

Take Heart

Old Girls' Newsletter

AUGUST 2023

Welcome

As we are well within the second half of the year, the Chapel Service that Rev. Di Pickford led at our recent Old Girls' Day came to mind. With the days, weeks and months flashing before our eyes, we are reminded of the importance of having a Sabbath.

Stop and take a break.

Rest and engage in things that take your mind off the stress of everyday life.

Delight in the little things of life.

Reflect on things that make you happy.

I hope you all manage to find a 5-minute break in your busy day to sit down with a cuppa and enjoy our latest *Take Heart* newsletter. Some of our special Old Girls have been up to some amazing things.

Enjoy the read!

Jane Cole-Edwardes (née Rogers, Class of 2002)

St John's D.S.G. Old Girl's Liaison

Heart-to-Heart

Each month, we catch up with an Old Girl to find out where she is in life and what she has been up to since leaving school.

These features are published on the St John's D.S.G. website: www.stjohnsdsg.com under the "Old Girls" tab and links to these articles are shared on our social media pages. Below are two snippets of recent articles. To read more of our "Heart-to-Heart" features, please click on the *heart below*.

If you would like to feature in our "Heart-to-Heart" series, please email Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com.



Heart-to-Heart with Tyra Taylor

After a rather long university journey, St John's D.S.G. Old Girl, Tyra Taylor (Class of 2016) has finally finished her studies! She is now back in the beautiful KZN midlands and engaged to her high school sweetheart, Andrew. Tyra and Andrew (and their two fur babies, Jack and Lula) have settled on a cattle farm where they both work from home. Tyra has started an Industrial Psychology private practice called Neurolift which she finds both challenging and rewarding. Day-to-day, Tyra can either be found behind her laptop screen or enjoying her daily walks around the farm.



What is your favourite memory from your time at school?

I was a termly boarder so St John's D.S.G. really was my home. While we got up to mischief, silliness and fun throughout my years at school, my favourite memory of all was found in the mundane. Every morning and afternoon, a few of us girls would meet around the kettle and chat away for hours. It was a sisterhood, centered around the love of five roses and storytelling. It was only when I left school that I realised how precious those everyday moments were.

What do you think makes St John's D.S.G. the special school it is today?

The warmth you feel when you walk into St John's D.S.G. speaks for itself. It is a very special place! Girls come and go, yet the loving atmosphere remains. In my opinion, I believe this is evidence of a combination of effective and authentic school leadership and God's hand over the school.



Heart-to-Heart with Lisebo Sefako



After Matriculating, St John's D.S.G. Old Girl, Lisebo Sefako (née Tau, Class of 1999) went on to study a B. Tech qualification in Internal Auditing at the Central University of Technology in Bloemfontein. She began her career as a Junior Internal Auditor at SAB&T audit firm, where she built a solid foundation. Thereafter, she progressed to the Department of Social Development: Free State as a Senior Internal Auditor and was then promoted to Deputy Director: Internal Audit at the then Department of Local Government and Housing: Free State.

Lisebo is a hard-working, loving, humble, family orientated lady and an exceptional listener who loves travelling and exploring South African holiday destinations. She also enjoys cooking and happens to be a whiz in the kitchen!

What did you love most about St John's D.S.G?

I loved the small intimate environment of the school. One never got "lost in the crowd!" Having being raised in a staunch Christian family, the fact that St John's D.S.G. is a Christian school made it a preferred choice. Believe it or not, I actually loved Saturday school, because it meant I could spend more time at home during the exeat weekends as we would get the Monday off. The centenary celebrations and activities in 1997, where the absolute highlight of my time at St John's D.S.G! The Headmistress at the time (Mrs Jill Champion) was also an inspiration to me.

I will forever cherish the career readiness program that we underwent in Grade 10, where we had an opportunity to shadow three different professionals in possible careers that we were interested in. As a result, my passion for auditing was ignited.

Latest Old Girls News

Wedding Bells

We love hearing happy news from our special Old Girls. In January, St John's D.S.G.'s Rev Di married Old Girl, Hannah Peckham (née Mayer, Class of 2015) and Brett on the beautiful Peckham farm in New Hanover, KZN. We wish them many years of happiness.



Walk of Dignity

At St John's D.S.G., our girls (and Old Girls!) are known for their BIG HEART! That is why we were delighted to learn of Old Girl, Sindiswa Ndaba (Class of 2017) who recently walked from Johannesburg to Durban, a staggering 720km, to raise awareness for sanitary dignity and menstrual justice.

"The Walk Of Dignity" by KAMBAMBENI FOUNDATION aims to empower rural and underdeveloped areas in South Africa by providing resources that preserve and maintain the health, dignity and education of every indigent person.

International Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May, marked the start of Sindiswa's journey to raise funds for 10 rural schools in KwaZulu-Natal. Restoring dignity to resource deficient communities one step at a time. She completed the 720km journey on Sunday, 25 June after weeks on the road. We are so proud of you, Sindiswa. What an amazing achievement.

If you would like more information on her journey or would like to donate to this worthy cause please click on the heart below.



'Big Heart' for Art

As part of our 125th birthday celebrations last year, St John's D.S.G. Old Girl, Kelly Higgs (class of 1995), an amazingly talented and successful Botanical artist, gifted the school with an original painting. There are 100 prints of her stunning artwork available. If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful limited edition pieces, please click the link. [Purchase here!](#)



For the Love of Teaching

It was a real treat having two Old Girls come back to St John's D.S.G. recently to complete their teaching pracs. Both Tara Maskell and Sophie Rhodes (Class of 2020) are currently studying at TUKS University. Tara was assisting in the Music Department and Sophie in the Grade 2 class.



