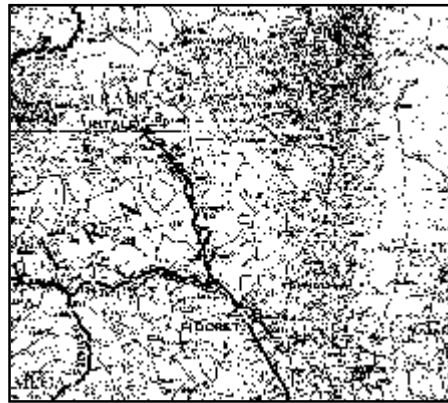


KITALE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2004



FROM



TO





Hello fellow Kitaleites

I thought a photograph of the front of school might be a good way of introducing you all to the 2004 Newsletter. Many of you may not have been back since leaving; so this might revive memories of a fine establishment. This is proven every time we hold a reunion where folk travel from far and wide to join with us in a day, a weekend or even the best part if a week in having fun and reviving memories. Not all of us enjoyed being at school, let alone Boarding School, and some are quite outspoken about it. However, those days are long gone, and it is the friendships that remain.

The couples who helped co-ordinate the Reunion in Perth, Western Australia did an amazing job. I arrived a week in advance hoping to be of some help over and above what I had prepared before leaving Johannesburg. Instead, I was fêted like royalty and taken around that beautiful city on the Swan River with beautiful parks and rose gardens. Thank you **Andrew** and **Gail**, **Tessa** and **Brian** for five-star hospitality as well as getting the show off the ground and thank you Charles and Vicky for your amazing input, the memorabilia stands [you have set a precedent there for future committee members to live up to] and for travelling long distances on every occasion to lend your support.

No fewer than 75 attended on the two days with many coming to both the evening cocktail party in the Victoria League Club and to the picnic in King's Park on the Sunday – a perfect spring day, which we all enjoyed enormously.

The list of participants follows:

John and Pam [Hissey] Barbour
 Daphne Hissey
 Alastair and Robin McKechnie
 John and Catherine Dudin
 Mary Dudin
 Irvine and Sue [Shields] White
 Penny [Flatt] and Peter Madvig
 Ralph and Caroline Fremlin
 Alan and Jessie [Barbour] Dale
 Jessie Dale [Snr]
 Peter and Jenny [Paterson] Hissey
 Jeananne and Richard Barbour
 Alan Hitchcox
 Sue [Hitchcox] Crane
 Grant Daniels
 David Daniels
 Brandon and Penny Brooksbank

Lis [Statham] and Chris Kerr
 Eric and Ann Jorgensen
 Daphne Sinclair and Cesare Bellingeri
 Nigel and Jeanette Sinclair
 Tessa [Haupt] and Brian Watson
 Ann Haupt [Tessa's Mum]
 Bryony Fremlin and David James
 Ian Shields
 Robin Archer
 Stan Bleazard
 Mark and Ferry Young
 Giles Hardy
 Charles and Vicky [Bell] Kerfoot
 Tony and Angela [Hickman] Swain
 Peter Gerrard
 Andrew and Gail Hillier
 Paula Burch [Allen]
 Caroline [Quinn] Esterman
 Melanie [Hickman] Forster
 Ann [Dimsdale] and Scott Waine
 Pauline Crampton [Shaw]
 Jo Pickford
 Lil [Anderson] O'Toole
 Jay and Julie [Robinson] Roffey
 Margaret Lariche [Staff 1934 era]
 Peter Flatt
 Alan Howitt
 Marion Main
 Ernest and Elizabeth Irwin
 Antonia Bagshawe
 Yvette and Kevin Weaver
 Liz Denton
 Doreen Drakes [Staff late 1950s/ 1960]
 Lynne [Drakes] Greenham
 Bridget Walton [Doenhoff] [Staff 1956 ...1962]

Some messages from those who could not get there:

Bill Radford wishes to be remembered to all:
wannastation@modnet.com.au
 He asks for news of **Guy Hallowes**.

From **John** and **Christine Eager**:
jceager@dodo.com.au

'Jambo to all of you; wish we could meet up again after some 40 years or more, but I suppose our son's wedding in Sydney should take preference!

Hello to **Alan Hitchcox, Ben Pickford, Andy Kerfoot, Dales, Barbours** and **anyone of the year of '58**. If any of you are in Clare Valley, South Australia, we'd love to see you.

Phone 08 8843 0031

We'll be thinking of you all tonight and tomorrow and look forward to seeing photos with **Liz** and **Chris Kerr** sometime – hope they have their camera [*If not, John and Chris, you have a taste through this Newsletter!*] If we have time, we'll stop off in Karoonda and see them for an hour or so on our way back from Sydney] Hope you all have a good time.

From **Stuart** and **Jill Thomas**

'Just a short note to everyone there in WA. Sorry we cannot be with you guys this weekend but the costs were too much for that short a stay as we would have had to fly back on Sunday night due to work commitments. Anyway, Andrew, could you say a special hello to **Liz and Chris Kerr**, Pauline **Crampton [Shaw]** and **Sue Shields [White]** from me. Once again, have a great time and we will be thinking of you all.'

From **Koba Bosman [Bentley]** in Harare: 'So wish I could have been there with everyone. My best wishes to all Kitale School Reunion participants. I will be thinking of you all. Talk a lot!!!! Laugh a lot!!!! Have a wonderful time together. It is very special to have reunions. I have attended three in South Africa and each time they were just the greatest thing. We all behaved like 18-year olds! Please give my love to everyone and I trust that the 'do' will be a glorious success. *[It certainly was that, Koba!]* **Andrew**, hope my letter finds you and family well. Please would you let me have some news after the event, who's who etc. and who came. I just love reading through the Newsletters, trying to remember folk. Have a wonderful time everyone. Hope to hear soon. Much love.

