



Hi, Everyone Loreto

Bravo and thanks to all who sent news items!

Especially, bravo to Ana (Vaz) Paula (Skinner 1981) for her poem, "Recollections of a Loreto School Girl" which epitomises the Loreto Spirit of Past Pupils.

Recollections of a Loreto School Girl

**It was the year of 1981,
Oh! it was so much fun!
Taking my thoughts back in time,
It seems I can still hear the school bell chime,
For the different classes every day,
That we sometimes wished away.
Now I realise it was actually times to treasure,
Those long-ago school days of work and leisure.
Do you remember strict Sister Clement, with intelligent, flashing eyes,
Who taught us Maths & Science, and couldn't understand our sighs,
When we said : "I don't understand that formula or equation"
"Nonsense!", she said, "it's all in relation to the equation".
We closed our books at the end of the school-day,
It was time for sports, okay!**

**Friends we made and wondered what the future would hold,
Dreams we had, and tomorrows were bold.
Twelve school years went by in a flash,
I sometimes wish it had not gone by in a dash.
Looking back : what great memories they are
Of bygone school days, a girl waves from afar.**

***By: Ana Paula (née) Vaz
Matric of 1981***

“We are living in an information-driven society which bombards us indiscriminately with data—all treated as being of equal importance—and which leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values.”
Pope Francis 2013

It is again time for the annual reunion of all LOGS which will be held at Nana Sita/Skinner Street Loreto Convent School on Saturday 7 October 2017 at 11h00 for registration and 11h30 for Mass, followed by a finger lunch. Entrance is in Visagie Street.

Bring your spouses, friends, etc. and, of course, Loreto Old Boys are very welcome, all at the price of R70 each (to cover costs, including admin costs).

We request LOGS of a specific year to contact each other. This year the Golden Girls are the LOGS of 1967. The Diamond Girls are of 1957, the Ruby Girls of 1977, the Silver Girls of 1992 and the Tin Girls of 2007.

Our overall aim is to bring together Past Pupils from ALL LORETOs across the generations.

SCHOOL NEWS

Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Street, Pretoria

A new year, a fresh start and a brand new Principal. Mrs Truter took over the reins from Mr Shillinglaw who retired at the end of 2016 and has without a doubt competently filled his shoes.

Once again our Grade 12 girls of 2016 delivered extraordinary results with four top achievers totalling 27 distinctions. Our immaculate record of a 100% pass was once again achieved through dedicated staff and disciplined learners.

Puseletso Matsapola	93 %	7 A's
Ntando Sibanyoni	91 %	6 A's
Nandipha Nqoko	87 %	7 A's
Palesa Maphutuma	87 %	7 A's
Afia Agyepong	-	6 A's

The Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Councillor Solly Msimanga, invited two learners, Puseletso Matsapola and Blessed Palesa Maphutuma to the Mayoral Matric Awards Ceremony together with Mrs. Truter, to give them recognition for their hard work and excellent achievements.

As the year began for the new Grade 8 learners they enjoyed a camp at Klein Kariba where they got to know one another. Our Geography girls had an opportunity to do some venturing outside our borders. We had a fantastic time of giving as we had our primary school learners jumping at the opportunity to fill the needs of others less fortunate than themselves.

A number of improvements to our buildings, facilities and grounds have been made and a number are still planned for Term 3. They will be placed on the school website shortly for all to see. Our school staffroom has been refurbished, making it more inviting.

The Loreto Schools International Education Conference was held in Pretoria from 25 June to 2 July 2017. Colleagues from Loreto Convent School, Loreto Queenswood and Loreto Strand welcomed 60 international delegates from IBVM/Loreto and Congregation (CJ) Educational Institutions. The following countries were represented at the conference: Australia, Canada, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Nepal, Mauritius, Peru, Romania, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Seven guest speakers provided a stimulating framework for the discussions that were held during the Conference. There was input from various delegates in the form of reflections, and group discussions around the various topics. The conference provided a good balance of work, recreational and cultural opportunities. The conference began with a beautiful mass on Sunday at Loreto Convent (Nana Sita Street) where our liturgical choir sang for the visitors. The main conference was held at Queenswood School. On Wednesday, all the delegates visited our school again and were given a historical tour of the school. They also had the experience of meeting some of our students who were not writing exams on that day. The conference produced a "Mary Ward Schools" document, derived from all the delegates' discussions. The delegates spent quality time bonding and sharing different ideas. The conference was a wonderful, meaningful and endearing experience that will help us to respond in a relevant way to 21st century education (feedback courtesy of Mrs Yon).

Mrs Truter had the privilege of visiting Sr. Immacula in Ireland recently as well as attending the Friends of Mary Ward Conference in York. Memorable friendships were made with many people from around the world.

Mrs Truter wishes our current Grade 12 learners all the best with their upcoming exams as yet another year draws to an end. May their way be paved with goodness and grace.

Loreto School Queenswood

Felicity Mullan (Hillcrest 1954), of Christ the King Parish Queenswood, reported that the choir of the Loreto School Queenswood will be going to Loreto Germany in 2018. This is in consequence of the Loreto Schools International Education Conference held at Loreto School Queenswood from 25 June to 2 July 2017.

Sponsors are needed to support the choir's visit to Germany. Felicity will accept any cash donation and pass it on to the Principal of Loreto School Queenswood, with thanks.

NEWS OF LORETO SISTERS

Sister Marian, based in Pretoria, sent a report of the Loreto Schools International Education Conference held at Loreto School Queenswood. Copies of Sister Marian's detailed and interesting report on this Conference will be available at the Pretoria LOG Reunion on 7 October 2017.

Sister Marian mentioned that Strand Loreto School would participate in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Catholicism in Cape Town.

In addition, Sister Marian reported that the Diocesan School in Glen Cowie will celebrate 50 years in October 2017. Loreto Sisters held the position of principal there for the first twenty years before handing over to the local Sisters and later to lay principals.

