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ROEDEAN

ONE HUNDRED YEARS - 1903-2003

â\200\230Their Work Continuethâ\200\231

â\200\230When you look back and forgetfully wonder
What you were like in your work and your play,
Then it may be there will often come oer you
Wandering notes, like the catch of a song,
Visions of school days shall float then before you â\200\224
Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along.â\200\231

Roedean girls at the Buckle Gates, 2002

ROEDEAN

~ ONE HUNDRED YEARS - 1903-2003

Eee eee

â\200\230Their Work Continuethâ\200\231

Compiled by Michele Magwood

Text by David Robbins

Additional Photography by Nigel Day

JONATHAN BALL PUBLISHERS

JOHANNESBURG & CAPE TOWN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

he amount of work and research involved in a book of this nature is beyond anything most people would imagine, and we would like to thank everyone who went beyond the call of duty to ensure that it became a reality.

We are grateful to the current Executive Headmistress, Mary Williams, for opening the archives and facilitating the myriad details that were required to make this process possible, and to Jan Mallen, who gave us access to the Junior School. We would also like to thank the Roedean Board and the Roedean Centenary Steering Committee for their assistance and confidence in the project.

A committed team of people spent hours delving into old boxes, researching and cataloguing, reading letters, diaries, magazines and house records, identifying photos and following up information. They investigated reports, recognised and named faces, memorials, and places. They walked through every inch of Roedean verifying facts; re-discovering long forgotten memories. They photocopied, labelled and sorted information. They completed the arduous tasks allocated to them with good humour and tremendous enjoyment. Without their efforts, enthusiasm, dedication and energy this book could not have been written. Peta Ward headed this group. She took on the Roedean archives, and sourced the majority of the material with grace and an unflappable calm. She was ably assisted by Paddy Lake, Maryon Goodwin, Lorna Thomas, Mariana Katz, Jillian Carman, Sylvia Van Heerden, Paula Monteith, Trish Klosser, Gill Reid, Liz Reid, Amanda Furber and Alison Somerville.

Dolores Fleischer and Angela Lloyd provided insight and background into past times at Roedean, and also brought their expertise to the reading of the proofs. Sue Antonie kindly donated her charming sketches, which are a valuable record of memories at Roedean.

The archives provided most of the historical material, but Roedean was fortunate that Nigel Day, a professional in his field, found the time and energy to capture the images of Roedean today. His task was made easier with the assistance of Sharon Sampson. Thanks also to Garden & Home magazine for allowing us the use of Nancy Gardiner's photographs, and to Paula Monteith for providing sterling assistance to Anne Lorentz, who wrote lovingly and knowledgeably about the Roedean gardens.

Once the piles of material had been collected, they had to be sifted and shaped into a coherent book. We were extremely fortunate that the award-winning journalist and editor Michele Magwood Jenkins agreed to take on this Herculean task. She compiled the book with both professionalism and creative flair. Despite her working commitments and family life she completed the job in record time and almost never lost her sense of humour.

David Robbins, prolific author and raconteur, has succeeded in capturing the spirit of Roedean in his introductory texts to each chapter.

Grateful thanks go to Jonathan Ball for accepting this special project and to Francine Blum who understood

and managed the publishing process from its inception. Michael Barnett designed the book, and Kevin Shenton and Karin Liebenberg put it all together in record time.

Along the way we were helped by individuals too numerous to mention and our sincere thanks go to those members of SAORA, the Roedean staff and administrative staff, and the girls and their families who helped to make this book possible.

The Roedean Centenary Committee, Johannesburg 2003

FOREWORD

â\200\230... And suddenly the memory revealed itself. The taste was that of the little piece of madeleine which on Sunday mornings at Combray (because on those mornings I did not go out before mass) when I went to say good morning to her in her bedroom, my aunt Leonie used to give to me, dipping it first in her own cup of tea or tisane.â\200\231

, : 1 his passage is one of the best-known

pieces of early twentieth-century

French literature and appears in Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*. When Proust samples a piece of a plump little cake â\200\224 a petite madeleine â\200\224 it inspires memories of people, places and events which have delighted him over the years. Leafing through this book will be like sampling your own delicious petite madeleine.

We, as Old Girls, will always have the memories of special friends, the teachers who inspired us and sometimes terrified us, the rules we obeyed and sometimes disobeyed, St Margaret's Day, Foundation Day, Speech Day, participating in school plays, house nights and games, the gracious buildings and beautiful gardens. In this way, when we leave, we take a part of Roedean with us.

Treasure this book as you delight in your memories of your time at Roedean.

Anastasia Martalas (Lambrianos)
President
South African Old Roedeanian Association

PREFACE

When a school like Roedean decides to celebrate its centenary by

producing a book, a series of emotions occur: delight, awe, excitement

and anxiety. The latter primarily because it is almost impossible to see how any book can do justice to such an extraordinary school and the generations of girls who have been part of the past 100 years. Endless discussions took place between the various members of the Roedean Community. It had been made clear that everyone wanted a book, but what kind of a book? There were pitfalls in every choice. A chronological history might be dull; endless lists of Matric results, heads and prefects, and achievements which though important at the time have dimmed with age and lost their lustre as the protagonists have gone. There was also the risk that someone might be left out or forgotten, or that something which the authors deemed relatively unimportant would be omitted, which might cause serious offence to some members of the community. There is always the risk that the archivist or, in this case, the author brings his or her slant to the collection of the archives and that this bias may not accord with the archival memories of others.

As the weeks passed, it seemed to those responsible for making the decision about the nature of the book that Roedean was far greater than the sum of its parts. The school possesses an almost preternatural and inexorable energy, and the feeling grew that a mere chronological history would not capture the extraordinary essence of the school. In order to do justice to the love, honour and respect in which so many generations of girls have held the school, it would have to be more than a series of chapters with dates and reminiscences; it would have to capture the thousands of memories that were part of the understanding of the school. Like Jung's theory of collective memory, there were layers upon layers of memories of each girl's time at Roedean which seemed to form part of the collective experience of the school. This narrative needed to be retrieved; faces and occasions that were part of the ethos of Roedean and were concealed in memory needed to come to light, and a sense of what Roedean had meant to the hundreds of girls who had spent their formative lives at the school needed to be revealed and honoured.

The nature of the book began to emerge: an aide-memoire, a trigger to memory, a collection of pictures, old letters, extracts from the house diaries and the memories

of the Old Girls, which would allow each person who flicked through the pages of the book to recreate their own days at Roedean and honour their own years at the school.

Inevitably, countless diaries, old letters, memoirs and photographs have been lost; stored in boxes, mislaid in moves, destroyed when death demanded that drawers and cupboards be cleared out when houses were sold and families moved away. The committee delegated to research the book would only be able to work with the material that was available. The Roedean and SAORA archives were limited, and many of the earlier photos were unnamed; sources had moved or died and memories were uncertain. One of the most troubling areas was how the Old Girls should be honoured. It seemed that there were no careers or professions at which Roedean Old Girls did not excel, and yet it was felt that for every successful person who was named someone would be left out. After all, the ethos of Roedean is to honour each and every girl for her individual qualities and abilities. Thus it was decided that this book should be nothing more and nothing less than some of the parts that make up the exceptional whole that is Roedean (SA). There will be holes in the fabric of the narrative but it is the intention that each person who reads the book should in their memory weave their own colourful threads into the cloth to complete the tapestry.

Like the panes of glass in a stained glass window â\200\224 each may glow with its individual light, but as a whole the window tells a compelling and beautiful story. The process is ongoing, the story will not be complete and â\200\230their work continue thâ\200\231.

Nicole Jaff
Chair
Roedean Centenary Steering Committee

WH Coetzerâ\200\231s painting of Roedean

A CENTURY OF TRADITION

very morning during school term, the bell in the old school tower is rung 22 times. Every afternoon, it is the same. The rope is pulled by hand by a roster of prefects.

The tolling permeates the school gardens, seeming untouched by the roar of the rowdy city beyond. At the beginning and end of school terms, the ritual is extended. The bell tolls on these occasions no fewer than 747 times, while the main driveway fills with a procession of cars, and pupils and parents and luggage mingle in the bustle of arrival or departure.

What is the significance of the numbers 22 and 747 that the bell so clearly and regularly articulates?

The answer provides an insight into the meaning of the word 'tradition' as it is constantly manifested at Johannesburg's illustrious educational institution for girls, Roedean School (SA). The humble 22 reflects the number of pupils who attended during the school's inaugural year in 1903. The larger number indicates the pupil complement 100 years later. So the bell describes an extraordinary growth. More importantly, though, it links the beginning of the school's first century with its end, thus emphasising that sense of connectedness to the past which characterises the very essence of tradition.

The initial impression of Roedean is of arched white buildings trimmed with green, terracotta roofs and canopies of mature trees. The school buildings are nowhere clearly visible from the road. Access is from Princess of Wales Terrace in Parktown, through the Buckle gates, and down a drive with a chapel and gardens on the right and some of the school's oldest buildings on the left. Within these walls shaped viburnums guard a doorway, water splashes gently in fountains and the tended lawns and flowers create the sense of seclusion and peace.

The chapel was consecrated in 1934, and its dark brick walls and timbers are laden with Anglican convention. Small brass plaques and even the narrow stained-glass windows stand as permanent reminders of individual people, and the kneelers were all hand-made by past pupils. The past breathes through the elegant space.

The benches of Pleasaunce beckon from under an intricate canopy of jacarandas and pin oaks. Dappled shade lies across mellow paving, and there is a sense that the gardens are hallowed ground. Across the drive, the original school buildings were designed by Herbert Baker (later Sir Herbert), the most famous architect to work in South Africa around the turn of the nineteenth century. Baker's design was unadorned, unplastered brickwork painted white. It combined Dutch and English architectural elements, a

significant mix because the building was erected in 1904, hardly two years after that bitter South African conflict, the Anglo-Boer War, had come to an end.

The original Baker building has been much added to. School buildings â\200\224 the senior school, the upper and lower junior schools and the St Margaretâ\200\231s Block â\200\224 flow down the hill all the way to Houghton Drive and The Wilds. Newer buildings, such as the Maud Sumner Arts Block (1985), the Computer Centre (1993), and the Technology Centre (1998), have been designed to blend in with the original architectural style.

Memories of the aftermath of the Anglo-Boer War are again recalled in the wording on a plaque attached to a wall in the junior school. A building had been partly financed by a Sir Henry Strakosch, who had wished â\200\230to foster unity between the two white races of the Union of South Africaâ\200\231. The date on the plaque is 1953. Now, at the beginning of a new century, these words are a slightly jarring memory of a different South Africa.

In the north-eastern corner of the school grounds, at the bottom of the hill, the tennis courts and hockey fields, the latter clothed in the brilliant emerald of Astroturf green, are spread out. The bush of The Wilds crowds against the boundary walls. Close by stands a wood-and-iron structure bearing a small brass plaque:

This building was erected in 1895 as the old lighting station for Parktown. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick then stabled his horses here. Subsequently, this busy little structure has been used by Roedean as a laboratory, a laundry, Theresa Lawrenceâ\200\231s bedroom ... In later years, it served as the workshops for Roedeanâ\200\231s estate managers ...

It is still that in 2003. Beyond glass doors can be glimpsed a circular saw and a room full of lawnmowers. Yet history invades the present. Sir Percy had helped the founders of Roedean to acquire the land on which the school was ultimately built. Theresa Lawrence was one of the founders. The present will not be cast aside, however, even in its humblest guise. Beyond a window in another part of the humble building, plastic washing baskets hold assortments of hockey sticks, tennis rackets hang in bundles against the walls, and rows of kitbags stand humped on wooden racks up to the ceiling.

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But it is back in the main buildings of the school that its present nature and its history â\200\224 these two elements which are so intimately connected â\200\224 become most forcefully felt.

It is no surprise to learn that some of todayâ\200\231s teachers were once pupils, and that the mothers and even the grandmothers of many current pupils once attended Roedean themselves. This idea of families returning through generations inevitably directs oneâ\200\231s attention into those corners which might hold clues to the idea of the schoolâ\200\231s tradition, its essential ethos as something that is constant and self-perpetuating.

â\200\230My mother was a pupil here, and I matriculated in 1971,â\200\231 a Roedean teacher told me.

â\200\230Then I joined the staff in 1998 and now my daughterâ\200\231s here. Yes, the bell has always

rung at ten to eight each morning. And, yes, weâ\200\231ve all worn our famous djibbahs since year one. An understanding of the origins of the school and its traditions is an intrinsic part of being at Roedean. We didnâ\200\231t see it â\200\224 the past or our knowledge of it - in any way as extraordinary. Thereâ\200\231s always been a strong emphasis on extra-curricular activities and a broad general education but also on tradition. Take the schoolâ\200\231s motto: Honneur aux Dignes. Honour to the worthy. Thereâ\200\231s an emphasis on honesty: speaking clearly about what is believed to be right. An often-quoted credo from the Founders, that

Roedean girls are â\200\230seemly in conversation, courteous and kindâ\200\231 is instilled in everyone.

The girls still call their teachers â\200\230madamâ\200\231 and they still curtsy when receiving prizes

The teacher took me on a tour of the school. We had been talking in what had once been Lambsâ\200\231 sitting room, now the office of the Headmistressâ\200\231s secretary. St Agnesâ\200\231, St

Ursulaâ\200\231s and St Katherineâ\200\231s, or Lambs, Bears and Kats as they are known, were the

original boarding establishments of the school and are the names of the school houses. We walked past the staff room which looks onto Bearsâ\200\231 lawn (which only matric girls

are allowed to walk across) and along Bearsâ\200\231 Terrace. In the original Herbert Baker

building, we paused in Katsâ\200\231 courtyard, which is ornamented by a fountain dedicated

to Margery Barry who had died at the age of fourteen while still at Roedean. The corners

of the courtyard are softened with generous ferns. The passages in this old building are

dark and imbued with the past. Old photographs adorn the walls.

Here is the house in Jeppestown in 1903, in which Roedean (SA) was established.

Another photograph shows the 1925 cast of A Midsummer Nightâ\200\231s Dream; bright-eyed

girls sitting in their costumes in the branches of winter-bare trees. The school bus is depicted a year later, canvas sides rolled up to reveal a crowd of Roedean girls in white

panama hats. By 1930, founders Theresa Lawrence and Katherine Margaret Earle were elderly women smiling at the camera. A more general photograph, taken from the high places of The Wilds, shows the extent of school infrastructure by 1949.

The breadth of the education available at Roedean becomes increasingly apparent as one moves between the various facilities. So does the sense of individual nurturing. In the Grade 0 classrooms, teachers are called Madam Hedgehog and Madam Squirrel. Jan Mallen, the Junior School Headmistress, can often be seen with a child on her lap. In the

grounds of the St Margaretâ\200\231s Block there is a fairy garden, intended to counteract what

Jan calls â\200\230the opacity and sheer literalness of technologyâ\200\231. Yet by Form III (Grade 5), every

girl in the school has her own e-mail address, opening up possibilities for international

friendships and access to the Internet in the newly built Computer Centre. Music is taught in the Hersov Music Block, named for the family who built it for the school and who have been associated with the school for several generations. There are 17 full- and

part-time music teachers at Roedean. Small practice rooms, each named after a famous composer, are arranged around a central hall for performances.

In the new Sports Centre (built in 1993) there is a broad variety of activities on offer,

from indoor hockey and squash to gymnastics. In the gymnasium one of the exercise bikes is adorned with what looks like a Valentineâ\200\231s Day rose. Then thereâ\200\231s the Drama

Block, the source of a biennial theatrical production. The Art Block is named after Maund

Sumner, South Africaâ\200\231s foremost impressionist painter and a past pupil of the school.

Wherever one goes in Roedean, her paintings are to be found hanging on the walls. On the notice board of the Sumner Block are newspaper cuttings exposing pupils to contemporary issues, like the one headed â\200\230Outcry over photo exhibition showing Christ

as a naked black womanâ\200\231. On the first floor, there are some memories from the past:

examples in glass cases of early djibbahs; a few old cricketing photographs of the Roed

ean

First Eleven from the early decades of the twentieth century.

â\200\230No cricket any more, of course,â\200\231 the teacher said. â\200\230Certainly not in my day. Not even in my motherâ\200\231s â\200\224 although she did play lacrosse.â\200\231

We ended our tour in Foundersâ\200\231 Hall, reminiscent of the chapel with its dark brick walls and even darker timber ceilings, the elegant beams of the roof exposed. Portraits of the Founders hang over two large fireplaces built into the long side wall. The opposite wall is gilded with the names of past Head Girls, which continue from one polished wooden board to the next. School assemblies take place here, as do Matric dances and other school events, but the hall is much more than a meeting place. There is a definite sense, particularly in the richness of its silence and the lists of golden names, of being at the heart of things. Particularly, too, in the portraits that hang along the walls, which outline the main periods of Roedeanâ\200\231s century of history.

Here, hanging over the fireplaces, are Theresa Lawrence and Katherine Margaret Earle, both grey-haired, grave and dignified. They led the school from its beginnings in 1903 to 1930. Carved over one of the fireplaces is â\200\230Trouthe and Honour, Freedom and C urteisyâ\200\231, followed by the initials of the two Founders. Over the other fireplace, the inscription reads: â\200\234Their work continueth.â\200\231

It was continued first by Ella Le Maitre, painted smiling in a mortar board and gown. Appointed a few years after TL and KME had retired, she remained the Headmistress for nearly a quarter of the Roedean century, finally relinquishing the reins in 1958.

There follows a painting of Joan Raikes (1960 to 1966, and 1969); and Brian Law (1975 to 1987), Roedeanâ\200\231s only Master, and finally Lyn Nelson, who led the school from 1988 almost to the end of its first 100 years.

They all gaze silently into Foundersâ\200\231 Hall, their eyes expressing austerity sometimes, but considerable kindness and concern as well. Above all, though, these faces suggest a sense of permanence and mission as they represent a century of remarkable education for girls. At the same time, the portraits and the atmosphere of Foundersâ\200\231 Hall turn oneâ\200\231s attention inevitably to the beginning of it all.

ke or

The beginning is to be found in Victorian England and in the responses of a remarkable family to the strictures of the age, particularly those placed upon women. The Lawrence family lived in various places in southern England (and for a spell in Germany) during the second half of the nineteenth century. There were eight Lawrence sisters and four brothers. Three of the sisters in particular â\200\224 Penelope, Dorothy and Millicent â\200\224 developed considerable intellectual abilities. All studied at institutions of higher learning (although degrees were not bestowed upon women), and all became teachers, one of the few professions open to women at the time.

In 1881, their father had a serious fall from which he never fully recovered. In response to the ensuing family economic crisis, the three Lawrence sisters decided to enlarge their educational activities at home (where two of them were already engaged in educating their younger siblings) in an attempt to make ends meet. The resultant school was so successful that it was soon moved to larger premises in Brighton, where the original Roedean was established in 1885.

Roedean was one of the earliest boarding schools for girls that could rival in quality of education venerable male establishments such as Winchester or Eton. There is no doubt of the essential spirit of the Lawrence sistersâ\200\231 endeavour. Millicent was active in

the Women's Suffrage Movement, and they all adopted, or even initiated
, the most

modern ideals for the education of girls, providing them with the same kind of sports, the same kind of higher education as was given to their brothers (The Founders of Roedean, published in 1935.) Girls at the Misses Lawrence's school played cricket and hockey as well as tennis, and hardened themselves in the rigours of the gymnasium.

There is no doubt that Theresa, the youngest Lawrence sister and the one who brought the Roedean spirit to Johannesburg, would have absorbed the ideas and ideals of her older sisters. How well I remember, she wrote in 1935, ... how from the age of fifteen I never tired of talking school with Penelope, and how thus early she imbued me with the idea of what a school should be. To her direct influence is due the fact that Roedean was ... the first of a modern type of school.

Armed with these modern concepts that girls should have the same education as their brothers, and inspired by the rights of women, Theresa Lawrence and her close friend, Katherine Margaret Earle, sailed to South Africa with the intention of establishing a second Roedean thousands of miles south of the original. It was a remarkable act of pioneering. Two young women, both in their early thirties, Cambridge educated, coming out to a country that had just been ravaged by a bitter war, and to a rough mining town that had not existed on any map a mere 17 years before. They came in the true spirit of that independence of women so sturdily supported by all the Lawrence girls.

This is how Roedean South Africa began. The details of the first crucial years are well documented. The school flourished, moving in 1904 to its present site, which was then out in the country. Today the buildings of Hillbrow are striding over the southerly ridge. Office parks are gaining a foothold all around. Yet the tolling of the Roedean bell continues, as it did in the days of Theresa Lawrence and Katherine Margaret Earle. They led the steadily expanding school for 27 years. They retired in 1930, the year that the franchise was finally extended to women, with their mission accomplished and the foundations firmly laid.

Their pioneering and independent spirit permeates the school to this day. The extent to which it has done so was brought home to me by the comments of three Grade 11 girls (Ante-matrices, in Roedean parlance), with whom I chatted one morning.

We're whole individuals growing up as independent women, they said. Roedean gives us the confidence and knowledge to be equal with males in the job market. Women have more than proved their equality. But we don't want to deny our femininity.

Such expressions seem to emanate from the heart of the Roedean tradition. The subtext is becoming familiar. Strive for truth and honour, freedom and courtesy, and in all things be kind. By this course will your wholeness and dignity as women be assured. Here were the bright faces of three young women articulating a feminine assertion and style as old as the school itself, but now removed from the nineteenth-century imperatives and expressing a calm assurance that demanded respect.

Oho oF

By 1934, Ella Le Maitre had been installed in the study of the Headmistress. The Founders had retired, but for a time they continued to live on the school grounds. It was a difficult time. Johannesburg was in the grip of the Great Depression and its impact was clearly felt within. But Ella, in her late thirties when she arrived, was a woman of formidable talents. She had served for 13 years as classics mistress at Roedean in England, and was

frequently referred to as â\200\230Brightonâ\200\231s great sacrifice for Johannesburgâ\200\231.

â\200\230That woman always made me feel as if Iâ\200\231d left my shoelaces undone,â\200\231 one of the Old Girls told me. She was one of the Roedean class of 1942. I was having tea with some of the Old Girls, all close to 80 now, yet all vivaciously remembering their former school . I recalled some contemporary Roedean girls saying: â\200\230Once youâ\200\231re in, you 're in forever.â\200\231 Here was proof of that around a tea table in a northern Johannesburg suburb. We continued to speak about the Ellaâ\200\231s era, an era which they had shared in the late 1930s and the early years of World War II.

Did I know that at first the dormitories had no windows, only canvas blinds that banged in the wind? And the bird bath used to freeze solid, night after night. â\200\234We were certainly tough ... after Prayers, we used to have to run round the whole school to warm up ... the hockey fields used to be a rubbish dump ... very dusty ... and after the first rains up came the mushrooms which would be sent to the hospitals and convalescent homes for wounded servicemen ... and donâ\200\231t you remember, doing gym in those atrocious black bloomers?

â\200\230A very structured school ... old-fashioned ... a powerful sense of duty and responsibility ... rules ... doing things at certain times, like Monday afternoon riding, so we wore our jodhpurs at lunch ... games for all ... we played lacrosse and cricket ... and during the war some girls from Brighton had braved the torpedoes to continue their schooling here ... We were very patriotic ... we adopted a Royal Navy minesweeper â\200\224 HMS Sondra â\200\224 and knitted socks for the sailors ... there was also rationing ... the butter was divided into ten pieces, and the girl who did the dividing got the last piece ... and there were no school dances during the war.â\200\231

But they remembered some dances. They remembered a girl asking if they could wear a little make-up to one of them. Ella Le Maitre had studied her over her spectacles. â\200\234Yes, why not,â\200\231 was the reply, â\200\230you're a very plain lot.â\200\231

Laughter and the tinkling of china cups, and a vague intimation of the woman who had helped to mould them. That formidable Headmistress in mortar board and gown and slightly owlsh spectacles. â\200\230Ella ... showed the same courage, foresight and determination which the Founders had shown in the early years of the schoolâ\200\231s history,â\200\231 wrote Joan Raikes in 1978, the seventy-fifth anniversary of Roedean. She also quotes Ella herself as saying: â\200\230Our whole system revolves round our chapel. We do our best to give a sound Christian education, which implies a sense of responsibility towards oneâ\200\231s fellow men, the idea of service, and good citizenship without regimentation.â\200\231 That emphasis on individual responsibility again. Individual choice, emanating as surely out of the early emphasis on womenâ\200\231s rights as out of Ellaâ\200\231s Christianity and concern for others. Her guiding hand was upon the school for a quarter of its history. She retired in 1958,

dying only two years later. Her ashes are preserved in a wall of the Roedean chapel.

â\200\230Ella would certainly have been thrilled to bits by the multi-cultural aspect of the school today,â\200\231 said one of the women at tea. â\200\230Her big dream of incorporating everyone into the Roedean tradition is now realised.â\200\231 Another remarked that Ella would also be thrilled about the current academic results.

After Ella Le Maitre there followed quite a list of Headmistresses. Muriel Mills, educated at the University of Cape Town and Oxford, led Roedean through 1959; then Joan Raikes graced the school with an impressive seven-year stint (1960 to 1966), to be

followed by Barbara McCormick (1967 to 1968). Mrs Raikes stood in for another six months, before Ann de Frisching steered Roedean into the seventies (1969 to 1974).

Joan Raikes was an impressive woman, with wide-ranging interests and a formidable intellect. She first came to South Africa to teach history at Roedean, and she ran the history department at the University of the Witwatersrand during the war years. As well as her distinguished career in education, she developed a keen involvement in the Girl Guide movement and the Black Sash. She was also a classical scholar who was fluent in Greek. Through her talents, achievements and interests, Joan (who had married Dr HR Raikes, the principal of the University of the Witwatersrand) brought a special quality to Roedean. She also brought a keen perception of humanity and tradition. Once, when she was asked by an anxious parent just before a long weekend to speak to the girls about their behaviour out of school, she replied: "I will not. Roedean girls know how to behave." Her most fitting and lasting memorial is her detailed account of Roedean in *Honneur aux Dignes*, published in 1978 on the occasion of the school's seventy-fifth anniversary.

After training at London University, Barbara McCormick came to South Africa and taught at Kingsmead in Johannesburg and Herschel in the Cape before coming to Roedean as Headmistress in 1967. She was followed by Ann de Frisching, also from England with a First from Cambridge, who came to Roedean with a reputation as a scholar, linguist, teacher and administrator. One of her gifts was her intuitive understanding of those in her care, whose problems were handled with kind sympathy and put into helpful perspective which uplifted and restored a sense of balance. For many in the Roedean community, an enduring memory of Ann de Frisching is of this dignified woman walking her bulldogs around the hockey field in the late afternoon before returning up the drive to The Lodge.

"Then our only Headmaster came in," the members of the class of 1942 told me. "He really got the school going. He was certainly right for the time." They were acknowledging the contribution of Brian Law, who became Master of Roedean in 1975 and stayed until 1987.

His first aim, he said in a recent interview, had been to establish a period of stability for the school. He wanted girls to go right through the school from an early age, and to develop a feeling of belonging to a strong and secure community. His second aim, equally important, was to restore the value of steadily improving matriculation results. He wanted to instil a love of learning and to inspire a diligent work ethic among Roedean girls. He gave the final results prominence wherever he could, and he put them into the prospectus each year. Brian Law started the tradition of Roedean tours, thus turning the face of the school out towards the country in which it operated. He also admitted the first girls of "other race" to Roedean at a time when this practice was all too rare.

To talk of "other race" girls at Roedean seems very dated now. Lyn Nels on, the Headmistress who succeeded Law, made a revealing count not long before she retired in 2001. She found that 56 nationalities were represented in the pupil population, that they spoke 27 different languages at home and represented no fewer than 14 religious faiths. Roedean girls, all.

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Lyn Nelson was the woman who piloted Roedean from 1988 to 2001 - in other words,

through the 1990s, a momentous decade for South Africa and one of significant growth for Roedean. In walking round the school, I was frequently reminded that her term as Headmistress had been characterised by remarkable physical growth. The Drama Centre, the Technology Block, additions to the Herscov Music Centre, St Margaret's Block â€¦ all materialised within her arrival and departure dates.

Lyn Nelson was an excellent Headmistress, a force to be reckoned with, whose work at Roedean was based on a solid philosophical rationale. In her own words: 'I think the work of first-class education should be based on the concept of multiple intelligences. If children have an area of strength, it should be allowed to develop. So let's seek out many areas for self development at Roedean. Let's have variety. We directed the school towards making strong young women, each one finding her own particular set of potencies.'

In the 1990s the school entered another phase of rapid expansion â€¦ ultimately from around 500 pupils in the late 1980s to more than 700 girls by the turn of the century. This emphasis on variety and individuality accorded powerfully with the Roedean tradition. At the same time, the changes inside the school gates seemed perfectly tailored to the swift socio-political metamorphosis occurring without.

The idea of transplanting a nineteenth-century English public school for girls into one of Britain's most troublesome, newly acquired colonies seems, in retrospect, preposterous.

To expect it to last through the various metamorphoses of that colony seems even more so. Ironically, though, the colonial experience in all its manifestations served to cocoon

the original â€¦ that spirit of striving for equality for women coupled with the great traditions of truth, honour, freedom and courtesy which run in a line from King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table straight through to the inscription above the fireplace in Roedean's Founders' Hall. That is why the notion of acculturation seems too crude a

label to attach to the processes taking place in this remarkable school.

'Yes, it was an English school. That's the tradition,' one of the black Ante-matric girls

told me. 'It still is. But it's becoming cosmopolitan. It's changing. You should have seen

some of the spectacular African influences in the dresses at the Matric Dance ...' And

later in our conversation, she said: 'You know the things I most looked forward to when

I knew I was coming to Roedean? The library, the books. And Kat's courtyard â€¦ it's so

gentle and beautiful.'

