



St MARY'S

Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof

OLD GIRLS' GUILD

Remaining *resilient*

IT is perfectly true, as the philosophers say, that life is best understood backwards. However they forget the other proposition that life must be lived forward.

I'm sure many of you, like me, are trying to process the severity of the COVID pandemic and are coming to terms with the fact that 2021, like 2020, is requiring us to be resilient, flexible and adaptable. The pandemic is requiring the same in our approach to the planning of all our Old Girls' events. We remain positive that we will be able to hold our Old Girls' Day on Saturday 31 July and remind you that, should this event take place, it will be a reunion for both 2020 and 2021 anniversary years.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of being connected and belonging to a community of like-minded individuals. *#stripedforlife* now seems more relevant than ever before as we navigate these uncharted waters, with the support of our old school friends. Our social media pages should be a reflection of our incredible Old Girls' community and we welcome stories or news we can follow up on. Please see the links below to join.

A huge congratulations to our International and National Old Girls winners, Hayley Reichert and Dr Laura Redman, their stories are on page 3 and 4.

The second wave of the COVID pandemic was particularly devastating and we extend our deepest

condolences to those Old Girls, current pupils and members of the broader St Mary's community who have lost loved ones. As a Christian school we continue to hold you up in prayer. May you find comfort in the words of Psalm 147 vs 3. "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds."

2021 may have started differently to what we had hoped for. Despite the school year not starting quite as planned, it has been inspiring to see the way in which the leadership and staff of St Mary's yet again adapted their plans to ensure a seamless transition into 2021 and it is wonderful to see school and extra-curricular activities taking place under strict COVID protocols to ensure the safety of our girls.

The resilience shown by the staff and girls of St Mary's makes me proud to be an Old Girl. It reminds me to look forward and to remain optimistic despite the ongoing challenges brought about by the COVID challenges - I encourage you all to do the same.

Stay safe and enjoy a wonderful Easter break with your families.

Kind regards

Bianca

Bianca Livesey nee Crouse (1995)
Chairperson of the St Mary's Old Girls' Guild



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2021 NEWSLETTER

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TACKLING COVID

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OLD GIRL NEWS

Throughout



www.facebook.com/groups/2252310910



www.instagram.com/stmarysdsgkloof_oldgirls



www.linkedin.com/in/stmarysdsgoldgirls

2021 ONE

2020 & 2021 OLD GIRLS' DAY - SATURDAY 31 JULY

St Mary's DSG, Kloof
09:30 to 14:00
Chapel Service at 09:30*
Lunch (no cost)

Photographs throughout morning
and memorabilia on sale
Tour at 08:00



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* Dependent on COVID restrictions, protocols will be clarified closer to event

Please RSVP by 23/07 on lrapsen@stmarysdsg.co.za or 031 764 9803

OLD GIRLS: MOMS & *Daughters*

Another year and another special group of girls join St Mary's while their Moms get to enjoy another generation of Saints life



Andrea Liversage nee Crawley (2000),
Charlotte (Gr 1) and Oneglia (Gr 4)



Sarah Louw nee Shuttleworth (2005)
and Josie (Grade R)



Anwen Middleton nee Evans (2003)
and Isabella (Grade R)



Megan Hamann nee Moxham (2004),
Zoe (Grade R) and Olivia (Grade 1)



Claire Mayers nee Young (2003)
and Charlotte (Grade R)



Frances Bolttler nee Fleming (1992)
and Rafaela (Grade 6)



Georgina Kelly nee Mabbett (2009)
and Hope (Grade R)



Three Saints generations! Tamlyn
Russell nee Greig (1997) with daughter
Sienna (Grade 7), granddaughter of
Yvonne Greig nee Tweedie (1971)



