

2013 LOG Newsletter

REPORT FROM KATHY

Dear Loreto Old Girls,

As Spring is in the air, with the Plum Trees blossoming in white and pink all over the suburbs, I am happy to be able to write my greetings to you from Melbourne. Of course, South Africa is in the same time zone as Australia, so Spring is also showing itself there and what a beautiful time of the year it is, with the flowers all showing their pretty faces and blue skies and sunshine beginning to gladden our days.

Melbourne is a very pretty city, with many attractions on offer. The sea is within easy reach and we have spent many happy days on the beach, while the boys (big and small) all try their hands at fishing. A few weeks ago, we went to the mountains to do some tobogganing in the snow, which was a wonderful experience for us all. I even went on a toboggan and thoroughly enjoyed myself- of course, the little ones took to it as ducks to water and sped away without a care in the world!

I am very glad to be able to maintain my contact with my beloved Loreto Convent School, which was such an enormous part of my life for more than 30 years, and do hope that you will enjoy this newsletter and that you will all be able to attend the reunion this year. Although I will be with you in thought and prayer, and not in person this year, my love and best wishes will be with you always.

Much love,

Kathy

SCHOOL NEWS

The brand new website www.loreto.co.za contains wonderful photos and articles about what the school has achieved this year, with vibrant photos as well. It is so exciting to see what has been achieved this year and, with this website, we can actively feel a part of all the good work by logging on and seeing for ourselves. It is also a marvellous memento that we can encourage all our friends to see as well. How proud we can be of our dear school and how glad we can be that we are a part of its history.

Well done, Loreto, and may you continue to go from strength to strength!!

Congratulations to our Principal, Mr. Shillinglaw, on the marriage of his son Russell earlier this year. We extend all good wishes to the young couple as they begin married life together.

REPORTS FROM LORETO SISTERS

Sister Marian writes.

Message to Loreto Past Pupils, South Africa

Greetings to each one from Rome! Here in Casa Loreto I am into my eighth year in the leadership role and looking forward to returning to South Africa in early 2015. Even though I do not connect by email or Facebook with any of you, I do remember you. On Tuesdays we pray especially for past-pupils so I send special blessings that day.

Life will have taken you on many different paths since I last met any of you. I know that there will be ups and downs all the time but I hope you search for the silver lining in every cloud. We need to strive to remain positive and to hold on to hope in this wonderful, fragile world of ours! May you always have the energy to do this.

Thinking of you all with affection and gratitude
Marian Moriarty IBVM
Be lovers of truth and doers of justice
Mary Ward

Sister Emer writes.

Dear Loreto Old Girls

Greetings to each one wherever you are from the Loreto Community of Southern Africa!

I had the privilege of presiding at the Grade RR to Gr.3 Spring Paraliturguy on September 6th in Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita. What a gift to be with these little children as they prayed and sang. It was a special paraliturguy as Gr.1 (aged 6 and 7) led us for the first time. They lit the candles, read scripture and prayed the intercessions with such reverence and confidence though they did say beforehand that they were a little bit nervous. On my way home I couldn't help thinking of the children in Syria and how their young lives are affected by war. It is good to hear that many around the world responded to Pope Francis' call for a day of prayer for peace in Syria. I am sure each one has her own memories of school at aged 6 and 7!

May the reunion be filled with many memories and opportunity to share. Know that Loreto Sisters remember past pupils in their prayer. I look forward to meeting on the 5th October.

With every good wish and blessings

Emer

NEWS OF LORETO OLD GIRLS

Notes

1. The annual **LOG Reunion** will take place on **Saturday 5 October 2013**. We invite all LOGS to attend, as well as the Loreto Sisters, the Principal of Loreto Convent School and his wife, Mr and Mrs Shillinglaw, the Vice-principal, Mrs Truter, and all Teachers, Past Principals and Past Teachers. Please let us know if you are coming. RSVP to admin@lorskin.co.za

2. LOGS, please note the addition of two new categories for celebration, namely those LOGS who are 25 years out of school and those LOGS who are 10 years out of school.

3. In the course of the coming year please send LOG News to admin@lorskin.co.za

LOG Commendations

We sing the praises of LOGS.

- Since **Kathy Wisselo, our Honorary LOG**, left Loreto Convent School to settle in Australia, we have been deprived of a strong and vibrant voice that cannot be easily replaced. Through the years she helped Sister Shirley with Loreto Old Girls affairs and after Sister Shirley left for Ireland she continued to work tirelessly for the LOGS. Kathy, we miss you dearly. Hope all goes well "Down Under".

- **Medea (Angelo) (Hussey) Evans (Skinner 1946)** tendered her apologies for not being able to attend the 2012 LOG Reunion owing to a prior engagement. She was to fly to Port Elizabeth to be part of the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the National Council of the Catholic Women's League. Also Medea was The Commissioner for the Girl Guides for many years. Enjoy your stay at St Peter's Retirement Village! Well done!

- **Beatrice (Richardson) Eksteen (Skinner 1946)** who lives in Parys, Free State, came to the 2012 LOG Reunion. Her grandson, who is a chef in New Zealand and London, was on leave in South Africa and brought Beatrice to Pretoria to stay with her daughter-in-law and her family who kindly did the fetching and carrying to and from the LOG Reunion. Splendid effort! What's more, Beatrice showed us part of her Loreto Memories (see the section).

LOG 80-year-olds

Congratulations to **Lola/Dolores (Brink) Neethling (Skinner 1950)** on achieving this relatively young age! If middle age starts at 53 and not at 41 as in the past, what is 80? May you go from strength to strength!

