



30 August 2014

2014 LOG Newsletter

Dear Loreto Old Girls

Although the Super Moon (16% larger and 30 % brighter) happened in this year of 2014 and won't be back until 2034, thus doesn't happen often, we celebrate the happening of the Loreto Old Girls Reunion every year, **ALWAYS** on the first Saturday of October, this year on Saturday 4 October 2014, starting at 12:30 for Registration, Mass at 13:00 in the Loreto Convent (Skinner) School Chapel, followed by more Registration and Tea in the School Hall.

By this time spring is well and truly on its way. The Weaver Bird has already built his nests and has two wives, with more to come. We celebrate with Mother Nature who never fails to surprise us with her ability to re-invent herself. Would that we follow her example! In addition, we have the opportunity to fill our lives with Healing Prayer to overcome all adversities and with Joyous Prayer to proclaim our successes!

NEWS FROM KATHY IN AUSTRALIA

My dear LOGS,

It does not seem possible that a whole year has flown by since my last communication. In fact, all around me have been commenting on how quickly the year has passed - soon we will be decorating Christmas Trees!!

Melbourne weather is a bit like that of Cape Town I believe, as we can have four seasons in one day. All Melbournians carry jackets and umbrellas in their cars just in case of an emergency. This Winter has been mild, all things considered, and we are in the beginning of Spring. Lovely blue skies and sunshine one day can be followed by a cloudy day or two after that, just to keep us all guessing. There have been a couple of very cold mornings and my little car sounded the alarm and gave the warning of snow - which surprised me the first time!!

Last weekend we went to Altona Beach - a lovely, peaceful spot where my son-in-law and his friend were able to paddle their brand new Kyaks on a calm sea. We are so fortunate to have the sea just an hour's drive away and, needless to say, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Although still too chilly for swimming it was, nevertheless, a wonderful afternoon.

Puffing Billy is a wonderful steam train which has been preserved, in all its glory, for the enjoyment of modern families. We had a glorious adventure going on a magnificent ride through spectacular mountain scenery and, to top it all, we visited the Miniature Railway, which is reputed to have one of the longest tracks in the world. As a special event, they have an Annual "DAY OUT WITH THOMAS" (Thomas the Tank Engine of children's stories)

and we took the boys on that too. There is even a staged Pantomime with the "Fat Controller" and Thomas interacting, much to the delight of all present.

I miss all my Loreto friends and plan to have a holiday in South Africa some time next year, God willing. We will have to have a "Catch Up" then - the Australian term for "Get Together".

Until then, I send my warmest love and good wishes to every one of you and you know that I remember you all in my prayers.

With fondest love,
Kathy.

SCHOOL NEWS

Compiled by Mrs Renee Swanepoel, Loreto Convent School Secretary

"The schoolroom clock was worn raw by stares; and you couldn't look up at the big Puritanical face of it and not feel the countless years of young eyes reflected in it, urging it onwards. It was a dark, old spirit that didn't so much mark time as bequeath it." Tod Wodicka

One can hardly believe that another year has come and gone, and here we stand again, at the threshold of what will surely be another fantastic Loreto Old Girls Reunion. The first inklings of spring have come and gone, and the grand old dame, Pretoria, is once again covered in her purple mantle of Jacaranda. It is time to reflect on the past year, and what it has brought to our School.

Working in a school environment, I have learned, is to be controlled completely by time. Days are measured in periods and breaks (especially breaks!) and months are never just months – they are always terms. Weeks are never just weeks – they are always only so many weeks away from the next holiday. In this environment, it becomes easy to get caught in the monotony of school life – but equally it becomes a safety net of knowing exactly what needs to happen next.

The 2014 year has been a very full one – there have been extreme highs and extreme lows. We have celebrated births and deaths and have laughed and cried together. A new crop of Grade R and 1 learners have eagerly started their long school careers, and another Grade 12 group has left us to embark on a journey of discovery and self-empowerment.

The School had a number of infrastructure upgrades in 2014. New paving was put down in the quad at the end of 2013, which looks most impressive. The building exterior then received a much-needed fresh coat of paint, which looks beautiful. Our tennis courts have been resurfaced and have also been marked for use as netball courts. The renovations were hampered by tree roots and the surfaces were more damaged than we initially expected; however, now that the work is complete, they look fantastic and are ready for many hours of fun in the sun. The school tuck-shop was relocated to a better area outside, in an effort to ease congestion and provide better facilities. The new tuck-shop also has a new manager, serves delicious food and keeps us all in good "show condition"! The school swimming pool is undergoing a major renovation, as it had deteriorated suddenly this season, with many cracks and leaks. School classrooms have been brightened up with new

curtains and pelmets, which has made a big difference to the look in the classrooms. During the June holidays this year, the school's roof had to be repaired and the sheets replaced, as they too had deteriorated, and following the large amounts of rain in 2014, there was water damage to the ceilings and timber. The new roof looks great and should keep everyone dry for years to come. There have been many projects implemented to improve the school building and facility infrastructure over this last year and it is very satisfying to see how serious school Management is taking the renovations and repairs. One must, of course, also thank the current parents who are so diligently paying our building levy and supporting any fundraisers we have at school. Without this extra money it would be almost impossible to do as many upgrades as we have done in this last year.

