



St MARY'S

Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof

OLD GIRLS' GUILD



2021 NEWSLETTER

• Issue 3 •

2021: The year we have shown *We will Rise!*

OUR family is passionate about music. After the many hours we've spent in the car this year, we agree wholeheartedly that there are two songs that have influenced us the most this year: *We will Rise* by the Ndlovu Youth Choir and *Something so Strong* performed by the St Mary's DSG choir and Old Girl, Alande Mkhize (2020).

We have blasted both these songs and have sung on the top of our voices at our lowest and highest moments during this year.

These songs have instilled in us strength and have reminded us that when we are down we can rise and when we've risen, where we come from.

If you aren't familiar with these songs, do yourself a favour and listen to them both while you read through our final newsletter for the year.

They are profound and in so many ways symbolise all that we've experienced in 2021 - A year that has been filled with more COVID madness, disappointments and loss for so many.

To compound issues we've had looting that took place thorough out South Africa but was particularly bad in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

But on reflection, as the year draws to a close, the words of our two favourite songs echo true. *We will Rise.*

And as Old Girls, this you certainly have.

You only have to read the stories of so many Old Girls featured in this newsletter to know that we are remarkable women. *Women who are strong.*

It would be remiss of me to end the year without thanking two incredible women for everything that they do for the St Mary's Old Girls - Lauren and Bronwyn. It is a pleasure to work with two incredibly competent and dedicated individuals.

Thank you to the incredible Old Girls who have so generously donated towards our Great Raffle and Online Auction this year. The Online Auction is still open for bidding until 29 November and offers a great variety of prizes! There is something for everyone! Have a look at page 15 and be sure to register.

Have a wonderful Christmas and never forget the words sung by the incredible Ndlovu choir:

*Be strong
Be brave
Together... We will Rise!*

We are all blessed to be part of the incredible St Mary's family.

All my love and best wishes for a wonderful festive season with your friends and family

Stay safe.

Binks

Bianca Livesey nee Crouse (1995)
Chairperson of the St Mary's Old Girls' Guild



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We will be having an Old Girls' Committee Get Together early in 2022.

We welcome your involvement, please email lrapsen@stmarysdsg.co.za for more information.



Matric Welcome To The Old Girls' Guild

We were very excited to be able to have Old Girls present this year for the 2021 Matric Welcome to the Guild. This is a special tradition whereby the Old Girls' Guild host an event for the Matrics to officially welcome them as Old Girls of St Mary's.

Some of our Matrics were blessed to have their Old Girl moms joining for this occasion, with *Robyn O'Donovan nee Polkinghorne (Head of Chapel 1995)* opening with prayer. A lucky draw, thanks to the generosity of some of the Guild Committee was a huge success with the Matrics.

Tarryn Hanekom nee Sawyer (1998), Sinenjabulo Zungu (2005) and Dr Jahaan Kara (2008) were invited to share some advice and words of motivation with the Grade 12s as they prepare to embark on their lives outside of school.

Tarryn, a Senior First Officer, piloting local and international flights became a qualified interior decorator when COVID-19 grounded flights in 2020. Jahaan, studied medicine in China and despite years of

hurdles and setbacks began practicing in South Africa this year. Sine, now the CEO of SA Premier Soccer League club, AmaZulu FC spoke of her experiences in marketing, forensics and now football. The clear thread which resonated from all three was *grit and resilience*.

Our guests inspired the Matrics with their very different life stories and what they have learnt over the years since leaving St Mary's. They emphasised that change, turbulence and unexpected turns are inevitable in life and that the foundations created by their family as well as teachers and friends at school would carry them through life.

The Class of 2021 were urged to remain grounded, and true to themselves whilst pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. The girls were advised to live passionately and to remember, as Jahaan recounted, "No matter how you plan life, God has a better plan, trust in Him."

Our speakers stories on the following page...



