



NewsTalk

The St Andrew's School for Girls Heritage Foundation Newsletter

ISSUE 2 • May 2009

It's all about making a difference...

At the 28th International Fundraising Congress in 2008, public benefit organisations - such as the Heritage Foundation - were described as "the conduits that make a difference to our world".

It has also always been the St Andrew's vision to make a difference, whether it's the skilling of young women to take their place in society or reaching out with community initiatives such as the Ubambiswano programme in the township of Daveyton – read about this overleaf.

To make a difference, however, a solid financial base is essential. While St Andrew's financial status is sound, it is vital that it is able to respond to internal and external needs, threats and changes. One such change was the withdrawal of the government subsidy, a loss of some R1.5 million per annum. Given that the school has no more physical assets to sell and that there is a limit to fees income, the establishment of an endowment fund is the logical route to follow.

We are indeed fortunate that even at this early stage, we have donors who have chosen to support our Heritage Foundation. We know that there are many other deserving causes but investing in education brings many long term advantages and rewards.



Tiffany Holdcroft, a former St Andrew's pupil, is the first beneficiary of the Graham Beck Foundation donation through the sponsorship of her BSc degree studies at Wits.

A magnificent R1 million donation from the Graham Beck Foundation

We were thrilled when it was announced that the Heritage Foundation was the recipient of a substantial donation from the Graham Beck Foundation: the amount will be paid in four tranches and to date, R500 000 has been received. The terms of the award stipulate that only the interest may be used, for the purpose of supporting the teaching of maths and science. St Andrew's has an enviable reputation for the quality of its teaching but it is a fact that there is a critical shortage of educators worldwide, particularly in maths and science. In the face of global demand, it is one of the goals of the Foundation to accumulate sufficient resources to continue to attract and retain the best teachers at St Andrew's through programmes such as fellowships, exchanges, funding further study and visiting teachers.

The money has already been put to use by sponsoring the studies at Wits University of Tiffany Holdcroft, a former St Andrew's pupil. Tiffany – who obtained 97% for matric maths and is majoring in maths – will teach at St Andrew's once she graduates, working one year for every year of sponsorship. She says, "The young woman I am today is a result of the mentorship of the St Andrew's body. I was greatly influenced by Mrs Munks (many old girls will remember this exceptional teacher) – the St Andrew's sponsorship provides me with an opportunity to be a "Mrs Munks" in a school that I am so passionate about."

The success of Graham Beck Wines – his Brut NV was the choice of no less than Barack Obama when celebrating his election – is due, says one source, "to the vision of one man – Graham Beck." That his vision includes supporting educational excellence is, we believe, confirmation that St Andrew's is a respected provider of quality education.

Our thanks also go to Allister Rogan, Chairman of the School Trust and a member of the Heritage Foundation's Board of Governors, who played a significant role in securing this donation.

Foundation Forum Event

A well-attended fundraising event was held on 3 February 2009. Guests enjoyed a most interesting talk on *The World and South Africa in the 2010s* given by well known scenario planner, Clem Sunter. Among a number of observations, Sunter commented that for South Africa to maintain a winning position, it was essential that pockets of excellence in entities such as government departments (SARS, for instance) should be used as a benchmark for all other departments. The same would apply to schools, he added, and St Andrew's was well positioned to be used as an educational benchmark.

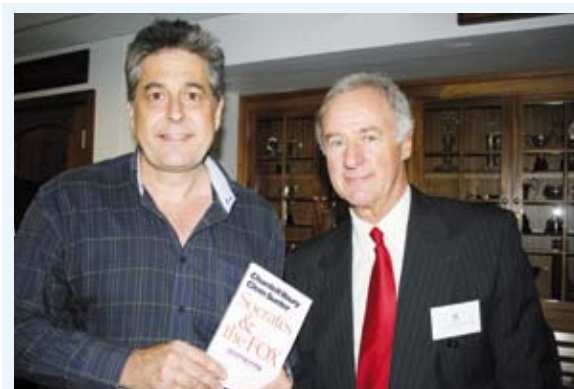
Due to the success of the evening, another Forum will be held on Tuesday 23 June 2009 at 18:00. Peter Bruce, the incisive editor of the newspaper *Business Day*, will be the guest speaker. We will send out booking forms nearer the time but for now, please diarise the date.



Pictured here is Clem Sunter (left) with Mr Lindsay Robertson, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Governors.



Guests enjoyed delicious snacks after an entertaining and informative talk.



The function included a lucky draw. Parent Dr Manie Wessels (left) was delighted to receive a copy of Clem Sunter's latest book.

Scenarios show that giving a lasting gift will make a difference

In its strategic planning, the Foundation identified its potential stakeholders as parents and grandparents (past and present), present and past staff, community minded individuals, businesses, foundations/trusts and Old Girls.

Of this group, it is the Old Girls who have the critical mass to help us grow the Endowment Fund.

