



Snippets and OWs in the News



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

Stephen Schulman (1962) shool@bezeqint.net

Memories and Reflections of an Old Westerfordian

The reunion of the class of 62, so well organized by Woggie and his team, has passed and gone. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend but still had the pleasure of looking at all the photos sent and then reading so many bio-sketches. All this threw me back many years (was it really half a century ago?) and left my thoughts in a bit of a turmoil. We become settled down in our own lives and daily routines and then we are jolted back in time and space and the attendant school memories crowd in. I had spent the previous three years from Std 3 till the end of Std 5 at Wynberg Boys Junior. With joy in our hearts and full of expectation for our future Westerford years, my good friend and classmate John Price and I finished our last day there.

Our new High School came as a revelation to me. I remember clearly the introductory evening for the new Std. 6s which took place on the bottom field. There were organised games and then a singsong, ably conducted by **Mr Ken Beck** who with his fine voice sang "Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree", accompanied with appropriate gestures replacing the words. With such a welcoming, high school promised a pleasant period of studies. The school premises did not disappoint. The building was new, in pleasant pastel colours – a welcome change from the regulation institutional grey oil paint – and light and airy. The setting was magnificent with the mountain in the background and the beautiful school gardens so lovingly tended by **Mr George Rhode**. An added bonus was the proximity to home, enabling my younger brother, Robert and I, to commute by bicycle.

The first memories that come to mind are of my teachers. The affable and mild **Cecil Tarr** was our Std 6 class teacher. He is remembered for always being pleasant and helpful. Std 7 brought us the singular **Mr Snook**: a fish of a different sort who diligently wore only one suit for a whole term and then dutifully changed it for a fresh one when the new one began. He taught us Maths and Art.

Matric Biology was studied with **Louis "Pop" Kirsten** whose text book we used and whom we adored. Underneath that forbidding exterior was a warm, gentle person with a lovely sense of humour who poked fun at many things, himself included. As he and **Miss Horn** the music teacher were of the same wide girth, he used to say that when both of them walked down the corridor together, they had to proceed in single file! **Myra Horn**, our jovial Music teacher made lessons both enriching and pleasant. She was also kind enough to organise and give lifts to interested pupils to evening concerts and recitals at Hiddingh Hall and other venues. I attended a few and am grateful to her for helping start my interest in classical music.

The gentle and kind **"Noddy" Field** taught us Matric Geography. He seemed a bit bored by the subject. I remember him standing in front of us, twirling a chair and saying, "Today, we shall learn about Injah!" A small group of us paid him a post-matric domestic visit where we were warmly received. Latin was the province of kindly **Mrs Doris "Ma" Shearer** to whom I owe my university pass. **Mrs Shearer** was a proper lady of the old school who believed in the niceties of etiquette and so deemed it appropriate to call the girls by their first names and us who were made of slugs, snails and puppy dogs' tails by our surnames! Her entrances and exits ceremoniously began with "Salvete" and "Valete" and our reply salvoes of "Salve tu quoque." or "Vale tu quoque."

Clive Millar taught me English from Std 7 onwards. **Clive** is gifted with a sharp intellect tempered with intellectual honesty and candour together with a natural warmth and humanity. He was not only my teacher but a mentor as well and his formative influence enriched my school years. Bestriding the school like the Colossus of Rhodes was "The Boss". **Noel Taylor's** presence was felt everywhere. He was an educationist with a clear moral vision and an unwavering sense of purpose. He had founded Westerford: the school was him and he was the school. There wasn't one pupil who didn't feel awe in his presence.

Finally reaching the two upper grades conferred its own special status: you could at last wear a cheesecutter to school! The straw hats looked most dashing and added the just right touch of panache, but they were the devil to keep on in the wind or while riding your bicycle and they definitely wilted on rainy days. Many of us graduates have pursued careers and led fruitful and productive lives both on a professional and personal level. If this be the litmus test of a successful schooling, then Westerford has passed with flying colours.

Alexander Knox Wylie (1966) alexknoxwylie@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks very much for your e-mail with the 2 newsletters attached, which I still have to read. When I was involved with the OWA, first running it in an ex-officio capacity, then as official Secretary, I had also the idea of putting OWs in their Matric year/s to fit them in their respective group/s. So, if they left before Matric, like myself at the end of Std 9, 1965, then my Matric year is 1966, like **Eric van Vlaanderen**, **Margaret Broster** (Sister of John Broster) and **Michael Steyn**, who repeated Std 9 and fits into 2 "Matric Years" of 1966 and 1967. I also had the idea of sending newsletters to all OWs as it fulfilled the aims of the OWA, and not just members. The members who paid their fees would have accepted the aims of the OWA. When I came back to SA from the UK for about 5 years from end July 1982 to end Oct 1987, I was sad to see the OWA not functioning, so it was my idea to change the constitution to ensure it could never become defunct, by giving the incumbent Headmaster the power to keep it running and so was able to use the existing Constitution and utilise existing Life Members to call a SGM, which would not need a quorum, to change the constitution accordingly, and it was John

Gibbon, the Headmaster at that time with **Bill Houston** (brother of **Clairwyn**) and myself who changed the constitution according to my suggestions, and that is why the OWA is still functioning, thanks to the BEST School in the world! **Jeff Herringer** is the uncle of **Alan Herringer**, who was a year ahead of me and matriculated in 1965 (He was Head Boy). I am on facebook under my full names of Alexander Knox Wylie. I was dreaming about Westerford School after talking to Jeff Herringer, as I recall telling him of my strong sentimental attachment to it like my attachment to the "Mother" Country (UK)! I would not have seen Jeff at school as I was in Std 6 in 1962, when the School Captain was **Andrew Gillman** (brother of **Frances** in my year) and the Vice School Captain was **David Hart** and senior girl Prefect was **Esther Jarvis** whom I last saw near Newcastle as a married Dr Watson Jones, a good Christian lady! All the best and thanks very much for the good work!