LOG Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations (and thank you for letting us know)!

- Gordon and Gloria (Hogeboom) Bower (Hillcrest 1961) were married 43 years on 25 April 2013.

- Ron and Yvonne (Rens) Sutherland (Skinner 1952) were married 56 Years on 8 June 2013. They received applause at Mass for this achievement.

LOG Weddings

- Ron and Yvonne Sutherland's eldest grandson, Nicholas (whose mother was at Hillcrest and Skinner, but who matriculated as a ballet dancer), got married on 15 June 2013. He married in Knysna and since the Sutherlands' youngest daughter and her family live there they were able to take advantage and spend 2 weeks down there.

LOG Births

- Khomotso Modiba (Skinner 2002) had a baby girl in March 2013.

- Aisha Bapo (Skinner 2002) had a baby son around the same time.

- Mrs Lee-Anne (Soley) Goosen (Skinner 1994) had a baby boy, Ethan, in May 2013. Congratulations to each!

LOG Travellers

- Molly Connolly (Hillcrest 1954) visited Canada and found it interesting to attend the induction of some Notre Dame Sisters in Toronto.

- Dawn (Capell) MacDonald (Hillcrest 1964) and her younger daughter, Keri, toured the UK in September 2012. Here follows a summary of their "**Rainbow Holiday**". We had an incredible holiday and enjoyed every moment of it! Just wish it had been longer! Spent 3 days in London, attended the Lord Mayor's Festival, explored Camden Lock and market, spent a day at Henley and saw the musical "We will Rock You". Visited Brompton Oratory, attended Holy Trinity Brompton to hear Nicky Gumbel (of Alpha fame) preaching, saw all the decorations and fan parks for the paralympics, walked the city flat (about 15kms a day, I reckon) then spent a day exploring Cambridge and along the East coast, saw a beautiful little fishing village called Robin Hood's Bay, stayed over in a town named Beverley, in a haunted erstwhile monastery and next day carried on up to Jedburgh and Edinburgh. 1 day in Edinburgh was all we could spare but we walked and bus-ed the city flat then did a fascinating tour of the caverns under the city. Not a ghost tour but a history tour! After Auld Reekie, we took the Severn Bridge and on to Kinross and Comrie, stopping every time we saw something worth photographing or investigating, which according to the time markers on my camera seems to have been every 10 minutes or so in certain areas!! Popped in at Glen Eagles Golf course and hotel

and stayed over near Comrie. The next day we explored the woods around the Comrie Backpackers and then visited Crieff, Aberfeldy, Dochert Falls, Spean Bridge and on to Glencoe, Loch Lomond and up to Fort William, then stayed over near Loch Ness (Nessie was away on holiday!). Next day we drove up to Inverness and on to Bonar Bridge for the Invercharron Highland Games which we found they'd cancelled due to bad weather the previous day! Since the morning's entertainment was no more, we drove across country to Inverloch as we were told it was a very scenic area (and it *was* beautiful), then down to Ullapool in time to wander round the town before we caught the Ferry to Stornaway on the Isles of Lewis & Harris. The crossing was not pleasant with very rough seas all the way! We stayed over in Stornaway and as the next day was Sunday, enquired about the nearest Church. We were up with the birds to go exploring the northern part of the island then back to Stornaway for the service at 'Martin's Church of Scotland'. It was Battle of Britain remembrance day so had all the Services represented with their standards and all! It was a lovely service too, with the preacher expounding on a mission he'd done recently in Uganda and also about a book on South Africa he'd recently read. We had to get down to the bottom of Harris by nightfall and catch the ferry very early on Monday morning to Uig on Skye. Something no-one mentioned to us before we planned our trip and which we only found out when on Lewis & Harris, is that that island is the only place in the whole of the UK where Sabbath Observance is strictly adhered to!!!! Not a shop nor a restaurant nor any of the tourist attractions (not even bicycle hire) are open and everyone appears in time for Church and then goes home and doesn't venture forth again before the evening services!!!! Luckily we'd stayed in self catering accommodation all the way so had food enough to keep us going for the day!! We had the islands to ourselves and explored to our heart's delight. I don't think God took it amiss either as we 'OOOHED and AAAAHED' about the beauty of His creation!

Next morning we were off to Skye and though I'd toured the island extensively before, Keri had never been there so we did a whistle-stop tour of as many of the attractions as we could fit in (including the early Mac Donald ruin of Dun Tulum in northern Skye) before we crossed the bridge at Lochalsh and stayed over in the Great Glen at Invergarry; even went to a whisky tasting and tour at Tallisker Distilleries. Next day we returned to Glencoe as it had been cloudy on the way up. We got some lovely pictures in sunlight and there was even a smidgeon of snow on Etive Mor as the weather had cooled down considerably in the course of the week. After Glencoe and Loch Ness (again) we headed down to England and to Shirley, near Solihull, below Birmingham, to spend 2 nights and a day with friends of mine. We visited an old Manor house once owned by Jacobite sympathisers where both Charles 1 and 2 hid out at various times. On Thursday 20th we headed to London again and Keri shopped up a storm before we went to see the stage production of 'Singing in the Rain' with rain falling on stage and being kicked (as the dancers splashed through the puddles) all over the first 5 rows of the audience!!! It was a wonderful show! Friday we packed up ready for our flight that night and spent the day at Hampton Court and nearby Bushy Park.

