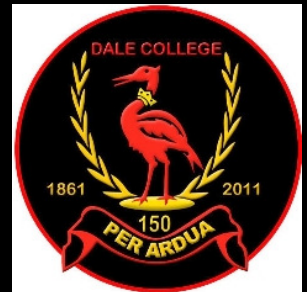


No 25. October 2011

TransDale Extra



150th Anniversary Reunion Special, Part 2

WE'RE BACK!

It was great, say the Class of 2001 after ten years



Reunion 2011 was marked by the return of several Dale matric classes – ranging from 1960 to 2001. Above are a happy band of 2001s. * Picture: RICHARD DOMERIS Below: A joyful group of 1980s. * See Page 2 for names.

We're back!

31 YEARS ON ...

The Class Of 1980

INSIDE: Generations of Dale matrics return to celebrate Dale's 150th anniversary



AND MUCH MORE

in our next section

DALE JUNIOR

Rugby triumph – as new principal makes her mark

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BACK AT DALE

The Yank who didn't want to go home

PAGES 21-23

THE LEGENDS

Old rugby rivals recall past glories

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Well done, Dale, you did us proud!

After ten years, 2001 matrics found spirit and behaviour amazing

By BRADLEY VAN COLLER

WHAT we saw at this year's 150th anniversary Reunion was amazing – the best I can remember.

The way the young boys' excellent behaviour and spirit overshadowed any thoughts and murmurs of negativity was undeniably the best part for us.

We 2001 matrics had the same positive response - the Dale spirit was well alive, the present Dalians did us proud and it is better than ever in our eyes.

Attending the Dale Junior sing-song on the Thursday morning was a great treat. The new principal, Patricia Thatcher, has that school running with pride and structure and the boys believe in the red and the black and in themselves.

It was encouraging to see every boy so passionate about his school - this will filter into the high school and is a huge strongpoint in the College future.

The staff were brilliant in dressing up for the sing-song. This shows how Dale Junior is not only keeping up with the times. It is leading the way in innovation and getting the kids to create their own atmosphere which will stay with them for a very long time.

The golf session was interesting; I'm sure second-hand golf balls will be available until next year from the caddies.

Then we had the cocktail evening attended by a good few of the 2001 class. Some amusing stories were enjoyed before moving to the revamped Malcom Andrew Sports Centre where more were shared and many more were created. Thank you Christopher Eyre for the entertainment.

On Friday morning we had a great experience at Assembly with many of the guys watching the Grade 1s put on a show for the crowd. The senior choir boys were outstanding as well.

The hockey was good to watch, the same for the rugby the next day. Every Dalian we saw playing hockey or rugby gave everything he had and the skills were outstanding.

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2001 HEADBOY Bradley van Coller (left) and classmates Brandon Roussouw, David Hallsworth and Wesley Wellman
* Pictures: KEVIN WHITEHEAD



CLASSMATES: Thobela Mdaka, unidentified, John Rockson and Sivuyile Mqingwana

Reunion revived old bonds

By TANGO NCHUKANA (now teaching and coaching sport at Michaelhouse independent school in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands)

WE had a great turn-out. About 30 guys came back, including two from the UK, one from Botswana, some from Johannesburg, Cape Town, myself from KwaZulu-Natal and the rest from the Eastern Cape and around it.

Returning to Dale ten years after matriculating brought back fond memories – like walking down the corridors in my first year at the College. It was great to see so many Old Dalians; it gave me a sense of pride and belong-

ing. Seeing people like David Hallsworth and Jason Chidgey (with his brother Chris) from the UK, and Trevor Landy was a great experience.

It showed the bond we built up in our matric year, though we did not realise it at the time.

Seeing Dimitri Kaktnis was a surprise and a pleasure - he was never really into attending school functions. He even missed the matric dance.

Then we had Mark (Bombo)

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THE top picture of 2001 matric classmates includes: Seated: Dimitri Kaktnis; Tango Nchukana; Mark Haskins. Kneeling: Siphiwo Lindi, Ryan Bahlmann, Sbosh Ratsibe, Anele Valela, Xola Malo, Mncedisi Tyatyeka, Mbaso Jali, Christopher Eyre, Brent Stanley, Sinethemba Zonke, Loza Dabula. Standing: David Hallsworth, Aviwe Fatyi, Sibongile Thandekile Ratsibe, Jason Chidgey, Kevin Gilmartin, Brandon Phillips,

Who's who on Page One

Thabo Lekwe, Ntyantambo Sauka, Lunga Mkatshwa, Sabelo Gaca, Bulelani Xotyeni, Gavin Jones, Brandon Roussouw, Naresh Patel, Axolile Makhwabe, Olwethu Mondliwa, Shaun Haselau, Wesley Welman, Siphonongawuza, Bradley van Coller and Morgan Tinline.

