



**PINELANDS
HIGH SCHOOL**
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ALUMNI NEWS

Pinelands High School Celebration Day 2023



I think those of you that were able to join us at the Celebration Day on 10th March would agree that we had a wonderful day together! It was so special to hear the happy laughter and chatter as ex-classmates and friends reconnected and reminisced!

After chatting over tea and eats outside, we proceeded to the assembly in the Kent Hall, accompanied by the lyrical sounds of the Marimba Band. There we were addressed by Mr Dave Campbell (PHS Principal), and Dr Jodie Pinto and Mr Aqeeb Kannemeyer (Representatives of the Class of 2013).

Mr Garth Kayser (Head of Music and a PHS Alumnus) and Ms Tara Notcutt (Head of Drama) also paid tribute to Mr Pieter Toerien (Class of 1960) for his outstanding contribution to Theatre and The Arts (more about this below).

Then it was time for the school song - always one of the highlights for returning alumni! Many attendees commented on the lovely, vibrant atmosphere of the assembly.

After the assembly, alumni were taken on a tour of the school, led by the current prefects. I tagged along on one of the tours and really enjoyed hearing many of the fun memories along the way - we even ended up visiting the principal's office, which was rather too familiar to some!!

With Celebration Day at the school being complete, many went on to continue their trip down memory lane at their respective lunch or dinner reunions.

It was a fantastic celebration and the alumni team can't wait to see you all again next year!

The really exciting news, for those that weren't able to join us this year, is that we recorded the Celebration Day Assembly so that you can experience some of the festivities first-hand!

Watch the Pinelands High Celebration Day Video: <https://youtu.be/AAnC7r00yrs>

- by Jodi Els, Alumni Officer



Celebrating Pieter Toerien - Class of 1960

Last year we started calling for nominations for the Pinelands High School Alumni Award. We received some fantastic nominations which, once again, emphasises the sheer wealth of talent and excellence that exists within the Pinelands High School Alumni Body.

The nomination that the Alumni Award Committee settled on was for Mr Pieter Toerien, in recognition of all he has done to build and support the Performing Arts in South Africa over many years. However, when we extended an invitation to Mr Toerien to attend Celebration Day, in order to accept the award, he politely declined, explaining that many years ago he had decided not to accept awards as he feels that he is simply living his dream.

After some discussion the committee felt strongly that, due to Pieter's immense contribution to the arts in our country, the school would be remiss if we did not acknowledge his contribution while, at the same time, respecting his wish not to receive the Alumni Award. It is for this reason that we did not have a recipient of the Alumni Award in 2023.

As mentioned above, Mr Garth Kayser (Head of Music and PHS Alumnus) and Ms Tara Notcutt (Head of Drama) did a lovely, light-hearted tribute to Mr Torien at the Celebration Day, which appealed to students and alumni alike!

In the photos below they are demonstrating some of the well known international productions that Pieter Toerien has brought to South Africa - can you guess each of the three productions?

****Answers at the bottom of the newsletter or in the assembly video!**



Remembering Pieter at school, Alan Woodman (Class of 1958) writes: '...he was memorable and prominent by creating a Schoolchildren's Newsletter – perhaps weekly – which he sold amongst us during breaktimes for one penny (I think?). At 17 he used the bioscope next to the school as a playhouse theatre instead of films. He was so enterprising then already. Hereunder from Wikipedia - Early life and career: "Toerien's theatre career started while still at school, presenting puppet shows to schools in his home town of Cape Town. At age 17, he introduced the concept of bio-vaudeville – persuading cinema managements to have live entertainment before the feature film."'

Read more on Pieter Torien here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieter_Torien

Reunions 2023



Class of 1958 65th Reunion

The Class of 1958 were a part of the very enjoyable and noble day of reunions of Pinelands High School matriculants which was very special for all participating.

After the Celebration our 1958 matriculants went to a nearby restaurant for a delicious meal along with enjoyable, cheerful, caring conversation.

Lunch photo from left: Ann Griffin, Bill Griffin, Ingeborg Woodman, Alan Woodman, Dennis Macey, Dennis' brother, Alf Todt, Daphne Todt, Frena Macey, June Milburn-Pyle, Margaret Aubrey, Sydney Byrnes.

- By Alan Woodman

Class of 1963 60th Reunion



On the day of this year's School Reunion, and during the hour before assembly, our Class of '63 attendees had all arrived to find a pleasantly different scene.

After a friendly welcome we were given name stickers and gestured towards the Snacks and Drinks tables! Thankfully, it was a beautiful day and the fact that we'd probably all had breakfast, didn't count. A couple of us, who had arrived earlier, enjoyed coffee and delicious snacks while trying to guess who it was arriving. We had plenty of time to mingle, catch up with our own and other classes, before we all moved into the School Hall for the Assembly.

The School Hall is in great shape and so comfortable in size and feel, and that with a full house! The warm welcome, the short informative individual speeches and the tribute to Pieter Toerien were all special.

Impressive musical performance as always. Lovely to see and hear young people clearly enjoying the music they were sharing. To think that in our day the electric guitar was frowned upon for some silly 60's associative reasons. Lots of us dreamed of owning a Fender Strat! On this occasion, as with many previous years, the students surprised us with their vocal and instrumental talent.

We had to decline the school tour invite due to lunch arrangements, but we saw a lot, walking back to the carpark and particularly liked the smaller green courtyards.

