



# ST ANNE'S OLD GIRLS' GUILD

Private Bag 6002, Hilton, 3245 • Tel 033 343 6100 • [ogg@stannes.co.za](mailto:ogg@stannes.co.za) • [www.stannes.co.za](http://www.stannes.co.za)

116<sup>th</sup> Old Girls Day AGM 3 June 2023  
Debra Drummond Old Girls Committee Chair

Welcome to the 116th Old Girls Day AGM. Good Morning Mrs Debbie Martin, Mrs Charmaine Padayachee, Ms Ntando Mlilo, Mrs Bernice Hyde, Reverend Susan van Niekerk, Mrs Kari Greene, Committee members, Old Girls and our guest of honour the recipient of our St Anne Award - Veronica Mellows.

We have a quorum present so I declare the meeting open. Please all sign the register which will get to you during the course of the meeting. Please can I have confirmation that last year's minutes have been read? Proposer- Mandisa Ntloko-Petersen. Seconder- Buyi Makhoba-Dlamini.

Welcome to our new Old Girls Members Class of 2022. Towards the end of the program you will find the class of 2022 listed. They pay a voluntary subscription to enjoy life-long membership of the Guild. Proposer- Kari Greene, seconder Claire Hoatson.

We would like to remember the following Old Girls who have passed away since last year's AGM and we note their passing with great sadness.

Verelyth Ruffell nee Orford (1963) Rexi Meyer nee Furner (1963) Gillian Scott (1963) Patricia Clow-Wilson (1963) Noel Davie (1984), Tracey Leigh van der Walt née Anderson (1998), Nompumelelo Ngqula (2007) Molemo Molefe (2024)

Please call out the name of anyone I have not mentioned and they will be noted. Please now all stand for a minute's silence in memory of these ladies.

Thank you Andiswa Gwala our Head Girl for 2022, for your sincere report. We so appreciate you sharing with us your thoughts on being a Lady in Blue in today's generation.

A big thank you Debbie Martin, our College Head and Old Girl, for the support that you always show to the Old Girls. Your loyalty to both St Anne's and the Old Girls is so evident, and we are incredibly fortunate to work with you and your team. Your leadership has ensured that St Anne's is thriving, and as Old Girls we feel very welcomed as part of the community. Please extend our thanks to the staff, as well as the girls, for the effort they have put into ensuring Old Girls Day is special for us.

A special welcome today to the following reunions

1953 – 70 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	1958 – 65 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	1963 - 60 <sup>th</sup> year reunion
1968 – 55 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	1973 – 50 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	1978 – 45 <sup>th</sup> year reunion
1983 – 40 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	1988 – 35 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	1993 – 30 <sup>th</sup> year reunion
1998 – 25 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	2003 – 20 <sup>th</sup> year reunion	2008 – 15 <sup>th</sup> year reunion
2013 - 10 year reunion		



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A big thank you to the organisers of each reunion year for the time and effort you have spent in encouraging your classmates to join us today. We have 140 OG's here, which confirms the strong bond between Old Girls and our love for this school.

The St Anne's Old Girls' Guild was founded in 1903 to link past and present girls of St Anne's and unite them in working together to ensure the continuous wellbeing of the College. 120 years later St Anne's still enjoys the support of a strong and active Old Girls' committee. We are a voluntary association (with 11 committee members) which strives to promote lifelong friendships amongst the Old Girls of St Anne's and to keep our members connected to each other and the College.

We endeavour to meet this objective through our regular social media posts and Newsletters, celebrating and sharing news of our Old Girls, and by hosting get-togethers around the country during the course of the year. We are very active on social media and constantly keep you updated on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. Our followers continue to grow on these platforms and we encourage you to like our pages to keep in touch and informed. On the St Anne's website we have our Old Girls Business Directory. This directory lists businesses that are owned or partnered by an Old Girl, and we encourage you if you are looking for a supplier or service provider to please check the directory to see if you can support the services of an Old Girl.

Our school Magazine is now distributed electronically every year, and we have the Old Girls Newsletter sent via email bi-annually. All of these are so ably managed by Michelle Pieterse, our Old Girls Liaison Officer. Thank you for everything you do for the Guild. As well as managing the social media accounts, website and archives, you are a point of contact for all Old Girls. Thank you for your incredible organisational skills, and all of the value that you bring to the Guild. I would also like to thank the dynamic St Anne's marketing team, Jenna McKenzie and Mel Klute. Thank you for everything that you do for the Old Girls and your continued support.

We also keep our Old Girls connected via social gatherings held in various regions across the country. We held a very successful get-together in Johannesburg in March, hosted by Nonhlanhla Dakile. Get-together's we have coming up this year are in the Midlands, Durban and the Western Cape, as well as one in London in August. The invites will be sent to all Old Girls who live in the relevant areas, and the invites to these social get-togethers are also posted on our social media pages.

An important and extremely rewarding objective for our committee is to be able to provide financial assistance in the form of Old Girls Bursaries for daughters of Old Girls who would otherwise not be able to attend our beautiful College. We are immensely proud that we currently fund 5 Old Girls bursaries, one in each grade from Grade 8 to Grade 12.



