



St MARY'S

Old Girls' Guild

ISSUE 1

2017 NEWSLETTER

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New year New beginnings...



**DERRY JURGENSEN
nee SWAIN
Old Girls' Guild Chairlady**

*W*E always start the new year refreshed and full of ideas for what lies ahead.

This year is no different, especially as I start my fifth year in this role. We have seen several developments and changes

over the last four years and especially in the society in which we live and work. Media and news is instant - and we expect things to be instant. The inclusion of the Old Girls' news and happenings in the St Mary's magazine was well received at the end of each year; however, with the changes in technology we have an opportunity to update you with Old Girls' news more frequently. In keeping with the digital world we live in, and bearing in mind the sustainability of our planet, we will be reaching out to you and keeping you informed by way of a new digital newsletter three times a year. This being our first issue!

The new term welcomed back some old faces with their new and eager little, and not so little, girls onto the School campus. It is always lovely to have the Old Girls involved on the Committee. This is our way of giving back to the school - in service to the school and our community - and ensuring that our beautiful school is a happy and giving place for our daughters to cherish.

Our annual fundraising event is "The Irish Gastronomical Pub" which will be held at Bellevue Café on 24 June 2017. Thank you to our talented Victoria Verbaan (1996) for her painting of our fantastic Irish Fox (pictured) and designing our invitation. We are grateful to our three sponsors for the evening, all of whom have been involved for the last couple of years. The committee has been working hard to identify sponsors for silent auction items - please contact me if you would like to sponsor an item (derrybj@telkomsa.net). Bookings are open for the event.

A big thank you to Lauren Rapson, our dedicated and talented Old Girls' Administrator, who compiled this newsletter and constantly finds innovative ways of reaching you. Please send Lauren your news and pester your classmates to send in their profiles. We love hearing about your achievements, both in business and life.

Regards

Derry



*Irish Gastro Pub Evening
24 June, Bellevue Café*

OLD GIRLS: MOMS & Daughters

A special group of girls join St Mary's while their moms (and Granny) get to enjoy the Saints life once more.



Beth Marchand nee Collingwood (1998) and Grace



Robyn o'Donovan nee Polkinghorne (1993) with Megan and older sister Hannah



Bonita Cherry nee Wright (2003) and Mila



Sarah Walker nee Morgan (2003) and Rebecca



Emily Morgan nee Munro (1960) and grand-daughter Kate



Carla Strachan nee Dales (1987) with Tessa, Candice and little sister, Georgina



Jolene Goveia nee Black (1995) with Geena and older sister Isabella



Michelle Brown (1992) with Lara and Megan



Nicolette Mare nee Wilson (1995) and Elizabeth

Sarah Swart

Class of 2002

SARAH Swart attended the University of KwaZulu-Natal and completed her LLB degree in 2007 Summa Cum Laude. She completed her LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa from the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria in 2008 with distinction, being awarded prizes for best dissertation and first in class. During her LLM she participated in advocacy for the new Children's Act and interned at a Human Rights NGO in Accra, Ghana.

Since February 2009 she has been employed at the Pretoria Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, firstly as a Legal Assistant and, from November 2011, as the Regional Legal Advisor. In this post, she supports 13 African governments in their implementation of International Humanitarian Law, otherwise known as the law of armed conflict, or the law of war.

Sarah has published five articles on issues related to International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, including on refugees and on nuclear disarmament. She has participated in numerous short courses, including on Refugee Law at the University of Witwatersrand (2010), on Human Rights and Transitional Justice at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands (2014) and on legislative drafting at the University of Pretoria (2014). Sarah is also a member of the South African branch of the International Lawyers Association.

Aside from enjoying reading and travelling in Africa, Sarah's passion is Thrive, the registered non-profit organisation which she founded in 2015 and chairs.

"Don't underestimate the role you can play in South Africa and the contribution that you can make..."

Thrive's mission and aim is to restore hope for the country's future through the provision of financial support to current and prospective students of tertiary institutions in South Africa.

Sarah was the Guest of Honour at the 2016 High School Awards Evening and inspired girls, parents and staff alike with her message, *"I think perhaps my slight obsession with hope for the future started right in the St Mary's Amphitheatre, many, many, many years ago. All I remember is sitting there for an SCA meeting, being encouraged to write bible verses on little colourful pieces of paper and to stick them literally everywhere, and the verse that most of us were fixated on was Jeremiah 29 v 11, which I'm sure many of you know: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Such a beautiful verse, full of promise. Promise not only for a future, but a future we can have hope in. I firmly believe that in being ordinary, we can be extraordinary. Don't underestimate the role you can play in South Africa and the contribution that you can make, even if you're not President of the world."

