



St MARY'S

Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof

OLD GIRLS' GUILD

Ensuring the *Legacy of St Mary's*

IT was devastating to hear about the passing of Mr Jeremy Sabine, our legendary Headmaster from 1981 to 2003.

Looking back at my time at St Mary's, I realise that being involved in the S.M.I.L.E Project taught me the most.

Coming from a privileged background and attending a private school meant that without being involved in the S.M.I.L.E Project I could have been horribly out of touch with the real world.

Teaching the children from the 1000 Hills Valley taught me to understand just how fortunate I was and also put my problems into perspective. It taught me empathy and gave me understanding.

It also taught me the valuable lesson that we, as individuals, are able to have an impact and that we are able to change lives. As cliché as this saying is, it is true: *to the world we may be one person but to one person we may be the world.*

I have Mr Sabine to thank for this. During his tenure at St Mary's S.M.I.L.E was one of the incredible projects that he introduced to our school.

Mr Sabine was a visionary and believed so wholeheartedly in women and their education.

I'm sure he left his mark on many of your lives like he did on mine.

It is the calling to make a difference, instilled in me by Mr Sabine, that has lead me to my continued involvement in St Mary's.

As Chairlady of the Old Girls' Guild, I am passionate about ensuring the legacy of this remarkable school.

As part of our 2021 fundraising, we are launching our first ever online auction which is being run through a company called Click Auction. A percentage of all profits raised through on outline auction will go to *The Soup Kitchen*, an

NGO established by *Robyn O'Donovan nee Polkinghorne (1995)* in 2015.

A huge thank you to the many generous Old Girls who have already so kindly donated prizes for our online auction. *Victoria Verbaan (1996), Dr Susan Porter nee Johnson (1996), Kate Brown nee Theunissen (2002), Cindy Valentine nee Wishart (1995), Lindi Barrett nee Hagen (1991), Sarah Walker nee Morgan (2003) and Carmen Kennedy nee Young (1993).*

**Please drop us an email on
oldgirls@stmarysdsg.co.za if you are
interested in donating a prize to this very
worthwhile cause. It is also a great way
to profile your brand!**

We have also pulled together a really **great** raffle to raise funds for The St Mary's Foundation. Again a huge thank you to the Old Girls who have so generously donated to this. Without you this raffle would not be possible and the prizes you have donated are incredible! Thank you *Kate Brown nee Theunissen (2002), Catherine Clark nee Vermaak (1997), Sarah Colle nee Harris (2004), Tamara Ogilby nee Scribante (1994), Anita Duckitt nee MacNaught (1986), Amy Cluver (2017), Sarah Cluver (2014) and Lee Dixie nee Brazier (1985)* for your generosity.

This involvement from you, the Old Girls, is testament to St Mary's belief that *Remarkable Women* are defined by their character.

Look out for our online auction later in the year and be sure to support it so that we can ensure the legacy of this remarkable school for the women who are yet to walk the corridors.

Stay safe
Kind regards

Binks

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



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2021 NEWSLETTER

• Issue 2 •



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April 7th marked a very special day for Old Girl, *Gwen Strachan nee McLeod (1937)* as she turned 100 years old! Surrounded by her loved ones in Hilton, including granddaughter, *Sarah Stoner (2015)*, Gwen was showered with love and spoils to see in her centenary birthday! As far as our records show Gwen is the second St Mary's Old Girl to reach this milestone birthday along with the late Elsie Erlandson nee Shire (1928).

Gwen thoroughly enjoyed her colourful hand-drawn cards from some of our Junior Primary girls as well as their beautiful singing to honour her birthday. Little Willow, from Grade 1, pictured above, with Gwen's cards at the end of Term 1, shared a birthday with Gwen... only a few decades apart between these special Saints sisters!



Happy 100th Birthday Gwen!



Tammy Fry Kelly's (1998) new book *Made with Love and Plants* is now available in all major bookstores in South Africa as well as our very own High School library.

"My hope is that this book inspires people to start their own journey to holistic health and wellness and supports those that are already on one," says Tammy.

