



December 2024

From the Editor

As we wrap up 2024, we find ourselves reflecting on what has been an extraordinary year for the Rustenburg Girls' School community. This year the schools celebrated a significant milestone - 130 years of empowering women through education, mentorship and leadership. The 130th anniversary has been a time of reflection, reconnection and renewal as we honoured the legacy of those who came before us and embraced the future with hope and determination. We have witnessed changes that the schools have made to address transformation and inclusivity, setting the tone for the next chapter of our shared journeys.

This newsletter captures the essence of excellence with stories that celebrate our achievements and honour our traditions. Reports of gatherings across the globe, local reunions and impactful Women's Month talks show how our community continues to inspire and uplift each other.

We look forward to welcoming alumnae to our upcoming RGJS Founders Day on 31 Jan 2025 in addition we look forward to the AGM, Alumnae Lunch and Birthday Assembly on the 7th of February 2025 at RGHS. Please book ahead of time to join this occasion which is an ideal opportunity for year groups to reunite.

On the 7th of February 2025, we also inaugurate a new event to accommodate all alumnae for an evening function: The Birthday Evening Social. Join us for an evening of social interaction with drinks, snacks and a taste of music from our learners.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, let us carry forward the values of resilience, excellence and unity. Here's to the next chapter in our Rustenburg story, which I am confident will be filled with continued success, growth and empowerment. See you in the new year!



Asonela Kotu

Rustenburg Alumnae Co-ordinator

SAVE THE DATE

TEA: 9.30 - 10.15

ASSEMBLY: 10.30 - 11.30

AGM: 12:00 - 12.15

Birthday assembly, Alumnae AGM & Lunch

7 FEBRUARY 2025



Arrival Tea
Venue: Matric Quad
Time: 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
(Free. All welcome)



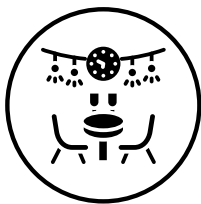
Birthday Assembly
Venue: Kemp Hall
Time: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
(Free. All welcome)



Alumnae AGM
Venue: Kemp Hall
Time: 12:00 AM - 12:15 PM
(Free. All welcome)



Alumnae Lunch & Tour
Venue: Thomson Hall
Time: 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Price: R250.00 pp



Alumnae Social (Drinks, Snacks and musical entertainment)
Venue: Thomson Hall
Time: 18:00 - 19:30
Price: R100.00 pp

For group bookings, please contact Asonela Kotu at kotua@rghs.org.za.

Groups of alumni celebrating reunions are encouraged to join us and to make bookings. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a special occasion where the past and present come together to celebrate.

Celebrating 40 Years: E84 Reunion

On 23 November 2024, we had the joy of hosting the class of 1984 for their 40th reunion. Thank you to all who joined and helped co-ordinate this memorable day. The group's presence, laughter and shared stories made the gathering truly special.

Here are some messages from some of the attendees:

☀️ "I had such a lovely time reconnecting with friends and particularly connecting with those I did not know at school! I missed the many who could not attend. Ironically, despite the 40-year 'fast-forward' gap, time stood still for those 3 hours. Our shared memories, laughter, and formative experiences are a treasure! I feel proud to be associated with such wonderful women through our school connection." - Bridget Rennie-Salonen

☀️ "Thank you, Aso and Cathy, for your hard work behind the scenes to make this a memorable day. Let's not wait another 10 years!" – Sue Kohne

☀️ "What a very special time we had yesterday. I would have loved more time to connect and chat with everyone." – Tish Murray

The day was filled with excitement, shared laughter, and creating new memories. Thank you E84s for the wonderful gathering. We look forward to the next one.



Thank you to the E84s who attended the reunion:

Sonia Bodilly (Mirkin), Felicity Kaplan, Nicola Gnodde (Pyott), Dominique Miszewski (Kirsten), Rebecca Clark (Brook), Amanda Schuddin, Sandra Poles (Fish), Cathy Baker (Booth), Colleen Byren, Sigrid Thomson (Tonnesen), Tish Murray, Lara Kindersley (Pohl), Tracy Heath (Langmead), Cathy Potgieter, Anne Collins, Tammy Lee, Sharon Justus, Gill Cullinan (Campbell), Bridget Rennie-Salonen, Kathryn Timms, Cathy Dean (Melville), Wendy Spencer, Mandy Naude, Grete Hollenbach, Eliza-Jane Kenyon, Susan Rossouw, Cheryl Bushney, Sandi Traut, Deidre Paul-Diemont, Sue Kohne, Lisa Melville

E94 Reunion Lunch: the Cape Town Edition by Genee Taylor (Bennett)

“On Saturday 12 October 2024, the most beautiful spring day dawned. What an amazing backdrop at the breathtaking Buitenverwachting for an equally beautiful afternoon of laughter, reminiscing, bubble-drinking and platter-snacking. Within moments we felt as though we were sitting in the Matric quad chatting about the weekend plans and the next set of exams! But really, what a bunch of super special people and a reminder that the 30 year old friendships and connections are still strong, alive and as delightful as ever. Personally, I cannot wait for the next one, and definitely won't wait another 10 years to arrange it.