Our Grade 12 group for 2013 once again achieved very good results in their final Matric Examinations. We achieved another 100% matric pass rate (our 20th consecutive year), as well as achieving the highest Bachelor's pass (university exemption pass) in Pretoria, with just over 97%. Before re-marking, our 72 candidates achieved 86 distinctions. Every subject averaged over 60% and some even as high as 79%. The hard work and dedication of our staff and learners was evident in the results achieved by our Matric class of 2013.

The past year has brought sadness to our school, in the worst ways possible. We were heartbroken at the loss of two learners (Tina-Marie Collison in Grade 5, passed away in September 2013, and Motheo Ntsoane in Grade 10, passed away in May 2014) who were so near to our hearts. A death of a learner at our school is always a very traumatic event for both staff and learners. Both learners' passings were very sudden and unexpected, so they came as a great shock to all. The empty space that these young ladies have left behind is still tangible and we continue to mourn their loss.

As painful as we felt in death, so we also celebrated new life this past year. New babies arrived for Mrs Theron, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Viljoen. Ms Tsolo, our receptionist, welcomed twins in August, who were born a few weeks early, and arrived as she walked home from school on a Friday afternoon! The babies are doing well, although they were a few weeks premature.

Our Primary and High School learners participated very successfully at the Tshwane Youth Arts Festival, held at the State Theatre in August. Our learners were praised for what was certainly one of the best performances they have delivered thus far. The event is one of our yearly cultural highlights.

Our Matric Dress Fashion Show was graced with the presence of DJ Fresh, much to the delight and amazement of the young ladies. Not used to having a "real and proper" celebrity at school, even the teachers and members of staff were quite star-struck! The event was a great success and the girls looked fantastic. Our Matric Dance in April was a big success too, having moved to a new venue for the first time this year. The food was delicious, and I am told the dancing and partying was quite something – I missed most of it, being as old as I am and my bed calling as loudly as it did! We never recognise the girls, dressed in their finery and made up, as they look so different!

Any school year is filled with the recurring hum-drum of activity that never changes and that fills the spaces between the more unusual occurrences and happenings. Things like Inter-Catholic School events, Inter-House athletics, swimming galas, tree-planting, choir performances and exams continue every year and add to the rich diversity of school life at Loreto Convent School. We do not know what 2015 has in store for us yet, but we do know

that we will face it with courage, fortitude and cheerfulness, in the knowledge that our Lord is with us and keeps us all in the palm of His hand.

NEWS OF LORETO SISTERS

From Sister Emer, Pretoria Loreto Sister

Below is the request for prayer for the coming General Congregation of the Loreto Sisters in September, from Sister Marian and the Central Leadership Team. Please circulate it to as many as possible of LOGA.

I have been away and now, after flu, I am beginning to get up to date with news and happenings.

I wish you all the best as you prepare for LOGA meeting in October.

Blessings
(SR.) Emer

Here follows the **PRAYER REQUEST for GC14.**

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto)

General Congregation 2014

Our sisters will gather for our General Congregation from
7-30 September 2014
at the Ignatian Centre of Spirituality, Loyola, Spain.

We invite you to join us in prayer for the guidance of the Spirit of God during this important event in the life of our Institute.

With gratitude for your prayer and support,

Marian Moriarty
Carmen Diston
Teresa McGlinchey
Barbara Murphy
Sandra Perrett
Beatrice Stuart

For more information and daily updates go to www.ibvm.org

From Ireland

Sisters Immacula and Shirley send their love and report that they were delighted to see the Pretoria Loreto Sisters for the summer holidays, namely Sisters Emer, Eileen and Deirdre. All in great form. Thanks be to God.

From Lukulu, Zambia

20 July 2014

Dear Friends

Recently we had the pleasure of having Elizabeth's sister Jane with us here in Lukulu. Jane was very happy to share her experience and write a 'Letter from Lukulu'. She writes.

"I recently spent three weeks in Zambia and for the most part in Lukulu at the Sancta Maria Mission with Sisters Elizabeth Donnan and Pat Hanvey. Elizabeth often introduced me as Jane, *my blood sister, same father, same mother, I am number one and she is number four and she is a grandmother*, so as not to confuse the local people about my being a member of a religious order. My visit was planned to coincide with a special birthday that Elizabeth celebrated in March this year.

My journey started in Lusaka followed by two days at the Mukambi Safari Lodge on the Kafue River which was great fun. I enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Salesian and Presentation Sisters along the way. We then wended our way along the somewhat treacherous 200 kilometer road to Lukulu (if you can really describe it as a road!).

June was the perfect time to visit Lukulu. The weather was splendid, Nile monitor lizards were absent and mosquitoes were almost non-existent. A trip along the beautiful Zambezi River in a traditional dugout boat at sunset was a highlight.

Whilst in Lukulu, I visited a range of community schools which Elizabeth supports, spent a morning with Sister Pat at the Baby Milk Programme for orphaned and vulnerable infants, met some of the participants of the soap making enterprise, the CTC (Counsel, Test and Care for those living with HIV) and HEPS (High Energy Protein Supplement) programmes. I also had a guided tour of the local hospital and was in awe of the staff who work with very limited resources.