Lyn Nelson left at the end of 2001, to be replaced by Mary Williams, a woman whose career so far has deeply involved her in the private school sector in South Africa. 'My

mandate,' she says, 'is to take a school that is at the top of its class and in today's very

troubled educational world create a much more nurturing environment. The rigorous work ethic must obviously be retained, but we must strive for happiness as well.'

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One morning I spoke to the Junior Headmistress Jan Mallen, whose grandmother was

a founding member of the Roedean Board, and whose mother is one of the oldest Old Girls. As a teacher, Iâ€™m working as much with values as I am with education, she remarked. Her vision for a sound foundation in a child's education is one where values, respect for oneself, integrity and kindness, are as important as the discipline of learning and a striving for excellence.

For Jan, linked to the teaching of these values must be a determination to make them sustainable in each individual life. We encourage the children not only to strive for originality but to develop empathy and gentleness, too. There is an extraordinary community spirit in the Junior School, between parents, pupils and staff, she told me. We have created a support network; there is a fellowship; love and trust these sustain us as individuals.

Jan is concerned about the impact of technology on children's lives. Television, computers, cell phones - all cause an emotional and creative alienation. It also means that children may exercise less. They may live their childhoods indoors ...

That is why she has introduced hopscotch and is so keen on the enormous jungle-gyms that are a feature of Roedean's Junior School play areas. Sport is an integral part of the Junior School curriculum. She also stresses the importance of life skills and of what she sees as ... educating the girls for the future and a global world. The curriculum is geared to this concept. And so the girls learn chess, but also take classes in junior entrepreneurship, where they begin to grasp the concept of entrepreneurial problem solving.

But everything we do here in the Junior School, she continues, is designed to give girls the space to be children. That's why I love the fairy garden and the fairy dell. Fairies have a central place in the Junior School simply because they are so important to the imagination, and imagination is the most important intellectual tool we've got, linking directly into reading, creating, using knowledge rather than just accessing data. It's only through the imagination, through the ability to dream and see fairies that data has the potential to become knowledge.

Behind Jan Mallen in the Roedean century stand some significant Junior School figures. Lorna Thomas (Park) was Headmistress between 1983 and 1993. She came to South Africa from her Scottish birthplace, via Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), taking up a teaching post at Roedean in 1974. She was much loved by staff and girls alike, and her elevation to Junior School Headmistress was immediately popular. Her running of the school, according to contemporary documents, proved to be impeccable. She employed an open-door policy, and in dealing with problems her good Scottish common sense invariably prevailed. One of her many achievements as Headmistress was the planning and construction of the St Margaret's Block. But above all it was Lorna's love of people (not least the children under her care) that added so much to the quality of the Roedean Junior School tradition.

Maxie Kuhn, widely known as Mevrouw among her pupils, taught for 37 years at Roedean. During the final 11 of these she occupied the Junior Headmistress's chair, retiring in 1982. Before Kuhn, such illustrious names as Rosemary Snow, Joan Lewendon, Rena Mackinnon and Mabel Bayley graced the school. Miss Bayley was Junior School Headmistress from 1923 to 1931. She was multi-talented, like many women of that period, and became well known for writing plays for her pupils to perform, and also did much to enhance the beauty of the gardens, particularly those that had been left wild.

Individual idiosyncrasies and achievements aside, all these women appeared to possess the right balance between sound educational practice and that extraordinary caring for their charges that has become the hallmark of the Roedean Junior School. They possessed

something more besides: a holistic view of human beings and the varying contributions

they can make to the world. As Rosemary Snow wrote in 1968:

Education is not measured only by academic, sporting or cultural achievement. What one is is as important as what one does. There are many people who make their contribution to the world as much by being as by doing. Particularly is this true of women, whose role, whatever profession they may practise, is, most often, to be the heart and soul of a home.

Back in the present, Jan Mallen showed me an upstairs space called the Discovery Zone, consisting of the Junior School Computer Centre, the Library and the Fairy Dell, where a class was in progress. The girls sat on small chairs at small tables. Posters hanging from the ceiling explained the Dewey system. The teacher said to the little sea of bright faces that a system now installed on the computer would assist pupils to be independent users of the library. A picture of the three Brontë sisters adorned one wall; on another a quote from Francis Bacon: Some books are to be tasted, others swallowed, and some to be chewed and digested. All at once a burst of singing filtered up from downstairs, then some foot stamping and a cascade of chords played on the piano. The girls in the Library were hardly distracted. They were writing in their work books the title and author of the book they had been reading over the weekend: Holes, Walk Two Moons, Tomorrow when the War Began, The Wind Singer, and so on. In another part of the Discovery Zone, a row of tousled heads bent over computer keyboards.

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There may be a perception that Roedean is an elitist school, but that perception is negated by the girls themselves. It seems clear that much of the perceived elitism was rooted in people's responses to their own sense of colonial superiority. To begin with, all Roedean teachers tended to come from England. The syllabuses were loaded with things English, such as English history and English literature. It is paradoxical that one of the school's strengths is its rootedness in an established cultural continuity should also be at the heart of some people's objections to it. The elitist school; the privilege, the cost of the fees; the excellence of the education, all combine in some manifestation of the colonial imagination into a badge of self-conscious superiority. In talking with the wide diversity of Roedean girls, however, nothing could be further from that image.

Of course we do the Brontës and Shakespeare, an Ante-matric told me, but we also read JM Coetzee's Disgrace.

Oh, the elitist thing, a group of lively Matric girls said. Of course, there are wealthy families here, but you don't really know who. Nobody flaunts their wealth anymore. It's just not done. If Roedean had a sense of its own elitism in the past, it's definitely shedding that perception now.

There can be little doubt that the social and political changes of the 1990s, the eye-to-eye contacts with diverse cultures, have brought a new sophistication and self-awareness to the school, but the ethos of the school remains indelible: the constant emphasis on knightly honour, the quest for truth, the value of courtesy and kindness to others. Such an ethos is hardly conducive to elitism.

â\200\230I came from an Afrikaans co-ed school,â\200\231 said one of the Matrics. â\200\230I was kicking and screaming about it. I hated the idea of coming here. I thought of all those reserved English girls drinking tea with their little fingers sticking out. But of course it was quite different.â\200\231

This comment brings us back full circle to those questions that presented themselves when one first encountered the school. What is the essential nature of Roedean? What lies behind the sometimes glib use of the word tradition? What, essentially, has lasted through the school's first century, and why?

Listen to the girls themselves:

The motivational atmosphere. I suppose it comes from the early gender battles.

And the old traditions like the prefect system, like calling our teachers 'madam', like the rewards you get in extra privileges as you pass from one standard to the next.

The original Englishness of Roedean did last for a long time. But we're definitely a cosmopolitan school now. We're southern African. Strangely, though, this just seems to make the original traditions stronger. It's as if we're all determined to carry our value as a school, and that includes our traditions and our origins, on into the twenty-first century.

Roedean girls say what they think. They're not shy to have their say. You're allowed to have opinions, so long as you express them politely. And yet Roedean girls have this quiet air about them. We have a strange ability to melt in. We're adaptable. I think this is so because we've been taught to be polite, with a firm tradition behind us. And we're not attention seekers.

A teacher said to us the other day that she had noticed that all Roedean girls are beautiful. Not just pretty, but beautiful. It was a quality coming from the Roedean 'air', the pride, the confidence.

I think the school is getting more and more real, a Matric girl said. There's a good balance between tradition and modernisation. Our education is geared to the twenty-first century, no doubt, but the real tradition of Roedean has got to do with developing the individual wherever that may lead. Value your individuality, be proud of it, grow it, respect the individuality of others. That's one of the most valuable things we're taught at Roedean.

While I spoke with this particular group of Matrics, one of them with a prefect's badge slipped quietly away. I asked where she was going. She's gone to ring the bell, came the reply. In a moment we heard it: that gentle volley of 22 strikes commemorating the founding pupils.

In 1993, Roedean commemorated its ninetieth birthday. It was decided to celebrate this event by having a rose named after the school. There were several excellent varieties from which to choose, including one that manifested what are called 'somatic mutations'.

The blooms were often streaked with red or pink in unusual ways, and no two blooms were quite the same. When a group of Ante-matrics was shown the favoured varieties, one of the girls pointed to the rose with somatic mutations. That's Roedean, she said.

When asked why, she replied without hesitation: 'Because every bloom is different, like every Roedean girl.'

Thus, through this spontaneous expression of the nurturing of the individual embedded

in the school's most instinctive reflexes, was Rosa Roedean born. What follows
in this
centenary book is as much about the many individuals counted within the school's
family as it is about the school itself.

IN THE BEGINNING

â\200\230Now pay we homage to Founders who loved us,
Loved us, and taught us, and gave us our code.â\200\231

Portraits of Theresa Lawrence (left) and Katherine Margaret Earle (right), the
founders of Roedean in South Africa.

22

heresa Lawrence and Katherine Margaret Earle are names that will never be forgotten at Roedean. Nor will the name of Rebecca Scott, the third person in the Founder triumvirate. But it was the first two, known simply by their initials -TL and KME - who were primarily responsible for a Roedean presence in South Africa. From whichever angle one cares to approach them, the Founders of Roedean must be described as remarkable women.

Their courage was astonishing. These two educated young women forsook friends and family in England to travel to South Africa at a time when the whole country was still staggering in the aftermath of the Anglo-Boer War. Johannesburg in those days was little more than a mining town; a powerful one, it was true, but it would be several decades before it could claim to be South Africa's premier city. Conditions were wild and difficult compared to those prevailing at the mother school at Brighton on the English south coast. Yet they came with that fine Victorian ideal of service to others, and with a desire to promote the equality of women and the importance of an education to match the claim.

But what were they really like, these intrepid pioneers? They certainly looked the part, as the early photographs testify. They were dignified, and they brought with them to the rough and mercenary mining town a determination to succeed in a man's world, plus a genuine love of gentleness and beauty. KME in particular possessed a keen appreciation of beauty which constantly inspired her contribution to developments at Roedean. It was she who began the task of laying out the school gardens, which have given such pleasure to generations of Roedean pupils and teachers alike. TL was more focused on the practicalities of the school. She was constantly aware of the cost of things. She did the school accounts. And it was early noticed that both Founders paid out of their own pockets for many extra things needed at the school.

Rebecca Scott (universally known and loved as Scottie) came from England after Roedean had been established. She was the matron of the various dormitories, and did much of the routine secretarial work as well. After TL and KME (by then in a wheelchair) had retired, Scottie was tireless in her care of them.

Together, these gentle but definitely not faint-hearted individuals extended their interests far beyond the perimeters of the school. They started a women's reform club in Johannesburg, thus creating a forum for the discussion of such burning issues as women's suffrage and all those laws that, in the early decades of the twentieth century, were unjust to women. Not content with mere discussion, the Founders also established a refuge for destitute girls and there were many of these in the aftermath of the Boer War.

TL and KME retired in 1930. It was the year that the vote was granted to women. Nearly a third of the century we now celebrate belonged to them; and we have the results of their influence - their ideals, their humanity, their constancy - around us still.

Girls playing cricket at Roedean Brighton in 1907.
The school was founded in 1885 by the three eldest
Lawrence sisters, Penelope, Dorothy and Millicent,
fondly known as 'The Firm'.

Pictured from left: Penelope, Dorothy and Millicent Lawrence. The redoubtable sisters were determined to offer an education similar to that found in boys' public schools in Britain. It was Millicent who had the vision of a Roedean overseas, and their youngest sister Theresa took up the challenge.

Theresa Lawrence was the youngest of

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eight Lawrence sisters, and was born in
Germany in 1871. She was schooled at
Roedean Brighton and went on to study
at Cambridge, a rare achievement for
women of that era. She returned to her
sisters's school to teach history before
coming out to South Africa.

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TL persuaded her close friend Katherine Margaret Earle
to accompany her to South Africa. â\200\230KMEâ\200\231 was the daughter
of an Oxford professor, the Reverend John Earle. It is said

that as a girl she was doted on by Lewis Carroll, the author
of Alice in Wonderland, who was a colleague of her father.
She met TL when they were at school together at Roedean
Brighton, and she, too, studied at Cambridge. She was a

fine classical scholar and an inspired teacher.

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A formal agreement was
drawn up between TL and
KME on the founding of
Roedean (SA), and still
survives in the Ark.

The school began with 22 pupils in this modest house in Jeppe, Johannesburg. It was due to be opened in October 1902, but TL caught scarlet fever and the opening was delayed until January 1903. There was little furniture â\200\224 afternoon tea was served on a packing case but using fine Crown Derby china and a silver teapot nonetheless.

â\200\230There were the usual scares of people

breaking in. T.L. bought a revolver and invented a system of burglar alarms: tin baths of water on the stairs with strings

Pupils and staff pictured in 1903 at the next house in

across the banisters. The results were St Andrewâ\200\231s Road, Parktown. As the number of pupils

rather alarming when she forgot these was increasing, space was limited and TL and KME were

preparations and wandered upstairs obliged to sleep in the stables. The school moved once more,

waving her revolver before her.â\200\231 to a slightly bigger house in St Patrick's Road, Parktown

before the founders were able to start building their

Ida Wagner 1906-1914. eo ae ere

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Headmistress the teaching of history, French

English, maths and gym â\200\224 and to

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T.L. walking through the dormitories at all hour: almost

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A cutting from The Star newspaper, early 1930s,
explaining the meaning of the name â\200\230Roedeanâ\200\231.

Some of the pioneer pupils pose in 1903.
From left to right in the back row:
Florence Raine, Connie Britten and Molly
Lorentz. Middle row: Ilma Marx, Madge
Bell and Winnie Britten. Front row:
Waldemar Marx and May Lorentz. In
the early years several boys attended

Roedean, and it is said that more than
one Old Boy owed his ability in cricket
to the coaching of TL.

an

This page from the 1922
cash book shows the
monthly expenses for the
school. TL and KME
frequently paid for items

such as music and dancing
lessons out of their own
pockets.

A page from the cheque book

KME kept at the
Standard Bank.

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: Ernestine FouchÃ©

fe ey did all the School accounts until it was formed into a company in
as I remember once, after I had left school, she was in bed with asthma
_ and asked me to check the accounts. I found numerous disbursements and
_ extras not charged, and asked T.L. about them. â\200\234That's all right,â\200\235 sh
e said.

â\200\234Tf I think an account is a little high and might worry the parents, I always
leave items out, especially extras, as I like the girls to have music and
dancing lessons even if they canâ\200\231t afford them.â\200\235 I asked who did pay fo
r

_ these lessons, and was told, â\200\234Oh K.M.E. and I do - itâ\200\231s such a pleasu
re!â\200\235

An undated birthday card

â\200\230... Few people seem to remember what Miss Lawrence and Miss Earle did made for TL by the girls of

for this city, apart from their valuable work at the school. They felt the St Ursulaâ\200\231s.

women of Johannesburg needed some organisation to protect them and their children, so they started the Womenâ\200\231s Reform Club ... I was the first secretary. [Our main aim] was to get votes for women. Both Miss Lawrence and Miss Earle felt women should be in every political activity, and they worked with this object in mind.â\200\231

An extract from a letter by Mrs PB Lys to The African Roedean magazine.

As well as womenâ\200\231s suffrage, the clubâ\200\231s object was the reform of unjust laws relating to women. Georgina Walker, a Vice-Principal of Collegiate School in Pietermaritzburg, remembered a dinner held in T.L.â\200\231s honour. At first she found T.L. disappointingly vague, but then, â\200\230 ...when everyone else was harping on the difficulties of giving women the vote it was T.L. who ruthlessly cut away everything, leaving the principle to stand out uncompromisingly: sex should and could never be a bar to individual franchise, and that any deviation from this principle on the score of possible eventualities was entirely unethical.â\200\231

T.L. and K.M.E. also started a refuge home for destitute girls in Bree Street. It grew so large that it was later incorporated in the Childrenâ\200\231s Aid Society.

Katherine Margaret Earle. One early pupil wrote: â\200\230She opened our eyes to all that was great and beautiful in life.â\200\231

â\200\230The K.M.E. of those early days was a strikingly handsome woman, always beautifully dressed, and extremely active â\200\224 she was always busy at some task or other; nothing was too trivial for her; some tasks indeed, such as â\200\234nightly foot inspectionâ\200\235, would probably surprise modern members of staff ... Her brilliant mind found interest in everything; her adopted country, its peoples and problems were enthusiastically studied â\200\224 she set herself to learn Dutch, and when Afrikaans became the official language she took up the study of that language, too, reading in it systematically to the end. Keenly interested in politics, she was always ready to talk to us on the questions of the day, both domestic and foreign. Our sluggish interest in Latin prose would be suddenly stimulated by having an Ulster manifesto set us to turn into Latin. On Sunday evenings she read to us, and for many of

us this was the first awakening of interest in literature.â\200\231
Ernestine FouchÃ©

â\200\230... She had a particularly beautiful speaking voice, and would read aloud to us in the evenings poetry, plays, stories, articles, imbuing verse and prose alike with a rare musical quality, which instilled into us a permanent love of fine language and literature.â\200\231

EYICa lf hompson (nÃ©e Barry).

KME in front of the new school building in 1904. It was only in 1922 that the Founders bought a Buick motor car; until then they travelled to town or called on their neighbours in a trap.

KME suffered from a progressively crippling disease. As one Old Girl noted: â\200\231..

. Her sheer cold courage was incredible ... In Miss Earle, if in anyone, we saw the spirit made visible as the body wasted. And yet her bodily presence was beautiful:

there was nothing about her that was not exquisite.â\200\231

KME in the garden before supper, dressed in her evening djibbah.

Rebecca Scott, or â\200\230Scottieâ\200\231 Se ee
as she was known, was an ee
integral part of Roedeanâ\200\231s
early history. She joined 4 ao
the school in 1912 as . : 2 SoS
matron-housekeeper and ' Pe
went on to become vice-
principal. She was a a
woman of boundless a
energy and ability. One eis
Old Girl wrote: *... In any
emergency it was to Scottie

one turned. No problem of
mathematics was beyond

her solution; no translation =
of French or Latin baffled â\200\2344
her; difficulties in at
grammar melted magically

under her explanation.â\200\231

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Scottie in later years. In a poem written for her ninetieth

birthday, Old Girl RenÃ©e Stayt (nÃ©e Berlein) wrote:

â\200\230... So much you gave us far beyond the reach

KME and Scottie in the garden. KME had begun laying out the garden Of School and classr
oom: yours to teach
for TL when the latter was away in England, and it remained one of The worth of simple
things, the value of good talk
her greatest passions. â\200\230... An invitation to take tea with KME was a And how to
find in common tasks
command,â\200\231 remembered one Old Girl. â\200\230We sat near the sundial where The d
ignity of service.â\200\231

a bed of blue larkspurs grew.â\200\231

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â\200\234Even at the time that I went to
school in 1919 the pioneering
spirit prevailed. St Katharineâ\200\231s
was built during that period,
with its lovely courtyard, and
St Agnesâ\200\231 came into being. We AR ARE The sues or Hoepeaw
all felt we were helping to
build up the school to even

better things. And we all felt Cat HERE Scrry WANDERS AT NIGHT
that each of us mattered and
that T.L., K.M.E. and Scottie

ty
knew us and cared.â\200\231 (1 ID DORMITORYS , SNORING AND TALKING,

\-IGH Â¥.

Tris Botha.

Cdk iru CATS Courtyard GLIMMERWG WHITE.

Ge Sivers HAVE GONE TO BED

ND THEIR LAUGHTER Comes DRIFTING Down,â\200\235

ND S corry GOES FORTH To FIND THE CAT,

CBX ase CRIES AWAKEN THE Town.

This poem was written for Scottie by a
pupil during the 1920s.

TL, KME and Scottie at the time of their
retirement in 1930. The three were living in
White River when KME died in the Barberton

hospital in 1934. She was buried in the cemetery

there. TL and Scottie spent the duration of the war in England, and returned to South Africa in 1947. TL died in White River in 1950 and was buried alongside KME. Scottie died 13 years later at the age of 93.

a

The beautiful mantelpiece in the dining room is carved with the initials of Theresa Lawrence and Katherine Margaret Earle.

This photograph was taken on the Founders' last Foundation Day in 1930. This is still one of the most important dates on the Roedean calendar, when past pupils gather to honour these indomitable women and the laying of the foundation stone.

â\200\230... It is difficult among all that we owe
them to emphasise any single debts. I think the Founders
should like, however, to speak of two â\200\224

things in particular which they offered. Now pay we homage to the Founders who live again,
to us. The first was an appreciation of ~

â\200\234 â\200\234 > , Ad for Cove
beauty. This was stimulated both by the cave. : bee
loveliness of the surroundings they made. Read of: Cae Ne eS ee 7 :
for us ... and by the sheer force of their Gated 4s ri and Ow bannets bed â\200\224
assumption that the creation and
enjoyment of beauty was one of the
finest activities of mankind.

The second was the code of conduct
they held out to us for our guidance. It
demanded of us self-control, public
spirit, consideration for others and the , .
development of our faculties for our own. Manly ctd cans latowed They 4 Cet et
happiness and that of others. With a ieee} op us JSchsmmed pres. all that were Mian

â\200\230

characteristic care for restraint of Ga L the Mads Pe us drug m hd fangs nm
statement as well as a sober precision of . ee Ret dese: ;
words they told us that they expected us ie dont ate arene dees Be â\200\224

to be â\200\234honourable, kind and seemly in
conversationâ\200\235. The marks which two
such women have left on those who came
under their influence and on the
institution which they founded were

Mie dp them Shalt we net fell
deep and, indeed, ineffaceable.â\200\231 Jilvty and Cofpey Sub now-Suf and get),

Lucy Sutherland, Principal of Lady Margaret Gulls 4 Retdran prdepsmdent ane Meorough
Hall, Oxford. Heth hor Ihe bereh as we held W- rte.

oxox oni ie

f f
Me yaw & [Bean ? ft) Akamt ? hi A jumcav ?
PS than oh? EW phakver bbiceen
Mil ro :
Hodes paveay Ligh wr sry balile |
â\200\224â\200\224- ft ye practe Sane the aaeg hd 4 ONS Prat =

Whi we joe Aince ano Ihe world sate
Finding â\200\2344 forthe COAG MAS, and Keen

Shai Shalt. Know us oe
Coben g ler Comdininpre : [ass Frend Recilaw s

ern

The â\200\230Song of the Foundersâ\200\231 was written by MW Spilhaus
and sung for the first time by the assembled school on
the last night of term in 1930.

Ks

\| â\200\230.. A CODE OF RIGHT BEHAVIOURâ\200\231

â\200\230We'll honour yet the School we knew,
The best School of all;

We'll honour yet the rule we knew
Till the last bell call.â\200\231

Lot

| RoedeanCrstoms)

pedean experts

every oirl fo be

Honourable
erly in Conber-
ation, Kind.

tis a truism that rules and regulations provide a clearer insight into the flavour of a n

institution â\200\224 not least an institution like Roedean â\200\224 than any avowal o f intent. Of course,

Roedean was a school for girls: its intent was education. Yet if that were all the evid ence available, what a poor perception we would have of the particular ethos which began to permeate the white walls and arches of the school.

Luckily, we have the â\200\230Roedean Rulesâ\200\231. Before they retired, the Founders composed a handwritten Book of Rules, aimed at guiding the school into the future. It is a remarka ble document, a code of right behaviour, which tells us as much about the Foundersâ\200\231 understanding of the eternal verities of human conduct as it does about social norms in the first thi rd of the twentieth century. And they knew the difference between verity and period-based norms. This is abundantly clear by their insistence in the preamble that the â\200\230general principlesâ\200\231 enunciated in the rules must always remain, while the details would inevitably change w ith the passing of the decades.

The Roedean Book of Rules covers everything. It begins with a section on â\200\230the r ight use of speechâ\200\231, which, it is noted, is important for the efficient functioning of comm unal life. The voice should be gentle, the enunciation clear; and sometimes silence could be as effect ive as speaking. Other rules in this section denounce bad language and slang, and list illness es, accidents and â\200\230other horrorsâ\200\231 as undesirable topics of conversation.

All letters should be well written in content, style and calligraphy. But no more than one letter a week should be sent home. As a rationale for this limitation, the Book of Rule s states that more time should be spent in putting into the mind (for example, by reading) than in taking out (via letter writing). And, of course, neither a lender nor a borrower be.

Clothing and personal appearance receive special attention. The chief test of good appe arance is neatness and suitability. â\200\230Simplicity is the criterion of good taste,â\200 \231 wrote the Founders. On the more practical side, no girl may send more than eight items to the laundry each wee k. Predictably, the rules forbade powder or cosmetics or bracelets or other adornments. An d hair should be plaited at all times.

In spite of substantial folklore to the contrary, the food available at Roedean was â \200\230wholesomeâ\200\231. It was provided for both health and enjoyment. However, girls should ensure that they w ere free from greediness and inordinate craving. No sweets were allowed.

Rules concerning cleanliness and hygiene are based on this fundamental principle: that the body is the temple of the spirit. Sport is compulsory, but care should be taken to prot ect the body from injury. For example, gloves and pads must be worn by batters and wicketkeeper s when playing cricket.

Needless to say, the rules are very explicit when it comes to kissing. It is absolutely not allowed at Roedean. Neither are visitors allowed upstairs in the dormitories. Whistling is forbidden. As is the 'mauling' of other people, and using too much bath water.

What happened when girls broke the rules? A midnight feast led to disgrace. For talking to boys at the back of the hall, one unfortunate was banished to the sickroom for a week, with a dose of castor oil every morning. But the enforced memorising of passages from the Bible should not be used as a punishment.

Although we live in more relaxed times now, the general principles underlying the rules 'encapsulated in the dictum that 'Roedean girls are seemly in conversation, courteous and kind' have weathered well across the intervening decades and are still easily identifiable in the school at the start of the twenty-first century.

oF

When TL and KME retired in 1930,
4 ame SPRICAN BORDER. they left a book of handwritten rules

Roedean School, and regulations, of which they said:

: â\200\230They are not school rules at
ok January, 1931. all ... just a code of right behaviour ...

Dear Girls, To act upon these at all times would be

On leaving Roedean we have prepared for you a book jn | 4 counsel of perfection: but pe
rfection
which we have collected the customs which have grown up in | should be the aim of all,
and is our high
the past twenty-eight years. It has been quite a long business to | aj pition for all R
oedeanians ...â\200\231.
write them all out, and at first sight it might appear that they
would be hard to memorize. The fact is however, that they have
been reasonably well kept by most of you, without you having
seen them written down at all ; and that you have not let them
o- the spirit of joyous freedom which is the keynote of life at

oedean. :

How would you explain this?â\200\224The truth is that they are
not School rules at all, but as we point out in the preamble of our
book, just a code of right behaviour, known instinctively by al!
well disposed persons who mean to live a life of usefulness and
faithful work : and to make this clear to you we have, with your
help, put into fair script the groundwork on which our customs
rest. The details are of little importance and must be altered

â\200\230from time to time, but the general principles remain.

To act upon these at all times would be a counsel of perfec-
tion : but perfection should be the aim of all, and is our high
ambition for all Roedeanians. We feel sure you will agree with
us that the mere thinking them out and setting them down, has
been a great satisfaction, and has made us feel perfection nearer
to our grasp.

as long as we live we shall watch the careers of youall,from = â\200\230The Principal's
Sitting Roomâ\200\231, from
the greatest to the smallest, with undying interest : your successes | ay early school
brochure. The room, in
will be our pride and joy, and your failures our sorrow.

We have said nothing of the higher help that is needed for
the scheme of life we have set before you. It is difficult for us,
who are but fellow-seekers with you, to put it into words; but i
must become clearer and clearer to us, both as we write and as
we read, that we cannot achieve perfection in our own strength
alone.

So shall we pray for you without ceasing. May God keep
you and bless you as long as life shall jastâ\200\224and may each one of
you in her own way bring fresh honour to Roedean.

Bearsâ\200\231 House, is now used as a study
for Ante-matrices.