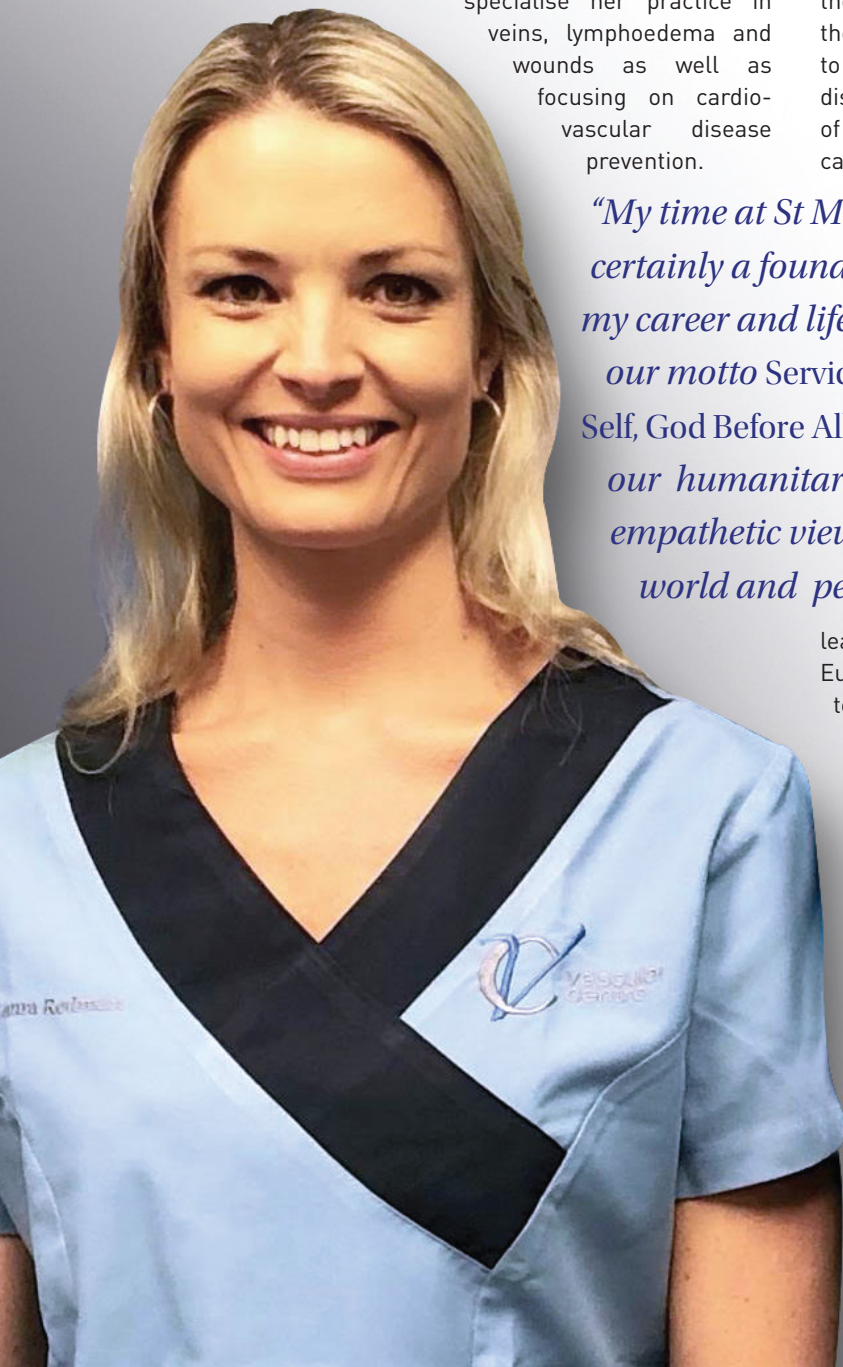
Vicqui Lelong nee Reid (1987) and
Hannah (Grade 11)

Dr Laura Redman (1997)

2021 NATIONAL OLD GIRL

WE are proud to announce Dr Laura Redman (1997) as our St Mary's National Old Girl for 2021. In recognition of her work in the field of medicine and making history in South Africa with her recent ground-breaking procedure on a lymphoedema patient in March 2020.

Dr Laura Redman is a qualified Specialist Surgeon both in General and Vascular Surgery at the Netcare Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital. After completing her vascular training, Laura completed her Masters in Medicine. Based in Cape Town, Laura decided to specialise her practice in veins, lymphoedema and wounds as well as focusing on cardiovascular disease prevention.



"My time at St Mary's was certainly a foundation for my career and life. I believe our motto Service Before Self, God Before All, sculpted our humanitarian and empathetic view on the world and people."

Laura has started a holistic multidisciplinary team approach to limb problems called Limb4Life. She has travelled to a number of renowned units worldwide to research and develop her expertise in this area, receiving academic accreditation, prizes and recognition and is part of this growing worldwide community.

Laura aims to have a centre of excellence with regards to this aspect of vascular surgery with ongoing research. She is a member of the Cape Advanced Wound Care Association, on the editorial board for the Wound Healing South African Journal and the advisory board of the Lymphoedema Association of South Africa. Laura is president of the South African Lymphatic and Venous Society (SALVS), which aims to improve the lives of individuals afflicted with venous and lymphatic disorders and enhance awareness in South Africa. SALVS is also part of the International Vein Week for awareness aimed at both health care professionals and the public (www.SALVS.org)

In addition, Laura recently undertook a landmark procedure in March 2020. The first-of-its-kind technique in Africa took six hours to perform and has given new meaning and quality to the life of 39-year old Simone Blanckenberg, who was living with debilitating lymphoedema for eight years. According to Simone she has never felt better and the difference the surgical procedure has made to her quality of life is indescribable.