Sunday church services were another highlight with singing by local choirs and dancing aplenty. On the first Sunday I was introduced to the congregation and the choir welcomed me with a song.

I had the pleasure of visiting the residents of the leprosarium who were welcoming and cheerful and giving them some clothing selected by Pat from the 'Old Market'. I was delighted to see them at Mass on the following Sunday decked out in their new finery!

I was invited to the home of a local school teacher where I enjoyed a traditional Zambian meal which included village chicken, game meat and fish dishes and nshima, a type of dough made with ground maize and water and eaten with hands. There was also a range of interesting vegetable dishes such as pumpkin leaves with ground nuts, sweet potato leaves and sindambi, a type of hibiscus leaf that is said to control hypertension. I should also say I appreciated the culinary skills of my hosts during my stay.

At the end of my holiday Elizabeth and I spent three nights at Livingstone and visited the amazing Victoria Falls or as the locals refer to them – Smoke that thunders. We shared a very pleasant meal at the Royal Livingstone Hotel.

All in all, the visit to Zambia was a marvelous and humbling experience. I was privileged to witness the tireless work of Sisters Elizabeth and Pat and to meet the warm and gracious local people.

Jane Paget

Please visit the website www.loretosisters.org.za for updates and news on the work of Sisters Elizabeth Donnan and Pat Hanvey.

Obituaries from Pretoria

1. Loreto Sister Oliver O'Mahony was born in 1920 in County Laois in Ireland and died on 31 January 2014 in Pretoria.

Sr Oliver came to South Africa in 1937. She taught maths and music in Loreto schools around the country, including in Strand, Sea Point, Lydenburg, Hillcrest, Skinner Street and Queenswood.

She was the organist in Pretoria's Sacred Heart Cathedral for a number of years.

In retirement she regularly visited the sick and elderly and those who lived alone.

In her 60s she took part in a Renewal Course in Rome. At the age of 80 she went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt with the *Southern Cross*, led by Fr Nicolas King SJ and the future editor of the paper, Gunther Simmermacher. These experiences gave her great life and joy.

In the year 2000 she moved to Holy Cross nursing home in Pretoria where she was involved and shared the community life of those Holy Cross sisters who were also in care.

She died suddenly on 31 January 2014, taking part in the prayers of the Sacrament of the sick. It was exactly three weeks short of her 94th birthday. Many past pupils attended her Requiem Mass. Sr Oliver had spent 77 years in religious life and in South Africa.

She was a pillar of strength for many Loreto pupils over a large number of years and never failed to impress with her calm demeanour, friendly helpfulness and sense of fun. May she rest in peace.

2. With regret, we note the passing on 12 December 2013 of Moira Tothill, born on 03/12/1924, also known as Mother Philomena to some Loreto Old Girls when she taught at Loreto Convent Schools. May she rest in peace.

Obituary from Ireland

We note with sadness the passing of Sister Ignatius Jackman in mid-February 2013. Sister Ignatius was a dedicated teacher of catechism in the years after Vatican II. She led the

Loreto pupils in her care with love and compassion and shepherded them onwards towards the upholding of their faith. May she rest in peace.

NEWS OF LORETO OLD GIRLS

Please note.

1. The annual **LOG Reunion** will take place on **Saturday 4 October 2014**, at **Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Street (previously Skinner Street)**, with **Registration at 12:30 (at the entrance to the Chapel) and Mass in the School Chapel at 13:00, followed by further Registration and Tea in the School Hall.**

2. Use the Visagie Street entrance, the back entrance to the School. Visagie Street is a one-way street in a westerly direction. As soon as you cross over Bosman Street, keep in the far right-hand lane as the entrance to the school is soon after the traffic light on the right-hand side of the street. Do not attempt to use Nana Sita Street (previously Skinner Street) as road works are in progress and the front entrance to the Loreto Convent School is not open at the weekends.

3. 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. Let us know if you are coming. RSVP to admin@lorskin.co.za

4. LOGS, note the categories for celebration.

Golden Girls	50 years out of school
Diamond Girls	60 years out of school
Ruby Girls	40 years out of school
Silver Girls	25 years out of school
Tin Girls	10 years out of school

5. Send all LOG News to admin@lorskin.co.za throughout the year.

LOG Commendations

We sing the praises of Loreto Sisters.

Loreto Old Girls wish to confirm their loyalty to all Loreto Sisters and acclaim the work done by Loreto Sisters throughout the various Loreto schools, homes, rural villages, townships and other institutions as far back as memory goes.

In the "Southern Cross" of 2 to 8 July 2014, the journalist, Winnie Graham, a Catholic convert, paid tribute to religious sisters in "Point of Reflection" under the title of "Our Big Debt to Nuns". She points out that "these dedicated women identify a need and simply get on with the job.... Yet their efforts are not always recognised".

So we, Loreto Old Girls, pay tribute to Loreto Sisters who give their hearts to God and leave a legacy of faithfulness, now also followed in some Loreto institutions by lay persons who emulate their example of selfless love and dedication to work created by a need in the community.

We sing the praises of LOGS.

