

KCA NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair of the KCA & Advancement Officer

Dear Fellow Alumnae,

What an incredibly busy and rewarding year 2025 has been! You may have wondered what happened to our Term 2 KCA newsletter. The truth is, we have been so wonderfully occupied reconnecting with our alumnae community that our planned newsletter had to be postponed. We are deeply grateful to all our alumnae who have so warmly responded to our call to re-engage with our beautiful school. Kingsmead really is a special place.

We could not let the year pass without an update since April, so we have combined our Term 2 and Term 3 highlights into one edition to celebrate 2025 in its entirety. It is a little longer than usual but please bear with us as we refine what works best for future newsletters.

This year has been filled with extraordinary moments and opportunities to reconnect with our alumnae. It has been heartening to see so many of you eager to return and get involved in the life of the school. In Term 2, we collaborated closely with Kingsmead for the annual Career Day, drawing on the remarkable knowledge and expertise within our alumnae network. We are sincerely grateful to all who spoke to our students, offered mentoring or job shadowing opportunities or shared insights from your professional journeys.

One of the highlights of Term 2 was the Legacy Celebration in honour of Gillian Wilkinson, who has dedicated an incredible 50 years to Kingsmead College. It was deeply moving to receive messages, photos, letters and offers to participate in the celebration from so many of you. The school's gift to Gillian was a specially cultivated rose named in her honour, the Gillian Wilkinson Legacy Rose. Our heartfelt thanks go to all those who contributed towards Gillian's magnificent gift. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and support in making it such a meaningful tribute.

We were also privileged to welcome alumna Leanne Maiden (née Miller, Class of 1999), who generously shared stories from her inspiring journey as the first South African woman to row solo across the Atlantic. During the August holidays, Lisa Palmer and Lara Bugarin travelled to London to meet our UK-based alumnae, followed by a wonderful gathering in Ireland. Both events were a delight and the connections made were invaluable.

Term 3, as always, was a particularly busy one. It marked the end of the school journey for our matrics, and this year, we added several special events to remind them that leaving Kingsmead is not the end of their story but the beginning of a lifelong connection. We hosted our first official Matric KCA Induction Ceremony, formally welcoming them into the alumnae community. Our alumnae also contributed enthusiastically to the school's art auction and we enjoyed another successful annual KCA Lunch. This year, we tried something new by hosting the lunch on a dedicated day rather than on Goodwill Day. The result was a relaxed and joyful afternoon in the beautiful gardens of St Brigid's Chapel. We hope this event continues to grow each year. We also welcomed several year groups back for school tours, complete with visits to the museum, cups of tea (and the occasional glass of bubbles) and plenty of laughter as memories were shared. We are pleased to let you know that the date for the annual KCA Lunch 2026 has already been set for Saturday 31 October.

A major focus for 2025 has been reflecting on and refining what the KCA truly stands for. Without hesitation, we can say that our purpose is to foster connection and community. Every alumna holds a special place within the Kingsmead story and we cannot thank you enough for all the ways you have supported us this year, whether by giving your time to speak with students, offering mentorship, donating raffle prizes, helping at events or simply sending us an email to share a cherished memory.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have exciting plans underway. We will be reviewing and updating the KCA Committee Constitution and aligning our fundraising efforts with the PTA, Matric Dance Committee and other school initiatives to benefit our beloved Kingsmead community. We also plan to refresh our alumnae database and enhance our social media presence so that we can celebrate your achievements more regularly and stay better connected.

We encourage you to reach out and stay in touch. We genuinely love hearing from you and value every message, visit and story shared. Alongside connecting with our alumnae, we remain committed to supporting the school wherever possible. One of our current initiatives is the KCA Giveaway. An alumna has generously donated a four-night, fully inclusive luxury safari for two, including flights, accommodation, meals and game drives. We are humbled by the generosity shown through ticket purchases and support for this fundraising effort. Proceeds from the giveaway go towards various KCA initiatives, including bursary support via the Kingsmead Trust and assistance for families within our community. Ticket sales close on 1 December, with the draw

taking place on Wednesday 3 December. Thank you to everyone who has already participated or helped spread the word. Your support means the world to us.

As we reflect on the past year, one thing is certain: Kingsmead's strength lies in its people, in the relationships we nurture and the sense of belonging that endures long after school days end. Together, we continue to build a legacy of connection, compassion and shared purpose. We look forward to all that 2026 will bring and to deepening the bonds that make this community so special.

We wish you all a wonderful festive season filled with joy, rest and togetherness. To those who are travelling, we wish you safe journeys and a happy return home.

With warm regards,

Caroline Berry (KCA Chair) and Lara Bugarin (Advancement Officer)

Message from the Executive Head

Dear Kingsmead Alumnae,

As we come to the end of a busy but very successful year, in which many past students have connected with the school, I reflect on the countless highlights throughout 2025. There have been wonderful interactions with alumnae, and I thank Caroline Berry and Lara Bugarin for driving these events.

The reunion of the Class of 1975 stood out as a highlight for me at our annual lunch, as did the meet-up with so many fabulous past students in London in August. Every encounter I have is filled with the sharing of memories and much laughter. I am so proud of what our alumnae achieve when they leave Kingsmead. Singing the school song in the middle of a London restaurant on a busy Saturday afternoon will remain with me for a very long time.

Visits to the Kingsmead Museum and Archives have definitely increased and they are a must if you are having a tour of the school. The "window to the past" holds many memories, and I thank Natalie da Silva for her attention to detail as she lovingly curates the space. Many past students also remark on how the buildings and venues have changed so much since their school days. If you have not visited the school lately, please try to do so in the coming year. We love to welcome visitors and to show off our beautiful school. A stop at St Brigid's Chapel is also grounding, leaving you with a sense of peace and transporting you back to when you attended Chapel at Kingsmead.





