



WHAT'S INSIDE



OLD GIRLS - MOMS & DAUGHTERS

Another St Mary's Legacy begins
Page 2



REMARKABLE WOMEN

Chatting to amazing Old Girls
Pages 3 - 5



OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Pages 5 - 9

OFF TO A *Flying start*

DERRY JURGENSEN nee SWAIN Old Girls' Guild Chairlady

2018 has promised to run ahead of us with the speed of light, considering we are already at the end of Term 1. We welcome back to St Mary's our Old Girls with their daughters and wish you all a very happy season at the school. Our committee has started off well and we encourage all Old Girls to join us to give back to our beautiful school and the community.

Our annual fundraising event is a "Tasting Extravaganza" set for the 26 May 2018 at Bellevue Café. Thank you to our talented Victoria Verbaan (1996) for your design of our beautiful invitation. We are grateful to our two sponsors for the evening, for their continued support. The committee has been working hard to identify sponsors for silent auction items - contact me if you would like to sponsor an item (derrybj@telkomsa.net) and 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 and updated details. We love hearing about your news and achievements in business and life.

Last, but not least, please save the date for Old Girls' Day 2018, it is on 4 August and we have a lovely lineup.

Regards

Derry



tasting Extravaganza

Please join us for an evening of sensory delights and artisanal Gin, Prosecco and Craft Beer

Hosted by the Guild of St Mary's Old Girls

Date - 26 May 2018
Time - 6:30pm
Venue - Bellevue Café
Tickets - R380 per person

Contact Derry Jurgensen on
derrybj@telkomsa.net
or
0837861829



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



Cindy Valentine nee Wishart (1995)
and Isabella



Yvette Ferreira nee Dreyer (1992)
with Zahra




Erika van der Merwe (2005) and Mila



Julia Cooke nee Paterson (1989)
with Sarah (right) and Caitlin (left)



Sarah Walker nee Morgan (2003) with daughters
Rebecca and Blair



St MARY'S
Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof
OLD GIRLS' GUILD



OLD GIRLS' Day 2018

Saturday 4 August

Venue: St Mary's DSG
Time: 9:30am to 2pm
Chapel Service at 9:30am
Photographs
Lunch (no cost)
Please RSVP to Lauren on
lrapsen@stmarysdsg.co.za or 031 764 9803



Please join us for this special day

Emma Chelius and Erin Gallagher

Class of 2013 & 2016

WITH excitement and preparations mounting for Commonwealth Games in 2018, we caught up with two Saints' Old Girls, Emma Chelius (2013) and Erin Gallagher (2016), swimmers who are doing us proud and representing South Africa in April in Australia.

"I strongly believe that when women build each other up instead of constantly competing with one another - that is when the magic happens!"

"nowadays I make sure that I take time off for myself to recover so that I can train and compete at my best."

Women in Sport

Although they believe there is room for improvement with women in sports in general, both girls are really excited at the potential and promising future for women's swimming in the country.

"Honestly, I don't think I'll ever be able to explain just how honoured I am to represent South Africa," says Erin, "It's always been something that I've dreamed about being able to do since I was a young girl and to see that dream turn into reality, really gives me that warm fuzzy feeling inside. I really hope I can do my country proud during the Commonwealth Games."

"Looking at swimming in particular, the Commonwealth team is almost split 50/50 with the men and women qualifiers," says Erin.

continued on following page...

"It's a huge honour and blessing and a culmination of years of hard work, so it is really exciting," adds Emma.