THE lower picture of 1980 matric classmates includes:

Back row: Greg McKenna, Russell Pengelly, Barry Ross, Kevin Stark, Malcolm Beech. **Middle:** Kevin King, Glenn Drewry, Ross Landy, Michael de Beer, Pierre van der Hoven, Barry de Blocq, Dave Cockroft, Rob Hood, Gary Morgan, Roger Beadon. **Seated:** Julian Schut, Elvet Gehring, Dave Howell, Rory Odendaal and Jacques van der Hoven. **Front:** Mark Beard, Mike Wakefield, Earl Durand.

THREE RUGBY CAPTAINS MEET BACK AT DALE



LEADERS: 2001 rugby captain Chris Eye introduces 1963 captain H0 de Villiers to 2011 captain Bungu Kobese



FAMILY MAN: Wesley Moss (matric 2001) with wife Lee-Ann and baby daughter Skylah at Reunion

Goodbye to a gentle friend

From Page 2 Haskins from Botswana. Mbasa Jali, who left Dale in Grade 11, turned out to show his support, as did Monwabisi Gqiba. It was great to see Sabelo (Bogoroll) Gatya and Siyabulela (Dumeli-dum) Dumalisile.



TANGO NCHUKANA

Most of us, unknowingly and now sadly, shared what turned out to be our last hours with Axolile (Axle) Makhwabe, who died in a car accident soon after Reunion.

I went to his funeral at King William's Town's Presbyterian Church during the June-July holidays. Old Dalians young and old were present.

Axle was a gentle and friendly person, who always had a smile on his face. He was always willing to help out.

He loved Dale and went to the fields to watch all the games. Axle will be sadly missed by those whose lives he touched.

To return to more cheerful memories of our years at Dale:

Who could forget the day at an inter-house gala, when a young man decided to leave the change-rooms and get undressed in front of the whole school.

"What are you doing? You are going around acting like a stripper," exclaimed Mr Conradie (a teacher). From that day Vuyolwethu Liwani was nicknamed Stripper.

Then there was Lehlohonolo Peter, who learnt the Dale War Cry from his girl cousin. When asked to perform it at the newboys' test he sang "Amadoda ethu" (our men) instead of the traditional "Amadoda."

Who could forget Kurt Hauptfliesch from Gauteng, big and built like a front-ranker. He arrived and told us he had played for the Lions Craven Week side. At the trials he

was given the ball and ran straight and hard, till he came across Ryan Bahlmann metres away.

When we asked what had happened, he replied, "There was a ditch in the ground and I slipped and lost my footing."

The school has always had a way of bringing unity among fellow Dalians from all walks of life.

Dale is a great school and will always have a special place in the hearts of many who have gone through it.

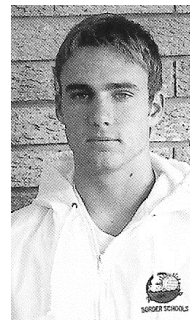
I feel it is time we worked hard to bring the school back to its former glory. We owe it to ourselves and to the world because the world surely needs more Dalians like those who were part of the Class of 2001.

** With Tango at Michaelhouse is Old Dalian Murray Daniel (matric 2005), younger brother of Keegan Daniel, (2002), who captained the Sharks in this year's Currie Cup competition..*

*** Pictures on this page: KEVIN WHITEHEAD and RICHARD DOMERIS**



LAST REUNION for Axle Makhwabe (left), accident victim, with Siphonongawuza



Bradley van Collier, headboy in 2001 (left)...



... and as he was at Reunion this year

Old stories and good humour

From Page 2 Many more of the 2001 group showed up on the day of the rugby- even Dimitri Kacnis whom we hadn't seen since Grade 8 – he had been absent since the second day of school! Great to see you, Dimitri, He even attended the function at the beer tent till very late.

Overall it was great to see our old 2001 class and to enjoy good humour and old stories. Thanks to the guys who travelled from afar, especially the Chidgey brothers from the UK and Mark Haskins from Botswana.

Well done to all involved, well done to the College and Dale Junior as well as to our sister school KHS, for putting on a great show for Old Dalians and the public. We will create more memories and support Dale as they go from strength to strength.



2001 MATRICS: Bulelani Xotyeni (left), Dave Hallsworth, Jason Chidgey, Mark Haskins and Cameron Cross * Pictures; KEVIN WHITEHEAD and RICHARD DOMERIS



Akhona Tokwe (left) with Anele Valela, a pastor and Old Dalian executive member

The stars of 2001: Mike Eddy looks back

WELCOMING the 2001 matric class, back at Dale after ten years, headmaster Mike Eddy recalled a memorable year, its leaders and achievers, sporting and academic..

But first he welcomed all returning Old Dalians from the 1940s onwards and asked members of each era to stand up.