This was only possible as Laura and Lymphoedema Therapist, Suzi Davey self-funded their training in Sweden with Dr Brorson (the world's leading authority in the field) and Laura acquired the equipment from Europe. At present Laura and Suzi are the only South African medical team trained in this procedure, which uses power-assisted liposuction, as well as the post operative care.

"While liposuction is not novel in the field of cosmetic surgery," says Laura "what we have done here is a substantially different medical procedure. It allows the patient to live as normal a life as possible in terms of reducing pain and increasing mobility. It enables these patients to enjoy what most of us take for granted - wearing pants, jeans, boots and normal shoes."

Laura's hobbies include hiking, sketching and yoga and she is honoured to be our 2021 National Old Girl, "My time at St Mary's was certainly a foundation for my career and life. I believe our motto *Service Before Self, God Before All*, sculpted our humanitarian and empathetic view on the world and people. I see this in friendships formed at St Mary's which I still maintain as we are like-minded. It is an honour to have had St Mary's as a grounding."

Congratulations and thank you Laura!

We always welcome your nominations for inspiring Old Girls. We wish to recognise our Old Girls' efforts across the years and oceans and we would love to hear from you. Please contact Lauren on lapson@stmarysdsg.co.za

Hayley Reichert (2003)

2021 INTERNATIONAL OLD GIRL

WE are delighted to announce Hayley Reichert (2003) as our 2021 St Mary's International Old Girl. In light of her tireless efforts in helping the vulnerable and the displaced during the worldwide lockdown due to COVID-19, she recently received a *Spirit of Ubuntu Commendation Award* from the South African Chamber of Commerce in the UK.

Hayley went "above and beyond the call of duty" when she initiated the Home Away From Home (HAFH) repatriation project when the SA government closed the country's airspace on 26 March 2020. She put her job as a mortgage advisor in the UK with the firm, Interlife Ltd. on hold for five months to volunteer alongside a small team who assisted more than 20 000 repatriates. They also assisted thousands to expatriate through project LISA (Locked in SA) by lobbying the government to allow SA citizens to return to their homes/work abroad. The team supported many individuals facing tragedies. They set up a counselling platform for those requiring mental health services whilst stranded or in quarantine. They also raised funds to assist some of those in desperate situations. Hayley even assisted a number of Old Girls and their partners who were stranded!

"There was nothing she didn't think of from the smallest to the largest needs," said Helen Schultz nee Dales (1973). "I have never seen anyone work like this right through the night if she had to. No one ever felt alone. She set up support groups and teams of psychologists to help those in need. It was quite phenomenal. She was with us all the way and even when we did our two weeks quarantine we had total support throughout our stay."

Hayley has been heavily involved in the South African diaspora internationally for the past decade. She previously served as an ExCo member of the South African Chamber of Commerce in the UK and spent six years on the organising committee of the UK based Nedbank South African Charity Golf Day which has raised over £2 million for SA charities.

In 2020 Hayley assisted with the international launch of the South African movement Move ONE Million which aims to drive positive change at both grassroots and government level in SA for the betterment of all South Africans, with the core drivers being direct elections and active citizenry. The UK launch event held in Trafalgar Square with some 600 fellow South Africans, organised by Hayley, was described by the Metropolitan police as "the most well executed

protest of the summer". Hayley has also set up two smaller projects: www.saffaworks.com which is a business directory for South African business owners in the UK alongside which Saffa Talks is a livestream weekly video helping promote members of the directory. She is also working with the SA Diaspora Team in the UK to set up a series of youth events and activities aimed at South African teenagers and young adults in the UK.

"My time at St Mary's certainly sparked my passion for community service. I thrived as a member of the school's Interact Club from Grade 8, serving as Deputy Chairperson of the Club in Matric. As a school prefect I was responsible for the charity portfolio. Some of my favourite memories include spending a day during the Easter holidays with Mrs Tyna Charter (former Principal and Honorary Old Girl) delivering dozens of boxes of marshmallow eggs to orphanages and various entrepreneurial projects and taking part in the Junior Achievers SA programme. The *Service Before Self* element of our school motto has always been a huge part of my life and I feel extremely honoured and humbled to receive this recognition from our school. It doesn't matter where you go in life, the grounding and life lessons you receive at St Mary's will always stand you in good stead."

Hayley, you epitomise our school motto *Service Before Self*, thank you!