Gillian Wilkinson, Lisa Palmer & Natalie da Silva in the Lisa Palmer Museum

I wish you all a restful holiday break and a blessed festive season. I look forward to connecting with you during the course of the coming year.

Fond regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Palmer".

Lisa Palmer
Executive Head: Kingsmead College

CAREER DAY

7 May 2025

Inspiring Journeys and Real Conversations

On Wednesday 7 May, Kingsmead College hosted its annual Career Day in an exciting new format that encouraged meaningful engagement, open-minded exploration and real conversations about the world beyond school.

The afternoon began with our Grade 9 and 11 students meeting representatives from various colleges and universities, who shared insights about their courses, campus life and the opportunities available after school. This provided a valuable space for our students to ask questions, gather information and begin imagining their own unique pathways.

The second part of the event took place in Lange Hall, where we were delighted to welcome back six inspiring alumnae to share their personal career journeys. Each of these women's stories reminded us that success is rarely a straight line and that finding the right career can take time, courage and self-discovery.

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- Alison Levesley – Patent Attorney and Agricultural Scientist
- Jane MacGregor – Electrical Engineer
- Dr Colleen Lightbody – Master Trainer, Speaker, Executive Coach and Adventurer
- Kim Ballantine – Industrial Psychologist, Business Coach, Speaker and Writer
- Nombini Mehlomakulu – South African businesswoman with a strong background across advertising, financial services, investor relations, social performance and investment management
- Raeesa Fazluddin – Trade Development Advisor, French Embassy

Each speaker spoke candidly about the twists and turns of their professional paths, the moments of uncertainty, change and growth that shaped their lives and careers. Their honesty and resilience inspired our students to remain open-minded, to explore all possibilities and to understand that a change in direction can often lead to a more fulfilling destination.

The final part of the evening was a networking session with our alumnae. As the students left the hall, they were able to chat informally with alumnae from a variety of fields, learning first-hand about different industries, career specialisations and study options. Many alumnae generously offered job shadowing and mentorship opportunities, further strengthening the bond between past and present Kingsmead students.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our alumnae who gave their time and expertise to make this event such a success. Your willingness to share your experiences and guide our students is invaluable.

Career Day reminded us that while career choices may seem daunting, no path is ever wasted and every experience contributes to personal and professional growth. We look forward to building on this year's success and hosting a similar event in 2026, where more of our alumnae can continue to inspire and support the next generation of Kingsmead women. Alumnae can look out for communications about the 2026 event in January, for those who would like to get involved and share their journeys with our students.





GILLIAN WILKINSON LEGACY CELEBRATION

27 June 2025

Honouring 50 Years of Service and Dedication

Fifty years ago, Gillian Wilkinson joined the Kingsmead College community, a gentle presence whose quiet strength, deep compassion and unwavering dedication have touched generations of students, staff and families.

Like a rose planted with care, she has grown into every corner of our school, nurturing hearts, inspiring minds and creating a sense of belonging that has stood the test of time.

To celebrate this remarkable milestone, we were delighted to invite alumnae to join us in honouring Gillian's legacy. It was a truly special occasion, filled with warmth, laughter and heartfelt reflection.

Five alumnae stood to share personal tributes, each speaking with deep affection about how Gillian touched their lives through her kindness, wisdom and unwavering belief in the potential of every student. Their words painted a vivid picture of the lasting impact she has had across generations.

It was wonderful to see the return of alumnae, past parents and former staff members, all gathered to celebrate a woman whose influence continues to shape the spirit of Kingsmead. The sense of community and gratitude in the room was a true testament to the legacy she has built.

As part of the celebration, we will be planting a Legacy Rose in the heart of our gardens, a living symbol of Gillian's extraordinary service and her deep love for Kingsmead. Both our Junior and Senior School students honoured her in special assemblies, blessing her with gifts and filling the room with her favourite songs.

This joyful and heartfelt celebration reminded us that true legacy is not measured by years of service alone, but by the countless lives touched, lessons shared and love sown along the way.





TEA WITH LEANNE MAIDEN (NÉE MILLER) CLASS OF 1999

21 July 2025

Kingsmead Alumna Leanne Maiden Inspires with Atlantic Solo Row

On Monday 21 July, Lisa Palmer, Executive Head of Kingsmead College, had the pleasure of welcoming Leanne Maiden (née Miller – Class of 1999), who visited the school with Gillian Wilkinson to explore the Lisa Palmer Museum and the Gillian Wilkinson Archives, reconnect with the school community, and share her extraordinary journey.

Leanne shared her inspiring story of resilience, courage and determination, describing her remarkable achievement of rowing solo across the Atlantic Ocean in just 66 days. Her journey, a testament to the power of mindset, perseverance and self-belief, left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

Originally from South Africa, Leanne now lives in Scotland with her husband and children. She is visiting the country during her children's summer school holidays, providing a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with her alma mater.

In 2023 and 2024, Leanne set off from La Gomera in the Canary Islands and rowed approximately 3,000 nautical miles to Antigua, completing the journey in 66 days and 5 hours, significantly exceeding the estimated 85-day finish time. Along the way, she endured 20-foot waves, a capsized boat, extreme sleep deprivation, salt sores and intense isolation. To date, only 34 women have attempted this feat solo, highlighting the rarity and significance of her accomplishment.