This year we had 13 Matric Old Girl Moms! Top: L-R: Robyn O'Donovan nee Polkinghorne (1995) and Hannah. Nicolette Crosby nee Wilson (1995) and Elizabeth. Bev Whittaker nee Bartlett (1992) and Chloë. Anita Duckitt nee MacNaught (1986) and Chanel. Angela Drysdale (1989), Olivia and Hannah (niece). Bottom: Carla Strachan nee Dales (1987) with Tessa and Candice. Shaelene Steele nee Luiz (1987) and Shannah. Robyn Sandy nee Hawksworth (1982) and Stacey. Sarah Power-Wilson nee Tuttle (1988) and Jenna. Jane Turner nee Huddy (1987) and Megan.

Sinenjabulo Zungu (2005) (Sine) graduated from the University of Cape Town with Honours in Marketing. Her career started in marketing and sales and, in 2017, became the CEO of Qhubeka Forensic Services, after starting as the Marketing Manager.

In 2019, Sine was appointed as a non-executive Director onto the Pacinamix Board, a Marketing and strategy consulting firm. In July this year, she completed her year long International MBA at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain in which she was awarded a partial Women in Leadership scholarship.

Raised by strong women, Sine sees herself playing a significant role in the upliftment and empowerment of women in the workplace as well as in the greater South African community. "I cannot wait for a world where women in boardrooms and leadership positions are seen as equally capable as their male counterparts," says Sine. "That's the world I see myself in, a world I want to live in."

In August 2021, aptly coinciding with National Women's Day, Sine was appointed the CEO of the SA Premier Soccer League club, AmaZulu FC... the youngest woman in South Africa to be a CEO of a PSL club.

"I am a firm believer in serving and leading by example," she says. "Great communication, exhibiting compassion and kindness towards your staff and people around you goes a long way."

Sine encouraged the Matrics to remain grounded and, no matter what happens in life, never to deviate from the strong foundations that family and St Mary's has laid for them.

Pursuing medicine was always a dream of **Dr Jahaan Kara (2008)** and she was certain of it even during her years at St Mary's. After not being placed into a medical programme in South Africa she pursued her BScMedSci from the University of KwaZulu Natal before spending a further five and a half life-changing years in China, where she graduated with her medical degree from Shandong Medical University.

Returning to SA in 2017, Jahaan had a number of ups and downs regarding writing her South African Medical Board Exams, which allow her to practice in SA. With the hope of emigrating, she wrote and passed her UK Medical Board Exams, the PLABs, but eventually decided to remain in the country and complete her internship in SA first. Amidst the outbreak of COVID-19 and subsequent prohibition of group gatherings not only were her emigration plans halted, but her SA Board Exams delayed by a year.

"St Mary's taught me impeccable values, strength, tolerance and self-assurance - values that I am certain paved the way for me pursuing my dreams no matter the task at hand."

Twelve years and two degrees later, Jahaan now works for the Department of Health as a doctor at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Johannesburg, where she hopes to specialise in the future, with her interests lying in Trauma and Surgery.

She emphasised to the Matrics that "No matter what you plan in life, God has a better one, trust in Him. Whatever you achieve, do it with God."



As Senior First Officer and piloting local and international flights for SAA for more than a

decade,

Tarryn Hanekom nee Sawyer's (1998)

passion and dream job took an unexpected turn when COVID-19 put a halt to local and world air travel in March last year. This self-professed "life-long learner", wife and mother of two decided to study further to harness the suppressed creativity within herself and in so doing founded May Grey Interiors.

"The future has many names... for the brave, it's limitless" says Tarryn. "We've all lost something - or someone - during the past year or so. For me, it also meant I grew in a new capacity I didn't think was possible. How do you break in to an entirely new industry halfway through your life with no previous experience? Forget about why you can't or shouldn't... *just do it!*"

Tarryn motivated the Matrics with her story of breaking the "norm" and literally reaching for the sky, as well as rolling with the punches that life can, at times, throw at you. "No one escapes the challenges of life unscathed" she said, "Be *unapologetically* you, believe in your potential and don't stop when you've made it."





Tayla Kavanagh (2019) continues her amazing path in the distance running world.

In only her first year as a senior athlete, Tayla dominated as the leading lady at the recent Durban leg of the ABSA Run Your City Series.

Tayla won the women's event, claiming a new PB (personal best) time of 32:10, the 4th fastest time by a South African woman! Held on Sunday 31 October, this race was combined with the SA 10 Championships, making Tayla South Africa's new 10km Champion!

"I'm incredibly happy with my performance," she says.

