

# WESTERFORD



OWA NEWSLETTER August 2013



Tel: 021 689 9154  
Fax: 021 685 5675

[www.westerford.co.za](http://www.westerford.co.za)

---

## In this issue

Snippets  
School news  
Merchandise

London Reunion  
Thursday 21  
November

with

Mr Le Roux and  
Mr Broster

6 for 6.30 – 9pm

Berkshire House

168 -173

High Holburn

London

Forthcoming  
Reunion details

---

## Forthcoming School events

- Matric Art  
Exhibition  
19 – 25 October  
at WHS
-



**Janni Donald (1993)**

The puppets for "Sadako" were designed by Janni. The theatre-piece was performed for the first time in Grahamstown in 2011.



**Bianca Flanders (2007)**

Performed in Chekov's 'The Cherry Orchard' in Afrikaans 'Die Kersieboord'

**Daniel Corder (2011) and Seth Thompson (2011)** were seen at the Cape Town Stadium. Cape Argus Monday August 19 2013.



**Bas de Vos (2012)**

14 TRAVELLERS' TALES August 25 2013 TRAVEL

# RIDIN' DOWN A DREAM

Bas de Vos dices with death to follow some beautiful Dutch girls across Vietnam

BOYS AND THEIR BIKES: From left: Carl Holman, Bas de Vos and Carl Walter, with Mai Anh, standing

Picture: BAS DE VOS

It was in a club in Hanoi, Vietnam, that I experienced my first-ever pang of regret about not having paid more attention to Afrikaans at school. If I'd known about the two beautiful Dutch girls my companion, Carl the Canadian, and I would meet that night, I'd have made more effort. Still, we waded our way into their company and I strung a few Afrikaans words together in a desperate attempt to chat them up. They looked puzzled and switched to English. Embarrassing, but things got better from there on. In fact, Carl and I thought things were going smoothly until the young women stood up and said they were off to bed. "But the night is young," we pleaded. They were adamant, saying they were heading north early the next day to the romantic seaside town of Hoi. Naturally, we and our other travel companions, Carl the Captain and, were up at the crack of dawn — direction Hoi. We were travelling on three notoriously unreliable 1960s Honda Win motorcycles, purchased for R12,500 each a few days previously. Inspired by an old episode of Top Gear, we planned to ride the bikes 1,700km from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh city and resell them there. We hadn't, however, expected to get off in such haste. And little did we know how narrow riding in Vietnam would be.

## News from the School

### Classical Pops

On Wednesday evening, a year of hard work and late night rehearsing came together as the City Hall filled with over 1 000 people, all of whom were there for one reason: Classical Pops! An excited buzz filled the hall as the audience took their seats and awaited the start.

The audience, which included Premier Helen Zille, Professor Maree, and Dr Gibbon, was welcomed by Mr Bissett and the evening got off to an impressive start as the orchestra passionately performed medley from *Les Misérables*. They were then entertained by enjoyable items from the Guitar and Recorder Ensembles.

In the first half, the audience was treated to solo performances by two of Westerford's most accomplished musicians, Caitlin Pinheiro (clarinet) and Joshua Frank (recorder). Both pupils were enthusiastically applauded, and Joshua even received a standing ovation for his incredible skill. The choir and orchestra then collaborated with two pupil bagpipers, Sean Rice and Troy Charman, to perform the highly acclaimed "Highland Cathedral", arranged by Mr. Haigh.

The second half was kicked off by the Staff Song: "Don't Stop Believin'". The staff had a great time on stage, and their item was met with huge applause. The Concert Band followed them with "Italian Holiday" and selections from the well-known, jazzy musical *Chicago*. Holly Tucker sang a beautiful solo with the Big Band in their piece "Don't know why". The Big Band then got everyone tapping their feet to the beat of "Eye of the Tiger". The audience was then swept away by the Rock Band's performance of "Diamonds on the Soles of her Shoes". Included in the group were Mr Maree, Mr Buwalda, Mr Jordi, and Mr Niekerk who showed off their dancing moves, much to the amusement of their pupils.

For many, the highlight of the evening was the item that followed: the Johnny Clegg Medley which had been arranged by Mr Haigh, and included three famous songs: *Scatterlings*, *Great Heart*, and *Asimbonanga*. Smiles were on the faces of most as they enjoyed the familiar music performed by the choir and orchestra.

The highly successful evening concluded with the joint performance of the Orchestra, Concert Band, and Big Band. They played Tchaikovsky's beautiful *Finale* from the Symphony No.5. Classical Pops was a memorable night for everyone involved. For those 200 plus people who performed, it was well worth all the time and effort of the weeks before. Congratulations to the Music Department. It will not be forgotten anytime soon!  
*Hannah Wolpe (PR writer Gr 9)*





## Obituaries

### Mr Glyn Hewson (Staff 1973 – 1990)

# Delving into the 'deeply rich' life of Glyn Charles

JESSICA MARY HEWSON

"Love is the law of life.  
We live that we may learn to love  
We love that we may learn to live  
No other lesson is required of us"  
Book of Mirdad – Naimy

This is the greatest lesson that my beloved father Glyn Charles Hewson taught me. To love unconditionally. That love is the absolute. When he left this world in the twilight hours of Saturday August 10, he was surrounded by the presence of his family whom he so dearly loved.