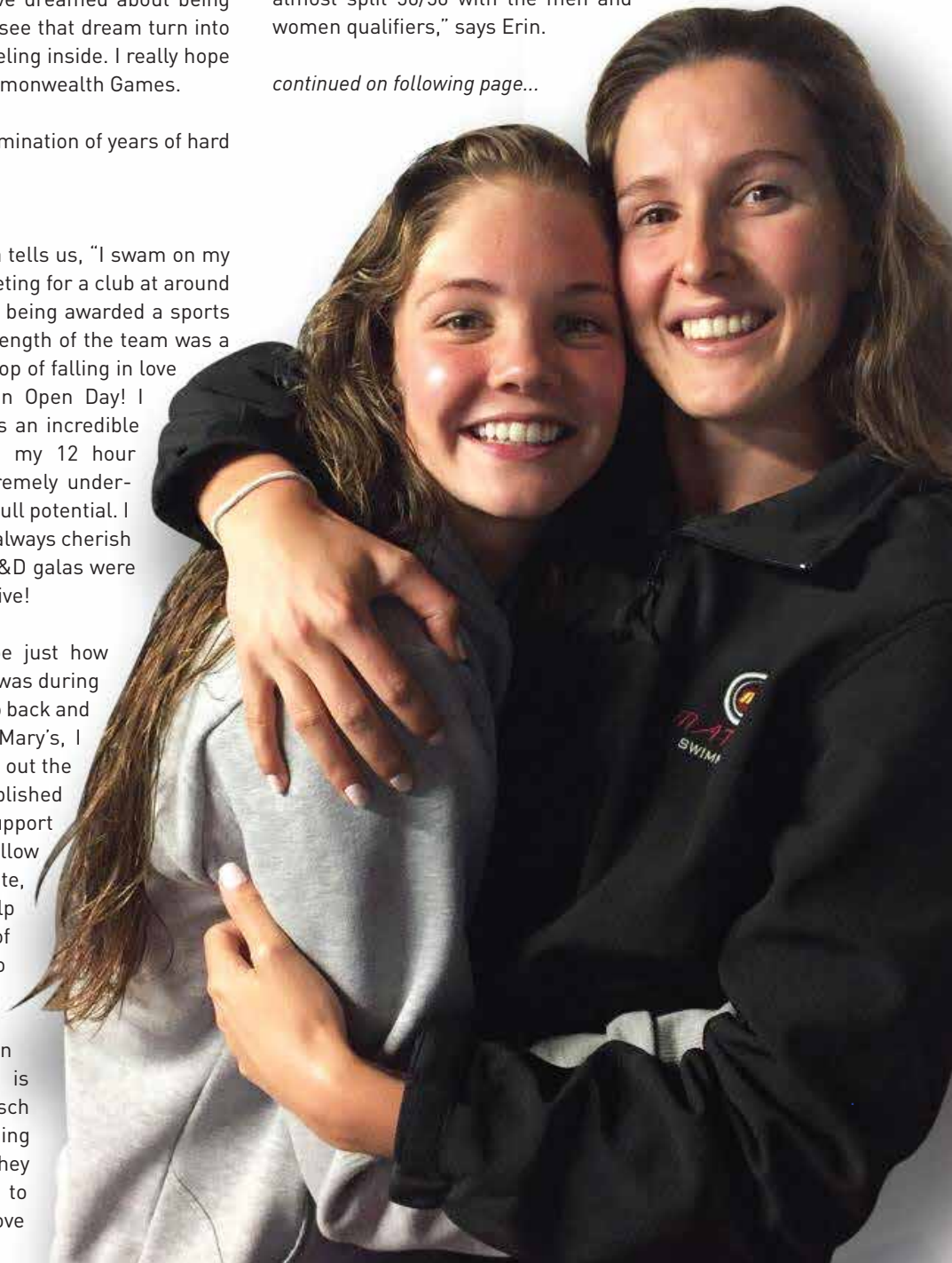
Support

"I always loved being in the water," Emma tells us, "I swam on my school swimming team and started competing for a club at around 11. I started at St Mary's in Grade 8 after being awarded a sports scholarship for my swimming and the strength of the team was a huge motivation to attend St Mary's... on top of falling in love with the school library during a tour on Open Day! I trained with Nick Gray and St Mary's was an incredible 'home-away-from-home' for me during my 12 hour school days. My teachers were also extremely understanding and still pushed me to reach my full potential. I am such a proud Saints Old Girl and I will always cherish my time at school... and those amazing D&D galas were something I will never forget as long as I live!"

Erin adds, "I have no words to describe just how accommodating and supportive St Mary's was during my high school career. If I could, I would go back and start all over again. If it weren't for St Mary's, I don't think my swimming would've turned out the way it has, I owe a lot of what I have accomplished to this amazing school. Their constant support and complete and utter willingness to allow me to travel around the world to compete, and give of their own personal time to help me catch up on the copious amounts of work that I missed, certainly didn't go unnoticed or unappreciated."

Emma graduated with her BCom in Management Accounting last year and is continuing with her Honours at Stellenbosch University. She swims for Maties Swimming Club and also commends her coaches, "they are very understanding when it comes to academic commitments and always go above and beyond to support me in my studies."

