



ST ANNE'S OLD GIRLS' GUILD

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119TH OLD GIRLS GUILD AGM MINUTES 6 JUNE 2026

Mosa Mkhize, incoming Chair of the Old Girls' Guild, welcomed everyone to the 119th Old Girls' Day AGM. A quorum was present, and the meeting was declared open. The register was circulated during the AGM, and apologies were noted. Confirmation that the minutes from the previous year's meeting were read was proposed by Amy Pretorius and seconded by Mary-Ann McCormick. The Class of 2025 was officially welcomed into the Guild. They pay a voluntary subscription to enjoy lifelong membership. This was proposed by Buyi Makhoba-Dlamini and seconded by Di Love. The Chair thanked everyone involved in making Old Girls' Day the wonderful, successful day it is.

We take a moment to remember the following Old Girls who have sadly passed away since last year's AGM: Lorraine Gardner (née Davis, 1954), Irene Vorster (1971), Louise Jackson (née Black 1992), Jo Crookes (née Armstrong, 1989), Hannah van Rensburg (2021), Maria McCloy (1993).

Kate Sadie (Head Girl) was thanked for the heartfelt and inspiring words she shared with the gathering. Mosa reflected on the St Anne's journey, noting that while the school days may often seem long, the years pass remarkably quickly, and before long, today's pupils will return to the misty hills as Old Girls. Kate was wished every success for the months ahead as she prepares for her trials and final examinations.

Debbie Martin, College Head and proud Old Girl, spoke about her unique dual role as both a member of the St Anne's Old Girls community and the leader of the College. She was warmly thanked for her unwavering support of the Old Girls and the Guild, a reflection of her deep commitment to St Anne's and its traditions. We are incredibly fortunate to work alongside Debbie and her dedicated team. Under her inspiring leadership, St Anne's continues to flourish, strengthening the bonds between past and present generations. As Old Girls, we are grateful for the strong sense of connection and belonging she fosters, ensuring that St Anne's will always feel like home.

A warm welcome was extended to all reunion year groups celebrating milestones. 1945 and 1951 – 75 year reunion, 1956 – 70 year reunion, 1961 – 65 year reunion, 1966 - 60 year reunion, 1976 - 50 year reunion, 1986 - 40 year reunion, 1991 – 35 year reunion, 1996 – 30 year reunion, 2001 – 25 year reunion, 2006– 20 year reunion, 2011 – 15 year reunion, and 2016 - 10 year reunion. The organisers of each reunion year were thanked for their time and effort spent in encouraging classmates to join us today. A powerful reflection of the enduring bonds of St Anne's was reflected by the 200 Old Girls in attendance.

The Chair reflected on the shared memories, friendships, and life journeys represented within the Chapel, encouraging those present to pause, reflect, and appreciate the special occasion and the community gathered together. A warm welcome was extended to two distinguished Old Girls, Pam Thompson (Class of 1945) and Audrey Alexandra (Class of 1951), whose presence was greatly valued and appreciated.

The Old Girls' Guild was established in 1903 with a clear purpose: to promote friendly relations among Old Girls and support the College. That purpose remains unchanged today. We pursue this mission through a variety of initiatives designed to keep Old Girls engaged and connected, regardless of where they are in the world. These include regular newsletters, social media engagement, celebrating the achievements and milestones of our Old Girls, and hosting reunions, networking events, and social gatherings both locally and internationally throughout the year. We are particularly focused on creating meaningful opportunities for Old Girls to reconnect, build new relationships across generations, and maintain the powerful sense of community that makes the St Anne's network so special. We remain active across Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, where we share updates, news, and stories from our Old Girls community. In addition, we are currently developing a new, more interactive Old Girls website, as well as dedicated online community groups, which will provide even more opportunities for Old Girls to connect, engage, and support one another in real time. We look forward to sharing these exciting developments with you in the near future. The St Anne's Magazine is distributed each year electronically, and our Old Girls' Newsletter is sent directly to members via email, ensuring that wherever life may take you, you remain connected to your school and the wider Old Girls community.



