



Founders Day 6 March 2014 *(always the first Thursday in March)*

As has become tradition at Westerford, we celebrate the OW 50th reunion group on this day. They are the special guests at the Founders Day ceremony, enjoy reuniting with their classmates, reminiscing over tea, meeting current staff, touring the magnificent school grounds, watching the school DVD and seeing first-hand the many developments. This year we honour the Matrics of 1964 and open the new Jubilee buildings.

OWs are most welcome to attend the Founders Day service at 11.45 but please let [Margie](#) know if you are attending, as space is at a premium. Parking will be made available on the Top Field.



FOUNDERS' DAY **(Old Westerfordian Sport)**



PROGRAMME

Cricket (Imhoff A)

14h00 1st Boys

Indoor Hockey (Southern Centre)

17h00 1st Girls

17h30 2nd Girls

Tennis (School Courts)

16h00 1st Boys and 1st Girls mixed teams

Water Polo (School Pool)

17h00 1st Girls

17h45 1st Boys

18h30 2nd Boys

Basketball (Southern Centre)

18h00 1st Girls

18h45 1st Boys

Sport	Time	OW Contact	Contact number
Boys' Basketball	18h45	Paul Maree	072 177 2386
Girls' Basketball	18h00	Alison Gray	083 298 8114
Cricket	14h00	Brendan Young	072 719 6122
Indoor Hockey	17h00 (1 st Team) 17h30 (2 nd Team)	Lara Kruger	072 611 3146
Tennis	16h00	Cuan Dugmore	082 713 0484
Boys' Water Polo	17h45 (1 st Team) 18h30 (2 nd Team)	Brendan Argent	072 956 2336
Girls' Water Polo	17h00	Hayley Hazell	082 827 5560

You can also contact either Alison Gray (083 298 8114, ag@whs.wcape.school.za) or Ryan Massyn (082 939 3323, rpm@whs.wcape.school.za) or 021 689 9154.

Snippets and OWs in the News



The following e-mails were received from OWs with news either of themselves or fellow OWs.

Lydia Szapiro (1974) lydia.szapiro@gmail.com

Taken last year, at my house in Wellington, during our "Famous Four" reunion here in New Zealand. **Jo Verrier-Jones** (now Postles, with five children) has been living in New Zealand since the late 1970s, I myself (plus husband Jan Wijninckx and two sons) since 1997 and for four fabulous weeks we were joined by **Cheryl Stevens** (Gammon) with her husband David and two of her three daughters (all ex-Westerfordians too), as well as **Gill Reay**, her husband Nick Grice and their daughter Callie (her son is living in the US). The four of us "girls" first met in Std 6 at Westerford in 1970 and remained firm friends through our school years (matric 1974) and beyond, a special friendship which has now lasted almost 45 years.



1974 OWs might also enjoy this photo(below), taken about two weeks ago in Onrust - from left, **Lydia Szapiro**, **Cecile Sher** and **Julie Plaistowe (nee Geldenhuys)**, all Matric 1974). The painting in the background is an original by the talented **Tim Johnson**, also of 1974 OW vintage, who for many years was a full-time artist for the SA Navy but in recent years has gone freelance.



I have just returned from another visit to Cape Town (my very elderly mother still lives there), where I was lucky to meet up with these two other dear OW friends. Julie, Cecile and I first met in 1965 as Std 1 Oakhurst girls, and our friendship continued into our Westerford years (1970-74) and beyond to the present day. Julie still lives in Cape Town but Cecile, one of UCT's early graduates in Logopaedics, moved to London to work as a speech therapist soon after she qualified, and has lived and worked there ever since.

I left Cape Town in 1989 to live in The Netherlands with my Dutch husband Jan Wijninckx - the "three year adventure" turned into eight, after which we moved to New Zealand in 1997, which we now call home. However, the three of us have continued to keep in touch, sometimes "overlapping" our visits to elderly parents in Cape Town, as happened a few weeks ago in January, making this precious "overnighter" (with Julie's husband Tom and Cecile's partner Lennie) in Onrust possible.

John Broster (Staff 1973....)



Captured at the Golden Spur during the December 2013 holidays - a nostalgia gathering!

School names only, late seventies (1978) or early eighties:

BACK: JB (still teaching at WHS), **Daphne Venter** (Wynberg), **Robyn Smith** (Paarl), **Jane Miles** (Oregon, USA), **Arja van der Wal** (Camps Bay, Dave's wife).