"Some of my favourite memories include spending a day during the Easter holidays with Mrs Charter (former Principal and Honorary Old Girl) delivering dozens of boxes of marshmallow eggs to orphanages and various entrepreneurial projects and taking part in the Junior Achievers SA programme.

The Service Before Self element of our school motto has always been a huge part of my life..."



Dr Nicola Brink (1977)

Honours have been bestowed on Dr Nicola Brink (1977), Guernsey's Director of Public Health for her outstanding leadership in combating the COVID-19 virus on the island. Nicola and her team have been quoted as being ahead of the curve the whole time. In 2019, (pre-COVID) at her insistence, an exercise involving a hypothetical pandemic was carried out on the island, as she was convinced that it was a question of "when" and not "if" one occurred. This allowed them to be prepared for the first COVID case in Guernsey.

Nicola left St Mary's in 1975 as her family relocated to Cape Town when her sister, *Lynn Wragge nee Brink (1975)* joined the South African Navy in Simonstown.

"Although I matriculated in Cape Town after my family relocated, most of my formative years were spent at St Mary's from an educational perspective," said Nicola. "I think what was important for me was the STEM subjects were promoted at St Mary's, even when I was there, so St Mary's played a key part in setting me on my path as a doctor and a scientist."

After studying medicine at the University of Stellenbosch, Nicola then specialised at the University of Cape Town going on to become one of the first doctors in the country to specialise in virology. She moved to the UK in 1991 to take up a position as Consultant Virologist and Senior Lecturer at University College Hospital in London, before moving to Guernsey in 2003.

Nicola applauded her team at Public Health and islanders for their support in the fight against the virus, commending their "monumental team effort."

Among many other accolades, Nicola was appointed MBE (The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, rewarding contributions to the arts and sciences, work with charitable and welfare organisations, and public service outside the civil service) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in October 2020. She hopes to visit South Africa and St Mary's again when all this (COVID) is over...

Thank you, Dr Brink and your amazing team... Inspirational!

Click the link below to read further about Nicola, article courtesy of ChannelEye Media: <https://bit.ly/3c1BScM>

Photo credit:
Peter Falkland

Courtney Whitfield (2017), currently in the fourth year of her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Pretoria, shared her amazing experience recently...

"I had the most incredible opportunity awarded to me by Netcare Montana Hospital to spend just under two months working 12 hour shifts in the COVID ICU. As a 4th year medical student, I was extremely disappointed when our rotations were cancelled at the beginning of January due to the second wave of COVID. I decided to use it as an opportunity to gain some clinical experience, which I have now realised, is a time that I will remember for the rest of my career.