Good talking to you the other day! As I said at the time, I am still working for Royal Mail at the Bristol Mail Centre and live in the city of Bath at 3 Manor Villas, Bath, BA1 3PF, opposite the Royal United Hospital in Bath where my only son, Michael, was born, now aged 33 years. Appreciate very much what you are doing for the OWA and the School, and glad that the School is supporting the OWA in this way! All the best!

Ivan Nekker (1966) ivanbekker@rocketmail.com

I am Ivan Bekker, matriculated in December 1966 I think :)

Well now that my classmates and I are nearing, (or have passed), that anticipated 65 year milestone, I suppose that sooner or later there would be a class reunion? Perhaps a 50 year class reunion? 2016 seems a long way away, but *tempus fugit* and before we know we are no longer "Young Adults", so I would be pleased if i could be updated on what's up and when, as i live some distance away and would have to make plans accordingly.

Photos of me and girlfriend (now wife), at the matric dance and then and now - scary hey!



Graham Deeks (1969) deeksg@xtra.co.nz

Graham contacted us via the website...

For your records, I passed Std 10 in I think it was 1969. I am now a laboratory scientist working in a rural laboratory in New Zealand. I am a New Zealand citizen now and left South Africa in 2002.

Kind regards to all surviving colleagues.

Margosia Buchowiecki (1979) mygoshb@gmail.com

Send in this email..... (on paper was Margaret , but was only called that at school, all know me really as Margosia). Matric: class of 1979. I am in New Zealand and lived in Wellington (NZ) 1997 - 2013, then moved to Auckland. Living in Auckland at present. Are there any other Westerfordians in Auckland from our year group at all?

Anton van Vlaanderen (1995) anton@4digroup.com

As an old Westerfordian and as I am now involved on the committee at Villager Football Club, I was hoping to track down as many Westerfordian's who played at Villagers as possible. We are in the process of identifying names but will more than likely not have their details. Please contact Anton if you played for Villagers.

Paul Macnally(1999) paul@mcnally.co.za

Paul emailed us regarding the Westerford TEdx article...

I am an old Westerfordian and by a crazy coincidence I produced a story on Wanda.

<https://soundcloud.com/witsradioacademy/the-science-inside-10-space-03>

Grant Bergman (2000) bergs_13@hotmail.com

Grant and Dean's father, Jack, sent in this news....

'Grant resigned from Investec London in October last year to take up a post at a smaller investment bank in London. He got married 13 Feb of this year to Taryn Courland on a wine farm in Somerset West. Grant has kept up a close friendship with many of his Westerford classmates a number of whom attended the wedding.'

Dean Bergman (2004)

Dean's father, Jack, sent in this news....

'I thought you may be interested to have an update on my son Dean Bergman's career, who matriculated from Westerford in 2004 & was a prefect in this same year. Today he was granted a PhD in Aerospace Engineering by the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, California. Dean obtained his BSc Mechanical Engineering degree from UCT in 2008, a MS in Aerospace Engineering in 2010 from USC & today his PhD. The title of his research "Mathematical Model and Numerical Analysis of a Shape Memory Polymer Composite Cantilever Beam for Space Application". A feather in Westerford's cap for the excellent grounding education.

Dean has been accepted for a "Post Doc" at Nasa – Ames in San Francisco which he will commence in October.'



Anique Kruger (2008)

Anique has been accepted for an M.A. at Oxford University.

Bronwyn van Wieringen (2013)

Bronwyn received a Third prize bronze medal (and R10 000) in the recent *Henrie Joubert National Piano* competition. The competition, founded in 1982, was presented for a second time as part of the *Stellenbosch International Piano symposium*. The symposium brings together local and international pianists to present master classes and lectures to pupils, as well as to perform in concerts. The competition comprises four rounds, in which contestants have to perform works from different eras. During the final round five young pianists competed in concert in which they performed works for piano and orchestra. They were accompanied by the Stellenbosch University Orchestra under the baton of Corvin Matei.

Where are they? Or Contact details please.

Avril Anshutz (1974)

Obituaries

Sam Rosslee (1965)

Sadly we received this email from Elaine Rosslee (Sam's wife)...

"It is with great loss and sadness that I have to inform you that my husband, **Sam (SRO) Rosslee(1965)**, passed away on 18 April 2014. He had fond memories of Westerford that he shared with me."

The OWA sends its condolences to Elaine and her family.

News from Westerford

The **Jubilee Centre** is now in use in conjunction with the revamped Chestnut Grove area and upgraded tennis court shelter.



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



The OW tie is R150



The OW scarf is R80

2014 Reunion contact details

1974

40th Reunion
Rosemary Gibbs
rose_irwin57@hotmail.com
Rose_irwin57@hotmail.com

1984

30th reunion
12 July 2014 (Northern suburbs)
Chris Edwards
cedwards@riversidecollege.co.za

1979

35th Reunion
December 13 2014
Stephen Olckers
Stephen.Olckers@aurecongroup.com
Tel: 082-578-4742

2015

1985

Jean Alfeld (néé) Andy Frieslaar(néé Middelkoop)
alfeld@telkomsa.net andyfries@intermail.co.za

1989

25th Reunion
Terri Henderson terri@damerell.co.za
Linda Willcox linda@lwirecruitment.co.za

1994

20th Reunion
27 September 2014 Imhoff
Anthony Hiscock
anthonyhiscock@telkomsa.net
Tel : 0764218182

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
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Margie Hiscock (OW 1979)
OWA secretary and Archivist
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