Thank you Jeanne Liss for the beautiful photographs which will etch these wonderful moments into our memories. Also a huge thank you to Sharon Boonzaier of Sharon Boonzaier Designs for the most wonderful spoil for each of us, as well as the the lucky draw sponsors, Tamryn Spiers and the E94 Fundraising Committee.”



Thank you to the E94s who attended the reunion:

Genee Bennett (Taylor), Carmen Barkhuizen (Gold), Jennie Hewlett, Kitty Dorje, Pippa Cameron, Caryn Kohler, Anna Robertson, Bronwyn Oldham, Tessa Philp (Bent), Simone Ledesma, Karen Apsey (Melrose), Cath Macgrath, Susan Wynne, Melanie Watson (Callaghan), Elizabeth De Villiers (Rauch), Jeanne Liss (Forcioli), Carol Shaw, Nicole De Freitas (Brownell), Candice Hansen (Johnson), Anna Phocas, Tessa Louw (Craig), Lauren Pearce (Blom), Jane Walters, Colleen MacCreadie, Tamryn Spiers, Lisa Duthie

E14 Bring-and-Braai Reunion

On Saturday, 5th October 2024, Rustenburg Girls' High School welcomed back the E14 alumnae for a special bring-and-braai to celebrate a decade since their graduation. The 10-year reunion was a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon filled with laughter, warm hugs, and plenty of catching up.

The event provided a comfortable setting for everyone to share life updates, reminisce about their school days and celebrate the lasting friendships formed over the years. We even had the pleasure of welcoming potential "rustybug" babies who enjoyed the day with us. The day resembled a close-knit family gathering where E14 alumnae reconnected and reflected on their journeys since leaving school. In just ten years, some are starting families, others have relocated and many are making significant career advancements. We are proud of every milestone they have achieved in their lives.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made the day so memorable. It was a beautiful event that showcased the unique bond that keeps the Rustenburg family united, no matter how many years pass. We are already looking forward to the next gathering and can't wait to see everyone again for the big 20-year reunion in the future!



Thank you to the E14s who joined us.

Raeqah Kilshaw, Jehaan Obaray, Afeefa Emeran, Sameenah Allie

Sabeegah Davids, Reabetswe Khonyane, Abigail Mallows, Terttu Newaka, Ayesha Korowlay, Ammaarah Gamielien, Jaid Heesen, Haley Rogers, Juliet Armitage, Sabrina Page-Macdonald, Tanri de Lange, Shannen-Lee Beukes

Meet Alumnae who are part of the Rustenburg Schools



E83 Gail Barrish Liddle
RGJS Grade 7 Leader



E87 Pam Heiberg
(McCabe)
RGJS Marketing and PTA



E94 Jeanne Liss
(Forcioli)
RGJS Head of Sports



E79 Perdita Norval
RGHS School Counsellor



E10 Chelsea Johnson
RGHS Head of French



E13 Saeeda Bassardien
RGHS Physical Sciences
Teacher



E14 Abigail Mallows
RGJS Grade 3 Teacher



E15 Jessica Banks
RGJS Grade 1 Teacher



Catherine Pike
Head of ICT at RGJS
RGJS Alumna

E23 Jody Blows speaks at RGHS Sports Assembly



The 2024 RGHS Sports Assembly was held on Wednesday, 2nd October to celebrate the achievements of the schools' talented athletes.

The guest speaker, E23 Jodie Blows, delivered an inspiring address, sharing her remarkable journey in school sports at Rustenburg Girls' High School. Her dedication and passion for sports continue to motivate the next generation of athletes. A heartfelt thank you to Jodie for sharing her story and encouraging RGHS sports stars to reach for their dreams.

E19 Daniella Solkow: message of encouragement and perseverance

E19 Dani Solkow, who was recently named "Athlete of the Year" at Delta State University, shared an inspirational video with the RGHS learners. Her stellar swimming career includes multiple All-American honours and championship victories.

