

Lusaka Convent Reunion – Perth Western Australia Saturday 5 April 2003.

Excitement mounted as, having discovered one more ex-schoolie in Perth and deciding it was time for another reunion (6 of us having had one c5 years before) Angela Dowling thought it was a good idea to post it on the GNR – and the response was wonderful.

8 of a potential 11 managed to make it to lunch at Plantation Restaurant in South Perth and much fun was had reminiscing, asking after others and the whereabouts of various nuns, and – after the breaking of a few champagne glasses – the decision to post our various stories on the GNR in the hope of making further contact with others from the distant past...

Judith Hugo (née Judy Drew) b.1948 was the oldest of the mob, having attended 1961-66 (one of the first and last A level class at the convent), and lived in Mufulira 1956 – 1969. Abbreviated life story since then...
1967 – 69 : Univ. of Natal (PMB) – BA / 1970 : UCT – Sec. Teachers' Diploma
1971-2 : Taught English & History in Natal schools
1973 : UCT – Higher Dip. Librarianship
1973 : married Peter Hugo, Obs & Gynae (met at Edendale Hospital)
1975 : son David born (now a lawyer living with his wife in London)
1977 : daughter Angela born (now in PR/Events management)
1978 : immigrated to Perth
1981-89 : worked as teacher-librarian
1991 – now : Art Curator for TAFE (Perth Tech College), vol. guide at WA Art Gallery



Angela Dowling (née Ridley) b. 1948, lived in Kabwe, Lusaka Convent 1965-6.

After M levels, went to SA for higher education.

Met husband Sean in Zambia, travelled and worked in UK for a few years - Sasha born and is now a CPA for Woodside Petroleum.

Lived and worked in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Honor born, and is now Marketing Manager for a legal firm.

Joined Sean's brother in business in Francistown, then briefly back to UK.

Sent by Wellcome Pharmaceuticals to Saudi Arabia, lived in Riyadh then Jeddah – Christopher born, now doing geo-technical mapping in the outback.

1983 – immigrated to Perth where they have an air conditioning business.

Angela is now retired and into yoga and swimming.



Jeanne Young (née Nel), born and brought up in Luanshya.

1962-66 : attended Lusaka Convent, did M levels.

1967-72 : UCT – Medical degree, internship at Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth.

1973-4 : worked at St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea / Fulham

1978 : immigrated to WA, worked in Exmouth for 6 months.

1980 : married Peter (Australian from Victoria) in Perth

1980 – full time General Practice (Family Medicine) except for a couple of months off to have her two children: son 19 studying Science / daughter 17 studying Arts at UWA

Likes to keep fit by cycling as often as possible and camping/off-road travelling in WA with family.

Mother and brother also in Perth; sister Lorraine (also at Lusaka Convent) lives in Pietermaritzburg with her 3 children and 3 grandchildren.



Naomi Tyrell (née Daniel) – at Lusaka Convent ?1964 – 1966

1967-1970 : Student Nurse at St Augustine's Hospital, Durban

1971-76 : got married and had 3 daughters – did midwifery
1976-97 : lived in Durban, nursed and did Medical repping & Pharmaceutical marketing

1997 – moved to Perth to be with sister & family. Re-registered as a nurse, currently working as a Local Area Coordinator with the Disability Services Commission. Has one grandson and another grandchild-in-progress. Currently visiting daughters in UK and SA.

Jeannette Smith (née Ashley) b. 1950 – at Lusaka Convent 1960 – 1966.

Father – Major Bob – in the army – lived in Ndola, Lusaka and Turgargen

1970 : left Zambia for Australia

1976 : married Mike (British geologist) – lived in Singapore, UK, USA

1978 : daughter Nicole born in Houston, Texas - then son Michael in 1981

1981 : qualified as a paralegal, worked as a Corporate Administrator. Worked an ambulance with husband as voluntary Emergency Medical Technicians – also first female firefighter in Houston!

1982 : returned to Australia – began to study B.Com.(Corporate Admin & Business Law) but diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and re-activated Bilhartzia.

Currently working for a gold mining company based in Sardinia–learning Italian for trips.