We can't thank the school, the organizers and the students enough, for a really enjoyable reunion. Best wishes for the future, for many more reunions and see you at the next one!

From Team '63, on behalf of all our Classmates.

- **By Derek Wiid**

Class of 1973 50th Reunion



In spite of the festivities clashing with the Cape Town Cycle Tour, we had a great turnout.

Of the original 64 matriculants, we were privileged to be joined by three of our matric colleagues from overseas - Clive Beattie from the UK, Michael Byrns from Canada and Peter Rothman from Atlanta (US). Sadly Peter Meiring was let down at the last minute when his flight from the UK was cancelled. We were also joined by Kathy (Klerk) Young from Gqeberha and Pat & Anthony Rose-Mathews and Tony Lovesay from Johannesburg.

There were 20 of us who attended the assembly and enjoyed a tremendous late lunch at Forries on Friday. What a lot of fun catching up.

On the Saturday evening, we gathered for drinks at the Wild Fig bar followed by a dinner which was attended by 34 folk, including two of our teachers, Martie (Mostert) Van Heusden and Rose (Elliot) Malinaric. Peter Loubser entertained us with the responses he received to his questionnaire of our time at school and the years that followed - many thanks to all who contributed - it was loads of fun and laughter! Michael Minter read out a message from Peter Hollely who was unable to attend and we had video chats with some of our overseas school friends.

To those who couldn't make it this time, we hope to see you all very soon so we can continue to enjoy special times, special people and above all that special bond...till we meet again!

-By Heather Coomber



Class of 1981 40th(+2) Reunion



As we all rocked out of our last assembly, in October 1981, to the beat of 'we don't need no education'... we weren't picturing being back 42 years later! As the plans started to come together, so did the nerves... would we recognise each other? Would clothes fit? What would we talk about all these years later?

They were to be unfounded fears, the joy, the shrieks of delight as faces came into focus (yes eyesight is fading too) and the hugs were all we needed to be transported back to that roller coaster that took us through our PHS school days. The memories were vivid and varied - a foundation that let so many of us make a difference globally.

This time we were led into assembly with a Marimba Band! This was going to be different to our past assemblies . To be able to celebrate with students, alumni, teachers (present and past) and the principal, Dave Campbell gave us a full view of life at PHS now. And we were absolutely wowed! As you get older you often feel that nothing will come close to your 'good old days'. But PHS has done that and more. The students were welcoming, respectful and helpful and shared their school with pride and enthusiasm. We did have a chuckle though when asked where the computer lab was when we were there!

After a relaxed lunch at Uitsig, with a chance to hear more from Dave Campbell, we knew that, even 42 years later, we were all connected to something very special at Pinelands High. We also remembered our classmates across the planet and those who left us far too early.

Thank you to everyone who made the reunion such a wonderful time and congratulations to PHS for continuing to thrive.

If you have a reunion planned...GO and if you are still wondering about planning one, just do it.

With best wishes from all of us in the class of 1981!

-by Suzette Kleynhans



Class of 1993 30th reunion



On a cold, rainy evening at the end of March, the class of 1993 gathered at The Wild Fig in Mowbray. The weather might have been cold but the atmosphere was anything but that! We arrived at 5pm and the last of us left regretfully at 12pm when the venue 'gently' turned off the lights to indicate that the party was indeed over!

The years just slipped away as we caught up with classmates that some of us hadn't seen since leaving school. The time passed in a blur of hugs, shared memories and laughter... and then, of course, a variety of renditions of the school song, as we tried to see if we could remember all the words!

We left reluctantly to the cries of 'why don't we do this more often?', with many old bonds strengthened and renewed!

It was very special to for the local contingent to be joined by Matthew White and Paul McNally, who flew out from New Zealand and Durban respectively.

Many, many thanks go to Michael Ribaudo and his company, CyberIAM, for sponsoring this fantastic evening.

Class of 2003 20th Reunion



On Friday the 10th of March a group of 55 PHS 2003 alumni gathered at Square Cafe, Century City after twenty years!

Twenty sounds and feels like a long time, but it was incredibly touching how effortlessly and enthusiastically we shared the evening together; catching up, re-acquainting and enjoying one another's company.

It was an absolute highlight having Michael Harris join us, as well as the current PHS Principal, Dave Campbell.

It genuinely was an incredible night, thanks to everyone who came!

-By Nicole Nel



Condolences

Since our last newsletter, we have sadly lost the following members of the Pinelands High Alumni Family. Many of us will remember them fondly. May they Rest in Peace.

- Peter Derham - 1959
- Raol Luyt - 1972
- Inez Fletcher - 1976
- rendan Wickstrom - 1988
- Alexander Simms - 2009

Pinelands High School General Knowledge Quiz 2023

The students at Pinelands High School recently took part in the annual General Knowledge Quiz, and we thought that that some of you might like to take the quiz to see how well you fare! The General Knowledge Quiz is compiled every year by Mr Brynn Taylor, Head of Natural Sciences at PHS. The highest score attained by a staff member was 90% - can you beat that?

[General Knowledge Quiz](#)

[Quiz Memo](#)

*** Answers to the productions that Pieter Toerien has brought to South Africa: Photo 1: Cats; Photo 2: Phantom of the Opera; Photo 3: Les Miserables**

Pinelands High School Alumni



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Contact us