"The content covers a range of holistic lifestyle tips, the ideal plant-based pantry list and a shopping guide, meal plans and a guide on how to write your own meal plans using the recipes in the book, plant-based cooking on a budget, navigating the supermarket, reading product labels and loads more..."



Congratulations to *Hlumelo Lujiva (2016)* for being accepted to participate in the Goldman Sachs 2021 Emerging Leaders Series, an educational programme providing immersive and interactive insight, training and coaching in the financial industry.

"I am thrilled," says Hlumelo, who is currently studying Finance and Economics at Wits University. "This is a programme that takes place virtually in April and November. I will be lucky enough to be a part of this interactive experience where I will be learning key information on investment banking and global markets from senior leaders, as well as acquiring pertinent skills from the various educational sessions. Thank you to the Goldman Sachs recruiters for this exciting opportunity!"

We wish you all the best Hlumelo.

Camilla Singh nee Williams (Head Girl 1971)

obtained her CA(SA) in 1984 and was a partner at accounting firm, KPMG, where she headed the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Forensic Accounting division until her retirement in 2016.

Camilla is treasurer and acting CEO of the KZN Children's Hospital Trust, a private NPO working tirelessly to raise money and oversee the renovation of the KZN Children's Hospital (formerly the Addington Children's Hospital). The Trust was founded by Dr Arthi Ramkissoo in 2011 following her successful proposal to the KZN Cabinet to resurrect the children's hospital precinct. Tragically, Arthi was struck down by COVID in January 2021 and did not live to see the fulfilment of her dream.

The Addington Children's Hospital was opened in 1931 and was the first of its kind for children on the African continent. In 1984 it was closed and remained so for 28 years, resulting in the hospital's seven buildings falling into a state of disrepair.

The Outpatients' Department was rebuilt and opened for services in July 2013 and includes a well-used training centre. The roof and external facades of the Old Main Hospital building and the Old Nurses' Home were restored in 2014. An underground parking area, together with the foundations and basement for the new seven-storey Rainbow Tower has been built. Currently, in the Old Main Hospital building, a new Psychology Centre is almost complete and an Adolescent Support Centre has recently been started. A children's COVID isolation facility, in the Old Nurses' Home building, is nearing completion and will convert into a Mothers' Lodge in time.

"The hospital is expected to become a centre of excellence in KZN, providing neurodevelopmental services, psychiatric services and rehabilitation," says Camilla. "Children will be referred to the hospital from all over the province and be assessed by a neurodevelopment team of healthcare professionals who will develop a treatment plan for each child. This process will take approximately a week per patient and in that time the child and mother (or other primary caregiver) will be accommodated in the Mothers' Lodge on the premises. Not only will the child receive desperately needed therapy but the mother will learn how to care for her child's special needs."

"We are raising money piecemeal and as we get enough we apply it to the most needed sections. We work closely with the Department of Health (DOH) in KZN and are informed by their needs."

Artist render of the KZN Children's Hospital, Nurses' Home and Rainbow Tower



Once sections are completed, they are handed over to the KZN DOH and, though significant progress has been made towards the re-establishment of the hospital, the project is only 25% of the way towards completion, with approximately R500 million still to go.

For more info visit www.kznchildrenshospital.org and take part in the Buy-a-Brick campaign - at R100 per brick. Funds go towards building the Rainbow Tower which will house various rehabilitative disciplines and neurological and palliative care wards as well as an operating theatre. Camilla tells us, "We called it the Rainbow Tower because the seven floors link to the seven colours in the rainbow and, as rainbows have a pot of gold when you reach them, so too will this Rainbow Tower be the health "pot of gold" for the children that come here."



As Senior First Officer and piloting local and international flights for SAA for more than a decade, *Tarryn Hanekom nee Sawyer's (1998)* passion and dream job took an unexpected turn when COVID-19 put a halt to local and world air travel in March last year. This self-professed "life-long learner", wife and mother of two decided to study further to harness the suppressed creativity within herself and in so doing founded May Grey Interiors.

Tarryn shares her motivating and personal story of breaking the "norm" and literally reaching for the sky, as well as rolling with the punches that life can, at times, throw at you...