At least four 1940s veterans, did so. The oldest was 80-something Doc von Hoesslin, who won rugby colours in his matric year of 1943.

He was brought to Reunion by his son Niven, a former headboy of Selborne College. They were followed by Old Dalians back after 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, and 10 years.

“Well, what of the 2001 Group?” asked the headmaster, looking back.

Headboy Bradley van Coller and deputy Ryan Bahlmann led an 11- member prefect body. Dux Scholar was Hayden Kretzmann.

The best all-round scholar/sportsman of Grade 11 was Keegan Daniel, who captained the Sharks in this year’s Currie Cup competition.

First team sports captains included:

- * Rugby: Christopher Eyre.
- * Cricket: Grant Howell.
- * Waterpolo: Bradley van Coller.
- * Cross Country: Bulelani Xotyeni.
- * Squash: Shaun Haselau.
- * Basketball: Kgotso Thipa.

Both Siplesande Nogoduka and Douglas Maduna made the EC team.

* Hockey, led by Michael du Plessis, enjoyed a 26-match season. (The 20th Founders Festival was held in Port Elizabeth. Dale has recently hosted the 30th Founders Festival as part of the 150th programme.)

HONOURS were awarded to:

- * Waterpolo: Bradley van Coller.
- * First Aid: Peter Furstenburg.
- * Academics: Christopher Eyre, Loyiso Gura, Anver Hill, Hadyen Kretzmann, Saba Meidany and Naresh Patel.

Dale put on a musical production called “Animals.” The cast won the trophy for the best play at the SADS School Drama Festi-



HEADMASTER Mike Eddy and his wife Terry

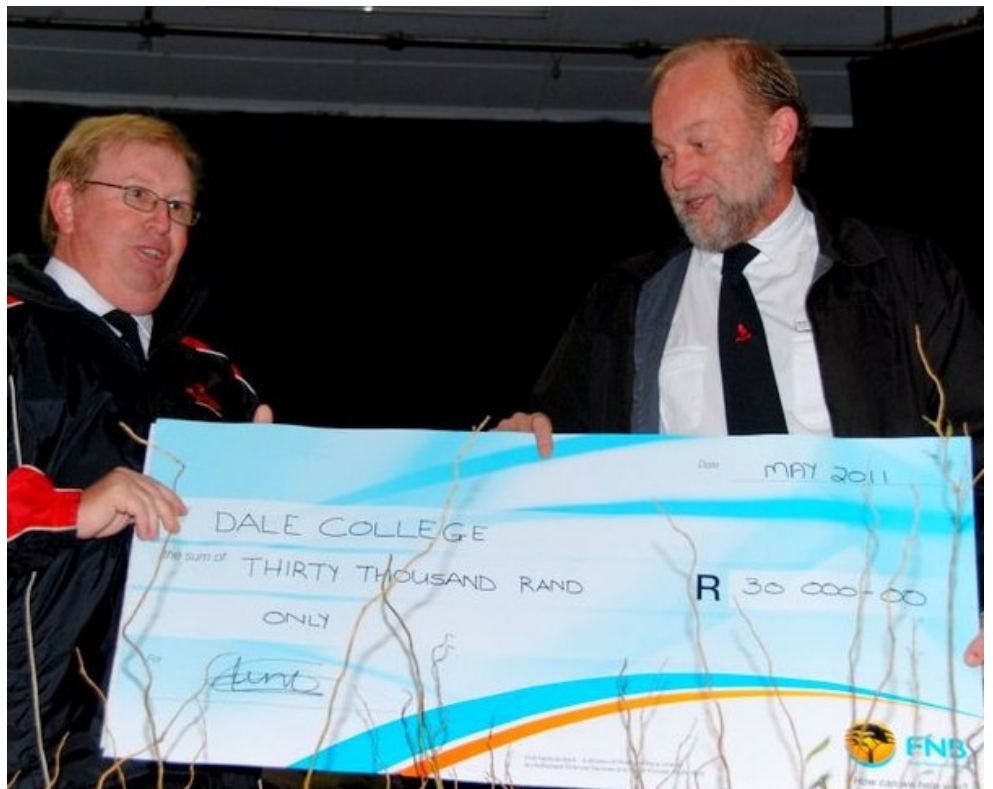
val. The Matric Dance Theme was “A Winter Wonderland.”

The Reunion rugby match against Selborne was lost (13 – 22).

Mr Eddy concluded his address with this limerick he found in the 2001 Magazine:

*There was a man called uncle Jack
He loved the boys a stack
He watched the game
Which brought the school fame
But in height he seemed to lack.*

- by Guy Ranger, Grade 8 (who became headboy of Dale in 2005 and has since had a distinguished sporting career).