When we were with my friends in Shirley they'd been complaining of the lack of summer and marvelling at the wonderful weather we'd had for our trip. I assured them we'd brought the sunshine with us but were taking it home again when we left!!! I didn't realise how true those words proved to be! As we sat at Gatwick airport on Friday night I noticed a huge black cloud over to the East and remarked to Keri that Lyn would believe what I said when the rain hit! On the Tuesday morning when I got to work, the first e-mail I opened was from Lyn with a link to The Times front page showing the floods they'd had over the weekend and they've had two more storms of similar intensity since!! One thing I missed in Scotland this time was the lone piper at every tourist spot. Don't know if it was too late in the season, but last time there were pipers in the most obscure places! Another thing that amused us was Tommy Campbell who was sitting on the porch

of the Laxdale Backpackers in Stornaway (on the Isle of Lewis), drinking his wee Glenmorangie dram when we arrived at about 9.30pm. He was decked out in his Campbell tartan kilt, amethyst kilt pin and sporran and while chatting to us, said he was there for fly-fishing. We both wondered if he wore his waist high waders over his kilt or if he deigned to wear trews to fish. He also rode a 1000cc motorbike which could be interesting in a kilt!!!!

Keri and I refer to this as our "RAINBOW HOLIDAY" as we saw more rainbows in 2 weeks than I think we've seen in our whole lives and though we had the odd shower, especially in the Isles, the sun shone as if especially for us. It was the most wonderful time together and we made so many memories! I took 1500 pictures in the 2 weeks we were away (digital photography makes one snap-happy) and had a great battle choosing an affordable number to print for a nice album of the trip. It was all sooooo beautiful and I want to remember every moment of it.

LOG Bucket List

- Ron and Yvonne Sutherland have a "bucket list", one of which is to do a boat cruise to the Baltic, the Scandinavian countries, Estonia and St Petersburg. Yvonne wryly comments "the way the rand is going we hope we make it while we are still able to. However, we keep hoping."

- Included in the "bucket list" of Frances (Swacina) Olver (Skinner 1951) is travelling in Ireland, from Dublin to County Cork, and around, on a motorbike or rather a scooter (has such a licence), with her buddy in the UK, Sue Russell. Wet! Who cares!

LOGS Emigrating

Kathy Wisselo (Honorary LOG), her daughter, Angelique (De Beer) Percy (Skinner 1995) and her family have emigrated to Melbourne, Australia.

LOGS who have moved house

No news

LOGS who have retired from full-time employment

No news

LOG Social Activities

- Anita (Badenhorst) Van Rensburg (Skinner 1953) still plays tennis on a Friday, does gym Tuesdays, every day plays bowls on the grass at her flat, does a "mountain" of sewing, knitting and crochet, helps with catering for funerals at the Methodist and Apostolic Faith Mission churches, exhibits at the Vroue Landbou-unie meetings, and belongs to the WA of the Methodist Church. Shows what can be done! We expect Anita at the LOG Reunion on 5 October as a Diamond Girl. Good-oh!

- Maureen Greet (Skinner 1955) happily fills her days by joining the monthly lunch at the Maria Regina Parish run by the Ladies Group, participates in the weekly meetings of the Rosary Group of the Voortrekkerhoogte Parish, is part of the Tuesday meetings of "Friends Repair" run by the Lyttelton Methodist Church and visits Dawn (Trent) Nel (Skinner 1953) as well as Holy Cross Home where reside Sister Oliver and Sister Margaret Mary. This, in addition, to her vast travels reported in last year's LOG Newsletter. See LOG page on new website www.loreto.co.za Envious of her mobility? Don't be! Try it yourself!

- Dawn (Capell) MacDonald (Hillcrest 1964) finds time to celebrate with her nephew his 50th birthday, watch her grandson's rugby match, and have a "sleepover" for her grandchildren, all in one day! Mighty fine timing!

LOG Memories

- **Margaret Collins (Wickham) (Skinner 1951)** easily remembers her stimulating and fond association with Mother Bridget. When Mother Bridget went overseas for a year, Margaret sent her a monthly copy of "The Outspan" to keep her in touch with things South African. When Mother Bridget returned to SA she presented Margaret

with a St Patrick's Harp, which Margaret wears with pride every year on St Patrick's Day. Moreover, Margaret reminisces about Mother Eucharia's saying that on her right shoulder there was "a little man" pounding on her head when she had a headache and her very young learners were making a noise!

- John Sheer, husband of Casimo/Casi, presented us with an edited version of Casi's biographical notes on her time at Loreto Skinner.

Casimo (Wagner) Sheer (Head Girl, Skinner 1948) Some Loreto Memories.

When my sister Patsy (6) and I (8) first went as boarders to Loreto Convent in Pretoria in 1939 it was quite an eye-opener. There were 100 boarders and 300-day scholars. The boarders ranged from Grade 1 to Matric, and we were allocated to one of five dormitories, in our case St. Anthony's. In the two junior dormitories the beds were arranged in rows with a locker for each, on which was an enamel basin and a mug. In the evenings, before we went to bed, we had to fill our basins with water. In the mornings when we got up we would wash our faces in our basins and clean our teeth. In winter it was so difficult as the water was icy, but at least it did wake us up!

The older children would bath before they went to bed. We little ones were bathed in the afternoon by a nun, sometimes by Sister Sixtus, other times it was Sister Patrick. Sister Patrick was a darling with everyone, always gentle and smiling.

