

2014 Report of Loreto Old Girls Reunion held on Saturday 4 October 2014 at Loreto Convent School Nana Sita Road (previously Skinner Street) Pretoria

As usual on the first Saturday of October, Loreto Old Girls of all years and from various Loreto schools came together at Loreto Convent School in Pretoria to celebrate the annual LOG Reunion as established by Sister Shirley in 1950.

At the start of Mass in the School Chapel at 13h00, Sister Emer of the Pretoria Loreto Sisters welcomed everyone with the following words.

“Good afternoon, everyone. It is a joy for me to welcome you to LOGA meeting of 2014. Thank you, Father Grant, for joining us to celebrate the Eucharist. In June this year I met Sisters Shirley and Immacula. They both send their best wishes to you. We had some good laughs as we remembered happy days in the past.

This is a special year for Loreto. The sisters have been meeting during September in Loyola, Spain, for an international meeting which is held every eight years. During their time together the sisters reflected on the past eight years, looked at our present reality, prayed and discerned about where the Holy Spirit is leading/calling us for the coming years and elected the Central Leadership Team to lead and help us put those calls into practice. Members of the new team are Noelle Corscadden, Judith Nekesa, Igora Pinto, Macarena Fernandez and Brenda Eagan.

Hot off the press, I have here the General Congregation Calls for 2014. I would like to share the first two with you.

**As Mary Ward Companions moved by the person of Jesus and the needs of our world today we seek to:**

- 1 Reclaim the freshness of the Gospel, allowing Jesus to transform our lives.**
- 2 Bring those forced to live in poverty to the centre of our life and ministry.**

Perhaps a little story may help us to action on the second call. Two friends were walking along the beach. Every so often, one bent down, picked up a little fish and threw it into the sea. After a while, her companion said: ‘You are wasting your time, your action will make no difference – there are thousands of these little fish washed onto the beach and they will die in a short time.’ Picking up another wriggling fish and throwing it into the sea, her friend said: ‘It will make a difference to that one.’

Each of us knows people who could do with a helping hand to help them to experience the ocean of God’s love. Could I be there for one of those people? ”

**Blessings on the Loreto Sisters for their 2014 General Congregation Calls and the follow up of Actions in due course.**

After this followed the Mass, celebrated by Father Grant.

The First Reading by Margaret (Wickham) Collins (Skinner 1951) was from Joshua 24:14 – 18, and Molly Connolly (Hillcrest 1954) did the Second Reading from Romans 15: 1 – 6. The Mass celebrant, Father Grant Emmanuel, attached to the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference but residing at Queenswood Parish, read the Gospel from Matthew 7: 7 – 12.

Prayers of the Faithful, based on the themes of Joy and Family, were said. Felicity Mullan (Hillcrest 1954) said a prayer for Barbara (Ophhof) De Wet (Skinner 1966) who is terminally ill. The Offertory Procession was done by Diamond Girl Irma (Sluijter) Uytendogaardt (Hillcrest 1954) and her sister, Cecile (Sluijter) Veldhuis (Hillcrest 1956).

The hymns were sung with gusto and played with vibrancy on the piano by Ursula (Sinovich) Jadrijevich (Skinner 1966). Frances (Swacina) Olver (Skinner 1951) gave the Message of Thanks, to Father Grant, our pathway to God, the Loreto Sisters, our portals to Heaven, and us, LOGS, on the busy highway of life, come to refresh ourselves once a year at the well of Loreto, and to renew lively friendships forged in Loreto school years.

The LOG Reunion continued in the School Hall, dedicated to Sister Shirley Kay. In outline, we follow the programme initiated by our Honorary LOG, Kathy Wisselo, under the guidance of Sister Shirley. Unfortunately for us, Kathy left for Australia with her family in 2013. She asked Felicity to be Mistress of Ceremonies. Many thanks to Kathy for upholding the happy circumstance of the annual LOG Reunion and being Mistress of Ceremonies when she was School Secretary at Loreto Convent School for over 30 years. During those years, Kathy was Sister Shirley's dearest helper.