R30 000! Headmaster Mike Eddy receives a cheque from FNB’s Bryan Stanley towards Dale’s 150th celebrations

The '78s: What a party they had!

*** IT WAS a weekend for meeting old friends, reliving nostalgic incidents - and partying. Thirty-three years after leaving Dale, a small band of the matric class of 1978 came back for this year's Reunion to celebrate Dale's 150th anniversary.**

The 16 who did had a cracking weekend. Here their organiser, BRADLEY JOUBERT, tells us how.

WHAT A GREAT time was enjoyed by all! Some guys, I think, were having two beers at a time - one for themselves and one for an absent classmate.

This Reunion was more about the school and less about our year. Before Friday's Assembly several of us met on the A field, where roll-call was held and uniform inspection was carried out.

The dress code was once again pure perfection. Two defaulters from our 25th in 2003, Ian Upton and Kevin Schroeder, adhered to the code this time.

We are still struggling with Barry (Tos) Bezuidenhout (I think he is allergic to white) and also with a new rebel, Russell Linde, bucking the code. Appreciating the need for disciplinary action, they took their tequila down-downs like true Dalians later at lunch.

After the Assembly we were joined by a few more guys and had a good few beers in the new Malcom Andrew Centre. We were glad to see Shaun Kaltenbrun again at what, I believe, was his first Reunion since just a year after leaving school.

At the King Club for lunch we had steak, egg and chips in the club boardroom. Then back to the fields for afternoon drinks and more socialising.

That night some guys went to the dinner and others to the tent.

Saturday was a day at the fields, junior and senior. It was great to see the Under 14As finish off Queen's 34-nil.

The main stand, however, is in a sad state and that veranda is silly as it blocks out a lot of the view.

From here we went back to the MASC and Ian Upton decided it was time for a cold beer. That was the start again. From here it was beer, beer and more beer until we went to bed late that night.

During the day a few of our classmates pitched up, The atmosphere at the field was awesome and the win was so sweet.

I would have loved to have heard a few of the old rugby songs from the guys but at least we had one old boy (with the yellow Mexican hat) giving the "Aaay-gibilee-Aayo" cry (how the hell do you write those words?) from time to time, which was well responded to.

We spent the evening in the tent. The show was good and you could see the people were enjoying it.



1978 MATRICS . . . From left: Bradley Joubert, Barry (Toss) Bezuidenhout, Andy Maritz, Nigel Westcott, Steve Nell, Kevin Schroeder and Russell Linde

Back again and already planning their 35th anniversary: The matric class of 1978

By the end of the weekend the 16 of the class of 1978 at Reunion had been: Alan Sutton, Ian Upton, Russell Linde, Kevin Schroeder, Peter Guest, Andy Maritz, Steve Nell, Barry Bezuidenhout, Dean Radue, Glynn Rayment, Graham Turnbull, Shaun Kaltenbrun, Melvin Piater, Jeff Wilmers, Nigel Westcott and myself.

MY IMPRESSIONS:

The fields looked immaculate after the recent rain. The school inside looked shabby and should have been properly cleaned and dusted for the visit by Old Boys. The moving of the tuck shop back to the old place was a good initiative.

Holding the Assembly down at the field was a refreshing change, creating a nice, relaxed yet formal atmosphere.

As an old Presbyt it was great to see how many Presby guys came back and the turnout for the photo (see next page) was well supported. We even had an two ex-hostel masters in the photo - Adri Leurs and Butch Wiggett.

I heard a lot of positive comments about the Reunion. I just hope the tradition of going back to Dale will continue. There was so much spirit.

I am sure after this Reunion a lot of guys who were thinking this would be their last, will be back again.

Our class certainly will. We will be back for our 35th in 2013.

DEAN RADUE WRITES:

DALE has to be the most transformed former Model C boys' traditional school in the country. Sitting at the rugby on Reunion Saturday would have been an eye-opener for anyone who had never watched a Dale-Queen's derby day.

The cross section of the huge crowd watching and cheering for Dale was fantastic. As Old Boys we need to embrace the new era and allow the new generations to learn from us.

I believe the biggest challenge to maintain high sporting and academic standards at Dale is for the school to improve the hos-



tels, create academies for cricket and rugby and recruit young (U/14 and U/15) sportsmen and academics as boarders. Dale was always a boarding school.