Once I started settling down to my new life I thoroughly enjoyed boarding school and made wonderful friends. Two sisters joined us, their mother was a new music teacher and of course we all wanted to learn with her but it was more than our life was worth to ask Mother Francis to transfer us to Mrs. Rentzke. Her two daughters, Yvonne and Dorina were fun children, always ready for a lark. Yvonne was one class above me and Dorina a class below. They were blonds with long plaits and blue eyes. My being dark haired and with brown eyes, we made good contrasts. After seeing the movie at school 'Tom Brown's Schooldays' about the years when Matthew Arnold's father was headmaster at Rugby, and what the boys at Rugby went through, Yvonne decided I should be her fag. It was hilarious, as she would call me at any time to clean or tie her shoes or do various menial jobs for her. We would play-act more than anything. Dorina and I decided we would become tramps and called each other trampie. One of our prefects, Aideen Albertyn, called me "Swank". I guess I must have been a bit of a show-off, but nothing was malicious. Some Sunday nights Aideen would call some of us into a games room and we would sit on the floor while she and some of her friends would regale us with "ghost stories" and there would be much screaming and laughing. Eventually the nuns put a stop to this; maybe we were making too much noise for young ladies. My Mother told us she was sending us to a Convent so that we could become young ladies!

I remember my introduction into Religion. A bell rang in each dormitory at 6 a.m. every day of the week, except Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays when we were allowed to sleep until 7 o'clock. At 6.30 a.m. the Catholics lined up to walk across the garden to the Church to Mass, which lasted half an hour. After Mass we joined the children who weren't Catholics and we all went to breakfast together. One day a week we had oats, twice a week gravy on toast, another day boiled eggs or scrambled eggs made from egg powder (ugh), toast and tea.

In Standard 2, I was 9 and was being prepared to make my First Holy Communion, as were all the 9 year olds. This ceremony always took place at the 9 o'clock Sunday Mass at the end of the year just before the December holidays. It was very exciting. All the girls wore long white dresses and white veils on our heads; the boys wore white shirts and white shorts. This symbolized that our souls should be as white as our dresses when Jesus came into our hearts for the first time. It was a very grand occasion. We would walk into the Church in pairs with the organ pealing out a memorable march. The service was always beautiful, very spiritual and uplifting. We were told that whatever we asked Jesus at Communion that day he would not deny us our request. I asked if I could come in the

first three places when we did our final class tests. At the end of Mass there was another Grand March as we left the Church. We all went into the Hall for a breakfast to which parents were also invited but I was very sad as neither my Mom nor Dad could come. However it was a very special day for me. In those days, before Vatican 2, those receiving Communion had to fast from midnight and not even water was allowed to pass one's lips, except to clean our teeth, it was quite a discipline not to take a sip of water! It was wonderful when the holidays arrived and we could go home. Quite a few children lived in Johannesburg. We would all walk to Pretoria Station to take the train to Johannesburg. What excitement when we saw our parents waiting for us at Park Station. I was very excited when I received my school report and found that I had come 2nd in the class!

In Standard 4 (now Grade 6) I had finally adjusted to Loreto and was proud to be a Loreto girl. I remember lectures we had on honour, the most important things in life, and never to let our family, school or country down, these were the three important areas in our lives. Every Friday night we had an hour's session run by Mother Baptist who was the Mother Superior at the time. Mother Baptist came from an upper class family in Ireland and tried to instil in us how to behave in Upper Class Society. Which cutlery to use when we were confronted with an array of knives and forks at posh dinners, how to break bread. When Mother asked Pat du Toit how she would break a roll Pat said "with a knife" but that was not done in polite society!! We were just Safricans so what did we know about that other world? We were given lengthy lectures about so many things, and especially how to treat others. When we were in our school uniforms we did not talk to those wearing a different uniform and especially, NOT to boys! If we were in uniform outside school we had to wear our panama hats in summer or our berets in winter. Every six years the nuns elected a new Superior and each Superior had her own ideas as to how the pupils should dress so there would be a different uniform, which did involve an added expense for the parents.

When I was in Standard 5 two new nuns were sent to our Convent. One was Sister Perpetua who seemed lots of fun. The other was Mother de Chantal. She was very strict, and had a quick temper. We were afraid of her. Imagine my horror on going into Standard 6 to find that Mother de Chantal was my class teacher! One day she was checking our geometry homework. Mother asked Shirley Farren to come up to the board and explain the theorem. Shirley had not learnt it. Next thing Mother jumped up and banged on the board. I was laughing – but not for long! "Casimo, will you come and explain the theorem?" My laughter evaporated, as I knew less than Shirley. While at the board, I saw Mother fingering the bolero of her habit. This was BAD news as she was probably trying to control her temper. It did not work as suddenly she jumped up. My bravado deserted me and I was put in my place! After this incident Standard 6 was the best behaved class in School. In fact we all grew to love her and on her feast day on 21st August we each put in a shilling and bought her a bouquet of daffodils, her favourite flowers, for 21 shillings. Mother took her name after Saint Jane Frances de Chantal. She was born Mary Bolger in 1900 in County Wexford and was blessed with an overflow of talents – music, singing, teaching, empathy and deep spirituality, integrity and loyalty. She entered the Loreto Order in 1917 and was sent to South Africa, originally to the Strand. I often wondered why beautiful, talented and clever women entered religious orders. In Ireland, where big families were the order of the day, some parents would promise a child to the Church. In other cases it was the individual's great love for God. Indeed, what better way to glorify Him than to use all our gifts for his glory?