Life began for Glyn on November 13, 1940, in Rosebank.

The second son of Methodist minister Leslie Hewson and his wife Mary, he was born in the manse at Rosebank Methodist Church.

Life moved eastwards to Grahamstown where Glyn was schooled at Kingswood.

A core signature of his personality was an adventurous spirit that bubbled over into a deep interest for geography and history.

These two areas became his major subjects at Rhodes University. The mid-1960s saw Glyn return to the city of his birth to begin as a high school teacher at Rondebosch Boys'.

My father has often been likened to the character Robin Williams played in the movie *Dual Poet Society* – John Keating. English became the subject he taught the most throughout his career. Teaching in Cape Town was his vocation for over 40 years.

Like Keating, his classes were rich with inspirational stories and anecdotes gleaned from various experi-

ences.

Many of his tales came from his time as a graduate student in America at the end of the 1960s.

From dancing to Harry Belafonte and Joan Baez live to nearly going to the original Woodstock music festival to travelling the vast continent of the United States, this was a deeply rich time in his life.

Westerford was the school he taught at for the longest, from 1973 to 1990.

These were significant times in our country as South Africa was birthing itself into a new beginning. Although not a prominent activist for social change, my father always deeply believed in the peoples of our land.

He loved and grew friendships with everyone. From joyfully exclaiming to a petrid attendant that he also grew up in (Rhini (Grahamstown) to easily conversing with prominent figures such as Desmond Tutu and John Pilger, Glyn was at ease with anyone. And so through his love of people and beautiful use of language he brought out the best in others.

My parents met as young teachers in the progressive school halls of Westerford. They courted, fell in love, travelled together and married in 1983. They are soulmates. For 35 years, Cheryl and Glyn shared life in all its eclectic mystery.

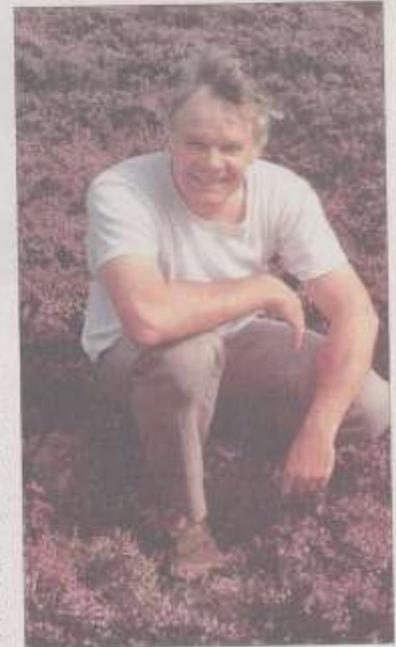
They forged a deep partnership that shone a light in countless lives. I was born in 1985 and my brother, Daniel Peter Glyn, in 1987.

As a committed teacher, Glyn was a father figure to thousands over the years. Dan and I shared him with many but nonetheless he was a phenomenal dad. I hold the millions of memories deep in my DNA. He was a prolific and brilliant photographer and through the lens of the camera I see the love he held in his heart for all of us.

Speaking of artistic endeavours, my father excelled at many creative pursuits.

When Glyn picked up a pen, magic weaved through the ink as it wet the paper fibre to design calligraphic letters, colourful concoctions on a birthday card or a simple note to say "I love you".

His love of letters is legendary and as a founding member of the Cape Friends of Calligraphy he took this hobby to another level.



■ Glyn Charles will be laid to rest this Saturday.

In an age where digital is the destination a handmade card or letter of epically beautiful proportions from Glyn was a true treasure.

A real raconteur and storyteller, my father's legacy will live on in these tales and the dreams and hope he rattled in others.

We will hold his deeply generous spirit, true zest for life and big bear hugs in our hearts for all time.

These are the words I sang to him on his 70th birthday: "May your heart always be joyful. And may your song always be sung. May you stay forever young."

● Glyn's memorial service will be taking place at 11am on Saturday August 17, at Rosebank Methodist Church, with a tea in the Clifford Storey Hall afterwards.

Tatler, Thursday August 16

Westerford was very sad to hear of the death of **Glyn Hewson**, a much loved former English and History teacher on 10 August. He taught here from 1973 till 1990, inspiring many by his immense general knowledge, his wide interest in so many varying topics, his flair for drama, his passion for human rights and his incredible ability to regale all - staff, his classes or even the entire school - with an array of fascinating stories, often with a depth which enriched all. He relished working in a school which somehow gave space to so many individuals to flourish and yet to work together to create this extraordinary institution that is Westerford. The success Glyn had is clearly demonstrated by the large number of OW and Westerford teachers who celebrated his life at his memorial service at Rosebank Methodist Church (in the manse of which he was born in 1940!). These included **Ronèl van Ryswyk, Quentin Rookledge, James Bissett, Cecily Blom, Gregor Leigh, Ela Cockrell, Roy Wibbereley, Roger Graham, Hettie Glass, Gill Mitchell, Niall Kramer and Dave Carr**. It was of course here that he met and married the love of his life, another colleague, **Cheryl Johnson**. We remember Glyn for so much and treasure all he contributed to our School and send our condolences to Cheryl and their children, Jess and Daniel. He really was a remarkable character.