"The future has many names... for the brave, it's limitless" says Tarryn. "We've all lost something - or someone - during the past year or so. For me, it also meant I grew in a new capacity I didn't think was possible. How do you break in to an entirely new industry halfway through your life with no previous experience? Forget about why you can't or shouldn't... JUST DO IT!!"

Click the link to enjoy Tarryn's full story:

<https://bit.ly/35bLMUW>

Inspiring!



Third year Law Student at the University of Cape Town, *Kirsti Leaf (Head Girl 2018)* discovered her passion for broadcasting and entertainment early in her varsity career. Joining UCT Radio as an intern in 2019, she hosts a Wednesday "Music & Talk" show and has assumed the role of Marketing Manager for the radio station.

Kirsti has a love for music and culture and is a Youtuber (vlogger) who is pro-women and pro-education. Like her school days, Kirsti's focus remains to encourage conversation as a tool to navigate social awareness and to develop a broader understanding of the post-modern society which we find ourselves in South Africa today.

Kirsti received an Outstanding Mentor Award for her work with two international students during COVID lockdown in 2020. In addition and despite the tumultuous year for students with universities closing countrywide, she has recently been admitted to the Golden Key International Honour Society for achieving within the top 15% of her class at UCT. This society is a non-profit academic organisation founded in the United States in 1977 and is the world's largest collegiate honour society with chapters in over 400 universities from eight countries.

Congratulations, Kirsti!



Alexis Favelin (2019) has recently written, recorded and released her second original song, *Groover* (<https://bit.ly/3fAN7dQ>), the first being *Lonely* (<https://bit.ly/3i8184f>) in March this year. Currently studying a BCom Investment Management at Stellenbosch University, Alexis has been passionate about singing and song writing since she was eight years old. Her songs, including some covers, are available on many online platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify, Deezer and Youtube Music under her recording name, Alexis. She is excited to release her third original towards the end of July, follow her on Instagram @alexis_favelin to learn about her latest work.

Congratulations, Alexis!



Congratulations to *Bridget Kee (2002)* who took first place overall in the women's category at the 2021 African Oxpecker Trail Run. The African Oxpecker is the most competitive of all the events with the iconic, two day race drawing top trail runners from around South Africa. The race took place in May and the win was quite an emotional one for Bridget, who underwent intensive hip surgery in 2019.

Bridget, who works as the COO for Capitalize Media, a sports marketing agency, has undergone two years of rehabilitation to get to run in her third Oxpecker race. "The win for me was not only an emotional high but also showed me how I can bounce back and continue to work towards my running dreams."

*Well done to ALL our Old Girls
who took part in this event!*



Congratulations to our Saints Indoor Hockey stars, *Kelly Reed nee Madsen (2007)*, *Tegan Fourie (2016)* and current pupil Dani who represented Team SA as part of the 2021 Indoor Hockey Africa Cup of Nations tournament in April.

We are extremely proud of how Team SA did! Winning against Botswana 26-0, beating Namibia 2-1 and claiming another win in their 2nd game against Botswana, scoring 18-0. Team SA achieved an outstanding set of results and narrowly missed gold in the finals against Namibia!

Bianca Rasmussen (2017) is currently completing her Licentiate in Teaching and Performing Arts at The Waterfront Theatre School (WTS) in Cape Town. In addition, she is excited to be assistant directing next to Garth Tavaras for "Our House", a musical opening in July at The Artscape Theatre and she is also in rehearsals for work at The Galloway Theatre later this year.

Recently, Bianca entered three pieces into a choreographic competition at WTS. From this she won best duet for her piece "Time-lapse", which explores the feeling of young love; best contemporary for "His Ark" which explores the questioning of one's masculinity and bias; and going on to win the "Full House" award for her Musical Theatre piece "The Library". This is the overall winner of the competition which followed three young couples trying to conceal their love in the 1800's.

"It was honestly just the best experience," says Bianca. "I got to dance in four numbers in the competition as well as have my own numbers performed so well by my fellow colleagues, so, overall, just a super unforgettable moment for me."