"Although I wasn't very good at managing my time over the past few years," Emma says,



SA representatives for the Commonwealth Games 2018 (left to right)

Erin Gallagher (2016) and Emma Chelius (2013)

continued from previous page...

Erin went on to say, "It's rare to see nearly as many women qualifiers as men qualifiers, not to mention most of the girls are under the age 20 – go gals! I think what really encourages the younger athletes is seeing that we're all really supportive of each other. When we race we have to forget about friendships, but as soon as the race is over, it's all about congratulating everyone and being there for those who need the support. One of my favourite parts about swimming is the sense of unity and general respect for one another. I mean, who wouldn't want to be a part of something so special? And I'm sure the same could be said across most sporting codes. #GirlPower."

Emma echoed these sentiments, "It all starts with nurturing female athletes from school level and also understanding the idea that 'women are not small men' – we are different and subsequently have different training needs. We have a large Commonwealth Games team going this year and a bigger group of girls than before. This is fantastic because it gives us exposure to international competition where we can learn from watching the best. I strongly believe that when women build each other up instead of constantly competing with one another – that is when the magic happens!"

Training

Emma and Erin's training preparations have certainly upped in ante in the last few months before the Games.

"I can literally feel myself falling asleep by 8:30pm because of how grueling our training set is," says Erin, who swims for Seagulls Swimming Club under Graham Hill and Delon Dannhauser, "I've had to start being strict when it comes to my diet, but sometimes I have to listen to what my heart wants and sneak a few/many chocolates here and there (haha). I've also had to change my mindset, I like to visualise what I want to achieve in Australia and I put that on repeat every night before I go to bed"

"I have been focusing a lot more on my endurance and strength recently," says Emma, "and in the final few weeks of preparation we will start fine tuning the speed work. It's been a mental and physical learning curve and I have really learnt a lot about myself through pushing my limits in training. I'm hoping that all the hard work will really pay off in Australia!"

Both Emma and Erin dream of being able to represent SA at the Olympics in future and love the experience they have gained from competing internationally...

Well done on the amazing accomplishments and perseverance and all the best in Australia Emma and Erin! We are behind you all the way.



"It is finished!"



"Just before He died, Jesus shouted from the cross, 'It is finished!' What was finished? Jesus was saying: Everything you need to come back home to God, Everything you need to be free and happy in God, Everything you need to live forever, I've done it all!

CAITLIN BARNES nee DE KOCK (2006)
School Chaplain

It wasn't a cry of defeat. It was a shout of victory. The great work of rescuing us was finished! There is now nothing you can do to make God love you more – and nothing you can do to make Him love you less. It is finished!"

'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

(Taken from Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by Sally-Lloyd Jones and Jago)

Amanda Gwen Ngwenya (2007)



Sinethemba Amanda Gwen Ngwenya (2007) has had a stellar career since matriculating at St Mary's. Whilst at school, Gwen was a phenomenal member of the Debating Team. She went on to become president of the University of Cape Town Student Representative Council (SRC) early in her academic career, whilst studying a BA Law and Classic Studies.

Gwen has built up extensive international experience, working in competition economics and financial markets in India and the United Kingdom, lending a global perspective to South Africa's domestic strengths and challenges. As Chief Operating Officer at the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR), Gwen focussed on helping businesses, public institutions, foreign embassies and many other organisations understand how South Africa's political economy impacts their operations, and in that climate how to position themselves for success.

Gwen has just left her post at IRR and was sworn in on 27 February 2018 as a Member of Parliament. She joins the DA and will work on policy for the party, who have warmly welcomed her.

"The DA was an integral part of my political involvement when I was at University and I'm looking forward to helping place clear blue water between us and the rest of the political offering in South Africa."

"When I was last involved it was an opposition party... I have incredible admiration for the activists around the country who have grown the party, the councillors who have taken up the governance challenge, and to the many South Africans who've been willing to give change a chance," says Gwen, "As a result I haven't joined the opposition. I've joined a governing party, one that governs arguably the majority of South Africa's GDP. This presents incredible opportunities to articulate policy from a position of strength and not as rebuttal to any other party's agenda."

"South Africans will be the beneficiaries of a competitive policy arena. I'm led to believe we're entering a new dawn, centered not on the battle of personalities, but on the battle of ideas. Now that's an idea we can be united behind."