Our thanks to the Principal of Loreto Convent School, Mr Shillinglaw, unfortunately unable to be present at the LOG Reunion this year, for the use of the facilities at Loreto Convent School, and to the School Secretary, Mrs Renee Swanepoel, for diverse matters and, most importantly, keeping the website [www.loretoskinner.co.za](http://www.loretoskinner.co.za) updated so efficiently and effectively.

Last but not least, our special thanks to all who helped with the arrangements and preparations for the 2014 LOG Reunion, both Old Girls and Staff. Without the help of these willing hands the annual LOG Reunion could not take place.

Congratulations to the following LOGS who were present to celebrate their Year of Achievement.

<b>Golden Girls</b>					
Maiden Name	First Name	Surname	Title	Year left	School
(Capell)	<b>Dawn</b>	<b>MacDonald</b>	Mrs	1964	Hillcrest
(Greyling)	<b>Estelle</b>	<b>Paul</b>	Mrs	1964	Skinner
<b>Diamond Girls</b>					

Maiden Name	First Name	Surname	Title	Year left	School
(Macdonald)	<b>Shane</b>	<b>Cameron</b>	Mrs	1954	Hillcrest
(Connolly)	<b>Molly</b>	<b>Connolly</b>	Ms	1954	Hillcrest
(Capell)	<b>Ruth</b>	<b>Hagerman</b>	Mrs	1954	Hillcrest
(Mullan)	<b>Felicity</b>	<b>Mullan</b>	Ms	1954	Hillcrest
(Brink)	<b>Winifred</b>	<b>Snyman</b>	Mrs	1954	Skinner
(Sluijter)	<b>Irma</b>	<b>Uytenbogaardt</b>	Mrs	1954	Hillcrest
<b>Ruby Girls</b>					
Maiden Name	First Name	Surname	Title	Year left	School
(Skottowe)	<b>Brigid</b>	<b>Ballantyne</b>	Mrs	1974	Hillcrest
(Waters)	<b>Lyndall</b>	<b>Brebner</b>	Mrs	1974	Skinner
(Frank)	<b>Myriam</b>	<b>Dallmann</b>	Mrs	1974	Hillcrest
(Buffa)	<b>Rosemary</b>	<b>Francescutti</b>	Mrs	1974	Skinner
(Joseph)	<b>Felicity</b>	<b>O'Donnell</b>	Mrs	1974	Hillcrest
(Papadopulo)	<b>Ann</b>	<b>Papadopulo</b>	Ms	1974	Skinner
(Smith)	<b>Dianne</b>	<b>Reis</b>	Mrs	1974	Skinner
(Weinrich)	<b>Celeste</b>	<b>Sutherland</b>	Mrs	1974	Skinner
(Bosma)	<b>Maryke</b>	<b>Van Velzen</b>	Mrs	1974	Skinner
<b>Silver Girls</b>					
Maiden Name	First Name	Surname	Title	Year left	School
(Gray)	<b>Eleanor</b>	<b>Brown</b>	Mrs	1989	Skinner
(Abdo)	<b>Carmel</b>	<b>Grundlingh</b>	Mrs	1989	Skinner
(Nokaneng)	<b>Emmy</b>	<b>Nokaneng</b>	Dr	1989	Skinner
<b>Tin Girls</b>					
Maiden Name	First Name	Surname	Title	Year left	School
(Moatshe)	<b>Boitumelo</b>	<b>Moatshe</b>	Ms	2004	Skinner

Ursula played the piano for, “For they are Jolly Good Old Girls”, and we all sang heartily!

At the end of a lovely afternoon (see the photographs showing participation and enjoyment), we wish to thank all the LOGS who came to the 2014 LOG Reunion as well as the many LOGS who sent in apologies for being unable to come to this year’s Reunion. We hope to see you all at the next annual LOG Reunion on the first Saturday of October 2015, D.V.