

The crucial role of independent schools

It is a privilege to chair the Board of Governors of the Heritage Foundation and a great pleasure to remain involved in this remarkable school which has unleashed the potential of so many girls to be achievers and leaders.

As one views the educational landscape in South Africa today, the government itself acknowledges that the country's educational system is failing to effectively equip sufficient numbers of South Africans with the skills required to become productive citizens.

A vital factor in this scenario is the provision of quality education: while independent schools form only some five percent of the school system, they deliver a disproportionate number of graduates, particularly in scarce skills such as English, Maths and Science. In this regard it is pleasing to report that in the 2010 matric results, 29% of our students received distinctions in Maths, 35% Science distinctions and 30% distinctions in English. A significant number achieved 70% or higher.

Independent schools such as St Andrew's thus have a crucial role to play.

Given that St Andrew's will be celebrating its 110th anniversary in 2012, what better way of commemorating this milestone than a donation to the Foundation? Your support provides the school with the long term financial means to, for instance, attract and retain the best teachers possible, have funds available for capital projects and offer more bursaries. Every rand that our community donates to the Heritage Foundation, be it monthly, annually or occasionally, is indeed an investment in the future of this country.

Skilled people are the key to the future. I'm very pleased therefore to say that Imperial Select has sponsored a five-year academic scholarship that has been awarded to an extremely talented girl from a disadvantaged community. Our other bursary recipient, Tiffany Holdcroft, completes her postgraduate studies this year, having received A's for all her exams. Thanks to the R1 million received from the Graham Beck Foundation, we are in a position to select another worthy candidate to receive financial assistance to study for a Maths, Science or English teaching degree in 2012. In this small way, St Andrew's is making a contribution



David Lowry,
Chairman of
the Board of
the Heritage
Foundation

to the worldwide shortage of teachers in these disciplines.

In ending, a number of thanks are due. To the Foundation Board's former chairman, Lindsay Robertson, we are deeply indebted for your sterling work in guiding the Foundation through its early stages. Our Director, Bev Smith, remains passionately committed to furthering the Foundation's goals and the Board thanks her for her unstinting efforts.

Last, but by no means least, we thank all our sponsors and donors. It's your generosity that helps St Andrew's grow and remain a school that inspires.

David Lowry

Education facts - South Africa today

- About 1.2 million children start Grade 1 every year
- Only approximately 600 000 reach matric
- Just over 100 000 (about 8%) qualify to go to university

St Andrew's 2010 matric results

- 74 students wrote matric. 97% qualified to go to university
- Of a total of 206 distinctions obtained, 50 were distinctions in Maths, Science and English.
- For 22 consecutive years the school has had a 100% pass rate in matric

Seen recently at St Andrew's...



Jane Robson (Smith, 1977), who lives in the UK, recently paid a visit to St Andrew's with her daughters Amelia (15) and Alice (17). They spent a few memorable hours walking around St Andrew's with Heritage Foundation Director, Bev Smith, and were hugely impressed with all the developments that have taken place over the years. Jane also reminisced about her years as a boarder in Bedford Court, Old Wing, as she showed her daughters her old dormitory!



At the reunion in May, Old Girls attending - including the class of '71, shown here - had the opportunity to walk around Old Wing (Bedford Court). They heard about the plans of the Heritage Foundation for the restoration of this magnificent 109 year-old Sir Herbert Baker building which is in serious need of repair. The Foundation continues with its applications for Heritage Funding but as yet no major funder has come forward. It is a project that will be in excess of R15 million. We are appealing to our St Andrew's family to help us in our endeavours to revive and restore this gracious building that has for generations been the 'heart of our school'.



Claire Crookenden, Sir George Farrar's great granddaughter, visited Bedford Court in February 2011. She spent a delightful morning with us here at St Andrew's looking at old photos and walking around her family's former homestead. Claire is the granddaughter of Sir George's eldest daughter Helen Turner.



During the August holidays, Claire and Bev Smith visited the Bodleian Library in Oxford where they met SA history expert John Pinfold. John and Claire shared with Bev interesting information about the Farrar family and Bedford Court. The water colours being examined are of the house and gardens and were painted by one of the Farrar daughters.

Events and happenings

Companies that care



During 2011 Imperial Select has become increasingly involved in their support of St Andrew's through the work of the Heritage Foundation. Apart from their scholarship funding, the company has given support to the Spring Expo, netball, a new set of hockey goals and a sports equipment storage facility.

G4 Civils invited the Foundation to attend their Corporate Golf Day at which a cheque of R25 000 was donated to the Heritage Foundation Endowment Fund. G4 Civils also generously donated materials towards the completion of the new Aquatics Centre surrounds.