Carolyn Roach (née Ashley) b 1951 – Jeannette’s sister, along with Wanda – all ‘day’ girls- attended Lusaka Convent c1960 – 66

1970 : came to Australia with parents & 2 sisters, brother Robert joined them in 1972

1972 : married Patrick Roach – have 1 girl, 3 boys & 3 grandchildren

For 11 years lived in Darwin (a touch of Lusaka with its simple lifestyle, great for kids)

1993: had a breakdown – as a therapeutic hobby started Carolyn’s Cards – now a full time business across Australia – inspirational messages to help others. Carolyn especially found our reunion ‘a dream come true’ and encourages others to join our next reunion... hopefully one more before our 40th in 2006!!

Anne Nixon (née Laming) aka Aileen – in Carolyn’s class at Lusaka Convent

1971 : married in Lusaka, had daughter

1974 – 85 : lived in Johannesburg, had two sons

1985 : immigrated to Australia, first to Adelaide for 15 months, now in Perth

3 children aged 30, 28 & 24 – 3 grandchildren aged 9,7 & 5

After a career in accounting, has been a domestic goddess for the past 6 years!



Sylvia Smith (née Cartwright) – at Lusaka convent from 1963 – 75. Remembers Sisters Halindi, Cordula, Rosemary, De Angelis, Perpetua, Catherine and Ceslus (maths dragon!)
1975 – 76 : Damelin College, JHB // 1976 – 79 : UCT – BA
1980-81 : Hartwell House, UK // 1982 – 90 : Lufthansa Air, Lusaka
1992 –99 : Lived in Perth
2000 – now happily settled on a block outside Bunbury with husband Jim, 4 children
(1 daughter, 3 sons), 2 horses, 2 dogs and a baby kangaroo

Unable to attend on 5 April: Louisa & Penny Webb (c1963-1975) and **Wanda Ashley**, sister of Jeannette & Carolyn.

Previous reunion attendees:

Felicity Wilton (née Stevens) – now lives in South Australia with husband Bruce – was the instigator of our first reunion c15 years ago while on holiday in WA. ‘Fluff’ is still in touch with Barbara-Anne Bradbury who has sadly just lost her second husband.

Monica Dwyer (née Dunne) – has the dubious honour of being one of the first girls ‘asked to leave’ the convent for refusing to obey ridiculous orders!! Her sister was also a boarder.
Monica came with her family to Perth but now lives in Newcastle, NSW.

Other contacts via the GNR:

Tina Magee – b. 1951, did ‘O’ levels at Lusaka Convent in 1967. Now lives in the USA, has had a variety of interesting jobs including commercial helicopter pilot, interior decorator, support for disabled children and freelance writer. She has a son and plays Celtic music on the side...Wants to know the whereabouts of old pal Gail Griffiths, head girl of Lusaka Convent in 1967 who possibly still runs a child development centre on the east coast of Australia...Brisbane or Melbourne? (see photo of Tina aged 14 and GG on Cairo Road soon after school).



Margaret Howard (née Cooney) lives in Noosa, Queensland and hopes to make it to the next reunion...

Dawn Gallacher (née Griffen) b. 1950 – was at Lusaka convent 1964-67, did ‘O’ levels then went to college in London. Now lives in Melbourne, works for an American company, and plans to return soon to Perth with second husband John. Remembers classmates Anne Nixon (nee Laming), Linda Lane, Caroline Pickett, Caroline Kaunda and Sampa Kapwepwe. Visited the old convent 4 years ago – rather the worse for wear – the boarding school is now a seminary.

Who knows the whereabouts of – **Dunene & Sharon Upton, Susan Rundle** (went to Edinburgh University), **Reneira Stanley, Pat Read, Astrid Norton** (last two last seen in Cape Town), **Colleen Huskisson, Bharti Desai** (went to India to study medicine), **Susan Derman** (last seen in Durban), **Wendy Stewart** (who became a nun for c25 years), **Wendy Hodder** from Mufulira, **Gill Corbridge** from the Leprasorium on Kabwe/Lusaka Rd, **Pat Berry, Maureen and Sally Rickards** whose mother had a music program on Zambian radio...