelle Allanson, Dani Cuppleditch, Rozanne Allanson, Pippa Craig



The DSG 500 Club is an innovative fundraising initiative to raise funds for DSG's Bursaries and Scholarships Fund. As a member, you are generously supporting DSG's commitment to offering a life-changing education to many well-deserving young women who, through historical and financial limitations, would not otherwise be able to attend DSG. Membership also provides the opportunity for members to win cash prizes by way of monthly lucky draws.

Parents, staff, and DSG Old Girls are welcome to join.

### **How does it work?**

Membership is on a voluntary basis and is R520 per annum.

A percentage of the R520 annual membership fee is allocated to a cash prize pool. The balance is allocated to DSG's bursaries and scholarships fund.

Each 500 Club member receives a membership number. During each Club year, 12 lucky draws are conducted. The draws are scheduled at the end of every month. Members who have paid the current year's fees, will have their membership number/s added to the draws. The prizes are as follows:

1st R2 000 • 2nd R1 000 • 3rd R 750 • 4th R 500

Winners will be notified by email.

### **How to Join?**

To apply, complete the membership application form found [online](#) and return it to: The Administrator, DSG 500 Club, PO Box 194, Grahamstown, 6140

OR email to [foundation@dsgschool.com](mailto:foundation@dsgschool.com)



Swipe your MySchool Supporter Card when you shop at any of the many MySchool partners. Without costing you a cent, YOU can raise funds for DSG. They will donate a percentage of your spend to our school on your behalf, on a monthly basis.

Apply for your card by completing the application form found [HERE](#), and return it to the Foundation Office.

You can also apply online at [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za)

Remember to place The Diocesan School for Girls as the beneficiary!

## *Kenton get-together in December 2017*

A big group of Old Girls got together for an impromptu function held at Pizzarella in Kenton over the 2017 December holidays. Another one is planned for December 2018. Please let Jan Ross know if you'll be in the area to ensure you don't miss out on this fun event!



## *2018/2019 dates to diarise*

### **7 September 2018**

Southern Cape Branch Function

### **29 September 2018**

USA Dinner

Mpumalanga Branch Function

### **18 October 2018:**

UK Dinner

### **19 October 2018:**

Gauteng Golf Day

### **25 October 2018:**

Gauteng Branch Function

### **1 November 2018:**

Graaff-Reinet Branch Function

### **2 November 2018:**

Bedford Branch Function

### **16 November 2018:**

Cape Town Branch Function

### **23 November 2018:**

1958 and 1968 Reunion

## *Other Links*

[Old Girls Website](#)

[The Guild Facebook page](#)

[LinkedIn page](#)

## **FOUNDATION OFFICE**

Old Girls can contact us to update contact details, submit news or obtain information on reunions and branch events.

Tel: 046 603 2360

Email: [foundation@dsgschool.com](mailto:foundation@dsgschool.com)

Fax: 046 603 2354

Website: [www.dsgfoundation.com](http://www.dsgfoundation.com)

Please visit the [Event page](#) on our website for notifications about events in your region.

**The Girdle is also available in electronic version!**

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