October 25 / 26

Perth, Western Australia

Victoria League Club and King's Park

We will all have our own special memories of this, the 4th [some in Perth will claim that it is actually the 5th] Kitale School Reunion. If we look back to the first, chez **Ralph** and **Jane Nicholson [Cox]** where folk travelled from across the globe to attend, this in Perth was not so very different. Australia is a vast continent and those living as far away as Sydney or Brisbane will have flown almost as far as from another continent. Therefore a special thanks must go to all who travelled from within Australia as well as to those who flew in from New Zealand [the **Dudins** and **Paula Burch**], from England, [**Sue Crane [Hitchcox]**, **David** and **Grant Daniels**], from Kenya, **Jay** and **Julie [Robinson] Roffey** and **Peter Gerrard** from the Islands. So far all our reunions have been unique in their differences and as one who has been lucky enough to have enjoyed all [including the mini starter in Freemantle during July 1995] I have enjoyed them all equally and can only reiterate my congratulations to Committee Members in Devon, Johannesburg, Nairobi and Kitale and now Perth for making the events so enjoyable.

The Victoria League Club reminded me somewhat of The Muthaiga Club. It has the same Colonial feel – large rooms, polished wooden floors and high ceilings, friendly and efficient staff members and an ambience which ex-Kenyans can relate to easily. **Andrew [Hillier]** had very cleverly built a bar allowance into the fee so that drinks were served freely [until the kitty ran out!] along with the finger eats. **Charles Kerfoot** and **Vicky [Bell]** excelled themselves over the memorabilia – even to Vicky producing a report that I had written *[and for which I plead forgiveness, Vicky. You are now the most*

organised person and I would be happy to write a glowing testimonial for you any day]. **Melanie [Hickman] Forster** left me a copy of hers, which I shall find space to reprint in this Newsletter! **Tessa [Haupt]** and **Brian Watson** along with helpers took responsibility for the décor, house colour balloons and streamers and all in all, both venues more than lived up to Kitale Reunion standards.

How does one recognise a Kitaleite after 40 years when I remember all as teenagers or younger and the ladies have since grown more attractive and the men so handsome? We have all grown older and undoubtedly wiser but all had one advantage over me in that I had not become taller [perhaps somewhat broader]. There were others before my time and this will have been a first meeting. Nothing daunting, we all had plenty to talk about and reminisce over and the evening flew past.

Australians are great picnickers and King's Park on Sunday 26th was crowded with families gathering to spend a day in the open. Children bring their bikes, ball games are played and the atmosphere is one of relaxation and / or activity.

Andrew had booked the Pavilion in case of rain and this proved a very useful meeting place as well as a dumping ground for cameras and handbags. Memorabilia were displayed again and the balloons and streamers from the previous evening were brought by **Gail [Hillier]** and **Tessa**. Those that had not burst were given to children at the end of the afternoon so that there were a few very happy youngsters going home that Sunday.

Post Reunion I spent some weeks in Australia and New Zealand – enjoyed more time with **Paula Allen [Burch]** in their beautiful Picton home *[definitely to be recommended!]* and later an evening each with **Penny Madvig [Flatt]** and **Dave Lichtenstein** and Mary Anne in Sydney. On coming home, the Loreto Newsletter had to be dealt with as well as the work that had been accumulating during holiday time. Now the Newsletter must take precedence, so here goes:

There have been a few sad events during the year and our thoughts were with **Paula, Colin** and **Anthony [Burch]** when we heard the news of **Topsy's** passing. Paula writes of the last time she saw her mum, in February of 2002: 'We had a fabulous social time in Naivasha with people round to tea on Topsy's veranda, **Jean Knight's** 70th birthday lunch, supper with friends at **Colin** and **Sue's** house, an EAWL "do" at the Masonic Hall with pipe and drum entertainment provided by a British army division, dinner at a Chinese Restaurant and lots of time "yakking" and looking at photograph albums. It was a week of good, quality time together. Tony and Audrey were in Kenya with Topsy for her last Christmas.

It was good to have **Paula [Burch] Allen** reunited with her good friends **Jo Pickford** and **Chippy [Bryony] Fremlin** at the reunion. **Paula** and **Ian** run a most successful B & B in Picton, South Island,

New Zealand – a truly beautiful setting with the sounds and an excellent climate. Paula and Ian have started a “muffin club” for their visitors – a wonderful way of ensuring that they keep in touch after their stay. Paula’s life is hectic since, in addition to helping Ian she has a job looking after elderly folk which is taxing physically as well as mentally. But she and Ian take time out when the season is quiet, mainly during the winter months. *[For anyone wishing to holiday in New Zealand, I can recommend Picton and the short cruise across Cook Strait from Wellington as being an excellent introduction to the beauty of the South Island – not to mention the Allen hospitality!]*

Thank you **Rob [Bairstow]** for proof-reading the 2003 Newsletter so thoroughly, this appreciated enormously because 2 heads are always more efficient than one. *[Rob says he felt a bit like a school teacher when doing so. Rob came up with the very sensible suggestion that e-mailing the Newsletter would save costs on stationery and postage. It does make sense, in this technological age to do so, but there are some who have not got access to e-mail and also there is no way that I could send through pages of photographs – the cost to our telephone account would make that impractical. What I am doing though is sending a disk through each year to the website – for those on the Internet to enjoy – and we have had some new recruits as a result.]*

What happened to **Sally Berridge**, who wrote in May 2003 to say she looked forward to seeing us all in Perth?