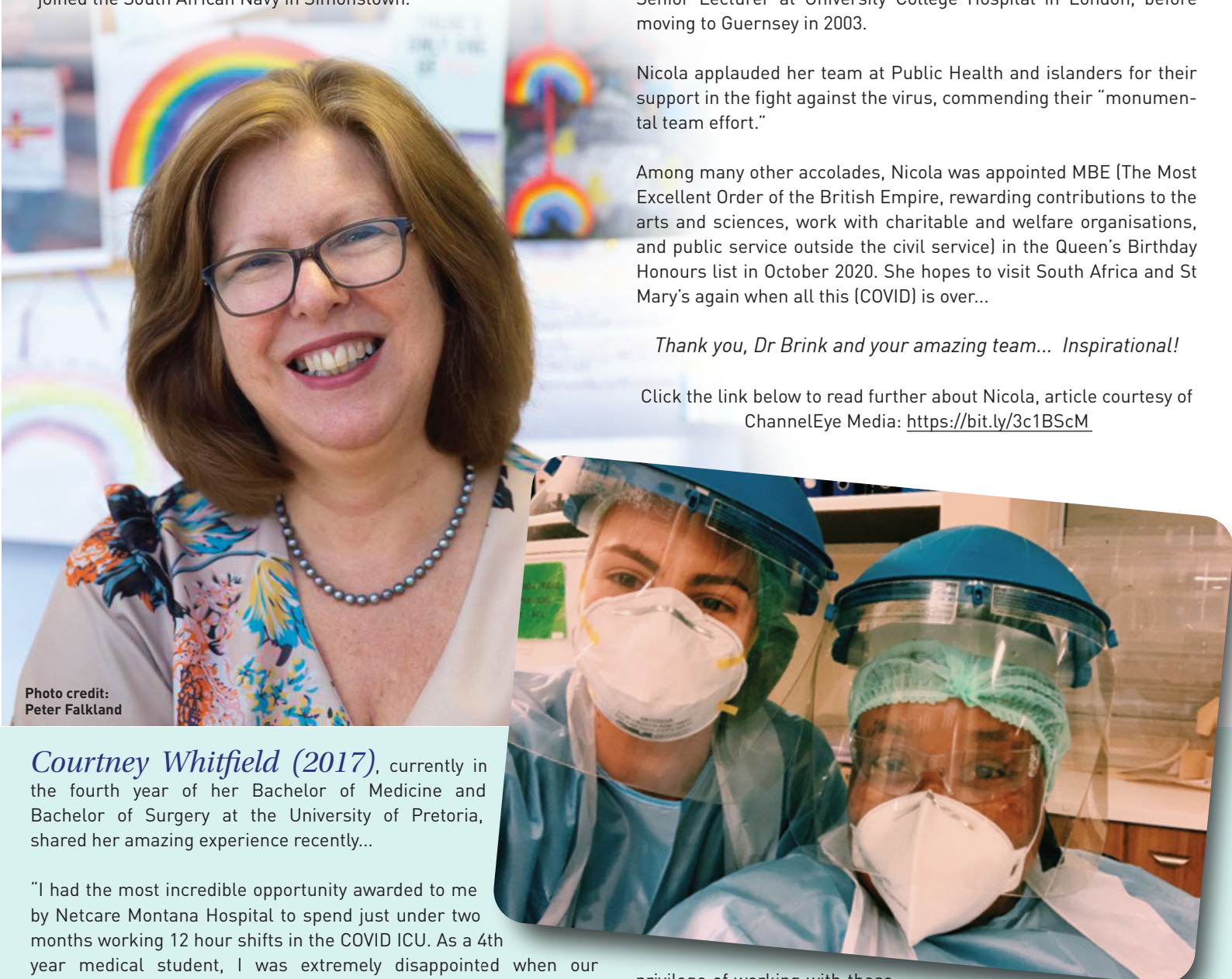
Not only was I exposed to many medical procedures, but I was also taught how to approach dealing with the family members of whom had a loved one critical in the ICU. I was given the task of updating the families on a daily basis about the condition of the patient with the aim to remove a small piece of work away from the sisters that were busy caring for the patients. I have a new respect for the nurses, sisters and careworkers who look after these patients. I had the

privilege of working with these incredible ladies who contributed to my learning significantly.

Although there were difficult moments, I am so grateful for the opportunity that has set the foundation for the rest of my career. I have never been so certain that this field is my passion and calling. I can't wait for more opportunities to make a difference."

In between studies and rotation Courtney also tutors part-time.

We thank you, Courtney, for your passion and dedication and for being a part of the many frontline workers dealing with the COVID pandemic in South Africa!



Edna Freinkel nee Ostrowiak (1949)

EDNA became interested in learning disabilities and dyslexia when, as a young woman, she was exposed to the work of her late mother, renowned reading expert, Rebecca Ostrowiak. She assisted in systematising her mother's method of teaching reading using a multidimensional approach. The method was published in 1965 as the series Teach any Child or Adult to Read.

Edna's mom passed away in 1981. However, Edna has continued to dedicate her life to assisting the learning-impaired through her focus on reading and dyslexia. Through the writing of course material and her teaching, she has produced scores of teachers trained in the Rebecca Ostrowiak method of the teaching of reading in South Africa. Edna is founder and a consultant of The Readucate Trust, a non-profit organisation that teaches literate people how to teach reading initially and to children and adults who are illiterate, functionally illiterate, dyslexic, or who suffer from reading disabilities regardless of the cause. For many years Edna served on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of the British Dyslexia Association and has delivered numerous papers on reading and education at national and international conferences. She promoted interest in dyslexia as a learning disability throughout South Africa. In 1995, literate offenders at the Krugersdorp Prison attended the first course in prisons. They were trained to teach functionally illiterate inmates reading, writing, spelling, comprehension, study and life skills.



Picture courtesy of
The Readucate Trust Facebook page

Since then another 23 prisons have benefited from Readucation, resulting in offenders being rehabilitated.

In 2004, Edna received the South African Presidential Award of the Order of Baobab for her lifelong dedication to the development of specialised learning methods for the learning impaired in South Africa. In 2010 she was awarded the UNISA Outstanding Educator Award. She has also been made a Continental Lifetime Achiever by CEO Global / MIW (Africa's Most Influential Women in Business).

Edna had to return to Durban and could not matriculate at St Mary's, she has many fond memories of her boarding days... "Before I left St Mary's, friends and I decided to have a farewell midnight feast," she shared. "It took some planning and as we didn't want anyone to know about it, we called it "after baths". So whenever we discussed it we said, "After baths we do...!" It worked! We collected goodies at tuck time and hid them here, there and everywhere. The midnight feast eventually took place and the photo was taken the next morning on the balcony outside the cubicles."