Leanne undertook the challenge not only for personal achievement but also to raise over £20,000 for three charities: The Polar Academy, Women's Fund for Scotland and The Mabel Foundation. She also wanted to show her sons that "ambitious, crazy things" are possible, embodying the spirit of courage and determination she hopes to pass on to the next generation.

Meeting Leanne was a deeply inspiring experience, and her story serves as a powerful reminder to the Kingsmead community that with courage, resilience and determination, extraordinary achievements are possible. We hope to welcome Leanne again so that our students can hear her incredible story and be inspired by her remarkable journey.





KINGSMEAD LONDON REUNION

17 August 2025

On Sunday 17 August, Lisa Palmer had the wonderful opportunity to meet with 43 Kingsmead alumnae at our London Reunion. The gathering took place at bbar, a charming venue tucked just around the corner from Buckingham Palace, where alumnae were treated to a truly South African-inspired afternoon tea. From mini bunny chows to Amarula scones, the spread brought with it all the familiar flavours and comfort of home.

A highlight of the afternoon was an address by Lisa, who spoke warmly about the importance of keeping the Kingsmead community alive and connected across the globe. She shared ways in which the school is working to strengthen alumnae engagement and invited those present to get involved in whichever way felt meaningful to them.

Another unforgettable moment came when the group spontaneously joined their voices in singing the school song. The sound of proud alumnae filling the restaurant drew curious smiles from other patrons and left everyone with a strong sense of nostalgia and unity.

The alumnae present represented a wide span of years, from the Class of 1968 to the Class of 2020, a testament to the enduring Kingsmead spirit across generations. Stories were shared, laughter flowed easily, and new friendships were kindled. Several alumnae admitted they had felt

hesitant or nervous about attending, but afterwards expressed how delighted they were to have come and reconnected.

The afternoon was a resounding success, full of warmth, connection and joyful reminders of what it means to be part of the Kingsmead family. We look forward to hosting many more meet-ups in the future, both in London and beyond, as we continue to celebrate the strength of our alumnae network worldwide.





KINGSMEAD IRELAND REUNION

23 August 2025

Following the success of our London reunion, I was delighted to connect with some of our alumnae in Ireland on Saturday 23 August. Over a delicious Irish breakfast, we shared stories, memories and plenty of laughter.

It was a privilege to spend time with Patricia Lewis, who matriculated in 1961, and her daughter, Fran Theron. Patricia spoke with great fondness about her years at Kingsmead and shared how she worked tirelessly to ensure her two daughters would be able to attend the school. That legacy has continued, with her daughter Judith also choosing Kingsmead for her own children, making theirs a remarkable story of three generations within our alumnae community. There was something truly special about multiple generations of one family walking the same corridors and being shaped by the same ethos of excellence, service and care. It reflected not only the strength of Kingsmead's traditions but also the enduring trust families place in the school.

I was also fortunate to meet Nicky McGaw, daughter of the late Jenny McGaw, whom many will remember as a much-loved Mathematics teacher and former Deputy Headmistress of Kingsmead. It was deeply moving to hear how her mother's legacy lives on through the stories Nicky shared and how her family remains closely connected to the school.

A heartfelt thank you to those who travelled long distances to join us. Your commitment showed the power of the Kingsmead bond. No matter where in the world we may find ourselves, we remain connected through our shared history and values.

We look forward to more gatherings like these as we continue to strengthen and celebrate our global Kingsmead alumnae network.

Lara Bugarin née Sholamey (class of 2001)
Advancement Officer



Front (left to right): Fran Theron (1992) ,
Patricia Lewis (1961) & Lara Bugarin (2001)
Back: Nicky McGaw (1989)

MATRIC KCA INDUCTION (CLASS OF 2025)

30 September 2025

On Tuesday 30 September, the Kingsmead College Matric Class of 2025 was warmly welcomed into the Kingsmead College Alumnae (KCA) through a meaningful and heartfelt induction.

This special occasion marked the first formal Matric KCA Induction, symbolising the beginning of a lifelong connection to the Old Girls' Association, a community that celebrates sisterhood, legacy and belonging long after the final school bell rings.

Each matric received a thoughtful gift filled with uplifting messages, a reminder that they carry with them the light, encouragement and strength of those around them as they prepare to step into the next chapter of their journey.

The girls were welcomed by Executive Head, Lisa Palmer, followed by a prayer led by Gillian Wilkinson. Caroline Berry, Chair of the KCA, then addressed the matrices followed by Kingsmead's Advancement Officer, Lara Bugarin.

Both speakers reminded the matrices that this induction was not only a celebration of their achievements but also a reminder that graduation is not an ending; it is the beginning of a lifelong connection.

Lara explained that her role as Advancement Officer is to help strengthen and sustain that connection. She shared that advancement is about relationships, about keeping the bond between the alumnae and Kingsmead alive long after they leave the school gates. It means celebrating achievements, creating opportunities for alumnae to support one another and ensuring that the traditions and values of Kingsmead continue to thrive. It also involves securing the resources that allow the school to grow, adapt and offer future generations the same, or even greater, opportunities.

By joining the KCA, the matrices become part of a living network of remarkable women who support and celebrate one another and who continue to give back to the school that shaped them.

Lara then invited Lucy Davis (Head Girl 2025), Oprah Orimoloye (Deputy Head Girl) and Megan Kohler (Deputy Head Girl) to share words from DV Thompson, taken from The Essence of Kingsmead. These words connect today's students with those who walked this path before them and will continue to guide them as they step forward together.