Jacqui Kangas [Black] wrote in February 2003: ‘I am developing a skin-care business and do contract work to subsidise my expenses while I am building the business.’ *[Jacqui, I hope you have had a better year]*

Edwin Bristow and **Jeanne** were in the UK for the rugby [England vs SA] and also for the Kenya Kongoni’s lunch at the Long Room at Lord’s to mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of that club. Eddie writes that there will have been over 200 Kenyans present at the function. Unfortunately Perth was too distant but greetings are sent to all nevertheless.

We were all saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Biddy Crowcombe** in February. Biddy celebrated her 85th Birthday in January of 2003. She had to undergo abdominal surgery from which she never really recovered. As with George Brooks, I had asked a few who knew Biddy really well to pen some thoughts for the Newsletter. **Clare [Breckenridge] Long** wrote: ‘I tried several times but I just couldn’t do it – perhaps because we became friends once I was an adult and I could not write about her simply as a teacher from the past.’ *[Clare, I know exactly how you will have felt and in one simple sentence you actually said it all. To those who kept in touch with Biddy over the years she became a friend].*

Dee Rayner probably knew Biddy as well as any of her past pupils and she wrote: ‘**Biddy Crowcombe** died earlier this month in Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. She was a born [and gifted] teacher, although often terrifying to those who had not yet reached her class. Of my year, I think I was one of the first to detect a human face behind the glittering spectacle lenses and the frequent refrain of, “You horrible little girl / boy!”’

‘It was only years later that I discovered that Biddy had stood as guarantor for my improved behaviour when the Head, exasperated by my particularly vile phase of testing the parameters of rebellion, intended to eject me from Kitale School. Realising that much of my disruptive behaviour was due to boredom she set up a programme that was both challenging and enjoyable, thus turning negative energies into positive. When I wrote to her about this, Biddy dismissed it as “just a question of guiding you in the right direction and ignoring your little foibles,” – a prime understatement.’

‘**Mary MacDonald, [Spots]**, the Senior Girls’ Housemistress who later married **Ron MacDonald** gave a probably well-merited detention one Saturday to myself and several others. Ways and means of evading this were discussed, none likely of success. At last an inspiration – I would ask Biddy for a detention, knowing full well that an academic detention would override a dormitory one. “She’ll never do it,” said the others, but she did, bless her. She gave us tea at her house and then sat us down to read “mind improving books” for the duration whilst we, unthinking, left her to handle ruffled staff feathers elsewhere. Biddy was obviously amused by the sheer gall of the request.

‘Biddy’s aim with the blackboard rubber was unerring. There was nothing like a direct strike to bring the inattentive back to the lesson of the moment with a sharp jolt.

‘Biddy and my parents remained close, lifelong friends; they adored her straight talking and her laconic humour. Biddy expected the best, whether leading from the front, pushing from behind or both. As is the way of the world, many of us failed to realise until much later the influence she had on our lives. Rest in peace, Biddy; you ran a wonderful race.’

[I think we would all add an “Amen” to that, Dee. Thank you].

Our thoughts and sympathy go out to you, **Chris**, in the loss of a colleague and good friend of so many years, first in Kitale and later in Devon.

From **Michael Buck**:

‘I finally made the break from Kenya in 1998 and moved to Brazil to work for an American company, constructing hospitals. On my arrival in Curitiba, a city south of Sao Paulo, I found that all my luggage was missing and a friendly Brazilian woman offered to translate for me. Little did we know that this was the start of a lifetime for us as she is now my wife,

Lucirene. After four glorious years in Brazil, we decided to move back to the UK. The Brazilian economy is descending to an all-time low and we want to give my adopted daughter a better education.

‘We have had several Kitale folk visiting us here, including my sister and her husband, **Anne [Buck]** and **Peter Tilbury**. In November, my parents [**Win** and **Martin**] will be travelling from their home in Vancouver to stay for a couple of months with me and my brother, **Chris**.’

From **Neil Amin:**

‘I was at Kitale School from about 1967 to 1970 when we left for England. I often think of the names of some of the others that were there at the time such as **Michael** and John Archer, **Christopher Isherwood**, **Paul Eberhart**, **Nicholas Scholl**, **Elizabeth Sorenson**, **Julian Wood** and **Jackson Omedio**. I am now based in North London and have been a frequent traveller to Australia – worked in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Carole Schmoll [Barret] would love to have been at the Reunion at the Muthaiga Club. For her it would have been a real trip down memory lane [*especially the “after party” in Kitale, Carole!*].

I enjoyed the Convent Reunion in Perth although the Eldoret group is usually a very small contingent. We had a terrific day at Vicky and Charles Kerfoot’s farm the day after when I was able to catch up with a number of Kitaleites not seen for many years. We are planning a trip to Europe in September [2003] to see our son who is living and working in London. It may well pan out that we are in SA at the time of the Loreto in Africa 125th Reunion, which would be terrific. [*What a pity you couldn’t make either the 125th in Pretoria or Kitale in Perth, Carole. Next time?*] Carole wonders whether anyone has contact details for **Angela Macadam**. If so, please let Carole know at: schmollcarole@hotmail.com

Rowena [Candler] Barry-Taylor is in touch with **Roz** and **Anthony Humphris** and they sometimes meet for a lunch together.

It was good to see **Jessie** and **Alan Dale** and **Jessie Senior** enjoy the reunion along with so many members of the **Hissey family**, [**Pam** and **John Barbour**, **Peter** and **Jenny [Patterson]** and **Daphne Senior**]. Alan and Jessie love their new house and are finally relieved of the hectic dairy side of farming while Jenny and John are very active with their new combined business – artist and promoter. Pam had an exhibition of her work in Freemantle over the weekend of the reunion so the family could not join us in King’s Park.

