

Moyra (Shearsby) O'Connor



It is now another 26 years on since we were asked to write about ourselves for the 25th reunion of our Matric year, which I was unfortunately unable to attend. Looking through the book that was put together at that time I am impressed with the variety of paths that were followed after Matric.

So much has happened since then..... Both my daughters completed their degrees at UCT, my eldest – Jackie - got married in Dec 1990 and moved with her husband to Durban. She became a secretary as there were no teaching positions available at the time and her husband taught at Northwood High (Shaun Pollock being one of his students.) They returned to Cape Town in 1994.

Diane, my younger daughter, married Gareth in July 1993, and continued studying as well as teaching at Rustenburg Girls High. My sons, Gavin and Scott matriculated in 1993 and 1995 respectively, Gavin then studied through Unisa before going into IT. Scott is in Angola working for an oil company.

In December of 1996 my husband, Neale, to whom I had been married for 30 years and 6 months, passed away after suffering a ruptured oesophagus. During that year we had been fortunate to enjoy a 6 week touring holiday through South Africa, and then later in the year travelled via Zambia to San Francisco to attend the World Council meeting for World Wide Marriage Encounter. We represented the continent of Africa at the council. It was as though we were enjoying a second honeymoon before Neale died. I am still involved in Marriage Encounter behind the scenes.

Sadly too, my daughter, Diane, passed away in July 1999 as a result of Breast cancer. She had been married 6 years.

I have 4 grandchildren whom I adore. Jackie has 3 daughters: the eldest, Kayla, wrote Matric this year, and she will be 19 in Feb 2014. Casey, the middle one, is 15, and is going into Grade 10 at Worcester Gymnasium. Jenna, the youngest is 12, and goes to Robertson Primary School. Jackie and Adrian and the girls live on a farm near Robertson on which Adrian farms grapes, peaches, plums and nectarines. He has also started a microbrewery. Jackie runs the pub on their farm.

My son Scott is married to Lizl and they are parents to Aran Andrew who is 2years 6months old.

Gavin contracts to the IT department of Shoprite/Checkers, working with the supply chain systems.

Since I was widowed I have done quite a lot of travelling. I have walked the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage three times. The first pilgrimage, my friends and I walked 300 kms to Santiago. On the second pilgrimage there were 5 of us and we walked 900 kms from Arles in France over the Pyrenees and through Spain to Santiago. At the time of this pilgrimage I was the youngest in the group at 58! One was 67, two were 70 and the 5th member of our group was 72. It was quite an achievement and we were very proud of ourselves, blisters and all. The third pilgrimage was along the Northern Coast of Spain, the group consisted of 6 ladies. Two of us completed the route to Santiago and then continued on to Finissterre (the end of the earth).

I was very lucky to be able to visit Israel twice, and I hope to go back sometime. In 2010 I took my mom to visit my brother and his family in Melbourne. It was a very interesting trip. In early 2012, my son Gavin, and I went back to Australia, this time to go to the Australian Open tennis which was a dream come true. I love tennis, both watching and playing, and I am a huge Federer fan!

On the home front I still play tennis, go to gym, enjoy my children and grandchildren, I enjoy craftwork, and do a lot of reading. I am very involved in my local parish (Catholic Church) where I am the Facilities Manager.

My memories of Northview High: friends, tennis, hockey, hating Latin, loving Biology, very relieved at passing Matric. A fond memory - throwing snow balls on the sports fields. Cycling up the hill to school every morning, and then freewheeling down the hill in the afternoons!



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