"Let us have wings – wings of courage, far-sightedness, hope and joy, but let us be quite sure that we have roots too. It is no good flying unless you know to what goal to fly. Sometimes the goal is found through service, and always it is found through sacrifice. Sooner or later comes the need to make oneself of some use, not only to self but to others. We would all give much to see what the world will be like in another twenty-five years, but one thing is certain. That is that it will greatly depend upon you and the thousands of boys and girls throughout the world who are just leaving school. If you are one of those who come after, who will set a high standard of service and sacrifice, our dreams of a happier age may come true." – DV Thompson, 1945.



KINGSMEAD COLLEGE ART AUCTION

9 October 2025

On Thursday 9 October, Kingsmead College hosted a spectacular Art Auction in support of the Kingsmead Trust Bursary Fund, a wonderful celebration of creativity, connection and giving back. The evening brought together alumnae, parents, staff, students and friends of Kingsmead in a vibrant showcase of artistry and generosity. The gallery space was transformed into a striking display of colour and expression and highlighted the extraordinary talent within our community and beyond.

A special feature of the evening was that most of the artworks on display were created by our own Kingsmead students, reflecting their imagination, skill and passion for creative expression. The exhibition was further enriched by works generously donated by local artists and alumnae, creating a diverse and inspiring collection that delighted guests and captured the spirit of the evening. Seeing our students' work presented with such care and professionalism alongside contributions from accomplished artists was truly inspiring.

We extend heartfelt congratulations to Junior School art teacher Gabby Thomson, whose vision and dedication brought this event to life. With Gabby sadly leaving Kingsmead at the end of the year, we are proud to have her as part of our alumnae community. We look forward to continuing to celebrate her creativity and achievements.

The event was opened by alumna Grace O'Malley (Class of 2006), now Director at the Goodman Gallery, who shared heartfelt reflections on how her love for art first began at Kingsmead and how those early experiences shaped her professional journey. Her words set a thoughtful and inspiring tone for the evening.

Guests were invited to take part in a digital silent auction, scanning and bidding on the exceptional artworks on display. A sense of anticipation filled the room as guests mingled, discussed the art and placed their bids in support of a meaningful cause.

We were especially delighted to welcome back two talented alumnae, Storm Warren (Class of 2022) and Georgina Clark (Class of 2019). Both artists are already making their mark in the art world. Georgina recently exhibited more than thirty of her artworks in a group show at the Glen Carlou Gallery in Cape Town.

The evening's atmosphere was further elevated by a wine tasting generously sponsored by Iona Wines Elgin. Their exceptional wines added a touch of elegance and warmth to the event and we offer our heartfelt thanks for their generous contribution.

The Art Auction was not only a celebration of creativity but also a reminder of the power of community. Every bid and every contribution directly supports the Kingsmead Trust Bursary Fund, helping to open doors of opportunity and ensuring that the spirit of Kingsmead continues to thrive well into the future.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who donated, attended and supported this meaningful event. Together, we continue to nurture talent, honour creativity and make a lasting difference in the lives of others.



Left to right: Lara Bugarin (2001), Grace O'Malley (2006) and Georgina Clark (2019).

ANNUAL KCA LUNCH

9 October 2025

This year's KCA Annual Lunch was one to remember, a day when Kingsmead College opened its gates and its heart to welcome home generations of alumnae. On Saturday 25 October, the school grounds came alive with laughter, nostalgia and the unmistakable energy of old friends reuniting where their journeys first began.

The morning began in the serene setting of St Brigid's Chapel, where Gillian Wilkinson led a moving service of reflection and gratitude. With hearts full, guests then gathered on the sunlit chapel lawns for morning tea, catching up over steaming cups and shared memories. Our Grade 9 students guided alumnae on tours through the school, proudly showcasing the Kingsmead Museum and the treasured archives that preserve our school's rich legacy.

As guests gathered for lunch, Advancement Officer Lara Bugarin extended a heartfelt welcome, acknowledging the special guests and dedicated staff who make this event possible each year. The KCA also celebrated two exceptional parents, Paul Davis, father of current Head Girl Lucy Davis and a member of the Kingsmead Trust, and Rizwanna Bawa, a devoted past parent whose years of service to the PTA and Kingsmead Council have left a lasting impact. Both were warmly inducted as honorary Old Girls, joining the KCA community in spirit and tradition.

The afternoon unfolded with a wonderful blend of conversation, generosity and laughter. Guests eagerly participated in the KCA Raffle, raising funds for key alumnae initiatives. Many thanks to those alumnae who so generously donated prizes. The charismatic Paul Davis took to the stage as guest speaker, captivating the audience with his wit and heartfelt reflections. We were also delighted to welcome alumna Marian Myers of The Myers Portfolio, whose extraordinary donation, a luxury four-night safari for two complete with flights, forms the grand prize for the ongoing KCA Giveaway. Tickets remain available, with the draw taking place on Wednesday 3 December. (Quick online payments available on the Kingsmead College website. Click the tab that says community, and then click KCA.)

From the delicious food and beautiful flowers to the joyful atmosphere, Caroline Berry, KCA Chair, and her dedicated team made it a memorable afternoon. Each guest departed with a thoughtfully chosen gift, a token of appreciation from the school. A particularly heartwarming highlight was the presence of the Class of 1975, who gathered from near and far to mark their 50th reunion, a shining example of the lifelong sisterhood that defines Kingsmead.

The KCA Annual Lunch remains a cornerstone of our calendar, a celebration of connection, community and continuity. Beyond the laughter and memories, it also sparks professional collaborations, strengthens philanthropic partnerships and deepens the bonds that tie our alumnae to the school and to one another.

To everyone who joined us, contributed, or supported the day in any way, thank you. Your presence and generosity made the event truly special. We look forward to welcoming even more alumnae next year, as we continue to celebrate the enduring Kingsmead spirit that unites us all.