Mini Reunion

Some of our lovely St John's D.S.G. Old Girls from the class of 1971 met in Cape Town on 9 June. They enjoyed chatting and reminiscing about their time together at school.

Left Side:

Jacque Plimsoll (née Titren), Dalene Potgieter (née Raubenheimer), Cindy Taylor (née Bultitude)

Right Side:

Milly Stead (née van der Merwe), Chris MacLeod (née Williamson), Angela Wessels (née Joyner)



A 'Big Heart' Story

Old Girls, Megan Newlands and Jess Chantler (Class of 2019) met at St John's D.S.G. in Grade R in 2007 and have been best friends since. Both young ladies recently graduated together (Undergraduate Degrees) from the University of Pretoria. Megan is studying Honours in Financial Management and Jess is doing her Honours in Human Physiology. The two are still inseparable.

A Special gift

It was an absolute honour and privilege to visit St John's D.S.G. Old Girl, Mrs Joan Harris (née Bower, Class of 1942) earlier this year. We enjoyed some tea and cake with Joan and her granddaughter, Julie Harris, who also attended St John's D.S.G. (Class of 2003). We loved hearing all of Joan's stories about her time at school. Our little Grade R girls made some beautiful personalised cards for us to add to Joan's gift pack.

Joan sadly passed away on 26 March (She was our oldest Old Girl at the time). It was an absolute pleasure getting to know this special lady.



Reunion Day

On Saturday, 3 June, we welcomed back over 160 Old Girls to St John's D.S.G. to celebrate Old Girls' Day. It was incredible to see ladies from across the years catching up and reminiscing about their special time at school. The day started with a Chapel Service, conducted by Rev Di Pickford, followed by a delicious tea, tour of the school and a champagne lunch.

One of the highlights was spotting Old Girl, Mikayla Kingham (Class of 2022) chatting to Mrs Wendy Carter (née Bowman, Class of 1948) about her time at SJS – it was amazing to see their mutual love of the school regardless of their 73 year age difference!

To view more photos from the day, please click the link.

[Old Girl's Day Gallery](#)



Area Ambassadors



SOUTH AFRICA

Hilton/PMB: Mary Millward (née Quicke - 1985) info@dusi.co.za
Nombulelo Zulu (2014) bulelombanjwa@gmail.com

Midlands/Kamberg/Notties:

Kelly Sivright (née Gaylard - 1999) kelly@glengarry.co.za

Winterton/Bergville:

Lindsay Du Plessis (née Carte - 2002) lindsaycarte@gmail.com

Durban:

Puvithra Naidoo (1991) puvithra@me.com

KZN North Coast:

Kirsty Heath (née Bowles - 2002) bowlzie@hotmail.com

KZN South Coast:

Geneé Kilgour (née Liedenbergh - 1987) kilgour@mweb.co.za

Gauteng/JHB:

Grace Buthelezi (2014) fanelegrace@gmail.com
Nombulelo Zulu (2014) bulelombanjwa@gmail.com
Candice Seggie (née Leo-Smith - 2000) candiceseggie@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

U.K. (London):

Christina Haralambous (2000) christine.haralambous@gmail.com

USA & Canada:

Paula Owen (née Munro – 1996) info@paulaowen.ca

Australia (Sydney):

Lauren Tischendorf (1998) lm Tischendorf@gmail.com

Australia (Perth):

Jo Pletts (née Bird – 2004) jopletts@gmail.com

Middle East

Meagan Bremner (2010) meagenmbremner@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY REPS

Wits:

Nana Mwenechanya (2017) nanamwene@gmail.com
Nombulelo Zulu (2014) bulelombanjwa@gmail.com

Tuks:

Michelle Niebuhr (2017) michelleniebuhr@gmail.com



We are still on the lookout for more Area Ambassadors, local and International, so if you are interested in assisting us with organising Old Girl gatherings in your area, please contact Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com

2023 Old Girls' Committee

We have great pleasure in announcing our 2023 Old Girls Committee Members.

Mrs Lucy Kewley (née Pilcher, Class of 1994) – Chairlady

Mrs Kate Martens (née Gordon, Class of 2002) – Vice Chairlady (Interim)

Mrs Jane Cole-Edwardes (née Rogers, Class of 2002) – Secretary and Old Girls' Liaison

Mrs Pia Paterson (née Foster, Class of 1997)

Ms Tyra Taylor (Class of 2016)

Mrs Wendy Porrill (née Truscott, Class of 1992)

Mrs Linsey Wynne (née Leslie, Class of 1990)

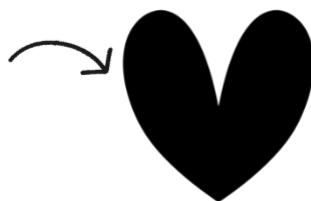


We are always looking for willing helpers so if you are interested in getting involved with Old Girls events, please contact Mrs Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com.

Update Contact Details

We would love to get in touch with all our special Old Girls. Please take a minute to click on the heart below to update your contact details.

Click here to
update your details



Not Online?

We know that not everyone has access to online resources, so if you know of an Old Girl who is not online and who would benefit from having information posted to her, please email Jane Cole-Edwardes on oldgirls@stjohnsdsg.com with their name and postal address.

Link to Current News

If you aren't already following our St John's D.S.G. Old Girls' social media pages, please do so by clicking the link below. This is where we keep you up to date with what our Old Girls are up to as well as any important information regarding reunions date changes and future events.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sjsoldgirls/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsdsgoldgirls/>

If social media isn't your thing, The Old Girls' section on the St John's D.S.G. website allows for easy access to any past *Heart-to-Heart* posts, newsletters and upcoming events.

<https://www.stjohnsdsg.com/old-girls-association/>