We are, now as always, | mat
the Old Heads that have cared for you, ee

T. LAWRENCE, Va aia
K. M. EARLE.

1. Quen, gut to enjrectid t altinad Malins om Sunelay
 Leet Wore fay Where poavents have Conseunctions obpeclims
 th) Whose parents preley anelitin lnm op wenluje +for
 thu ub can be avrens cd .
 (C) offreess who have attinded Hoty Common Drath
 day, Nevevbilrs oll officers cre arvleed ti abenl
 Lull Wwurmams Or -Lrewng, Cevveee Ocearunal,
 AY NIB. Girls whe are confirmed but nob yet offre, mar, attend,
 Hoty Commmunium , Wot may ret neu Wialing wore lian va
 a Wodth.,

2 There wo â\200\230ry any reason do net atlend Mating mush Gofor
 a welle , wwe Tey have atready walled ti Church .
 3B. Ababeuk WW 30 Hone Mat are net at Malin tute are wit
 pretexts will allind reading, Cubpeefeets wilt romelines be
 allowed br read oc ted bovte bk Momackves .
 : OM ave enpedid & precevor a qrck ine , bel [ov Mimeelues
 tetas Lickers wr20 4:12:20 Allent ee haw of Mie
 tine rhintd be pint vn ood readins.
 he. etme inns ia pupils rete om Ww beds . Ruriny Irat
 aah hg he ct < Neerlickn: ppt CUSTOMS 6 ROEOE
 Wey Gt up after 3 odlod, in lnty ye B30 Summer be : OEâ\202~AN
 rteewe vitils.s
 et il Baad ed des, 0 tn ached Ie
 Sumy , + SUS Pm. m We lity on Sunder.
 6. Alter Ten oh nem ofjrems are obtied , oubpriferts arc
 Adined, & he awolk . wey Sunday ome parefed &
 Be decid: ture did te accu We Nustine nn tharce
 bey Girne, fer Hine wretle-

Practise a quiet voice) & Good Pronunciation + a clear trumeralun

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(@) Cencercation Con cen ring epiratns , Unerecs : acudoute
Creenco cy On lervere en cee, :
(%) Bad Lanquasy w not pernwss Ue > * Slang va wot
Good fmm.
le) Girls hint ovoid all emwertaliong Mat thay vomtd
de trhamsd |r Tore parents or mules Te rer hear.
2 Occactena + times for Sulonee .
9 Wo talk ne, we Short , at Prayer ey dunins Ata fue
Wnntic a Utmee at mayht.
(K) Wotolhing during lemme ov preparation
(mecomary Gueitions wey sometime be cared clunrny
Preparation of a hog lun belt)
Â® Â©) Mo Talley vy Me Farrar Way, Syprnasuin couitizardl,
tr mune lng darine, owe hewn .
[d] ho tellem Aurns, any Call ever,
fe) No tallem belre Ihe livsh Grace or after wine dant in
Hh) No betes during Lying down , ov ie Ma demon
alter Ime Te Leith ave ont.
ig) No talhiny wi the baltorms (alriaka S

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* . ;

NB She qu& of tte Schet gheud make vb powbdt Hateleh ay nea ulation,

Tiere weaved wih an aslwuk

40

â\200\230We are all as different as we ever were, So it is
interesting to speculate on what bonds us
together. I think it is a matter of heritage,
because Roedean was a heritage rather than a
school. What can one expect from a heritage?
Not popular culture or market-related skills
like competitive edges. What we acquired was
a proper sense of perspective, an ability to see
beyond the waffle and decoration, and
confidence in our own judgement, even when
we were about to be crashingly wrong. When
you think about it, those are enduring, useful
habits. And heritage does not change. I found
that when I took my elder daughter to Roedean
years later, Katsâ\200\231 sitting room smelt exactly the
same, stuffy with an overlay of brown stew.
Ordinary people were still not allowed to run
down the bank outside Bearsâ\200\231, and the tinkler
was just as shrill. It was all so reassuring.â\200\231
Anthea Bristow (nÃ©e Paton), who attended Roedean
in the 1960s.

: KME in her beloved
(C] oncerni RQ (LJ etters. Katsâ\200\231 Courtyard.

oedean thinks thet ald letters should
be well mritter, as to matter, car graphy,

and style.)
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to mrite wery fem such leRers. ost

of term-time Louch as is not spent in ererei
rest, or meals] should be spent putting thir
into the mind rather han taking ther 0

Hence the number oF letters tob = | Chen, 2Â°
uritten rÂ¢ mired by the uthorihres. - ey bess

(Al least one leer home must Wes a
written every meen. Meg e =f nda

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(hy Jhe Ou HotL wuts it uu hare
fe) She Kitthen

NIB. Preleets ave free of biter Mirrovyllares enveapt ba Kilthen

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mate yo the oceupount unwell . Prefests whe may nec Maw
judg ment ar peqard Thr tuition , Gre alro warned by eunord
wutivns, Wee cubicle ofa qut whe unwell

bh Quits wny net enti a donwitiny nether oun tacapl on
pwrrianee of Uiw Auhee .

5 he qwl should be upalarrs vn my hinrse wether own 1+ day

quks thntd not he uposlans wn any horn. :

b No gw may sie We henrch Collage oy Stolp Honree whine
prmiuion of Te Jicod Wilien

Lrveeph ven orearmah, Â» fir oo ven vio Vine atts
hed) bon Bell for avery Unputank bearen
Âç. Vek may vol Pie SaneTorimn | any reason urhalivey
Umber aout Ware for healer Purprres: + te Gut wrar, enki,
Ure rteleroum Unters xhets wert Mare |

PE CMADAALL An â\200\234a Unwed ,
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1. Grery git nat wearin Sdunt Ii Scoot dyibbeh | Cre dy bbeh blowee
+ hacker beckus .

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ordumcany drerece Wer hewon) ovary Gul nubtirar an eyeing
dy bteh .

3 Brown stodecnne wuebtbeernn im bre dou, Hine & lilo un lity Cems

4 ho fudh treekccl thoes are allowed.

5S Gnh who hewetims bow taaat Wea ut plerted using ribbons
H datehblue fw non- tf |rcrra + tbo st for offreers . the wlhtons
Arr td_ mettire tie wide.

b Ow Suridoy ic Sika, wiede Windle Liman 1 walter
a cook t Shut of navy Slur Â© Acoat [reek unk alee
OLMiwed wi wrntiv(Navy Hne)

3 Rurins, tow tone no het rhowld be wnwbabap ln nu
Sdirel)

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Hsdleimge hand kerohiefs) th He Rarndry arverte . Y articles wr
enters of les Wumberawe Seuk , May unk beret on ovlade
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Corrtered 24 atreach of 4 Sthook tustin.

Wodsrations Yrewtd absete encrcrd al reg prals verbs Sladen, s + hamdleer dl

G he gul may war Powder Gr Amy Coomolice -

1) ery bodge holder mrchwresn bev trode alurupe tm

Sdrsvk hinrs -

ty Suey article of Cletims, arwell arany Ofer property mus

be eLrawls, Week ted Wee pupils ee.

; : he criterion of sud2 a necessary is whether t:
a pats if lost or destroyed would hawe tobe
ya ond by thers tian yourself.

a Your personal property may be lant, buk a 4 4.
ae generous lender must be p

eS ears One must not ask her pareiils
| Do one should like borrowing, and

PAY without permission deserves another ed

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ep are oom cuben

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3 Pujols owe vat allowed t eat gwen dena, ia tis,
Badge hultdes ore erpeetid not by tnderlae tee wich tm
Sweets durmqg Me Pokdorys ,

os Pup a Cire sca mitted th ean qua of free Prt ar

Cehoet [whieh Way ore enpeeled Wsharve) Alited ray (ase)

Yhaey ave alkro allied & baci Ome, Calor on aw
Mivlidinsys

â\200\224 eotatbtes nurst neler te bwut B seheok by
pupals , wey Sent or gwen by parents oy end.

NB. AU prorcets of [unk nut he distinct, mrarerl

wu tie pubs Name .

â\200\230A midnight feast was treated
as a serious crime and the
whole school severely
reprimanded during prayers.
We were told to think of the
starving children in Russia
before stuffing ourselves with
unnecessary food!â\200\231

Dolores Fleischer (nÃ©e de Patva
Rapozo), 1940s.

1. Suey gid wuret ploy Me Sdrovk game for ha Tern unter frrblolen
by a doctiy . ,
Duras, Hockey t ha Crosse gloves wut le won, terms, Neches,
pods - Rurng, riche gloves + patle nurbte wrw
by better wwichel beeper

tN undlen Sepum ble Stamed by tke wation wuteAanded Me

Gtmea wuitrero Lory mod Â»+ wo Qames or Ant Huet be
undertaken fov Iie dasyo umpevtarnt rndtehes creati ue eneeplr :r

Sg Om enlindedl enoure mar, eobticned f neceary . A facture Shand

â\200\224 manelian cnouse nustte regarled Aa afer offence Â«+ tombel

bender a pupd unfit fy office :

A reco of Wee dati, 1 Rept .

Obowk tine mollivs Wave vrowtd be wo Sprcateng Cntepl fe terrae

Wurticrs ow mation . Such Specth musk be Comorduucd on UnAcents

& outa ee
MS Nisteavan . <Disvead ns iad,

Pius bh te chew: msidÃ© agvell-on och Wi cee date

â\200\234eh waurstnotte Ves leok a

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. ~ eo
5 Wer
Xx
As : :
xg Nearly everyone was a boarder in those
est ue +s | days and day-girls were looked down on
on os as a distinctly lower species. Boarders
re or ae only went home three times in a 13-week
aes Yt term. For most of the year they stayed
s â\200\234i? : ej| behind these white walls as if in a
aot af nunnery. Girls today would have found
fr it very dull. There were no television

parties and definitely no boys! Only
brothers ever came to the school, and
when they did the whole school shook!â\200\231
Dolores Fleischer (nÃ©e de Paiva Rapozo).

a sets, no videos, no films to watch, no

aS aR Rn Ny

1. NU prodack money Lroucht th Sdrowt oy subaaqponbhy,
receded must be twediotil, hanted wit line dtrnrer
Wartirs . Pr chess berfe will he queen Jb-the poupil by

pees of whieh Us Wrote hh poor mots Jovan

ony money im hoy provetotumn vist be comacdered o_o vee

then

) UL veluatifis (mncludinn value lidaeks) ott Won
ne weteh K one brood , nuit behandl tia Jtoun L pe mane SuePRErecrs
3 Wonedatily br safe lreepins, by corey Gut, selon ei cr OO I tear

& PREFECTS & MAY LATER
Ts of Scwoo. Prerect

~oeene
ye Fines

OED AN EXPECTS EV! &Â¥ GIRL TO 5

RLS UNDER 14 WHO EXCEL IN THESE Gus 5 WILL RECEIVE

THE Stam Bax

B ho jewelry Â» taney rides or otter ormoamenti shoulel be

| qt , + We Cownliv|rds of cheques conedtty (lid mr.

Me has heen naier A 2_0- fon Oped

Moan pro ple ha ve been Glkiuis un
pacsanes Ouwd class ropwo aftes puppes,
before Une { ovielock bell. Below: The Prefectsâ\200\231 bench, taken

Mee as ber, o> Gert ore ancl during a lunch break in the 1920s,
in the days when bloomers were

necessary apparel.

Discipline at Roedean was strictly upheld,
as is evident in these extracts from the
minutes of the Council Meetings held
between 1929 and 1931. The â\200\230snoodâ\200\231
mentioned here was a wide headband.

8. WwW has Cee -~ nr ois. tm a th al t~c 4 w ww |
opreat deal 6) efut duagt. {hte Quw orf ux

: Below: Outside Bearsâ\200\231 in the 1920s,
prefectâ\200\231 Cop. es af >. elow e Bearsâ\200\231 in the S

the Council Block behind.

â\200\230The best part about Roedean was the friends I made â\200\224 even if
I did lead them into serious trouble with the illicit chocolate
cake and the lemon syrup in the Gordonâ\200\231s Gin bottle. It was a
terrifying moment when the whole school was evacuated onto
the big lawn while the school was searched for the contraband
goods. They were found in the day girlsâ\200\231 cloakroom â\200\224 some
undesirable day girl had split on us. We were de-subbed and
relegated to FR in disgrace. At another equally disastrous
midnight feast I cut my finger opening a sardine tin â\200\224 and
fainted in the bathroom at the sight of all the blood. I still
have the scar.â\200\231

Peggy Helme (nÃ©e Van der Byl), 1940s.

Pus geste. Jd

Above: High spirits despite the

sh. A f Ty ar>f NCA da g (i 230
4) strict rules.

AVC r Slrex A &. % f i >
! L if re ; a
AMAA» 5 ust 231 4 ul WA
234at f 4
Ul 4a. | Ls DIAC te ©

a my has 202 i. r (}

230Mauling 231 one another was clearly deemed to be unladylike.

Prefecis were seated at either end of the table during mn E | at fC ow lind: &

meals aiiâ\200\231 â\200\234vt a close watch on manners, deportment = i athe Aound
and â\200\230unseemlyâ\200\231 conversation. % suggetid thal ques ot ;
dee lawn wrath He Picurggle on ther

Te Mekong | A4- 3- Bh.

M wo â\200\234hhewpson deen net aovh the Bible or ts
Punishment for erring pupils often took be leamed aco punish nont Fer there cho are
the form of learning passages of literature locke , 0. 2 ee OUQCpY ted that thoy, ols t
eat
or lists of vocabulary. Anyone who was PRES = et | Erekiöh an bday
late for a meal had to eat in silence.

Top: Silver prefects, 1927. Today â\200\230Silversâ\200\231
comprise the Deputy Head Girls and the
heads of the three houses.

Centre: It seems that the shortage of water
in Johannesburg has a long history. ys Feel uc 10Â°): 30
Bottom left: This poem, from the Bearsâ\200\231 .
Log Book of 1956, was probably written ilayâ\200\224 Taule says hal the â\200\224 _â
\200\224 _ " â\200\224_
as a punishment. aud Gol Yne prefec1 Gre lake ler muck . If Une
ul ust Uprey ed theve wl be exthoy a tage ue
Bottom right: On the way to class in the de . : .
â\200\230ve Â¥ elie balls gal Urica o
1940s, with Blyth Cottage in the re veuud â\200\235 . , : '
background. Girls were required to be week,
silent when moving between classes. Toery an wu 6 acc a succe and hall of Weed ab
lea Aud

i bes wannnonK 5
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ly tb Fair thet show len, :
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â\200\230I remember the Sunday
morning crocodile to St.
Georgeâ\200\231s â\200\224 tea and biscuits
first in case we fainted in
Church.â\200\231
Mary Clarke (nÃ©e Shave) 1940s.

â\200\230Nicole Grasset and I were caught talking
to two KES boys at the back of the
hall. I was put in the sick room for a
week, with a dose of castor oil each
morning. Nicole, being a day girl, got off
scott free ...â\200\231

Lovell Vickerman (nÃ©e Thackeray), 1940s.

â\200\230I remember building straw houses on
Pleasaunce which we could use during
our breaks. I was caught by a teacher
dragging a sack of oranges across the
back road and into our hut - again the
sick room for a week.â\200\231

An unattributed memory, 1940s.

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ROEDEAN SCHOOL

SENIOR BOARDERâ\200\231 Ss OUTFIT [Minimum Required]

Underclothing

*6 Pairs Gymnastic Stockings 4 Brown, 2 Fawn),
6 Pairs Brown Socks, for Summer, and 4 Pairs Coloured Socks
for Evenings.
3 Nightgowns or Pyj jamas, Warm for Winter.
3 Warm Black Bloomers, with: Linings for Winter.
_ 8 Bloomers of Washing | Matert ul for Summer (4 Black).
Â«6 Vesta.
3W hite Petticoats for Sainme if required. â\200\224
Beltsâ\200\231 = Elastic).

1Â¢ in Schoo! Colours.
â\200\230ith: â\200\230Short â\200\230Sleeves. cand

Rug or Eiderdown. _
ork Box, complete.
_ Toilet Necessities, seabedtig Nail Beuth and 2 Tooth Brushes
1 Pot of Larola or Cold c ream. :
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| 8 Dozen Handkerchiefs,
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Â£2 Pocket iae. 3

PLEASE NOTE:â\200\224

All the above articles should be sent back every term in
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One Pair of Light-weight Shoes and One Pair of Silk
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odewe 18 allowed except ne Brooch â\200\230atch,
No woven Silk Underwear is allowed,

ALL ARTICLES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED
WITN NAME, NOT INITIALS,

*pjit hike, Hats, Hat Bands, Blazers, Green Lystav, Green Viyella, Bathing Droases
â\200\231 Stockings may be obtained at the School _â\200\224

School outfit, ineluding Viyella for Green Drewes, and ready-made and Viyella
Dresses may be obtained from Messrs. John Orr, prucherk Pecan Jolene

Cardigans and Pullovera: Machine-knit from Messrs, John Orr; hand. from Mrs,
v Atanas. 115, Prairie Street, Rosettenville, â\200\231 _â\200\224

Djibbah Blouses may be obtained from Messrs, John Orr,

ROEDEAN SCHOOL (SA)

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Curtains provided privacy in the early dormitories.

The Founders with the staff in 1930. Helen Ti oe be oe fa eS
ry . ancred is standing at the far left and ;
Scottie is standing fifth from the left. Seated next to TL is Juicy pot : ee ae

TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

â\200\230Houses in rivalry light up for battle,
All is for praise, and the might of Roedean.â\200\231

For the first time in its history, a school flag flies at Roedean.
It was designed by Celia Jacobson in 2003.

If we combine the lengthy influence of the Founders with the strength of the rules that emerged from their regime, we have the perfect medium for the growth of potent and idiosyncratic traditions. This has certainly happened. Although the core values inherent in these traditions were originally based on the Roedean Brighton model, even in the beginning there were variations.

Take the coat of arms. The Brighton original shows a roe (a small graceful woodlands deer whose natural habitat is Europe) standing on the summit of a grassy mound. For the South African school, the roe is replaced by a female springbok and the grassy mound becomes a rocky outcrop. Roedean girls identified these differences and coined the now widely known but perhaps not quite acceptable description of the school emblem: die bokkie op die koppie. Yet the description adds an unambiguous robustness and South African flavour to the gentler English original.

The famous djibbahs were modified too. At first, these garments were made in London and exported to Johannesburg. But they were extremely hot, and very soon a lighter version had been designed. Many were handmade. But by the mid-1930s, and probably earlier, off-the-peg djibbahs were available from John Orr. At one point we find Ella Le Maitre, headmistress from 1934 to 1958, complaining that the patterns are not entirely to her liking.

And the djibbah tradition refuses to die. Periodically, the girls of Roedean are asked whether the old uniform should be allowed to pass into history. But successive waves of pupils support its retention. It has been part of the distinctiveness of Roedean for a century; and it seems destined to last for the next as well.

The school has also retained some quaint customs. Roedean girls call their teachers 'madam'. Roedean girls curtsey. These two traditions are often the subject of speculation by outside observers. How old fashioned, they say. How distinctive, says Roedean. Think back to the school's origins in England. The avowed intention was to establish an educational institution for girls that would rival those long-established institutions for boys. If boys called their masters 'sir', girls should use the female equivalent. It could almost be argued that each time 'madam' is used, there is a tacit acknowledgement of the feminist pedigree of Roedean forged at a time when gender equality was fiercely contested terrain.

The curtsey is still practised, but not as frequently as in earlier times. Roedean girls always curtsey politely when receiving prizes or awards. Very few people wish the tradition away. It remains a charming manifestation of what it means to be courteous and kind, graceful and in control.

The tradition of 'House Nights' moves us in a similar direction. The idea of service, and of entertaining others, illumines these annual theatrical programmes. The rivalry between the three houses – St Ursula's, St Katherine's, St Agnes's – is immense, and the House Nights provide an opportunity for each individual to become involved in a communal effort.

Wherever one looks at Roedean, the legacy of the past 100 years shines through. Interestingly, a great deal of this tradition bears the stamp of individuals involved in a communal effort. The frequent plaques, the acknowledged gifts of garden benches or

stained-glass windows or fountains, become like hands supporting the common ideal embodied in the school. This is the fabric of the Roedean tradition. Its strength is in direct proportion to the intricacy of its making.

The school motto Honneur Aulx
 Dignes is taken from the old
 French and is an heraldic pun
 on Honour Roedean. The actual
 translation is Honour to the
 worthy. in 1923, Archdeacon
 Cameron, the Chairman of the
 School Council, assisted by
 Mabel Bayley, modified the coat-
 of-arms of Roedean Brighton, to
 make a suitable coat-of-arms for
 Roedean South Africa. He gave
 an explanation of it:

1. The young springbok ewe,
 looking with fearless eyes out on
 to the boundless veld, represents
 the girls of the school with the
 great world before them. The
 principal colours of the shield

represent the green veldt and the
 blue sky. The

springbok is tied to the open book by no harsh fetters,
 put by the golden chain. The gridiron, the traditional
 symbol of St Lawrence, and the Earl's coronet connect
 the school with its two founders. The secretary bird on
 the crest represents the good citizen, who searches out
 and ruthlessly destroys all that is vicious and harmful.

An illustration as

of the djibbah was created

Opposite page:
 Samples of old djibbahs in
 The Ark, the Roedean

archives, housed in the
 Sumner Block.

The djibbah is one of Roedean's earliest and most enduring traditions. Described in the Oxford dictionary as a Mohammedan's long cloth coat, TL and KME copied the design from Roedean Brighton and adapted it slightly for South African conditions.

Patricia King, a pupil in the 30s and 40s, writes of the history of the Roedean (SA) uniform: The old djibbahs were made in England by Sheba of London in Sloane Street. During the war years (1939-1945), and for some years thereafter, the djibbahs were made in three sizes, small, medium, and large, to fit girls from Grade 1 to Sixth Form. There was no zip and fortunately the style rather lent itself to fitting many different shapes and sizes and was very fashionable when the A-line came in! As you can imagine some very small girls had hems turned up to their armpits and some rather large girls at the top end of the school had hardly any hem at all. The djibbahs were very hard to come by during the war years having to be shipped out by sea, and I don't think the material was of very good quality, or else the girls all squirmed around in their chairs, because the seats of the djibbahs all wore out quite quickly and our mothers were hard pressed to keep them darned and looking smart.

With the djibbahs we wore white blouses with green and blue embroidery around the neck and the base of the sleeves. You could buy blouses with rather ordinary embroidery from John Orr's but most girls prevailed upon their mothers to dream up some fancier stitching! Lightweight summer tunics in navy blue or floral were introduced during the last years of the war. They were worn over the usual blouses and black bloomers. Until 1977 green dresses were worn by the boarders for travelling to and from school, weekend outings, church at St George's and visits to the dentist. The dresses were worn by everybody on Speech Day, Foundation Day and the last day of term. The boarders had slightly thicker, long sleeved green dresses to wear in winter, made in many different styles, but the day girls had to wear the short-sleeved summer version on the last day of the winter term which was rather chilly at times. The white Panama hats worn in summer were also phased out in 1977 and the navy blue felt hats, previously worn in winter only, were worn all year round. There were also navy blue berets to wear when it rained.

In the evening the boarders used to wear evening djibbahs in the same style as the day djibbahs but made in any material and colour they chose. These were phased out in the late forties

or early fifties.

Ella Le Maitre was strict about the Roedean

djibbah, as evidenced by this correspondence
with those who made them.

Famous â\200\234ROYAL WORCESTER,â\200\235 ano â\200\234BON TON" corsets.

â\200\234ORR-COâ\200\235â\204¢ HOUSE LINEN, PEERLESS IN VALUE.

FIRST DISTRIBUTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA OF FAMOUS MCCALL PRINTED PATTERNS

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SOLE Proprigrans: JOHN Onr & Co. {Transvaat) (Prv.), LTo.

PRITCHARD ano J

VON Branbis STS JOHANNESBURG.

AND aT BENCNi ano SPRINGS.

RE 2/584/53

MAIL ORDER DEPARTMENT |

â\200\234ORR-COâ\200\235 PURE SILK FULLY FASHIONED HOSE . UNSURPASSED FOR LONG SERVICE
Sra DeecÃmber, 1935.

The Frincipal,

Reedean School,

FARE TOWN. Johannesburg.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 30th
ultimo, We would advise that in future Roedean
Blouses shall be made according to the instructions
given.

Thanking you for your patronage, and
assuring you of our desire to render the utmost

service at all times, we remain,

Very truly you
pep. JCHN ORR

UTY TREATMENT.â\200\224If your desire is for comfort, courtesy and consistent efficienc
y of work, you will appreciate the
ty equipped Beauty Salon on our Second Floor ... Newest methods and finest Preparations
used... Fully qualified,
dance. Teleph ie ie iN s for Hairdr g or Beauty Treatment to-â\200\224-CENTRAL 6923

SG SPPoY

Another enduring tradition of Roedean is that of calling teachers 'Madam'. An editorial from the 1968 South African Roedean magazine states:

... The fact that all members of staff are addressed by the title of 'Madam' probably strikes the newcomer or the visitor as strange. However, in all boys' schools the masters are addressed as 'Sir'; therefore, is not the title 'Madam' a logical one to be used in a girls' school? Yet, to my knowledge this form of address is not used in any other girls' school in this country. This unique tradition is, therefore, one of which we should feel proud.

Another explanation was given by Ida Wagner, who had attended Roedean from 1906 to 1914. ... Do you know why we were taught to address the staff as Madam? Well, we South Africans were prone to repeat names too often in one sentence and so Madam came into use.

The staircases of the Houses feature intricate carvings of their symbolic animal and the Tree of Knowledge. Katharine Baker, a teacher in the early decades of the century,

explained their

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i madam *

significance: House feeling is strong: girls compete in work and play, not as individuals, but as House members: there are stirring scenes at hard-fought House matches, and great competition for the Silver Leaf which term by term rewards the House with the best record of work.

Old Prefect's and Dignes badges from The Ark. The Dignes are the prefects of the Junior School.

In the Junior School, girls wishing to visit the bathroom ask to go to the bridge. This letter, from Erica Mitchell (née Berry), explains the

origin of this tradition.

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The traditional Roedean curtsey has decreased over the years, but girls still make the gesture when receiving prizes. This editorial from the South African Roedean magazine in 1968 defends the custom: â\200\231... Another unique tradition of Roedean is the curtsey which, although it has developed into a bob, nevertheless carries with it a certain old world charm. Anyone seeing the â\200\234bobâ\200\235 for the first time must at once realise that Roedean must have been founded in the days when girls always showed respect for their elders by this action.â\200\231

Of all the traditions that have remained over the last 100 years, that of House Nights still thrives. These celebrations occur on the Saintsâ\200\231 Days of the three houses | and are a highlight of the school calendar. Pages 62-65 [

show examples of some of the place cards, menus and_ | programmes produced over the years by the girls.

CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS

â\200\230For working days or holidays,
And glad and melancholy days,
They were great days and jolly days,
At the best school of all.â\200\231

WEP

The Roedean Centenary was launched at a special commemorative service in January 2003. Flags from forty-seven nations reflected the wide cultural diversity of the pupils.

hat would any institution be without its characteristic celebrations and commemorations? If the founding ethos and the rules that emerge from that

ethos provide the skeleton, and the traditions the flesh, then the celebrations and commemorations show the institutional body in those sorts of actions that grow logically from within. In the case of Roedean, this action is contained not only in the special occasions that punctuate each year. It has sometimes most movingly been expressed in special efforts in a particular direction. Perhaps the best examples of such effort have been the spontaneous responses of the school to the two World Wars that occurred during the first Roedean century.

It was during the World Wars that a particularly determined aspect of the Roedean idea of service to others became apparent. During the first, the entire school community became involved in a relentless fund-raising drive. For several years, regular food parcels were sent to two British prisoners of war, the one incarcerated in Bavaria, the other in Silesia. Money was also raised for animals wounded in action. On Armistice night, the girls of Roedean lit a bonfire on the Houghton Ridge and sang "Rule, Britannia!" and "La Marseillaise" and "Auld Lang Syne".

By the Second World War, Roedean had grown considerably, and its contribution was correspondingly larger. Roedean collected enough money to provide a military ambulance which saw service in Malta throughout the war. The school also adopted a British minesweeper, HMS Sondra. Everyone fell to knitting pullovers and thick socks for the crew. In 1944, senior officers from the vessel visited the school; and the link was made permanent when the ship's bell was presented to the school. It hangs in the chapel belfry and is still regularly rung.

These historical realities evoke most powerfully the ethos of the school: the constant emphasis on knightly honour, and the value of courtesy and kindness to others.

But as well as the charitable events that take place at Roedean throughout the year, there are the celebrations that punctuate and enrich the school life.

Foundation Day takes place at Roedean every year in March to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone. It is an event when Old Girls, the South African Old Roedeanian Association, get together to renew their attachment to "the best school of all" and to each other; and at Foundation Day lunch the current Matrics are invited to share in a tradition which spans the generations.

Speech Day is an annual tour de force of Roedean accomplishments. Of course, there is always a VIP guest who delivers an address to the assembly. General Jan Smuts was one; Dr Chris Barnard another; and more latterly Adelaide Tambo. But the real business of Speech Day is to be found in the remainder of the programme. There is a full academic procession with staff wearing their gowns. Then there are the academic prizes, pages of them, as well as recitals of music by serious classical composers. The "welcome speeches" are also designed to demonstrate the school's versatility. Speeches in English, Afrikaans, Latin

and French

have more recently been joined by offerings in North Sotho, Portuguese, Mandarin, Zulu and Xhosa. Details of extracurricular activities â\200\224 a class going overseas, another assisting in some way to establish a clinic â\200\224 are like the icing on top of an invariably formidable cake.

Other â\200\230daysâ\200\231 must also be mentioned: St Margaret's Day, which celebrates the patron Saint of the Junior School, and landmark birthdays such as the silver and golden jubilees, and the Centenary celebrations. Some traditions have fallen away, like the Grandchildren's Party, and other more modern celebrations, like the Matric dance, have taken their place.

Left and centre: In front
of Bearsâ\200\231 on Foundation
Day in 1919.

â\200\230++. It gave the Founders, T.L. and K.M.E., great
pleasure to see their Old Girls once a year, so it had
become a tradition for the school to act as host, on
or near March 8th, the date the Foundation Stone of

the school had been laid. Old Girls came from far
and wide, and spent a week-end at the school, often
staying in dormitory cubicles which present girls
had kindly given up for them. They dressed up in

djibbahs for the occasion, and played cricket against Invitation to Foundation

Day 1960. For many years
former pupils who
travelled from some
distance in order to attend
the festivities would be
accommodated in the
boarding houses and
celebrations took place over
several days. Old Girls
who have emigrated to
other countries and cannot
attend locally make a point
of coming together in their
new homes to mark
Foundation Day.

the School XI. A few girls nobly volunteered to stay

and help entertain the guests and the rest of the school went off for a picnic. After the day's meetings and matches and tea, the Old Girls went off and changed into evening dress and returned for dinner. During this meal there were speeches and songs, and T.L. and K.M.E. took it in turns to tell the visitors all about themselves when they were very young. This was followed by a play, performed by the Old Girls,

then dancing and finally Auld Lang Syne.
From a memoir written =
by Matty Read.