We should also be encouraging the Dale Junior Grade 7 boys to

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FELLOW '70s: Gavin Schmidt (left), Arné ten Velden and Glen des Fontaine (all matric 1979), the elder of two brothers, both nicknamed Des

Old Presbyts: Together at Reunion



LOYAL PRESBYTS (back row, from left): Laurence (Plug snr.) Beadon (1974), Harry Voerman(1975), Wynand Serfontein (1983), Barry Serfontein (1986), Butch Wigggett (ex-Presby housemaster), Stuart Sutton (1983), Ray Ranger (1975), Bradley Joubert (1978), Dave Elwood (1976), (unidentified). Middle: Selwyn Keen (1982), Mark Turnbull (1979), Eldred Stap, Kevin King (1980), Roger (Plug jnr.) Beadon (1980), Rory Odendaal (1980), Adri Leurs (ex-Presby housemaster), Leon Petzer (day-boy). Front: Arné ten Velden (1979), Bryn Ressel (1982), Richard Jay (1978), Gary Morgan (1980), Ian Upton 1978), Michael de Beer (1980), Edwin Jay (1977), Shaun Kaltenbrun (1978), Rob Voerman (1976) and Bushpig Morgan (1975).
 * Pictures: KEVIN WHITEHEAD and RICHARD DOMERIS

Where have you been all these years, Shaun?

From Page 5 enter the high school. A good marketing system is essential and money is always a limiting factor. Is this a bridge too far?

I, too, hadn't seen Shaun Kaltenbrun since the Reunion of 1979.

CLASSMATES paid tribute to Bradley Joubert's organising efforts ("Without you our reunions would never get off the ground."). Further comments:

KEVIN SCHROEDER: I have always not really made the effort to go to Reunions but I am glad I went to this one. It gave one a really nice, warm feeling to see the old school and to meet so many people one had not seen for so long.

Russell Linde better wear white because we cottoned on to the tequila-on-the-floor trick and will watch him far more closely next time.

PETER GUEST: Very good seeing all the guys again. I think it was 31 years since I last saw Shaun Kaltenbrun. I will sort Russell out before 2013 and get the colour coding in line; you work on Barry Bezuidenhout.



1978 MATRICS . . . From left: Alan Sutton, Steve Nell, Peter Guest, Kevin Schroeder, Bradley Joubert, Nigel Westcott, Ian Upton, Russell Linde, Barry Bezuidenhout, Dean Radue and Andy Maritz



PAST ODU PRESIDENTS at Reunion. Back row: Ray Radue, Derek Moodie, Ray Nixon, Barry Turner, Andre Petzer, Chow Bissell. Middle: Robert Gemmell, Neville Woollgar, Rodney Breetzke, Sid Knott, Trevor Bennet. Front: Ted Warren, Jack Rosenberg, Paul Smit and Dave Cawthorn.



SEVENTIES MATRICES . . . From left: Fido Crossey (1975), Martin Sheard (1974), Mark (Ogies) Turnbull (1979), Mike Stapleton (1973) and Gordon McCune (1973)

The Super '70s: Ethics have endured

SOME of the most loyal and enthusiastic Old Dalians are from the 1970s era. Many came back to Dale for Reunion.

Here are the impressions of MARK (Ogies) TURNBULL, 1979 first team rugby player, of Durban:

I HAD a most enjoyable weekend and spent many hours reminiscing about the years gone past. I met a number of Old Boys at Reunion whom I would never have recognised.

We have a great school and through all the years of transformation Dale has maintained the core ethics we had at the school.

The demographics of the school are representative of the society of King William's Town and I understand why many of our local peers have sent their sons to Selborne and not Dale.

However, I am still a proud Old Dalian. I believe the Government is going to have to offer financial assistance to a previous Model C school like Dale to maintain standards. I understand that boys are regularly being poached by wealthier schools. This could lead to the demise of a school like Dale.

** Ogies is married with children and living in Durban. He has a son at Maritzburg College.*

ANDREW (Donkey) HUGO, another 1979 Class member, of Port Elizabeth, writes:

SO what's so significant about the 79'ers, you might ask? Many share the same birth year (1961) as Dale minus 100 years, and are celebrating their half centenary.

WHAT a "jol" it was with the guys. Thirteen of the Class of 79 attended this 150th celebration Reunion weekend. They stumbled out of all the corners of South Africa and Botswana.



DALIANS OF A DECADE . . . From left: Shaun Kaltenbrun (1978), Rob Voerman (1976), Kim Copland (1977), Dave Ellwood (1977), Edwin (1977) and Richard Jay (1978)
* Pictures: KEVIN WHITEHEAD and RICHARD DOMERIS

All who attended are well and gauging by the fun they were having, believed they were back at school again.

Four of us, Glen (Des) de Fonteyn, Herman (Worm) Jacobs, Arné ten Velden and I spent the weekend at Joubert House and enjoyed a hostel breakfast.

Mrs Birkholtz, a matron at Joubert (now 74 and still retiring) and previously of Presby, dished up a great breakfast, specially for her little boys, Arnie and Worm.

Gladys, previously of Diocesan, also spoils the guys. Spending time in a hostel brought back fond memories. The snoring from some of the older folk at times seemed a little life-threatening.