Edna's continued dedication to the cause of learning disabilities has made a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of South Africans and we thank you, Edna. Inspirational!

To learn more please visit: www.readucate.org or
www.teachingtoread.com



From left to right -
Shirley Hardwick nee
Albers, Colleen Ashwell
nee Hawker, Edna, Lena
Kaplan (Taken in
boarding 1947)



Congratulations to *Kanyisa Mkhize nee Ncemane (2001)* for being appointed the Chief Executive Officer: Sanlam Corporate in September 2020.

Kanyisa is a strategic leader with more than 15 years' experience in life insurance, management and business planning. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Columbia Business School in New York as well as an Honours in Business Science from UCT (University of Cape Town). Kanyisa is a qualified actuary and a fellow of the Actuarial Society of South Africa.

Inspiring!

Jean Bunting nee Boyd (1994) lives in the Cape and is passionate about painting and creating.

She currently has one of her favourite pieces, painted during the first COVID-19 lockdown, on display at the *Home is Where the Art is* Exhibit at the Zeitz Mocca in the Silo district of the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. The exhibition has been extended until the end of October 2021.

"When the Zeitz Mocca announced this exhibition, I immediately knew I had to share and be part of this opportunity," shares Jean. On her poignant artwork she explains, "It speaks of a different time where the distinction between real human touch and connection has become further blurred with a technological society where we can see and talk, but not touch and feel beauty. With COVID driving us to online schooling, Zoom calls and more time on devices than ever before, this work portrays a sadness for humankind who are inherently social creatures. An essential breakdown of what is real and normal, and what is fake and censored technology."

To follow Jean and her ever growing portfolio visit:
www.instagram.com/jeanboydbunting



Congratulations to *Jessica Scott (2014)* for recently having completed two degrees simultaneously, a Bachelor of Accounting with LLB, and achieving a cum laude average for her final year.

"Completing two challenging degrees simultaneously required a fierce work ethic, resilience and five years of hard work!" says Jess "I couldn't be prouder of how I've used the years to learn so much more than just accounting. I've balanced my academic workload with my passion for social impact by innovating and implementing projects that create tangible change."

During her studies Jess has founded the Future Women's Workshop as well as the Human Rights Youth Conference. She has set up the Stellenbosch Chapter of Amnesty, launched a social entrepreneurship business with AFD, attended a summer school in Germany and travelled to the United Nations in Geneva and New York.

"With the monumental privilege of a long education, I'm mindful that this privilege must be met with a duty to open doors for others. The success of my education will always be measured by the impact that I make," says Jess. "Most importantly, I've continuously been reminded of the proverb "if you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to go far - go together". I'm so thankful for the people who made this possible."



* Jean's Artwork
has been enlarged
for viewing
purposes

Zoleka Magagula (2018) featured in her first single *Sizonyuka* which was released in February 2021 with Soa Matriix. The song is available on all digital platforms, click the following to listen: <https://bit.ly/3uzT3cw>

A budding thespian and music student at St Mary's, Zoleka continues to grow her experience in the Arts whilst she completes her Law degree at Wits University. She has also founded her own business, Braids by Zoe, during her time in Johannesburg.

Well done Zoleka!





We love seeing our Old Girls collaborating and this comes to business as well! Artist *Victoria Verbaan (1996)* designed beautiful artwork for *Catherine Clarke nee Vermaak (1997)* of The Harvest Table. A limited series of their products were sold with artwork on which also raised funds for The Jes Foord Foundation. Victoria also recently designed trendy packaging for *Carmen Kennedy nee Young (1993)* and her company Sunstoppers.

A permanent installation featuring 165 of Victoria's pieces can be viewed at The Danté Experience, a bold new attraction in Durban which boasts dining, bars and glamorous social spots in one vibey venue.



"South Africa's frontline healthcare workers are fighting a war. We need to support, recognise and reward these individuals, because without them, we will lose."

Frontline Friends is a fantastic initiative started by *Tenley Cummings nee Voogt (1991)* together with Hayley Asbury and Dr Paula Warren.

This non-profit organisation coordinates and drops off gifts of appreciation at hospitals throughout KZN to recognised nurses in the COVID wards who put themselves at risk to help our friends, family, colleagues and community battling the surge of COVID cases.

Please share and support the cause to assist in getting our frontline healthcare workers in KZN through this pandemic. A small gesture of gratitude from a stranger may be just what they need to get through another 12 hour shift, giving back to those who put their lives on the line daily.

Visit www.facebook.com/frontlinefriends for more info.