[Click here to watch the video to listen to her message.](#)



E16 Kristin Bellingan: message to pursue your passion



E16 Kristin Bellingan is a former South African swimmer and accomplished lifesaver who has made her mark in the world of aquatic sports. Known for her exceptional prowess in the water and dedication to sport, she has represented South Africa in various international swimming and lifesaving competitions. Kristin's achievements reflect her commitment to excellence, both as an athlete and as a role model in her field. Her journey inspires aspiring swimmers and lifesavers and highlights the value of hard work, perseverance, and a passion for sport.

[Click here to watch the video to listen to her message.](#)

E10 Kim Loetscher (Johnson): Welcomed at an RGHS campus visit



We were delighted to welcome back E08 Kim Loetscher (Johnson) and her family to the RGHS campus. Kim is the sister of E10 Chelsea Johnson who is the current Head of our French Department. It was such a joy to see Kim reconnecting with the school, sharing stories and taking a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

There's something truly special about alumnae visits as they remind us of the unbreakable bond within the Rustenburg family. Hearing about Kim's journey since leaving school and seeing her back on campus was amazing.

If you're ever in the area, we'd love for you to stop by too! Whether it's a quick hello or a chance to explore what's changed (and what hasn't), our doors are always open to our alumnae.

E84 Mornette Scott-Riddell (McGeorge): A heartfelt homecoming after 40 Years

"This was honestly the loveliest, most emotional, happy, tearful, proud and "feel good" visit to my old school. What made it more special was to be able to share it with my two adult children, Holly and Rossa. I think they were quite touched to see how happy I was to be back on familiar schoolgirl ground after 40 years!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to Asonela for taking the time out of her busy day to show us around. I felt an overwhelming sense of emotions and I was flooded with happy schoolgirl memories. I did not appreciate the stunning setting of my school when I was a 16/17 year old! Retracing my footsteps along those beautiful school corridors, and being greeted so politely by every single girl who walked past, has left an indelible mark on me, and was probably one of the highlights of my holiday in Cape Town.

Sadly I won't be able to attend the year group reunion for the Class of E84 in November due to work commitments here in Vic Falls, but hopefully, I will have time to pop in and say hi to you in January when my husband and I are in Cape Town. Perhaps he too can get the "Grand Rustybug" tour. My mother, also a past Rustybug, matriculated in 1959 and her maiden name is Audrey Hughes."



Mornette Scott-Riddell (McGeorge)

E74: In search of our roots by Jennifer Hunt

“The reconnection to Rustenburg High School for Girls was ignited for me this year when I attended my 50th reunion in February. When my cousin, John Hunt, expressed a wish to revisit his roots, I was able to provide a contact for Rustenburg where his sister, Margaret Hunt, matriculated in 1960. Now living in Johannesburg and having spent most of his life in Canada, John expressed the wish to go to Cape Town to visit his old home, school and university. He also wished to trace the steps of his maternal forefathers in Wellington as they were part of the French Huguenot Marais family that arrived in Cape Town in 1671.

I grew up with John and so decided to join him and his wife, Graciela, and their five children and two grandchildren. It was the first time in twenty years that the whole family had been together. That was a celebration in itself! Part of the reconnection journey was to visit Rustenburg Girls’ High School. We were graciously shown around the school and even treated to tea in the quad. The warmth of the experience set the tone for the week and wherever we went, we were invited into places which held fond memories for John. We managed to go into his old family home in Rondebosch as well as into the family home on the farm Onverwacht in Wellington where the Marais family had settled after coming out from France. Sadly, the farm is not owned by the Marais family anymore.

Rustenburg embraces change and the challenges that are present at the school in 2024. It is wonderful to see how proud the girls are of their new school song and badge. Thank you to everyone who made the visit back to the school so special.”



Joining Jennifer were family members John Hunt and his wife, Graciela, along with their children Deborah, Vivien, Susan, John-Paul, and Sophie Cowx. Sophie's teenage children, Lily-Anna and Joshua and family friend, Trevor Damon, also joined in.

E64 Carol Duncan (Cornell) and Claire Wyatt: Lifelong Friends Revisit RGHS



We were delighted to welcome back two close friends from the Class of 1964: Carol Duncan (Cornell) and Claire Wyatt. Carol and Claire's friendship began in their school days and their recent reunion in Cape Town wouldn't have been complete without a visit to their alma mater. Together, they wandered the hallways and shared laughter over cherished memories - and even some of the strict punishments they endured.

They couldn't help but marvel at how much has changed at Rustenburg, while also delighted in how some things, like the spirit of the school, have remained just the same. Their enduring bond is a heartwarming reminder of the lifelong friendships that begin here. Thank you, Carol and Claire, for taking the time to visit us. It was such a joy to have you back!