Below: Foundation Day tea
in Kats' Courtyard, soon
after the opening of the

building. KME and TL can be seen behind the table on the Coletta au, AY

the left of the picture. The photograph is undated, but "wie 2%, 1966 was probably taken in 1925. TURGay a ;
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Foundation
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-Foats
Master of Ceremonies Senior Mistress

1. TOAST SOUTH AFRICA Junior School Headmistress
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3 - RESPONDING TO GAMES Proposing Staff Edwina Prece

GAZPACHO }
SONG: THE BEST SCHOOL OF ALL }

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SMOKED DUCK BREAST REERETS RET ~ Se
CHICKEN ROULADE 5. PREFECTS REPLY Proposing Old Girls, Lesako Seabe
___ ROAST BEEF
SELECTION OF COLD SALADS. SONG: GIANTS
Break for Dessert}
BREAD ROLLS AND BUTTER

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& OLDGIRLS REPLY Proposing Reedean (Brighton),
Aane Lorent:

SONG: 40 YEARS ON

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7. ROEDEAN (Btightoo) REPLIES Proposing Reedean (SA).
CO#FEE AND BIRTHDAY CAKE Pat Wheatley ORA President

SONG OF THE HOUSES

& ROEDEAN (SA) REPLIES Proposing Founders and i

The Contrary, }
The Execatve Headmustress Pa

â\200\224â\200\224A i SONG OF THE FOUNDERS

â\200\230I remember one mother of a Matric speaker asking me in awe, â\200\234Is this like the Masons or is one allowed to talk about this?â\200\235 My response was that she could willingly talk about it but that no one would believe a word of it.â\200\231

Janet Saner (nÃ©e Anderson), 1968.

â\200\230One of the healthiest things about the school is, I believe, the loyalty and affection of its Old Girls,â\200\231 said Ella Le Maitre in 1957 at her last Speech Day. The South African Old Roedeanian Association (SAORA), founded in 1907, has always been an active and vigorous body involved in all aspects of the school as parents, teachers, and members of the Board, Trust and PTA. Besides keeping Old Girls in touch with the school and with each other, one of the SAORAâ\200\231s main aims is to provide bursaries, thus giving support to its members and to the school itself. Each year, on Foundation Day, SAORA members return to Roedean to celebrate the school's birthday and renew friendships. Foundation Day traditionally starts with a chapel service followed by the â\200\230Old Girls versus the schoolâ\200\231 tennis match (nearly always won by the Old Girls) and the AGM of the Association. Sherry with the Headmistress has developed into a noisy gathering for drinks at the water garden before luncheon. The Matric girls join them in Foundersâ\200\231 Hall for the meal, after which the school songs are sung with great enthusiasm and laughter between the traditional speeches. The day ends with a formal ceremony as the President of the SAORA and the Headmistress cut the cake. Over 500 people attended the Centenary Foundation Day

Gala Luncheon, which was held in a marquee on
Bearsâ\200\231 Lawn and Terrace.

Speech Days are an important event in the Roedean calendar. Prominent speakers, academics, politicians or business leaders are invited to address the audience and prizes are awarded for academic and sporting achievements.

68

General Jan Smuts was the speaker at the 1930 Speech Day, which also marked the retirement of TL and KME. In his speech he remarked on the tremendous â\200\230march forwardâ\200\231 of women and paid tribute to the Founders for the education they provided for girls at Roedean. â\200\230... Women all over the Western world and here in South Africa are taking their places side by side with men in the professions, in civic life and in the work of the nation. This most profound social change means that our girls have to be fitted not merely for marriage ... but to occupy positions of usefulness and self-respecting independence ... Miss Lawrence and Miss Earle have not only been great schoolmistresses, but have helped to build up the womanhood of South Africa.â\200\231 ,

GENERAL SMUTS AT ROEDEAN SCHOOL.

On the occasion of the retirement of the principals of Roedean School, Miss T. Lawrence and Miss K. M. Earle, a large gathering of parents attended the annual â\200\234speech dayâ\200\235 ceremony at the school on Saturday. General J. C. Smuts delivered an inspiring address on womenâ\200\231s part in national life. General Smuts is seen (inset) with Mr. H. O. Buckle, chairman of the board.

rd of directors of the school.

SPEECH days

and the meeting of the many Johannesburg who are interested in Roedeas. Above all, however, they are festive events for the girls themselves. On Saturday afternoon the Founders' Hall was filled with visitors and Roedeas girls listening to the speeches made by Mr. Patrick Duncan, E.K.C., C.M.G., Minister of Mines, Mrs. P. Freer, the acting headmistress, Mr. Percival Whiteley and others. Outside were many other guests, accommodated on chairs and benches placed so that they could see and hear the speakers through the windows.

Afterwards tea was served in the beautiful dining room, the walls of which are being panelled through the generosity of the old girls, and on the terrace overlooking the lawns. Meetings and chats were the order of the afternoon, and the guests walked round the gardens, gay with jacaranda and many flowers, until an untimely shower drove them indoors.

Among those present were Miss K. M. Earle, Lady Dalrymple, Lady Lister, Mrs. Patrick Duncan, Mrs. P. M. Anderson and Miss Adrienne Anderson, Dr. and Madame Crinson de Cottens, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. G. Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Rose Macleod, Mrs. D. C. Mes...

sions for the Pinion of old girls

and Miss Elspeth Greig, Mr. and Mrs., T. G. Otley, Mr. and Mrs. W. Somerset Bell, Mrs. F. E. Kanthack, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ussher, Mrs. J. R. Thurlow, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Rivers, Mrs. Gordon Leith, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Carter and Miss Betty Carter, Mrs. Sholto Douglas and Miss Mary Douglas, Mrs. French Lloyd

and Miss Rita French Lloyd, Mrs. T. and 4 Kelly, Mr. H. R. Raikes, Miss A. Raikes, es ean x Dr. and Mrs. D., A. Ogilvie, the Rev. Ho y p wh chino | inca 4 man S. Chignell and Mrs. Chignell, Mrs. P.. â\200\234suns a oohticÂ® <a" Holliday, Mrs. Louis Young, Mrs. A. G. = â\204¢ wr. are

N. Burden, Dr. and Mrs, J, G. de Kock, snes â\200\230n, MBE Mrs. G. B. Carlisle, Mf. @nd Mrs. C. aa Goodwin, Mrs. H. 1.â\200\231 son, Mrs. E. Hirtzel, Mrs. B. Harris, Mrs. W. Hale,

Mrs. H. Lawrence, Mr, and Mrs. J.
Cameron Kerr, Mrs. F. Gilham, Mr, and

Mrs. J. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. A. Y.
Niven. Mrs. P. A. Wagner, Mrs. 3.
Knight, Mrs. A. Egan, Mrs. H. Â©. Tan-

ner, Mrs. A. Smith, Mrs. Fi ll. H
Fleming, Mrs. P. Grant, Mrs. Webb,

Mrs. G. E. P. Jones, Mrs. J. M. Trenery,

Dr. T. Reunert, Miss Elsie Healey, Mrs,
McFadyen, Miss May.Bell, Mrs. R. Coul

ter, Mrs. F. Kemp, Mr. H. H. Muller

and many others.

Newspapers gave
considerable coverage to
the schoolâ\200\231s Speech Days.

SRO PSSLFS IPF SFIS

Guests at Roedean, photographed in the garden on Saturday afternoon, which was â\200
\234Speech Dayâ\200\235
at the School.

EAR AA ee EAAMAALBA LALA A

Senator Clarkson, Minister of Posts and

Telegraphs, was the guest speaker at
Speech Day in 1936.

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The guest speaker in 1977 was heart
surgeon Professor Christiaan Barnard.
His wife, Barbara (née Zoellner), was
an Old Girl. The charismatic professor
had performed the world's first heart
transplant in 1967.

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Mattie Reid Memorial

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vy,

An invitation to the
1999 Speech Day, and
the programme from the
2002 event. Outstanding
Roedean musicians as
well as the Senior Choir
are asked to perform
during the proceedings.

Roedean School (SA)

Speech Day 2002

PARKTOWN JOHANNESBURG

THE HEADMISTRESS , STAFF AND SCHOOL
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AT

SPEECH DAY

ON SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER 1999

ADDRESS BY
Mrs Adelaide Tambo
Masters Degree - University of Keele, UK
Member of Parliament

RSVP
643-8337 / 647-3200
Headmistress's Secretary

09:00 Exhibitions Open
10:15 Tea
11:00 Speeches & Presentations

Order of Events

Music : Lauren Steyn - Arabesque by Debussy

Kathryn Hendry - Romance by Liszt

PROCESSIONAL Senior Ct Gaudeamus Igitur

Senior Chor Glory be to the Father

B k

Be

WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN Mr Bill Cooper

REPORT BY THE HEADMISTRESS Mrs Mary Williams

SPEECHES OF WELCOME

ENGLISH Sithembile Mbete

AN

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ADDRESS

VOTE OF THANKS He

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The audience is requested to remain standing
until the Academic Procession has left the Hall

Ella Le Maitre with a group of prefects
at Speech Day 1958.

Another tradition of Speech Day is for
Welcome Speeches to be made in different
languages. In 1956 they were made by
(from left to right) Elizabeth du Preez
(Afrikaans), Helen Brayshaw (English),
Deborah Lavin (Latin) and Jean Archibald
(French).

In 2002 Welcome Speeches were made by
(from left to right) Julie Felli (French),
Sithembile Mbete (English), Nthabiseng
Baloyi (Zulu), Colette Marais
(Afrikaans), and Vanessa Walker (Latin).
In recent years the Welcome Speeches
have been delivered in Chinese, German,
Spanish, and Xhosa.

a eta

THE GRANDCHILDREN'S PARTY 1955

It was disappointing indeed for the Grandchildren to see massive, iron-grey clouds piling up in the sky at about twelve o'clock. Up to that time we had all been certain that it would be a fine day; but the weather did not treat us badly as it might have done and there were even pale shadows as the first grandchildren began to arrive, clutching toys bigger than themselves. By three o'clock all were gleefully splashing themselves and everyone else in the swimming bath. It was at this point that our old and much-loved friend Juicy came down, and she was surrounded by so many people that it was quite a task to come near enough to talk to her; however, her very presence made the afternoon for all of us. After swimming most people flocked to the Gym (by way of the plum trees!) and enjoyed precipitating themselves over the apparatus. The older Grandchildren were thankful when tea was announced and what a delicious tea! After everyone had eaten their fill came the event of the afternoon finding the Fairy Godmother. A long and somewhat tiring search revealed her, surrounded by boxes for the toys, in the Ref. When all had presented their gifts and eaten their ice creams the rain poured down in earnest. By that time, however, only the most energetic of us were able to play in the Gym again, and people began to disperse after a

wonderful afternoon.

Report from The African Roedean.

Above: Not everyone enjoyed the parties as much as the children, as evidenced by this entry in a Senior's diary in the 1950s!

Top: The annual Grandchildren's Party began in the 1920s when Old Girls would bring their children to meet TL and KME. The Founders considered these children to be their grandchildren, each more beautiful than the last.

Right: Continuing the tradition of dressing up, the Master Brian Law attended the Grandchildren's Party costumed as the Pied Piper. The tradition of the Grandchildren's

Party has fallen away in latter years.

During World War I, convalescing soldiers paid a visit to the school. They were photographed on the playing fields with the bare ridge behind them, Roedean being situated on what was then the outskirts of the Johannesburg.

Right: The 1919 edition of The African Roedean carried these reports of the Armistice. (The Kloof Road mentioned in the letter is present day Houghton Drive.)

In 1918 the Junior School raised £9 for the Blue Cross, the society which took care of the wounded horses and dogs used in the war. The following letter was received from General Rundle:

Dear Miss Peacy,

At the request of my Committee I write to thank the pupils of Roedean School for the very kind contribution of £9 which they sent us for the Blue Cross Fund, being the proceeds of an entertainment which they kindly gave on our behalf.

Will you please tell them that their kind sum comes at a most opportune moment, as we have now, at the request of the French Government, taken over the care of the War Dogs? These dogs are largely used in the French Army as sentinels, messengers, for seeking out the wounded soldiers, etc., and frequently get wounded in consequence. We have therefore opened hospitals for them in addition to those we already have for the wounded War Horses. The story of their suffering is a most pathetic one.

Lady Smith-Dorrien also wishes me to personally add her very grateful thanks for this kind thought for the wounded animals.

Both she and myself think the effort the pupils have made a splendid one.

Yours sincerely,
(General) Leslie Rundle.

During both World Wars, Roedean pupils worked tirelessly to raise money for relief efforts. This entry is from The African Roedean of 1917:

Instead of collecting as heretofore for various Funds, the School has decided to adopt two Prisoners of War now in German Camps. A little under £3 a month keeps a prisoner in parcels of food, clothing and tobacco, so we are sending £6 a month to the Gifts and Comforts Committee. Our men are Corporal Art, at Hammelbury, Bavaria, and Private Armstrong at Sprottan, Silesia, both of the Third S.A.1. We hope that some of the girls will write to them and express our interest in their welfare. It must be terribly dull, if nothing worse, in a prison camp.

â\200\230No need for â\200\234Please to remember the 11th of Novemberâ\200\235, because nobody will ever forget it. Peace! Peace after four years of war! ... Everybody did something to celebrate the glorious news. On Wednesday night we had a bonfire on the highest peak of the kopje opposite to St Johnâ\200\231s School. Wednesday was mostly spent in collecting wood for the fire. The St Johnâ\200\231s boys helped and between us we managed to get quite a large amount of wood. The fire was built in the stone foundation of an old blockhouse.

â\200\230During the afternoon it looked like rain, but fortunately the night was beautifully fine. The fire was lit by Miss Lawrence, and as the wood broke into flames everybody sang â\200\234God Save The Kingâ\200\235. ... Miss Lawrence called for three cheers for all the Allies, and everybody cheered so heartily it was a wonder they had any voices left for the songs that were sung afterwards. The singing, however, was heard by the rows of people watching the fire from the Kloof Rd.

â\200\230â\200\234The Marseillaiseâ\200\235, â\200\234Rule Britanniaâ\200\235, â\200\234The Long Trailâ\200\235, â\200\234Tipperaryâ\200\235 and â\200\234John Brown's Bodyâ\200\235 were among the many songs sung.

â\200\230When the fire had burnt down, everybody joined together to make a ring around it and sing first â\200\234Auld Lang Syneâ\200\235 and then â\200\234God Save The Kingâ\200\235.

â\200\234We have called the peak where the fire was made â\200\234Peace Beaconâ\200\235 in memory of our glorious victory.â\200\231

â\200\230... It was in the late August of 1939 that

. : An extract from Ella Le Maitreâ\200\231s notes preserved
I went with some others from our Matric in the Roedean archives, detailing Roedeanâ\200
\231s

and Cambridge Class by train to the activities during World War II.
Hans Merensky Farm School in the

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int, : â\200\231 Vag o
Northern Transvaal. The purpose of |
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the visit was to improve our Afrikaans. | :

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In the day we attended classes and in | â\200\234ajianehed Gee Se at . â\200\234hang

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Bas , Colas: 4% â\200\234AA tar
the evening listened to the wireless |, â\200\234Yad y , thn Wien Pe ee mee
or played games, or went to tickey- pbeanac 7 Gee fs fy Vhs
played g s, or went to tickey pe

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draais organized by the School. ag haa t Fa a hii, A. G Ke Ay Aghe fen y at |
â\200\230One of the young lads, Johan, | x Maw Xow ol, J Maite â\200\230 Vivek oad â
\200\2344 Moyle Hon,

who later became a Springbok â\200\224 Alloy a be Ma A they ys A fy he Ee e . he

by player and a well-k Hh Mi shige ili lg
rugby player and a well-known ; Plat fe Years af ag, fi de
doctor, liked my friend Joan bead 4, As bing â\200\234a lbeley Arve, 37 hi fa AlaÂ», iâ
\200\234, Aan
Summerly (Donald) and invited Ss Maa Xergs \$e Wha g dic Briers a Eueting
her to be his partner at the next es X Six ie AL luo 7eArg Chad Yo ly I ease
tickey-draai, an invitation that bz, _ Wk lig} ts Met yg iin he . Wc fey ate
Joan accepted happily â\200\224 we all OG tosh d papal Papg ha ol Cia py Cost

envied her! ds, Ã©
â\200\230Then on the night before â\200\224 ant Meet. if Any BA Ne cheÂ»
September 3rd â\200\224 we were all yh dey Mb dd,
8 tary. OP og nS Me
sitting around the wireless /(Â° â\200\235 CE Me I bf My Bing ae /Arecd 4 oe
listening to the grave voice ey an Â© tigi, , , he
of Neville Chamberlain sae Dlink
announce the declaration of |â\200\234? hig oY 7 li fblaegthane pe Eo AG fo, hl,
war between England and De ban ole gf YE. Gay fs Ou Kor br-de ZL Cy ba a,
Germany. â\200\234God Save The Aâ\204¢4., ., ke
Kingâ\200\235 was played and the /4/ %, _ Ah a ee. Oateg e My
Roedean girls leapt to Hin eo fe kine 4 co

their feet and stood to 2 Jacal of ax hee nfs he Lp tee ie hase

attention whilst the Merensky pupils XK ke bias ;
remained seated. We felt anxious â\200\224 : he hey th ch
isolated and patriotic. Cedew,

â\200\230Joan wrote a letter to Johan that night to say that she could no longer accept

his
invitation to the tickey-draai as he had not stood up for â\200\234God Save The Kingâ
\200\235. The next day she
received a note from him: â\200\234Dear Joan, I have learnt to play God Save The King o
n my mouth organ
â\200\224 please come with me tonight.â\200\235 We all went to the tickey-draai. Joan p
artnered Johan and we had
a wonderful evening.
â\200\230... [can still see the big map behind the hall stage where Miss Le Maitre, eve
ry day through all
those years, would move pins about and keep us abreast of the fluctuating fortunes of t
he war,
which came to an end just before we left school to face the brave new world which all t
hat fighting
had been about.â\200\231
Sheila Junod (nÃ©e Patchitt), 1940s.

Roedean pupils raised the enormous sum of £400 to buy a military ambulance for the South African Medical Corps. It was presented during the Grandchildren's Party in 1941. Old Girl Joan Pocock presented the ambulance to Colonel Pratt-Johnson of the South African Defence Force. Ella Le

Maitre (centre) is shown dressed in her customary fairy godmother costume. 3 ee

The ambulance is driven through the Buckle Gates | 3 > â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224_ |__ oe
on the first leg of its journey to Malta. | : (ALTA) AN

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The memories of girl
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African Roedean of

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Old Girl Jeanne

THE BLUE 80)
RDER WITH
IN WHICH THE ADDRESS ee -â\200\224 SHAPE WITH
BE WRITTEN

s at Roedean during the second war

1942 illustrates the determined efforts

of the Junior School pupils:
ral of the Juniors disappeared entirely inside

the colossal pullovers they wer
found by Miss

remember Ait Raid practice on the

middle of lessons, an
â\200\234pottyâ\200\235 with her in cas

_ knitting. This report from The

e knitting for our
Chard rolled up in
knitting ---â\200\231
wrote: â\200\231... I
Kopjie in the
d the boarder who took her
e she needed it a

orms and still
Portal-Altham

Being the war years, the food left much to be desired, as Angela Lloyd vividly remembers: â\200\230Each day we would queue outside the Junior School Hall, collecting our napkins in their little blue or green envelopes from the Dignes on duty, and then proceed in crocodile up to an orderly lunch, at set table places, each table for 10 presided over by a mistress, who served all helpings with ruthless impartiality, and watched us eat with a beady eye, quick to pounce on bad manners or on any attempt to â\200\234pouchâ\200\235 or otherwise conceal unwanted morsels of the robust offerings that reached each plate.

There was beef stew and fried fish, and a grey mutton stew redolent of dishcloths; cottage pie

was a treat. Vegetables were pumpkin and cabbage, and boiled potatoes; but it was the puddings

that caused the problems, those ghastly blancmanges, the ghosts of Caesar, Cleopatra and

Chaka; the hideous Spotted Dog in its shiny casing of suet, and worst of all the dread vermicelli,

with its knots of little white worms

writhing about in the watery gruel of

a failed egg custard. An extraordinary |

treat, in contrast to these concoctions

was the rice pudding, at least made

with good rice, sugar and milk.â\200\231

The HMS Sonda

was a minesweeper

which was adopted

by Roedean in 1941.

Each crew member had a

Roedean correspondent,

and the girls collected such

items as sweets, cigarettes,

books, records and musical

instruments for them, as

well as knitting items of

clothing.

Top left: The HMS Sonda

ensign was presented to

the school after the war and

now hangs in the chapel.

Crew members of the HMS Sonda

who visited the school in

September 1944.

Shirley Arnold (née Kneen) remembered the embarrassing day when crew members of the HMS Sonda visited

the school:

During the last war, Roedean adopted a Royal Navy corvette. The girls wrote letters to the men on board and vigorously applied themselves to knitting strange shaped objects supposedly for their comfort. One day members of the crew arrived at the school. Miss Le Maitre took it upon herself to show them round. Now it happened to be an excessively hot day and the mistress, who shall remain nameless, sympathised sufficiently with her class to allow them to discard their djibbahs and continue the remainder of the class clad only in voluminous black bloomers and white short-sleeved blouses. By today's standards the girls

were more than adequately covered up, but in those days ... well!

Suddenly the form room door was flung open and Miss Le Maitre, accompanied by several naval officers, advanced into the room. The girls, of course, leaped to their feet and stood to attention - some with blouses neatly tucked in, but some with blouses, dare I say it, hanging out! but all in what Miss Le Maitre quite obviously thought was a state of undress. In as dignified a manner as possible under the circumstances, she extricated her men and firmly shut the classroom door, and progressed, presumably down the corridor, saying or explaining ... who knows? Need I say that as soon as we thought everyone was safely out of earshot, there were peals of girlish giggles.

uF

King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret visited Johannesburg in 1947. Roedean pupils were invited to a Royal Party at Zoo Lake, where Ella Le Maitre was presented to the King and Queen.

In 1953 Roedean pupils lined Louis Botha Avenue to watch the celebrations marking the coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth.

The significant birthdays of Roedean are always specially celebrated. In the run up to the Jubilee year pupils were required to raise money for a special fund. These notes illustrate the resourceful efforts of the younger girls.

a pound
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with 10 pupils, two young
 English women, Miss Theresa
 . Lawrence and Miss Margaret
 Earle, founded Roedean School
 @ venture inspired by the Law-
 rence sisters, who had founded
 Roedean School in Brighton.
 Last week-end the South Afri-
 can Roedean celebrated its
 golden jubilee with a foundation
 stone-laying of extensions to the
 junior school, a garden party
 and a candle-lit dinner attended
 by members of

the board, the
 council, staff an

and girls, past and
 present. The chief guest of
 honour was Dame Emmeline
 Tanner, former headmistress of

po Apter) Oy ars.

FIFTY years ago in Jeppe-

Roedean, Brighton, and her
 Speeches at the laying of the.
 stone and the dinner were both
 a delight. and an inspiration.

Scottie, Miss R. S. Scott, |
 former assistant vice-principal, |
 Miss Mabel Bayley, former head- |
 mistress of the junior school,
 both came from Natal for the
 celebrations and had a great
 reception, and Mrs. Margaret
 Harris, of White River, an Old
 Girl. of Roedean, Brighton, a
 former games mistress of Roe-
 dean, South Africa, and a niece
 of the Lawrences, was another
 guest.

The theme, not buildings, but

Four of the Old Girls
adjourned to their favourite
school log for tea are MARI-
GOLD WILSON, MARGARET
DALZIEL, MARY OATES and
MARY CLARKE, among the
hundreds who attended the
Roedean School Golden Jubilee
garden party on Friday, when
the foundation stone of
junior school extension
laid by Dame
Tanner.

friends who

the

ions

was
Emmeline

The 50th birthday of the
school saw unprecedented
celebrations, as reported in
the Rand Daily Mail of
24 February 1953.

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people make a school, it was em-
phasised by both Dame Emme-
line and the Mayor of Johannes-
burg, Mr. H. Miller, the latter
saying that women turned out
by this school took a great part
in fashioning the future life of
the country.

Everyone was impressed with
the splendid arrangements made
for receiving hundreds of people
by the headmistress, Miss Ella
Le Maitre, the staff and pupils.

Mrs. Ida Wagner presented a
token cheque to the chairman,
Mr. Whitmore Richards, for
£13,000, collected by the jubilee
fund committee about half the
amount required for buildings.

The Old Girls' Association

meeting, conducted by Mrs. Eric
Marthinusen, voted the annual
sum of £250 for the Native nur-
sery schools.

ON FRIDAY, 34 OCTOBER,

1952

GALA DINNER DANCE

FOUNDERSâ\200\231 HALL
from 7.30 p.m. to | a.m.

ON SATURDAY, 4th OCTOBER,

in the

1952

At 12 noon

AMERICAN LUNCHEON
AND FASHION SHOW
on the lawns around the
Swimming Pool.

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

STALLS
AMUSEMENT PaRK
Pony RiIpEs

Tras

At 3 p.m.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF
THE FETE

At 3.30 and 5.30 p.m.

DISPLAY OF MODERN
DANCING and VAULTING

On Sale from 2 to 10 p.m.

| ICE CREAM
COLD DRINKS
HOT DOGS

From 6 p.m.

BRAAIVLEIS
Open Arr DANCING
GAMES OF SKILL

in the Pleasaunce.

tp rae

The delightful drawings in
the souvenir programme of
the 50th birthday celebrations
chart the school's progress.

Right: Dame Emmeline
Tanner, former Headmistress
of Roedean, Brighton, was the
guest of honour at the
Johannesburg 50th birthday
celebrations . In her speech
she said, '... We pray that
during the next 50 years
Roedean will continue to send
out into the world women
prepared to follow that Good
Life that does not change with
the times, women with a
sense of beauty and a
standard of values that will
make them worthy citizens of
South Africa and of the
world.' Dame Emmeline's
hopes have certainly been
rewarded.

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The Rosebank Killarney
_ Gazette interviewed
Brian Law on the occasion
of the school's 75th
birthday. Mr Law, the
former rector of
Michaelhouse, was the
only man to serve as head
of the school during its first
hundred years.

NTR TIE eel ee sa ik he BS The programme for the 90th birthday fair.

Mr. Brian Law, headmaster of Roedean School, which celebrated the 75th anniversary |
of its founding this year.

s |

Roedean old girls On the occasion of |
= Roedean's 90th birthday,

make their mark 227.2"

The Star newspaper
ROEDEAN School, one of

interviewed the
the oldest girls' schools in
Johannesburg, celebrated its

75th year of existence on years ago. Until recently Sheena Duncan. chairman of
eorsnk dy had its humble Roedean and St Johns were the Black Sash.
beginn in a four-roomed the only two schools in > ,
house in Janie Street, Johannesburg qts= fon nee Se
Jeppestown in 1903. this |

Today, the school still Several of 1

Fetains a rustic air due to its
proximity to The Wilds. It is
only a stones throw from the

Parktown Ridge and is only three kilometres from the centre of the city

Roedean was started by the youngest of the three Lawrence sisters, who founded Roedean in Brighton, England. Theresa Lawrence was persuaded to

responsible for reviving post matric at the school after this had lapsed about thirty

Lister, wife of Sir Spencer, Lister. Joyce Waring, Maud Sumner, the artist, and

Headmistress, Lyn Nelson.

old girls have! mark after leavir

among whom huge new hospital on the |

come out to South Africa | and with a friend, Margaret |

Earle, the school was Yet they must have focus is on excellence The big complaint. cation ty out of the ques-

opened to cater for the | had their hopes, even in in last year's Joint Ma- about monas tic shoots ton

daught ini the school's early days triculatation Board ts that socially there is Not nece ssarily, says ghters o mining y y

executives on the Reef.

In 1904 the school was moved to Parktown to its present site, and the original building stood alone on the |koppie, except for Lord Milner's official residence,

Sunnyside, and the home of move into the coun- staff, with a strong em- boys a nd girls mature at ingful, non-materialistic Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, whose try phasis on science and different rates, and that value system. The em- wife performed the opening And so Roedean in = mathematics, languag- each group's requi re- phasis is on integrity

ceremony. Roedean started off as a

| boarding school in the past, |

but today most of the pupils
are day scholars, but some
of those who board come
from as far afield as Fiji, the
Seychelles and Kenya.