I think any pupil who learnt music will tremble at the name of the music teacher, Mother Francis Ignatius, who was an unholy terror if your music was not up to Mother's standard at your lesson. Mother would take the pin out of her veil and say, "You have as much common sense as would fit onto the top of this pin!" If you happened to play too many

wrong notes, that was the opening for another lengthy lecture!! At one stage we all wrote our wills lest we did not emerge whole and entire from the music lesson, but somehow Mother Francis discovered that Shirley Farren had made out her will and poor Shirley was hauled over the coals, BIG drama!

I was preparing for a music exam and I could not get a piece called 'Primroses' right and I was told NOT to go to bed that night until I could play it without a mistake. I told Mother Consiglio, who was the Principal, and she said "well, you had better keep at it" but the music rooms were very scary – especially as the school had been used as a hospital during the Boer War and there were stories that if you put your ear to the floor you would hear blood dripping and horses' hooves running! I practised until 9 p.m. all alone in the music room (eek) until Mother Consiglio sent word that I had better go to bed (I'm sure everyone must have gone dilly hearing the notes of 'Primroses' being played over and over again). The next day I still hadn't perfected the piece and was reprimanded for going to bed at 9! However my mother always maintained that I only really learnt music when Mother Francis taught me. Eventually Mother Francis was sent back to Ireland, much to the delight of all the boarders.

In 1988 my husband, daughter and I visited Ireland and I phoned Mother Francis to invite her to lunch. She suggested the Gresham Hotel, one of the best in Dublin. At lunch she told us which wines to order. She was now called Sister Ellen. (When a Jesuit priest came to see each nun individually at Rathfarnham to tell them that Pope John XXIII had instructed priests to tell the nuns that they could now use their birth names, she was very angry with the Church and told this priest that it was a disgrace that girls entering the profession had been subjected to taking men's names just because so few women had been proclaimed saints! It was one of the best things the Church had done.) To her credit she thought my husband was just the greatest as he was so knowledgeable about music. On that occasion Sister Ellen was a laugh-a-minute. She waxed lyrical about how happy she had been teaching South African children who had such happy dispositions! Now we say RIP Sister Ellen, you were an exceptional personality.

I also want to sing the praises of Mother Consiglio who made History and English come alive, e.g. likening the European powers to big cats scrambling to get parts of the African continent in the 1800's, or reading Shelley's Ode to the West Wind where one could feel and hear the wind whistling through the poem! What a joy to have been taught by her.

So many memories come flooding back and the overall picture was that it was such a privilege to have been educated by the Loreto Sisters and to have made the friends I did from among the pupils, who are still my great friends to this day. Before my mother died I thanked her for three things, the last being that she sent me to Loreto for my schooling. Indeed, words cannot do justice to all I gained from these noble women. Thank you very much. Casimo Eudoxia Sheer (Wagner), RIP (1931-2010)

- **Shirley (Farren) Vermeulen (Skinner 1946)** writes as follows.

I went to Loreto from the age of five together with older sisters June and Marie. My happiest memories are from that age onwards. The nuns made a great fuss over me. However to conclude, Casi and I, in our older years, always agreed that Loreto prepared us for life, giving us a solid grounding and good values. We were both grateful to the very dedicated nuns.

- **Beatrice (Richardson) Eksteen (Skinner 1946, also Sea Point)** regaled a few of us at the 2012 LOG Reunion with her memories of Loreto Skinner as well as Loreto Sea Point. She showed us the programme of a Sea Point operetta called "A Royal Jester" and "An Historical Drama: Diana or Christ" and photos of a play at Loreto Skinner, featuring LOGS such as Yvonne (Rentske) Stone (Skinner 1947) and Medea (Angelo) Evans (Skinner 1946). As her father was a mining engineer, she spent time in far-flung places such as O'Kiep in Namaqualand, where there were copper mines.

- **Claudia (Muller) Butler** of the Gold Coast in Australia (started with the group who finished school at Skinner in 1951, but went on to be assistant ballet teacher to Roshild Leibbrandt) writes that she remembers many of the group that finished at Skinner in 1951. She tells of the time that she taught a group of girls to do a gipsy dance and inserted in her letter the programmes of two presentations at Loreto Skinner, namely "The Gipsy", with characters played by C. Van Eeden, D. Rentzke, S. Welgemoed, M. Gildenhuis, L. Botha, Y. Beddington, P. Dennie, S. Farren, A. Marruck, C. Muller, S. McKay, M. Wickham, P. Brown, N. Eames, P. Wagner, G. Gibello and "The Roses of St. Dorothy" with characters played by T. Holmquist, I. Ibler, Y. Rentzke, M. Angelo, S. Angelo, M. Reid, S. Bell, D. Downie and A. Badenhorst. (Remember any of them?) Claudia went to Australia in 2000, is now a citizen of Australia and lives near her eldest son and his family. In 2010, she came to SA to see her 3 grandchildren in Cape Town and cousins in Johannesburg. You can friend her on face book. She sends regards to those who remember her.

LOG Points of Interest

- Hillcrest LOGS of 1973 are having their 40th Reunion Celebrations on 14 September 2013. Contact Barbara or Elena – see "Pretoria News" of Friday 30 August 2013.

LOG Regional Reunions

- Hillcrest LOGS had their 45th Anniversary on 27 October 2012.

- Sea Point LOGS had their Reunion on 22 September 2012. Here follows the Report from Maureen (Lynam) Fernandes.