Even before hearing Clem Sunter, we had examined several scenarios. The worst scenario would be for the school to close because of economic pressures. Another scenario would be to remain open but with slipping educational standards and a tarnished reputation. A far better scenario – and one which is attainable – is achieving a balance of R46 million in the Endowment Fund within ten years. This scenario is based on just 50% of the Old Girls making a very modest annual donation of R1 200 a year, increasing by 10% over 10

years – that's the equivalent of R100 or €10 a month, less than the cost of a few pizzas!

Now, if we add to the mix a number of one-off substantial donations and bequests from a range of donors, our scenario looks like this:

R1 000 000	1 donor	R1 000 000
R500 000	4 donors	R2 000 000
R250 000	6 donors	R1 500 000
R100 000	10 donors	R1 000 000
R50 000	20 donors	R1 000 000
R25 000	40 donors	R1 000 000
R10 000	100 donors	R1 000 000
TOTAL	181+	R8 500 000

ADD contributions from Old Girls over 10 years plus the compounded effect, the result we have is... A GRAND TOTAL of R46 million and growing!

In this scenario the future of St Andrew's is assured – and of course, this is the scenario we'd like to see.

St Andrew's outreach initiative makes a difference



Ubambiswano participants at the 2008 prize giving with co-ordinator Heather Cook front left. The children were urged to have a dream and to work towards it, however long it took.

Ubambiswano, meaning “working together in partnership”, is the outreach organisation of St Andrew's, involving staff and pupils. It has been in existence since 1990 and now comprises two programmes.

The largest programme is the Daveyton Education Programme [DEP] which operates on 30 Saturdays at St Andrew's during the year. Volunteers from the Senior school describe it as an immensely rewarding experience and in fact a number of girls have continued to assist, even after leaving St Andrew's.

The other programme is the Mobile Library, a partnership with the Benoni Methodist Church and the Africa-Asia Alliance.

For more information about Ubambiswano, contact **Heather Cook** or **Nonhlanhla Dube** at 011 453-9408, email hcook@standrews.co.za or ndube@standrews.co.za, or visit the website at www.standrews.co.za/ubambiswano/index.html.

Farewells and welcomes

Susan Edey has stepped down as Executive Director of the Heritage Foundation due to the appointment of her husband, Paul, as headmaster of St Andrew's College in Grahamstown. All acknowledge that Sue's skills, hard work and commitment have been instrumental in the successful establishment of the Heritage Foundation. Commented Sue, “I leave with a sense of deep admiration for the breadth and depth of the St Andrew's educational experience and its caring environment. It is a school that you can believe in and for all these reasons, I'm confident we will continue to attract support from the School community.”

Farewells and welcomes... continued

A new executive director is being sought although we're fortunate that Sue will still be available to assist the Foundation in an advisory capacity.

We also say farewell to Beverley Smith, outgoing chairperson of the Old Girls Association, who has been very supportive of the Heritage Foundation. Bev will maintain links, however, as she will hold the Foundation Liaison portfolio on the Old Girls Association.

We welcome Giulia Cantarin who, as the chairperson-elect of the Old Girls Association, will join the Board in June. Giulia matriculated in 1995 and on completing her teaching qualification, took

up a teaching post in Botswana. She then taught at St Andrew's for six years, leaving to take up the role of motherhood. Giulia is now the Content Development Manager at Star Schools.

In Giulia's words, "As an Old Girl, teacher and now a parent, I know that education is the greatest gift we can give our children. I am proud to be part of the St Andrew's "family", so many of whom are passionate about ensuring that the traditions and vision of our School will never be lost. Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Foundation or is planning to do so."

List of donors

The St Andrew's Heritage Foundation acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of the following foundations and individuals for the period January 2008 to March 2009. That some staff and Governors are making an investment in St Andrew's indicates great confidence in the School today. We are also deeply appreciative of the Old Girls who, as Class Ambassadors, are networking to create awareness of the Heritage Foundation.

- Baker (Ross 1949), Elspeth
- Baker, Karen (staff)
- Barker (Dowdle 1963), Bevely J
- Croft (Johnstone 1945), Lois
- Edey, Susan (staff)
- Fisher, Karen (staff)
- Fry, Cathy (staff)

- Graham Beck Foundation
- Hoffman, Michelle (staff)
- Jackson, Pauline (staff)
- Mansell (Sonnenfeld 1936), Pat
- Matrics 2007
- Matrics 2008
- McAllister, Wendy
- Power (Gemmell 1974), Heather
- Robertson, Lindsay (Governor)
- Robin (1974), Michelle L
- Serritslev (Bolus 1963), Anthea
- Simmonds, Frank (Governor)
- Surmon, Anna (staff)
- Verner, Sheila (staff)
- Whitecross, Helenor (staff)

While every effort is made to record details correctly, if errors are detected please report these to the Heritage Foundation.

Keeping in touch



Anna Surmon

We would love to hear from you. Our administrator is Anna Surmon and our contact details are:

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Help us to continue the legacy of St Andrew's School for Girls - every country needs to have reservoirs of educational excellence