It has been quite a
change moving from a boy's

board school :

Naichasteese. Natel ts ~ Hohenheim, which was Survival guages, for example, places in Grade 0, and
girls' school = ta later demolished to However, one needs with English, Afri 70
~~ applications for
Johannesburg, says Mr make way for the Jo- more than British tradit- kaans, French, Latin very few" places in |

Brian Law, the ninth principal but first headmaster of
Roedean

He has introduced quite a
few changes in the three
years since he has been
there, the most notable of
which is the sharing with a

By Annarosa de Waai

When two teachers from:

Roedean School in

Brighton, England, came to Johannesburg in

1903 to found a local
British girls' school

and of this independence-
. they could not have

known that 90 years later it would have grown

into one of the most res;
in South Africa.

in dusty, noisy Jeppes-
town, then a buzzing
mining suburb. In fact,
it was the dust that finally prompted Misses
Theresa Lawrence and
Katherine Earle to

Parktown was founded
Designed by Sir Herbert
Baker, the original
building was one of only
three in the area, the
other two being Lord
Milner's Sunnyside residence (today the Sunnyside Park Hotel), and
Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's

hannesburg Hospital

90th year

This year celebrating
its 90th year, todayâ\200\231s
Roedean ls built on the
best of British tradition,
with a strong South

ected private schools

exams, for example, we
came second, third,
fourth and ninth, and
our lowest average sym-
bol was a D

â\200\234We have 641 pupils
and 9%) members of

es. music and drama

â\200\234As teachers we try
our best to achieve that
magic combination of
high standards and low
anxiety. And one hopes
that when a pupil leaves
she will have acquired a
love of learning.â\200\235

ron to survive in South
Afneca today. And Mrs
Nelson agrees: â\200\234We
don't want to be pre
cious and tsolated from
the real world, the girls
need to know the politi.
cal and social issues of

Roedean tur

yn Nelson ...as teachers we try to

achieve that magic combination of high standards and low anxiety.

the form captains once a
term. and I remember a
little Standard Six form
captain telling me once
that she had learnt two

their daughters here for
a few years, then leave
again for England, the
US, Taiwan, Brazil,
Germany Which ls why

Africa is entering an un-
predictable penod,
there are plans for a uni

tary system of education
and equal opportunities

which academically will
make us the equal of all
the other countries in
the world.â\200\235

She firmly believes in
boys and girls being
educated separately,
and in encouraging a
spirit of independence

Monastic

no Opportunity to mix
with the opposite sex,
but I find todayâ\200\231s young
sters see quite a lot of
each other outside
school

â\200\234The point is that

ments are best met sep-
arately.â\200\235

Independence, on the
other hand, allows a
school greater opportu-
nity to pursue interests
outside the prescribed
curriculum

â\200\234We have a very
strong emphasis on lan-

and Zulu being compul-
sory subjects in Stan-
dard Six and Seven. We
also offer German, Itali-
an, Spanish, Portu-
guese, Mandarin Chi-
nese, Japanese, Polish
and South Sotho as

â\200\234We change and adapt |
as we go along â\200\224 we're
thinking, for example,
of adding fencing, scuba
diving and karate.â\200\235
Which all sounds
wonderfully interesting
and varied, except that
without fairly well-off
parents this sort of edu-

Mrs Nelson. â\200\234Yes, we

have wealthy parents,
but there are also many
parents who work very
hard to keep their chil
dren here. We try to
teach the girls a mean

and independence.â\200\235
Not easy

â\200\234Getting m\200\235 is not
easy â\200\224 Mrs Nelson says |
the youngest applicant
on her waiting list was
born last week. Last
year Roedean received
120 applications for 44

Standard Six

Older applicants
wrote an English and
mathematical test, â\200\234but
we are not just looking |
for stars; one wants a
school community that
has diversity and ener

ee ae Pete African and internat the day. They also have things from her classâ\200\231
our academic standards for all children, which 5 matric subjects, with gy
curricular activities tonal flavour to know the difference fundraising effort: You abso
lutely have to be on obviously essential. pupils writing the Brit The most important
â\200\230 As its current head between formal and in can't depend on every an internatio
nal level,â\200\235 . â\200\234But | also believe ish A-level exams in part of the appl
ication |

â\200\234Tt is one of my policies

that where there are clear mistress, Mrs Lyn Nel formal language and oc one and you can
t'sell Mrs Nelson says you have to acknowl- subjects not tested by process is an interv
iew |
educational. social or son, puts it â\200\234Pupils ad casions and how to con cake from
a sloping Future edge and encourage di- the Jomt Matriculation with the headmistress.
|
economic benefits from dress teachers as â\200\230Mad duct themselves in so hench â\200
\234 versity, and that educa- Board " â\200\234L look for pupils who |

sharing. why not do so?"â\200\231 Mr
Lew said

The two schools share
French, Latin and chemistry
lessons. They also combine
for public speaking, ballroom

amâ\200\231. they curtsey when
they receive an award
and they are (taught
to = acknowledge â\200\224 tthe
school's history

â\200\234The school has a
ciety

Life skills form an important part of the Roedean curriculum, and each class has to support a charity for which it has

Roedean has a vast number of pupils who come from the international community, and their needs have to be catered for as well

Yes, she does believe private schools (parents pay between R7 200 and R12 945 annually to keep their daughters at Roedean) have a place

tron needs to span the best and Third World dichotomy

As centres of excellence, private schools will play a crucial role in

In the cultural field, too, far more than the core curriculum is offered, girls are able, for example, to learn anything from antique furniture

are willing to apply themselves to whatever they are doing, whether it is playing hockey or the violin, doing a Latin translation or smiling

bridge and the strong work ethic and to help raise funds Diplomats and cap in a future South Africa, future restoration and sweetly all someone in | as always was also culture of learning Our 1 have lunch with all members of industry send a Education in South providing an education pottery to photography trouble ~

The 90th birthday

celebrations culminated in a
masked ball held at the
Carlton Hotel.

: Tye

Foundation Day 2003 was a
particularly auspicious
occasion. Seventy years on,
Old Girls Patience Freeland
(left) and Rosemary
McCulloch returned to sing
the old school songs once
again. Rosemary is the
mother of the Junior School
Headmistress Jan Mallen
(centre). Patience still
remembers a visit to the
school by Ouma Smuts who
wore a long black dress, black
stockings and black shoes.

a . sy
90 YEAR?

Carlton Hotel
Friday 19 March 1993

The annual PTA dinners at Roedean are
popular events, when parents and staff
gather together to dine and dance the night
away.

The Centenary logo lights
up the velvet curtains of
the stage in Foundersâ\200\231 Hall
during the Centenary
Launch cocktail party.

Events celebrating the

Centenary were planned
throughout the year.

Two thousand members of
the Roedean community,
sporting hats from various
eras in the schoolâ\200\231s history,
gathered on the playing
fields for the Decades
picnic and Junior
Entrepreneurship Fair.

â\200\230My favourite part of the
Centenary Service was the
parade of flags. I saw the South
African and the Roedean flag.
I liked all the colours. I liked
my special badge. I loved the
prayers in lots of different
languages. I sang â\200\230The Best
School Of Allâ\200\231 all day long!
When we went out we had a
fairy cake with a golden 100 on
top. Yummy! It was a very
special day!â\200\231

Laurie Harrison, Form II,

At the commemorative Assembly, all pupils
and staff received a centenary badge.

A porcelain Pioneer Pupil doll was part of a
wide selection of Centenary memorabilia sold a

during 2003. Its clothes are authentic, down to
the ubiquitous black bloomers, and were
meticulously sewn and embroidered by Roedean
mothers and Old Girls.

Hundreds of roses echoed the myriad colours
of the flags at the Commemorative Assembly.

A multimedia production
combined music, theatre
and photographic visuals
to chart the history of the
school.

BRICKS AND MORTAR

â\200\230Vision has conjured us, fostered our spirit,
Vision foretold the white walls of Roedean.â\200\231

One of Sydney Carterâ\200\231s sketches of Roedean,
showing the Bearsâ\200\231 entrance in the late 1920s.

here comes a point in the history of most institutions when the ethos and the physical infrastructure become one. Think of Oxford or the Sorbonne, or the Vatican or the Kaaba at Mecca. The bricks and mortar and the intention they contain enunciate a common message. Although the exact point is not known at which the white arches and terracotta roofs of Roedean began to exude the core ideas of â\200\234Trouthe and Honour, Freedom and Curteisyeâ\200\231, it is certain that they do now.

The original buildings were designed by Sir Herbert Baker. It is clear that the budget was limited. Unplastered bricks were painted white, and the buildings are significantly unadorned. This reality now seems entirely apt. It speaks more clearly of that fundamental Roedean precept, of simplicity being the criterion of good taste, than it does of financial strictures. Yet even the latter implication has its place in the ethos of the school. There is a sense of spartan restraint, which emanates from this elegantly simple architecture.

Consider this as an example: no glazed windows in the Junior School dormitories until the 1950s. Before that date, imagine rows of small girls mostly invisible under their karosses while the frozen highveld winters stalked freely in and out of the dormitories.

Closer inspection of the Roedean buildings provides further evidence. They are filled with what can best be described as â\200\230add-onsâ\200\231. Brighton provided some tapestries and a piano. Bequests brought teak doors here, a small chapel there. Individuals left their small marks on the original shell, bringing to the school a caring human dimension which might have been difficult to achieve had the building budgets been larger. Take Foundersâ\200\231 Hall, for example. The interior of this special place was built brick by brick, each brick a donation.

Roedean has spent large parts of its century looking for donations â\200\224 of money for this or that, of bricks, of anything that could add to the richness and relevance of the home of so valuable an ethos. Donations built the Freer Room and P classroom named after Paul Lawrence; and R60 bought a filtration system for the swimming pool where â\200\230you never knew what you'd find in the waterâ\200\231 (according to one informant) â\200\224 including, one memorable morning, a dead horse.

After 50 years, the Jubilee Fund was established to raise money for new buildings to cope with the schoolâ\200\231s steady growth. The same happened after 75 years, and again after 90 years, and will naturally happen with the Centenary Appeal.

So the original Herbert Baker contribution, those white walls and arches, has been steadily added to and complemented by new buildings which together make the school we know today. The chapel was dedicated in 1934, and enlarged during a spate of building activity in the 1980s and 1990s. The Drama Block and the Gymnasium, the Maud Sumner Arts Block, the Computer Centre and the Technology Centre were all built in that time.

During the early years, every night a street lamp cast the shadow of a cross onto the white Bearsâ\200\231 gable of the original Baker building. Some contemporaries saw this as a sign that the school was blessed. In terms of the growth of its infrastructure, and the remarkable retention and complementing of the design of the original building, it is difficult not to concur.

TLâ\200\231s older sister Millicent had visited the school in St Patrick's Avenue and had realised that if the South African branch of her school was to flourish it needed a permanent building. This account from the SAORA archives describes how she achieved this:

â\200\230,.. Upon her return to England, Millicent evolved her scheme. She had interviewed the Braamfontein Company, the manager of which was Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, and had obtained the offer of the upper part of the present site (which she had helped to select) and a building loan on a deposit of Â£1,500. This money she now collected in loans, at a low rate of interest, from friends and well-wishers of the scheme. Their names are well-known and have been given to the

original classrooms in the Old House, and to the Cottage. P for Sir Paul Ogden Lawrence (T L's brother), F for Frances Martineau, E for Elspeth Brausewetter and C for Charlotte Renou.

Amongst the introductions given to the Lawrence sisters by Rudyard Kipling was one to Sir Herbert Baker, whose services as architect Roedean was fortunate enough to secure. Sir Herbert drew the plan of the first house, now St Ursula, and his partner, Mr Sloper, superintended its erection. When later Mr Sloper and Sir Herbert left Africa, Mr Fleming became Roedeanâ\200\231s official architect; and to him the school owes all the future additions which so wonderfully harmonise with its beginnings.â\200\231

Below: The original Sir Herbert Baker building, c1904, photographed from what is now Princess of Wales Terrace. The design combined elements of Dutch and English architecture. It was one of only a handful of buildings on the ridge. Lord Milner was a neighbour at Sunnyside, and a frequent visitor for a game of cribbage.

Sir Percy and Lady Fitzpatrick were also near neighbours and great supporters of the school. Sir Percy is best remembered as the author of the classic story Jock of the Bushveld.

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88

The original foundation stone was laid on 8 March 1904. Lady

Fitzpatrick was unable to perform the duty owing to the illness of Sir Percy and it was laid instead by Mr E B Sargant, educational advisor to Lord Milner, in pouring rain. The building was blessed by Dr Carter, the Bishop (and later Archbishop) of Pretoria. The stone has since been replaced by a marble plaque.

The architect's plan for the ground floor.

|

These pictures were published
in a brochure about the school

in 1908 and show the
beginnings of the garden.

Blyth Cottage was built on the site where the biology block now stands and was originally used as a sanatorium. A donation from the Lawrencesâ\200\231 aunt Frances Martineau in 1905 enabled the school to build a new sanatorium in the Martineau wing.

The old engine house is still in use today by the estate manager. At one time it was the electricity station for the whole of Parktown. It was bought in 1909 and variously used as a sanatorium, a laboratory, TLâ\200\231s bedroom and a laundry.

â\200\224 \ Left: French Cottage was used as both residence for the French teacher and classroom for her pupils until 1931. One Old Girl remembered the French Madame from her day:

â\200\230... Madame Peckowitz, a Polish aristocrat, taught French. She inhabited the French Cottage, and it was a treat to be asked to dinner there. Madame always wore a very long string of pearls â\200\224 we were sure she slept with them round her neck.â\200\231 Madame can be seen in the doorway.

Right: French Cottage is today the home of the estate manager.

The frieze, a copy of the one on the Parthenon, the tapestries and the furniture were all gifts from Roedean Brighton to Roedean (SA).

The hall came to be used as a dining-room, and is little changed today. Sadly, the fragile tapestries disintegrated and had to be removed.

Ce

Seniors eating grapes under the pergola, dressed in their Sunday uniform.

On hot summer afternoons prep was done in the shade of Uncle Paul's pergola. Uncle Paul was TL's brother and a distinguished barrister. He was a great benefactor of his sisters' schools.

91

In 1910 the north side of the Parktown ridge was still free of buildings. Roedean was considered to be rather far out of town, but wealthy families began to build their homes on the ridge to escape the dust from the mines in the south. Many years later several of these magnificent houses were demolished to build the present day Johannesburg Hospital, while others disappeared under the cement of the office blocks that now stand in Parktown.

In 1915 The Shelter, as TL called it, was built on the site of what is now the Water Garden. It became known as Sheds and was used first as classrooms for the Junior School and later as games sheds.

92

The Junior School was built in 1918 with an open dormitory upstairs and open classrooms, now called Schollay.

.. The Founders believed in Spartan conditions to build the physical, mental and spiritual strength of their pupils (or was it lack of money in the early days when the school was built?). There were two dormitories like large verandahs which each held some 25 girls. There were no windows but large spaces open to the elements and canvas blinds to be let down in winter or on stormy nights while the girls kept themselves warm under karosses made of hyrax or dassie skins. The baths were little tin tubs, and I can't remember if there was hot water or not.

Pat Mackay, 1930-1940.

The Council Block was completed in 1913 and opened by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick in his capacity as Chairman of the Witwatersrand Council of Education. It was built with a grant from the council and was later incorporated into the Lambsâ\200\231 building.

The swimming pool was added in 1921. (See page 92)
â\200\230... The swimming bath was small and only six foot deep in the deep end. There was a low spring board, and also two rocks, to dive off. Diving for the tall was difficult, as one reached the bottom before oneâ\200\231s feet had disappeared from view. The water was a lovely pea green, which grew thicker as the term went on. Strange things got into the bath â\200\224 frogs, ducks, and even a horse on one occasion. The pool was emptied once a term, the water being let onto the garden and rhubarb patch below. We always had rhubarb tart for Sunday lunch after this happening. In spite of these drawbacks we produced some very good swimmers and the team entered the first inter-school gala and came home with the cup and medals.â\200\231
From a memoir written by Matty Read.

Above: The teak door of Bearsâ\200\231 was installed in 1919 and dedicated to Cicely Bond, a former pupil and teacher who died in the â\200\230flu epidemic that ravaged Johannesburg in the last years of that decade. Her initials are engraved on the handles.

Left: An open-air gymnasium was built next to St Ursulaâ\200\231s in 1915. It is now the library, where the chairs are engraved with the names of early pupils.

St Ursulaâ\200\231s in the 1920s showing Bearsâ\200\231
: a *Â« Courtyard as it was in those days. The
tees front door was later changed in memory
wae of Old Girl Cicely Bond. This is one of

Scottieâ\200\231s photographs.

The building of St Agnesâ\200\231
house took place in 1922
and incorporated both the
Martineau Wing and the
Council Block.

The Martineau Wing
became a staff room and is
now In use as
administrative offices.

A young pupil, Molly Goodwin, posed for the statue in Katsâ\200\231 Courtyard. It is dedicated to Margery Barry who died at the age of 14 from meningitis. The statue was unveiled by Scottie in 1925.

(See page 111)

Katsâ\200\231 Courtyard in 1924, before the Margery Barry statue was added. The courtyard has always been a favourite place for Roedeanians.

Sydney Carter was a prominent South African artist and illustrator who was commissioned to produce drawings for the 1929 school calendar. This picture shows St Katherineâ\200\231s House which was completed soon after Lambs.

â\200\230...It is built on what was erstwhile a desolate corner of the grounds of which our well-wishers used to complain as the first to meet the eye of a visitor to Roedean. This corner, popularly known as the wilderness and mainly inhabited by wild cats, is now transformed.â\200\231

From notes written by TL.

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95

St Agnesâ\200\231 and St Katherine's were
officially opened on 8 December 1923 by
Mr Justice Feetham. In his address he
commented on the origin of Schollay,
which is now the Junior School staff room:
â\200\230Schole is the Greek term for leisure ...
as the Greeks delighted in learned
discussion, the schole came to mean a
place where these discussions were carried
on. However, the word is now used in the
school in its original meaning, and the
fact that a schole has been provided means
that this is a school where there is at least
some leisure.â\200\231

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first for sad after PF

This speech printed in The African
Roedean explains the idiosyncratic
naming of Roedeanâ\200\231s facilities.

A new swimming pool was built in 1953, and
the open dormitories and classrooms of the Junior
School were mercifully enclosed.

Foundersâ\200\231 Hall was built on the site of a tennis court. It was built
| in stages between 1932 and 1937, with money raised from donations

, and a range of events such as fetes and bridge drives.

|

| an

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Lawrence House lay across the road from the main school entrance. It was used as a resi
dence
for Ella Le Maitre, the sixth form pupils and several members of staff.

â\200\230... It is a very enjoyable privilege to live over at Lawrence House, and I thin
k if it were not
for lessons, the Sixth Form would find it very hard to believe they were at school at a
ll. There
is a sitting-room and a work-room especially for their use, and no one could ever tire
of sitting
in the lovely garden, which also has a tennis court. Upstairs each bedroom is furnished
in a
different colour: one pink, one green and one blue, and the tiled bathrooms have not ye
t ceased
to be a source of admiration to visitors when they are shown over the house.â\200\231

S Morton, 1950.

This aerial photograph of
Roedean was taken in 1952
to commemorate the
schoolâ\200\231s Silver Jubilee.

A concerned letter from | |
Ella Le Maitre to the city â\200\224
engineer concerning
troublesome boys in the
storm drain which ran â\200\224

| The gps = 7th Novel1952.
Jo} hannesb urge

down past St Katherine's! | Storm Drain: Stand 310 Houghton.
I have been greatly perturbed to discover that |

various small boys have
the storm drains which r le

Roedea From time to time thay have forced the
ak from below and appeared in our grounds.

en in the habit of entering
und the games fields of

As far as I know there is no other egress from the
storm drain on this side of th â\200\234Kloo f Road, but presumably

there are entrances on the opposite side of Kloof Road.

Now that the rainy season is upon us, I am greatly
aporehensive for the safety of these sm@li boys. @hould
they be trapped in the drain during a heavy spate, they
would have little chance of survival. I should be
extremely grateful if you would undertake to survey.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

The new wing of the
Junior School was built in
1953. The magnificent
mosaic on the wall was
created by Professor
Armando Baldinelli. It
depicts Lady Margaret
_ gently training the growth
â\200\224 of a young plant.

Margaret Freer (nÃ@e
Saise) who came to
Roedean from Bristol
University in 1920 to
teach science and
stayed for 32 years.

Described as â\200\230motherly
but sternâ\200\231 she was Vice-
Principal for many
years and a strict,
inspiring teacher. The
Freer classroom is
named after her.

The Joris Block was built on top of the library as a
series of studies for Matric students. It is named
after two sisters, Mary and Lulu, who as pupils,
teachers and parents had a long association with the
school. They were born in Belgium and came to
Roedean after World War I. Lulu went on to
distinguish herself at Oxford, and Mary to study
languages at the University of Grenoble, and both
returned to teach at Roedean. Both were said to be
energetic, charming and hardworking and as parents
served on the committee of the SAORA and PTA.
They died within weeks of each other in 1964.

rT . As part of an ongoing series of community initiatives, developed in 2003, Roedean was an integral part of a â\200\230learnershipâ\200\231 pilot scheme to train medical sales representatives. Forty-five unemployed young women spent a term at Roedean and were instructed in the D&T Centre in a basic bridging course in biology, which is intended to address past educational inequality.

Below: In 1966 Blyth Cottage was demolished to make way for a new state-of-the-art biology block.

One of Roedeanâ\200\231s most eminent Old Girls was the artist Maud Sumner, and the school is fortunate to own many of her works. When her sister Dorothy died in 1983 she bequeathed a substantial sum to the school to be used to create a centre for the Old Girls. With the help of the Roedean Trust, the Board was able to extend the plan to create a proper art block in tribute to the Sumner sisters. It comprises painting and pottery studios, dark rooms, lecture rooms, a large exhibition room, as well as a sculpture garden outside. A bust of Maud Sumner, by sculptor Wynand Mulder, stands at the top of the stairs.

The new bridge between Roedean and St John's College was completed in April 2003, a symbolic link that also opens the way for a greater sharing of facilities between them. The Bridge nursery school, operating as a partnership between the two schools, also opened its doors in the centenary year.

100

Heritage schools to bridge

Left: The entrance to the St Margaret's Block with

its bell tower. The design

, echoes the arches of the #4 Upper Junior School.

Above: Music is an important part of the Roedean curriculum. The Hersov Music Block was built on the site of the old tennis court and is named after the Hersov family, members of which have been great benefactors of Roedean. It is set in the heart of the school, ensuring there is always music in the atrium.

Left: In 1988, building began on the new Junior Primary School, known as the St Margaret's Block, which was sited down the hill and looks towards St John's school. It was opened in 1989 by Old Girl Alison Somerville.

the gap after 100 years

means making friends will be a whole lot easier

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Bringing neighbours together

Left: 1994 saw the opening of the new Sports Centre by Julian Ogilvie-Thompson, who was patron of the appeal. He is photographed here (left) with headmistress Lyn Nelson.

Below: The Founders could never have imagined the astounding growth of technology in the last decades of the century. The Technology Centre was built in 1998 to equip Roedean pupils with the skills for this development.

Below: Roedean 2003 has
a sophisticated IT
infrastructure and pupils
from Form III upwards are
highly computer literate.

BILL;

Roedean 2003 has a sophisticated IT
infrastructure and pupils from Form III
upwards are highly computer literate.

Left: The Chapel is rich in heritage, having been endowed with numerous gifts offered in memory or gratitude by past pupils and their families. The stained glass windows, art works, kneelers and furniture each have a tale to tell. Ella Le Maitre's ashes are enshrined in the wall. The ship's bell high of the HMS Sonda now hangs high on the roof.

Below: The Chapel, pictured here in its original form in 1956, is a central part in the life of Roedebeek. It was built in 1936 in memory of Nancy Carver, née Niven, a pupil of the school from 1906 to 1913. She was the daughter of Mackie Niven, a prominent figure in early Johannesburg and party to the ill-fated Jameson Raid. Nancy died after giving birth to a

son in 1928 in what was then Rhodesia. Her sister Dorothea Feed Campbell had a long association with the school, as a pupil, a music teacher, Old Girl and member of the Board of Directors.

The Lych Gate was erected by Ella Le Maitre in remembrance of her parents.

Right: The chapel was extended in 1958 and a new altar created in the extension to the building. The words above the altar were chosen by the girls: "I am with you always even unto the end of the world". They were wrought in iron and copper by the metal artist Kurt Jobst. He trained in the famed Bauhaus era in Germany, but fled the Third Reich and found sanctuary in South Africa.

Ella Le Maitre, a deeply religious woman, loved the shadow from a street lamp that formed a cross on Bearsâ\200\231 gable at night. A senior wrote in The African Roedean of 1952: â\200\231... Curtains are drawn in all the windows and at night very few lights are on, but still the shadow of the Cross is over the front door, whether there are people to watch it or not.â\200\231

School legend has it that at full moon, when the cross was on the gable, the ghost of The Apple Lady roamed St Ursulaâ\200\231s. There are several accounts in the archives of sightings, but the legend was fuelled by certain Bearsâ\200\231 matrons placing apples in the dormitories! The identity of The Apple Lady and the reason for her â\200\230hauntingâ\200\231 are unknown.

A VERDANT HERITAGE

Where nothing lay but the flint of the kopjes
Planted they Youth, mid a pleasance of green.

nor
Pe rr

A

The Water Garden ts a cool oasis in the heart of the school.

ir Herbert Baker's white walls and elegant arches were set down in the middle of indigenous highveld vegetation punctuated by frequent rock outcrops. Here

was the setting for a spectacular garden, and one that exists today as a constant delight for the entire Roedean family. Recent research conducted among Old Girls asked what they treasured most about their time at Roedean. The school gardens were consistently high on respondents' lists.

To the buildings and the basic setting must be added a third ingredient before successful gardens can be expected. This third ingredient is the gardeners, that succession of loving and knowledgeable hands that bring, first, an overall design to the available space, and then paint in the detail season by season.

The task of laying out the full extent of the Roedean gardens was begun in 1907. Theresa Lawrence had returned to England for a spell, no doubt to raise funds or recruit staff for the growing school. In her absence, Katherine Earle started work on the gardens, perhaps to surprise Theresa when she returned, but certainly to fulfil her own desire to create beauty and to teach its appreciation to the girls under her care. How spectacularly has this original mission been fulfilled. It is interesting to note that and of considerable significance that KME never tried to recreate the English gardens of her own experience. She was immediately sympathetic to her new, thornier environment and over the years she turned the Roedean koppie into a South African botanical paradise. But this did not preclude an English influence. Rose gardens were planted; and even today the whole school waits with some expectancy each spring for the prunus walk to blossom.

What is remarkable about the gardeners of Roedean is that there have been so few of them. KME continued to oversee its development until her retirement in 1930, and probably even a few years beyond that date. Next came Gwen Edwards, prominent in the annals of the Roedean gardens in the 1930s and 1940s. Gwen was the school's resident botanist and science teacher, and she was known affectionately as 'Juicy', which echoed her South African pronunciation of 'Daisy'. Her deepest interest lay in preserving the integrity of the indigenous parts of the Roedean koppie. It became widely known among botanists both local and international. She also helped to establish Johannesburg's The Wilds, adjacent to Roedean, and after her retirement she became its chief guide.

The third name on this short list of Roedean gardeners is Anne Lorentz, one of South Africa's most prominent horticulturalists. She was a pupil at Roedean, and she never lost her love for the gardens there, particularly the trees. Indeed, the Roedean gardens have been, and still remain, her magnum opus. Building on the foundations laid by KME and Juicy, Anne has developed Roedean into a paradise of peace and green and seasonal colour. Many thousands of girls have found solace in its vistas and in those secluded places specially designed for quietness and reflection.

As the gardens have burgeoned, they have become increasingly part of the ethos of Roedean. The trees of Pleasaunce speak in their monumental ways of truth and honour and the strength to be free.

In the following pages Anne Lorentz guides us through some of her favourite parts of the gardens. No one knows their bold statements and shy secrets better than she.

An early picture of Bearsâ\200\231 Lawn (left). For KME, gardening, and the love of plants, had been a life-long passion. She had grown up in the exquisite city of Wells, then later with the beauty of the ancient gardens of Oxford, so perhaps it was easy for her to visualise the Roedean garden she wished to create. She is pictured above in front of a bank of cosmos.

In 1917, Miss Earle and Miss Lawrence visited the fledgling National Botanic Gardens at Kirstenbosch. This so inspired

them, that they immediately set aside about three acres

of the school kopje, and the Roedean Reserve for Native South African Plants came into being. Girls, staff and parents were all most enthusiastic, and brought seeds, bulbs and other treasures from all over the country to the Roedean sanctuary.

As a somewhat scruffy schoolgirl in the 1940s, I clearly remember being far more interested in watching Juicy tend the garden, than listening to our History teacher going on about the Battle of Waterloo. Particularly fascinating were her very short blue or green tunics, worn over very long knee-length blue or green bloomers. Little did I know that one day I would be tending the same gardens without the bloomers!

Anne Lorentz, Roedean's longstanding horticulturalist.

Anne photographed in the Rose Garden in 1946.

ene

A reserve of this nature needed a very knowledgeable and dedicated person to care for it, and the ideal person to fill the position was botanist Gwen Edwards. She was affectionately known as Juicy because of her habit of saying 'you see, girls? Here she is pictured with a class in the late 1940s.

HEN botanists overseas talk about the nature preserves of South Africa they include one small section of Johannesburg

4 whose value perhaps is not fully

estimated by the people to whom it is familiar.

It is the koppie in the grounds of Roedean School.
_ In the midst of sophisticated Parktown, sand flanked by well-

kept Jawns and a modern swimming bath. this piece of grassveld and its outcrop of sienna-coloured rocks and clumps of indigenous trees stands as a memorial to the foresight and perseverance of two women. They are Miss K. M Earle, one of the founders of the school, whose idea it was to keep unspoiled this characteristic piece of veld, and Miss Gwen Edwards, who has made its actual preservation a part of her work over 31 years at Roedean:

WIDE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Miss Edwards, â\200\234Juicy,â\200\235 as she is affectionately kHownd to more than one generation of Roedean scholars and to a wide circle of friends among Roedean Old Girls scattered about the world, retired this year-end. The school will not be the same place without her, but she is not breaking all her old ties, and after she returns from a holiday which will be spent with Miss Theresa Lawrence, that other founder of the South African Roedean, who is now retired and living at Simonstown, she will most probably return to Johannesburg. She will continue to act as honorary secretary of the Old Girlsâ\200\231 Association.

Miss Edwards came originally from the Cape. She lived as a child at Wynberg, and the Cape with its beautiful wild flowers, combined with a father, Major J. P. Edwards, who had the â\200\234seeing eveâ\200\231â\200\224he was the first president of the Cape Town Photographic Society -â\200\224- gave her an early eon of â\200\234the beauty and value and interest of the plants and trees, indigenous to South Africa, that have excited botanists all over the world.

At the age of 12 she was an impassioned â\200\234protectionistâ\200\235 as far as wild flowers were concerned, â\200\230and jt is a passion that has oe right through her life.

She took botany as her main subject when she took her science de at the old South African

Colin | ae Town, under Dr.

