

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, family and friends of Eunice.

Welcome back to the very place that changed your life in ways that only you will know.

I am Zinnette de Wet and I am proud to be here tonight to celebrate my 14th anniversary (it being 14 weeks) with Eunice. What a privilege ... an honour... it has been

to already have

- felt her heartbeat ...
- experience her dynamic temperament and
- stand in awe of the beautiful horizon this jewel of a yacht sails into.

Tonight – I honour the 13 pioneers before me who envisioned our journey and laid the cornerstones of a school so dear to all of us present.

Mr Cassar. You were the captain steering this beauty for 28 years. It is lovely to have you and Mrs Cassar here tonight.

So many different birthdays are

embedded in 51 thousand days of happy Eunice victories as the date that marks the birth of your unique experience at Eunice

- determines the number of candles you would have on that symbolic birthday cake

It is the binding factor at this special banquet tonight...

So I would like to welcome you again to YOUR BIRTHDAY banquet for 2015.

I was told that I should say a few words, because the Old-girls wanted to get to know me a little...and you wanted to hear me speak

Well...here I am: 44 years old, a mother of 2 and wife to a man who

- supports me in every challenge I take on and who
- has always encouraged me not to let any opportunity to make a difference in someone's life pass me by.

I come from a family of educators and feel very fortunate to have been exposed to the wonders of girl school education – as I did not have the privilege to attend one myself.

I have a strong belief that the girls of today have the potential to become the leaders of tomorrow and that girls' schools offer the perfect environment for them to learn not just how to

- shoulder responsibility, but also to
- take risks and
- Inspire others in preparation of their future careers.

I sat on the porch of a 150 year old coach house whilst gathering my thoughts for tonight's function...

- Surrounded by the beautiful Drakensberg – while I listened
- to our renowned Cantamus Choir rehearsing for their performance
- I KNEW: Eunice is rooted in a beautiful past and gifted to grow into the future

– the oldest one in our museum, Annie Fraser affectionately wrote on 1 August (co-incidentally my actual birthday...)

that she wishes all daughters of Eunice every success in their lives.

In 1961- Reverend AJ Western

opened the first assembly in the Adele de Jager hall with the following prayer:

We pray not only that this school and this building shall become the nursery of lovely characters and gracious lives, but that from this school there shall be poured into the life of the community the health-giving radiance of dedicated lives.

AND At the closing function last year,

Mr Cassar expressed his

appreciation for the diversity, vibrancy and relevance of Eunice – or as he put it: the place where girls find their voice in the real world.

Tonight – I stand before you and commit myself to our school,

firmly rooted in 140 years of Eunice's dedication, loyalty and excitement as you conquered yourselves whilst being nurtured by her gracious hand.

Yesterday – Today and Tomorrow counts!

Mahatma Ghandi who also would have celebrated his 140th birthday this year once said: “Be congruent, be authentic, be true to self”

And I know that that is what every Eunice lady can do because Eunice ladies dwell beside the waters of wisdom and life.

Vincit qui si Vincit! I would like to propose a toast in honour of Eunice's 140th birthday.

Happy birthday, Eunice!