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It is a mammoth task to maintain this level of funding, and we therefore have several fundraising initiatives each year in order to be able to meet our financial commitment. Last year we hosted a successful Theatre Evening with Rachel Kolisi as our guest speaker. Later on this year we will be holding a Golf Day in the Midlands organised by Clare Watt-Pringle. Please keep an eye on our social media for more details if you are a golfer and would love to support us.

Another source of fundraising is something we are all incredibly proud of and that is our new recipe book, "Gather", which was launched with great excitement last month. "Gather" showcases our diversity and represents all voices that make up our unique St Anne's flavour. Thank you to the team of Old Girls who committed to creating this culinary gem and to all of you who contributed your celebratory recipes. A very big thank you to Theresa Rattray who coordinated the entire project. In addition to Theresa, the Photographer, Food Stylist and Graphic Designer are all St Anne's Old Girls, and the book was printed by a company run by a St Anne's parent. From start to finish it has been a wonderful St Anne's collaboration and I highly recommend getting a copy. By purchasing our inspiring cookbook, you will be directly contributing to our Bursary Fund. Your support is essential in helping us to provide an extraordinary education for future Ladies in Blue for generations to come. Gather is available today from our memorabilia stand, as well as from Free Range at Piggly Wiggly, Cookin Stores in Ballito, online and from Amy Pretorius in Johannesburg.

The St Anne's School Shop was started by the Old Girls Guild in 1962, and it is now our main source of revenue for the Bursary Fund. This would not be possible without our shop manager, Samantha Pratt. Thank you Sam for your commitment in ensuring our shop is efficiently run. In addition you have created a warm and happy environment for both our girls and new families who visit our shop. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Treasurer, Amy Pretorius, for all that you do regarding the shop and the Old Girls finances. We also wish to thank Mike Acutt and Trish Wilson for their assistance and support this year. I report on behalf of Amy that there is good accounting governance in place with regards to the finances of the Old Girls Guild. The severe negative impact that Covid 19 had on all our business operations is finally looking to be in the past, and I thank you Amy for your excellent handling of all our finances.

Before we move on to our awards, I would like finish my report by extending thanks to my amazing committee and office bearers. Ladies, we are an incredible team and work exceptionally well together - a huge thank-you for your unconditional support, commitment, enthusiasm and friendship. You are all so willing to give of your time to the betterment of our Old Girls Guild, and for that I thank you all. It is a privilege to work with you. To Vicki Dillon in her absence. Where does one even begin? Vicki has resigned from the committee after many years of service. Vicki, your incredible depth of experience and knowledge from your many years on this committee as well as the school board is unmatched. Thank you for still continuing to give advice when asked. You will be missed.



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Claire Hoatson, our legendary secretary. I am so sad to see you retire from the committee after 8 years where you have held several different portfolios. Please enjoy this last AGM as a committee member, and I'm sure you are looking forward to when you can attend Old Girls Day and relax! To the new members Pips Labuschagne, Di Love and Jenna Phillips-Page. You have all flung yourself in with enthusiasm from the start, thank you. Jenna, you were tasked with the marketing and social media for "Gather" the day after you joined, so thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work right from the get-go. Mandisa Ntloko-Petersen - I really value your input during our meetings. Thank you for so often being the voice of reason, and your dedication to ensuring that we are always moving forward.

Caroline Carlisle - you have taken on the memorabilia portfolio and wow, have you taken it on! Your retail expertise are evident in all of our new offerings. Thank you for your continued dedication to all things St Anne's, you are an incredibly loyal supporter of the school and have been a wonderful support to me too this year. Clare Watt-Pringle - your energy in giving of your time to the committee is admirable. You serve on many different portfolios and do it all with absolute aplomb. Thank you for your input on marketing, newsletters, functions and more. And for stepping up with such enthusiasm to take on the Golf Day. I so appreciate everything that you do and you never waver in your support for the Old Girls.

Debs Erskine - a huge thank you for all the hard work you put into our Excellence and St Anne awards. You were also instrumental in getting the new bronze Annie maquettes cast. Buyi Mkahoba-Dlamini - my vice chair. Thank you for your loyalty to me, our committee and our school. Your hard work on the Comms and Marketing committee is appreciated. And a really big thank you for being my sounding-board, so often you know exactly what advice to give. I always know that you are just a voice note away! Along with the advice, I value our friendship. I would like a proposer (Debbie Erskine) and a seconder (Mandisa Ntloko-Petersen) for our three new committee members. If anyone would like to join our fabulous committee or nominate someone please contact Michelle Pieterse.

Onto our awards: The First award being The Award of Excellence which is presented to Old Girls who model determination, success and excellence in their chosen field of endeavour - be it business, the arts, science, education etc. We ask these amazing Old Girls to come and speak to the girls in a forum where they receive first-hand knowledge of what Old Girls are accomplishing and what the real world is like out there. The recipient of our Award of Excellence will be announced in the third term. The second, being our main award, the prestigious St Anne Award which is presented on Old Girls Day, to an Old Girl whose dedicated service to the community goes above and beyond the call of duty. The St Anne Award came into being to give special recognition to an Old Girl whose efforts to give back something to her community have been exceptional. I call on Debbie Erskine to please come up and introduce the winner of this prestigious award for 2022, Veronica Mellows.



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We urge you to please continue to nominate Old Girls for these two awards so we can recognise and celebrate these outstanding women. Thank you for attending our AGM and enjoy being with your friends and classmates!

I NOW DECLARE THE MEETING CLOSED