To read this lovely interview with Tayla, courtesy of GSport.co.za click the following: <https://bit.ly/3Ch7p44>

and for further inspiring reading please visit: <https://bit.ly/3qA5WDN> and <https://bit.ly/3wH2Ka1>



Well done Tayla, sensational!



Picture credit: Stillwater Sports

Old Girls at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

We were so proud of two of our Old Girls for swimming for their country at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan in July 2021.

Congratulations to both *Emma Prinsloo nee Chelius (2013)* and *Erin Gallagher (2016)* for swimming their hearts out and representing South Africa with pride.

Emma went on to qualify for the finals and broke the South African record in 50m Freestyle. Phenomenal!



Warmest congratulations to *Toni McCann (2012)* for winning the 2021 Sanlam Cape Town Trail Marathon last month in a blistering time of 05:03:16!

This was Toni's first ever run on Table Mountain and what a way to finish her season as well as conquer an inaugural race!

As per Toni's social media posts: "There is no better way I could have imagined ending my season than with a race in my backyard.

After racing in Europe this season, the support from friends, family and strangers on the route, the incredibly technical trails with the most stunningly unique views, the atmosphere... it's hard to put into words how much racing on home soil meant to me.

@capetowntrailmarathon @ctmarathon was my first race on Table Mountain, ever... After yesterday, it certainly won't be my last!

Thank you to everyone who put this amazing event together, @faces.africa your dedication to the people is inspiring.

And well done to @dann.ashworth and @kristen_heath who shared the podium with me! You ladies are inspiring."

Well done Toni!



Congratulations to *Alexandra van Heerden (2016)* with her brand, Vanklan, for being named the Scouting Menswear winner at the conclusion of SA Fashion Week this weekend.

Alexandra graduated in 2021 from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) where she received Cum Laude and the Dean's Merit Award for Academic Excellence as the top achieving student for both her National Diploma and Bachelors of Technology in Fashion and Textile Design.

The young designer continuously found herself in awe of, and inspired by, the unique and diverse mixing pot that is Durban. Through in-depth research, Alexandra became increasingly aware of the demand for the fashion industry to approach sustainability from a new and innovative angle.

Founded in 2020, the brand name Vanklan originates from Alexandra's surname, amalgamated with the word "klan", meaning organisation. In an effort to collaborate with non-profit organisations (NPOs) in the greater Durban area, Vanklan is proudly South African. Alexandra enjoys making use of items that aren't normally deemed "fashion worthy" and Vanklan's mission is to introduce fashion that challenges societal norms and what one considers sustainable.

In 2019, Alexandra won the Judges Award at the annual DUT graduate fashion show. This collection featured her show-stopping jacket which consisted of the 38 BunnyKats hand stitched onto a



jacket. Each BunnyKat is made from recycled textiles by the ladies at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust in an effort to raise funds for this NPO which aims to uplift and empower those affected by HIV/AIDS.

In 2020, Vanklan won the TWYG Student Award for her collection including garments made from old pillowcases and other thrifted items from the Kloof & Highway SPCA. This was created in an effort to address and challenge the throwaway culture present in our society today.

"Through the use of bold colours, combined with my eccentric and playful aesthetic, Vanklan has developed and successfully presented its own sustainable fashion practice," says Alexandra. "This not only pushes boundaries but also reflects the diversity and uniqueness of our Rainbow Nation."

"I am extremely overwhelmed with all the love and support I have received from everyone and I'd like to say a huge thank you to all those who have impacted my life at some point. St Mary's holds a very special place in my heart and I am extremely grateful to my parents for affording me the incredible years I spent there."

Well done, Alexandra... Simply inspiring!



Congratulations to *Kirsti Leaf (Head Girl 2018)* for being announced as the winner of the 2021 Campus DJ Search.

This competition is held annually by Good Hope FM and the aim is to discover new, young talent across the Western Cape and give them an opportunity to break into the entertainment and radio industry. Kirsti took part in a month-long regional search to be the next addition to the line-up at Good Hope FM. She was announced the winner at the finals which took place at the SABC Headquarters in Seapoint on 5 November.