Jenny [Coombes] Pont continues to be very involved in the film world in Kenya and, this year, she was co-producer of the film, “Dangerous Affair,” which won the Golden Dhow Award at the Zanzibar International Film Festival. Not only that, a second film entitled “Africa” [*definitely worth*

seeing if you lived in Kenya] won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Feature Film. Then there is ‘Love Actually’ – an ideal pre - or post - Christmas entertainment in which Jenny and **Ben** feature briefly. [*We enjoyed that film enormously, Jenny!*] [*Congratulations, Jenny – another Kitale School success story!*]

David and **Grant Daniels** are staunch supporters of the school and we were so delighted to have both with us in Perth. David continues to farm on the Essex / Suffolk border although the family spends a lot of time in Scotland either fishing or stalking red deer. Fortunately son Christopher may be the one to help with the farming once he has completed his course in Cirencester. Elder daughter Bryony who is at Edinburgh University with Prince William hit the news when she modelled in a fashion show to raise money for charity. David talks about him and **Pauline** growing older [*We didn’t see too many signs of that at the reunion!*]

Marie de Bruyn wrote a 3-page hand-written letter [*which puts me to shame as I find it so hard to settle with a pen these days.*] Marie’s son André was also at Kitale School in 1962 – 1963. André has been a great help in looking after the family smallholding. Marie writes that **Alfonzo Smith** [1936 era] passed away in White River, Mpumalanga, aged 85. Alfonzo had served with the Kenya Police Detective Branch for many years. He was also first on the scene of Lord Errol’s accident [*remember the film?*] and he was author of the book, “White Roots in Africa.” [*We send our condolences to his widow, Beth [Focks] formerly of Timau.*] [*Marie, I have a copy of the video of Johnny Woods, courtesy of Heather Davidson, but I would not want to put it in the post in*

case it got lost. Any suggestions?]

Marie writes about Johnny, ‘He is still a monument in my life and there is so much about his life that I would like to learn about.’

It was good to catch up with **Ian** and **Doreen Drakes** and **Lynne [Greenham]**, albeit briefly. **Dorrie** and **David** have moved into Perth and although they miss their home in Denmark, it made sense that they moved closer to family members while they were still able to drive. Ian is in computers and I am sure Lynne’s husband, **Grant**, will be preparing to represent Australia again at the Athens Reunion. [*Do keep the e-mails rolling, please, Ian!*]

Another lady who enjoyed the reunion enormously is **Caroline Esterman [Quinn]**. Caroline had obviously traced her roots during the course of the year after a trip to England during which Barney passed away. She met **Sven Robin** and **Jessica** in Nakuru before flying on to Namibia and eventually returning to South Australia.

A new addition to our database is **John Foster**, Hawk House 1940 – 1953, whose parents farmed in the Cherangani area. **Sally** and John had revisited Kenya during 2002 and returned to Kitale only to

find they had just missed being able to attend the reunion there.

Gayle Davidson is the correspondent in the family and she writes, '**Terry** is absolutely "snowed under" in the new job [*I believe with Kenya Commercial Bank in Nairobi*], so we have no updated news.

2003 was not a good year for many families and I heard through several Kitale folk the more than sad news of **Adrian Hillier's** sudden death at his home in Karen, Nairobi. Adrian was just 51 and I remember him so clearly as a very young Standard Six member having earned a double promotion. I got to know Adrian and his parents well during that time as I was asked to help bridge the gap in his maths. He used to come to my cottage just near the entrance to the school in his Eagle Tee shirt which, like all boarding school clothing, had faded and been stretched at the neck so hung loose. We lost touch until we met many years later in Mombasa, when I first got to know **Jacquelin** and then those of you who were at the Reunion in November 2003 will have seen both Adrian and Jacquelin at the Muthaiga Club. [*Our hearts go out to Jacquelin, Kevin and Brita as well as to Freda in Croydon, England and Andrew and Gail in Perth, Australia.*]

Diana [Fulton] Purchase let us know that her friend during her time both at Kitale School and Highlands Eldoret, **Topsy Parsons**, died of cancer in Australia. Topsy was Captain of Kestrel at the same time as Diana captained Hawk House.

On a more cheerful note, Diana celebrated her 60th birthday by flying to Singapore for three weeks with a friend and it seems that it was a holiday of fun and laughter. Diana writes: 'Talk about feeling the country fool. I tried not to behave like one. Despite that, **Mike [Fulton]** spent quite a lot of time with a face that was very red with our antics and he pretended not to know who the two crazy women were!' Mike is thinking of returning to Kenya to retire [after 25 -years in high tech, efficient Singapore]. He is likely to give it a six-month trial before making that final decision. He is currently in Hong Kong. [*Please keep us updated, Mike*].

Tessa [Haupt] Watson writes often. She is still very busy even though she only works part time now. Her mother, **Ann** [now 83] is ageing but she still enjoys life and she is always cheerful. She coped so well with meeting all the strange faces over the reunion weekend. However, the time has come for her to make a move to a more sheltered environment – never an easy decision for a family to make jointly. What better name for such a home, though, than Hollywood!

Chris Hearne and **Magda** seem to take on more and more responsibility as they 'mature with the passing years.' In addition to their own B & B [*which they have re-named Bums on Beds!*] they now run the Central Drakensberg Tourist Information Centre and they do all accommodation bookings and tourist information from their home. Their knowledge of the hotel industry has come in

very handy with this new venture and they seem to have had a bumper season. Chris's has a new title: 'Cottage cleanliness inspector,' acquired because he discovered that people when on holiday have very different ideas on what constitutes cleanliness. In spite of being busy, the Hearnes were able to fulfil a lifelong dream during 2003 when they visited Namibia and they spent two weeks in Ireland while they moved Magda's Mum to a nursing home. Sadly, she passed away shortly after her 91st birthday. [*Magda and Chris, we know you will miss her in spite of the distance that separated you.*] Chris concludes by writing: 'S A is now a preferred tourist destination as we live far away from all those nasty terrorists!'