Dear LOGS

Very sorry to have taken so long to give you a report back on our reunion but having my friend Jennie Seymour (Rae) out from New Zealand for a few weeks & working on the reunion for the past few months took quite a bit of energy so after the reunion I took Jen & myself off to Montague for a bit of catch up time & to enjoy the hot spring waters. So here goes 2 weeks later.

Saturday 22nd September has arrived. I woke to a sunny day as the day before the rain came down in buckets. By noon the rain had started again on our side of the mountain (Southern suburbs). At 1pm we went off to Sea Point. No rain. As my dear school pal Marina Reader (Isola) & my old faithful Zwaai (my man Friday) & I had gone to the hall on Friday to set up there was not much to do except set out the receiving table with all the name badges. I would like to thank Diane Rossi (Vlotman) for manning the table. We also set out the very generous food donations that were brought; there was so much that we were able to donate the left overs to the Nazareth House Sydney Rd boys in Mowbray. My Catechism class on Sunday thought it was their birthday with delicious chocolate cake after class.

Mgr Jock Baird arrived at 2pm to get ready for celebrating our Mass. So off we went to the Church that has so many memories for all of us, Our Lady of Good Hope. For me it means so much more as I am a convert. On 21st March 1965 at 10am I was Baptised there, then went for my 1st confession, at 4pm I was married to Narcizo, & had my 1st Communion at our Wedding; 3 of my Bridesmaids were my School chums Jennie, Marina, & her sister Rita. As the nuns were not allowed to attend the Wedding they asked us to come to the School to take our photos; so off we went, the bridal retinue with the photographer in tow, down the path beside the hall, up past the tennis courts, along that path between the tennis courts & the netball field. We were taken into the Nuns' dining room where a sumptuous tea was set out for us. We were then given a set of Gold-rimmed Crystal Glasses, which I still have 47 years on; they are only used on special occasions. Mother Kevin, the Superior at the time, & all the other nuns then followed us out to the front driveway where we had our Photos taken under the palm trees. It was a very special

day for us All. Sadly in 2002 I also buried my beloved Narcizo from Our Lady of Good Hope.

Enough of reminiscing. The Church started to fill & as the organ started to play I am happy to say Loreto Convent girls can still sing. We were very fortunate to have two of our Sisters with us for the afternoon, Sr Rosaleen & Sr Marie Therese; they took up the offertory for us. After Mass we proceeded to the Hall, as it was now almost 4 pm; we all collected our name badges & hey presto the small tables I had set out were soon filled, with each respective year gathering around their table; anyone who did not have any classmates there soon found a table with people they knew.

I tried not to have too long drawn out formal speeches, as I believe all who attend these reunions want to catch up with their long lost friends & all the news of years gone by, but we did have a few interruptions to pass on important bits & pieces. First was Mgr to say a few words on his time at Loreto & to read out a card he had brought to us from Sr Eileen (Maria Assumpta) wishing us Good Luck on the Reunion. As you may know most of our nuns took back their Baptised names. She now lives at Nazareth House Pretoria. Please drop her a card now & again those of you who knew her. I am sure she would love that. Mgr Baird left after a quick tea & chat, as he was saying mass at St James; news for those of you who were there that evening; he had a fall & is laid up with a very badly sprained ankle. We wish him well.

After some more chat time we called on Joan Swanson to come forward & I thanked her for all the hard work & time she has given to the Sea Point LOGS over so many years. Joan is now in her 80's & still looks so well; check out the photos. We gave her a vase & candleholder & asked her to remember us each time she uses it.

Next the Golden Girls turn, 5 out of the 12 who left school in 1962 (Plus 1 apology from Mary Grendon (Gallespie) who was away on holiday) were called up to the front to receive their Golden Girls Badge. They were Jennie Seymour (Rae), Jenny Cadman (Rae), no relationship to each other. Gabriella Bieber (Stefanuto), Lucy Lehr (Anderson) & myself. I explained we had Jennie to thank for us being there that day as on a visit to her in New Zealand last year it was she who said "do you know we are out of school 50 years next year." So we planned her trip to Cape Town to coincide with our reunion. I am very proud to say it took me from February to now to rally up almost 100 Sea Point LOGS, here in Cape Town & all over the world. Please don't stop looking for more, keep the word going & pass their name & addresses on to me, as we will be having a reunion every year from now on. Loreto Skinner St in Pretoria have one every 1st Saturday in October. I have sent our Best Wishes to them from us Sea Point LOGS for their reunion. The 5 Golden Girls blew out our Champagne candles & got the oldest LOG there, Doreen Momphe, ex-Skinner St now living at La Manuere village in the grounds of Nazareth House here in Cape Town, to cut our cake. Great fun was had by all. We even did the Can-Can, as you can see from the photos. I then passed on a message to all present from Frances at Skinner St telling us where some of our Nuns who were still alive were now living: Sr Oliver now 92 & Sr Margaret Mary were now living at Holy Cross Home. Both Sr Shirley at 93 is still going strong, but is partially blind, and Sr Immacula who has just had her Diamond Jubilee (60th Anv) live in Ireland. Sr Pat Hanvey is in Zambia in the village of Lukulu and is asking for news from SA. I will get her address for any one who would like to get in touch with her. Sr Linda (Linda Prest), the head girl in my day, is now the Provincial in SA. We are proud of you, Sr Linda. I visited the Maitland Cemetery a week before the reunion to find out which of our Nuns had passed on. I had their names on the wall under the heading, "Let us not forget". I was very shocked to see a grave full of weeds & not in a good state; all the gravestones need to be cleaned & repainted; Zwaai & I have done the weeding & as Mass is said every 1st Sunday at 2-30pm I would like to ask if any one would like to join me after Mass to clean up & paint

the Loreto Sisters Graves. I would like to do this in December, as I am busy now with 1St Communion.