Many thanks to all those who made this weekend possible and such a success.

Richard Bennett had arrived just back in time from his "little" bike trip from Cape to Cairo with his three mates (Three farmers and a Greek). How crazy is that?

Laurence Michau still plays music and has a hit musical CD available on request.

Also spotted (all of 1979/80) were Pixie Miles of King William's Town, Greg McKenna, living in Natal, and a somewhat bald Elvet (Gor Gor) Gehring, who now lives in Parkview, Joburg.

A well-organised weekend was enjoyed by all. This is what some guys had to say: **Gavin Schmidt.** I decided at the last minute to come down from Gabs and jumped in my car at lunchtime on the Friday and arrived at 1am on Saturday. It was well worth it.

I had a great time and am so glad I did it. It was great to see all the guys.

Ogies (still hasn't grown much since Standard 4), Worm Jacobs (not that he can remember much), Greg (hope he never drove into the sidescreen again), Arné (nice hairstyle, just joking about getting

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The Super '70s: Decade of loyal Old Boys



SONS OF THE SEVENTIES . . . Back row: Colin Schenk (left), Shaun Kaltenbrun, Rob Edwards, Gary Pearse, Bruce Mitchell, Peter Bradfield. Middle: Reuben Ihlenfeldt, Dave Ellwood, Ron Flanagan, Ivan Reynolds, Kim Copland, Ian Wright. Front: Brian Eyre, Rob Voerman, Nick de Blocq, Rodney Sutton and Mike Dennis
 * Pictures: KEVIN WHITEHEAD and RICHARD DOMERIS



FROM UK: Rodney (1977) and Gwyneth Sutton of Kent and (right) their East London host, Peter Bradfield, also 1977

AFTER nearly 40 years the Rev Gareth Jones (left) and Barry Pain, 1971 matrices, returned to Dale with wives Mariana and Elaine. Said Barry: "The ethos of discipline and respect is still there. It was three days of joy – a worthwhile trip down memory lane."



1971 SECOND XV stalwarts: Coach Denzil Filmer (left), fly-half and captain, Basil Sutton, hooker Michael Heathcote, scrumhalf Barry Pain and centre Dave Newman meet at Reunion

'I don't care about the planet, sell more tyres'

From Page 7 married, go for it), Laurence (Richard Clayderman) Michau, Ian (Save the Planet) McCune. Kippy ("I don't care about the planet, sell more tyres") Malherbe, Chris (Golding) Pouroullis, as well as you, Andrew, and Des de Fonteyn.

Graeme (Sokkoe) Dorrington: Sorry I missed most of you and the rugby – I arrived Thursday morning but had to fly back on Friday evening.

Mark (Ogies) Turnbull: The weekend went by like a flash, I never saw Graeme and hardly had time to talk to most of you guys.

Were are they now?

PRESBY:

Arné ten Velden: Has one son and is an entrepreneur living at the Wilderness. Still looking for a wife.

Herman Jacobs: An accountant, married with children, living in Gauteng and working in Harare.

DIOCESAN:

Richard Bennett: Married with children and still farming in the Adelaide district.

Glen (Des) de Fonteyn is unmarried and is a contractor living in

Port Elizabeth.

FRANK JOUBERT:

Chris (Kippie) Malherbe: Married with children and is a tyre tycoon living in Komga.

DAY-BOYS:

Chris Pouroullis: Property tycoon living in Port Elizabeth.

Graeme Dorrington: Married and practising law in Cape Town.

Ian McCune: Married with daughters and is an agricultural tycoon living in Komga.

Gavin Schmidt: Married with children, is the big boss of Nestlé, in Botswana.

Gavin Neuper: Petrochemical environmental consultant living in King. His last son is in matric at Dale this year.

Laurence Michau: Married with children and owns a textile factory in Gauteng. Also a part-time musician.

* Andrew Hugo is a business practitioner and lecturer at the Nelson Mandela Metro University Business School in Port Elizabeth. He has one son in Grade 11 and "still looking for that perfect woman."



1980 CLASSMATES . . . Back row: Kevin Stark (left), Jacques van der Hoven, Barry de Blocq, Dion Linde, and Mark Beard. Front: Mike Fowler, Dave Ranger, Roger Beadon, Greg McKenna and Pierre van der Hoven. * Picture: KEVIN WHITEHEAD

Thanks friends, for the memories

THE 2011 REUNION was one of the memorable weekends of my life. Here are some of my thoughts.

After a ten-hour trip from Cape Town Michael de Beer and I drove slowly into King. A quick decision and we drive to our homes of yesteryear, Sutton, Presby and Frank Joubert. Sacrilege! Sutton is now a bunch of offices with a supermarket tacked on to the back.

The prep-room where Merv Ewels, with great glee caught Craig Sparg and me reading comics, is now the Spar.