Obituaries

E15 Megan van Westenbrugge: In Loving Memory



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of E15 Megan van Westenbrugge, who tragically lost her life in a car accident on Monday, 28 October 2024. Megan was laid to rest on 6 November at Holy Trinity Church in Kalk Bay, surrounded by her loved ones.

During her time at Rustenburg Girls' High School, Megan was a talented water polo player who is remembered for her determination, team spirit, and vibrant personality. Her passion for the sport and her positive energy left a lasting impression on her teammates and coaches.

Megan will always be held in a special place in the hearts of the Rustenburg community. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this difficult time. May her memory be a blessing.

Thank
you!

"I would like to thank the Rustenburg Alumnae Association for your incredibly generous donation towards my hockey tour. Your kindness and support mean a lot to me, and I honestly can't thank you enough. I am so grateful for everything you've contributed.

Playing for Rustenburg at a high level like the first XI was always a dream of mine and representing Rustenburg at this upcoming tournament is such an honour and privilege, once again I thank you so much!"

RGHS Learner

"Personally I would like to say how very much I appreciate the generosity of the Alumnae. This donation has enabled a very talented little girl to reach for the stars and achieve incredible things. Her fees are paid for entirely from donations and with such huge success on the sports field, come extra costs. I would love to be able to continue to support this talented little girl on her journey and every donation and form of support helps and means so much to her and her family. Thank you."

Parent Sponsor

Become a Donor

Your donations and support can help us continue making an impact in the lives of many. The RA Committee administers awards that assist Rustenburg Alumnae and Learners at the Rustenburg Schools

Contribute to the Alumnae Bursary Award for Tertiary Studies

Sponsor the academic, sport, musical or cultural development costs for economically disadvantaged student at RGHS

Sponsor the academic costs for economically disadvantaged student at RGJS

Sponsor sports, musical or cultural development for an alumnae

Sponsor annual hostel accommodation fees for a economically disadvantaged student at RGHS

Sponsor sports, musical or cultural development for a deserving learner at RGJS

Join the RGHS BBBEE Programme through the Altius et Latius Trust

Sponsor an RGHS project. (Media Centre revamp and upgrade)

Sponsor an RGJS project. (Digital Den revamp to enable Robotics as a school subject)

For more information or a discussion contact us, we would love to hear from you:

Asonela Kotu
kotua@rghs.org.za



Belinda Petersen
RGJS Principal

“Rustenburg Girls’ Junior School is embarking on exciting initiatives to enhance learning and celebrate our heritage. As part of our 10-year development plan, we’re transforming the Digital Den into a flexible, future-ready space for Coding and Robotics (Grades R–7), fostering creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Additionally, we proudly launched our new school song, a unifying anthem celebrating inclusivity, transformation, and our shared values. These milestones reflect our commitment to preparing students for a dynamic world while honouring Rustenburg’s rich legacy. We invite our alumnae to join and support these inspiring projects, ensuring Rustenburg continues to thrive for generations to come.”

RGJS welcomes back Grade 7's of 2019

On Thursday, 3rd October, Rustenburg Girls' Junior School welcomed back 72 of their 2019 Grade 7s for a special Matric Tea, an annual tradition celebrating the growth and achievements of past students. This reunion offers the matrices a chance to reconnect with their primary school friends and teachers, reflect on their junior school memories and share stories of their journeys over the past five years.

The Matric Tea marks an important transition in introducing the learners to the Rustenburg Alumnae community. This supportive network will soon welcome the matrices as alumnae themselves and provide connections, mentorship and opportunities to learners as they step into the exciting world of adulthood. The reunion lunch was filled with laughter, warm memories and words of encouragement to remind the Class of 2024 that they have a proud legacy to uphold.



Celebrate this special occasion with us as we honour our history and community. Following the celebration, enjoy a guided tour of the Junior School to see how we've grown over the years. We look forward to reconnecting with you and sharing this memorable day!



RUSTENBURG
GIRLS' JUNIOR SCHOOL

**Alumnae and 2025 RGHS Matric
Learners**

are warmly invited to attend

DAY 2025

Assembly, Tea & School Tour

Friday 31st January 2025 08:00

Please RSVP HERE





Michael Gates
RGHS Principal

“As we reflect on a vibrant and meaningful term at Rustenburg, I am filled with pride at how our school continues to be a space of growth, connection, and transformation both for our current students and our alumnae. On the theme of growth and inclusivity, our Transformation, Equity and Belonging (TEB) Committee continues its important work. We are actively inviting alumnae to join one of our TEB Working Groups and help shape a more inclusive Rustenburg. A significant milestone in this journey has been the redesign of our school badge.