Gwen completed her Masters in International Economics from the University of Paris and is currently studying for her second Masters in Finance at the University of London.

Gwen, you are inspirational as you contribute to bringing about change and unity in South Africa.

Photo courtesy of Democratic Alliance Facebook Page

Intaba View
•Restaurant •Weddings •Functions

031 783 4011
www.intabaview.co.za
@intabaview - Instagram
10 Old Main Road, Drummond, Durban

INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED

ARE YOU, YOUR STAFF OR FAMILY BATTLING TO NAVIGATE THE CHANGE THE EXPONENTIAL AGE REQUIRES YOU TO MAKE?

In order to be successful in your personal and professional life you need these vital human skills for success: Problem Solving, Creativity, Critical Thinking, People Management and Emotional Intelligence. All these skills are exhibited by successful people and companies **authentically living a Culture of Innovation.**

Call now to enquire about our Internationally Accredited Change Management Programs and our NLP Practitioner training for those wanting to help others navigate change and innovation.

CONTACT US
+27 82 454 0562
QUERIES@NEWMELLA.CO.ZA
WWW.NEWMELLA.CO.ZA

Jacqueline Stoltz nee Linnow (1993)

Wendy Mahoney (1996) & Laura Thomas-Gilks (2006)

Janet Solomon

Class of 1984

Janet Solomon (1984) graduated from the Universities of Kwa-Zulu-Natal and the Witwatersrand, obtaining her MA in Fine Art with distinction.

After the third, recent stranding of a humpback whale in August 2016, Janet was prompted to produce a documentary called *Becoming Visible*. The film, which premiered on 24 January in Mexico, focuses on a recent marine seismic survey off the east coast of South Africa, which was granted extension into the whale migration season.

"I believe the issues raised by this film are pertinent to very many coastlines around the world experiencing a push for oil and gas development at a time when countries committed to the Paris Agreement are busy divesting from the oil industry," says Janet.

"The reality is that ocean health is grounded in and conditioned by our relationship to it. *Becoming Visible* investigates the risks posed by unilateral and indiscriminate traumatising noise exposure from marine seismic surveys to many marine species, and the vulnerability of fishery-based livelihoods to these impacts."

The film was well received at its premier in Mexico and Janet is preparing the film for various festivals including a small premier in KZN at the KZNSA on the 15 of March.

"This, plus activism around the push for oil and gas on our coastline, keeps me out of some mischief."

Janet has been practising professionally as an artist from 2008, since resigning as Managing Director of Decorland to pursue art full



time. Her confrontational works engage head-on with environmental issues and human cultural relations with animals. The notion of the natural world being interrupted and impacted is the eroded circumstance in which her subject (as well as society) finds itself. Her work orbits around ideas of alienation, reduction of relation and its destructive consequences, and the susceptibility of the subject to dissociative forces.

We are grateful for Janet's ongoing efforts. This is a concern close to home and as well as globally.

To learn more keep an eye on www.janetsolomon.com and www.becomingvisible.africa

Claire Muir nee Holdsworth

Class of 1994

Claire Muir nee Holdsworth matriculated from St Mary's in 1994 and, together with her husband, Hamish and two children, lives on a small holding near the Drakensberg. With the effects of the drought glaringly obvious for Hamish, an Agricultural contractor, Claire decided to look at various options where their space could be better utilised and where water would not be an issue.

Wanting to go as "green" as possible, Claire went the route of Aquaponics whereby fish are used to make fertiliser and no chemicals or pesticides are used.

"The way that aquaponics works is super complicated and I regret not showing more interest in Science and Biology when I was at school. To explain it simply: the fish make my fertiliser, their waste gets filtered into 2 tanks, their solid waste goes to my worm farm (a whole new story) and the fertilised

water gets filtered through stones back into the system, the water then flows through my troughs and ends up in the sump which is then pumped back into the fish tanks. Nothing is wasted, we only have to top up a small amount of water every couple of days due to evaporation and the plants sapping it up."

Built by her husband and staff in early 2016, Claire now has two tunnels running and uses various methods of growing. She grows 8 varieties of lettuce and 3 varieties of spinach and has a number of restaurants on board who admit to the amazing taste of her produce.