She was one of five to take over the Friday Great Drive show from 15h00-18h00, with the winner being announced live on air once the judges had time to assess their performances. To watch visit: <https://bit.ly/3qpcog1>

"It was a really incredible experience and put me out of my comfort zone quite a bit," says Kirsti, "I'm honoured to have won a bunch of incredible prizes and most importantly, the opportunity to train at Good Hope FM before officially kicking off my commercial radio career with them in 2022."



Warmest congratulations to *Vumile Msweli (2003)* for receiving the Readers' Choice Award at the 2021 Santam Women of the Future Awards ceremony held on Friday 15 October.

Held in association with Fairlady Magazine and True Love Magazine, the awards this year had a panel of judges including Professor Thuli Madonsela (Chair of Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and founder of the Social Justice M-Plan and the Thuma Foundation).

Vumi is an entrepreneur, career coach and regular contributor on radio stations, TedX and print publications, she was also our 2019 St Mary's National Old Girl.

"It's my greatest joy to impact the future of work on the African continent," she says.

And you are doing just that... thank you Vumi!



Bronwen Gombert nee Whitcombe (1995) of Connected Architecture and her project, Sable House in Buckinghamshire, UK, was recently named as the joint Best Modern Building and overall winner of the Chilterns Building Design Awards for 2021.

Completing her Bachelor of Architecture at Nelson Mandela University (formerly known as Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University - NMMU), Bronwen went on to spend 13 years at Jestico + Whites, a London based architecture studio as an associate designing education projects regionally and internationally. The award-winning chartered architect, based in Berkshire, established Connected Architecture in 2017.

Together with her team, Bronwen creates innovative contemporary, compelling and sustainable residential design projects. She offers particular expertise in the field of environmental and low-energy design.

"Sustainable design is good design and we aim to create inspiring, healthy places for people, with minimal impact on the environment and reduced running and lifecycle costs." says Bronwen.

In addition to energy saving, two elements which impressed the judges were the high quality of design, and that so many of the principles were transferable and could influence Chiltern design more widely.

"We are delighted with this award... to have the Sable House described as clever design, with beautiful detailing offering lessons for everyday building is tremendous."

Congratulations Bronwen!



Congratulations to CapeTalk Radio's *Refilwe Moloto (1997)* and her team at Big Breakfast Broadcast for winning the Radio Innovation Award at the 2021 SA Radio Awards, which was held digitally this year.

This particular show is a multimedia platform within Refilwe's morning slot which focusses once a month on a newsworthy topic, and digging deep into related issues that matter, for the entire three hour show. It extends from the regular AM listenership and has broadened the interaction as well and audience numbers for CapeTalk through digital means.

Click the link to listen to the message from Refilwe and Station Manager, Tessa van Staden about the show: <https://bit.ly/31Wbj5W>

The successful breakfast show has just celebrated its 2nd birthday! You can catch Breakfast with Refilwe, weekdays 6 – 9am on www.capetalk.co.za, DStv Channel 885 or on 567 AM.

Well done, Refilwe!



Service Before Self, God Before All

This year, the Old Girls' Guild introduced a new award which will be presented to an Old Girl who best embodies the school motto, "Service Before Self, God Before All." With her long history of service to the St Mary's community, we are so pleased to announce **Vicki Marnoch nee Wheelwright (1970)** as our inaugural recipient. She is described by her friends and all those who know her as the most passionate Old Girl ever, selfless and devoted!

Vicki has served on the school Board, the Old Girl's Guild Committee and Foundation Trust Board for many years. Having spent a happy school life at St Mary's, Vicki went on to complete a BA HED at University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg. She taught languages at Queensburgh Girls High for seven years and, after marrying her husband, Clive and having Christie and Hilton, she joined the company, MAST (Management and Skills Training). Here she taught part-time in many schools in KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape for a number of years. As an active member of the 31 Club for over a decade, Vicki has helped raise funds for many KZN charities. Vicki was also able to watch her daughter, Christie Durant (2000), follow in her Saints footsteps and matriculate from St Mary's 30 years after she did.