In equestrian news, *Katherine Stainton (2020)* has been made the brand ambassador for CIELI Equestrian, a new, South African equestrian brand which launched both nationally and internationally in February.

Katherine is responsible for promoting the new brand, whilst she competes five horses of various ages in various height categories of show jumping in South Africa. She began her BCom at the University of Stellenbosch this year.



Hayley Nixon nee Arthur (2001)
and husband, Paul welcomed their first child,
Emma on 4 November 2020.



Georgina Kelly nee Mabbett (2009)
and husband, Cullen welcomed their third daughter,
Harper on 13 December 2020. Harper has two big
sisters Holly and Hope, who joined the St Mary's
family this year!



Sarah Mabeza nee Swart (2002) and husband,
Kundai welcomed daughter, Rebekah on 19 January. Big brother
David is besotted with his little sister and equally so is Granny,
Carol Swart (Honorary Old Girl)
pictured above with Sarah and Rebekah.



Louise McTavish nee Gans (2004)
and husband, Gordon welcomed their daughter,
Abigail on 7 September 2020.



Some of the *Class of 1970* took the opportunity between the higher levels of lockdown to celebrate what would have been their 50 year reunion in November 2020. We are still hoping that we are able to make up for the 2020 postponement this year on 31 July.

From Left to right. *Merle Decot nee Manning, Anne-Louise Gaisford nee Skelton, Di Edgcumbe nee Cullen, Vicki Marnoch nee Wheelwright, Gail Sommerville nee Donovan and Lisa Smallwood nee Blott.*

Tanya Balogh-Rimell (2010)
and husband, Lazslo welcomed their son
Liam Harvey on 3 March 2020.



Emma Potts nee Watts (1998)
and husband Tyrone welcomed their daughter, Hayley
Jane on 3 January 2021. Hayley's Granny is also an Old
Girl, *Gwenda Watts nee Tweedie (1970)*



Kirsty Dixon nee Fenner (2006)
and husband, Gareth welcomed their first child,
Luke Prynne on 1 January. What a lovely way to start 2021!

OBITUARIES

Janet Burness nee Hey (1950)

09/12/1931 - 10/01/2021

Janet Ann Burness was born in Pietermaritzburg on 9 December 1931. She grew up in Verulam. She was sent to boarding school at St Mary's during her teenage years. Once she completed her schooling, she worked for a lawyer in Verulam. When the small town life got too quiet for her, she moved to the big city of Durban where she met her husband Peter Burness at her best friend's 21st and after a few years of dating, they married.

At the age of 24 she gave birth to Dianne, three years later to John and three years after that, to Michael.

She leaves behind her three adult children and their husband, wives, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

She was very proud of her association with St Mary's and thoroughly enjoyed the yearly school get-togethers. She lived at Caister Lodge for the past 16 years and was very happy there. Unfortunately she contracted COVID around New Year and was unable to fight the virus. She is greatly missed by family and friends.

- Dianne Walter, daughter



Yena Luthuli (2002)

10/01/1985 - 02/2021

My dear sister, you were more than just a sibling. You were my best friend, my inspiration and the one who gave me the confidence to live and to go after my dreams. We shared more than just our mommy's womb. We shared a passion for life, a desire to grow and learn, as well as the greater calling of adding value to humanity through the gifts that God bestowed on us as individuals.

I am going to miss you so much, our constant chats, loud laughs, or at least mine was, and just being able to call you for no particular reason, at any time. I will forever cherish the good memories of all the fun things we did together, the battles we overcame and the life we enjoyed as sisters and best friends. You have now been assigned as my special guardian angel. A task I know you have assumed without hesitation.

Farewell Mshibe. My father's seed. Mommy's little girl, my favourite and only beautiful sister. I love you. Your life is now hidden in Christ.

- Edited words from Nolundi Luthuli, sister

To my little girl, I never thought I would be saying these words to you. You have been a light always shining brightest when challenges cast a dark shadow on the family.

And now I have to say goodbye. Goodbye to my baby. Thank you for always putting the family first. We will miss your love and generosity. You sacrificed all you could to make sure all was in order. Your happy laugh and wonderful smile is what I will carry with me and I am grateful to God that I could be with you when your health was failing you.

Hamba kahle sana lwami, Mommy loves you and is so very proud of all that you were able to achieve in your short life. Having you as my daughter was both an honour and a privilege. I couldn't have asked for a better blessing.

- Dr ND Luthuli, mother



Yena was a light that could not be dimmed and that she was one of the most intelligent and loving people I ever knew. She was ambitious and driven and so full of life. She touched my life and all she crossed paths with in a beautiful way. She will be dearly missed and ever treasured though as a believer I am comforted that she is with the Lord. She fought a good fight and truly lived the values of *Service Before Self, God Before All*. In fact that remained her WhatsApp status till she passed on. I loved Yena she was like an elder sister to me.