We are also delighted to announce that the date for our next Annual Lunch has been confirmed for Saturday 31 October 2026. We cannot wait to celebrate with you once again!







MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

The Archives received four very special parcels.

The captions beneath photographs from Miss Crowther-Smith's old album, which Gillian Wilkinson recently delivered to the school, revealed that the IVB class performed a play, *Through the Looking Glass*, in June 1949.

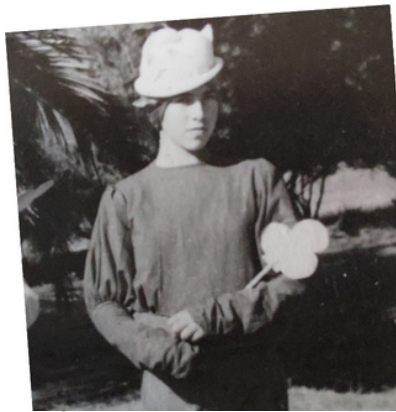
Miss Wilkinson and I enjoyed studying the tiny black-and-white or sepia photographs, each neatly mounted in black or gold corners, and matching the names and scenes with the School Magazine from that year or the next. This exercise provided us with a few more names, surnames and details.

Rosemary **Elliott** as Alice

Sandra **Posel** as the Red Queen

Deborah **Martin** as the White Queen

Yvorne **Rennie** and Jennifer **Port** remained stolid and imperturbable as Tweedledum and Tweedledee



The second parcel was a wonderful addition to the Archives collection: Kingsmead Yearbooks that once belonged to Margaret Franklin (née Simpson), who passed away in the United States at the age of 101. Margaret had been a founder pupil, and there are pictures of her in Kingsmead House. The special delivery came from Judy Koch. Thanks to this generous donation, we were able to fill several gaps in the precious Yearbook Collection.

During a Memory Hour, Gillian and I spent a fascinating few hours with Lesley Lambie (née Fleischer) from the Class of 1966, an excellent swimmer according to the Yearbook. She also brought two items to donate to the Museum. The first was her geography book, which Gillian Wilkinson said was the neatest book she had ever seen. All the maps are hand-drawn, coloured in beautiful detail and the ballpoint-pen writing was done in Irish lines, clearly under instruction from the teacher.

Lesley, a Baker House girl, mentioned several classmates with whom she remains in touch, including Di Newman, Janet Beyers, Cally Lowe, Linda Swardt and Pam Stein. She also recalled nearly every teacher. She made special mention of Mrs van Lingen, whose passion for geography came through in her teaching. Lesley is a self-employed physiotherapist who trained at the University of the Witwatersrand. Interestingly, she is also a ham radio enthusiast, quilter, golf lover, proud mum and involved grandmother. She left a handwritten anecdote, which we will collate with others we have received, for our planned centenary publication.

From the Archives, we were able to assist Kisha Reader and Patricia Atkinson by providing some fascinating details about Patricia's time at Kingsmead. These were recorded in an old Croxley Register, which contained nuggets such as dates of birth, dates of entry to the school, places of origin, fathers' initials, religions, home addresses and telephone numbers that were only six digits long. This was long before computers, so we truly appreciate Mrs Richardson's efforts all those years ago.

Natalie da Silva
Museum Curator & Archivist



NAMES FROM THE PAST—DO THEY RING A BELL?

AWARDS, CUPS & PRIZES FINAL ASSEMBLY – SECOND TERM 1970

A snippet to jog memories from an Awards book covering the years 1968 - 1975 in Kingsmead Archives. If you enjoy this little blast from the past, send a comment to archives@kingsmead.co.za, and if there is interest, I shall share all the information from the other Terms and Years listed.

Natalie da Silva
Museum Curator & Archivist



AWARDS ISSUED

EFFICIENCY CUP:

1st KNIGHTS 95.8%
2nd BARONS 95.7%
3rd THANES 95.5%

DEPORTMENT BADGES:

A. WEBSTER
C. ASH

INDIVIDUAL VERSE SPEAKING:

FRANCES COMYN

SPEECH COMMENDATIONS: IIIA

A. DE VILLIERS
S. GILBERT

SPEECH COMMENDATIONS: IV B

M. BECK	J. BOUSTRED
S. DUNNINGHAM	L. FRANKS
D. GREEN	E. HUNTER
JM. JAMESON	V. LANE
E. LIDCHI	N. PREVOST
P. RUBIN	P. VENTER
A. WEBSTER	S. WOODCOCK

MUSIC INDIVIDUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

JUNEMARY JAMESON

KRAMER CUP

TESSA HUND

CARTWRIGHT GOODWILL CUP

M. MACNAB (BARONS)

WE NEED YOUR KINGSMEAD TREASURES!

We would be so grateful for any Kingsmead-related artefacts that our alumnae may be willing to donate to the Kingsmead Museum and Archives. Items such as school magazines, programmes, tickets, photographs, clothing, badges, and other memorabilia are invaluable in helping us preserve the rich history of our school.

Natalie da Silva is doing an outstanding job curating the collections we receive, ensuring that Kingsmead's legacy is carefully preserved for future generations.

If you have anything you would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you. You are welcome to email Natalie directly at archives@kingsmead.co.za or Lara at alumnae@kingsmead.co.za, and we will do our best to assist you in any way that we can.

Thank you for helping us keep the Kingsmead story alive!

ALUMNAE GIVING BACK TO THE KINGSMEAD COMMUNITY

Welcoming Thameenah Vadi to the Kingsmead Trust

It's a full-circle moment to have been appointed to the Kingsmead Trust. When I walked through the gates of Kingsmead as a young girl, I had no idea how profoundly the school would shape who I would become. Now, more than a decade after matriculating in 2012, I'm deeply honoured to return in a new capacity – as a trustee – to give back to a community that helped build the foundation of my character and career.