- Felicity Mullan (Hillcrest 1954), with liturgical experience of over 40 years, who so ably arranged the Mass in the Chapel for the LOG Reunion of last year, using the Pretoria Loreto Sisters and Loreto Old Girls for the Bidding Prayers. A real stroke of genius! And you were also a great Mistress of Ceremonies all afternoon.
- Margaret (Wickham) Collins (Skinner 1951), organiser in a million, for co-ordinating the activities in the School Hall for last year's LOG Reunion. A very big "Thank You" for the help given by School Staff, School Support Staff and various LOGS. Long live LOG Reunion day!

LOG Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to

- Nico and Shirley (Hobbs) Korsman (Skinner 1957) on 13 May, married for 42 years
- Sinclair and Yvonne (Rentzke) Stone (Skinner 1947) on 28 January, married for 42 years
- Dave and Dorina (Rentzke) Shaw (Skinner 1949) on 19 May, married for 58 years

LOG Weddings

- Shane (Macdonald) (Miller) (Hillcrest 1954) to John Cameron on 21 September 2013
 - Leon, son of Coralie (Engels) Burke (Hillcrest 1963), married Gisella Galletti on 9 August 2013
 - Keri, daughter of Dawn (Capell) MacDonald (Hillcrest 1964), was married on 21 December 2013 to Brandon Paschal of the USA, in a fairytale wedding on the banks of the Moreleta River at sunset amid the green leaves of trees in the Baviaanskloof area. The reception, a do-it-yourself affair, was enjoyed by all.
- Congratulations to all.

LOG Births

- Diana (Sousa) Mendes (Skinner Head Girl 1998), daughter of Luiza (De Freitas) Sousa (Skinner 1976) had a son named Rafael Mario on 6 September 2013.
 - Gino, son of Leonard Dos Santos, son of Debbie (Pritchard) Dos Santos (Queenswood 1983), daughter of Ruth (Capell) Hagerman (Hillcrest 1954) was born on 12 April 2014, thus Ruth's third great-grandchild.
- Congratulations to each.

LOG Travellers

- Mignon, daughter of Coralie (Engels) Burke (Hillcrest 1963), travelled to America to do a course in Dance.
- Pam (Brown) Edwards (Skinner 1952) reports that her friend, Yvonne (Rens) Sutherland (Skinner 1952), with her husband, Ron, had the most wonderful holiday on the Queen Mary which took them to Mauritius and went on to Perth, Australia. Then they flew back to South Africa.
- Dolores/Lola (Brink) Neethling (Skinner 1950) and her sister, Winifred (Brink) Snyman (Skinner 1955), with Lola's son, Chris, will go to Cape Town in October 2014 to visit Winifred's son, Roelof, and his family, and then go on to Port Elizabeth to visit Winifred's other son, Stephan.
- Eileen (Rudolph) Toich (Hillcrest 1967) and her husband, Joe, now retired, went overseas for two and a half months, first on a Mediterranean cruise and then to Croatia where they have family.
- In September 2013, Krzysia (Lutecki) Gossage (Lydenburg 1960) and, myself, Adrienne (Connell) Humphrey (Lydenburg 1958) went to Ireland especially to visit our dear Nuns. We had lunch with the Nuns at Balbriggan Loreto Convent, just north of Dublin. After lunch we spent a few hours with Sister Immacula and Sister Shirley. It was a wonderful afternoon reminiscing about our 12 years at the convent. It was so special for us that we could not

stop talking about the experience. We also travelled around Ireland and loved every minute of the journey.

LOG Bucket List

A suggestion we have received: Flying in a hot air balloon could be on everyone's bucket list as it is one of the most uplifting and unusual experiences you can have. The tranquillity and smoothness with which you glide through the silent air is heavenly!

LOGS Emigrating

No news

LOGS who have moved house

- Dorina (Rentzke) Shaw (Skinner 1949) and her husband, Dave, moved from Simonstown to a retirement village in Noordhoek, but kept the same telephone number and postal address.
- Shane (Macdonald) Cameron (Hillcrest 1954) and her husband, John, moved to Heuwelsig Retirement Village in Centurion.
- Mary Rose (Pozzo) Goldworthy (Skinner 1945), sister of Gracie Pozzo (Skinner 1947), moved from Pretoria to Cape Town where her daughter, Sharon, lives.
- Keri, daughter of Dawn (Capell) MacDonald (Hillcrest 1964), was offered a wonderful promotion in Cape Town, so she and her husband, Brandon Paschal, relocated from Pretoria to Cape Town where Dawn's elder daughter, Shona, lives.
- Jennifer (Banks) Flaherty (Skinner 1963) moved to Knysna in mid-November 2013.

LOGS who have retired from full-time employment

- Dawn (Capell) MacDonald (Hillcrest 1964) retired in February 2014.

LOG Social Activities

- Irma (Sluijter) Uytenbogaardt (Hillcrest 1954) had a visit from her children who live in Australia in October 2013.
- Gloria (Hogeboom) Bouwer (Hillcrest 1961) writes about the activities of her family and then gives an overview of the MBIDI LODGE CAR SHOW (happened on the weekend of the LOG Reunion, which was why she could not attend last year's reunion). This is all very interesting.

Mbidi Lodge was the highlight of our year. My husband, Gordon, is very involved with old cars, especially Studebakers. We are also the proud owner of 2 Studebakers, a 1941 Studebaker Champion Coupe and a 1953 Studebaker Starliner Coupe. I always tease him and say the 1953 is his first wife and I am only the second wife, but much to his delight I enjoy the old cars as much as he does. For my sins I have been made treasurer of the Studebaker Car Club of South Africa and have held this position for the last 4 years.