We are pleasantly surprised by Presby (Paterson House.) The place doesn't appear to have changed at all.

At Frank Joubert, my home of three years, I recall where I broke my ankle playing touch rugby and the balcony where the senior boys used to smoke.

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B-BBEE Level 4 contributor.

"There is a Friend who sticks closer than a Brother."

*** BARRY ROSS (matric 1980), recalling this Biblical quotation, reflects on his return to Dale for Reunion, when he renewed old friendships and revisited old haunts. The reunion of 1980 matrics was again led by stalwart Mark Beard.**



The tree that had stood one floor down from my matric room window is now as high as the roof top – what an ideal vehicle to use to bunk out.

The grass patch that served as a touch rugby pitch looks small and the hostel itself is disappointingly tatty. Perhaps after 31 years this was to be expected but it was still a bit of a let-down.

At our guesthouse a wonderful lady named Princess welcomes us warmly, explaining that she is the owner. We enter a suite containing two double beds, a small lounge and separate bathroom. Very comfortable.

We laugh as Michael quips, "Haven't times changed? Here we are two white dudes, checking into a B&B owned by a black woman and staying in the room in the back garden." Irony!

Mark Beard proves to be an organiser par excellence and spends the weekend marshalling the 1980s to the various meeting

points.

Arriving at the A Field for Assembly the next morning we meet Paul Smit – four-time president of the Old Dalian Union and my old hockey captain.

I haven't seen him for 20 years - since our ten-year reunion. At the Malcom Andrew Centre we pass familiar faces. Faces older than ours and a few younger, tax the memory.

The tall form of Pierre van der Hoven appears. We run into Eldred Stap and Gary Morgan, two of Michael's friends from Presby.

As we swap stories and laugh at long-past experiences we feel a little younger at the telling of each hilarious tale.

Down on the A field, the Assembly begins and there unfolds a ceremony that has remained largely unchanged for decades. The roll of honour is called and the "Last Post" is played.

Reuben Ihlenveldt preaches as he did in 1990 on the tenth reunion of the 1980 class.

Ray Palframan's song is the same and - but for the colour of his greying hair - he has hardly changed at all. His hairstyle is the same. He sings the song from memory as he has done for at least 30 years.

Paul Smit addresses the gathering and ponders on how many "jacks" have been accumulated by all of those present. Laughter resounds.

Paul's question causes me

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Late, but Billy let me off . . . he knew us all by name

From Page 9 to feel that the that the Memorial Service is more than about remembering the dead.

It may also be about remembering traditions that served us well but have been lost. Time has told that we are richer for it.

The decades are called and Old Dalians from these years stand and their presence is proudly acknowledged.

After the Assembly Michael and Mark Beard ham up a “jacking” with a stick found conveniently in the flowerpot outside the headmaster’s office.

The corridor has deep memories for me. One is of walking along as a Std 6 boy, late for class, carrying my heavy book-bag. Suddenly I see a pair of shiny black shoes and the tails of the cloak that could only be worn by headmaster Billy Rowles.

I jump aside and stammer “Good morning Sir,” expecting a bollocking. Instead a kind, “Morning Ross” and a smile was his reply.

It was a mark of Billy’s outstanding management that he knew everyone by name including mine so early in my first year of high school. It made me feel that I belonged.

We stop off again at Frank Joubert for a quick tour. I go to my old room and knock. The door swings open to reveal the face of the hostel headboy. Thirty-one years ago this was the deputy’s room. I greet him and tell him he is in my room – albeit 31 years ago.

After a confused laugh he realises that I am another daft old boy on reminiscing rounds.

Back on the field I see my old friend Dave Cockcroft with Alan, his younger brother and also my newboy in 1980. He and Barry Long, my other newboy, were the best ever.

They endured the traditional filling of baths, polishing shoes, warming toilet seats, and the odd smack for getting smart.

Now a rather large fellow says, “Hi, weren’t you the one who used to beat me up.” “Sir,” I say, “You must be mistaken,” to much laughter. He accuses me of beating him with a hockey stick.

More old friends arrive and the stories flow thick and fast. Later, at the dinner Professor Andy Andrews has us in fits of laughter. I am amazed that he matriculated a year before I was born.

To Page 11



BACK AFTER 31 YEARS . . .

Back row: Russell Pengelly, Barry Ross, Malcolm Beech and Barry de Blocq . Front: Ross Landy, Earl Durrant and Elvet Gehring.



BEND OVER . . .

Mark Beard gets even with Michael de Beer

The future leaders who give us hope

BARRY ROSS (1980), a Cape Town businessman, is a prolific letter writer to newspapers. After the 2011 Dale Reunion he wrote this letter to Business Day. It was published on May 25.

With all the post-election vitriol flying about I thought it good to report on a situation that fills me with hope for the future of this nation.