Peter Gerrard, currently in Indonesia, combined his visit to Perth and the Kitale School Reunion with the England vs South Africa World Cup rugby match the previous week. [*It was good to see you again, Peter and thank you for making the effort.*]

Andrew Hillier and **Gail** hosted the family Christmas this time and this, after all the hard work both put into ensuring the success of the Kitale School Reunion, will have earned them their short holiday after the festivities when they went first to spend time with Gail's sister and later to the South West to a place called Gracetown, near Margaret River.

News was sent via Andrew from **Mervyn Gifford**, who mentions **Ray Hoey** and **Ann Bowker**, both living in Grahamstown in South Africa. Mervyn lives in the north of Scotland but he, like many, has enjoyed a return trip to Kenya in 2003. I quote: 'There is something about the red soil, the smell of burning wood, and the pong of smoky diesels on the roads that stays with you forever. I travel to Denmark a lot and last summer we went to the Karen Blixen Museum at Ringsted, north of Copenhagen. The museum had been her home before and after her time in Kenya and it had brilliant photographs and descriptions of the EA way of life.'

Jean [Hallatt] Skilleter and **Don** now have **Ian** living with them as he recovers from his stroke. Jean writes, 'Ian reads a lot now to get his speech and vocabulary back. His right hand still does not work but he compensated for it very well.' Jean and Don were in Australia during which they stayed with **Pat [Revill]** and her husband, **John Edwards**, both ex Kitale School [*sadly not able to attend the reunion, Jean*].

All four then went to visit **Dave** and **Pauline Edwards** at Yandina, north of Brisbane, before Jean and Don returned to Perth to meet up with the Dale family in Margaret River. Jean has promised photographs of Kitale School including some of **Ivy Woods**, **May Montgomery** and a few other staff members' weddings. [*Jean, do send copies if you are able for the 2005 Newsletter!*] Jean continues: 'On the farm with us here is **David Lovell** who has a twin brother, **Frank**. Both went to Kitale School

along with my elder daughter Katie [Revill] – that would have been about 1968 / 1969.’

Others mentioned by Jean who were at the school but with whom we are not as yet in touch are:

Anne Faulk and her mother Jean, who must have been one of the very first pupils;
John, Tony and Peter Faulk
Agnes, Richard, Pauline and Micky Buswell.

News of the **Hasluck** family:

After two years back in Kenya, **Phil** and **Wendy** are currently living in Ladybrand but working in Lesotho, a place they initially found very quiet when compared to the life they enjoyed in Nairobi. Phil was back there in 2003 and managed to catch up on relatives still living in Kenya as well as with **Dan** and **June Shaw**. **Margaret Hasluck** as well as **Dave** and **Debbie** are still in Zimbabwe. Dave has retired from the Commercial Farmers’ Union there and he is looking for new prospects in the international job market. **Anna** and her family live in the south of England where Anna has been working in the admin department of one of the local schools.

There was no news from **Judith Hollows** or her family during 2003 except to say that she continues to prosper in Hong Kong and that her ‘care home’ project is coming along nicely now that the snow has melted in NW Arkansas.

Antony Humphris wrote: ‘Recently, **Robin Tilney** visited me in Durban from Gaborone, where he is now retired. He is still very keen on his ‘off road’ racing and driving through Africa. The reunion in Perth sounded very tempting but we will only just have got back from a sailing holiday in Croatia so could not justify the trip this time.’

Jessica and **Sven Robin [Jensen]**, thank you for passing on news of the Reunion to Caroline and for the photographs which were attached to your e-mail. Congratulations are due to **Mrs Jensen Snr.**, who celebrated her 90th birthday during 2003. She lives in Harrison House where she keeps fit and even walks to town from time to time to do her own shopping.

Christine [Jensen] Coppola continues to look after the aged and this year she has increased the number of rooms to 35. She has also re-decorated her home and is making headway with her garden. The joy of her life is her grand-daughter Nahla. She enjoys her annual pilgrimage each May to visit family members still living in Kenya.

Veronica Josselyn [Ronnie Enness] wishes to be remembered to **Clare Madden [Roberts]**. [*We look forward to that précis and the promised photographs for next year’s Newsletter, Ronnie!*]

Tom Jacobs is looking forward to news from the Dale family, especially to all the reunion gossip, Alan, from your perspective! Tom has been in touch with **Michael [Mike] Meyer** 1953 – 1960] who lives in Calgary, Canada but visited brother **Eric** and family in Texas over the Christmas holidays. Of his mother, Tom writes: ‘I am sure many will remember my Mum who was a teacher at Kitale School and who was called “**Ma J.**” I think she was one of the few teachers who had her own children there and who consequently spent as much time being a mother to the pupils as she was a teacher. I seem to remember playing with you, Michael, at the “water works” a series of channels and sand below the swimming pool filtration plant.

A surprise phone call one afternoon brought me back in touch with **Kay Keese [MacPherson]** who remembers playing hockey on the fields between the classrooms and the residential area. Tall and dark brown hair and Eagle house – that’s Kay. She remembers **Alan Dale** – good looking dark-haired but not the **Barbour twins** [*sorry John and Jessie – you obviously didn’t leave the same impression as Alan!*] She remembers also **Ann Bowker** and her brother **Norman** who used to live with the **Barbertons** and were day scholars. Kay is in touch with **Colin Davey [staff]** who has retired at Marloth Park in Mpumalanga. Kay’s brothers **Lou** and **Phil** live in Australia while **Mike** is at Hoggs Back, Eastern Cape. Sadly Lou’s son, **Chris**, probably also at Kitale School for a while, was killed in June in a motor accident in Bachelor, Northern Territory. [*Our thoughts are with the family, Kay.*]

In spite of not being well for several months, **Charles Kerfoot** and **Vicky** worked non-stop with other committee members for the days before and during the reunion to make sure everything ran smoothly. [*Charles, I hope you have now recovered fully so that you were able to enjoy some relaxation after the events.*]

Patrick Kelly phones occasionally from Harare and updates us on news of the family. Life there goes on although they are making the more frequent and necessary visits to Australia. [*Please make sure you keep us informed of any changes in address details, Patrick. Meantime, we wish you and Linda all the best.*]

I used to look forward to **Kathrin Liechti’s** letters as she looked forward to receiving the Newsletters. Sadly, she passed away very suddenly and before the 2003 Newsletter had time to reach her in her home in Switzerland. Kathrin kept in close touch with **Sylvia** and **Walter Davidson** in Nairobi and she was also a good friend of **Mary** and **Tom Chorley**.