- Bongiwé Beja, friend (2004)



Helen Young nee Moberly (1949)

06/09/1933 - 19/12/2020

Helen was the remaining sister of Gillian "Biddy" Adams (Head Girl 1947) and Margery (1954). My Mum so enjoyed the Old Girls' Teas and always appreciated the great lifts that your organisation arranged. Of course St Mary's meant a lot to my Mum over all these years. She is probably one of the last of that era!

My Mum always enjoyed English and writing. She belonged to a Writers' Circle at Amberglen (Howick) where she lived, writing several poems including a recent one called *The Reluctant Philosopher* and one about being an octogenarian. She told us, her children and her grandchildren so many stories about her time at St Mary's especially how different it was, but she definitely appreciated the changes.

- Roz van Zyl, daughter

An Octogenarian's View on Old Age

by Helen Young

(Member of the Writers' Circle at Amberglen)

*The years speed by, faster, faster,
And old age is a cruel master,
Or mistress. But whate'er the sex is
Certainly it most sure to vex is,
Though death comes knocking at the door,
As come it will, you can be sure
I, for one, won't let him win.
And simply, meekly let him in.
Because I'm still in love with life.
Despite its troubles, woes and strife,
Joys and wonders still abound.
They're all around and easily found.
I feel it has become a duty
To extol its marvellous beauty.
This task is one I won't be shirking
Till my "grey matter" ceases working.
But now it's time to cease my song,
Already it's gone on far too long.
And I fear that it will never end
Unless I press key, labelled SEND.*



Patricia (Trish) de Bruyn nee Barlow-Jones (1978)

04/10/1961 - 02/01/2021

Trish's youth was spent on the KZN south coast and she is the younger sister to Lauren (Lolly) Davey nee Barlow-Jones. Trish attended St Mary's from 1973 to 1978 and loved every moment of boarding school. She always had numerous stories to tell of the fun they had at St Mary's and her sense of humour was legendary and the pranks she instigated continued until she passed away.

After school, Trish had a number of different careers but realising her skills as an extremely good salesperson she found her niche as a fabric broker and worked in the clothing industry selling fabric to the manufacturers for years.

In 2005, Trish and her business partner, Glynis started their company Tiger Guardgear which supplies uniforms to various industries specialising in security uniforms and they have worked together ever since building their business. Trish was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in November 2020 and succumbed in January at her home in Sibaya, Durban.

She was a sparkling personality and gathered strangers to her as she went about her daily rounds, making them into friends. She did not see customers or suppliers as work, but instead she made friends of everyone. She was passionate about helping animals and impacted so many people's lives positively. She is going to be sorely missed. She leaves behind a loving 23-year-old son, Chase, who she adored, her beloved partner, Andre and two precious fur babies, Seymour and Callie, as well as numerous loving friends.

Rest in peace our precious sister and friend, love you always.

**Edited words from Lauren Lolly Davey nee Barlow-Jones (1976),
sister and Glynis Gray, business partner**



Michelle Holliday nee Galway (1978)

30/05/1961 - 04/12/2020

Michelle, dearest daughter of Arthur and Bernice Galway and sister to *Debbie Fry*, *Leanne Cutting* and *Tracy Cahn* fought a long hard struggle with kidney cancer and then a brain tumour finally losing her battle in December last year. When she was unable to talk she always had a smile... never complaining... she took on her illness with such bravery. A truly remarkable woman - running the Comrades Marathon several times. Bravely taking on the highest mountains is where she found her peace. Proud wife to Paul and mom of two sons - a remarkable businesswoman.

Amongst all of the greatest things Michelle achieved she will be remembered for her kindness and charity to those less fortunate than herself.

– *Debbie Fry nee Galway (1976), sister*

Margaret Ross nee Jordan (1952)

07/02/1936 - 27/12/2020

Margaret loved returning to school for the St Mary's Golden Old Girls' Teas, which her husband, Ian, brought her to each year.

She felt truly special at these events and was a very proud grandmother who treasured being able to witness two of her granddaughters, Tay (pictured) and Katie, currently following in her footsteps at her childhood school.

A caring and loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend her presence is deeply missed by all.



*Sadly we may not know of Old Girls we have lost...
please email lrapsen@stmarysdsg.co.za so that
we may honour our late Old Girls.*



"If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be..."

Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through." - Nikki Banas

Our condolences and prayers are with all our Old Girls and their families who have been affected by COVID-19 and the challenges that 2020 and 2021 may have brought.