Loreto Sister Obituary

With regret, we note the passing of Sr. Margaret Mary O'Brien. Born 20 May 1919, final profession 26 July 1949, died 14 November 2016. Her Patron saints were: Mary Ward & Saint John Evangelist and her Motto: *Per Mariam ad Jesum*. The Loreto Sisters would like to express their gratitude to the Holy Cross Sisters and all the Staff for their loving care of our dear Sr. Margaret Mary.

[Loreto Sisters Website](#)

Lastly, go to www.ibvm.org for further information on the activities of Loreto Sisters. Of special interest is the [Mary Ward International Newsletter](#), as suggested by Sister Pat Hanvey of Zambia

NEWS OF LORETO OLD GIRLS

1. The annual LOG Reunion will take place on Saturday 7 October 2017, at Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Street (previously Skinner Street), with Registration at 11:00 (at the entrance to the Chapel) and Mass in the School Chapel at 11:30, followed by further Registration and Finger Lunch 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 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, Mrs Suzette Truter, Vice-principal, Ms Maria Alves, and all Teachers, Past Principals and Past Teachers. In addition we thank in anticipation Mrs Truter for the Annual Reunion venue and for her support of and assistance to the LOGS in the future. Furthermore, we invite Mr Marcello Pollozzi, the Principal of Loreto School Queenswood, with his wife, and the Queenswood Teachers and Past Teachers to attend the Reunion. Let us know if you are coming. RSVP to pa@lorskin.co.za.

4. LOGS, note the categories for celebration.

Golden Girls	50 years out of school - 1967
Diamond Girls	60 years out of school - 1957
Ruby Girls	40 years out of school - 1977
Silver Girls	25 years out of school - 1992
Tin Girls	10 years out of school - 2007

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

6. Refer to www.loreto.co.za for matters relating to LOGS.

LOG Commendations

We sing the praises of

- Gail (Gilbride) Bohle (Hillcrest 1972) who wrote as follows

I am still living in Hout Bay, but visit the Gilbrides in Pretoria at least once a year! My sister-in-law is Glenda Gilbride (Rory's wife) and they always welcome me home - which is fabulous.

This year, I had my novel "Under the African Sun," published by CactusRain (USA) under my maiden name, Gail Gilbride. It's been an incredible roller coaster ride so far. I would recommend it to anyone - and if you enjoy writing, do it! (Available at Exclusives, Loot and Amazon, of course.)

I still teach at CPUT and have one more matriculant to mentor at home, but next year I am finally bowing out of teaching, to concentrate on writing. I sneak time to work on a sequel - but it's not really enough to get the work finished.

Have a wonderful reunion!

Gail was interviewed by "The Pretoria News" (Wednesday 30 November 2016). Among other aspects Gail said, "There are some universal themes and I think people's emotions are pretty much the same everywhere you go". Gail also said "This is a story I have been wanting to publish for 40 years".

NOTE

We were so impressed with the publication of this book that we decided to offer two copies in a lucky draw at the 2017 LOG Reunion in Pretoria, the first exclusively for Hillcrest LOGS and the second for all other LOGS.

Congratulations!

LOG Wedding Anniversaries

- Yvonne (Rens) Sutherland (Skinner 1952) writes

Hi

I am a Loreto Old Girl from the class of 1952. My husband and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on 8th June this year. We renewed our vows at the 8 am Mass at Christ The King Parish in Queenswood.

I attended reunions for many years, in fact until my 60th one in 2012. I remain a loyal old girl of Loreto and when the Loreto Queenswood pupils sing at Mass I am quite emotional and extremely proud.

Kind regards to all who still attend
Yvonne Sutherland (Rens)

LOG Feel-Good Stories

- Elena Bielich (Hillcrest 1973) wrote on 3 October 2016

Thank you for a special Mass on Saturday and for going to so much trouble to prepare the hall so beautifully and to serve such a delicious finger lunch. I am so pleased I attended.

Kindest regards
Elena Bielich

- Dawn (Capell) Mac Donald (Hillcrest 1964) wrote on 30 September 2016

I've delayed until the last possible moment in the hopes that Ruth would be up to attending the reunion this year, but I'm afraid she isn't up to it yet. I won't attend either as my son is moving house that day and I am helping them with the move. He has been appointed as Headmaster of the Tyger Valley private high school out beyond Silver Lakes and must move out of the Pretoria Boys' High staff housing this weekend. He was one of the vice principals at PBHS and his wife teaches matric maths there too, so they have been in the thick of exam preparation and since Tyger Valley is on a 3 term year there is no October break for him as he starts the new job on Monday, having spent the weekend moving!

I do hope we will be able to join you all next year again and hopefully I'll manage to contact Annette Botha (Joubert), Anne (Reynolds) Herbert?, Dale (Verster) and Elaine (Thomas) Schorn before then!

Have a wonderful reunion. My love and God's richest blessings to you all.

Fondest regards

Dawn (Capell) Mac Donald & Ruth (Capell) Hagerman (Hillcrest 1954)

- Shirley (Hobbs) Korsman (Skinner 1957) wrote on 30 August 2016

Sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you. When you move, things move slowly getting sorted out the other end.

Our move is the best thing that has happened for the last 7 years. We both love the house and also Nico especially loves the security complex organisation and lay-out. The weather has been kind and, best of all, my pain threshold has risen with the help of a body stress release therapist my son took me to the day after we arrived here.

As you will have realised, I must sadly send my apologies for this year's reunion in Pretoria.

Love and best wishes

Shirley Korsman [Matric 1957 - Hobbs]

- Bridget (Doenhoff) Walton (Msongari 1953) wrote on 5 September 2016

I had so hoped to be with you all again this year. Sadly hopes were dashed when two must-attend commitments forced a change of plans. For many years, I have run an alumni gathering for past pupils of a school in Kenya where I worked for many years and this is to be held in Cheltenham, England at the end of September. A second commitment is that I support my younger brother who spent his 70th birthday in hospital and so the family have organized a belated celebration, also in September. My husband and I will attend both functions and return to South Africa on 03 October.

However, my thoughts and prayers will be with you all as you meet and enjoy the afternoon and, God willing, I hope to be with you all again in 2017.