"I hope that South Africans start being more proactive and questioning where their food comes from, especially in restaurants. I am so used to the clean taste of my veg now that if I have a salad anywhere else, you can taste the bitterness of the chemicals. When I'm asked how do they know I don't use chemicals, I just smile and say 'the fish are alive aren't they?'" Any trace chemicals and the fish will die. Pests like aphids get sorted out by spiders and ladybirds... nature is amazing."





Thevendrie Brewer nee Naicker (1990)

Congratulations to Thevendrie Brewer nee Naicker (1990) for being appointed the new chairperson of Netcare South Africa. Thevendrie qualified with her BCom and followed with her Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy CA(SA) from the University of Natal (Durban) in 1994. She is married to Grant (pictured) and has two sons, Kirin and Ronin.

Thevendrie started off her career at Ernst & Young (EY) where she completed her articles in 1998. She left in 2000 to start her corporate finance career at Deutsche Bank where she reached the position of Vice President. After leaving in 2005 to start a family, she joined EY as a partner in the Advisory business, specialising in Finance and Performance Management. However, her love for corporate finance saw her joining Rothschild & Co as a Director in 2008. She is now a Managing Director and has the role of COO, with limited client responsibilities given her desire to spend more time with her family.

Thevendrie, who has been an independent non-executive member of the board of Netcare South Africa since 2011, will be taking up the position of Chairperson from the beginning of April 2018.

Wishing you all the best Thevendrie... Simply inspiring!



Tamaryn Jarvis nee Reid (1999)
and husband, Rowan, welcomed baby girl, Nicola Rae on
6 January 2018, granddaughter to Honorary Old Girl Cheryl Reid

Shylo Pereira nee van Heyzen (1998) and Samantha Salomon nee Landers (2004)
will be performing in "That's Life" in Kloof in April



Roxanne Dunderdale nee Smith
**(2007) married David at our special
St Mary's Chapel on 25 November 2017**



Suanne Cosgrove (2010)

After matriculating from St Mary's in 2010, Suanne studied a BA Law (2013) and Postgraduate LLB (2015) at the University of Stellenbosch. Thereafter she completed her articles of clerkship at Garlicke & Bousfield Attorneys in Umhlanga in the Estates and Trust Department.

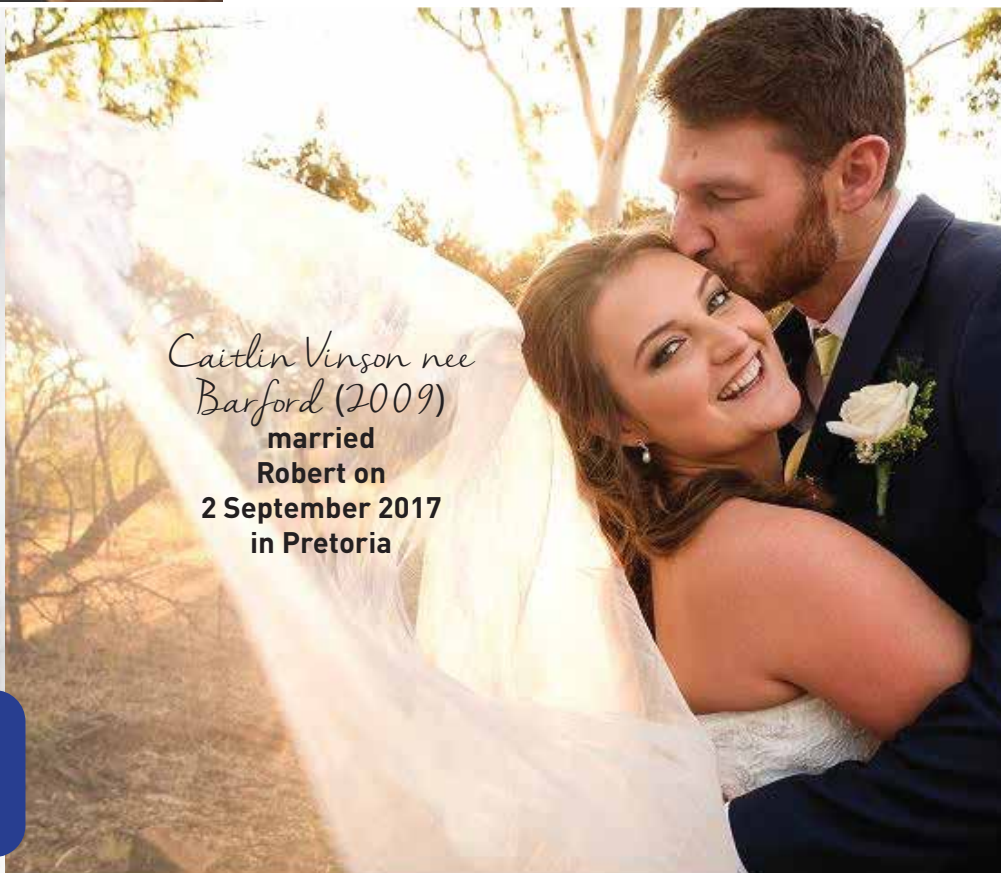
On 2 February 2018, Suanne was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa, Pietermaritzburg.