FRONT: **Larry Robinson** (California, USA), **Dave de Korte** (Camps Bay)

NOT IN PHOTO: **Peter Williams** (Scotland)

More news from JB

Karl le Roux (1992) popped into Westerford in January. He was on his way back from a semester of lecturing at Princeton University in the USA about rural medical care.

He had spent six months there, away from the Zithulele Hospital in the Eastern Cape. Zithulele is half way between Qunu and Coffee Bay and serves a vast rural community.

Karl was in New England over the festive season where he met up with **Jono Centurion-Harris** (1994) (working for Chevron in Pascagoula, Mississippi) and Jon's wife, **Dr Ruth Gaunt** (1994), for a few days of skiing in Vermont. The Harrises had shared Christmas with **Jeanne de Rousseau** (nee Gibson, 1994) in the Big Apple, where she now lives.

Caroline Risdon (né Brennan) (1997) emailed Mr Bissett and Mr Broster

I qualified as a Social Worker at UCT but am now at Cambridge University training to be a priest- I'll be ordained in the Church of England in June!

My husband and I may be visiting CT in November and I might just call in! I have fond memories of WHS. I'm still close to **Roxanne Harvey** (now Lorimer) who has emigrated to Sydney but otherwise no news from my year.

Robert Spencer (2012)

Robert was awarded the Twamley Scholarship for the most outstanding academic performance in the first year of BSc at UCT in 2013. This is a considerable achievement given the many excellent results among the hundreds of first year BSc students. The best performance is based on marks over all courses, as well as the number of class medals awarded for being top student in a course. Robert is studying Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science.

Tashriq Amien (2012) and Vusi Ngubeni (2012) ...

have made the UCT U20 A side and have been selected for the UCT Junior Varsity Cup squad.

OWs in the press recently

Zahid Badroodien (2008)

Caitlin Tonkin (2010)

The day in 1966 I was deprived of my identity

Zahid Badroodien

IT WAS once described as the soul of Cape Town. Our lives gravitated around the streets where young children played and where the air was always filled with the aroma of freshly fried samoosas.

I still remember, in the far distance, the azaan calling us to prayer and the laughter and joy of the children below. This was District Six: the place I called my home.

Those were the days when St Ledger Street was filled with girls who mingled and boys playing hide-and-seek. We had time for everything.

We went to school and still we

made time for our prayers and Muslim school.

There was no question of why - it just had to be done. No one complained; it was accepted guidance from our parents. We committed ourselves. We were good Muslims.

I realise now that our parents must have known it was coming: it was just a matter of when. Then in 1966 my home was no longer mine. It belonged to its "legal owner", its white owners. My being forced to part with our possessions - our history, my life - was torture.

The year 1966 saw the soul of the city, my soul, being destroyed by demolition as one house after another was razed. In 15 years all traces of my heritage were taken from me, my childhood; lost.

Everything I grew up with would have to be left behind. My colourful market place, Hanover Street, my 88th Avenue mosque, my merry-go-round, my hiding place, my home are all gone.

Today, I still miss and think about my childhood. I remember the rough-and-tumble way some people lived, but we were always there to support each other.

If there was crime, we still had a strong sense of community that flourished in the crowded streets of a crumbling suburb.

What I miss most, is the streets that echoed the happiness of a



I LOST MORE THAN OUR HOME, NEIGHBOURS, AND FRIENDS UPON WHOM I COULD RELY

family and the bellowing of the sneek horns. I miss the colourful streamers that once so magnificently lined our streets to welcome the New Year. Mr Haliem's old corner shop where he sold the tambrems and the Avalon bioscope. Today, my streets stand bare and forlorn.

I lost more than our home, neighbours, and friends upon whom I could rely in times of sickness or misfortune; I lost my identity.

Today, my silent testimony to 1966 is a house in which I continue to desire a sense of belonging.

● **Zahid Badroodien is a final-year medical student at the University of Stellenbosch. This article was written as a Grade 11 essay in 2007. The family moved to Belgravia Estate after being forcibly removed from District Six.**



OUR PARENTS MUST HAVE KNOWN IT WAS COMING; IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF WHEN

Voters have the power

EVENTS in the last few months have highlighted the stark contrast between the quality of our political leadership 20 years ago and now. From people I've spoken to about these events (Madiba's passing, the DA's "Stop Zuma" campaign, Ramphela's move to and retreat from the DA), I gather that many South Africans feel disappointed with our current leadership.