My connection to Kingsmead runs deep. My mother, a proud Old Girl, was one of the first non-white students to attend the school in the 1980s, a time when South Africa was navigating a painful and complex chapter. The courage it must have taken for her to walk those corridors is something I've come to appreciate even more with age. Kingsmead's willingness to stand by her and support her through that period has always stayed with me. It left an imprint, not just on our family but on my understanding of what true inclusion and community mean.



Thameenah Vadi

As a Muslim, Indian woman, I am no stranger to the stereotypes that often come with those labels. But Kingsmead never boxed me in. It nurtured my voice, sharpened my sense of self and taught me that independence and empathy are not mutually exclusive. I left as a confident young woman – articulate, ambitious and unafraid to challenge the ceilings imposed by others.

Since matriculating, I've qualified as a Chartered Accountant (SA) and currently serve as the group reporting manager at AVI Limited. In many ways, Kingsmead gave me the tools (and the courage) to pursue a path defined by purpose, integrity and resilience.

There's always been a quiet, persistent pull to stay connected to my roots at Kingsmead – a sense that I wanted to remain involved and “pay it forward” in some meaningful way. So, when Mrs Palmer reached out to invite me to join the Trust, I couldn't think of a better place to contribute. The work the Trust does resonates deeply with me: helping to ensure that girls from all walks of life can not only access a Kingsmead education but also experience it fully, from the classroom to the sports field, the stage, the camps, the social integration and beyond.

I look forward to serving the Kingsmead community as a trustee and, hopefully, in other facets in the future. Giving back feels less like a duty and more like returning to a place that helped shape me and to a legacy I hope to help nurture for the next generation of Kingsmead girls.

Thameenah Vadi
Kingsmead Alumna (Class of 2012)

ALUMNAE NEWS

Fatima Zara Asvat (Class of 2024)

Fatima Zara Asvat had the privilege of attending the Wits University Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Sunday, 4 May 2025. The event was held in the beautiful Tapestry Room at the Origins Centre on the university campus.

Fatima Zara, our former Dux Scholar, won this prestigious award, which is presented annually to only 20 first-year students.

The honour was bestowed upon her by Professor Zeblon Vilakazi, vice-chancellor and principal of Wits University. Fatima Zara achieved seven subject distinctions in her final Matric examinations and three distinctions in her Further Studies, giving her a total of ten distinctions.

We are incredibly proud of Fatima Zara and wish her well as she embarks on her civil engineering degree.



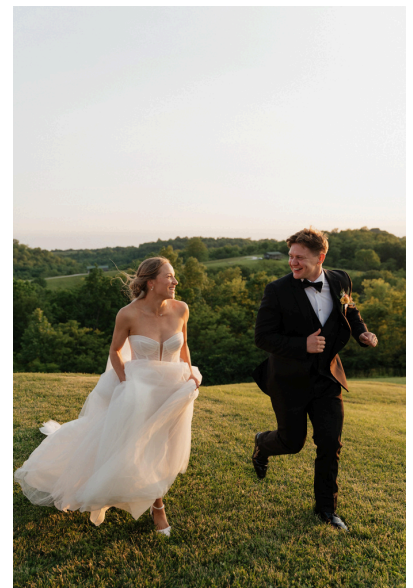
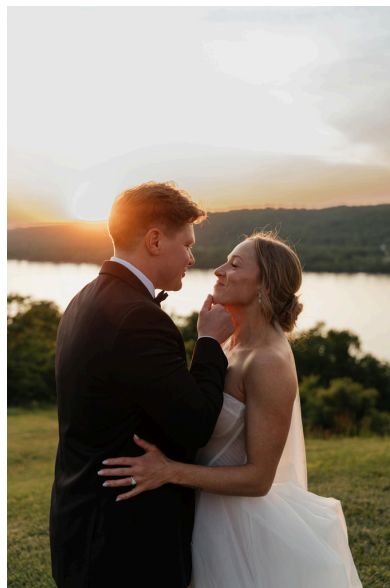
Fatima Zara with Professor Thokozani Majozi, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.

Julia Vincent (Class of 2012)

Happily Ever After Begins

We are delighted to share that alumna Julia Vincent (Class of 2012), a South African diving Olympian, married Briggs Alexander on 31 May 2025 in Augusta, Kentucky, USA. The couple celebrated their special day surrounded by family and friends.

We wish them every happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter together.





ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

Katherine Pichulik (Class of 2004)



The artistry and vision of alumna Kate Pichulik (2004) continue to make waves on the global stage. Most recently, her jewellery brand PICHULIK received an extraordinary nod of recognition when the inspiring Michelle Obama was spotted wearing the brand's Lua earrings during a conversation on The Michelle Obama Podcast.

In the episode, the former First Lady reflected on her first Mother's Day without her mother and the lessons of love and resilience that shaped her. Wearing PICHULIK's sculptural earrings, she embodied the quiet strength and timeless elegance for which the brand is known.

About PICHULIK

Founded in Cape Town, South Africa, PICHULIK is an ethical jewellery and accessories atelier rooted in contemporary African design. Each piece is more than an adornment — it is a talisman, handcrafted from rope, cast brass and precious stones, designed to celebrate courage, connection and creativity.

The Lua earrings, worn by Michelle Obama, are named after the Portuguese word for moon. True to their inspiration, they are a reminder of stillness and presence — centring the wearer in the gentle rhythm of breath and the eternal calm found within.