"This means that I am now officially an officer of the court and registered as an attorney with the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society," says Suanne, "I am hoping next year to complete my LLM (Masters of Law) in a field relating to the rights of elderly and disabled persons."

"I most certainly would not be where I am today without the love and support I received in my 12 years at St Mary's. Thank you so much for keeping abreast with the goings-on of our Old Girls as well as recognising our achievements. It is so comforting to know that I am always a part of the St Mary's family - even after 8 years out of school!"



Paige Fine (2008)
**Paige Fine welcomed baby boy Bennett,
born 27 September 2017**



*Caitlin Vinson nee
Barford (2009)*
**married
Robert on
2 September 2017
in Pretoria**

Nikki Bartels nee Trevisani (2010)
and Daryl got married on
8th April 2017 at
Netherwood in the Midlands



Laura Thomas (2006) married Jonathan Gilks on
23 September 2017 in the Midlands. Johnny and Laura grew up as
neighbours and reconnected 12 years after first meeting.
It was love at "second" sight.



*Tammy-Lee Mack
nee Kelly (2005)*
married Richard on
11 November 2017 also
at the St Mary's Chapel

OBITUARIES

Amanda Ntuli (2016) - 07/02/2018

Amanda matriculated from St Mary's in 2016, after having spent 5 years involving herself totally in all aspects of school life. Whether it was on the sportsfield, in the classroom or on an Outreach project, Amanda always brought energy to those around her. She was full of enthusiasm for all sport but, in particular, excelled in Indoor and Outdoor Hockey, representing the 1st teams in both sports from Grade 10 through to Grade 12. Amanda also represented KZN Hockey throughout her school career. In addition to being a keen sportswoman, Amanda also found time to volunteer at Makaphutu Children's Village where her gift for communicating with young children was brought to the fore.

Together, we will remember a wonderful, full-of-life independent young lady who impacted our world with her beautiful smile and warm heart. Her ability to make anyone around her feel important and valued was exceptional. Amanda's infectious laugh and love of people enabled her to change the atmosphere in any room. May we celebrate and cherish the vibrancy of her life and the way she was unapologetically herself. Carol, Sigz and Bili, we hold you in our hearts at this time.

Amanda Ntuli, you are well loved and will be sorely missed

- Ms Jo Kinsey, Head of High School

Brigit Ramsden nee Barry Smith (1949) - 5/12/2017

Beloved mother to Timothy and Paula Ramsden (1986) and loving sister to Jennifer Cowley nee Barry Smith (1945) and Annabel O'Malley nee Barry Smith (1948).

"Mum looked forward to the Old Girls' Days. She would meet Anne Hinchliffe nee Saunders (1947) and they would reminisce about their school days back in the 40s. Mum told me that during the War there was petrol rationing, so Mom and her two sisters caught the train from Hillcrest Station to Kloof Station and met the local riding school teacher who had three horses waiting (It was pouring with rain). The three girls then rode to St Mary's and arrived drenched!" - Timothy and Paula Ramsden (1986)

"Brigit was a dearly loved sister to Annabel and myself. As the three Barry Smith girls, we all went to St Mary's, starting in the 1930s when Miss Butcher was Head and morning prayers were held in the stiflingly hot wood and iron hall which doubled as the gym, a far cry from today's beautiful buildings.

With so many happy memories of those early days, Brigit never missed the annual Old Girls' lunch gatherings when she enjoyed seeing familiar faces, although fewer and fewer of these remained as the years went on, and now Brigit herself has gone. As someone who was always true to her faith and lived it every day of her life, she was a reflection of all that St Mary's stood for, and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her."