I was privileged to attend a school in King William’s Town called Dale College. This weekend past, the school celebrated its 150th anniversary. Old Boys black and white attended the festivities.

Makhaya Ntini turned out for Dale in a rugby match between Dale Legends and Queen’s College Legends. I think there was one white guy in the Dale first rugby team.

The War Cry and rugby songs are still sung with passion and the boys, immacu-

lately turned out in uniform, greeted their elders with a “Sir.”

They are proud of their school and the older Old Boys – predominately white - cheered the first team on to victory and claimed it as “ours.”

The younger Old Boys, many of them black, greeted their white classmates with great fondness and shared the same “war stories” as their older counterparts did with their classmates.

It is schools such as Dale and Queen’s that are training up our future leaders and doing a fine job.

To their credit, these future leaders are making the most of the opportunities at their disposal.

If what I saw over this past weekend is a picture of our future, then I would say South Africa is in good shape.



RETURNING OLD DALIANS . . .

Bruce Mitchell, Kevin Schroeder and Rob Edwards

Brothers Mike and Gary Elliott



From Page 10 Yet, from his recollections, he could have been of the class of 1980, only the names were different.

Eavesdropping on conversations at other tables. I hear the familiar, "Do you remember the time . . ." followed by gales of laughter and yet another recollection as members of the 1962-63 groups try to out-remember each other.

It's amazing that after all the years they still cherish memories of some mischief.

The guest speaker, the legendary HO de Villiers, shares rugby stories, teases friends from his year and does a fine job at calling back the past.

We can all identify with him being "jacked" by RW Searle for being kicked-out of geography class.

For us it was another class at another time. Each recalls his four or six and the misde-meanour that caused the painful stripes which became a badge of honour.

The MASC swarms with red and black. Laughter, beer, stories, more laughter and predictions for the match ensue.

More manly insults are swapped, burgers are eaten and 21 of us pose for a class photo.

Within seconds Russell Pengelly has the first photo on Facebook and modern technology

Tales of schooboy mischief spark gales of laughter

captures a rather less modern group of friends.

The spirit among these men is contagious and seems almost exclusive to the class of 1980.

There are some apologies to those we treated as less than equals in our younger days. It is a mark of the character formed in those and later years that all are included in the exclusive circle of friends that is the class of 1980.

In describing my experiences I borrow from scripture – Proverbs 18:24 – "*There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*"

The differences of the past no longer matter. What matters is a shared history and the red and black that forever bind us.

At half-time during the second team match the Queens First XV jog past us. These young men are perhaps a little bigger on average than their Dale rivals.

This does not go unnoticed by the largely partisan crowd in the north stands.

SEVENTIES Old Dalians at Reunion. Dave Ellwood (left, 1976), Shaun Kaltenbrun (1978) with Colin Farrer (1984). Dave's escapade at Farrer's Sports must have cropped up.



I drove home singing Dale songs from my golf-day CD

GREG McKENNA (1980) writes: I am so happy that I went down , it was fantastic to see everybody again and having lunch with the 1980 lads on Saturday was the highlight!

A special thanks to Mark Beard for all his efforts to get us all down there and for organising the lunch on Saturday. Well done Mark!

The Dale victory against Queen's also brought a lot of satisfaction and our '79 Reunion-win memories came flooding back.

Everyone is looking very well and I hope we will all stay in touch in the future.

In the goodie bag we got at the golf day was a CD with all the Dale songs. I listened to and sang along with them on the drive home with many great memories of our time at a great school. I feel honoured that I spent my time there with a great bunch of guys like all of you. Cheers to all!

"They are big," comments one supporter. "Big, slow and stupid," says another. We remember the looks of quiet and determined confidence on the faces of the Dale XV and are comforted.

Yet another grandstand expert observes that Dale is ranked 11 on the list of SA school teams while Queen's languishes in the 20th position.

We are left in no doubt that the match will, as it always does, live up to expectations as a mini-war.

In the last minutes of the match there is frantic defence from the Dale boys as they appear to have given everything they have in the first half.

A last desperate wave of red and black jerseys foils an equally desperate Queen's attack. The final whistle sounds and the field is invaded by yelling men and boys. The First XV endure the hugs, back slapping, and well-wishing with satisfied exhaustion.

Tests of manhood like this endured by 15 young men and shared by hundreds of others help cement one's status as a brother of the red and black.

The sign of the red heron on a black background confirms one's place in this special family. Victory is slightly tinged with sadness as the time for farewell has arrived, far too quickly.

For many it has been 31 years since they last saw their friends. It may be many years until they meet again.

Many just slip away unannounced to avoid having to say goodbye, and no apology is expected.

Goodbye is not really appropriate. For brothers it is more like, "Until we meet again."

Amadoda!