Founded in 2015, Thrive aims to provide opportunities to young South Africans who have a desire to further their studies but who cannot afford to do so. Following an application process, successful students are provided with financial support calculated on a needs and affordability basis. In addition, Thrive students may, upon request, be allocated a mentor who is positioned to provide academic and/or spiritual support. Thrive aims to facilitate both the acquisition of industry knowledge and the soft skills required to succeed in a particular industry. Once a student has graduated, s/he is required to give back to Thrive either through financial contributions or by mentoring younger students.

Thrive is founded on the premise that cumulatively ordinary citizens can make extraordinary contributions to the lives of young people.



To learn more or get involved in this powerful initiative please visit:
www.thrive4education.co.za
 and [Facebook.com/thrive4education](https://www.facebook.com/thrive4education)

Taelin Wilford

Class of 2014

"St Mary's really was the best thing I could have done for my education and I really do owe my achievements to the incredible education I got while I was there. I have such a deep love for the school and for all the girls and teachers there."

Being an Honours student, Taelin had the unique privilege to apply for the Cambridge University Pembroke-King's Direct Enrolment Programme, which is a very prestigious and difficult programme to be accepted into. She had to write a series of essays, and asked about six faculty members to write letters of recommendation. She was then deeply humbled to receive early admission and three different academic scholarships to sponsor 100% of her Cambridge University school fees, meal plan, Kings College housing, and even trips into London. Taelin has also been awarded about \$4,000 to write her Honours thesis while at the university, as well as working one-on-one with a Cambridge Professor while taking classes. The working title of her thesis is "A Criticism on South African Law through the motif of Animals in South African Literature."

STRAIGHT out of High School, Taelin received a scholarship to attend Brigham Young University in America where she studied English Literature with a double minor in Communications and Editing. She was then honoured to be selected as Lead Editor and Writer for the Chemigram, a prestigious Academic University Journal specifically for the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department at BYU. After that Taelin became the PR/ Communications specialist for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at BYU at only 19 years old.

Taelin would love to inspire current and future girls with her accomplishments, "St Mary's really was the best thing I could have done for my education and I really do owe my achievements to the incredible education I got while I was there. I have such a deep love for the school and for all the girls and teachers there. St Mary's really was the perfect platform that helped me to achieve these incredible things. I would just like to thank Mrs (Patricia) Meyer and the school for their part in getting me to where I am today."

Old Girls' Day 2017

5 August



St MARY'S
Old Girls' Guild

Save the Date



Archives Team

**VICKI MARNOCH nee WHEELWRIGHT (1970)
& PAT OLIVIER (HONORARY OLD GIRL)
Old Girls' Guild Archives**

VICKI is a passionate Old Girl who has served on the Board and Old Girls' Guild Committee for many years. Her commitment to St Mary's is unbounded and there isn't a week that goes by when Vicki is not at school, updating information, ferrying photographs or updating Archives. Her dream is to revamp the Archives. Vicki has an uncanny memory for detail, not only from her own school days but from earlier and later periods as well. She is our "Google" of St Mary's Old Girls.

Pat Olivier taught History at St Mary's for over a decade. On retiring in 2003, she jumped straight into the role of Archivist at the school where she has been for the last 13 years. In 2006 Pat and her team completed the "May here forever flourish and abound" Centenary History Book to mark the 100th year of St Mary's DSG. This project took years of gathering, interviewing, sorting and filing information.

"Without doubt, it was the Old Girls' commitment to the school and its past, and their enthusiasm for the project, that was a constant source of inspiration."

The ladies gather photos, news clippings and memorabilia each week and pour hours into the sorting and collecting of St Mary's history. The team's dream is to establish a museum to preserve the history of St Mary's where Old Girls, current and prospective pupils and family can experience the legacy that is St Mary's. Until then the Archives room is a buzz of activity on Tuesdays. If anyone would like to visit the Archives and chat to the dedicated team, please drop us a line on 031 764 9803 or oldgirls@stmarysdsq.co.za

Upcoming Event



The Guild of St Mary's Old Girls invites you to

Irish Gastro Pub Evening

an evening of scrumptious food and all things

Irish

Date: Saturday 24 June 2017

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Bellevue Café

Dress: Smart

Tickets: R400 per person

For Bookings contact :

Derry Jurgensen - derrybj@telkomsa.net





Wendy Griffith nee Dent (2000)
welcomed baby daughter, Jessica Louise on 9 November 2016

Kathleen Eggers nee Clay (2003)
got married on 1 October 2016



Ceire Turner nee Pearson (2006)
married Angus Turner on 17 December 2016.
Living in Perth they enjoyed a honeymoon in South Africa in January and at the end of February, they started a 4 month trip, living in a camper-van and travelling and working around the outback of Western Australia! Her husband will be working in rural and regional communities as an eye doctor and Ceire will be cooking and teaching the locals about healthy eating!



#TEAMKAREN
**Samantha
Landers**

*Samantha Salomon nee
Landers (2004)*

recently blew judges and the audience away with her beautiful rendition of "Somewhere over the Rainbow" on The Voice South Africa. The Voice (M-Net, DStv) is a television music competition which seeks to find new singing talent. Samantha (performing under her maiden name) married Dominic Salomon on 12 March 2016 at Bellevue in Kloof.