The two Sisters present each had a turn to share with us Loreto news & tell us what they were doing; all the ladies who knew them were very happy to see them again. We were told about the Mary Ward Association in SA which was very appropriate as I had the history of Mary Ward & the Loreto timeline from 1585 up to today up on the wall with all the South African history of 134 years. A pity Sea Point was only from 1927 to its closing in 1982, a total of 55 years; the heydays of Loreto Sea Point were in the 1960's & 1970's with over 500 pupils attending the school; the last Mother Superior was Sr Margaret. I have added to our photos of the reunion some I have of the moving day; how sad was that day? But at least we still have our original gates standing in front of the Church, & all our Wonderful Memories to keep us going.

Also on the wall among famous Loreto Nuns was the life of Blessed Mother Teresa our most famous Loreto Sister, along with my views on our unsung heroines. We always remember our teachers but what about the nuns who did equally important jobs. I remember well the big frozen flavoured ice blocks & most superb fudge that Sr Walburger & Sr Lelia used to sell to us a break time from the kitchen window. These two nuns ran the kitchen & cooked all the day boarders, boarders & nuns' meals. Our dear Sr Bruno, the very short red-faced nun, was in charge of the laundry, what a job in those days, no automatic machines & tumble dryers to assist. I found an article in a magazine, an interview with Ina Paarman, who was a home economics teacher at our school; she said Sr Bruno taught her always to have a clean white cloth to pull over your dirty dishes & how grateful she was to her for while she taught, Sr Bruno looked after her two sons, Kevin & Graham, in the laundry.

Well my dear LOGS I hope this is a full enough report for you. I thank all of you who called, e-mailed etc to say what a good time they had & I will keep you posted from time to time on any further LOG news I have or receive so in the words of Frances "KEEP IN TOUCH" I have a face book page set up under the heading "Loreto Convent Sea Point Reunion Group."

LOG Engagements, Birthdays, Special Achievements, Hobbies, Sports, Milestones

No news

LOGS who are ill or recuperating

Please let your LOG friends know. We wish you a speedy recovery, and to those who are recuperating, we wish you to grow stronger, minute-by-minute, and day-by-day.

LOG Obituaries

We note with sadness and sincere condolences the passing of the following: Karabo Tau (Skinner 2003) in March 2013; Mary (Slade) Dobson (Skinner 1946) on 16 December 2011; Mildred (Spohr) Cilliers (Lydenburg 1964); Eleanor Gardner (Lydenburg 1950) on 22 August 2012; Julie Munro (Skinner 1974) on 15 February 2013; Tullio, the husband of Beatrice (Bowles) Bernadi (Skinner 1952) on 24 April 2013 at the age of 82; and on 26 March 2013 Sister Shiela Bell (Skinner 1946) who was a convert to Catholicism, a religious sister of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary and served under four Archbishops in Cape Town at various times as secretary, archivist and chancellor (refer to the Southern Cross dated 24 to 30 April 2013).

Annual LOG Reunion on Saturday 5 October 2013 at Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Road (previously Skinner Street), Pretoria, entrance in Visagie Street. Golden Girls for 2013 (50 years out of school = left school in 1963, or were with this group), inter alia: Skinner: Mary (Ball) Roebuck, Jennifer (Banks) Flaherty, Avril (Burke) Meintjes, Denise (Couvaras) Fourtounas, Cynthia (Edwards) Strovas, Maureen (Fitzgerald) Davidow, Margaret (Hastie) Phillips, Margaret (Michaletos) Hattingh, Pamela (Riley) Allman, Antoinette/Toni (Sharwood) Pautz, Antoinette (Sinovich) De Kock, Patricia Zurich,

Bernice (Bernstein) Seligmann. **Hillcrest:** Coralie (Engels) Burke, Valda (Masureik) Haarhoff, Pam (Rudolp) Sinovich, Vera (Venter) De Billot, Ann (Reynolds) Herbert, Annette (Joubert) Botha, Beverley (Paola) Momberg, Carmel (Coogan) Hutton, Celeste (Van Castricum) Marè, Claudine (Gottlieb) Diamond, Dale (Verster) Louw, Diane (Cassidy) Barnard, Doris Perkins, Denise (Richardson) Felix, Elaine (Thomas) Schorn, Esmè (Richards) Brasler, Elsa Van Den Heever, Ethleen Poseman, Glenda (Hack) Novitz, Gail Britten, Ilse Altendorff, Irene Pols, Irralie (Austen) Dely, Jennifer Skottowe, Joan Jonker, Judy (Wallace) Van Der Merwe, Julie Steiner, Laurie Campbell, Lorraine Botha, Maia (Heynen) McIntosh, Marion (Upton) Scholtz, Margaret Wesson, Merle (Kahn) Karpes, Melanie (Du Plessis) Rindel, Pam (Heydenrych) Joubert, Pat (Reid) Kelly, Penny (Edge) Hoar, Rosemary De Kock, Sandra Anderson, Shiela Jackson, Shirley Stegman, Tammy (Sofer) Wolpert, Veronica Campbell, Virginia Pitout. **Kenya, Eldoret:** Frankie (Battine) Glover. **Lydenburg:** Ethel (Moodie) Mason, Lesley Rundle, Rene Weinrich. **Mombasa:** Susan (Sell) Butar.