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One of the most meaningful and rewarding aspects of the Guild's work is providing financial assistance through Old Girls' Bursaries for the daughters of Old Girls who might otherwise not have the opportunity to attend St Anne's. There is something incredibly special about helping the St Anne's journey continue from one generation to the next. Through these bursaries, we are not only supporting a girl's education but also allowing her to become part of a community, sisterhood, and legacy that will remain with her for life. We are immensely proud to currently fund 6 Old Girls' Bursaries across Grades 8 to 12. Each bursary reflects the generosity, loyalty, and enduring spirit of our Old Girls community, and a wonderful example of Old Girls supporting future generations of St Anne's women.

Sustaining this level of funding is made possible through significant fundraising efforts which the committee rolls out throughout the year. This year we hosted our annual Golf Day and added a Padel tournament. The St Anne's School Shop is a vital contributor to our Old Girls' Bursary Fund, helping us create opportunities for future generations of St Anne's girls. Its success is due in no small part to the dedication and care of our Shop Manager, Samantha Pratt. The shop is often one of the first touchpoints for girls and families, and your welcoming presence makes a lasting impression. Sincere thanks to Mike Acutt and Trish Wilson for their ongoing support and assistance throughout the year. And a special thank you was made to our Treasurer, Amy Pretorius, for her diligent oversight of both the School Shop and the Guild's finances. Thanks to Amy's careful stewardship, we continue to maintain strong financial governance and accountability, ensuring the Guild remains well positioned to fulfil its purpose.

The St Anne's Old Girls Guild has two awards. The first is 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. This was awarded to Megan McKenzie, class of 2024, who among her accolades, represented South Africa at the World Trail Running Championships on two occasions and delivered many top performances in endurance running for a number of years. The second, is the St Anne's award, which is our most prestigious honour, presented to an Old Girl whose dedicated service to the community goes above and beyond the call of duty. The 2025 recipient of the St Anne's Award is Elizabeth Steyn. Liz has been an active and valued member of the Johannesburg Gardeners Club for many years. Beyond her professional achievements, she has made a profound impact through her community work. She has played a key role in establishing a vegetable garden in a low-income area outside of Johannesburg — a space that has become a sanctuary for approximately 330 children, from preschool to matric. These children come after school to help tend the garden, which not only provides them with a sense of purpose and belonging but also aims to supply them with at least one nutritious meal a day.

The Chair expressed her gratitude for the privilege of serving alongside the Guild committee and looked forward to the years ahead as they continue to fulfil their shared mandate of supporting and serving the St Anne's Old Girls community across South Africa and around the world. Sincere thanks were extended to the committee for their ongoing support, commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication to the day-to-day work of the Guild. To officiate Sarah Bruwer as a new committee member, Di Love proposed, and Amy Pretorius seconded the motion. As we look to next year, marking 150 years of the College, one hundred and fifty years of excellence, one hundred and fifty years of shaping courageous, compassionate, capable women, one hundred and fifty years of heritage, leadership, service, and impact, the Chair expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead and the meaningful work to be undertaken in partnership with Debbie Martin, the College, and the wider St Anne's community to strengthen connections for current and future generations of Old Girls.

Members were thanked for their support and attendance and reminded to sign the attendance register if they had not already done so. An opportunity was provided for matters arising under General Business, and, with no further business raised, the Chair formally declared the Annual General Meeting closed. In her closing remarks, the Chair reflected that while buildings, traditions, and uniforms contribute to the identity of St Anne's, its true strength lies in its people. She acknowledged the generations of women who have walked its halls, the lifelong friendships formed, the values instilled, and the courage and character nurtured by the school. Members were encouraged to continue honouring this legacy, supporting one another, and ensuring that future generations of girls experience the same sense of belonging, opportunity, and excellence that has long defined the St Anne's community.