Pearson, founder of Kirstenbosch Gar ens. She later took a sup-

ntary degree at Witwaters-
rand. University, where she was
a demonstrator for a time, work-
ing under Dr. C. E. Moss,

ire Preserve At Roedean
VALUABLE WORK OVER THIRTY YEARS

CARE OF THE GARDENS

It was as science mistress that
she joined the Roedean staff in
1917. She was house-mistress of
St. Agnes House for 10 years,
and then, when the science side
was reorganised, devoted her
whole time to the care of the
gardens at Roedean. The gardens
are extensive and rightly the
pride of the school, and, in all,
from the delightful courtyard in St.
Katherine's House with its white
pillars and cool lily pond, to the
pleasance With its carefully chosen
trees, the Chapel Garden with
its gay flower-beds, to the koppie
itself where she has kept out
wild life intruders, watched for
soil erosion, encouraged the ex-
isting flowering grasses, intro-
duced a few natural denizens of
the Johannesburg veld, there is
evidence of whole-hearted care
and enthusiasm, based on sound
scientific knowledge, and

This koppie is a lovely spot, a
Sanctuary in the busy life of the
Golden City, where at midday the
sun throws squat shadows from
clumps of Cape peach, and dark-
branched proteas and sambreel-
boom, where clumps of flower-
ing grasses bend their tassellied
heads over small pink flowering
aloes, and beside hot rocks grow
luxurious clusters of pink and
yellow orchids, a nostalgic spot
for the young people who go
there; (o be remembered if later
years when their lives are cast
in far places.

Miss Edwards has spent her
vacation time wandering about
South Africa. She has collected
for various herbariums; she has
contributed a number of plants

to the famous Kirstenbosch Gar-

dens. She is a foundation mem-
ber of the National Botanical
Society at the Cape, a member
of the Johannesburg Bird Club
and of the Society of Tree Lovers.

She has been a protagonist for
the preservation of natural beauty

in all its forms, and had not a
little to do with the
establishment of The Wilds

about on the koppie on MacTeen
grounds, though work was started
to preserve the koppie 25 years

aa Â\$

Miss Gwen Edwards rests a

minute to survey the work she

has done on The Koppie, where

a piece of Johannesburg's

original veld has been preserved
in Roedean grounds,

before The Wilds came into
being. Incidentally she discovered
a hybrid clematis growing there
that has created a great deal of
interest both in this country and
overseas,

Johannesburg as well as the

school itself owes Miss Edwards
a debt of gratitude for the un-
remitting care she has exercised
in preserving for posterity a living
memorial to the days that are
gone in the midst of a city where
brick and concrete are rapidly

overlaying Nature,

This cutting from The Star newspaper at the time
of Juicy's retirement pays tribute to a remarkable
woman and her work at Roedean.

I remember the blissful private walk in the garden
at the end of the day after bathtime and before prep;
the sights, smells, sounds and exaggerated colour of
a garden peacefully settling into the evening, not
forgetting dear Miss Edwards doing her last bit of
gardening for the day, crouched on
her stool in charming

apparel a cornflower SEN
blue Tobalcro cotton A + e
smock and baggy |
drawers to the knee, hat
still on head, trowel in
gloved hand, and always
ready to answer your

horticultural queries
whilst digging in the
ground. That was truly a
magical time of the day for * Ws

me.
Mary Clarke (née Shave), 1940s.

Anne Lorentz
attributes much of her success
in the gardens to her
remarkable team of men.
Much of the credit goes to
them for their hard work and
dedication, she says.

One day walking on the lawn I jumped up and pulled off the Jacaranda leaf. Passing by was Miss Ir ae ar Edwards (Juicy) who called me over and plucked a hair from my head. Ouch, said I. This is how

ad ee « you hurt the tree, said she. In later years I thought tg ep and still think, this is a salutary lesson in

4 tae?

bie) eco-consciousness.

Pamela Monro (née Rothschild), 1926.

Pleasaunce, 1923

â\200\230For the last 27 years the gardening department has had a wonderful relationship with the Heads of the school. Although not a gardener himself, Brian Law always gave his unfailing nk support and encouragement, and a free rein to implement any new projects. Working with Lyn Nelson was sheer pleasure and great fun. Her knowledge and deep love of plants, combined with a delightful sense of humour, kept us on our toes in more ways than one. Now Mary @ Williams is Head, and even in this short time, she has endeared Wi herself to all of us. Her concern for the wellbeing of alltrees Â¥ affected by the new road @ in Pleasaunce meant so very much.â\200\231 i Anne Lorentz

Top: The careful transplanting of the trees that had to be moved to accommodate the new road.

Middle: The addition of the St Margaret's Block in 1989 gave Anne Lorentz the opportunity to create delightful surroundings for the youngest pupils. â\200\230It's hard to say who most enjoyed the creation of the Fairy Garden,â\200\231 she says, â\200\230 the children or the gardeners!â\200\231

Anne has planted the area surrounding the Sinclair Block with special indigenous plants. It links up with Juicyâ\200\231s Memorial Garden.

The site of the Water Garden was previously occupied by rather damp and draughty change rooms originally constructed in 1915 as open-air classrooms for the Junior School, and commonly referred to as 'The Sheds'. It's thanks to Master Pond Maker, Selwyn Jansen, that the Water Garden gives so much pleasure to so many people every day,' says Anne. The peaceful sound of falling water can be heard around the school.

The Rose Garden, a gift from the SAORA, still flourishes on the site chosen by the Founders. Periodically over the years it has been replanted

thanks to donations from Old Girls.

The school's own rose, Rosa Roedean,
was grown by the renowned Ludwig
Taschner. It is an American-bred hybrid

tea rose that fittingly marries old and
new strains. It was chosen because the
variations of each and every flower are
different, just as each and every Roedean
girl is an individual.

The wisteria in Kats' Courtyard
in spring is a joy to behold.

Scattered throughout the grounds of Roedean are many
memorials to its pupils:

LOOK AL- THIS FOUNTAIN
LOVELY AND SHINING CLEAR
AND CALL TO MIND MARGERY BARRY
GREATLY PREFERRED BY THIS SCHOOL
JULY PRI SEP IL EMBER. 1933

Generations of Roedeanians remember this inscription
in Kats' Courtyard to Margery Barry, who died when
she was just 14.

On the corner of the old Rose Garden, just next to the Lavender Walk, we find a profusely flowering pink rosebush, and think fondly of Modiegi Ramogayane, who died in a motor accident in 1999.

In spring, the Prunus Walk is a froth of pale pink blossom. A special garden has been planted here to remember j7Â@<\\%& Georgina and Samantha Smith, x pupils who died tragically in the 1990s. Their birdbath has been Ray moved from the walk and placed Â@s3Â¥ under Mary Williamsâ\200\231s window. ;

ee!

The gentle sound of tinkling water fills Lambsâ\200\231 Courtyard and is a reminder of Michele Mullinos. The fountain dedicated to her is a favourite place for the Roedean cats to sun themselves.

ee 4 â\200\234ew

Florence Raine was one of the first pupils in Janie Street and became Head Girl. Sadly, she died a few years after leaving school. The sundial was unveiled in memory of her on Foundation Day in 1914.

Martha Read (or Matty as she was known to all) devoted her entire life to the school. The memorial to this great personality is the superb bronze statue of a buck, complete with Roedean insignia, standing on rocks, with gently flowing water round the base. I think it would amuse her to know that instead of remembering her with a Roe on a Dean, we do so with a Bokkie on a Kopje! says Anne Lorentz. The bronze was created by the sculptor Maureen Quinton in 1993. Matty (below) was Head Girl in 1928 and went on to become senior mistress to four successive Headmistresses.

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history of the gardens. No much of our ;

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What could be more
spectacular than our two
magnificent pin oaks
(*Quercus palustris*)? All
their autumn glory!

The school magazine of 1925 reported, "The pepper-tree, though severely lopped and "ringed" is still persevering in sending out little shoots, but its power will gradually give out ... the roots will ultimately die of starvation, and the whole tree will succumb. By the time this happens, the stump will be covered over by a yellow jasmine!" Seventy-nine years later, the pepper-tree (*Schinus molle*) is alive and growing very well, where she has always been, on the eastern corner of the Technology Centre and the parking area.

Several st; a in the Grounds in the early days
 r Is One, whi :
 herself." Anne Lorentz ich was Probably planted

An avenue of cypresses was planted below the lawn, but for some reason, in 1930, it was decided that they had to go. KME substituted an avenue of flowering plums (*Prunus cerasifera*). Apart from one, which was replaced, they are still standing "their gnarled and twisted old branches a testimony to the passing years. They are as magical as ever in spring, covered in pale pink blossom, and in summer, the girls still love "to pinch the plums". The only difference is that today, there is no dose of nasty castor oil as punishment!

The wild peach (*Kiggelaria africana*) must have been an immensely popular indigenous tree in the 1920s, 1930s and '40s. The kopje was literally peppered with them, and even though several have gradually died, there are still a fair number. In October, hundreds of little orange butterflies flit through the garden, lay their eggs on the *Kiggelarias*, and then in November, thousands and thousands of small black caterpillars hatch out and devour the leaves. The Grade 0 children keep them as pets!

Grade 0 is also home to an old and very beautifully shaped Tipu tree (*Tipuana speciosa*). This must have been planted many years ago, together with several gum trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.) in the days when the ground where St Margaret's now stands was a municipal dumping site. The gums were felled, but the *Tipuana* was left in situ. In November it sheds a beautiful carpet of golden yellow flowers.

Trees should always be planted for posterity never for oneself. Looking round our gardens, I believe that this is exactly what the Founders and previous school gardeners did and we are privileged to enjoy their foresight and wisdom.

Anne Lorentz

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

â\200\230Then, Oh! We gaze on you
With glowing pride.â\200\231

a on gene

A Madonna by Maud Sumner, a past pupil of
Roedean, hangs in the chapel.

he â\200\230arts and cultureâ\200\231 component of any school is invariably a good barometer

of its intellectual and spiritual health. â\200\230The artsâ\200\231 denote the pursuit and

product of human creativity, usually in the spheres of music, drama, literature and the visual arts. A glance at the history of Roedean tells us immediately that the stimulation of this human creativity, as a source for vigorous thinking in any field, has been high on the schoolâ\200\231s agenda from the start.

The first Roedean excursion into drama was a production of Shakespeareâ\200\231s A Midsummer Nightâ\200\231s Dream in 1903, hardly a year after the school was established .

Numerous theatrical productions followed as the decades multiplied, and by the end of the schoolâ\200\231s first century, major biennial productions had become established

practice. One needs only to glance into the Drama Block to see how seriously the stage and related activities are taken at Roedean.

The same must be said of music. Facilities at the impressive Hersov Music Centre are irrefutable evidence of this: the multiplicity of practice halls, the 17 teachers, and a central hall for performance are all in great demand. More important than the excellence of the facilities, however, is the fact that music is revered at Roedean. Playing Mozart, Liszt or Bach at Speech Day is a high honour; and donâ\200\231t be surprised if in some corner of the Roedean gardens you come across a flute ensemble or similar enterprise in rehearsal.

Maud Sumner was an Old Girl of Roedean, and the Block named after her is a hive of activity surrounding the visual arts. And thatâ\200\231s not all. It was undoubtedly

KMEâ\200\231s appreciation of beauty, and her determination to bring beauty in all its guises

to the fore on the rocky hillside behind the rumbustious mining town that made the foundation upon which Roedeanâ\200\231s collection of South African art treasures has been

built. Thanks to a unique combination of gifts, benefaction, goodwill and judicious purchase, walls all over the school are adorned with original paintings not only by Maud Sumner, but also by Sidney Carter, Gregoire Boonzaier, JH Pierneef, Allerley Glossop, WH Coetzer, William Timlin and others, such as Old Girls Catherine Paynter and Arabella Caccia.

Culture can be a perplexing term. It is often used too narrowly, usually to denote the arts, and often to differentiate between the more popular pursuits and those sometimes termed highbrow -â\200\224 such as opera, ballet and symphony concerts. No such notions of exclusivity have ever seemed to obscure the Roedean perception of culture, which has always tended towards inclusiveness.

The breadth of Roedeanâ\200\231s idea of culture has always been reflected in the great tradition of Sunday night. The reasoning was logical enough. There was to be no isolation from the world, not even up there on the koppie in Africa. In the old days, Sunday nights were used for cultural enrichment. One week a concert could be heard, and the next the girls were lectured by almost anyone who had interesting things to say. Some names spring to mind which provide a view of the breadth of the cultural view that has always pertained at Roedean: South African novelist Nadine Gordimer; Sheena Duncan, leader of the Black Sash protest movement and herself an Old Girl; Sir Edmund Hillary, the man who conquered Mount Everest; Dame Sybil Thorndike, British actress supreme; and a scientist, once in the first half of the century, who seemed to think that people would be going up into space in rockets quite soon.

i?

â\200\230,.. Elocution played a big
part in our lives and K.M.E.
in particular was relentless
1 in her aim to make us
speak clearly and
distinctly. â\200\234Finish one
word before beginning
the nextâ\200\235, was dinned
into us and in the
Senior school the
annual Shakespeare
play was aimed at
elocution training ~
just as much as
acting. An elocution

Of Mice and Men was
staged in 1913.

cup was presented

at some time
during my time
and little groups
would be coached

by their team leader in various

corners of the garden.â\200\231

Tris Botha.

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Eurythmics, the art of rhythmic body

movement correlated to poetry and music,
was popular at Roedean in the early years.

This picture was taken in Lambsâ\200\231
Courtyard in 1925.

The cast of A Midsummer
Night's Dream, 1927.

An outdoor
production of The Trojan

Women /ield on
Bearsâ\200\231 Lawn.

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23

In 1945 the Ante-matric
class staged JM Barrie's
Quality Street in memory
of Katherine Baker. Miss
Baker was an inspired
English teacher from the
time of the Founders until
her death in 1945.

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Pearsons An enterprising group of Juniors
â\200\224 c eink . .
c.Â® produced their own play to raise money
whe \ :
ee \ for the Jubilee Fund.
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ROEDEAN PRESENTS

2 Cott A for Tee, of udrel ee Funel ee fea, :
loelfth Night
OR OW

What You Will

WRITTEN BY
MR WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY
LUCILLE
GILLWALD

The cast and programme
of Twelfth Night, 1971.

121

Strange goings
on at Roedean

Vic Crossland
op Le aware It's all coming out in the open at Roedean today
An extract fi om The Star Not only is the school staging what the director
newspaper, October 1975. Lucille Gillwald calis an â\200\230â\200\230adult play,

not only is it be-
ing staged outside as a change from the school hall, but
â\200\230.. BOYS are taking part

What's more the play has love scenes

It is an experiment that Mrs Gillwald â\200\224
| director with PACOFS
g A ees She w

resident
hopes will set a useful
was allowed time off to travel up from
the Free State to see what gives at Roedean. The first
thing she saw was ideal outdoor settings in the grassy
lawns and terraces for an historical production such as
Le : â\200\234The Young Elizabethâ\200\235 by Jeanette Darling.
\ ee Then... â\200\234We decided actual, strong men about the
S place instead of girls trying to be masculine. So we

contacted St Johns College and the boys accepted with
alacrity.â\200\235â\200\231

So the traditionally cloistered stronghold of
womanhood has come in for something of a shake-up
But the girls have taken it in their stride

â\200\234And if |
thereâ\200\231s any reaction from the parents,â\200\231 says Mrs |
Gillwald, â\200\234I have vet to hear of it.â\200\235

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ao ee ZN - 2. 4. Ts
Several plays have been performed

in conjunction with St Johnâ\200\231s pupils.

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An amusing extract from 1967 Bearsâ\200\231

Tunes dan logbook detailing unseemly behaviour
dart mixes 1 b AD Mo Jeruts BÂ® on the part of Kingsmead pupils.

fforonee Len andy prtie Wwe
were reamed Ly nite A Lauyc 0%

â\200\234ossormv CrnHMO

THE BANTU OCTET

â\200\230Owing to the growing interest in Bantu Studies, we
were very glad of the opportunity Miss Thompson
gave us of hearing a programme of Bantu music on
July 26th.

â\200\230Mark Rhadebe is a graduate of Fort Hare and a
trained musician. He is conscious of the beauty of
the Bantu music, and is chiefly concerned in the

preservation and development of it.

â\200\230His octet of singers brought out fully the beauty
of each item. First we had â\200\234Vuka Deboraâ\200\235, a part-
song written by the Rev. John Bokwe to celebrate
the birth of his daughter. After that they sang us a
song written in memory of many Bantu killed in the
Great War, but especially in honour
of those drowned in the
transport ship Mendi,
entitled â\200\234Sekepi sa Mendiâ\200\231â\200\235 |
... The programme ended |
with the singing of the \
Bantu National Anthem \
â\200\234Nkosi Sikelela i Afrikaâ\200\235 \
(God Bless Africa) and with
â\200\234God Save The Kingâ\200\235...
Extracted from The African
Roedean, 1931.

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a,

Two of the marvellous \ B08 |
musicals which have \ â\200\224â\200\224
been staged by the school. \ =

Of course, not all drama needs extravagant costumes and sets. Seniors workshop a minimalist

production in Foundersâ\200\231 Hall.

BE a Block is a crucible of
ell creativity, as illustrated
here in a graphic by

Gill Nicolayson.

In 2000 the school staged
1789 â\200\224 The French
Revolution, a powerful
experimental production.

In the early years music was taught in
Blyth Cottage by TLâ\200\231s sister Ruth
Lawrence. She is pictured here (right)
with two other teachers, Misses
Geisenberg and Johnson, in 1916.

One of the early music students
was Aileen Johnstone-Scott who
subsequently also taught

music at Roedean.

Theodora Caldwell
was one of the
â\200\230Giantsâ\200\231 mentioned
in the school song
of the same name.

Two young violinists
photographed in 1915.

Torhany ars thaw racing Renn bee Chan, cater

* &

Raty Prorebc coe ahh Sos poopla Co gia poy Ci
Fuxate- â\200\234Thasce tet 2 Fen ag! Lt qoeeph prrscea , & at; Laff e seach

pre pug ke aaala, rrcbinding tls. Noblaise rind
ox athe widdbe lar Portes

sede om tha theatinn rb Gachaly
eae Louk con ob oat pk s

ae eee Atte conset. Bee An extract from the 1956 Head Girl's diary.

aco

Koedean has produced some outstanding musicians whose talents are regularly showcased in the numerous musical events held throughout the year.

Flute Concerto.

dd

Jy ROEDEAN School

pupils excelled in the
| recent Pretoria Music
\ Festival.

Of the five Roedean

{ participants three girls,

were presented with 10
awards between them.

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Mari Hayashida won
the Senior Concerto Bur-
sary, the Quick Study
Bursary and the Techni-
que Bursary, Chien-Jung
Chen won the Best Over-
all Bursary 12-13 years,
the Best Overall Trophy
13-17 years and the Best

Kasia McNaught of Roedean Schoo! will play at the Youth
Concerto as a soloist with the Randburg City Orchestra on
Sunday 27 August 4pm at the NG Kerk Hall, Blairgowrie.
Kasia will play two movements from the Mozart G Major

August 2000

* Roedean pupilsexce

Concerto Trophy 12-20
years, Nanae Hayashida
won the Junior Quick
Study Bursary.

The three girls each

won the trophy for the
Best Recitals in their
respective age groups.

7 : â\200\234 : . Music students were often taken to public
pte Fo ecitals, This extract from a 1953 logbook

cessation ele , ert illest tam Very describes an open air Mozart evening
aeew ath he masce. SuadAterst, Â\$ withan unexpected accompanist.
a prog s gros fet ocl Many Chan,
Carried away oy the Mune, buscr
fou. inte 3. flood 9 S09 tm a Aaey
Hasek Cautrado cudiug
oo th Sure Anona ve
bened conface is L900
keep a Shas pht fore :

fh. bus OLA.

At any time of the day there is music

being played at Roedean. Pupils receive
tuition in a wide range of instruments,
from piano and flute to marimbas and -

saxophone.
â\200\230 Mh D

7 e i] 1 at: A Roedean musical
a! ii ut. education is nothing if
| , Hol] fean~ Â».. 4 - not well-rounded â\200\224 Cliff
| ie SL jtubo ss, rvs Â« all nead | Richard, it seems, had

R- myriad fans and the
th seoarn3 GAAaA Bhouxl~ b ob] cedoan 1960s pop group â\200\230Four ,

bs la gorp Ger ft Las â\200\224 lw Came peer | Jacks and a Jillâ\200\231

aie bem Lf fucharols . 9 wit | performed in Foundersâ\200\231
| kit = fF 3 , _ Hall to raise money for
eco Rock aud â\200\234IO11 a â\200\230s _ the Leprosy Mission.

_ i These book plates were
created in 1951 and were
\ given to the winners of
\ the Chairmanâ\200\231s Prize.

Above and right:
Original watercolours
were used to illustrate
a story in the first
Roedean magazine
(far right), produced in
1906.

Undated photograph of the
art room sometime during
the 1960s.

The study of pottery and ceramics
is a popular pursuit at Roedean.
Photograph taken in the late 1960s.

A life drawing class, 1970s.

The bright studio of the Sumner Art Block.

Roedean is fortunate to own a number of outstanding South African artworks. Pictured here are: (top left) A Pierneef watercolour which hangs in the Headmistress's office along with (left) a Maud Sumner study of trees, a massive work by Old Girl Catherine Paynter commissioned by the SAORA (above), and a William Timlin painting (bottom).

The Founders were determined that Roedean pupils be exposed to the outside world and began a tradition of inviting experts and prominent personalities, who over the years have included

Dr Arthur Bleksley,
Nadine Gordimer and

Sir Edmund Hillary, to address the school. These extracts from House Captain's diaries illustrate the range of speakers who The eminent British actress Dame Sybil were invited.

Thorndike visited the school in 1955. _

DISTINCTIONS

a

Tenille Blignaut Laura Pereira Estãoe Benadã© _

Roedeanâ\200\231s academic seberd Mae been and remains a constant source of pride.

â\200\230Seemly in conversationâ\200\231 could well be interpreted as choosing oneâ\200\231s words well and using them appropriately. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Roedeanâ\200\231s

strong debating teams. Dignified, informed debate is something of which the Founders would be proud. The photograph shows the 2002 team for the Gauteng Provincial Championships.

Right: In 1929
MEMORIALS AND GIFTS Mr J Gubbins donated

Roedean has been built as much by the generosity this portrait of David

of its pupils and friends as by bank loans for bricks | Livingstone with a signed
and mortar. The list of gifts to the school stretches letter. It now hangs in the
to 20 pages, ranging from packets of seeds and a 7

â\200\230Collection of Insects from Kenya Colonyâ\200\231 to entire
wings of the school, such as the Dixon Wing.
Hundreds of books have been donated to the library;
stained glass windows are dedicated to past pupils
in the chapel. Mr A Moreton gave an â\200\230Unlimited
Quantity of Manureâ\200\231 from his stables, which must
have pleased Juicy Edwards. She herself donated
countless plants and bulbs for the gardens. Below
is a selection of gifts and memorials that give
unending pleasure to the Roedean community.

The silver
trowel which Lady
Fitzpatrick used to lay the
Foundation Stone was

donated by Cicely Niven.

Jill Henn was a Biology teacher,
who on her retirement

commissioned this mosaic bowl,
titled â\200\230When Life Beganâ\200\231.

A signed portrait of Jan Smuts, donated
by himself.

The magnificent carved lectern in Foundersâ\200\231 was
a gift from Elsa Shillito in 1915.

The beautiful Celtic art bowl was a gift
from SAORA.

The Helen Tancred bench overlooks the
swimming pool. Helen was a pupil
and later games mistress at Roedean.

The St Ag pee panel Was a gift from Eve Kanthack was a pupil who died tragically in 1927.

Eames with memory of Margery Barry, Her memory is kept alive by this fountain which
now stands next to the Biology Block.

She falling and ate the cake of the crews .
Unlustrous
she visited. she took on at & cut

one of the 200\230a

the 4th Be

Keith the

With her name. For s: ROM

his firm of
Jill Nicolayson was an art teacher, who ; Pim, one of the: Rona clits

donated several of her works to the school. 200\224200\224

The Secretary bird features in the Ex | t avy
Roedean emblem. This bronze was a gift The Maire Clie of 2000 EY this The HMS Illustrious
was one of the

from Gillian John who taught History bronze kingfisher, which stands sentry over navy vessels
that Roedean supported in
for many years. the Water Garden, as their farewell gift. World War II.

THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

And where's the wealth, I'm wondering,
Could buy the cheers that roll

When the last charge goes thundering
Beneath the twilight goal?

The First Hockey Team pictured in 1913, after finishing top of the School League.

hat would South African schools be without their sports? Roedean is

no exception. Over the school's first century, a wide variety of sporting

activities have been engaged in. Look at the list. Athletics, badminton, cricket, diving, fencing, gymnastics, hockey, horse riding, lacrosse, netball, scuba diving, shooting, squash, swimming, tennis, wall climbing. The diversity is as impressive as some of the individual sports are surprising. Cricket and shooting, for example - at a girl's school?

Delving into the school's history, and into the early sporting activities of Roedean

Brighton as well, one discovers a remarkable determination and competitiveness. The emphasis was on physical fitness, on being tough and unpampered. The intention was plain enough: not so much to win the individual game, whoever the opponent, but to show the world that girls were as good as boys. Games were played for enjoyment, even though the underlying purpose (on the part of the school as a whole) was the recognition of equality. Now that this recognition has been achieved and gender equality more than proved, some of the sports - among them cricket and shooting - have fallen away. (Interesting to note that cricket was dropped in

1938, less than a decade after the franchise was extended to women.) Other games, like lacrosse, have simply gone out of fashion. And perhaps winning the individual game became more important as the years have passed.

Attitudes towards games have changed over the years, wrote Joan Raike in

1978. In the early days they were played essentially for fun, although a victory was

always celebrated cheerfully. Today, with such increased competition and even higher standards, some of the fun is perhaps lost in the desperate effort to achieve good results.

Current attitudes have matured even further. Winning is certainly not everything, but sport remains compulsory because Roedean believes that physical education and ... extra-curricular sport ... should be concerned with the child as she is and as she may become. It must exercise her faculties in the physical, cognitive and emotional realms. It is our aim to do more than just feed her capacity for growth and development - we ultimately aim to direct that growth and development in accordance with what

are believed to be the best long-term interests of the child and of society.

Lofty ideals, to be sure. The quotation is from Roedean's sports mission statement,

a document that sets out in detail the character-building benefits of engaging in competitive games. The sheer physical enjoyment of sport finds its way back onto the list. Then there are such concepts as fair play, team work, personal best, coping with failure, and so on, which are all given special attention.

But the importance of the contest, that essential rationale for all sport, can never be ignored. There'll always be that rush of exhilaration, in players and spectators

alike, when the last charge goes thundering beneath the twilight goal. And so it

should be. Sport will always be a combination of therapy and the chance of glory.

And there is undoubted glory in winning. Roedean girls will describe with great pride the fact that the school has consistently triumphed in all the Gauteng squash leagues for the past ten years. And when the contest has been won, and the cheers subsided, that's when those words carved onto the mantelpiece in Founders' Hall

come into play. Particularly the honour ... and curteisye.

Cricket finally disappeared from the sports curriculum in 1938 but was briefly revived in the 1960s for several years. As Joan Raikes dryly commented in 1964: â\200\230This term, after an interval of many years, the School is again playing cricket, and I understand, I must say with some misgivings,

that a team is to start playing league matches next term. Cricketers, perhaps, are born and not made. At any rate the introduction of this sport seems to amuse the members of the School, and nothing but good can surely come from acquiring the ability to distinguish between a googly and a yorker, and to recognise and ' appreciate a late cut. We may yet see an Old Roedeanian included in a | cricket team playing the Australians.â\200\231

Above: Lacrosse was a fast, skilful game played almost entirely in the air. It was part of the Roedean curriculum for several decades, but faded away owing to a lack of competition from other schools, who preferred playing hockey in the winter months. Matches were played against the Old Girls, teams of games mistresses from other schools and occasionally against Kingsmead. The First Lacrosse team, photographed in 1916.

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A team of games mistresses prepare for a lacrosse game in 1928.

ETT The last lacrosse match
Wh was played in the 1960s.

Old lacrosse sticks
kept in the Ark.

A report of a staff
meeting in 1952 in
which Ella Le Maitre
justifies the continued
playing of lacrosse.

Hockey is the one sport which has
survived from the first days of the school.
TL remembered that, â\200\230... at St Andrewâ\200\231s
Road we played hockey in the red desert
in front of the school, and lacrosse was
begun on a rough plot of ground next
door.â\200\231 Roedean joined the hockey league
in 1907 and has played with varying
success ever since. The 1916 First Hockey
team won all their matches and brought
home the shield.

The old school bus in 1923. A victorious team would sail home singing "Forty Years On", to be greeted at school by cheering and flag waving.

For many years a cricket match was played every Foundation Day against the Old Girls, but was often rained out. Another annual cricket fixture was the Fathers' match in which the fathers usually allowed themselves to be beaten. This report is from The African Roedean, 1931.

"... Although it rained the night before, the pitch was quite dry enough for the Fathers' Cricket Match on December 6th. We batted first and got the large score of 94 all out. No one made a duck. Of course the Fathers did their best to drop all the catches we hit up! Then the Fathers batted. Every daughter did her best to get her father out, and when one father hit too hard there was a voice from the bank, "Stop it, Daddy!" At four the teams went to tea, and then came back and finished the match. The Fathers made

92 all out."

Centre right: The fathers also regularly competed against the girls in a hockey match.
Bottom: An extract from a seniorâ\200\231s logbook, 1960 describing an inter-house hockey match.

Girls training for hockey
on the netball fields,
mid-1950's.

â\200\230The goal upon her knees with guarding stick,
Awaits the coming shot,

Watches the coming shot,

As well as eye can see;

So trembling waits she in her netted grot,

Wishing to turn and flee...â\200\231

An extract from â\200\230The Hockey Match against Jeppestown
High Schoolâ\200\231, a humorous poem in the 1911 edition of the
school magazine.