At the moment we are preparing for our annual show to be held at **Jan Smuts House in Irene on 26 October 2014**. So hopefully anybody out there who has a car enthusiast in the family will join us for a relaxing day under the trees, admiring all the old cars.

We often go to car shows and outings with the old cars. In January we met at the Windmill at Hartebeespoort Dam and rode in convoy to the Van Galen Cheese factory where we were invited to park on the lawns in front of the restaurant while we all had breakfast.

We also attended Angela's Picnic at Delta Park and a number of car shows presented by different car clubs. Even getting together at Klapperkop for a bring and braai.

Once a year we fetch the elderly from a local old age home, take them for a ride in the old cars and then back to Smuts House where we treat the "oldies" to tea and scones and lots of other eats. Their reminiscences are a reward on their own.

In December last year we took an orphanage under our wing, all the members joined together and we bought clothes for every child, toys for the little ones and something special for the older ones.

We live in a closed-off area and I have also been treasurer of this for a number of years. My son has his own plumbing business, but since he got married his wife has taken over from me and now does all the office work for him. All I do now are the wages and salaries.

Besides the above, I have a wonderful circle of friends and try to get together, or at least stay in touch, on a regular basis. This all keeps me very busy and time goes by too quickly, I don't know how anyone can ever say they are bored with life!

We have 2 grandchildren aged 12 and 3½. The pride and joy of our lives!

Now follows Gloria's overview of the MBIDI LODGE CAR SHOW.

The alarm clock went off at 5:15 on Saturday 5 October 2013 and we woke to the birds twittering in the garden heralding the start of a new day. After packing an overnight bag we were on our way to our first rendezvous at The Rose. We greeted friends old and new and soon 7 cars were on their way to Mbidi Lodge (otherside of Loskop Dam) for a car show. Melicia Du Toit in her MGA, Steve Du Toit, accompanied by Jackie (the dog) in his Peugeot 404, Sasha, Mariette and Zani Van Heerden driving Steve's 1958 Studebaker Commander Hardtop Coupe, Abe & Lucille Zelinga in their 1938 Buick Coupe, a 1942 Buick driven by Justus & Charlotte De Waal, Barry & Harriet Groenewald in their 1963 Studebaker Lark and Gordon & Gloria Bouwer with their 1953 Studebaker Starliner Coupe. Anyone who owns an "old" car will know how exciting it is to drive in convoy – cars hooting and flashing lights as they go past, people waving and giving you the thumbs up sign.

On arrival we were greeted by the owner of the Lodge, Willie Fourie, who made us all feel very welcome. In total there were 23 cars on display. All entrants contributed a bottle of wine which was placed in a wheelbarrow and tickets sold for a lucky draw. At 12:00 each car owner drove around the track and said a few words about his vehicle. In total there were 4 Studebakers.

Mbidi Lodge is a wonderful place to visit as they have a breeding programme for the white Bengal Tiger as well as white Lions and Wild Dogs. After dinner that evening, as we all sat on the verandah, overlooking the pool and entertainment area, we were spoilt with a visit from some of their animals. The first to visit us was Saber, a 9 week old White Bengal Tiger cub, there are only between 40 and 50 left on earth in captivity, none in the wild. He is not an Albino as he has ice blue eyes, it is just an absence of the orange gene. He was followed by Kubu, who is a Golden Tiger, or a split gene. One parent was a normal Bengal and the other a white Bengal. There are only about 30 Golden Tigers left in the world. Kubu is 18 months old and weighs just over 100kg. Hopefully when Saber is older they will be able to

breed the white tiger and increase the white tiger population. When standing on his back legs he was already taller than John, his handler.

We then had a visit from Romeo, their tame Cheetah who is 3 years old and one of the third most endangered species in South Africa, only between 500 and 1000 left in South Africa, worldwide there are between 9000 and 12000 left. They are the fastest animals on earth reaching 70km/h in 2 seconds. Romeo has now been joined by Juliet who is 11 months old, also hand reared. At the neighbouring Dikwena Lodge, which like Mbidi falls under the Ramela Ranch, there is a chapel, often used for weddings. On request Romeo wears a special bow tie and carries the rings into the Church. Cheetahs are the only big cat that can purr, but they cannot roar.

They also have the white and tawny lions. White lions are bigger than the tawny ones as they are not easily camouflaged and have to be bigger and stronger to overpower other predators and to protect their females from other males. The first white lion was found in the Timbavati Nature Reserve near Kruger National Park. There are about 1000 white lions left in captivity, none in the wild that they know of.

Thank you to John and Nicolene for showing us the animals up close and allowing us to touch, hug and have our photographs taken with the animals. Many thanks, too, to Willie and Santa Fourie and all their assistants for a wonderful weekend.

LOG Memories

No news

LOG Regional Reunions

- Hillcrest LOGS of 1973

Here is the report of their reunion held in September 2013. Carol Seady captured the day perfectly.