What I'd like to communicate in this letter is that we as citizens have played a role in putting poor leaders in power. Many of the people who express their disappointment with the ANC continue to vote for them. Or they don't vote. How frustrating this is! If anything is to change in this country, we as the electorate need to realise our role in politics; change begins when we change our voting patterns, when we consider alternatives, when we translate our passive complaints into critical, constructive and active participation in society.

When a political party stops representing the will of the people, how can we still vote for them? When there are alternatives to that failed political party, how can we not vote?

The vote for each person is an expression of democracy, an ideal for which many South Africans fought and died. The weight of our history and the sacrifices of those who came before us demand a more responsible and considered use of our votes than what we as an electorate have demonstrated in the past few years.

In the run-up to the elections, I hope that we realise that we are responsible for our leaders as much as they are responsible for us.

**Caitlin Tonkin
Rondebosch**

Reunion Reports

2003

The OW 2003 ten-year reunion took place at Imhoff in December 2013. They had Tuckshop chicken burgers and a uniform dress up booth ! Well done, it looks like great fun was had by all. Thanks to **Alexandra Jongens** for superb organisation.



News from Westerford

Once again the Westerford 2013 Matrics have done us proud. Being listed as a "Top 10" school in the Western Cape is an excellent achievement, but to do it so consistently over the years is exceptional. A 100% pass rate is almost what we have come to expect from our matriculants, but this year the bonus has been the 100% Bachelor's pass rate. This is a first for Westerford and a really great achievement as we are one of only four schools in the province to have achieved this. Congratulations to all our Matrics of 2013 and thanks and praise to the Westerford staff.
(See more detailed results below)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS 2013

At the 2013 NSC Awards Ceremony at Leeuwenhof Westerford was, yet again, listed in the Top Schools category for "Excellence in Academic Performance in the Western Cape".

In this category awards were made to the 20 top schools based on the following criteria:

1. Consistency in the number of Grade 12 candidates over a 3 year period.
2. An overall pass rate of over 95%.
3. The % of candidates with a Bachelor's pass.
4. The % of candidates with a pass in Maths (as a % of the total matric class).

Based on these four criteria Westerford was placed 9th in the province behind Herschel, St. Cyprians, Bishops, SACS, Herzlia, Bloemhof, Springfield, and Paul Roos, but ahead of RBHS. All these school can be extremely proud of the excellent results achieved by their pupils. We were one of only four school to achieve a 100% Bachelor's Pass.

A summary of the Westerford Results:

Number of candidates: 177 Number of candidates who completed the exam: 175
Number of candidates who passed: 175 (100%) Number of candidates with Bachelor's pass: 175 (100%)
Number of Maths passes: 125 (100% pass; 71,4% of matrics)

Subject Averages:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Wrote</u>	<u>No. A s</u>	<u>No. < 50%</u>	<u>Average</u>
ENGLISH	176	41	0	72,8%
AFRIKAANS	169	66	4	74,9%
MATHS	125	47	6	73,5%
MATHS LIT.	51	34	0	82,0%
PHYS. SCIENCE	94	39	5	74,1%
LIFE SCIENCE	138	57	2	74,7%
GEOGRAPHY	93	23	3	72,0%
HISTORY	97	43	0	76,8%
ACCOUNTING	26	23	0	86,7%
VISUAL ART	32	22	0	82,9%
XHOSA FAL	6	1	0	74,2%
XHOSA SAL	13	12	0	87,8%
MUSIC	10	4	0	77,5%
FRENCH	23	9	1	74,6%

Claremont High School Our sincere congratulations must go to Mr Murray Gibbon and his very competent staff at CHS for their outstanding matric results. History has been made. It is the first time ever that a new state school in the Western Cape has had a 100% pass rate from its first matric group. On top of this they achieved an 84% Bachelor's pass. The CHS "Matric Class of 2013" must take full credit for this achievement; they have risen to the occasion, worked hard and achieved the required results.

Tatler NEWS Thursday January 9, 2014 5

■ The first matric class of Claremont High School celebrated a 100% pass rate.