I encourage you to stay connected with Rustenburg and become part of these exciting initiatives and fundraising efforts. We are excited to be revitalizing our library. Thanks to Katherine du Plooy (E98) who has done the design proposal. Please be on the look out for the opportunity to contribute to this exciting project. Your involvement as alumnae enriches our school community and ensures the legacy of Rustenburg Girls' High School remains strong for generations to come.”

E24 Plants a Time Capsule in the Matric Quad

On 10th October 2024, the Matrics of Rustenburg Girls' High School marked a milestone moment by burying their time capsule in the Matric Quad: a tradition that symbolizes their legacy and connection to the school. The event was filled with excitement as the students placed their carefully chosen items, each representing a piece of their journey through high school into the capsule.

The time capsule is set to be opened at a future reunion, allowing the Class of 2024 to look back on their school days and reflect on how much they've grown and changed. It serves as a tangible reminder of the friendships, memories, and experiences they shared during their time at RGHS.

As the capsule was sealed and buried, the students left more than just artefacts behind. They left a piece of their hearts for their future selves and future generations to uncover. We look forward to the day when the capsule will be unearthed and bring the past to life once again.



Celebrating 130 Years with a Successful Golf Day!

On 31st October 2024, Rustenburg Girls' High and Junior School hosted a Golf Day that was a tremendous success and brought the Rustenburg community together for a day of golfing fun.

A special thank you goes out to the alumnae who joined us on the course - it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces. Well done to E67 Erica Lefson (Hodson) and Gareth Humphrey who came 2nd.

From alumnae - "It was so well organized with lots of prizes and the spirit amongst players and organizers was fantastic. We look forward to growing the alumnae participation amongst our lady golfers in this day and creating more memories together! "



E71 Fiona Heany (Sloane), E71 June Watson (Tribelhorn), Gareth Humphrey, E67 Erica Lefson (Hodson)

RUSTENBURG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

CARNIVAL

FRIDAY, 31 JANUARY 2025 1-7 PM

**RIDES | HOUSE STALLS | FOOD TRUCKS
LIVE MUSIC | CARNIVAL GAMES**

MAJOZI

EARLY BIRD TICKETS:
ALL-DAY RIDER: R250 (INCLUDES ENTRY FEE)
ENTRY FEE ONLY: R25
PRE-TICKET SALES VIA KARRI AND QUICKET

TICKETS AT CARNIVAL:
ALL-DAY RIDER: R280 (INCLUDES ENTRY FEE)
R30 ENTRY FEE, SINGLE RIDER: R30

SNAPSCAN & CARD FACILITIES AVAILABLE (THIS IS A CASHLESS EVENT)

OVER 12 RIDES

It's Carnival time again!

Join us for an afternoon of fun and excitement at Rustenburg Girls' High School!

What to expect:

- ✨ Thrilling rides for all ages
- 🍔 Delicious house food stalls and food trucks
- 🎤 A live performance by SA musician MAJOZI
- 🎯 Carnival games for the whole family

BOOK NOW

Thank you for supporting the 130 blanket drive for Mandela Day



Upcoming Events

131 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - ALUMNAE AGM & LUNCH

7

February

Venue: Rustenburg Girls' High School
Time: 12:00 - 15:30
Tickets: Free - R250.00 per person
PS: Reunion group bookings must contact Asonela at kotua@rghs.org.za

BUY NOW

E00 REUNION

7

February

Venue: Rustenburg Girls' High School
Time: 09:30 - 15:30 (Plus optional evening event)
Format: Assembly, Lunch and Tour
Tickets: R250.00 per person
Contact: Robyn Costa at robynallancosta@gmail.com
0833208396



[Join the E00 WhatsApp group](#)

E10 REUNION

22

February

Venue: Rustenburg Girls' High School
Time: 12:00 - 16:00
Tickets: R250.00 per person
Contact: Anelisa Mangcu at anelisa.mangcu@gmail.com

BUY NOW



[Join the E10 WhatsApp group](#)

E75 REUNION

21

March

For more information on this reunion please contact Elizabeth Mathew at rustybugs75@gmail.com

E95 REUNION

12

April

Venue: Rustenburg Girls' High School
Time: 12:00 - 16:00
Tickets: R250.00 per person
Contact: Tamsin Van Vlaanderen at tamsinvanvlaanderen@gmail.com

BUY NOW



[Join the E95 WhatsApp group](#)

E70 REUNION

10

May

Venue: Rustenburg Girls' High School
Time: 10:00 - 15:00
Format: Tea, Networking, Lunch and Tour
Tickets: R250.00 per person
Contact: Janine Visser at rpv@adept.co.za

BUY NOW