Sincerely

Bridget Walton

Loreto Msongari, Nairobi

- Martha (Ellis) van der Merwe (Skinner 1978) wrote on 27 September 2016

I have to work on Saturday, thus with great sadness, I will not be able to attend the LOG reunion.

I have been looking so forward to finally attend a reunion, but once again unforeseen circumstances have cropped up, and I once again am unable to attend.

I love your newsletter which brings a piece of home to mind. Loreto Skinner Street was like home to me!

I really miss my fellow LOGS and pray that next year I will be able to attend the reunion.

Sadly

Martha (Ellis) van der Merwe

ps. God bless you all !

LOG Milestones

- Christina Mokone (Skinner 1992) writes

Hello

I trust that this finds you well.

I have recently (July 2017) completed the BA Hons Social and Community Studies at Hull, UK and been offered a place on the Master of Social Work programme with a nomination for the NHS Bursary. These are exciting times indeed; as this has been the dream since leaving Loreto in 1992. I would love to attend a reunion some time; maybe next time I come home I'll try to make it coincide with the date... Will have to try for 2019 as the date clashes with start of term time... xx

Christina Mokone

Class of 1992

- Ann Margaret Kieswetter (Skinner 1981) writes

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share some news. My name is Ann Margaret Kieswetter and I went to Loreto, Skinner Street. I completed my matric in 1981 and followed a career in education. To date I have been teaching at Springvale Primary School in Centurion for 31 years. I was honoured to open a brand new school on behalf of the GDE. The school is called Wierda Park Primary. The motto is "Learn and Shine". My secondment ended in 2015 and with God's Grace and Guidance, I was able to fulfil this task.

Kind regards

Ann

LOG Family Matters

- Karen (Hazell) Chellew (Skinner 1979) writes

Hi

My aunt, Dolores (Lola) (Brink) Neethling (Skinner 1950) remains in frail care at the Queenswood Methodist Home, and her sister (my mother), Monica (Brink) Hazell (Skinner 1952) had a bad fall, injured her back and has had to move from her unit in the Queenswood Methodist Home to frail care at Sonnheim in Arcadia.

Winifred (Brink) Snyman (Skinner 1954) has also moved homes and is now in a home in Troye Street in Sunnyside – not sure of the name – let me know if you will need it and I will ask my cousin.

Regards

Karen Chellew (nee Hazell) LOG 1979

- Garth, the son of Margaret (Wickham) Collins (Skinner 1951), plays two roles in the coming November/December 2017 season of Janice Honeyman's pantomime "Pinocchio" at the Joburg Theatre. Something to look forward to!

- Carol-Ann (Shaw) Winterburn wrote on 8 September 2016

What a lovely surprise to hear from you. Thank you. I am in Rustenburg now. My husband Robert passed away very suddenly about two years ago. I have really struggled with his loss. My Dad died about 6 months later. My Mom is in an old age home here. I stay in a flat with my youngest son Nevil and his family. They have 3 girls. My eldest son, Shawn, lives in Centurion with his wife. They have 2 girls. I am blessed with 5 granddaughters!

Regards

Carol-ann Winterburn

- Lesley (Rundle) Epprecht (Lydenburg 1963) wrote on 21 October 2016

Hi LORETO OLD GIRLS

I remember the other old girls from Lydenburg. I am still here and have been blessed with three grandchildren. It is so wonderful to hear all about everything the Old Girls are doing.

Love to all,

Lesley Rundle Epprecht

LOG Health

- Charene Swartzberg (Skinner 1979 and Teacher at Skinner) writes about yoga.

YOGA

The asanas or postures are what most people are familiar with which have many benefits such as keeping the body supple and healthy, helping to calm the mind and minimize stress – physically and mentally. It has been known to assist with alleviating back problems, high blood pressure, aching joints and much more.

However, in addition to this, yoga is a vast system of self-development that we can practice in our daily lives. It is a complimentary training in body, mind, thought, speech, and actions - with full awareness and can become a part of our nature and through it we can change who we are and return to our higher nature.

The word yoga is derived from the root word *yuj*, meaning 'to bind together' or 'to yoke'. It has also been said that the term yoga could be derived from the root *yujā* in the sense of 'concentration'. Yoga has also been known as '*samatva*', which literally means 'sameness' or 'evenness' and '*samatva*' has all kinds of overtones, including 'balance' and 'harmony'.

Another definition of yoga is 'to unite'. The practitioner is striving for union with God or that transcendental power called the Divine.

The practice of yoga raises the level of our awareness. This is a process - to become conscious of our more subtle selves, to awaken to the realization that we are integrated - not separate from Divinity. Yoga is about integrating the diversity of body, mind and spirit.

Yoga is about firsthand experience. It is about exploration inwards to the very depths of your own being, a path of self- discovery and this exploration brings about an expanding awareness and knowledge of the processes of life.

Yoga enables us to unite with the real and separate from the unreal. We need to understand this definition through our practice to realize the self and to experience the ultimate aim of yoga - to merge with the Divine. In order to do this yoga provides a system that allows us to work on all aspects of our personality: to bring us from the gross and mundane and take us to the subtle and the Divine.

For more information refer to www.yogacenturion.co.za

LOG Birthdays

- Congratulations to Father Kevin Reynolds (Skinner and Hillcrest Loreto Old Boy) on his birthday in August 2017. We were delighted to hear, at our Rosary Group, that his health is improving and pray that he recovers completely.

LOG Achievements

- David, son of Joan (Acker) Kerswill (Skinner 1971), passed his National Diploma in Geology with distinction.

Congratulations.

LOG Memories

- Sandra (Gould) Owen (Lydenburg 1961/62) wrote on 4 September 2016

Hi there

I am not sure which category I fit into of the old Loreto Girls, but I guess I am a Gold Girl or maybe older and past it!!

I attended Loreto Lydenburg for the years 1961/2 - Standard 9 and Matric. My sister Diana Gould was with me and was Standard 7 and 8.