*James Bissett (Deputy-Head)*

**Monica Graaff (1977)** [monicagraaff@iafrica.com](mailto:monicagraaff@iafrica.com)

Glyn Hewson's memorial service at the Rosebank Methodist Church was so well attended! It was special that he was sent off from the very church that his father ministered at when he was a child. I thought I would share a poem I wrote for Cheryl and his family after the service. Glyn remained close to God until the end. Life at Westerford in the 70's when we were all so young and eager, seems a long time ago. But you young teachers inspired us in so many ways. Thank you. He died of oesophagus cancer after a horrible struggle, yet remained positive throughout.

A POEM FOR GLYN HEWSON  
12 Nov 1940 to 10 August 2013

When you slipped quietly  
into the grey-black colding  
of Saturday's winter (alas, alas)  
the wind picked up  
and howled for a week  
the skies wept  
then dried their eyes and wept again.  
an indefatigable burst of energy  
white light

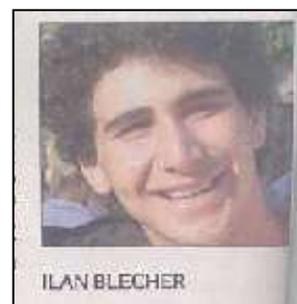
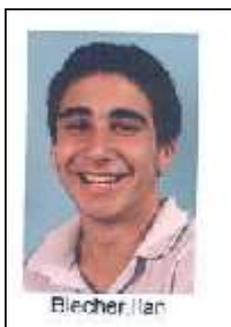
fingering its way  
warming our hearts  
holding us.

You have shared life's law  
We live that we may learn to love  
We love that we may learn to live  
No other lesson is required.

The sun came out as we sent you away

**Ilan Blecher (2012)**

**Ilan** died tragically, falling down Dark Gorge on Table Mountain on Sunday 25 August. Our sincere condolences to his parents and OW brothers **Mischa (2008)** and **Tariq (2009)**.



## Reunion contact details



### 2013 Events

#### 1973

40<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
5 November 2013  
Imhoff 4pm Tea followed by  
6pm drinks and snacks  
Ken Truter  
[truterk@global.co.za](mailto:truterk@global.co.za)

#### 1983

30<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Janet Forrest  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4608921823/>

#### 1988

25<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
14 Dec Imhoff  
Astrid Gibbon (née Chaplin)  
[dave.astrid@gmail.com](mailto:dave.astrid@gmail.com)

#### 1993

20<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Friday 15 November School  
Tour. Reunion 16 November  
Laura Parr-James  
[Laura@parrjames.co.za](mailto:Laura@parrjames.co.za)  
Facebook group "Westerford  
High School Matrics 1993"

#### 2003

10<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
30 November 2013  
Imhoff  
Alexandra Jongens  
[alexandrajongens1@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrajongens1@gmail.com)



#### OW Winter Sports Day

Saturday 31 August 2013

#### London Diamond Jubilee reunion

Thursday 21 November  
2013  
Mr Rob le Roux and Mr  
John Broster  
[owa@whs.wcape.school.za](mailto:owa@whs.wcape.school.za)

### 2014 Events

#### 1959

55<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
6 March 2014 Lunch  
Peter Reece  
[pandmreece@telkomsa.net](mailto:pandmreece@telkomsa.net)

#### 1964

Founders Day and Summer  
Sports Day  
50<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
6 March 2014  
Lecia Bartmann  
[bart.fam@iafrica.com](mailto:bart.fam@iafrica.com)

#### 1974

40<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Rosemary Gibbs  
[rose\\_irwin57@hotmail.com](mailto:rose_irwin57@hotmail.com)

#### 1984

30<sup>th</sup> reunion  
July 2014  
Cathie Johnstone  
[c.johnstone@fnb.co.za](mailto:c.johnstone@fnb.co.za)

#### 1989

25<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Terri Henderson  
[terri@damerell.co.za](mailto:terri@damerell.co.za)  
Linda Willcox  
[linda@lwirecruitment.co.za](mailto:linda@lwirecruitment.co.za)

#### OW Winter Sports Day

Saturday 6 September 2014

## Merchandise

Please support Westerford by buying these items from the OW office.  
You can also arrange for them to be posted to you.  
Contact Margie [owa@whs.wcape.school.za](mailto:owa@whs.wcape.school.za)

## OW Merchandise

The DVD is R20

The new tie is R150

The old OW tie is R100

The OW scarf is R80



## Westerford Merchandise



The Westerford golf style umbrella is R140.

The Westerford sports cushion is R50.

### **Old Westerfordian Association**

**Dave Thompson Teacher in Charge of OW matters**

[dt@whs.wcape.school.za](mailto:dt@whs.wcape.school.za)

**Margie Hiscock (1979)**

**Secretary/Archivist**

[owa@whs.wcape.school.za](mailto:owa@whs.wcape.school.za)