Matric 1973 who would've believed that we'd get together/want to get together again. School was over, life had much to offer, and that was that! We'd go our separate ways, make new friends - Ok, we'd miss the bonds formed over so many years

Some thought differently - Elena Bielich and Barbara Burge (née Valenta), Head Girl & Vice Head Girl, believed no matter where life took us, friendships made and foundations laid at Hillcrest all those years ago couldn't and wouldn't be discarded.

Fast forward 40 years 14 September 2013

After months of meticulous planning by Elena, Barbara and Teresa, spearheaded by dogged determination and perseverance, 13 of us (unlucky for some, but not in our case), gathered at Nazareth House Chapel on a beautiful sunny day in Pretoria.

The start of what would be a truly memorable, wonderful and never-to-be-forgotten day kicked off with the absolute joy of seeing each other, some for the 1st time in 40 years! WOW – it was amazing. Shrieks of joy, when we figured out who was who (not too difficult as we've aged very gracefully), hugs, smiling faces and laughter filled the air. It's impossible to measure the tangible emotion and excitement as we gathered in the shade of a Jacaranda, but we knew it was going to be a very special day.

We celebrated a very personal and inclusive Mass, beautifully said by Fr Hyacinth (who went as far as to say he was "blessed amongst women"!). Was it chance that the flowers on the altar were yellow, complimented by the yellow glow of the candles we lit at the back of the church – a symbol of one of our school colours?

Now what's a celebration without food! Elena and her special mother, Mara, hosted a lunch extravaganza for us in their beautiful family home. Elena thought of everything, even to arranging a gift for each of us – a beautifully crafted pottery bowl in Loreto colours, made lovingly by Sharon Mitrie in her studio, as well as a cake iced to replicate our basher, complete with hat band!

The afternoon was filled with dollops of reminiscing, sharing stories & photos of then and now, laughter and pure joy at coming together 40 years down the line. All those years ago, we were a special group of girls - now, 40 years later we're still a special group! The foundations laid, friendships made and the bonds formed all those years ago have stood firm and are as strong as ever now we can't wait for our next get-together - Viva Loreto Hillcrest, Viva!

Present were the following: Shaun Willmer, Scarlet Colantoni (nee Bezuidenhout), Lynne Ritchie, Teresa Botha, Elsa Geldenhuys (nee Rall), Susan Ingle, Elena Bielich, Beverly Pullin, Barbara Burge (nee Valenta), Carol Seady, Sharon Mitrie, Margaret Ballentine (nee Craig), and Diana Gordon-Grant (nee Hattingh).

The Hillcrest LOGS of 1973 are sure that a few of them will be attending the annual LOG Reunion on 4 October 2014 at Loreto Skinner as they are looking forward to seeing the Hillcrest class of 1974, Ruby Girls for 2014.

- **Sea Point LOGS** had their Reunion on 16 November 2013. Here follows the Report from Maureen (Lynam) Fernandes (Sea Point 1962).
Dear LOGS

This year we will be celebrating our Reunion on the same day as you but not the same time. We in Cape Town are like a bouncing ball since we kick started our Reunion get togethers again in 2012.

As we no longer have our Beloved School to come to for these meetings & as our old school gates stand at the side entrance to the Church of "Our Lady of Good Hope" Sea Point where the School was located, we decided that this was a fitting place to have our first gathering. We had Mass at 2 pm celebrated by Mgr Jock Baird, as he used to say Mass at our school chapel, so he was able to bring back a lot of memories for some of us, followed by a bring & share tea in the Church Hall. At this gathering six of us were celebrating our 50th year of leaving School. There was a Great party atmosphere. A classmate of mine Jenny Seymour even came to be with us from as far afield as New Zealand. We had a great turnout of sixty plus.

Well as much as we loved our reunion in Sea Point a set of gates is not strong enough to pull us back each year to the same venue. Our precious memories of our great school days, wonderful nuns and teachers, brilliant friendships made, are enough for us to meet anywhere.

Last year, our 2013 reunion, we decided that we would rather change to a Morning Mass at 11 am, followed by a bring & share lunch that worked out better as we could all get back to our homes before dark. We asked Father Hugh O'Conner, an ex-Loreto boy from Sea Point, to celebrate our Mass at Nazareth House Church in the city centre. The reunion day & the day before we had some terrific storms & floodings so we did not have as good a turn out as the year before as a lot of people were nervous to drive in the bad weather. The poor nuns that were coming from Strand were unable to get out of their driveway because of the mud wash but the forty or so of us who were brave enough to weather the storm had a Great time. We even had a lady from Loreto Kenya that came along.

This year Father Michael Van Heerden from Durbanville parish of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" in the Northern suburbs will be saying Mass for us. He is a Loreto old boy from Strand. So we are keeping it in the family. Any LOGS from Pretoria or further afield living in Cape Town are more than welcome to join us on the day.

I have chosen October the 4th for our Reunion this year as it is the feast day of Francis of Assisi, one of my favourite Saints, not knowing it was your Reunion day as well. We will be offering up our Mass for Blessings on both our Reunions. We wish you all a great afternoon of sharing & caring as you go forth into another year of renewed friendships.

Please contact Maureen Fernandes on cell 079 517 0067 or by email on maureenfernandes111@gmail.com for the **Sea Point LOG Reunion in Cape Town** which will be held on 4 October 2014 at 11am at the Durbanville parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The format will be the same as last year's Sea Point Reunion, namely Mass at 11am followed by a bring and share finger lunch in the church hall. All newcomers, please contact Maureen to give her your details.