A couple of years ago I was contacted by Sister Immacula who is now back in Ireland and we corresponded for a bit and then I don't know if something happened to her but I didn't hear any more news. I did manage a visit to Skinner Street about 20 years ago, and Mother Philomena as I knew her then, was sadly bed ridden in the convent, and I was not able to see her.

Around about that time, on one of my visits to South Africa I took my husband to see the convent at Lydenburg. Of course it is no longer a convent but was then a home for mentally challenged men and boys. The staff were very welcoming though and invited us in and I was able to show my husband Taffy (he is Welsh) where I went to school, where I slept etc etc. It was a surreal experience and one I made the effort to return to.

Since leaving South Africa from school in 1962, I married in 1965 in Entebbe Uganda. We have just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. After Uganda we went to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and then to Nairobi Kenya and left East Africa to go to Bahrain in 1971. We spent 10 years in Bahrain and then moved to Dubai where we have been ever since. I have 2 sons, who also live in Dubai and now have 4 granddaughters. As a family we have made Dubai our home.

I worked for British Airways in Dubai, and in 1991 left BA to start my own Travel Business, Al Arabi Travel and still have it to this day. I have also been very involved in charity work helping British Citizens who find themselves in trouble through no fault of their own, and was delighted to be awarded an MBE for my work to the charity in the Queen's Birthday

honours last year. I went to Buckingham Place in November last year to receive my award from Prince Charles. It was an amazing day and experience and I still pinch myself to wonder about the award, and also that I have been inside Buckingham Palace.

We have a small home in the south west of France where we spend the long hot summers of the Middle East, and return to Dubai mid-October. So sadly, I am never able to make the reunion as I would so much like to sometime.

Is it possible that you have contacts for a couple of people I was at the convent with?

I had a very close friend Margaret Moody. Sylvia Tonnetti was another person I was very friendly with.

We were the class of Standard 9 in 1961, and Matric in 1962.

I would love it if you could send me a list of the girls that were in those forms at the same time. I would love to get back in touch with them.

I know the above information is too late for the newsletter, but I thought I would send it all the same. This summer has been a very busy one for me as my husband has had severe heart problems and we have just come out of a week of him having a heart attack. So sadly I was not able to get all this in to you before you issued the newsletter.

I did notice though that there was not much news from the girls of Lydenburg, and wonder if they are still with us or not.

In closing would like to wish you a very good reunion - I hope you have a very happy day.

Best wishes
Sandra Owen

- Patricia (Weatherly) Hynes (Sea Point 1956) wrote on 8 November 2016

Hello

I have just forwarded your newsletter to Joan Addison (nee Wightman), Class of 1955, her older sister was Sister Theresa.

I was in the Class of 1956, the Diamonds, and looking at our Matric Dance photograph our class consisted of 13 girls as follows:

Anne-Marie du Bois, myself, Patricia Weatherly, Annette- Stewart Collins, Jay Bullard, Cobina Consani, Wendy Smith, Ruth Shepherd, Noreen McNally, Shirley Frank, Fiona Lee, Noeleen Price, Frances Jaffe and Elke Somner.

Ours was the first class to hold a Matric Dance and a lot of the preparation work was done for us the year before by the 1955 Class consisting of Joan Wightman, Maria Pevsner etc. It was held in the Fresnaye Tennis Club Hall and chaperoning it was our dear Home Economics teacher, Mrs Cutler.

I was 4.1/2 when I started at Loreto and it became my second home. There were boys in our class for the first few years – not that us girls ever played with them. Some of them were Francis Cheminais, Gary Frieland, Joseph Baruso and Jay's twin brother, Quentin.

Every St Patrick's Day the C.B.C. boys used to march to our school. I married one of them and Francis Cheminais was our best man. I am still in close contact with Cobina O'Connell (nee Consani) in Italy, Wendy Velcich (nee Smith) in Pretoria, Fiona Sutton (nee Lee) in Nelspruit and Joan Addison (nee Wightman) in Pinelands. I am in Durbanville. This past Sunday my husband, Brian, joined eight C.B.C. boys from their Class of 1956 for a celebration lunch.

Thank you for the interesting newsletter.

God bless and kind regards,

Patricia Hynes (nee Weatherly)

LOGS Reaching Out for contact with old classmates

- Cecile (Skottowe) Price (Hillcrest 1966)

I am an old girl from 1966 and apart from one special friend - Patricia Kay, I have lost contact with all the girls in my class - Val Bachelor, Dale Kernick, Diane Wilkins, Rosemary Jackaman (who lives in Australia now) and of course age and my memory fail me , but I would love to reconnect with those girls still in SA. As a result I shall try to be at your reunion on the 7th October. Thank you for all your efforts in keeping the LOGs in contact with each other.

Love

Cecile Price (nee Skottowe)

PS My sisters Brigid Ballantyne (1950) and Marie Oflaherty (1953) and Jenny Ambler (1963) and Joscelyn Eksteen (1961 died in 1995) were all Old Girls of Loreto Hillcrest and I have some fond memories (except for the food!) of my school days there.

- Lynne (Clayton) Neufeld (Skinner 1962) writes

Many blessings to all and thanks for info.

Lynne Neufeld (Clayton) 1962

- Debbie (Pritchard) dos Santos (Hillcrest and Queenswood 1982/83) writes

Lovely.... will diarise and let as many as my class mates know all info regarding the reunion
thank you

Debbie (Pritchard) now dos Santos

Hillcrest Gr 1 to Std 2

Queenswood Std 3 - Matric '83 oops Or '82 hee hee can't remember, too long ago

- Dellene (Hamilton) Clark (Skinner 1987) writes

We are from the class of 1987 and will be celebrating, reminiscing 30 years since we left Loreto Skinner Street. We would love to extend an invitation to the class of 1987 to join us at the reunion. Could you do this on our behalf or provide me with any contacts you may have? I have lost contact with all but a few of the wonderful women I had the privilege of going to school with.

Warm regards

Dellene Clark (nee Hamilton)

LOG Bucket List

- Annelize (van Niekerk) Koekemoer (Skinner 1989) writes

Hi I decided to write up a bucket list

Regards

Annelize Koekemoer (nee van Niekerk) matriculated 1989 Skinner Street

What the heck is a bucket list: It's a list of things you would like to do before you die (or "kick the bucket").