The modern Roedean
goalie is a different girl
from the one who â\200\231...
trembled in her grot,â\200\231...

At the end of the century
an Astroturf pitch was

laid, the latest in sporting
technology.

Indoor hockey in the new Sports Centre.

It would be almost 20 years before Roedean could afford to build a swimming pool. In keeping with the Foundersâ\200\231 belief in fresh air and vigorous exercise, however, the girls would walk across what was open veld to Orange Grove to use the public baths there.

A description of the swimming expeditions from the 1907 school magazine:

â\200\234Every Saturday in the two summer terms we all go to Orange Grove, which is about a mile and a half from Roedean, and lies at the foot of a range of hills. There is a very large garden with numerous fruit trees, and â\200\224 little summer houses, and, what we chiefly enjoy, a swimming bath.

â\200\230We set out from Roedean at about half-past twelve, carrying our lunch with us, and arrive outside the baths, very hot and dusty, about half-an-hour later. However, we are soon in the water swimming, or trying to, and yelling lustily to each other. The baths are open at the top, and it is very delightful to float on oneâ\200\231s back and look up at the clear sky and the willows drooping over the water â\200\224 for those who can float without swallowing too much water.

â\200\230At about two oâ\200\231clock we all emerge into the gardens looking rather damp about the hair, but feeling deliciously cool, and very hungry. We have our dinner in one of , the little summer-houses, and then the more lazy ones of the party troop to a shady spot, under some quince and rose bushes, to read or to go to sleep; while the more energetic set off to explore, for the garden is large and : the possibilities endless.

â\200\230When the sun is nearly setting, a troop of girls may be seen walking slowly over | the veld, towards that white building rene the red roof which is Roedean.â\200\231

Above and top: Roedean girls on a Saturday visit to Orange Grove in 1905.

The first swimming bath in 1925, built from the proceeds of swimming

and diving demonstrations at Orange Grove, as well as donations.

~ | At first the girls dived off two boulders, â\200\231... much more picturesque
= | than a diving board, if less efficient.â\200\231 A filter was finally installed

we in 1936, and when some parents commented ona little green algae
in the water one Old Girl remarked, â\200\230They should have seen us
disappearing into the thick green slime in the old days.â\200\231

The swimming team of 1948.

Having its own swimming pool paid off in the improvement of the standard of swimming. In 1928 Roedean won the Inter-Schoolâ\200\231s Gala for the first time. It was a far cry from the swimming mistressâ\200\231s withering [_ report in 1913: â\200\234The School swimming has this term reached a higher standard than last year. Eighty-five per cent of the boarders can now swim, and the majority of these have very keenly been practising hard on Saturdays and learning to dive. A small section still show a lack of public spirit in thinking that as they do not care for swimming, they should not bathe; or if they do, they waste their time by playing a bit in the bath instead of trying to improve themselves. But I am glad to say that these are very few, and I hope that next year they will not exist.

â\200\230The team, all things considered, did very well in their first match against Jeppes; they were only beaten by 17 marks, 9 of these being due to the team race. A few marks were lost quite unnecessarily by one or two girls who very feebly gave up in the middle of the race because they were beaten, instead of swimming to the end.â\200\231

In 1954 the swimming team brought home a wealth of trophies, including the Inter-Schools shield.

This entry from a seniorâ\200\231s
logbook captures the he OQuraennces @oheol

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Schools gala in that year.

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The Roedean swimmer of 2002 â\200\224
sleek, determined and spirited.

Swimming team 2002.

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Girls practise diving in the 1970s.

\ Roedean is proficient in diving, and the number of girls partaking in this elegant sport has grown

significantly since this picture of the team in 1966.

Extract from a seniorâ\200\231s
log book in 1967
detailing a possibly not
unwelcome distraction
on the tennis court.

The tennis and lacrosse
captains pose in 1935.

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The Roedean
: lop te
tennis team i ot
reached the top umm ae

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of the league fim
for the first &

time in 1925.

â\200\230Tennis was played
throughout the year. There
were three courts, and the
one nearest the Junior School
was not popular, as it was
next to the laundry, and
invariably as one went to
play they would stoke up the
fire for the hot water,
producing a good thick

smoke screen, which was
embarrassing when we had
| visiting teams there.â\200\231

From a memoir written by Matty

Read, 1920s.

The First Tennis Team in 2002.

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Tennis court â\200\230Aâ\200\231 photographed in 1920 with The Sheds in the background.
This is where the
Hersov Music Block now stands. The Water Garden was created where The Sheds once stood.

In 1916 the tennis captain
reported on the annual tennis
match against the Roedean
mothers:

â\200\230We have had our revenge on
the mothers at tennis during
the first winter term,
inflicting upon them a
thorough beating, which we
believe, however, was partly
due to the idiosyncracies of
one of our courts â\200\224 the
visitors not being as familiar
as we are with its hills and

hollows.â\200\231

Not long after the move to Parktown the Founders
began raising money for a tennis court.

â\200\230On Wednesday, 7th April, Roedean gave a
drilling and dancing display at the German
School. All parents and friends were cordially
invited, but a shilling entrance fee was
charged, for the purpose of raising funds for
a tennis court.â\200\231 â\200\224 1908.

Squash became the pride of Roedean in the last decade of the century, beating other Gauteng schools for 11 years running and producing numerous provincial and national players. In 2002 it was hailed in The Star newspaper: â\200\230Roedean School confirmed its position as the undisputed top girlsâ\200\231 squash school by winning 10 out of 11 south Gauteng leagues on offer and was again awarded the trophy for the top school on aggregate â\200\224 the 11th year they have achieved this honour.â\200\231

Its success showed a rapid rise from modest beginnings in the late 1970s when interested girls walked over to St Johnâ\200\231s to learn the game. Their first match was against the St Johnâ\200\231s Under 13 team. â\200\230We lost rather hopelessly yet it did not dampen our spirits...â\200\231. Just a year later the team won the â\200\230Aâ\200\231 league. In 1983 the first courts were built for what was becoming a popular sport.

Cutting from The Citizen, 28 June 2001.

The captain of the
Roedean Netball Team in
2002, and (right),

the first team.

Below: There have been many successes scored by Roedean gymnasts over the years. Girls begin their training in the pre-school, and many continue

In the early days of Roedean gymnastics was referred to as â\200\230Drillâ\200\231 and

was an essential part of the Â¥ aig ee oo a participating in senior school. school day. Here a pupil ' a demonstrates her prowess

on the horse in 1909.

Riding has always been a popular pursuit of Roedean girls. a

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Top left and right and centre: Katsâ\200\231,
Bearsâ\200\231 and Lambsâ\200\231 prepare for battle in
the Centenary Inter-House Gala, 2003.

Bottom left: We've got the spirit! Roedean
cheerleaders 1998.

Bottom right: Roedean sports captains,
2002.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

â\200\230Itâ\200\231s good to see the School we knew â\200\224
The land of youth and dream ... Â°

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on 1% MWILGON Â©
& SS. MALLSOP

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The Upper IV girls of 2000 were each asked to embroider a square depicting what
they most loved about Roedean. This magnificent wall hanging was the result.

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oedean is a school that produces accomplished young women who are ready to face the opportunities and uncertainties of the world. But where does the process begin? It does so in the Junior School, which provides small girls with the basis for all that comes after.

The Junior School has always been there, and it has always been integral to Roedean. Although new buildings have been erected from time to time â\200\224 St Margaret's is a fair walk down the hill, for example â\200\224 all manner of traditions and practices tie the various Roedean elements into an organic whole.

Think of the dressing-up days celebrated each year by the Junior School. The Easter Bonnet Parade sees everyone from St Margaretâ\200\231s parading in lavish headgear through the rest of the school, cheered on by the older girls. Similar connections are made when the juniors dress up for Book Character Day. The whole Junior School is invited to witness the cutting of a huge cake to celebrate St Margaretâ\200\231s birthday; and on Junior Day thereâ\200\231s an elaborate musical production where every junior dresses up to sing and dance. In fact, the juniors are forever, in the parlance of the old days, â\200\230getting upâ\200\231 plays (they used to do this in Latin and French sometimes) to entertain the seniors.

In Grade One, when the great challenge is literacy, individual girls are assigned a â\200\230reading buddyâ\200\231 from the Upper Junior School. This arrangement helps to build confidence, and some valuable relationships are formed at the same time.

Recalling her experiences as a Roedean junior, one Old Girl quoted in this chapter remembers falling ill and being confined to the sickroom. The best part of this depressing period was when each day a senior prefect visited her, sitting on the edge of the bed â\200\230like an angelâ\200\231.

Despite these deliberate continuities, however, the Junior School has its own distinctive style of operation. The current Headmistress, Jan Mallen, uses the word â\200\230nurturingâ\200\231 as a recurring Junior School theme. The girls are given a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose. The days of sleeping in freezing dormitories and washing in icy water each winter morning are over. The intent of these rigours was to assist in the sharpening of young minds. The intent of the Junior School is still the same â\200\224 although the methods are somewhat more sophisticated.

I used to ride my pony to school and then the gardener would take him back home. This pony was forever running away and needed to be rescued from all sorts of places. We used to have picnics, which included a great treat of lemon cream biscuits, at a spruit where arums grew at the corner of Carse oâ\200\231Gowrie and Houghton Drive.â\200\231

Patience Freeland, 1919.

Junior School pupils, 1914.

Juniors photographed outside their new home in 1918.

The Junior School was divided into â\200\230Gnatsâ\200\231 and â\200\230Midgesâ\200\231 .

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The conditions at Roedean, and Johannesburg too, were primitive. There was no water-borne sanitation in those days, but the bucket system with ox-drawn carts to collect the buckets. The carts went all around the town at night lit by hurricane lamps to collect the buckets. All water had to be boiled to kill any germs and filtered to remove the dust. Mosquitoes were an absolute plague and everyone slept under mosquito nets in the summer.â\200\231

Dora Graham, (nÃ©e Eland), 1912.

We were in the Junior School, still comparatively new, where T.L. was:the presiding deity. The policy in those days was to bring us up as tough and hardy, so the juniors slept in a dormitory whose sides were open to the elements, and had their lessons in an open air shed, or in the dining-room, which was virtually a deep verandah, though there were canvas blinds which could be pulled down to keep out the rain if necessary. Our baths were wooden troughs partitioned off, and every morning we had to stand in one, shivering in the winter, while T.L. poured a bucket of cold water over us. Our daily douche.

Regrettably, it took years to reconcile me to a cold
shower.â\200\231

Iris Botha, 1920.

Life began for me the day my mother
took me to Roedean to the uniform shop
near the old gym, to be fitted out
for school. The
smallest blazer was
too large and the oy
sleeves entirely covered Â»4 me A
my hands; the djibbah aap aaews
had to have a hem 4
turned up almost to my
armpits, and the hat came
down to my eyebrows. I

was just five, and this was
the most exciting thing that

IT remember our lunch breaks

had happened in my life.Â» when only bread and butter was allowed, so we

Dolores Fleischer, (nÃ©e de Paiva
Rapozo) who entered Kindergarten in 1936. a lovely fire in winter in the Â»hallÂ»
where we toasted bread on

our rulers. Being read to was a large and lovely part of our junior

added oak leaves and nasturtiums to our sandwiches. We had

lives Â»- sometimes in the garden where we sat Â» I specially
remember Â»Les Malheures de SophieÂ», a book I adored.Â»
Erica Mitchell, (nÃ©e Berry), who began her schooling in 1923 and went

on to teach art at Roedean. This picture is c1928.

Below: The staff and pupils, 1930. The Headmistress, Mabel Bayley, is in the middle of the second row with grey hair. Miss Mabel Bayley was Headmistress when I first arrived, a most kind and loving woman; she taught us to chew each mouthful of food 10 times before swallowing, rather than guzzling our food which hungry children are liable to do.

From a memoir written by Pat Penwill, née Mackay.

Above: In 1930 a new wing was added to the Junior School. The main Junior cloakroom was dark and dank, with tiny windows high up in the outside walls, letting in little light. The washbasins were supplied with Lifebuoy soap, and the lavatories with scratchy Bronco paper, and the floors were red grano.

Angela Lloyd, who attended Roedean in the 1940s.

â\200\230,.. There were no houses in the Junior School, but the different forms competed in excellence. At the top end of the Hall there was a small wooden ladder which hung on the wall, silhouetted against the whitewashed bricks. Positioned on the ladder were five little schoolgirls made of wood, each representing a form. Thus, First Form was a dear little tiny girl with a blonde bob, Second Form a bit larger, Third Form had pigtails, and so on. They were lovingly and realistically painted, and all wore djibbabs. Their names were Prima, Secunda, Tertia, Quarter Minor and Quarter Major â\200\224 in the best tradition of the Latin-dominated boyâ\200\231s prep school from which Ella came. Each little figure had a hook on the back, which could attach it to a rung of the ladder. Once a week Ella in her black gown and mortar board would take prayers in the Junior School, and after the usual hymns, lessons and blessings she would read out the marks each form had attained for good work â\200\224 and the little girls on the ladder would move up or down accordingly. We all had to work very hard for our own little girl to reach and keep a good position â\200\224 and at the end of the term, one form would be a winner. There were no prizes, of course, just honour â\200\224 for which we strove.â\200\231

Senior Dignes, 1947.
â\200\230,.. At the top of the Junior School were the dignes who were appointed with great ceremony like accoladed knights, having their badges of office put over their heads and round their necks by Ella. Dignesâ\200\231 badges were a metal star, silver for the Seniors and copper for the Juniors, hung on a silken cord of blue,

Angela Lloyd. white and green. The metal was real â\200\224 a digne had to keep her badge beautifully polished.â\200\231

â\200\230... If we ever felt ill, or had a nose bleed, Angela Lloyd.

we would be sent to the sick room. Here, Matron would put us to bed, and summon Miss MacKinnon if necessary. A bleeding nose was given shock treatment with a saucer of heavily salted water which had to be sniffed up until one choked. â\200\234That'll stop it up,â\200\235 said Matron. One memorable aspect of the

sick-room was that it was visited each day by a Prefect from the Senior School,

who would breeze in, grown-up and awesomely grand, sit on the bed and hold a little patient's hand and talk kindly, and linger forever in the memory

Brownies meeting in 1925. On November 3rd we had a Brownie afternoon. The first item on the programme was a song by the Lower IVs, in French. The first and second forms acted Little Red Riding Hood (that was in French, too). Erica Berry was Red Riding Hood, dressed in pale blue and a little red cape, and altogether she did very well. Hope Martin was the wolf, and growled and knew her part splendidly.

From The African Roedean, 1923.

like a visiting guardian angel.

Angela Lloyd.

Top and centre right: Plays have been performed regularly in the Junior School since the earliest days. This description of one production comes from the 1906 edition of The African Roedean: â\200\230One day in the Summer term the Lower School acted The Pied Piper of Hamelin. The play was charming, moving the audience to tears, and the dancing (especially that of the four rats) most attractive. The dresses were excellent, especially the mice; there were brown mice and black mice with beautiful rope tails, both long and curling and fine. After the play was over all the actors went down on to the hockey pitch and had their photographs taken in their costumes.â\200\231

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Adonâ\200\231

The King and I was one

of the most outstanding
productions of the Junior School,
(=r sa _ staged in 1992 by the

2 See ee much-loved Val Lord.

As in the Senior School, music plays a crucial part in the life of the juniors, many of whom study individual instruments as well as participating in class music. This dry comment in the 1966 edition of the school magazine hails the advent of the recorder: Talking of recorders, one Form in the Junior School is now having a weekly lesson on this instrument. All can, I believe, now play four notes, but do not all yet manage to play the same note at the same time.â\200\231

Roedean Junior School
Music &\200\234de
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musicians, dancers and singers. Festivals, concerts and carol services

c got Roedean Junior School has produced many outstanding young
Z are part of the annual calendar.

Wednesday

31 March 1993
6.30 pm.

Girls have the choice of taking ballet classes from Grade 0 and
many continue with it into the Senior School.

St Margaret's Day 1919. In the early days, in the true tradition of Roedean, a play was got up to celebrate the day. A report in the 1919 African Roedean states:
St Margaret's birthday this year was one of the most enjoyable functions ever had at Roedean. On this occasion the guests were invited to come as war workers.
The Return Of Persephone as acted by the Midges fully justified our expectations of an enjoyable afternoon. Bacchus and his revellers danced with true Bacchanalian frenzy in the halls of Olympus ...

In later years the play was replaced by games, but the early tradition of cutting a vast birthday cake remains. Each child and teacher in the Junior School called Margaret (or a derivative thereof) is presented with a marguerite as the cake is cut.

St Margaret's Day, 1948

The two main events on the Junior School calendar are St Margaret's Day and Junior Day. St Margaret, the gentle, religious Queen of Scotland through her marriage to Malcom Conmore who became king in 1057, was adopted as the patron saint of the Junior School. Her birthday is celebrated every year in the winter term. According to Lorna Thomas, Maxie Kuhn used to love telling the enraptured juniors: St Margaret came to Scotland by being wrecked off the Fife coast, where she was confronted by a band of wild and hairy Scots. Here Maxie would steal a meaningful glance at her two Scottish teachers.

St Margaret's Day always seems to fall on the coldest day of winter, but it is one of the most enjoyable days in the school year.

The traditional cake. In past years, the cake was decorated with marguerites made from icing sugar. Any girl fortunate enough to have a name derived from Margaret was given one of the sugar flowers. Nowadays, they are given a fabric flower.

A curtsey from a winning captain.

Junior Day was originally known as Parentsâ\200\231 Day and was held on a weekday afternoon when mothers were entertained with a play, and were then shown their daughtersâ\200\231 handwork. This is still the procedure of Junior Day, which now takes place on a Saturday. The girls raise the rafters of Foundersâ\200\231 Hall with song and dance, and then take their parents to see their art and handwork in their classrooms.

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Book Character Day, the
Easter Bonnet Parade and
Spring Day are welcome
opportunities to dress up.

ww we

Rosie Montgomery, later McCullough, at the crease in 1922. She went on to play county cricket for Sussex in the late 1930s. Rosie's ties to Roedean would last longer than she could ever have imagined, as it is her daughter, Jan Mallen, who is head of the Junior School!

Below: St Ursula's Junior XI, 1911

Junior Hockey
Captain, 1922.

Drill and Games Class, 1921.

The joy of swimming
continues down the years.
Right: The pool in the
1920s. Centre: Diving
practice in the 1940s.

Junior School galas are enthusiastic,
spirited affairs.

The three Junior School houses, Earle, Lawrence and Scotts were instituted in 1973 and have become the source of immense competitive pride.

The Star 15/07/91

Schoolgirls knit 50 blankets

Staff Reporter

The girls of Roedean Junior School in Houghton have donated 50 blankets to Operation Snowball for distribution â\200\224 all hand-knitted by the pupils themselves.

Twice a week, the girls stayed behind after school to participate in the â\200\234knitathonâ\200\235.

The school has also donated a large amount of old clothing.

Helping Operation Snowball does not mean you have to knit a blanket yourself â\200\224 all you need to do is send us a small donation.

The Star
Operation
snowball

contributions from members of the public, but we need more than R100 000 to make our target of R300 000 by the end of winter. â\200\230

Please send your dona-

Roedean has always been interested in finding ways in which to assist the wider community.

In 2002 the Junior School once again set about knitting blankets for the underprivileged, a something it has done often over the years. â\200\230

tion to Operation
ball, Box 1014

So far, we have re-
burg 2008

ceived R196 158,29 in

hildren are
doing their bit

By Janine Simon

In 1950 pupils collected
dolls for a childrenâ\200\231s
charity, and in 1991
supported The Star
newspaper's â\200\230Operation
Snowballâ\200\231.

Chunks of chocolate cake,
buttered crumpets and
cookies sold like prover-
bial hotcakes when Roe-
dean Junior School's Std 3
classes yesterday held
their second cake sale to
raise funds for Operation

Snowball.

: The Std3 campaign
began last year with the
aid of teacher Mrs Trish
Conradie. It was contin-

ued in 1986 and the first
cake sale â\200\224 at 50c a
hefty slice â\200\224 raised the
tidy sum of R206.

â\200\234We will raise as much
this time,â\200\235 Mrs Conradie
said yesterday. The
school hopes to include
all its classes and hold a
monthly sale for Opera-
tion Snowball.

Many pupils have also -
knitted and crocheted
squares for a blanket for
Operation Snowball. And,
of her own volition, a
Grade One pupil has don-

Roedene Junior school pupils thronged to the cake sale held by the Std 3 classes in ate
d R2 to her schoolâ\200\231s
cidsof Operation Snowball yesterday. Pupils could buy themselves a hefty slice of | fun
d for the project.

break-time delight â\200\224 and help a needy person.

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Junior School days are bright and busy, the emphasis by the start of the new century having moved from straightforward imparting of information to an environment where girls are encouraged to experiment and develop skills, learning through interaction and co-operation. They participate in such initiatives as Eco Week, learning about creating a "sustainable future", and Economic Management Sciences in which entrepreneurial skills are developed.

A class in progress in the new wing, which was built in 1954.

Headmistress Jan Mallen insists that
mea St Margaret's girls enjoy physical play.

Fe Girls play old-fashioned games such as
Sevens on the wall and climb on one of

several jungle gyms. The St Margaret's
Block also boasts a charming Fairy Garden,
a place to play and stimulate the

imagination.

_ The original Junior School building has changed little
* \ since it was built. For a time it featured a bronze sculpture
bd by Eduardo Villa in the courtyard (below), obtained
Ae after Sir Henry Strakosch bequeathed money to the
school. The bronze now stands near the Hersov Block.

: a In 1981 the school was transformed by
a heavy fall of snow. Fiona Macaulay,
who was in Matric at the time, remembers
the scene: â\200\230Chaos ensued. Class was
dismissed, we rushed outside and attempted
| to catch snowflakes in our hands and on
W our faces. All fears of looming exams
forgotten, we played â\200\224 the girls we were â\200\224
lost in a temporary enchantment.â\200\231

JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESSES

Mabel Bayley

When Jan Mallen took over the reins of the Junior School in 1999, there had been ten other Heads before her. Several had a long and influential tenure, beginning in 1922 with Mabel Bayley. Miss Bayley was said to have had

â\200\230... the rich qualities of graciousness, sympathy and kindness and an unusual understanding of children.â\200\231 Her obituary stated that â\200\230... Many heedless little girls must have been lifted to a greater consciousness of lifeâ\200\231s rich purpose by her tender, deep concern.â\200\231 She was a woman of wide-ranging interests. She was a keen horticulturalist who collected plants for the school gardens, and a tireless charity worker. She supported clinics in Sophiatown and the Hope Home in Westcliff. On her retirement in 1931, The African Roedean noted: â\200\230She stood for courtesy, public spirit, culture, and a sense of leisure which is too often crowded out of the education of to-day.â\200\231

Rena Mackinnon
â\200\230Kinnyâ\200\231, as she was affectionately known, served as Head from 1936 to 1950. Old Girl Angela Lloyd remembers: â\200\230Miss

Mackinnon was much taller than Ella Le Maitre, and there were many parents who were far more frightened of her than they were of Ella. Rena Mackinnon had presence. Her hair was grey, and her clothes were often grey, too. She dressed with great elegance in the fashion of the 1930s and had large feet encased in those shoes that typified the era: small heels like Louis XIVâ\200\231s court, and a strap over the instep. She had a sausage dog which followed her about, and ruled the roost in her office.â\200\231 Miss Mackinnon had entered Roedean as a schoolgirl in 1911 and went on to become a Maths teacher before moving to the Junior School. The school magazine said of her: â\200\230She was never hurried and preserved a quiet dignity, which, as much as any spoken word, restrained the sometimes noisy juniors. This dignity was relieved by a humorous and understanding smile.â\200\231

Rosemary Snow
Rosemary Snow came to

Roedean in 1956 and remained at the helm until 1971 when she left to be married to Roger Green. Rosemary was awarded a Master of Arts degree from Edinburgh University and had taught in both Edinburgh and London. She was devoted to her work and was always willing to embrace new teaching methods. Honneur Aulx Dignes describes Rosemary as having â\200\230... a lively sense of humour and an enthusiastic interest in all aspects of the life of the juniors. Forthright in her handling of children, she gave them confidence; completely just in her dealings with them, her approach to any child in trouble was one of sympathy, and any â\200\234lame dogâ\200\235 was sure of her compassionate interest.â\200\231

Maxie Kuhn

Maxie Kuhn took over from Rosemary Snow in 1972, and when she retired ten years later had spent 37 years on the staff of Roedean. Old Girl Angela Lloyd remembers: â\200\230In First Form Afrikaans was added to the school curriculum and Mrs Kuhn

arrived.

She was young and pretty and athletic, and we learnt Afrikaans through song and dance. Someone played the piano for our classes â\200\224 was it Mevrouw herself? She taught us all the songs we would never forget, like â\200\230Daar kom die Alibamaâ\200\231 and â\200\230Jan Pierewietâ\200\231. She made it all fun.â\200\231 Maxie was a forward-thinking principal. On her retirement she told The Star newspaper that she was a disciplinarian, and that â\200\231... We do not spoonfeed. We believe in encouraging the children to read, acquire the knowledge to cope with the world around them and be independent individuals who can contribute to society.â\200\231 In the same interview: â\200\230Man will still have to relate to other people, learn to be humane. I am nervous about the technological era, but I would have liked to be teaching in the year 2000.â\200\231

Lorna Park

Lorna Park, later Thomas, was born and brought up in rural Scotland, the second of four daughters of Reverend Andrew Herron who later became Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. After qualifying in Glasgow, she taught in Scotland and then Rhodesia before being offered a teaching post at Roedean. She remembers renting a flat in Berea and walking to school every morning, when Carse oâ\200\231Gowrie was â\200\231... something of a quiet laneâ\200\231.

A warm, firm person, and an admirable administrator, like Maxie Kuhn she described herself as a disciplinarian, â\200\231... because I do believe that this is a very important ingredient in oneâ\200\231s life. But I also believe that school should be fun and that pupils and staff must be able to laugh and enjoy themselves.â\200\231 Lorna witnessed and played an important part in great expansion of the school, including the building of the St Margaretâ\200\231s Block. While planning its construction she met the vice-chairman of the Roedean Board, George Thomas. They were married in the Roedean chapel by her father. In 1993 she retired, saying: â\200\230It has indeed been my good fortune to have played a role in â\200\234The Best School of Allâ\200\235.â\200\231

Lorraine Livingstone
| Lorraine Livingstone had been Deputy Head of Auckland Park Preparatory School for 10 years when she came to Roedean in 1994. Petite and energetic, she had enormous reserves of stamina and determination, working long hours into the evening. She had a

great affection for her pupils as well as showing great kindness to her staff. Trish Klosser, a longstanding and dedicated member of the Junior School staff, remembers:â\200\231In addition to her school tasks she managed to read widely and had a vast general knowledge. She had a quiet sense of humour and her mimicking caused much laughter in the staff room.â\200\231

_ Jan Mallen is taking
gj _ Roedean Junior

. | School into the new
a century. After her
appointment in 1999
she wasted no time in
making her mark on
the school. Focused
and energetic, she was the 1979 Ladies's winner of the
Comrades Marathon, a race she ran again in 2000. It
is not surprising that she sets great store by sport in
the curriculum. 'I believe sport is critical in the
development of self esteem. We play sport for the joy
of it, not simply to win.' One of her mottoes is 'Dare
to do'. 'Children are frightened to take risks these
days. We provide a protective environment for them
to do so, to dare to take risks. We need to build
resilience in children.' Jan wholeheartedly embraces
the technological age, but tempers it with a strong
adherence to traditional values such as respect and
courtesy, and creative thinking and learning skills.
'Nurturing' is a word she uses frequently. As one
Grade 1 girl recently wrote: 'I love all the madams.
Evry signal one even Madum Malum. She is ver kind
and nice.'

Five Headmistresses of the Junior School photographed
at Foundation Day 2000. Standing from left: Lorraine
Livingstone, Lorna Thomas, Maxie Kuhn.

Seated: Jan Mallen, Rosemary Green.

STEERING THE SHIP

â\200\230The Staff that worked and tried at us,
Our daily foes and friends,

They shall not lose their pride in us
Howeâ\200\231er the journey ends.â\200\231

Headmistress Mary Williams with 2002 Head Girl Mmaphuthi Morule,
and 2003 Head Girl Lesoko Seabe behind.

the Heads of Roedean (SA) are nine in number; eight if we include the Founders as one. The list is as follows:

1903 – 1933: Theresa Lawrence

Katherine Margaret Earle

1934 – 1958: Ella Le Maitre

1959 – 1960: Mariel Mills

1960 – 1966: Joan Raikes

1967 – 1969: Barbara McCormick

1969 – 1974: Anne de Frisching

1975 – 1987: Brian Law

1988 – 2001: Lyn Nelson

2002 – Mary Williams.

These names provide the framework for one hundred years of pre-eminent education for girls in South Africa, beginning in 1903 on the outskirts of a turbulent mining town and ending the century in the middle of the economic powerhouse of an entire subcontinent. Placed in its socio-political context, Roedean (SA) began life just after a bitter war and not too many years before Union, and has witnessed (not too many years before its own centenary) South Africa's momentous transformation to full democracy. Through all this, the Heads listed here have steered the Roedean ship, for the most part steadily, and kept alive the great traditions of truth, honour, freedom and courtesy.

The analogy of steering a ship is apt. Mary Williams puts it best when she says that Heads are like caretakers of traditions not of their making. They need to nurture as well as steer. They need to realise that the school (the ship) is bigger than the Head (the captain), and that their prime responsibility is to safeguard the underlying structure. Its ethos and its traditions are bigger than any Head; yet without competent Heads, the ship itself could easily have foundered.

There can be no doubt that the success and durability of Roedean rests on the long initial continuity – more than fifty years – provided by the Founders and Ella Le Maitre. By the mid-1950s, the die was well and truly cast. The ship was built and already sailing on the open sea. Now the tiller could be passed to the succession of hands that have steered it since then.