Vicki's commitment to St Mary's is boundless. Pre-COVID, there was hardly a week that went past when Vicki was not at school, updating information, ferrying photographs or updating Archives, with the dream to revamp this in future. She has an uncanny memory for detail, not only from her own school years but from earlier and later periods as well, our "Google" of St Mary's Old Girls! Together with Jenny Maxwell nee Hoole (1979), Vicki assisted Pat Olivier (Honorary Old Girl) in compiling the "May Here Forever Flourish and Abound", a



beautiful Centenary book to mark the 100th year of St Mary's DSG. This project took years of gathering, interviewing, sorting and filing and is a treasure of information that is still referred to.

"She has, as you know, the most extraordinary memory about so many Old Girls; past teachers; facts, figures and dates of everything historical about the school; and an absolute passion for every part and facet of SMDSG," says Susan Di Edgcumbe (1970). "She remembers maiden names; who they married; who their sisters/cousins are (and who they married!), how many children they have and how they are all connected to the population at large! It blows my mind how knowledgeable she is, and it is all because she loves everyone."

Thank you, Vicki, for your unfailing support and dedication... remarkable!



The St Mary's High School Music Department have been busy and were excited to release their latest Choir Video recording, *Something Inside So Strong*, featuring **Alande Mkhize (2020)** at the 2021 High School Awards Ceremony in October.

"The production was such an honour and I'm so glad to have been part of it," says Alande.

Alande used her 2021 to continue work as a singer and a freelance makeup artist. Currently completing a short Social Media Marketing course at Vega School, she has also had the opportunity to travel, spend time with loved ones and, most importantly, used this time to grow closer with God.

Next year Alande plans to study Construction Studies in the field of Property at Wits University, a field she discovered and took a major interest in this year.

"I would love to one day become a property developer while still continuing to nurture my passions of music and makeup artistry."

If you haven't yet had a chance to watch this uplifting and inspiring video, click the link: <https://youtu.be/ueRp-1nkFTY>



Named as one of 20 reasons to visit South Africa by Wallpaper Magazine in the UK, *Victoria Verbaan (1996)* works in a wide variety of artistic disciplines ranging from illustration and painting to the design of bespoke home décor, limited edition fine art prints, fabrics, ceramics and more.

"My work is the place where I have fun," she says, "it's fairytale and fiction. Contradiction, fashion, nature, emotion... without being too serious."

Based locally in KZN, Victoria has commissioned artwork and fabric which can be seen in restaurants and boutique hotels as well as local and international homes.

"Home is an extension of your personality" says Victoria and is excited to share her latest range in collaboration with *Mr Price Home*, which launched last week in stores nationwide. The range includes furniture, kitchen and homeware accessories, bedding and even stationery and will be available online soon.

Congratulations Victoria and we look forward to enjoying more of your fresh and vibrant flair in our very own living spaces!



Congratulations to *Lee Cackett (2011)* for completing her first London Marathon at the beginning of October.

Based in Cambridge, United Kingdom, Lee is a Postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Plant Science, University of Cambridge.

She is passionate about agricultural research and understanding the molecular basis of how plants grow in adverse environments and how we can use this information to ensure the development of crop plants for the future.

Georgina Mabbett-Kelly (2009)

is excited to return to the stage as she plays Snow White in KickstArt's annual pantomime courtesy of The Playhouse Company.

16 performances of the production of *Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs!* will be held between 18 and 30 December, in the Drama Theatre at The Playhouse.

Due to COVID restrictions, there will only be 84 seats per performance, so book early to avoid disappointment.

To book or learn more please visit:
<https://bit.ly/3oC9Edr>





Laura Rubidge (2017), kindly collected a second load of eco-bricks from St Mary's to take back with her to Pretoria earlier this month. Concurrently with studying for her Honours in International Relations at the University of Pretoria Laura is a core member, Project Coordinator and Fundraising Specialist of the Khuthaza Foundation.

"I am passionate about international sustainable development and human rights," says Laura, "and value the opportunity to work with and learn from community members on issues faced locally and internationally in order to find sustainable solutions."

The Khuthaza Foundation is a Non-Profit Organisation that is passionate about uplifting communities through food and environmental sustainability. Khuthaza uses eco-bricks for numerous projects which address both food and environmental security. These projects include building eco-community gardens with the eco-bricks, such as at the Boitshepo Crèche, which feed the learners, the crèche staff, and their families. Further, considering each eco-brick weighs on average 500g and each community garden uses around 400 eco-bricks, one garden equates to removing 200kg of non-recyclable, single-use plastic from the environment. Khuthaza has also partnered with other organisations, including the Kensai Collection and Earthly Touch, to build an eco-classroom and is currently building the first Eco-Community Centre in Diepsloot.