It was made popular from the movie called *"The Bucket List"* where two terminally ill guys (Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson) meet in a hospital and then set out on an adventure to try and do everything on their lists.

So doing some research I found various lists of what people would like to do. Most people want to travel and see the world or just interesting places.

Here are the ones I thought sounded the most fun:

Ride in a hot air balloon

Travel anywhere and everywhere – tourist hot spots or crazy destinations like the Bermuda triangle or Stonehenge. Fill in your own ideas.

Watch a space shuttle launch

Experience weightlessness

Send a message in a bottle – not too sure if it will be responded to, make its destination or even survive the trip but why not try anyway.

Shower in a waterfall

Spend a night in a haunted house or a light house during a big storm

Swim with the sharks

Watch a Sumo Wrestling Match

Ride a Gondola in Venice

Set a World Record

Eat chocolate in Switzerland

Go Zorbing (don't know what it is, its rolling down a hill in an orb, weeeeeee)

Swim in the Dead Sea (or bob around who knows how it will turn out)

Take a spiritual retreat

Take an art class (e.g. paint night with wine.... Lots of wine)

Go to Cuba and ask Sam to "Play it again"

Hold a lion's paw (yes the lion must still be alive and its paw attached)

Watch the Italian/Monaco Grand Prix

Watch the migration on the Serengeti

LOG Travellers

- Felicity (Joseph) O'Donnell (Hillcrest 1974) writes

I was too late with the last newsletter. I hope this is not too dated. ..

Hope to see you in October.

God bless

Felicity O'Donnell (nee Joseph)

Hillcrest – Class of '74

Two years ago I wrote and told you I was attending the World Youth Day 2016 with our Archdiocese of Johannesburg as the 'Mother' for our parishioners which numbered 25 of the group of 110. I never managed to give a report back last year as my husband, Dennis, joined me in Poland and we spent another five weeks touring Europe, only returning in October.

We had a wonderful two and a half years fund raising and building up a bond between these young people of our parish and archdiocese. The preparations included days of recollection and prayer, Polish dinners and numerous fund raising events. And so we were ready!!!!

We started off in Wrocklaw where we joined an OMI (the Oblates of Mary Immaculate) encounter for the first week. All the youth from around the world that were travelling with OMI priests assembled there. We attended prayers, religious talks, spiritual activities and also enjoyed a little free time to explore the city. We learnt a lot about St Eugene De Mazenod, the founder of the OMI Community.

From there we went to Krakow via Malnia, a small village, which was the home of Blessed Jozef Cebula, who was also an OMI priest. We celebrated Mass there. The locals prepared tea and cake and then a picnic lunch for us.

Krakow was awesome. With some 2 million pilgrims, our dream had begun. There was such a buzz everywhere you went. Pilgrims greeted each other, they praised and worshipped together. Language wasn't a barrier. Blonia Park was electric and when the Pope arrived, it was indescribable. We attended catechesis each day. Each different language group had their own centres. The park became a Confessional and Adoration park. There were hundreds of confessional boxes scattered around the park. The Adoration tent, which was opened throughout the day, was a special Holy place where quiet time could be had. (It was my favourite spot). To experience the love and joy of Jesus everywhere you went, was amazing. We all had the same interests – the Merciful Jesus.

The highlight of the pilgrimage was the final all-night vigil ending with Mass on the Sunday. It was a far walk of 15km to the field of Mercy. For me it became a bit of 'penance', another story on its own! That concluded our WYD experience.

Our group stayed on for a few days doing touristy things. We visited the Calvary Sanctuary, the Salt mines, John Paul II Basilica, Divine Mercy Basilica and much more. This was an experience that was worth every penny.

Dennis and I travelled on to Rome, Florence, Pisa and Assisi in Italy. From there we went to the South of France (Aix-en-Provence and Marseilles) and then to Paris. After Paris we visited Belgium and Holland, ending our trip in Vienna staying with a classmate from Hillcrest, Myriam Frank. We went to a lake, St Gilgen, near Salzburg where Myriam and Armin have a cottage. It was a lovely way to end a fantastic holiday.

– Joan (Acker) Kerswill (Skinner 1971), Wendy (Smith) Velcich (Sea Point 1956) and Sybil Jones, mother of Kim (Jones) Lambie (Skinner 1988), went on a Pilgrimage of Italy in 2017. Joan writes as follows

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

As a Secular Franciscan I wanted to go on a pilgrimage where the emphasis was Franciscan. As one of our Seculars said, "Assisi to Franciscans is like Mecca to Muslims and the Holy Land to Christians". I was told about a Catholic in Cape Town who would organise it for me, made contact with her and together we got a group together and went through Italy.

Besides the many Franciscan towns we also visited Lanciaio where a Eucharistic miracle took place in the 8th century. After the consecration, the priest, who had doubted the 'Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist', found he was holding a host that had turned into Flesh. The wine, on the altar had changed into Blood, coagulated and split into five pieces of different shapes and sizes – the five wounds of Christ. Twelve centuries later, the sacred relics have remained incorrupt.

Our class at Loreto has a whatsapp group and are therefore in contact with one another, so before leaving for Italy I had spoken to Fulvia Damico who was with us at Loreto, and asked her if it was possible for me to meet with her and she kindly came all the way to Lanciaio to see me.

What a very special day, after 46 years, meeting up again. As Fulvia said it was "like returning to our youth, we shared beautiful moments". And for me it was even more special because of this beautiful town and its miracle. We are truly blessed to have the technology that we have today and to be able to keep in contact with each other on different continents.

Also on the pilgrimage with us was Wendy Velcich who attended Loreto Sea Point and Paulette Hakim, Loreto Hillcrest. Although not Loreto but other pilgrims also went to Catholic schools: Maetsane Mothibe went to our Lady of Mercy Convent, Springs, Angela Pitsi to Tsogo High run by the Sisters of Mercy. Sybil Jones went to Greenhill Convent in Bloemfontein with the Holy Family Sisters and her daughters went to Loreto.