"If you get really quiet, and you listen to the gentle undulation of your breath, those little moments between are pockets of the eternal. All is well, dear heart." PICHULIK

The Craft

Each PICHULIK piece is meticulously handmade, combining traditional techniques with bold, modern forms. The Lua earrings, for example, are cast in brass, measure 5 cm and weigh just 5 grams each, balancing statement design with comfort. They are available in silver as made-to-order pieces, reflecting the brand's commitment to mindful, sustainable production.

A Global Stage for African Design

From Cape Town to international platforms, Kate Pichulik has elevated South African design into a global conversation. With high-profile admirers like Michelle Obama, her work demonstrates the power of jewellery as both personal expression and cultural storytelling.

We are extremely proud of Kate's remarkable achievements as one of our own and celebrate the way she continues to shine, inspire and carry the spirit of creativity and excellence into the world.

For those wanting to see Kate's full range, please head over to www.pichulik.com



Katherine Pichulik



ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

Susan Swart (Class of 1962)

Susan Swart, Kingsmead Head Girl in 1962, has built a distinguished career in Speech-Language Therapy and Audiology, inspired by early experiences and by her mother's recovery from a serious motor vehicle accident. A Wits graduate, she went on to serve as a university educator, clinician, and researcher, contributing pioneering work on childhood hearing loss and helping to expand disability and hearing services across South Africa. She credits the values instilled at Kingsmead for shaping her lifelong commitment to communication, care, and community.

Susan has written a wonderful article about her career and the journey that shaped it. We will be sharing her piece in the run-up to our Kingsmead College Career Day event in early 2026.



Susan Swart

Conversations with Susan Swart

1. What are some of your fondest memories of your time at Kingsmead?

- My immediate standout response is the warm and caring environment that was Kingsmead. It was filled with interesting people and a great sense of togetherness and camaraderie.
- St Brigid's Chapel stands out for me as an important feature. DV Thomson referred to it as 'the heart of the school'. It was a peaceful place for reflection and even the little garden created a sense of being in touch with nature, goodness and love.
- I was a boarder in the Junior School, and I have happy memories of the dormitory on what must once have been an old veranda. There was something magical about sleeping 'outside'.
- Etunzi was a weekend haven where I, and some others who loved music, would play the piano or listen to the collection of records housed there.
- The prep area outside the Music House (now the administration headquarters) was a favourite spot for me. I was always happy to be allocated there to do my prep outside.
- Miss Desireé Cumberlege (Dizzy), Olive Rawlings, Maisie Waite, Edith Gehr, the Matthews sisters and their cat – who can forget women such as these? They stay alive in my memory as they were, in the grounds and in the classroom. They embodied the values of Kingsmead, added to the joy of being there and were very inspirational.

2. Were there any teachers or staff members who had a powerful influence on you?

Miss Paver had a great influence on me. Early in my school career, her quiet gravitas and goodness stood out. As I got to know her better, I benefited from her insight into the complexity of running a school and leading a remarkable institute of learning during a socio-politically charged time, marked by events such as the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960 and the beginnings of the armed struggle. I also came to know her as a person and appreciated her wry humour, the stories she told about the school's early days and her teaching experiences.

3. How did Kingsmead prepare you for life after school?

I left the school with a clear set of values. We can find these in the work of Aristotle, the Bible and the school's motto *Franc ha Leal*. My life has been driven by a desire to serve those less privileged than I and to help uplift them.

4. What did it mean to you to be chosen as Head Girl in 1962?

It was an unexpected honour and privilege to have this responsibility at a school like Kingsmead. I fortunately had a great team that shared the responsibility of being moral and had the vital attributes we want in our leaders. I speak of leadership skills (by example or by inspiration), good communication abilities, reliability and a strong sense of responsibility.

5. What were the responsibilities of a Head Girl at that time, and how did you approach them?

At that time – one of the most turbulent decades of the 20th century – there was no script to follow. One was expected to let the qualities for which one had been chosen to evolve naturally as the year progressed. The example set by previous headgirls helped and Miss Paver was always available to guide me. My music teacher, Olive Rawlings, was another steady source of support. It was an inspirational, service-oriented role, with responsibilities expressed through thoughtful, respectful behaviour: organising activities when needed, liaising with staff and learners and addressing any problems that arose. I saw the role as one of service and a commitment to supporting the school community.

6. Did that experience influence your leadership style or career later in life?

Most certainly. I have always felt that my leadership roles were to serve those for whom I was responsible, either directly (university or hospital positions) or indirectly (disability and profession-related work).



Lara Bugarin and Susan Swart,
June 2025, Cape Town.

Condolences



It is with great sadness that the Kingsmead community says goodbye to the following alumnae ...

Gillian Hemphill (née Routledge) - Class of 1971

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that dear Gilly Hemphill passed away in July 2025 after a brave journey with illness.

Gilly matriculated in 1971 and will always be remembered with love by the Kingsmead community. The Hemphill family's bond with Kingsmead runs deep – Gilly's mother, Evelyn Spicer, was one of the founding members and her daughters, Candice (2001) and Jacqui (2003), spent their whole school journey here from Grade 0 through to Matric.

Gilly had a deep love for the bush and later in life became an enthusiastic birder, something that brought her much joy. Professionally, she poured her energy into bringing culture and creativity to life, working in PR to help shape the Grahamstown Arts Festival and the Franschhoek Literary Festival.

But above all, Gilly's greatest pride and joy was her family. She is held close in the hearts of her daughters, Candice and Jacqui, her sons-in-law, Ross and Graeme and her much-loved grandchildren, Ash, Ben, Kylie, Lily, and her brother Gavin Routledge, who will all miss her dearly.