St Mary's encourages all their families to recycle plastic and this kind of initiative is an enormously worthwhile project.

"It has been so wonderful to have the St Mary's girls involved," said Laura, "their enthusiasm is inspiring!"

For more info on this project or the foundation please visit: www.khuthazafoundation.co.za, www.facebook.com/khuthazafoundation or chat to Laura directly on laura@khuthazafoundation.co.za

Thank you for this proactive work, Laura!



When *Lyndall Vanderyacht nee Sharp (2001)* and husband, Kent, were planning to start their own family, they also worked with disadvantaged and destitute people in the surrounding area and saw the need to reach out to children needing love, care and safe homes. In 2012, together with like-minded Christians, they founded the Non-Profit Organisation, Hearts That Hope, to achieve this vision.

"Our aim has never been to only provide children with a roof over their heads and food in their tummies, but to offer them the same opportunities that our own children have," says Lyndall. "Together with tutors and academic supporters and the grace, open hearts and pockets of our community, we encourage each child with private schooling, sports, dancing, music and art."

"We see many children growing up with limitations because their childhoods were deprived. We want to raise children to become adults who uplift this country and make it a better place for the glory of God; we want to place them in the best schools possible, to prepare them for future success; to surround them with people who care about their futures, and who have in their hearts the aim to bring more equality to South Africa."

With the recent unrest in KZN, the couple saw further need to assist in the nearby iLembe District. They began a relief effort, called Stock A Shop, for informal traders affected in the area.

To watch this lovely interview with Lyndall and Kent, courtesy of Espresso Morning Show click: <https://bit.ly/3k066Uq>



Local Old Girls, *Sarah Colle nee Harris (2004)* and *Caitlyn De Beer nee Keal (2006)* have held a series of meetings with the Outer West Business & Community Initiative over the last few weeks.

Their three focus areas are Community Support Initiatives (CSI), Economic Development and security. One particular area of CSI and economic development in the Valley of 1000 Hills: veggie gardens!

Sarah, who owns and runs Camp Orchards, together with local KwaNuswa business owner, Sbu Sibiya, are lending their expertise and overseeing this project with the help of many local volunteers. This agri training, carried out at Camp Orchards, is "Farming God's Way", which is a resource given to the wider body of Christ, to equip the poor and break the yoke of poverty.

"The dream here is to empower local veggie enthusiasts to not only have thriving gardens that can feed their families and neighbours but to one day be able to sell their produce within the valley!"



Image credit: Luca Photography

Emma Coucourakis-Peel (2005) and husband, Cameron welcomed their second child, Luke James on 6 September 2021.

Big sister Rachel absolutely loves her new baby brother!



"We are merely trying to make connections between various NPOs, businesses that can offer training or mentoring and meeting security needs," says Caitlyn. "From there, the dream is that the greater community will offer whatever they have access to and run with it. Sarah is the one of the first people in our area to be involved, it is phenomenal what she is doing!"

This worthwhile initiative has big and exciting dreams and plans! For any further information or to get involved please Whatsapp Caitlyn on 072 418 6174 to join the broadcast group or visit: www.owbci.co.za and sign up for their newsletter.

Service Before Self, God Before All

- Thank you ladies!



Tannagh Pfotenhauer (2013) is ecstatic that her first book, *The Children Carried On* has been published and is available worldwide. An experienced Foundation Phase Teacher, Tannagh moved to the UK earlier this year and has combined her love of enlightening young minds and writing in her roles in a number of education-based projects. Tannagh wrote this book to acknowledge the impact COVID had on small children and is an ideal book to encourage discussion for children of all ages.

"This project has been a labour of love and I hope it will inspire many," she says. "This book commemorates and celebrates the resilience of children through a difficult time in all of our lives. It includes illustrations done by young children, portraying COVID through a child's eyes."