As I haven't had a reply from all of the others I am sure many more on the pilgrimage were 'convent girls', a special group of new friends.

We visited many other Franciscan places but Assisi has a presence and a peace that is tangible. Shortly before his death, as St Francis was on his way to Santa Maria degli Angeli from Assisi, he stopped halfway down. Turning towards his city he blessed her with these words:

"May you be blessed by God, holy city, for through you many souls will be saved and many servants of God will dwell in you and many of yours will be elected to the realms of eternal life"

St Francis is the never-ending gift of God to the Church and to the world.

- Mrs Renee d'Oliveira (Past Principal and Past Teacher of Skinner) and at present Co-ordinator and Presenter of the 'Echoing the Word Course', An Introductory Course for Catechists and All Who Wish To Teach The Faith, or Know More About the Catholic Faith, went recently to Turkey with her husband. They also went on a Fatima Pilgrimage in 2017.

LOG Inspiring Matters

- Wendy (Smith) Velcich (Sea Point 1956) writes

Joan (Acker) Kerswill (Skinner 1971) asked me to write a short piece on our Friday Perpetual Novena, so here it is attached.

I apologise for not attending the annual gathering but coming from Loreto Sea Point, I found no-one to 'reunion' with. However I will check to see if there is anyone I know attending.

All the best for a special reunion

God Bless

Wendy

Approximately 30 years ago, I was phoned and asked to try and arrange a 'novena' of prayers for a very special and urgent petition. So the Friday Perpetual Novena was born. At present we have approximately 40 people giving half an hour every Friday wherever they are and in any form (e.g. Mass or Rosary) for those on the prayer list. Only the first names are shown on the monthly list to retain the anonymity of the person in need. My feeling is that most times we can do little to help those suffering, but to pray for them is the greatest gift of all.

Anyone wishing to join those praying or have special intentions are most welcome to phone or email me.

Wendy Velcich (nee Smith – Loreto Sea Point)

012 803 1585 / 072 387 1485 wendyvelcich@mweb.co.za

- Father Michael van Heerden (Strand Loreto Old Boy) writes

I do not have much news except that from the parish where I am Parish Priest – so I attach the latest article that I have written on Mary. Below is a poem written by my brother-in-law, who also attended Loreto Convent School in the Strand in 1965/66.

Blessings
Fr Michael van Heerden

One more passing day – Mr William McMurray

softly fades the light of one more day
the sapphire blue of sea and sky turns gold
deepening hues of tranquil earth and stone
atone for passion's heat and feet of clay

along the shore the breakers rise and fall
the setting sun draws skeins of seabirds home
to roost and rest, perhaps to sleep and dream
of oceans wide and endless skies to roam

the drifting lights of fishermen awake
and call their ancient bounty from the deep
life's cycle is enacted and discharged
to render one more passing day replete

now I sketch with words upon this theme,
with rhyme and rhythmic patterns of the mind,
for we're but windows through which beauty's seen
without which, caring not, the world is blind.

Mary as the ever-virgin Mother of the Lord

In the month of May, in a special way the Church fulfills the first prophecy in the New Testament which was uttered by Mary the mother of the Lord: "Henceforth, all generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1: 48). We also exclaim with Elizabeth: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb – and how is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1: 42-3).

From the start of the Church's history Mary was seen as the "new Eve" (as Christ is the "new Adam" –Rom 5: 15) who dedicates her whole life (here and hereafter) to fulfilling her mission of bringing Christ into the world: into the minds and hearts of humankind. This is reason why Jesus calls her 'woman' or 'Eva' (in the Greek text) in the bible: "Woman behold your

son" (Jn 19: 26). One of the great signs for Catholics and Orthodox Christians that this was the mission of Mary was that she remained a virgin throughout her life – as St Augustine described it: "Mary remained a virgin in conceiving her Son, a virgin in giving birth to him, a virgin in carrying him, a virgin in nursing him at her breast, always a virgin" (Sermon 186, 1: PL 38, 999 – *ante partum, in partu, post partum*). I am asked many times that, if this be the truth, how could Jesus have brothers and sisters, as mentioned in the New Testament: "Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary – and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?" (Mk 6: 3). The quick answer to this question would be that these were the cousins and second cousins of Jesus – who in the Aramaic and Hebrew of the time were also called brothers and sisters as these languages had no word for cousin. In fact, there was probably many cousins and relatives of Jesus that are not mentioned by name in the New Testament (Acts 1: 14; John 2: 12). Notice that during the childhood years of Jesus they are never mentioned (Luke 2: 41-52). Only after the death of Joseph are they referred to – probably because Mary was now living under their protection. If, however, they were the actual brothers of Jesus – in the text above it would have been easier to have said: "Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary and are not her other children also here: James and Joses and Judas and Simon?" Be that as it may, a more comprehensive answer comes from a deeper look at the scriptural texts. Let us begin by looking at the lists given of the twelve apostles:

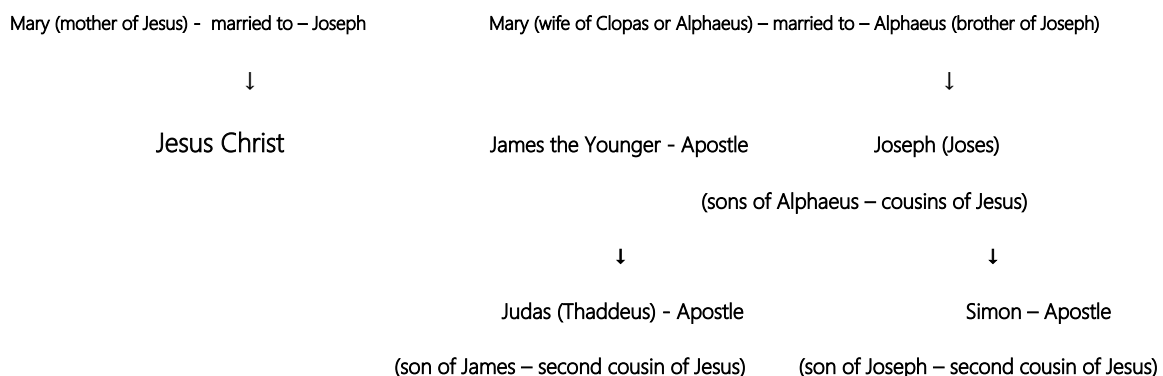
Matthew 10: 1- 4 : Simon called Peter; his brother Andrew; James – the son of Zebedee; and his brother John; Philip; and Bartholomew; Thomas; and Matthew; James – the son of Alphaeus; and Thaddeus; Simon the Canaan; Judas Iscariot