Ruth Lavelle Treacy - Class of 1995

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Ruth Lavelle Treacy, deputy head girl of the Class of 1995, who passed away on the morning of Saturday 26 July, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Ruth's family, friends and all who were touched by her life. She will be remembered for her strength, leadership and the positive impact she had on the Kingsmead community.



Mary Bodley (Former Staff Member 1980 – 1998)

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Mary Bodley, a cherished member of the Kingsmead College community. Mary was a devoted teacher and mentor, serving on the Kingsmead staff from 1980 to 1998, holding various positions with dedication and warmth.

Mary's love for Kingsmead was evident in every aspect of her life. She particularly treasured the Carol Services and Granny Concerts, and delighted in playing the piano in Chapel. She thrived under Mrs Richardson's leadership and valued the embracing and supportive culture of the staff body.



Remarkably, Mary pursued her teaching qualifications at the age of 40, enrolling at the Johannesburg College of Education, where she graduated with distinction. Later, she completed a certification in Remedial Education, further demonstrating her passion for learning and commitment to her students.

Mary is survived by her children, David, Jeannette and Michele, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. It is also notable that her daughter, Michele, taught at Kingsmead for approximately four years in the late 1980s and early 1990s, continuing the family connection with the school.

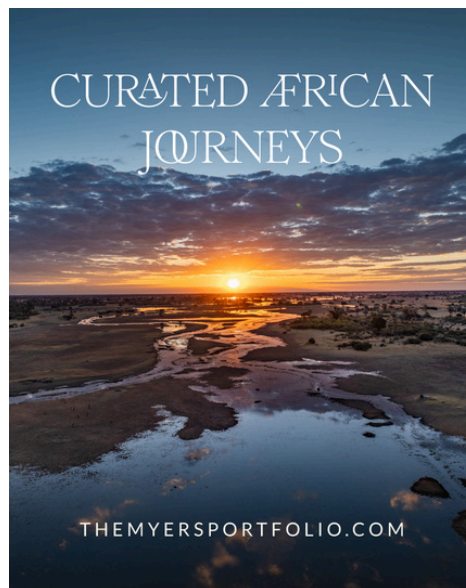
The attached photo was taken on the occasion of Mary's 86th birthday (29 June 2025), reflecting the warmth, joy and grace she shared with everyone around her.

Mary Bodley will be remembered for her dedication, kindness and love of teaching. Her legacy will remain a treasured part of the Kingsmead community.



KCA GIVEAWAY!

Exciting KCA Giveaway – Help Us Spread the Word!



We are thrilled to announce the launch of the KCA (Kingsmead College Alumnae) Giveaway – a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our community, give back, and stand a chance to win an extraordinary prize.

A generous Kingsmead alumna has donated an **incredible prize – a fully inclusive luxury safari holiday for two to Botswana, valued at over R230,000!**

The Myers Portfolio, in proud partnership with **Natural Selection Travel** and **Mack Air**, is delighted to offer this exclusive experience in support of the KCA fundraising initiatives.

www.themyersportfolio.com

About the KCA: Raising Funds to Uplift Our Kingsmead Community

The Kingsmead College Alumnae raise funds to support families within our Kingsmead community when they experience unexpected challenges.

The KCA currently assists with smaller, yet equally meaningful needs – such as matric dance tickets, uniforms, musical instruments, or travel costs for learners representing Kingsmead, the province, or even the country. These contributions make a real difference in ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate fully in school life.

From time to time, the KCA has also been able to provide assistance with a term's school fees for families facing temporary financial difficulty.

With the continued generosity of our community, we hope to grow these efforts so that we can support even more families in need and, ultimately, provide full bursaries for deserving students.

Please note that the allocation of support from the KCA is subject to the availability of funds and is guided by strict criteria to ensure fairness, transparency, and meaningful impact.

About the Prize

The lucky winner and their guest will embark on a once-in-a-lifetime luxury safari adventure, combining two of Botswana's most celebrated camps.

Your journey begins with two nights at Tawana Camp, followed by two nights at the breathtaking Tuludi Camp, seamlessly connected by Mack Air's scenic internal flights. To make the experience even more effortless, the prize also includes return regional flights for two from Johannesburg to Maun.

Throughout your stay, you will enjoy:

- Luxurious accommodation in a double or twin room
- Three exceptional meals daily
- Local beverages
- Expertly guided activities
- Park fees and laundry services
- All-inclusive VAT

From exhilarating dawn game drives to peaceful sunset moments in the Delta, every detail has been thoughtfully included to ensure an unforgettable luxury safari experience.

Valid for travel between:

8–19 December 2025/2026

10 January–31 March 2026

1 April–31 May 2026

(T&Cs apply) Subject to availability upon booking. No under 18's may enter the draw.

Ticket Information

Cost: R250 per ticket – buy as many as you like! Answer the giveaway's qualifying question correctly to validate your entry into the draw.

How to Enter

Click the link below to purchase tickets via the Kingsmead College website

👉 <https://kingsmead.co.za/kca/#raffle> ❤️

Closing Date: Monday, 1 December at 23h00

Giveaway Draw: Wednesday, 3 December at the Kingsmead Staff Year-End Function

All proceeds will go directly to the KCA, helping to uplift and empower members of our school community when they need it most.

WE WOULD LOVE TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

Please follow us on our social media platforms to stay connected:



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KingsmeadOKA/>



Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kingsmead_college_alumnae/



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/kingsmead-college>



Please update your details and send us your news.

alumnae@kingsmead.co.za or WhatsApp us on 079 205 2146

