



Westerford High School

Newsletter 30
18 November 2014

WORKERS' FUND

Westerford High School is very privileged to have such fantastic, well-kept grounds and facilities, but do we ever consider thanking the people who work so hard to keep them like this?

Westerford has over 20 groundsmen, gardeners, and maintenance and kitchen staff who work every day and through most of the holidays to keep the school looking at its best. Towards the end of every year, Westerford encourages each family to make a contribution towards our workers' holiday bonuses.

There will be a collection box outside the financial secretaries' office for the duration of exams through to the end of the term. All contributions, big or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Prefects' PR

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Christian Union

On Tuesday 11 November, Mrs Sinzihara, the laboratory technician for the Physical Science and Life Science Department, shared her testimony as a Christian Union event. Mrs Sinzihara was born in Rwanda and was forced to flee the country during the Rwandan Genocide. She shared her story of how she was on the run for 3 months with her baby son in the midst of a massacre. She credited her survival to the grace of God and believes that the only reason she and her son are still alive is because of the faith she has in God. It was a heart-wrenching and inspirational testimony.

Olivia de Villiers

CRED GUEST SPEAKER

On Tuesday, CRED (Computers, Robotics, Electronics, Design) hosted a guest speaker from the Computer Science Department at UCT. She gave a highly informative talk on studying mechanics and robotics at UCT, and her experiences in this career. She also spoke about her involvement with the meerKAT radio telescope that is being built in the Northern Cape. It was a very interesting talk, enjoyed by all who attended.

VOXPOP: FOOD EDITION

Wednesday morning, 12 November, marked the day many Westerfordians had been waiting for: the much anticipated arrival of the latest *Voxpop* magazine! To make the levels of excitement even greater, this edition was centred around food, one of the things Westerfordians love most.

As well as the regular Rumours and Overheards sections, *Voxpop*: Food Edition included many great articles to do with food, such as Dyt Diaries, One Last Bite, and A Westerfordian's Guide To Dieting. There were also a couple of useful articles on procrastination, as well as a few other exciting and interesting pieces.

This edition of *Voxpop* was, as usual, highly successful, and a very enjoyable read. Well done to the *Voxpop* team!



HCA Israel Palestine Debate

On Thursday HCA hosted its last event on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Over the past few weeks the society has hosted various speakers and shown numerous documentaries/short videos on the conflict, the history and possible resolutions.

The events have attracted an eclectic and mixed group of Westerfordians - for many this was the first time they had become involved with HCA. The debate was a platform for people to come and ask questions, voice opinions and discuss not just "who's right and who's wrong" but rather how the conflict emerged and how to come up with a peaceful resolution.

No speaker or video has been without bias and it has been difficult at times to remove one's self completely from personal feelings and to listen with an open attitude.

HCA has hosted several events in the past on the conflict but never as in depth or with such a wide array of speakers. This was the first pupil forum that the society has hosted and it was astonishing to hear that these events really had changed people's lives. It sounds slightly melodramatic and a bit cheesy, but some were strongly emotionally affected and it has been a remarkable and touching experience to see that change within people.

The past few weeks have challenged the ideas and perceptions of most, and utterly revolutionised those of others. It has been controversial, sometimes heated, but truly astonishing. It will definitely be an event to be continued in the future.

Gaby Muhlberg

- **Bronwyn Carr**, won the Western Cape Junior Novice Dressage Championship on her horse Grey Monarch. She has also been selected for both the Western Cape Junior Open Showing Team and Junior Open Dressage Team, to compete in the national interprovincial championships in Port Elizabeth in December.
- Part-time violin teacher, **Danielle Asherson** is off to China for the next two and a half months. She is leading the orchestra for the Pieter Toerien production of The Sound of Music that will be touring throughout China for 10 weeks. Bon Voyage, Ms Asherson!



2015 School Play!

Westerford has always been called the school that does not sleep and 2015 will not be an exception with the announcement of the upcoming 2015 school play.

During assembly on Monday 10 November, Mr Voerman and Mr Buwalda, our very own film directors and producers, were excited to fill us in about their new masterpiece. Never before have we seen it... a Beatles-themed musical with their well-known songs and a story which has been written by Mr Buwalda himself! There was no doubt in the enthusiasm of the assembled school.

Auditions will be running during exams and the hype has already started to fill the busy Westerford corridors. So don't be surprised to hear *A Hard Day's Night* or maybe *Yellow Submarine* emanating from within the walls of Westerford. Watch this space for further news!



Kirstin Bloomer

**HCA host EFF Prosecutors**

On Tuesday 11 November HCA hosted, Mendal Sass, to talk about the state's legal proceedings against numerous EFF members after the infamous, although to many, highly entertaining "pay back the money" incident in parliament. The incident became national news almost immediately and the footage gained thousands of viewers in only a few hours.

The speaker, who is involved in the matter of the prosecution of the EFF members, spoke about the logistics of the issue. To many it just became something to laugh or admire the EFF for, but the speaker explained how although parliament stands for freedom of speech, the actions of the accused EFF members went against the National Assembly rules and thus took away the rights of other political parties. The President only attends the National Assembly 4 times a year and the EFF disturbance forced the assembly to close, preventing all other matters from other parties being discussed.

The speaker explained the intricacies and hierarchies that make up parliament – who says what, when they're allowed to say it, etc. Although it may sound like mindless bureaucracy he explained how important those rules are to have a successful and functional democracy. Although he couldn't say much about the case in particular because it is still in process, he provided an insightful and thought-provoking look into the South African parliamentary system.

November 2014

SU	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
16	17 Final exams (Gr 8—11) start	18	19	20 OWA London reunion	21	22
23	24	25	26 Budget PTA 19h30	27 Matric exams end	28	29

December 2014

SU	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 Exams end History tour to China departs	6
7	8 Carol Service 19h30	9	10 School closes - pupils 12h00	11	12 School closes	13



Pet-sitter

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