Mark 3: 17-19 : Simon named Peter; James, son of Zebedee; and his brother John; Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; and Matthew; James – the son of Alphaeus; and Thaddeus; Simon the Canaan; Judas Iscariot

Luke 6: 14-16 : Simon named Peter; his brother Andrew; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James – son of Alphaeus; Simon the Zealot; Judas the son of James; Judas Iscariot

Notice from all the lists you have the following immediate similarities: Peter and his brother Andrew, James and John – the sons of Zebedee (Mt 4: 18-21), Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew (the tax collector), Thomas and Judas Iscariot. Then, in all the texts, another James (the son of Alphaeus) is mentioned and Thaddeus (which is the Latin for Judas) and in the Lukan text this Thaddeus (Judas) is named the son of James (see also Acts 1: 13 – 14). Then Simon the Canaan or Zealot is mentioned in all the texts. Let us go back to the text first quoted – the names of the brothers of Jesus were: James and Joseph (Joses), Simon and Judas. Could it be that three of his apostles (James, Judas (Thaddeus) and Simon) were related to him? Paul confirms this when he says: "But, I did not see any of the other apostles, only James, the brother of the Lord" (Galatians 1: 19).

So, James the Younger (Mk 15: 40 – James the Older was the son of Zebedee) – son of Alphaeus, was one of the brothers (cousins) of the Lord and his blood brother was Joseph (Joses) (Mk 15: 40). The older James was killed by Herod (Acts 12: 2) and the younger went to establish the Church in Portugal and Spain and is buried in Santiago. To understand how James the Younger, as well as his son Judas or Thaddeus (the second cousin of Jesus) and his brother Joses (Joseph) and his son Simon (second cousin of Jesus) are related to Jesus we have to turn to John 19: 25 and the teaching of historical tradition. Tradition tells us that Joseph, the husband of Mary, had a brother called Alphaeus (which is the Hebrew form for the name Clopas in Greek). In John’s gospel we are told: “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala” (John 19: 25). In Matthew’s gospel this “other Mary” (the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus - Mt 27: 61; 28: 1) is identified as also the “mother of James and Joseph” (Mt 27: 55) - as she is also identified in Mark (Mk 15: 40) and Luke (Lk 24: 10). So Joseph’s brother, Alphaeus (Clopas), was also married to a Mary (hence the sister-in-law of Mary - the mother of Jesus). Alphaeus and this “other Mary” had two sons: James the Younger (who was an apostle) and Joses (Joseph) – they, in turn, had respectively the two sons: Judas and Simon (both of whom were apostles). If we put this graphically it would be as follows:



Interestingly enough, Simon in Mark and Matthew’s listing of the apostles (see above) is called the Canaan - while, in Luke’s gospel, he is called the Zeolot. The Zeolots were a group of Jews who wanted to overthrow Roman rule by force and they originated in Cana (where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast – John 2: 1-12). Cana was close to Nazareth and both were in the region of Galilee.

As we contemplate the vocation of Mary – we contemplate the vocation of the Church as we are all called to accept the will of God as she did: “ I am the handmaid of the Lord – may it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1: 18). She embraced this will completely by seeing her role as the new Eve as all consuming – a reason she embraced virginity and why she continues to “come to us” to encourage us as she did the servants at the wedding feast: “Do whatever he tells you!” (Jn 2: 5). Understanding this we are able to marvel at the words of Elizabeth to Mary: “Blessed are you who believed that the promise made to you by the Lord would be fulfilled” (Luke 1: 45).

LOGS who are ill or recuperating

LOGS who are ill or recuperating, we wish you a speedy recovery.

LOG Obituaries

We note with sadness and sincere condolences the passing of the following.

Davrey (Dreisenstock) Ehrensberger (Skinner 1953) beloved wife of Otto Ehrensberger, mother to Carina, Loren, Reuben & Donne and friend to more than can be mentioned, died on 9 January 2017; Maud (Williams) Pickup (Hillcrest 1951) passed away suddenly on 9 March 2017. Louis, beloved husband of Goretti (Netti) De Alvia (Skinner 1969) died in 2016; .

LOG Memoriam

- Otto Ehrensberger and the family would like to thank everyone for their kind words of sympathy and thoughtful condolences following the passing of our dearest Davrey, loving wife to Otto, mother of 4, granny and friend who touched the hearts of so many.

Thank you for thinking of us all during this very sad and difficult time.
Everyone's support is greatly appreciated.

- Valerie Williams (Hillcrest 1954), sister of Maud (Williams) Pickup (Hillcrest 1951) writes as follows.

Maud had been diagnosed with 4th stage cancer of the liver and colon just a week before her death. Maud was my sister and is survived by her son Neil and her daughter Tracey and 4 grandsons. Maud resided in Oakdene, Johannesburg.

Maud was 81 years of age and extremely interested in gardening, flower arranging etc. etc. I am attaching an article that appeared in the local paper in her area, which will give you some idea of how active she really was, for example Maud will be remembered by her many friends.

Advertisement 1

Calling all LOGS who now live in the Cape Town area. The Sea Point LOGS have an annual reunion which you are invited to attend. Please contact Maureen (Lynam) Fernandes (Sea Point 1962) at email maureenfernandes111@gmail.com or cell number 079 517 0067.

Maureen would love to hear from ALL LOGS who now live in Cape Town and in the districts around Cape Town. Contact Maureen.