LOG Sports, Milestones

No news.

LOG Engagements

-Michael Dos Santos, son of Debbie (Pritchard) Dos Santos (Queenswood 1983) is engaged to Erin Anderson, daughter of Patricia (Anderson) Anderson (Queenswood 1983), Debbie's best friend.
Congratulations.

LOG Birthdays

- Medea (Angelo) Evans (Skinner 1946) celebrated her birthday on 2 May 2014. Congratulations on achieving the age of 85! Into the bargain, Medea's family organised a party for her. Among others at the party, was Beatrice (Richardson) Eksteen (Skinner 1946) who came all the way from her home in Parys in the Free State to celebrate with Medea. Well done to both of you!

- We wish each of the great-grandchildren of Ruth (Capell) Hagerman (Hillcrest 1954) and the grandchildren of her daughter Debbie (Pritchard) dos Santos (Queenswood 1983) a very happy birthday as follows. Number 1 is Kyra (daughter of Diane dos Santos - not a LOG), born on 21 December 2011; will be three this December. Then great-grandchild number 2, granddaughter of Jean (nee Hagerman) (van Wyk) Lamont (Queenswood 1981), is Holly, born to Jeandre Visser (van Wyk) (also not a LOG), born 9 May 2013. Number 3 is under LOG Births.

LOG Special Achievements

-K'von, the 13-year-old daughter of Kim (Jones) Lamble (Skinner 1988), a flautist, was involved in a musical presentation called "Orchestra from Scratch" under the baton of Richard Cock in 2013 and 2012. Richard Cock, a well-known conductor, invites young talented musicians to come together on a particular day, gets them to practise together for the first time in the morning and then lets them play as an orchestra in the early afternoon before a live audience. This gives the musicians a feel for playing together as an orchestra. K'von is also lately playing in small orchestras from the Pro Arte School. Apart from these special achievements, K'von participated in the Artisticulta Kunstefees 2014 and was awarded a Gold+, meaning that she achieved 95%. Cool!

LOG Hobbies

- Jeanne-Marié (Fouché) Murray (Skinner 1988) with her hobby of crochet and her daughter, Maxine, with her nimble fingers, set about raising funds to help a student teacher at NWU to buy aids for a school in the township where she was doing her practice teaching. Jeanne-Marié crocheted small flowers and Maxine glued these to hair slides. Other items were "monsters" made from felt, key rings, bracelets from rubber bands, headbands and blankets. These they sold at the Morning Market in Modimolle – a great success!

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: John Anton, beloved husband of Shirley (Velcich) Plisic (Hillcrest 1952), on 23 August 2013; Inge (Masur) Schar (Skinner) who died in Texas USA at the end of September 2013; Lynne Ritchie (Hillcrest 1973) on Thursday 10 July 2014; Nicolaas, beloved husband of Beatrice (Richardson) Eksteen (Skinner 1946), on 28 May 2013; Tony, beloved husband of Elizabeth (Schapers) Baransky (Skinner 1956), on 15 March 2014; Elaine (Kurtzahn) Savage (Hillcrest 1952) on 22 January 2013; Colleen Van Rooyen (Queenswood 1983) three years ago; and Joscelyne Louise Skottowe (Hillcrest 1963) on 14 December 1995.

LOG Memoriam

LYNNE RITCHIE

Our dear friend and classmate sadly passed away on Thursday 10 July 2014 after a long illness. She was such a special person and so brave. She will never be forgotten and we will miss her. Our condolences to her mother, Yvonne, her sister, Beth, and her son, Dylan. The Loreto Convent Hillcrest class of 1973.

Celebrations at the Annual LOG Reunion on Saturday 4 October 2014 at Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Street (previously Skinner Street), Pretoria, entrance in Visagie Street (see above for directions).

Golden Girls for 2014 (50 years out of school = left school in 1964, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Estelle (Greyling) Paul, Magdalena D (Ferreira) Szaploneczay, Lilian (Flynn) Vincent, Heather (Laurie) Miller, Sandra (Tiley) Rein (New Zealand), Yeolanda (Van Eden) Heimann, Margaret (Yule) Lang (Australia). **Hillcrest:** Dawn (Capell)

MacDonald, Loretta (Giacchetti) Valle, Sally (Harrington) Van Der Woude, Dawn (Stapylton-Adkins) Raimondo. **Lydenburg:** Gerda (Van Bylevelt) Holoviasky, Lesley (Rundle) Epprecht. **Msongari, Kenya:** Jacqueline (Mclaughlin) Crewe-Brown.

Diamond Girls for 2014 (60 years out of school = left school in 1954 or were with this group. Please include LOGS of earlier years who were not acknowledged last year or up to two years before), inter alia: **Skinner:** Bessie (Bernstein) Feinblum, Eleanor (Concannon) Van Leeuwen, Mattie (De Wit) Bosman, Pat (Fadden) Young, Liz/Ellis (Gerke) Graw, Margaret (Pearson) Frame, Delphine (Rofail) Zackey, Margaret Short, Elise M (Van Rensburg) Dell. **Hillcrest:** Ruth (Capell) Hagerman, Davina Maureen (Chapman) Glenn, Molly Connolly, Shane (Macdonald) Cameron, Felicity Mullan, Andre Sacco (Australia), Irma (Sluijter) Uytenbogaardt, Valerie Williams.