Margrit [Liechti] Eichler wrote: ‘Our mother passed away early on the evening of 4 March. She was sitting on her sofa reading Marco Polo’s travels. It was a great shock to us. At 76, she was still in good health and living in her own house. We

will have to get used to the loss.' [*Margrit, Peter and Alex, you and your extended families are all in our thoughts as you cope with bereavement*]

Margrit is a keen tour guide and she has spent time in New Zealand touring both the North and the South Islands. She works for a company that offers hiking trips to various countries: to Morocco, the South of France near the Spanish border as well as to New Zealand. She is away from her home in Switzerland for about three months a year.

Paddy Lloyd

[*Thank you, Paddy, for sending e-mail addresses for Robert and Carolyn Bridgman.*] N.B. **Dee Raymer**, you were asking for Robert's contact details:

bridgman@telus.net and
bridgman@bc.sympatico.ca

Paddy writes: 'I have burnt my chances for travel now, even to Sydney and require oxygen, which is hugely expensive on long trips. So, we need a reunion in the USA. I belong to Rhodesians Worldwide after spending 17 years there and there are hundreds of them over here. Maybe a combination is the answer? [*Paddy, are you able, from Alaska, to organise such an event? Or, is there another Kitaleite living in the USA that you can think of who might be able to? Keep me in the picture as to the possibilities and make suggestions as to where in the USA? Bear distance in mind for those who may wish to travel from beyond your shores also.*]

'Kotzebue and Alaska is frontier stuff still – lots of shooting and hunting and wide open spaces and very third world. Good people, in fact the best Americans I have met and of course the majority [except local Eskimo Inuit] originate from what they call the lower '48. Everybody is on the same level and life is good. **Sandy**, my wife, has to do this year for tenure and then we are safe in Alaskan education. 'I do find the cold overly intense, especially with COPD and osteoporosis.' [*Alaska seems to be very much more on the tourist route, Paddy. Perhaps, if travel costs are reduced, we may all get there one day.*]

Eric Lusso fulfilled his dream of re-visiting Kenya and familiar haunts during the past 12 months. He spent time in Naivasha and with **Tony** and **Adrienne Mills** at their lovely Endeless home.

New e-mail address for **David** and **Deirdre**

Mallitte:
mallitte@02.ie

[*If anyone is successful in getting David to respond to correspondence, please ask him to send his 'habari' for Newsletter 2005 to:*

waltonrb@global.co.za

Richard Matthews is in the process of writing his memoirs and he would appreciate any historical information about the school together with the names of staff members of the 1935 – 1940 era. Likewise, if anyone has any photographs of the

school as it was before the war, Richard would welcome copies of same.

Richard writes: 'I was at Kitale School from 1936 – 1940. I actually pre-dated Johnny Woods. The Headmaster in 1936 was, I am pretty sure, Barton, who moved to the Prince of Wales to teach Latin when Johnny Woods arrived. **Gill Scroggie's** brother, **Derek**, and I were great friends in our youth and in the army. Please make contact with Richard at:

stjohnmatthews@bigpond.com

[*Richard, try contacting Gill Scroggie at:*

scroggie@connect.co.ke

or write to P O Box 16526, NAIROBI. I was sorry you could not make the Perth Reunion but I hope you have recovered and that 2004 will be a good year.]

From **Adrienne** and **Tony Mills**:

'Please let us know how the reunion goes; we really would love to have been there. We can't believe it's already a year since everyone was here for the school "do." We have been trying for months to get in a bulk milk cooling tank and it is still not right and still not working – all very frustrating and it's costing a fortune.

I have just had a mammoth go at sticking in photographs, like 3-years worth and I have just put in a couple of the Kitale School Reunion, so we have been thinking about the event.

'We keep busy here, a few paying guests and Tony has done a few safaris. We spent a week at the coast, Mnarani for 3 days, wedding in Kilifi and treat on Tamarin dhow, then 3 days with **Robert** and **Fuz Foster**, good to catch up with, and then home.'

2003 was a sad year for the **Mudd** family in that **Pam's** dad passed away in Harrogate, Yorkshire, after a fairly long illness. Pam's mother **Molly** wrote, 'Although John never made any great progress towards recovery, it was a huge shock and so very sad when he died. One always hopes for a miracle. However, we could not have wished him to continue with no quality in his life.'

[*Molly, Pam and John Junior [Manor House], many of us have fond memories of John, not just as Pam's Dad and your husband but as Bank Manager and adviser to many of us as we started our adult lives. Our thoughts are with you in your sad loss.*]

Meantime, **Pam** and husband **Chris** in Zimbabwe continue to try and think of alternative options to farming since their land was seized. Pam bears the smart title of Finance Manager as she looks after all the accounts for Citrifresh - a citrus packaging house. The orchards now belong to "new farmers" although the previous owner receives a percentage of the proceeds for looking after the orchards.