Advertisement 2

Congratulations to Father Eoin Farrelly (SDB) and Sister Patricia Finn (FMA) for the excellent publication, "Faith Journey, Towards the Sacrament of Confirmation" under the overall title of "Living the Word, Learning the Faith". So far Year A has been published. It consists of a "Teacher's Guide" and a "Young People's Guide". Year B is due for publication at the end of 2017. The books are obtainable from the Catholic Bookshop in Cape Town at 0214655904.

Celebrations at the Annual LOG Reunion on Saturday 7 October 2017 at Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Street (previously Skinner Street), Pretoria, entrance in Visagie Street (see above for directions).

Note: If there are any LOGS not listed in the categories below but known to other LOGS, let us know as soon as possible.

Golden Girls for 2017 (50 years out of school = left school in 1967, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Jane (Ball) Slater, Diane (Barnard) Gibson, Sandra (Bunton) De Kock, Joan (Burrow) Viljoen, Theresa (Coetzer) Rossi, Liliana (Franz) Malisan, Verna (Groom) Parker, Sandra (Halford) Roberts, Frances (Poezyn) Bell, Carol-Anne (Shaw) Winterburn, Gillian (Todd) Quinn, Martha (Usher) Pretorius, Pam (Viljoen) Pretorius, Beverly (Worsley) Tamma. **Hillcrest:** Merle (Adkins) MacDonald, Susan (Belknap) van As, Ann (Bowles) van der Valk, Margaret (Bishop) de Wet, Maria (Blonk) Montalto, Pauline (Consiglio) Castellan, Leslye (de Moor) Matthews, Gail (Durham) Dewhurst, Beverley (Eaton) Reid, Avril (Galasco) Behr, Val (Gordon) Kuhn, Mary-Ann (Harris) Smith, Carol (Hastie) Bunn, Jane (Henning) Melling, Marianne (Jacob) Cheketri, Linda (Jenkinson) Engelbrecht, Caroline (Justice) Murrell, Hedwig Kalker, Gail (Liversage) Tilley, Lindsay (Malherbe) Geyer, Gail (McKay) McGregor, Delene (Michael) Holt, Merle (Montinari) Herschmann, Pam (Nader) O'Brien, Mavaughneen O'Rourke, Caroline (Parker) Franck, Rosemary (Rainier) Davidson, Anna (Romanos) Papas, Eileen (Rudolph) Toich, Janet Scallan, Willy (Simons) Miller, Yvonne (v d Mast) Kurtz, Annemarie (v Heerden) Hall, Mona (Goosen) Vest, Dawn (Visser) Schrock, Ursula (Westhof) Zsilavec, Sr Eileen. **Lydenburg:** Theresa (De Plessis) Benadie, Lorraine (Geoghegan) Harris, Anne (Lutecki) Robertson.

Diamond Girls for 2017 (60 years out of school = left school in 1957 or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Louise (Baker) Nykamp, Sandra (Capatos) Fosteras, Anita (Eggers) Lupini, Charmaine (Greger) Barber, Dawn (Henochoberg) Gorringer, Shirley (Hobbs) Korsman, Mita (Anita) (Jadrijevic) Cvitanic, Franzi (Masur) Mullan, Gloria (Stuart) Ten Cate.

Ruby Girls for 2017 (40 years out of school = left school in 1977, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Maria Christine (Chrisje) (Claesen) Field, Cidalia (De Assuncao) Lagoa, Bernadette (Denoon) Schultz, Shirley (Doo) Symonds, Joanne (Mitchell) Rae, Estelle (Peverett) Elliot.

Silver Girls for 2017 (25 years out of school = left school in 1992, or were with this group), inter alia: **Skinner:** Olivia Courtney, Michelle (Gois) de Gois, Ornella Pasqua, Cecilia (Saayman) Sani, Anessa Bield, Laetitia Mdluli, Sanra Duarte, Marina Zontiros, Mary Loo Diniz, Lucinda Nascimento, Christina Mokone, N'Tasha McWherter, Paula Mzimela, Emily Morolo, Helen Tircos, Lovinia Manzie, Helen Mzileni.

Tin Girls for 2017 (10 years out of school = left school in 2007): **Skinner:** T. Malekane, M. Mphaphuli, Q. Shabangu, N. Sibanyoni, L. Motlounq, J. Thumbran, O. Mametse, F. Cassim, G. Masha, M. Morolo, K. Matlhabe, S. Mlungeni, B. Pillay, B. Magano, R. Mashiya, B. Mokoka, N. Moroane, K. Nthite, S. Daffala, T. Bopapa, B. Phetoe, M. Nkosi, A. Ringani, P. Naidoo, L. Molangeng, T. Makopo, R. Masekela, L. Motau, M. Sello, L. Mahibila, O. Louw, O. Motlhasedi, F. Masimula, R. Maluleke, L. Mathews, M. Moshidi, M. Legoete, M. Mphahlele, D. Munyai, K. Moloisane, D. Senne, K. Mabitsi, E. Molala, M. Dikgomo, M. Mashigo, A. Malalage, C. Mda, T. Mokgetlhe, R. Sello, J. Masimola, T. Baloyi, T. White.

Keep in Touch! Note that if you intend to be at the **Skinner/Nana Sita Pretoria** LOG REUNION on 7 OCTOBER 2017, 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 (2017) Detach the reply slip for RSVP. If at all possible, reply by 27 September 2017 for catering purposes.

I.....(Name and Surname),
accompanied by.....(Name and Surname),

will

will not

be attending the **Loreto Convent Nana Sita/Skiner Pretoria 2017 LOG Reunion** on Saturday 7 October 2017 at 11:00 for Registration and Mass in the School Chapel at 11:30, followed by further Registration and Finger Lunch in the School Hall. Contribution towards costs: R70, payable at the door at Registration on Reunion Day.

Maiden Name.....

Year Left School..... Loreto Convent attended.....

Postal Address.....

Email address.....

Telephone numbers: Cell.....

Home.....

Work.....

RSVP: Reply to sender **OR** pa@lorskin.co.za **OR** SMS to 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.