Supa Quick was recently announced as the new corporate sponsor of St Andrew's hockey.

Comments Executive Director Bev Smith, "Companies have many avenues for CSI spend but there is no doubt that education is considered a priority.

"The Heritage Foundation is certainly seeing more interest from companies who understand that their future success is heavily reliant on finding suitably skilled people: this longer term view is exactly what is needed for us to build up our Endowment Fund."



Seen here with Bev Smith are, l-r: Emma Braham (daughter of Sally Braham née Craig, 1978), Justine Abrahamse (third daughter in the Abrahamse family to have completed 13 years at St Andrew's - Grade 0 to 12!), Gabi Alves Nunes and Bianca da Cruz

Executive Director Bev Smith meets the current Matric class in July each year to talk about the work of the Foundation and the need for staying connected with one another and with the school once they matriculate. Hot chocolate and doughnuts are always a welcome treat afterwards!

The girls are encouraged to make a small contribution to the Foundation at their Valedictory Lunch which entitles them to become members of the Foundation's StAy Circle.



The restoration of the kitchen in Old Wing (Bedford Court) became an absolute necessity. The Foundation contributed to a portion of the cost through a generous donation from a past parent's bequest and the funds generated from the superb donation of wine from Graceland Vineyards (see overleaf).

Barrow Construction were trusted with this enormous task which was completed in September: everyone is delighted with the gleaming new kitchen.



Thank you to our donors

The St Andrew's Heritage Foundation acknowledges with gratitude the donations (monthly, annual and once-off) from the following foundations, corporates and individuals for the period April 2010 to November 2011.

Baker, Karen (staff)
Bannink, Jean (Caldwell,1953)
Brink, Monica (Barry,1940)
Clark, Bev (Wrighton,1983)
Fisher, Karen (staff)
Fry, Cathy (staff)
G4 Civils
Henderson, Jane (Hobbs,1971)
Hindley, Ingrid (Watson,1988)
Hoffmann, Michelle (staff)
Imperial Select
Jackson, Pauline (staff)
Johnstone, Gina (staff)
Lennox, Tandice (Gorton,1992)
Lewis, Deidre (staff)
Nolan, Nicola (Meyer,1994)
Peters, Toni (Keylock,1979)
Popper Family - in memory of Lyndall Popper (Findlay,1953)
Prinsloo, Liesha (Pickard,1987)
Queiros, Petra (Scherf,1984)
Robertson, Lindsay (Past Chairman of the Heritage Foundation)
Schaafsma family - in memory of Gerry and Wendy (past parents)
Serritslev, Anthea (Bolus,1963)
Simmonds, Frank (Governor)
Smith, Bev (Schaafsma,1983)
StAy Circle - 2010 Matrics
Supa Quick
Surmon, Anna (staff)
The Graham and Rhona Beck Foundation
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.

Snippets



May saw the Parktown & Westcliff Heritage Trust include St Andrew's on the tour of early Johannesburg. It was indeed a privilege for the St Andrew's Heritage Foundation to host this tour and to talk about the history of our special school and its role in the current South African educational sector.

The St Andrew's Heritage Foundation will launch its Annual Fundraiser with a '**Christmas in July**' on the evening of Saturday 14th July 2012. Old Girls, past and current parents, friends of the school and the wider community are all welcome to attend. Details to follow in 2012.



If you are thinking of making a bequest, contact us for our informative booklet on estate planning which suggests tax effective measures for making a donation to an educational institution.



Wine offer - Your chance to purchase the last few cases of the St Andrew's wine (Shiraz 2005), a wonderful donation from Old Girl Sue McNaughton (Harington, 1977) who owns Graceland Vineyards. All proceeds go towards the restoration of Bedford Court. The front label, painted by 2010 matric student Chikomborero Kamba, has been enlarged into A2 Limited Edition prints - a "must have" to 'grace' a wall in your home.

Contacting us

We would love to hear from you. Contact Executive Director Bev Smith at:
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St Andrew's School for Girls, St Andrews Avenue, Senderwood, Bedfordview 2007 South Africa

To purchase the St Andrew's wine (R600 for a case of six/R100 per bottle) or a Limited Edition print of Bedford Court (R250) please contact the Foundation office.

The Foundation is a registered Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) no 930031219. All donations are tax deductible in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act. In terms of current South African law, individuals are entitled to deduct up to 10% of taxable income (prior to the deduction of medical expenses) in respect of donations to a registered public benefit organisation.

www.standrews.co.za/heritagefoundation (see also our new donors page)

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