Alison Gilbert [Nicholson] had **Jane's** daughter Claire, who lives in London, and two children staying. Alison and Simon are great travellers and

within the last year they have been to Kgalagadi, to Moremi Park in the Okovango in Botswana and then to Chobe. She writes: 'It was the MOST fantastic trip as the Botswana parks are pristine wilderness with numbers of visitors limited, particularly those camping, and with the sites unfenced it can be quite exciting. The roads are generally deep sand so one needs a 4X4, unlike Kruger with its tarred roads and lots of cars. We watched a most handsome leopard with his flashy girlfriend for four hours – they must be the most beautiful animals I have ever seen.

'On our way back we met up with **Helen, Ralph** and his two eldest children in Augriebies Falls for one night. They had been to Sossusvlei in Namibia. **Ralph** and **Melinda** took Mum [**Margaret Nicholson**] down to Watamu for a week. She is still going strong at 91!

'**Helen** is booming, doing lots of hiking with **Liz [Troward] Vorster** every Thursday, plus the whale trail and a trip top Sutherland, where the biggest telescope in the Southern Hemisphere has just been built.'

e-mail addresses for **Sue [Dwen] Hudson** and **Sally Hood [Eager]** requested by Helen are:
HUDSON@hit.co.za
HOOD@sdnp.org.mw

Helen went with **Alison** to KwaZulu Natal to visit **Barbara Bankroft** who spent her last months in frail care in the Village of Happiness. Sadly we heard later that Barbara had passed away so the visit was well timed. From there they visited **Jean Warwick** and **Alison [Gray] Lutz** who took them on to Eshowe. In her Christmas letter Helen writes, 'At the end of Mum's visit to us over Christmas 2003, I took her home and spent a few days with her in Nairobi. In February **Jane [Nicholson]** and husband **Jim Cox** came to South Africa. We stayed in the **Gilberts [Alison and Simon's]** house in Plett, all three sisters together and then drove them back through the Karroo – boiling hot and in a car with no air conditioning but fantastic scenery and lovely drive!' Helen must be one of the fittest ladies in her age group. She goes to callenetics three times a week, walks up a different slope of Table Mountain weekly, is involved in her church, did a "boundaries" course and enjoys being a member of a book club and garden club of which she is treasurer. [*Helen, I can see you are a glutton for punishment. Let me know when you are ready to take over the job you landed me with several years ago – Kitale School, the database, Newsletter writing, treasurer's job and Reunion organiser. You are the best qualified of all for the post, I can see, and you would be an excellent replacement for 'Memsahib mzee - kali kidogo'.*]

We were hoping to have **Mark Northcote**, who followed Dad **Kevin** into the navy, together with his girlfriend, at our Kitale School Reunion in Perth. He is currently on exchange in Sydney for 2½ years. Sadly, he was not able to take leave at the time.

Lindy [Northcote] Wilson has also kept in regular touch. The last we heard of **Clive** was that he was spending time back in Kenya where **Jennifer Hellier** continues to live, at the coast.

Peter Rosa has been spending quality time with his parents while his father was going through treatment for cancer. It appears he made a miraculous recovery, enough to be able to return to work for 3 hours a day [aged all of 91!]. He has also restored a 1959 Lancia Appia Zagato which he entered into a car rally in Italy for which purpose Peter drove with his Dad from Manchester to Lago d'Orta in Italy to deliver said vehicle. [*What an amazing Dad, Peter. Please give him our congratulations!*]

Thank you, Peter, for putting me back in touch with **Dino Sarides**, who is a medical doctor practising in Canada, near the Niagara Falls, and who phoned Peter out of the blue after a gap of 40+ years. Peter found Dino's Canadian accent quite strange! Dino may have gained a Canadian accent but he has not lost his sense of humour! He writes: 'Today I have a moment of calm. It is 'Father's Day' so I can sit in the back yard and type with no urgent work to do and while we await the arrival of "Pearl Harbour" – whoops, I mean!! The last time I was in Africa was 1987. We went to Kapsowar for 3 months to work at a mission hospital. It is about 30 miles from Eldoret, high up in the hills. We stopped in Kitale for a day. What a strange experience! Everything looked the same on the surface as we had left it, so much so that I expected to see people I knew. But they were ghosts!

'We lived in Switzerland for 7 years before moving to Canada. My parents never really adjusted very well. Believe it or not, I finally did get an education In 1973 I accidentally ran into **Peter Flatt** in London but we lost contact again. I would love to hear some news. [*Dino, I hope you have managed meantime to make contact with Peter through the physical address I sent through to you.*]

Bill Radford was at Kitale School from 1953 to 1956 . He lives in Australia and hoped to get to the Reunion in Perth [*Unfortunately Bill was not, after all, able to be there.*] Bill writes: 'I have fond memories of "ruler" Miss Rule and "Crowbar" who, God bless her soul, taught me French and I think History.'

Two Reunions in as many years for **Julie [Robinson]** and **Jay Roffey** must be quite a record. It was so good to see them – [*but this year they obviously did not camp since I have no early morning photos of Jay at the sink with his razor!*].

We have news over two years from **Dan** and **June Shaw**: 'My good news is that I have been dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 21st Century. I now have my own computer and e-mail address: 4sure@wananchi.com 'It has been a sad year for the family with elderly parents passing on but for the rest of the year we

were plunged into a series of visits from relatives and friends, which continues throughout the year. It has also been a year of Reunions: In April, the EA Professional Hunters' Association had a most enjoyable get together for a day on a member's farm in Naivasha. The Kenya Regiment Association decided to mark its 65th Anniversary with a worldwide gathering in Kenya. Hard on its heels we had a special service to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee at Naro Moru Church. The Queen had been on a visit there when on her visit as Prince when still Princess Elizabeth.'