- Jennifer
Cowley nee
Barry Smith
(1945)



Janet Acutt (1965) - 28/01/2018

"Although I was a year ahead of Janet, we became friends when I was appointed to give her extra French lessons! She went on to have a very 'different' life. She married an Italian with whom she had her first daughter... later she married George Hourquebie... she had 3 daughters in all. After that ended she went on a 'journey' of her own. She was introduced to the teachings of an Indian guru and became a devotee. Her name changed to Karuna. She travelled to India a few times and was passionate about the place and the people. She went with me once as I was importing from India and Nepal. Janet was very well read, she lived in Munster with over a dozen rescued dogs and cats. She had a wonderful spirit and her favourite saying was 'Live life as if your hair was on fire!'"

- Jill Indrio nee Roberts (1964)



Olive Nightingale (Honorary Old Girl) - February 2018

Olive was a highly regarded colleague and trusted teacher at St Mary's, employed initially to teach Biblical Studies. Her contribution to the spiritual life of the school was incalculable, Olive was indeed, in the words of Mr Sabine (principal at the time) as he described her at the 1996 Speech Day, "an example of a living, doing Christian."

She was appointed to a Senior Mistress position taking particular responsibility for the extra-mural and social welfare of high school students. Her sense of fairness and deep understanding of teenage students' needs were just two examples of the considerable contribution she made to the leadership of the school.

After 15 years at St Mary's, Olive returned to the UK with her husband Singleton. She will be remembered for the implementation of the Whole Life Programme (now known as Life Orientation/LO), an integral part of the school curriculum from Grade 1 to Matric and also initiated "Peace Education" in the Primary School during the difficult times in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Wendy Mbili (2017)

As the child of a domestic worker, it was financially impossible for Wendy to even dream of attending a school like St Mary's. She worked hard in her previous schools but it was in this nurturing environment where she flourished. Her life changed with the help of a generous benefactor who enabled Wendy to join St Mary's half way through her Grade 10 year. It was clear from the day she arrived that she was going to do the very best she could in all spheres of school life. She worked diligently and consistently to achieve high academic results; she was involved in a number of outreach activities – taking to heart the school's motto "Service before Self; God before All"; and her personal growth in terms of confidence and self-worth was evident for all to see. As a boarder, Wendy had the opportunity to develop strong friendships that will go beyond her school days. Staff at St Mary's could see her potential and encouraged her to make the most of this and in achieving her personal best. As a result of her outstanding Matric results in 2017, Wendy will be studying Medicine at UCT this year.

In Wendy's words to her sponsor, "As a Saints girl, I have had the chance to learn skills that other people may never learn. I have had teachers who have gone the extra mile to help me do my best and they have made my experience at St Mary's extra special. If it weren't for your kindness, I would not have had a high school experience as amazing as the one that I have had. It has been life changing so I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Should you be interested in impacting a young girl's life, or would like to know more about The Foundation Trust or Statue Grace initiative, please contact Bronwyn Cawood on foundationtrust@stmarysdsg.co.za



Jonathan Manley (Executive Principal), Julia Zoetmulder (Head of Chapel 2017), Metja Ngoasheng (Head Girl 2017), Abigail Wilson (Deputy Head Girl 2017) and Bronwyn Cawood (Foundation Trust Manager)

CLASS OF 2017 Fund

The Class of 2017 designated their Matric gift to the St Mary's Foundation Trust Bursary Fund, the first to establish a Class Fund. Through generous donations (which have continued since this photograph) they have collected R39 242 to go towards giving a promising young girl the opportunity to experience St Mary's and gain as much as they have. This fund, which we hope to grow over time with further tax deductible donations, will create and build a legacy that will last for many years to come.

We have been so inspired by the girls' desire to pay it forward and want to say a heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed so generously towards this initiative.

Statue Grace

Statue Grace is a St Mary's Foundation Trust initiative to change the lives of girls still to come and to continue the school legacy of inspiring girls to become remarkable women. Due to the incredible support last year, 76 new names were added to Statue Grace, consisting of Old Girls and current pupils ranging from Matric to Grade R (who will matriculate in 2029).

These names not only become part of the history of the school, they also represent a contribution to future girls to be supported by the St Mary's Foundation Trust.