This is not to say that the Heads during the second half of the century were mere caretakers. On the contrary, each has brought a distinctive style to the task in hand. Each has enriched the school in particular ways, and not least through their qualifications and experience as teachers. Yet it will be as teachers, and not only as administrators and strategists, that

hat the

Heads will be remembered. Indeed, their contribution goes even deeper. In an atmosphere like the one prevailing at Roedean, their greatest gifts have lain in their qualities of leadership and the ability to inspire, combined with wisdom and humanity, and as exemplars of the Roedean style.

Perhaps that is why the school song quoted at the start of this chapter ends with so stirring an affirmation of the value of personal example.

â\200\230Their voice to us, who sing of it,
No more its message bears.

But the round world shall ring of it,
And all we are be theirs.â\200\231

ELLA LE MAITRE

In 1953 on her retirement, the Rand Daily Mail called Ella Le Maitre the 'Miss Chips of Roedeana'. It highlights the deep commitment she had to the school and the love, affection and respect she was held in by the hundreds of girls who passed through her hands.

The Founders had appointed Miss Doris Thompson to take over from them on their retirement, but she left soon afterwards.

Ella Le Maitre then stepped in to guide the destiny of Roedeana for nearly a quarter of a century. She came out from England to tackle the daunting task of replacing the two founders as Headmistress, a task which was probably made more difficult by having TL and KME still living on the premises.

A former pupil of Roedeana Brighton, Ella had an impressive academic record. She had been awarded a scholarship to Newnam College, Cambridge in 1915, where she took honours in the Classical Tripos, and the experience she then gained as head of the Classics department at Roedeana Brighton was to stand her in good stead. With enthusiasm, vitality and a passion for scholarship she re-established the high academic standards of Roedeana, which had been going through some difficult years. The quality of her teaching inspired her staff, who saw her as mentor, counsellor and friend. It was said that though she taught Latin with passion, she attained the right balance between science and the humanities.

Ella, as she was affectionately known to the girls, was a versatile and accomplished sportswoman who

played lacrosse, cricket and fives, and had represented Sussex in hockey for several years. Under her aegis, sport assumed its role in the development of the girls at Roedeana. Nevertheless, she was equally keen on music and drama. She adored Greek drama and was largely responsible for raising the standard of acting at Roedeana, even on occasion taking a role in the school plays, where she made full use of her deep-toned voice. It was in her time that the large stage in Founders' Hall was built. Her sense of the dramatic was never more apparent than at Foundation Day when she established the intense quiet as she went through the final ritual of cutting the birthday cake at the top of the colonnade before telling everyone to go 'Quickly and quietly to bed'. Taught by the renowned Ina Sutherland, she played the viola in the school orchestra, and her interest in music and art ensured that these subjects became integral to the Roedeana curriculum.

Ella could be positively terrifying at times. She had a will of iron and a passion for discipline but these were mitigated by her innate sense of humour, her independent outlook and a sharp wit, and she inspired in the girls tremendous admiration, respect and affection. She had an inborn sense of justice and a strong dislike of pretension and snobbery. She demanded the best from her girls and said in 1948, when describing why public exams should not be a terrifying ordeal, that girls should be taught the art of self-control, a sense of proportion, an ability to face crisis or emergencies, and should â\200\230... be trained in a quiet steadiness that goes with a lively faithâ\200\231.

Ella wholeheartedly enjoyed House Nights and could be both the life and soul of a party, or if she was off-duty relax into an endearing vagueness. Old Girls remember taking tea with her on Sunday mornings at Lawrence House, from where she guided the path of Roedean for so many years, and others remember how she would play endless games of Patience, the tool she used to relieve tension and untangle some thorny administrative problems.

One of the outstanding features of Ellaâ\200\231s years at Roedean was the impressive building activity. She was responsible for the new sanatorium situated at the top of Pleasaunce, the library, the dormitories and classrooms of the Junior School, the kitchen and bathroom block and the Ella Le Maitre classroom block, but of all these achievements she was most proud of the extension to the chapel, and the lych-gate which was erected in memory of her parents.

She was a deeply committed Christian and the centre of her life at school was the chapel, which she made a focal point of Roedean life. Girls remember her inspiring and practical sermons, and she took

especial interest in helping to train communicants to act as servers. She retired from Roedean in 1958 but her retirement was cut short by her untimely death in 1960. She bequeathed money to the school for a scholarship, but her true legacy lies in her solid building on a foundation already laid, on the high ideals of the Founders which embodied those of her own.

MARIEL MILLS

Mariel Mills's tenure at Roedean was brief. She succeeded Ella Le Maitre in January 1959, full of confidence and enthusiasm, and the staff and girls looked forward to a new and interesting period in the life of the school. But in December of that year she left to get married and the Board asked Joan Raikes to become Headmistress.

Mariel Mills had taught history at Roedean before spending several years teaching in England. She was a graduate of the University of Cape Town and continued her studies at Oxford. For the year she was at Roedean the school continued to prosper and it was under her headship that the Ella Le Maitre Block was completed.

JOAN RAIKES

In her farewell speech, Joan Raikes said, "It is said that the first seven years of marriage are the worst. If this is true also of headships, it seems that I am leaving at the wrong moment." She went on to explain that she suspected that the meaning of the saying was that after that [those first seven years] one falls into a routine and thus this was certainly the right moment to leave, "... for schools are living entities and cannot remain stationary. They must grow and progress." This epitomised Joan's vision for Roedean and this speech marked the end of a long and productive association with the school.

As Joan Hardy she came to teach history at Roedean in 1929 after obtaining a Master of Arts (Oxon) and a Diploma of Education. Her passion for history made it a compelling subject and the girls thrived in her lessons. Her original three-year contract was extended and she stayed at Roedean for seven years, leaving to marry Dr HR Raikes, Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand.

During the war years she lectured in the history department of the university and taught at St Mary's, was a member of the National Council of Women, served on the boards of Entolozweni and the Alexandra Health Centre and on the Committee for Child Welfare. She was also Provincial Commissioner of the Transvaal

Girl Guides before rejoining Roedean as its head in 1960.

The staff immediately felt the effect of her vigorous personality and her rich and varied experience. They respected her and her trenchant judgments, her insistence on high academic standards, her wicked sense of humour and her crisply expressed opinions which were reminiscent of KME. It was said that with her return to Roedean, the staff room became a livelier

17%

place and sparks often flew. But she was supportive and understanding and once encouraged a young music teacher to go back to university to study medicine. She deeply appreciated her staff and in her farewell speech she praised them saying: "It is a great joy to work with women of real intellectual gifts and see these riches of mind being given generously to the children." Joan was determined as Head of Roedean to carry on the traditions that Ella Le Maitre had left behind and honoured academic excellence, integrity, compassion and personal courage.

Joan did not suffer fools gladly and although her acerbic comments were somewhat daunting at times, the girls discerned the kindness and compassion that were part of her make-up, and her strong Christian convictions were apparent in her actions, notably the work she did with the Black Sash. However, she enjoyed life to the full, was a keen bridge player and enjoyed dabbling in the stock exchange, taking the advice of the "financial parents" at Roedean.

She knew and understood each girl and one of the prefects wrote of her: "Mrs. Raikes really is a super person and I am going to miss her terribly when she leaves. I don't think I will be the only one ... She makes molehills out of our mountains." She stole the show during one House Night when she did a skit of Cliff Richard's songs. The only time she objected to a midnight feast by the boarders lucky enough to be at Lawrence House was when the spilt condensed milk ran through the floorboards onto her sitting room carpet. She deeply admired the prefects and said that they were dignified, authoritative, loyal, and gave of their best. In Honneur Aulx Dignes, the book that was her legacy to Roedean in its 75th year, she paid tribute to a Silver prefect who asked for help in a tricky situation: "Competent and confident to deal with all her routine duties: intelligent and humble enough to know when she must seek help. It has always seemed to me typical of Roedean prefects."

It was under Joan that the complete re-wiring of the school was carried out in 1960 and 1962 and on completion of the project the chief electrician assured her that the system would last for a hundred years. She mentored the first Roedean girls who were chosen as American Field Service scholars and in 1963 welcomed the first scholar from America to Roedean. Joan's period as Head saw the first PTA cocktail party where new parents could meet the staff and she also encouraged several clubs and societies, including the Bridge Club, the Photographic Society and the International Affairs Club, to flourish.

When she retired in 1966 she could look back on her tenure with pride and satisfaction: "In the seven years I have often thought about the work of the

Founders, ... both of whom I was privileged to know, who dedicated their lives to the girls of this country, and I leave the school with the certain knowledge that in the future as in the past, it will remain true that "Their work continueth."

BARBARA MCCORMICK

Barbara McCormick succeeded Joan Raikes in 1967 and was Head of Roedean for two years. She had come to Johannesburg from England with an honours degree from the University of London to teach at Kingsmead, before moving to Cape Town where she taught at Herschel as head of the French department.

During her time at Roedean, she arranged for electric geysers to be installed in the outlying bathrooms but said that she would practise caution as an architect's wife and made no more physical changes to the school during her first year. In spite of resolving to change very little at Roedean during her first year there, she made several changes to the running of the school including a relaxation on visitors, slightly longer study hours for Matric boarders, re-introducing the Speech competition that had been so dear to KME and introducing a Sewing Club.

However, in her first speech at Speech Day she said that she had changed little enough at Roedean not to merit the title 'Head Mischief' that had been inadvertently bestowed on her by a kindergarten girl.

She was a strong advocate of the boarding school system and believed that girls who had boarded were better prepared to integrate their personalities into what she saw was an increasingly communal world. She felt that the youth of that time, the swinging sixties, was in great need of the security of discipline provided by a good boarding school, where the enforced consideration for others which was a necessity of boarding school life would enable them to become good citizens. Teenagers, she believed, would view their parents in a much rosier light given the rigours

of boarding school. She felt that the telephone and the radio were the enemies of homework and that girls who were boarders would do better academically.

Barbara McCormick left Roedean after a short tenure as Headmistress and returned to Cape Town in 1969 for family reasons.

ANNE DE FRISCHING

Anne de Frisching was Headmistress of Roedean from 1969 to 1974 and came to Roedean from England with a reputation as a distinguished academic. She was an Old Girl of Roedean Brighton and took a First Class Honours degree in French and German. She then took

a degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of London. Before she came to Roedean she was Headmistress of both St Georges's School, Switzerland and Compton Park in England.

Anne came to Roedean at a time when even in the conservative South Africa of the apartheid years, the young were beginning to challenge what they saw as outmoded traditions and conventions and Roedean pupils were no exception. Like Barbara McCormick, she was an advocate of boarding school life and at the end of 1969 expressed her pleasure in the rising number of boarders, saying that she felt that the older girls would do better in boarding school since their social lives all too often encroached on their school work and regretted that there were not more junior boarders. In order to encourage boarding she introduced a system of weekly boarders.

She addressed challenges of the time by trying out some innovations at Roedean, such as dispensing with the Copper prefects for a year, a change which did not survive. She introduced a School Council to provide a channel of communication between the head and

the girls, but this also fell away.

It was during the time of Anne de Frisching that the wrought iron fencing that runs from Bears' gates to the Ella Le Maitre Block was erected, and new lighting was installed in the chapel. She was also the first head to live in the new house between the chapel and the sanatorium.

She was very keen on sports and during the time she was at Roedean sports tours to Lesotho and Swaziland took place, and she introduced fencing. She was a familiar figure at the sports fields, accompanied by her beloved bulldog Juno. She was intuitively understanding of the more rebellious girls since she herself was shy and was deeply sympathetic to those who suffered from shyness.

She retired to England in 1974 where she completed a Master of Arts degree in Comparative French and German Literature.

BRIAN LAW

When Brian Law became Master of Roedean in 1975, he was only the third man in South Africa to have accepted an appointment as head of a girls's school. He came with an impressive record; he had a Master

of Arts degree from Oxford, a successful career as a London barrister and had been actively involved in the Liberal Party before moving to South Africa. He then taught for nearly twenty years at Michaelhouse, where he had been a housemaster.

Brian took up the reins at Roedean at a low point in the school's history. Numbers had dropped, Matric results were only moderately good and there was a general feeling of malaise. There was also the extremely trying effect of the blasting and construction of the Johannesburg Hospital right at the front door of the

school which caused untenable noise, dirt and disruption. In addition, he realised that the role of the girls's private school had substantially changed. He believed that Roedean's function was to produce girls who were not necessarily militant feminists but intelligent women who because of their privileged positions would acquire the resourcefulness and independence of outlook that would enable them to stand on their own feet in the lives they chose to lead.

With this in mind and while honouring the legacy of his predecessors, he began to introduce some changes, which he felt would help Roedean to take its place in a rapidly changing world. He rejected the cloistered atmosphere that still existed in most girls's schools, and negotiated with St John's College to share certain classes and to explore the possibility of joint activity periods in drama, choral and orchestral work. Under his aegis, chapel services (followed by breakfast) were shared, and school plays were performed together at one or the other school.

Under his benevolent dictatorship girls found that communication in the school had become better with the establishment of the 'daily routine' list, which was obligatory reading for all girls. Relationships with the staff were more relaxed and problems were dealt with in a sympathetic manner. He followed the credo that rigid discipline without explanation was unacceptable, but when necessary girls would be punished. His most salutary method of punishment was the 'Dawn Chorus', where offenders would learn a poem, such as a Shakespearian sonnet or some Wordsworth verse, and then recite this to him first thing in the morning.

Brian was a perfectionist and an indefatigable worker, who thought nothing of rising at four to finish some paperwork, and his enthusiasm rubbed off on both girls and staff. He would stride round the school with a minute tape recorder detailing items that needed attention. He leavened his strict high standards with a love of entertaining when his wit, conversation and legendary knowledge of wine shone through.

He was deeply committed to the spiritual side of Roedean, which was never more apparent than when he conducted services in the chapel, after his appointment as a lay minister. Confirmations during his time were conducted by the now Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He also recognised the changes that were coming to South Africa and he admitted the first girls of other races to Roedean.

Brian instituted tours for both girls, parents and members of the Board to explore areas of interest throughout South Africa, and many friendships were formed during these excursions. In 1979 he arranged the first tour of girls to France and thereafter he organised an overseas tour almost every year,

expanding it to include girls from St Andrew's, Kingsmead, DSG and St Mary's. He encouraged gap students from public schools in England, particularly Rugby, to come to Roedean as junior members of staff for a year and firm friendships were forged from these

contacts.

Brian also added physical improvements to the school. When Lawrence House was sold the proceeds were used to enhance the school. During his time at Roedean the biology laboratories, the squash courts (which he liked to call the Law courts), and additions to the staff quarters were built. He worked closely with Maud Sumner and her sister to conceive and build the Sumner Block. This was a particular source of pride to him, because it linked the past with the present and highlighted the importance of tradition at Roedean.

By the time Brian Law retired in 1987 he had celebrated Roedean's 75th Jubilee. He left, having encouraged a strong and vibrant Roedean community and having set aside the cloistered atmosphere of Roedean, without destroying the ethos and traditions of the school, which he so admired.

LYN NELSON

Lyn Nelson came to Roedean in 1988 with an extremely strong academic reputation. She had been awarded the top student award for her Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Zimbabwe and she won the Stanley Jackson Gold Medal for best honours student of the year. Her special love was geography, which she taught with passion, and which she incorporated in much of what she did. For instance, she would often refer to the changing climatic conditions in her morning assembly addresses.

She came to Roedean after teaching at eight different educational institutions in Zimbabwe, the United States of America and South Africa, and spent fourteen enthusiastic and productive years at its helm. Under her aegis, the school thrived and the physical improvements were impressive; the Technology Centre, the Drama Centre, the Sports Centre, St Margaret's Block and the Astroturf were all completed during her tenure. Matric results were excellent, and she embraced the difficult years of transition in South Africa and increased the numbers of girls of different races and cultures exponentially. She herself played first team tennis at university and had a special interest in the Roedean squash teams, having the satisfaction before she retired of seeing Roedean win all eleven leagues. She was a great advocate of a holistic education and often referred to the school as a microcosm of society.

The school prospered during her years as headmistress and during her tenure, expanding from approximately five hundred girls to more than seven hundred by the millennium. Lyn was an avid gardener and knew the Latin names of many of the plants. She participated with enthusiasm in the planning of new areas of the gardens, such as the Water Garden, and one of her greatest delights was the rose, Rosa Roedeana, which was created to celebrate Roedean's 90th birthday. Because of somatic mutations, no two blooms on a bush are alike, and she liked to compare it to the girls at Roedean, saying that each one was special in her particular way.

Lyn had a great sense of humour and during her years as headmistress she greatly enjoyed the celebrations that were part of the fabric of Roedean life. She entered with gusto into the spirit of many of

the PTA dinners, and participated with tremendous pleasure in the events that led up to the school's 90th birthday, which included a masked ball, an Edwardian picnic and the 90th birthday fair. The school cats had a special place in her heart, especially a large grey cat called Billy Bunter, who tended to take over the chair in her office, and force her to perch on the edge so as not to disturb him.

In her retirement, Lyn continues her long association with the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA), for which she served as regional chairperson, and as chairman of the South African Heads of Independent Schools Association (SAHISA) 1996 Heads Conference Committee. She is still extremely active in ISASA and now serves as the regional director for the North East Region.

MARY WILLIAMS

Mary Williams took over the leadership of Roedean in 2002 at one of the most exciting times in the school's history. Strongly aware of the importance of Roedean's centenary in 2003, she entered into all the plans for

the Roedean communityâ\200\231s celebrations with her customary attention to detail, enthusiasm and energy.

Mary came to Roedean with an impressive teaching career behind her. She had taught at St Andrew's Bedfordview for ten years, and was Deputy Head of that school from 1998 to 2001. During that time she was also a housemistress, and head of the English department. In the first year of her tenure as Headmistress at Roedean, she wasted no time in tackling the vexatious problem of parking, and succeeded in transforming Pleasaunce without losing its elegance and beauty. Under her aegis the first Roedean flags are flying at both the senior and junior schools.

A thoroughly modern headmistress, Maryâ\200\231s deep concern for the girls, and her interest in the pastoral life of the school have already started to bear fruit, and the seeds of an exciting and beneficial community partnership project have been sown. Her interactive management style with both staff and girls is already apparent in the running of the school, and her caustic humour and dry wit make assemblies a delight. She fully understands the complexities of twenty-first century teenagers and is sympathetic to the difficulties they face. Demanding a high level of academic commitment and responsibility from the girls, she is readying herself and her charges to embrace the dynamic years ahead.

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â\200\230Honour to the worthy

Though the times bring change
Honour to the worthy

Our credo will remain.â\200\231

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The century-old development of Roedean continues apace, with all eyes firmly on the future.

The Centenary Appeal is collecting funds for a number of projects, including a state-of-the-art Media Centre in the Senior School.

or how long can Rosa Roedean be expected to bloom? Itâ\200\231s an imponderable question,

of course. Roedean has survived â\200\224 indeed, it has flowered â\200\224 through a tempestuous

century, and now it looks forward into a century that promises to be even more so. The shock of the new â\200\224 new threats, new opportunities â\200\224 will never be far away. How will Roedean cope? Inevitably, we must look to the roots to decide. We must look to the schoolâ\200\231s tradition.

It is interesting to conjecture on tradition, a quality so rooted in time, and ask that most fundamental of questions. Is tradition reinforced in a linear fashion, or does a process approximating the principle of compound interest apply? Is 100 years of tradition, in other words, exactly double that accumulated in 50? Probably not. But the exact answer must lie in a combination of the raw material originally at hand coupled with its relevance now. |

For Roedean, the raw material was stirring stuff. It was transported from England in the heads of the two founding pioneers. It spoke of an English tradition that had been 800 years in the making. Added to these basic ingredients were the late nineteenth century preoccupations concerning the position of women in relation to knowledge, opportunity and the vote. This brought about a fine mix of conservatism and radicalism that still exists in the school today. In fact, we can paraphrase a great deal of what is â\200\224 and has for a century been â\200\224 said and done in Roedean as a simultaneous respect for others, for oneself and determination to speak out and stand oneâ\200\231s ground.

The relevance of such a tradition is obvious. Since it stems from a respect for human life and liberty, and for individual variation, there is at once something gentle and resilient at its core. There is no place for pomposity, but rather a constant readiness to adapt from a profoundly secure base. Conservatism alone is often grounded on fear and a rigidity of approach. Radicalism is based on impatience with the old and is often unstable. The Roedean mix provides both roots and the ability to adapt that will stand the school in good stead in the decades that stretch ahead.

Who would have thought in 1903 that the world stood on the brink of its most tempestuous century? The power of the British Empire seemed secure enough, and Roedean (SA) existed within it. Two World Wars and a rising nationalism in most British colonies put paid to that, however, and in 1961 South Africa left the Commonwealth. Increasing state control of education in South Africa followed. We could be forgiven for assuming that the so-called English tradition would begin to wilt. And perhaps in its most cantankerous guises it did. But the essence of Roedean, the essentially humane elements of its tradition, grew stronger, adapting to the new challenges of integrated education in the 1980s and a new education policy in the 1990s as if the old traditions had been specifically designed to equip the school to cope with such challenges. The miracle of Roedean â\200\224 although many would see the process more as inevitable than miraculous â\200\224 is that these adaptations strengthened the old traditions of respect and tolerance, gentleness and strength, while at the same time the academic rigour and the academic excellence never faltered.

What will be the challenges for Roedeanâ\200\231s second century? Almost certainly, they will be a continuation of many of the old challenges, but in somewhat different guises. For example, if the position of women in the developed world has improved over the first Roedean century â\200\224 and few would argue that it has not â\200\224 the plight of women in the

developing world has hardly done so. Such disparities will become increasingly unavoidable as the twenty-first century divides us not so much into ideological or ethnic camps, as before, but simply into rich and poor in one small cosmic neighbourhood.

There is an instinctive knowledge of this element of the future already evident in the responses of Roedean girls themselves. 'Being African is something I acknowledge,' said one of them. 'I'm proud of it. But in this environment, here at school, you tend to forget what colour you are. There's far more tension between two black people living in different circumstances than there is racial tension at Roedean.'

The different circumstances mentioned here refer clearly enough to the economic differences between rich and poor. In addition, there's a consciousness of which side of this divide Roedean stands, and thoughts are already beginning to turn to the responsibilities that must accompany privilege.

We were shocked at the loss of our outreach programme a few years ago,' a group of Ante-matrices girls told me. 'There used to be a perception that Roedean was quite insular. But today's environment demands greater community awareness from the girls. Now we're looking forward to a revived and much bigger community development programme in our new century.' Headmistress Mary Williams agrees. 'There can be little argument that our school needs to be more community aware.'

When Mary Williams was appointed at the beginning of 2002, her challenge was to create a more nurturing environment without compromising the rigorous academic standards or the traditions of the school, and to place Roedean in a modern and relevant context. She explained that there were various ways of achieving this, and one of the most important was to develop a spirit of community service. 'We're looking at various options and possibilities, including partnering with other schools, sharing our resources, teacher exchanges, peer tutoring. Specifically we're looking at our local community. The Roedean community cannot ignore some of the daunting social and educational problems of the inner-city areas. I'm convinced that if we place community service seriously in our day-to-day curriculum the sense of self-worth and fulfilment of our entire school population will be enhanced.'

Mary Williams seems perfectly equipped to carry Roedean into the challenges of the twenty-first century. She's a highly qualified teacher with wide experience of independent schools in South Africa. Apart from the importance of community service, she isolates further areas of focus in the opening decade of Roedean's second century. The first, she explains, is developing a relevant curriculum, with attention being paid to the increasing demands of information technology. And the second is to secure a complement of world-class teachers, at a time when both nationally and internationally, teaching as a profession is under dire threat. 'We have to make the content of the curriculum modern and relevant to the demands of today. We also have to respond to the realisation that the way we teach is as important as what we teach. Roedean should be one of the forerunners of education

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development in South Africa; we have to keep Roedean at the cutting edge of educational trends. We have to acknowledge and capitalise on our value as a considerable educational resource.â\200\231

â\200\230Teacher development is of primary importance. We need to be realistic about this,â\200\231

Mary Williams says: â\200\234Very few young people are entering the profession and good teachers are increasingly hard to find. In addition, thereâ\200\231s been a universal trend in the

second half of the twentieth century to downgrade the status of teachers, to allow their work to go unacknowledged and inadequately rewarded. But a school lives or dies on the quality of its staff. They should be adventurers of the mind, teaching not so much the dead weight of facts but the thrill of enquiry and understanding. At Roedean we try to balance teaching enthusiasm with teacher responsibility. That's the essence of teacher empowerment, and I believe it is best achieved through a participatory and collaborative managing style.

Underlying all these considerations, though, lies the basic reality of Roedean. It exists because for nearly 100 years the school has played a vital role. It is often said that greater Johannesburg is over-subscribed when it comes to private schools for girls. Why, in this context, should parents choose Roedean? Mary Williams has a passionate belief in the value of monastic (single-sex) education; research has shown that the inherent intellectual capacity and potential of girls is most fully developed in such an environment. 'If you're going to educate girls and to empower them to become twenty-first century women they must be equipped to make informed choices about career options and this only comes with exposure to academic challenge,' she explains.

Roedean has a powerful academic reputation: 'Roedean's core value, the very heart of its endeavour, is academic excellence,' says Mary Williams. 'It emerges out of the roots and branches of our tradition like a flower. But underlying them all,' she concludes, 'a single question persists. What is the essence of Roedean? How should we be enhancing or modifying that for the century that lies ahead?'

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I conjectured, as I strolled among the nooks and quiet corners of the Roedean grounds, whether it might not be true that the people who came into contact with Roedean (the staff, the girls, the parents) had not influenced the school quite as much as the school had laid its mark on them. It was in fact this constant interaction that has made the 'essence' about which Mary Williams had spoken. There is therefore no rigid adherence to tradition. One could almost say that this interaction is the tradition, and therefore its preservation can only be achieved by the encouragement of fresh interaction. So, it was easy to stand in Founders' Hall once again and read above the fireplaces those words that came to one at first glance as eternal truths, and to know how Roedean's second century would leave its varying marks upon them. 'Truth and Honour, Freedom and Courtesy ... Their work continues.' Perhaps the essence of Roedean, in other words, is not so much its traditions as the perpetual willingness (itself a tradition) to expose the values of the past to the restless gaze of younger eyes and changing contexts. Only that which was strong and human could survive such scrutiny.

I went next door to the library. The librarian showed me around the richly panelled space, the shelves of books, the computerised indexing, the wooden window seats. I remembered the pupil who had told me: 'You know the things I most looked forward to when I knew I was coming to Roedean? The library, the books ...'

In these ways I began to get an inkling of what would most essentially survive the vicissitudes of the century ahead. It had to do simultaneously with a sense of worth and a sense of renewal. Independent thought and enquiry is in the grass and ground here; it grows like identifiable vegetation in the courtyards and gardens, Mary Williams had

By the end of the century
there were a number of
fourth-generation pupils
at Roedean. In 2003 Gina
Fitzpatrick Niven began
in Grade 0. Gina is the
great-great-granddaughter
Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, best
known for his well-loved
tale Jock of the Bushveld.
Gina's great aunts were
Nancy Carver, to whom
the school chapel is
dedicated, and Dorothea
Campbell, who was an
important figure in the
school's history and after
whom the Dorothea
Campbell block is named.

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told me. The pieces fell into place. Then the librarian directed my attention to some girls reading in one of the window seats. "They always look so lovely when the sun pours through the windows in the morning," she said. "The light is behind them, but they are unconscious of it, of course, intent as they are upon their reading."

Would the great-grandchildren of those girls also grace the seats built below the north-facing windows of the Roedean library? Would they, too, those citizens of the twenty-first century, be intent upon their reading, yet illumined by all that was strong and human from the past shining in their hair? The words of one of the old Roedean school

songs drifted through my mind:

To speak of fame a venture is,
There's little here can bide;

But we may face the centuries

And dare the deepening tide;

For though the dust that's part of us
To dust again be gone,

Yet here shall beat the heart of us
The school we handed on!

The image becomes evocative and powerful: young women facing the future and daring the deepening tide of the twenty-first century with an understanding that tradition is mere custom without its constant reinvention. This is what came to me in the sunlit library. That the Roedean tradition, as articulated above the fireplaces and as manifested in the grass and earth of the place, had within it the basic equipment necessary for sustaining itself. So the answer to that question concerning the great-grandchildren of those lovely reading girls was: almost certainly. It is therefore inevitable to believe that the profoundly human heart of the Roedean tradition can be handed on and on and on.

For that long, and longer still, can Rosa Roedean be expected to bloom.

THIS STONE WAS LAID

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LADY FITZPATRICK
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â\200\230Trouthe and honour, fredom and curteisye.â\200\231

The dream on which Roedean was founded â\200\224 of enabling women to play an equal part in the affairs of their time, of fostering a spirit of individuality, of responsibility â\200\224 is as relevant today as in the time of the Founders. When Theresa Lawrence and Katherine Margaret Earle arrived in South Africa to found their â\200\230modern type of schoolâ\200\231, modelled on Roedean in Brighton, the Anglo-Boer War was not long over and the womenâ\200\231s suffrage movement was at its height. Since then the girls of Roedean (SA) have made their mark in all facets of South Africaâ\200\231s life, and the great traditions of truth, honour, freedom and courtesy have been nurtured through the generations.

This century of remarkable education for girls is celebrated in a joyful book of memorabilia, reflecting the growth of the school in parallel with the dusty mining town in which its roots lay. It is a remarkable scrapbook of photographs, letters, memories and other records of 100 years in the life of a school in the words of the girls and their teachers, capturing Roedeanâ\200\231s rich traditions and heritage and affirming its continuing growth.

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â\200\230Their work continueth.â\200\231

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