Unfortunately **Dan** has had to have treatment followed by surgery during the course of the year and a difficult time with further infection thereafter. 'Unfortunately, we can't afford to go over to the Reunion in Australia, much as we would like to see **Giles** and **Ginnie**. We'll have to save that for another time. *[Dan, we hope by now you have made a complete recovery.]*

Giles and **Ginnie Shaw** experienced what they hope will have been their last move during the course of 2003. In spite of being a 'dream' house, the move carried with it many ups and downs, not least the discovery of unwelcome visitors in white ants. A further disappointment was a realisation that they would not be able to attend the Perth Reunion because of continued eye problems following a detached retina and cataract. However, Giles is optimistic that, within 18 months to 2 years, he will have regained 70% vision. *[Good wishes for a speedy recovery from us all, Giles.]*

It was good to catch up with **Susan [Shields]** and husband **Irvine White** at the Perth Reunion. They have been travelling with their camper trailer during 2003, as far as North Queensland via Alice Springs and back home across the northernmost part of this vast continent, a journey, probably, of 3 months. Sue and Irvine keep in touch with **Charles** and **Vicky Kerfoot**.

Just occasionally even e-mails let us down. **Julian Shorten** is now living in New Zealand. Julian had thoughts of getting to the Reunion in Perth if he and his wife could organise themselves. *[Julian, I have just gone through e-mails sent in response to yours and it seems you were simply too busy to be able to make it. We hope there may be a further opportunity in the years ahead.]*

Toots [Elizabeth Sinclair] Janssens writes: 'We were in Perth for Christmas and New Year 2002 / 2003 and had a great family reunion. *[What a pity you weren't able to postpone your visit until October, Toots. It was good to see Nigel, Jeanette, Daphne, Chesare and your Dad at the two functions.]*

Meantime, **Nigel** and **Jeanette** managed to squeeze in a skiing holiday in Italy during 2003 and they met up with **Roz [Sinclair]** and **Paul Kohler** in London. *[Penny is the only member of the family we have had no news from Looking forward to your input towards the 2005 Newsletter!!]*

Sally [Disney] Robinson's address was requested by someone:
58 Lawrence Street, Glen Innes, 2370, NSW AUSTRALIA., [no e-mail]

Thank you **Danie Steyn** for HABARI 2003, the Newsletter of Friends of East Africa. Danie wrote a most interesting article relating to his father's arrival in the Uasin Gishu / Trans Nzoia in the 1920s. Later and in English he describes in detail his own return for a visit to Kenya after 40 years. I quote Danie's final paragraph: 'In the end, the emotions of my adventure hit me when I was back. I struggle to define what I felt and why I felt it. I was not disappointed, for I had a realistic expectation of much of what I saw, but the past had made me heartbroken. I suppose I longed, as is natural, for all those things and people in the past that had left me with so many good memories.'

Derek and **Jo Strange** keep in regular contact as does **Michael**. An earlier letter from Derek received during 2003 mentions that he has been unable to make contact with **Evelyn [Ruthman] Lafaysse**, and he fears the worst since Evelyn was seriously ill [with cancer] when she had made contact several months previously. 'We have just come back from a few days of mind clearing in Belgium, enjoying the freezing cold off-season in both Antwerp and Brussels, mainly to see works by Reubens and the Breughels at various venues. The trip has helped lift our mood after a very sad Christmas and New Year; the paintings we saw were a real feast. Derek describes his Mum, Inez, as 'a caring, conscientious mother.' *[Derek, we continue to think of you and your family as well as Michael as you come to terms with your sad loss of a loving, special friend and mother.]*

Liz [Statham] Kerr and husband **Chris** are looking forward to applying for their Permanent Residency. Liz writes, 'Despite the worst drought for 20 years, we have made the Oz criteria for the first year. We couldn't have picked a worse time to buy this business, which is solely reliant on the farmers – but we are getting through.' After the reunion, which Liz seems to have enjoyed enormously, Liz wrote, 'We are in the middle of harvest time and the business is frantic, which is good. Our children arrive within a week and we can't wait for us all to be together.' *[We hope you had a great family reunion, Liz and Chris.]*

Richard and **Pauline Statham**, together with **Peter**, **Marisa** and **Aileen Swan** and I enjoyed a follow-up weekend to the Kenya Reunion in Clarens, Free State, when we shared photographs, films and gossip over two days.

It's great to have friends who correspond after receiving Newsletters and who fill in the details. **Peter Symes** is one such and he was able to give me names of the Standard 7a and 7b classes of 1959 *[photograph centre page Newsletter 2003]*. Peter mentions that **Doreen Drakes** was not wearing a hat; rather she was suffering from poor

photography! He also lets on that he was in Perth in March 2003 where he met up with **Andrew** and **Gail Hillier** and **John** and **Pam Barbour** and all managed to surfeit on the past for a day. *[What a pity your visit could not be postponed until October, Peter.]*

We have another new recruit in **Stuart Thomas** [1947 – 1952] who left East Africa at the end of 1961 and went to England for 6 years before emigrating to Australia in 1967, first to Sidney, Coff's Harbour, return top Sydney and he and Jill are now in the hospitality industry and living in Brissy on the Gold Coast in Queensland. *[What a pity you could not get to the Reunion, Stuart and Jill.]* When living in Kitale, Stuart and his family were very friendly with **Richard** [Sticky] and **Lizzy Statham**, **Richard Northmore** and **Sarah Chambers** and their families.

Thank you **Steve [Wilson]** for sending e-mail address for **Michael [Brooks]** and postal address for **Robert [Munday]**. Steve's news about his wider family: 'All the "sisters" and spouses are going over to **Sue** and **Klaus [Boll]** [in Amanzimtoti] then all traipsing to Mauritius for a couple of weeks [this to escape the English winter]. Lucky devils – some of us have to work! *[A meeting with Tom is planned, Steve! He has been in touch!]*

Please keep writing and do return the enclosed; help us plan Reunion No 5