Ruby Girls for 2014 (40 years out of school = left school in 1974, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Maryke (Bosma) Van Velzen, Rosemary (Buffa) Francescutti, Giesela (Frauenstein) Wash (Canada), Beverley Knott, Teresa (Mono) Iacop, Jenny (Munro) Gent, Cheryl Symington, Estelle K (Van Der Walt) Bam, Lynn/Lyndall (Waters) Brebner, Enid (Schroeder) Phillips. **Hillcrest:** Lida (Fabris-Rotell) Zambon, Mary-Teresa Gaffney, Felicity (Joseph) O'Donnell, Claire Hiltermann, Pat Brook, Colleen (Sullivan) Oosthuizen, Myriam Frank Dallmann, Shane Justice Wiggill, Jenny (Jones) Terwin, Bridgid (Skottowe) Ballentyne, Charlotte Pitts, Fiona (Falconer) Fitzgerald, Janet (Fletcher) Schulz, Glenda (Shaw) Gilbride, Jane (Britten) Zahra, Cathy Meyer, Erica (Schoeman) Geldenhuys, Vicky (Lorentz) Engelbrecht, Maureen (Schonfeldt) Louw, Karoline Pollabauer, Judy (Wilkins) Smith, Susan (Sharky) Touzel, Laurel (Hetem) More, Lesley (Pitt) Carlyon, Martha (Machado) Smith, Sharon (Boxall) Lindsay, Mary-Anne Sinovich, Susan (Jarred) Forster. **Strand:** Trish (Browne) Wessels. **No school mentioned:** Beverley (Morgan) Delaney, Luisa (Texeira) Wintour.

Silver Girls for 2014 (25 years out of school = left school in 1989, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Carmel (Abdo) Grundlingh, Anabella Da Costa, Juliet B De Mendonca, Bernadette (De Souza) Clarke, Hetel Gokal, Maria Izura Goncalves (Portugal), Eleanor (Gray) Brown, Debbie (Hamilton) Cable (UK), Penny (Jansen Van Rensburg) Louw, Zanette (Lerdon) Bennette, Christina Mariano, Helene Martin, Janine (McCue) Van Emmenis, Emelinda Mendes, Dalia (Mendes) Guerra (Portugal), Raegan Murphy, Bernadette Nascimento, Emmy Nokaneng, Isabel (Nunes) Gusmao, Isabella (Pasqua) Goncalves, Angelique (Robertson) Du Plooy, Nelita (Rodrigues) Lira, Janete (Rodrigues) Willemse, Carla (Rodrigues) Do Val, Laura (Steyn) Da Silva, Fatima Maria (Texeira) Vieira/Viera, Paula (Torres) Kyriacou, Annalize (Van Niekerk) Koekemoer, Paula (Viana) Krajnc, Jay (Loretan) Exenberger.

Tin Girls for 2014 (10 years out of school = left school in 2004): **Skinner:** Fehmidah Cassim, Keneilwe Chiloane, Tshepiso Ditsebe, Nichola Govender, Neema Isa, Zinzi Jabavu, Loane Ledwaba, Lesego Legodi, Nomsa Letwaba, Selma Llale, Jessica Magagane, Gopolang Magano, Kearabilwe Mahlabane, Kholo Makgoka, Elizabeth Makhoane, Matome Malapile, Nyadiki Maloleka, Naledi Manaka, Tumelo Manne, Dikeledi Mashabela, Tshepiso Mboweni, Lerato Mdluli, Boitumelo Moatshe, Magdeline Mokoka, Lesego Mokone, Veronica Moloi, Kediretse Molokoane, Eulane Monyebodi, Shaina Mooloo, Lesego More, Gago Moroka, Refiloe Motau, Audrey Moukangwe, Balungile Mpapela, Queen Mphahlele, Nonto Mveke, Thembisa Ndlamlenze, Zolisa Njamela, Mpho Nkisi, Tshepiso Ntseke, Buang Ntshabele, Keletso Ntshudisane, Siyabonga Ntuli, Jacinta Pillay, Laiza Ramano,

Amogelang Sefara, Busi Shabangu, Keneilwe Sibanyoni, Nolu Silwana, Grace (Mukendi) Sola, Christine Tamukedde, Innocentia Tsoku.

Keep in Touch! Please note that if you intend to be at the **Skinner Pretoria LOG REUNION** on 4 OCTOBER 2014, it is essential to **RSVP** so that your name can be put on a list, (particularly for those receiving a gift in celebration of your year left school, 50 or 60 or 40 or 25 or 10), and a name-label **{First name (maiden name in brackets) Surname}** can be prepared for you. With thanks!

REPLY SLIP

I.....(Name and Surname) will / will not be attending the **Loreto Convent Skinner Pretoria 2014 LOG Reunion** on Saturday 4 October 2014 at 12:30 for Registration and Mass in the School Chapel at 13:00, followed by further Registration and Tea in the School Hall. Contribution towards tea and admin costs: R70, payable at the 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.