"His Ark" was a collaborative piece with production partner, Angelica Hattingh. Together they have recently launched a production company called A&B Productions. The piece was also then chosen from several international choreographers' work to be entered into the Imperial Society Teachers of Dance choreographic competition which is taking place soon.

"I am totally living out my dreams and doing what I love," says Bianca. "St Mary's was the best launching platform for me. I was always taught that I could do absolutely everything I put my mind to, and that mindset still lives with me today as I dabble in what feels like everything in the creative industry from directing and choreographing to acting and interviewing."

Bianca has also founded and is developing her "Body Lovin' Series" which she hopes will grow into something amazing. She has had the privilege of interviewing some inspirational international influencers, doctors, life coaches and TV hosts in SA. The series is a digital IGTV (Instagram TV) series that explores different outlooks of what body celebration is and how women often let things like insecurity and self-doubt hold them back. Follow @bianca_rasmussen on Instagram for more.

**Well done, Bianca as
you take the world
of Creative Arts
by storm!**





On 1 August 2021 *Marielle Fritsch nee Rogers (2005)* will be taking part in the Paradise Island swim from Guernsey to the Island of Herm. Marielle moved to Guernsey in 2018 after completing her articles at Deloitte and now works as a Tax Manager at Deloitte Guernsey. She has chosen to dedicate her swim to raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity, a charity very close to her heart.

"My niece was diagnosed with a brain tumour at only four years old and the support and help my family received was just incredible," says Marielle. "This organisation went the extra length of sending care packages and offering my family guidance and help during an incredibly difficult time. For that reason alone I would like to raise funds for them, let alone the incredible research they are doing into finding a cure."

To learn more or donate please visit Marielle's JustGiving page on <https://bit.ly/3x8n97c> and we wish you a fantastic swim in August!

Tannagh Pfotenhauer (2013)

is ecstatic to announce that her first book, *The Children Carried On* is complete and will soon be in print!

An experienced Foundation Phase Teacher, Tannagh moved to the UK earlier this year and has combined her love of enlightening young minds and writing in her roles in a number of education-based projects including early childhood content creation and culturally-responsive curriculum review.

Tannagh wrote this book to acknowledge the impact COVID had on small children and is an ideal book to encourage discussion for children of all ages.

"This project has been a labour of love and I hope it will inspire many," says Tannagh.

Well done, Tannagh and we look forward to reading it in our Primary School library soon!



Nomfundo Ndlangisa nee Makhanya (2006) married Mphumeleli in August 2020. To add to a special year, Nomfundo also graduated with her Masters in Business Management and Administration from Stellenbosch University. Congratulations Nomfundo!



Lyne-Le Redgard (2012) and partner, Luke, welcomed daughter, Kenzie Lee on 9 March 2021



Reanne de Klerk n.e.e. Leigh (2000) and wife, Eileen, welcomed their first child, daughter, Zasha Liyana on 29 November 2020. Living in the States and both working-from-home-moms in the entertainment industry, Reanne has loved this busy time, "Our industry picked up right before Zasha was born but we have been so lucky that she has been an adorable angel."



Melanie Petzer n.e.e. Rich (2006) and husband, Michael were married on 4 July 2020 in a small, intimate ceremony at her parent's home. They had their big wedding celebration with family and friends in December at The Glades Farm. Old girls, *Lauren Hepworth* and *Amber Ferreira (both 2006)* were bridesmaids.

On 11 May 2021, Melanie and Michael welcomed their daughter, Amelia Kim.

Whitney Botes nee Kilfoil (2006)

married Arno on 14 May. Whitney is Head Chef and co-owner at the popular Upper Highway restaurant, Willow Way Manor, where the couple celebrated the special occasion with their loved ones.

*Suanne Briggs nee*

Cosgrove (2010) married Andrew at Haycroft Country Estate in Howick on 27 March 2021 in a small ceremony. "Unfortunately my Mum couldn't physically be there as she was in Australia," said Suanne "but we had her on live stream the entire time (technology is truly amazing). It was such a happy and special occasion!"