Diamond Girls for 2013 (60 years out of school = left school in 1953 or were with this group. Please include LOGS of earlier years who were not acknowledged last year or the year before), inter alia: **Skinner:** Anne (Boyes) Turner, Luisa (Ducci) Mullaney, Marjorie (Emerton) Bass, Elisabeth (Ganser) Lichtblau, Naomi Greef, Lila (Gregor) Nortje, Rosemary (Henkel) Roberts, Ursula (Hunt) Boden, Margaret (Lello) Cowan, Ingeborg (Ludwig) Manke, Irene (Meklis) Mihaletos, Rina Nienaber, Constance (Sada) Heim, Felicity (Tamous) Mihaletos, Dawn (Trent) Nel, Blanche (Botha) Booyzen, Anita (Badenhorst) Van Rensburg. **Hillcrest:** Margaret (Brown) Collins, Shirley (Brown) Johnson, Pam (Moore) Oosthuysen, Barbara (Yates) Pape, Davrey (Dreisenstok) Ehrensberger. **Kenya, Msongari:** Bridget (Doenhoff) Walton.

Ruby Girls for 2013 (40 years out of school = left school in 1973, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Jessie Celeste (Weinrich) Sutherland, Dawn Louise (Averre) Kempf, Cecilia (Calaca) De Beer, Jennifer/Jenny (Farrell) Marryatt, Marianne/Bassie (Garcez) Price, Kiloran (Mullin) Townsend, Lucille (Stearn) Tribelhorn, Marcelle (Van Den Berg) Archer. **Hillcrest:** Sharon Mitre, Elena Bielich, Barbara (Valenta) Burge, Mia (Van Zyl) Alexander, Margaret (Craig) Ballentine, Theresa Botha, Francine Cannon, Scarlet (Bezuidenhout) Colantoni, Shiela (Hove) Confait (USA), Olga Corner, Elsa (Rall) Geldenhuys, Lisa (Fourie) Goldberg, Diana (Hattingh) Gordon-Grant, Susan Ingle, Joan Jennings, Maureen (Hansen) Karlsen, Susan Leggatt (UK), Jenny Pereira, Beverley Pochop, Beverley Pullin, Lynne Ritchie, Bridget (Robertson) Painter, Melanie (Bartholomew) Robertson, Carol Seady, Loiuise (Panigel) Sillitoe (New Zealand), Allison (Pike) Warren, Shaun Willmer.

Silver Girls for 2013 (25 years out of school = left school in 1988, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Lesley Bain (UK), Irene Da Canha, Ana-Paula (Da Silva) De Oliveira, Yvette Enslin (Amsterdam), Jeanne-Mariè (Fouchè) Murray, Beverley (Jacka) Terry, Gretel (Kraut) Breytenbach, Sharon Angelique Lee, Tracy Long, Lindy (Loretan) Reynolds, Bridgette Manamela, Maria Eduarda (Da Silva Marques-Pinto) Van Den Berg, Ramokone Mogotlane, Jeanette Moolman, Claribel Motau, Divina (Moutinho) Moutinho-De Castro, Cynthia (Palmer) Meintjies, Salome (Sexton) J Van Rensburg, Michelle (Jones) Boyce. **Queenswood:** Louise (Post) Fouchè.

Tin Girls for 2013 (10 years out of school = left school in 2003, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Marcia Mbali Dlamini, Perseverance Lenono, Jane Mueni, Tshepiso Ofentse Ntuli, Kagiso Bokabo, Moyahabo Chokwe, Luciana da Costa, Nokumuka Dube, Siyethemba Gama, Naledi Gcwabe, Emma Isa, Glenda Kgomo, Tshepiso Kgomo, Mpho Kupane, Lesego Lebeloane, Batseba Mabena, Lerato Magabotla, Amogelang Manaiwa, Moiponi Maredi, Dimakatso Mashigo, Intelligence Masilela, Peakanyo Matlala, Jane Mbithi, Nkateko Mlambo, Dineo Mogadime, Audrey Mokhari, Nthabiseng Molewa, Neo Monaise, Lesego Montoedi, Millicent Mothiba, Kopano Motshwane, Carol Mthethwa, Nwabise Mveke, Semakane Phalane, Lesego Ramasodi, Elizabeth (Repolho) Da Silva, Keletso Selokela, Ntombikayisa Skhonde, Duduzile Skosana, Seipati Tibane, Thozama, Lindsay (Ramatsui) Tshoshane.

Keep in Touch! Please note that if you intend to be at the LOG REUNION on 5 OCTOBER 2013, it is helpful to **RSVP** so that your name can be put on a list for receiving a gift in celebration of your year left school, 50 or 60 or 40 or 25 or 10, and a name-label can be prepared for you. With thanks!

REPLY SLIP

I.....(Name and Surname) will / will not be attending the 2013 LOG Reunion on Saturday 5 October 2013. Contribution towards tea and admin costs: R70, payable at door at Registration on Reunion Day.

Maiden Name.....

Year Left School..... School attended.....

Postal Address.....

Email address.....

Telephone numbers: Cell.....

Home.....

Work.....

RSVP: Reply to sender **OR** admin@lorskin.co.za **OR** cell: 079 375 8043

RSVP by post: Loreto Old Girls c/o P. O. Box 21259, Valhalla, 0137

We hope to see you, but if you are not coming, please send us your updated details.