■ Dayyan Sale and Zuzipho Khetwana were the top achieving boy and girl at Claremont High School. Dayyan received five subject distinctions and will be studying Maths and Philosophy, and Zuzipho wants to be a doctor.

■ Claremont High School's first head boy, Saïed Muhammad, poses with his proud parents Faïsal and Riqad Muhammad.

First matric class of Claremont High shines

KAREN KOTZE

Have your say
 Tell us what you think about the new school. Email: news@wscapenews.co.za or call 021 959 1111

They've done it. Claremont High School's first matric class celebrated a 100% pass rate, and 84% of the pupils achieved Bachelor's passes.

Extremely proud principal Murray Gibbon, read the media to the excited gathering of pupils and their families who arrived at Claremont on Tuesday January 7 for the official announcements.

Many of the pupils (and parents) and the lion's share will need, when the results were officially released, was the longest of their lives.

The school is a multi- and multi-racial school, with every pupil taking the two subjects.

Sixty-four percent of the pupils passed with 90% or more. Ninety-two percent of the pupils passed mathematics – 80% of them with more than 90% and only one pupil failed mathematics, while all the pupils who wrote the mathematics paper 2 passed it.

All the pupils passed English, with 90% passing with more than 90%.

The top-achieving boy at the school was Dayyan Sale, who achieved five distinctions.

The top-achieving girl was Zuzipho Khetwana, who achieved five distinctions and will be studying Maths and Philosophy at university.

Senior science teacher at Westerford, John Brown, has been very involved with Claremont High since its establishment in 2011.

He said in contrast to the more discouraging reports about education, Claremont High School suggests those families who

the supervising principal of the new school, and close academic monitoring and cooperation followed.

Staff at the new school attended subject meetings with the teachers at Westerford and teaching materials and tests and examinations were shared.

"At the heart of the matter, it was hoped that the Westerford ethos would be successfully transferred to the new school," Mr Brown said.

Mr Gibbon thanked the people for their dedication and enthusiasm, and the parents for their participation.

As first head boy of the school, Saïed Muhammad said he has the full gamut of emotions as he worked so long up to the expectations, and could state that he is proud to be at the school. "We've been challenged, we've had obstacles, but all of these have helped us mature and learn to believe in ourselves and our abilities. We've never felt alone, we had incredible support from our teachers and our families. This school has given me opportunities I could never have had elsewhere. Now we must continue to succeed, and take this ethos with us, and be the youth that Madiba wanted us to be," he said.

His dad, Faïsal, thanked the staff and parents for their support and had hopes to those that learning is your child's education was not, as well as ensuring that they enter the working world as well rounded, well equipped persons.

"This school is a fantastic environment for study and success," he said.

Obituaries

Dale Panagos (OW 2012)

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of **Dale Panagos** (Class of 2012) on Monday 16 December after a long battle with illness. Dale was a bright, charming and delightful young woman with an inquisitive mind and a zest for life. Her passing at the far too young age of 19 was a massive shock to us all. She will be deeply missed. Our love goes out to the Panagos family and all her friends during this sad time.



Westerford Merchandise Available from the OWA Office please contact Margie. owa@whs.wcape.school.za

Umbrella

We have a blue golf umbrella with two Westerford badges on it for R130.



Sports cushion

The sports supporters cushion is R50



OW Merchandise



The New OW tie is R150



The OW scarf is R80

2014 Reunion contact details

1964

Founders Day 50th Reunion

6 March 2014

8 March Imhoff

Lecia Bartmann

bart.fam@iafrica.com

1974

40th Reunion

Rosemary Gibbs

rose_irwin57@hotmail.com

Rose_irwin57@hotmail.com

1984

30th reunion

July 2014

Cathie Johnstone

c.johnstone@fnb.co.za

1989

25th Reunion

Terri Henderson terri@damerell.co.za

Linda Willcox linda@lwirecruitment.co.za

OW Winter Sports Day

Saturday 6 September 2014

Westerford and OWA website <http://www.westerford.co.za/>

Please have a look at the Westerford website and OW page. We are still working on it so keep a look out for updates!

Dave Thompson

Teacher-in-charge of the OWA

DT@whs.wcape.school.za

Margie Hiscock (OW 1979)

OWA secretary and Archivist

OWA@whs.wcape.school.za