Sophie Emma Grainger was born on 26 February 2021. First child to *Kate Maxwell (2006)* and Simon Grainger and first grandchild to *John (Previous Chairman of the Board)* and *Jenny Maxwell nee Hoole (1979)*, "Sophie is a happy and bubbly little girl who has brought us all so much joy" says Kate.





Megan Shaffer nee Matthews (2011)

and Trevor were married on 17 March 2020 just as the world was locking down due to COVID.

The couple, living in Utah, USA are expecting their first child, a son in October this year!

"I can't wait to be able to bring Trevor and our baby home to see South Africa and the places that made me into who I am today," says Megan "which includes my beautiful school, St Mary's!"

Megan Hamann nee Moxham (2004)

and husband Andrew welcomed their third child George Samuel on 13 April 2021. Big sisters Olivia and Zoe are overjoyed to have a little brother.



Nikki Bartels nee Trevisani

(2010) and husband, Daryl welcomed their daughter, Lyra Hope, on 14 May 2021.



OBITUARIES

Tribute to Jeremy Sabine

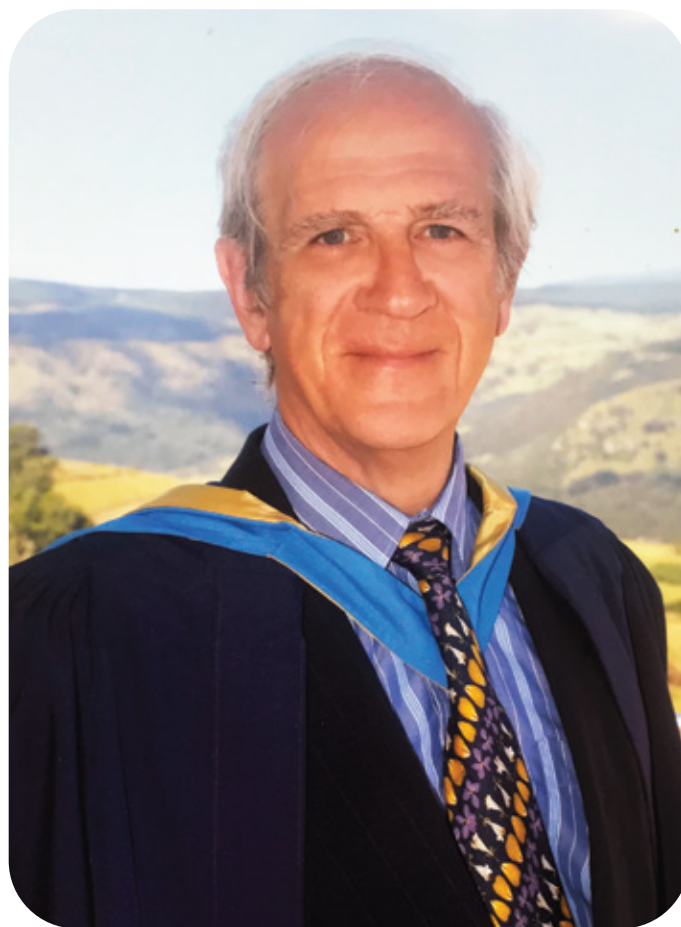
St Mary's Headmaster 1981 - 2003

It is with great sadness that we share that Mr Jeremy Sabine, Headmaster of St Mary's from 1981 to 2003 passed away on 4 May in the Western Cape.

Mr Sabine was an integral part of St Mary's during a period which presented a challenge for a headmaster newly arrived from Britain. However he found the spirit of both the country and the school community invigorating. Mr Sabine was sensitive to the need for change and adaptation by both school management and teachers, and the pupils. He gave teachers the freedom to develop their own ideas; he encouraged them to accept challenges and to extend the girls beyond the expectations of the traditional curriculum.

"If we wish to produce a future generation capable of coping in an ever more complex and competitive world we must encourage our children to enquire, to interrogate, to demand answers, to disagree, even to argue – this is not insolence – it's independence." – Mr Sabine.