Keren Kinsey (2013)

swam all 8 events over the Midmar Mile weekend in February 2017 for charity. Keren raised just short of R14000 in support of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation, whose mission is to teach more children about water safety and to halt the prevalence of drowning. Keren was amazed and touched by the support and care of St Mary's Old Girls from various years.



Kate Koenig (2010)

Kate studied personal training and then completed a BA Psychology through Unisa. After four hip surgeries, (cartilage tears in her hip) Kate finally made the SA Women's Hockey squad last July. She got her first Cap for the SA team this January (2017) at the Cape Town Summer Series vs China, Chile and Belgium. She has recently returned from the second Summer Series vs England.

For the past 3 years Kate has run her own Hockey Academy called Tiger Training Elite Hockey for Grade 1-7 boys and girls. Kate currently works as a Prep Sport Co-ordinator at Maris Stella School. Kate is engaged to Grant Lewis (December 2016) and will be getting married in July this year.

Deaths and Obituaries

2017

BRENDA HICKMAN NEE DEAN (1961) -
20 January 2017

2016

MOLLY GILROY NEE PHILPOTT (1949)
- 5 July 2016

GLADYS LEA NEE DENT (1944) - 2016
LLARA STOCKENSTROM (1986) - 2016
PAMELA BEETON NEE SHAW (1942) -
6 August 2016

2015

DOREEN HEAN (HONORARY STAFF) -
27 December 2015

DOREEN HEAN
(HONORARY STAFF)

Contributed by Sarah Hean (1985)

Doreen Amy Hean, mother of Sarah, Timothy and Michael, died on 27 December 2015 after a short illness. She was a Form and Geography teacher at St Mary's from 1951 to 1968 and donator of the sun dial that remains in the grounds of the school today. Dorrie, DR to her school friends, was born on the Wirral in England in 1927, living as a teenager through WWII. She met her South African husband, Noel, whilst he was visiting his family in England after the war and before his return to South Africa. Her sons, Michael and Timothy, were born in South Africa. After the loss of her brother in a climbing accident on Snowden, she was joined by her English parents who settled with the family in Everton, KwaZuluNatal.

Dorrie trained as a teacher and her first appointment was St Mary's. This proved to be a turning point in her life and the beginning of a successful career in teaching in the years to come. After more than a decade at the school, she left St Mary's on the birth of her daughter Sarah, an Old Girl (1985). She returned to teaching, specialising in Special Needs Education. She worked her way up through school management and retired as Headmistress of Berea



Primary School in 1987.

Retirement did not suit her and she returned again to teaching for a period to run the Special Needs

Department in Broadhurst School, Gaborone, Botswana. After the death of her husband in 1987 she travelled extensively in Europe, Africa, South America and Australasia, visiting friends and family across the world. She finally settled along the South Coast of KwaZulu Natal, having many happy years first in Southbroom and later Banner's Rest in Port Edward. She is fondly remembered by her family and many friends.



MOLLY GILROY NEE PHILPOTT (1949)

Contributed by Brigit Ramsden nee Barry Smith (1949)

As far as I know Molly spent all her school years at St Mary's and was made Head Girl and Head of Bishops House in 1949. I first met her in Class 2 when I was a "new girl" in 1942, and it was the beginning of a lifelong friendship which was in no way diminished by the fact that she and I spent most of those years living at opposite ends of South Africa.

Molly married Bernard Gilroy in 1954 and settled in Durban North where they brought up their 3 children. When Bernard retired they moved down to Swellendam. They loved hiking in the surrounding mountains until advancing age and declining health persuaded them to make their final move to a Rotary Retirement Village in the district.

We kept in touch mainly by having long talks on the telephone. Molly was always interested to hear about my annual visit to St Mary's on Old Girls' Day. The campus is almost unrecognisable from the basic mainly wood-and-iron buildings of our day, but the memories come flooding back each year and I will never forget my dear friend Molly.

Pastoral

As we look towards Easter, may we be reminded of the Ultimate Story that is woven throughout Scripture - that in His great love for us, God the Father sent His one and only Son to step into the brokenness of human history so that we might be reconciled to Him. Fully God, fully man, Jesus lived a perfect life and died a sacrificial death. He atoned for our sins and rose in glory, revealing Himself as Christ Jesus - the Messiah, Saviour and hope of the world.

As we celebrate the message of Easter, and the God of this message, may we take heart in these words from the hymn 'He Hideth My Soul':

*A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Saviour to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand.*

CAITLIN BARNES
nee DE KOCK (2006)
School Chaplain

Every
Swipe
Counts



Old Girls, please remember to swipe your MySchool or linked Woolies card when you shop. You can visit www.myschool.co.za to check that St Mary's is your beneficiary. The funds raised are used for projects to benefit the girls, this includes bursaries.