"It is a great resource for educators and parents to facilitate discussion with children around the COVID-19 pandemic," says Tannagh. Our Grade 3 girls did just that, reading this book with our Head of Junior Primary, Wendy Ross.

"This book, with its beautiful illustrations, provided a springboard for such rich discussions where the girls shared their emotions freely," said Wendy. "I felt so blessed after each lesson knowing that the girls felt safe enough to share what was on their hearts."

The Children Carried On is available online through Amazon or in paperback in South Africa and can be ordered by emailing thechildrencarriedon@gmail.com

Well done, Tannagh!



Congratulations to *Tamsyn Gant nee Bunting (2007)* and Matthew who were married on 16 September 2021.

"We got married on an unusually sunny day in London which was a blessing as we haven't had much of a summer this year! We had a "deconstructed wedding" due to COVID but we made the most of it and our multiple celebrations couldn't have been more perfect!

As South Africans were red listed at the time, Tamsyn's parents couldn't attend, so they held a very small ceremony including her sister, Jade (2012) and Matthew's grandmothers.

A few weeks later her parents flew to Marbella, Spain where Matt's parents live for another wedding celebration.

"I got to wear my wedding dress twice but for this occasion the star of the show was our rescue dog, Lima!"



Author, Life Coach, motivational speaker and previous University lecturer, *Caitlyn De Beer nee Keal (2006)* is excited to launch her series of devotionals, *Walk out on the Water*.

After publishing her beautifully presented 365 daily devotional and its companion, a prompted journal, the wife and mom of two young children was prompted to write a devotional for children together with her mom, Sue Keal.

At their "Welcome to the Guild" in October, a signed copy of Caitlyn's devotional was also gifted from the Old Girls' Guild to 23 Matric girls of 2021 who have Old Girl family.

For more information please visit: www.walkoutonthewater.com

Bronwyn Balcomb nee Bruton (2001) is married to Oliver and they have three children, Shanna, Jemma and Seth (born in August 2019). Bronwyn is a registered dietitian and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant who practices in Hillcrest.

"It's so wonderful to be celebrating our 20 year (school) reunion this year... St Mary's laid such a good foundation for us."



Caitlin Carr nee Askew (2009) married Dave at Lythwood Lodge on 12 June 2021 with *Sarah McGregor nee Kennedy (2009)* as her Maid of honour.

Caitlin is a qualified Attorney and Conveyancer of the High Court of South Africa as well as a dab hand at sewing. She made all her bridesmaids' dresses for her special day!



Dr Hayley Milburn nee Minter-Brown (Vice Head Girl 2010) married Dereck on 2 October 2021 at Monate Game Reserve in Limpopo. Two of Hayley's bridesmaids were *Sarah Behr* and *Sarah Hulbert (both 2010)* and Mother of the Bride was *Norma Minter-Brown (Honorary Old Girl)*.



Ladies from the Class

of 2010 celebrating together: (L to R)

Sarah Bingham, Lauryn Findlay nee Carver, Sarah Hulbert, Hayley, Sarah Behr and Kelly Braby nee Evans.

Melissa Steyn nee Baikie (2003) and husband, Matthew, welcomed daughter, Hannah on 4 December 2020. In 2018, Melissa started an online store, Champagne Occasions after she got engaged. The company sells personalized items and goodies for special occasions after Melissa discovered a need for unique, quality items to help women enjoy their journeys as brides-to-be. "The idea was the business to grow with me," says Melissa, "so it started with engagement and bridal items, and now we also do gender reveals and baby accessories too."



Tayla-Anne Goss nee Blades (2009) and husband, Bryce welcomed their first child, Summer Hope on 1 February 2021. Tayla, who is Team Leader at Focus on iThemba NPC and Bryce are besotted and grateful for their happy, healthy baby.



Congratulations to James and *Nicole Taylor nee de Witt (2003)* (and St Mary's High School Life Sciences teacher) who welcomed their third son, Robert Glenn Taylor on Tuesday 27 July. Big brothers Douglas and Patrick are besotted.

Congratulations to *Harriet Wex nee Lawford (2008)* and husband Andrew who were married, on 9 October.