He introduced vital subjects such as Accounting, Dramatic Arts and Computer Studies as well as the flagship S.M.I.L.E. programme (St Mary's Interactive Learning Experience) which is now a national community based education organisation, NGO, Section 21 Company, Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) working in partnership with Independent and Community Primary and High schools throughout South Africa.



Grade R and the Creativity Centre (CC) are just some of the monuments of Mr Sabine's vision and foresight.

On his retirement from St Mary's in 2003 Mr Sabine said, "In October 1980 I left a cold and wet English autumn and arrived in brilliant sunshine in South Africa, to be interviewed for the post that I have held. I drove up to the school for my first visit as the then Chairman of the Board, Robin Aberdein, had arranged to meet me there to show me the school. I got there early – I needed to make a good impression – it was holiday time and the place was empty. There was an extraordinary peace about the place – just quiet. A peace that is still there – many girls have told me about it. I knew then that St Mary's was especially precious in God's eyes. I also knew, impertinently, as I had not at that time been interviewed, that I was to be part of His plan for the school."

Mr Sabine will be fondly remembered by many, especially those who worked closely with him. Linda Stoffberg and Sue Goldfeder were High School Deputy Principals during Mr Sabine's tenure and helped him to steer St Mary's on the course to become the exceptional school it is today.

"Past present and future are inextricably entwined and Mr Sabine's past and present-day influence will for a long time contribute to this school's future" said Linda Stoffberg.

Jonathan Manley, St Mary's Executive Principal writes, "His service will be remembered as transitioning St Mary's into a new era and establishing the school's reputation of innovation and excellence in academics. Those who worked with him recognised his visionary leadership and courage in pursuing big, challenging goals. He was always so proud of what the school was able to achieve and the calibre of people who work and study here. The St Mary's community keep his wife, Jenny and children, Matt and Storme, in their prayers as they face this grief and loss."

The Learning Resources Centre (LRC), Sports Hall, Physical Science Block, Staines and St Elizabeth's boarding houses, Drama Studio, Amphitheatre,

Far left: Tributes placed at Statue Grace to honour Mr Sabine.
Left: Mr Sabine invited guest speakers to inspire and motivate girls at their High School Speech Days. Right: In 1994 with his wife Jenny, former South African Anglican Bishop Michael Nuttal, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and wife Leah.





Pat Olivier (Honorary Old Girl & Archivist)

24/04/1937 - 27/03/2021

Pat joined St Mary's in 1992 heading up the High School History Department. She ensured that History was viewed by her pupils as exciting and relevant and the department grew considerably under her guidance. Her classroom was one of many stimulating debates and staff, current and Honorary, and Old Girls remember her gentle, compassionate nature with fondness.