"Our outdoor celebration (we were expecting 30 degrees) at Kerriston Country House in Mooi River was washed away when temperatures plummeted to about 8 degrees and it was very wet. We managed to move everything indoors, get the fires lit and all huddled around the sofa and fires for an incredibly intimate and special wedding. We even managed to turn the foyer of the house into a dance floor for the first dance with all our guests standing on the wrap around balconies, it was a really special day and night, not even load shedding could dampen our day (even though it tried)!"

Pictured with Harriet at her wedding are *Cam Skerritt* and *Rayne Trappler nee Handley (both 2008)*



Congratulations to *Megan Drake nee Houghton (2005)* and husband, Dale who welcomed their first child, Lola Rose on 29 October 2020.

Dr Kate Ralfe nee Wallis (2002) and husband, Richard welcomed their third son Mark Smuts Ralfe on 10 June 2021. He has two very proud and protective big brothers Daniel and Nicholas. All three boys were born in Brisbane Australia where the Ralfes have made home. Kate qualified as a doctor at Wits University and began her specialisation in anaesthetics in Johannesburg before emigrating in 2014, where she continued specialising in Australia.



Congratulations to **Carla McDade nee Van Tonder (2010)** and husband, Gareth who welcomed Morgan Grace on 9 July 2021 weighing 3.69kg.



Caroline Greeff nee Schofield (2012) and Jason were married at Crystal Barn Country Estate in Fort Nottingham on 13 April 2021. After being postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the wedding was celebrated with loved ones including Old Girl mom, **Jane Schofield nee Gilbert (1979)**.



Caroline is owner of CazFit (personal training for women). This year, together, with a friend, she expanded to start FitTogether, group exercise for men, women and children.

"I love the quote from Ecclesiastes 4:12: '... A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.'" says Caroline, "I want to encourage people that exercise can be fun especially when you can do it together with your friends and family."

OBITUARY



Chairman of the St Mary's Board (1992 - 2000)

We share the sad news that Ken Brazier passed away on 30 July 2021.

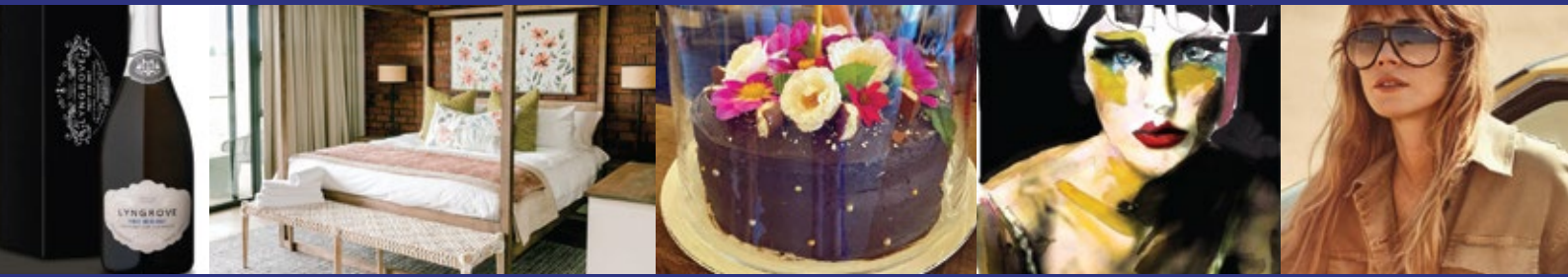
Ken was elected as Chairman of the St Mary's Board on 20 May 1992 and his last Board meeting as Chairman was on 11 February 2000. His contribution to St Mary's during that time was invaluable and appreciated by all who served on the board with him and by the staff and pupils of the school. He was well liked and respected in the Kloof community and will be sorely missed.

Our condolences to his wife, Jan and daughters, **Lee Dixie (1985)**, **Karen Short (1986)**, son, Mark and their families.



Congratulations to **Kerry Weare nee Fenner (2005)** and husband, Simon who welcomed their first child, Morgan Kathryn on 01 June 2021. "She has brought so much love into our little family and lights up our days (and long nights) with her constant smiles," says Kerry.

We always welcome news about our Old Girls. Whether it be your work or studies, recent weddings, births or nominations for inspiring Old Girls. We also wish to honour Old Girls who have passed away. Please contact Lauren on lraps@stmarysdsg.co.za



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