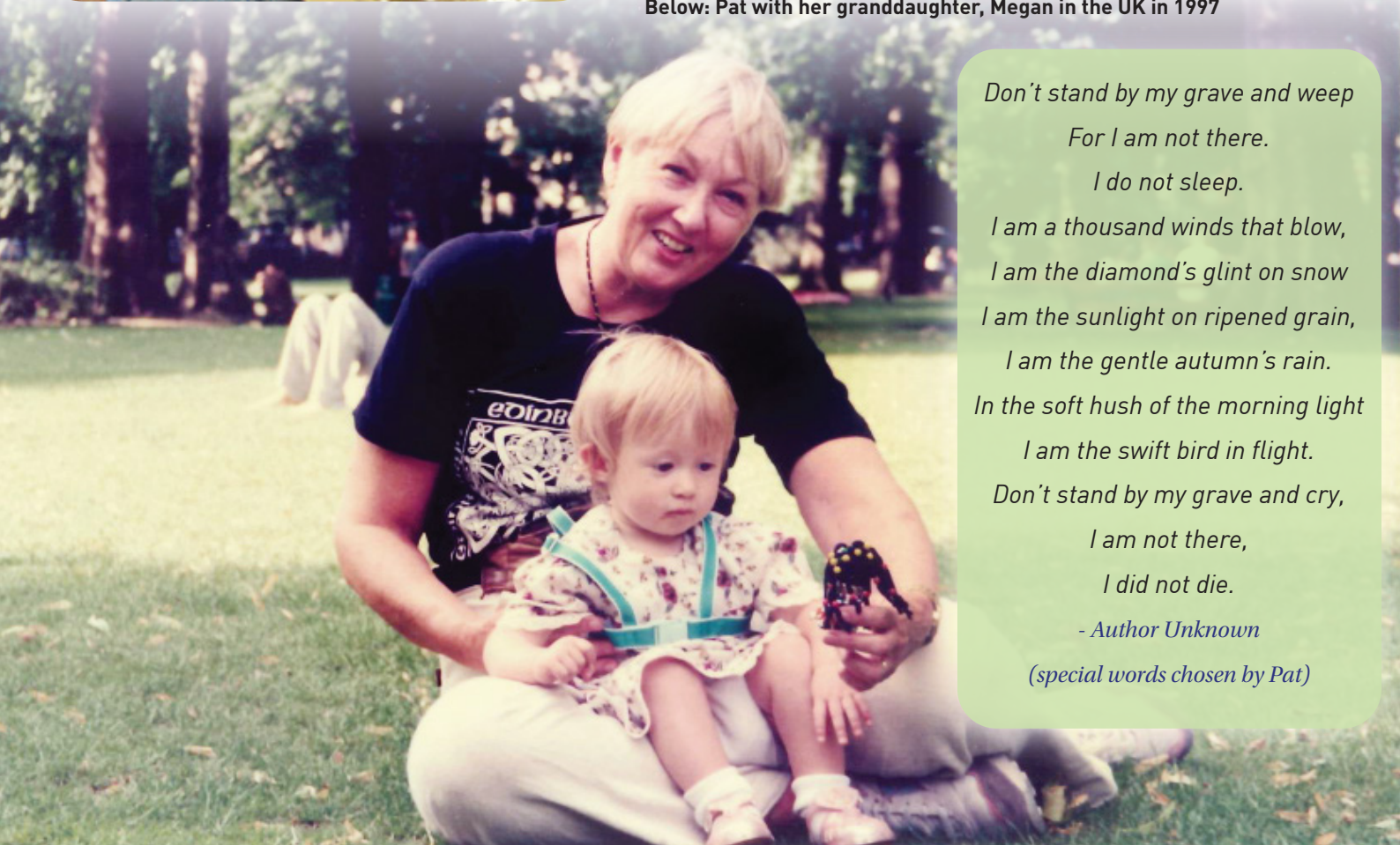
Although retiring at the end of 2003, Pat continued part-time work at the school writing *May Here Forever Flourish and Abound – A Centenary History of St Mary's 1906 – 2006*. This beautifully compiled book involved years of research and collaborations from staff and Old Girls and was published in 2006. It remains an enormous asset to the documented history of St Mary's.

Pat was an avid lover of nature and gardening. Together with close friends and neighbours she founded the Padfield Conservancy (now the Pinetown Conservancy) passionately promoting and improving her indigenous surroundings for the betterment of both human and wildlife residents.

"My darling wife of almost 56 years, and the love of my life, was stolen from me by a cruel disorder called Parkinson's disease on 27 March this year. She was a loving wife, mother to Renata, Francois and Jean-Paul, grandmother to Megan and great-grandmother to Jesse. We will all miss her enormously." - Theo Olivier, husband

Left: Pat Olivier and Vicki Marnoch nee Wheelwright (1970) worked tirelessly in the St Mary's Archives to preserve and document the history of St Mary's.

Below: Pat with her granddaughter, Megan in the UK in 1997



*Don't stand by my grave and weep
For I am not there.*

I do not sleep.

*I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond's glint on snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn's rain.*

*In the soft hush of the morning light
I am the swift bird in flight.*

*Don't stand by my grave and cry,
I am not there,*

I did not die.

- Author Unknown

(special words chosen by Pat)

We always welcome news about our Old Girls. Whether it be your work or studies, recent weddings, births or nominations for inspiring Old Girls. We also wish to honour Old Girls who have passed away. Please contact Lauren on lrapsn@stmarysdsg.co.za