

Our YODA Reunion weekend of fun

Songs, beer and toilet stops on a 15-hour road trip to King

By **DAVID TURNBULL**

JOBURG'S YODA (Young Old Dalian Association) organised a road trip back to King for this year's 150th celebration Reunion. And what a memorable pilgrimage it turned out to be.

Initially we intended to go by train, as Dalians did in the old days, but this plan was abandoned due to lack of a functioning passenger link between Johannesburg and King.

A 16-seater Sprinter was rented from an unsuspecting owner whom we assured that the best of care would be taken to ensure that his bus would return unscathed.

The owner had not met Christopher Eyre and Maphelo Mpondo, two passengers that could do damage to a cement block if given enough beer.

On Reunion Thursday morning, we met at the Wits Rugby Club parking lot and loaded beer and sleeping bags.

Only a few had decided on boarding the bus; older and wiser YODA members like Nicholas Eyre, Darren Ogden and Francis Kingston, decided at the 11th hour that flying would be better than driving.

Those who braved the trip from Johannesburg were Christopher Eyre (matric 2001), Lizole Joka (2005), Gavin Jones (2001), Emmanuel Mphande (2005), Emmanuel Amaning (2005), myself (2005) and our designated driver, Dumpy Ndyoko (2006).

The trip got off to a good start with the bus being pulled over before Vereeniging for speeding, but our smooth-talking driver managed to get the fine whittled down to a measly R250.

This was not the last time we encountered law-enforcement on the trip.

After many toilet stops we rolled into Bloemfontein to pick up two more Old Dalians who needed a lift.

Naturally, we got lost and they were late, adding several hours to the trip. The two guys were Ulwando Ngetu (2005)



YODAs (from left): John Ranger, Ulwando Ngetu, Lizole Joka, Dumpy Ndyoko, Emmanuel Amaning, David Turnbull, Zimasa Lupuwana and Emmanuel Mphande (front)

*** Picture: RICHARD DOMERIS**

Joubert was clean - but the food has not improved much

and Maphelo Mpondo (2006).

The rest of the trip was spent singing and preparing for the fantastic weekend ahead. I recollect very little of the details - though we did stop a lot for visits to the toilet.

After 15 hours of travelling we pulled into King and went directly to the newly-revamped Malcom Andrew Sports Centre. Much had been said about the new bar and Darren Ogden had been talking up his design for months. We needed to test it.

Thursday night at the MASC was a great start to the weekend, with many a friend reuniting, as well as a few rivals. There was a great mix of old and young; some of the KHS girls had aged well, too.

We only got to our accommodation at College House fairly late that evening. Luckily Butch Wiggett is no longer superintendent there and was more than happy to help us check in, knowing full well we were not his problem.

The dormitories were much the same as I remember them; I think my name is still engraved on the desk in the section I slept in. The dorms were clean and the showers hot - that was all we really needed.

The food at Joubert hasn't improved much. We were not the only occupants - many other Old Dalians from various parts of the country also stayed at College House.

After we stopped again at the MASC our little group went their separate ways, with their own little plans.

We all got swept up in the vibe of the Reunion and bumped into each other in the beer tent at various times.

The Friday morning Assembly was tough, but ultimately very enjoyable. The sun was unrelenting for those with a tender head from the night before.

The rugby on Saturday was a great spectacle and only praise can be levelled on the players. Revenge had to be dished out after the last Reunion game against Queen's.

The singing was magnificent and the behaviour of the boys in general was exemplary. I have been asked many times over the years whether the school's standards would drop and I have been correct

To Page 13

Now is the time for Old Dalians to support Dale Junior, too

By **DARREN OGDEN**

BEFORE Reunion many Old Dalians spoke of the 150th being "the last blast," but on leaving this opinion had changed to one of a "great revival." Faces may have changed, but many Old Dalians found that Dale is as great a school as when they left.

It is also realised that the school's success relies on Old Boy support. The school's history and future lie in the hearts of Old Dalians, not just within the four walls at the top of the hill.

We, as Old Dalians, must use Reunion's phenomenal success to continue the momentum of this revival. Communication is the key to this. We must not forget that Dale Junior is very much a part of the school. Unfortunately it has lacked our support for too long.

Its phenomenal achievements, achieved without our support, could only improve if we include them. It is worrying that many junior boys do not go to the College.

This needs to be a primary focus of the Old Dalian Union. The support given to the school from many Old Dalians, young and old, at this Reunion, is a testament to 150 years of something that can only be described as "the ethos that is Dale." "That which is great will never fade away."

**Architect Darren Ogden, who designed the MASC upgrade, is chairman of YODA in Johannesburg.*

** Dale Junior's Reunion rugby triumph - Page 18.*

Great to be back: The 80s and the 90s

1980s FRIENDS (from left):
David "Bags" Lawson (1983), Pikkie Glynn (1982), Barry de Blocq (1980), Steve Palframan (1987) and Mark Beard (1980)



OUR FAMILY FRIENDS THE COACHES

OLD DALIAN Nick de Blocq (1987) at Reunion with former '80s and '90s Dale rugby coaches and family friends Mickey Paterson (left) and Deon Boshoff. Deon's wife worked for Nick's mother Pat at the Beehive Nursery School in King Williams Town and his parents knew the Patersons socially. Deon was Nick's eldest son Andrew's housemaster at Armstrong House, St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and Mickey has much to do with Deon's second son Chris, also at at SAC. Mickey was deputy headmaster to Malcom Andrew. Both he and Deon are teaching at St Andrew's.

Reunion Dalians were gentlemen

From Page 12 in my predication.

All current Dalians were absolute gentlemen at Reunion.

Those of us who attended had an absolutely memorable and enjoyable weekend, each one taking

something else out of the time spent in King. Reunion 2012 will be as much fun, but there is no way I'm doing that drive back again.

I'll be flying.

* Pictures : **RICHARD DOMERIS** and **KEVIN WHITEHEAD**

FROM UK: Greg Mackay (1994 - left) with Harry Crassis (1997)



GUYS AND DOLLS . . . 1999 matrics Jonathan du Plessis (left), Stuart Lustgarten, Nick Eyre and Graeme Reid with Sam Rawlins and Jayne Reeves



OLD FRIENDS . . . Nick Eyre (1999 - left), Lubabalo Swana (1998), Wesley Welman (2001), Jason Fyfer (1998) and Francis Kingston (1999)

Reunion focus: *The girls were there, too*



AT THE KEYBOARD . . . Dale sister school Kingsridge High musicians, Grade 11s Tara Lombard (left) and Danica Smit entertain at Reunion.



ALL EX-KHS GIRLS . . . Back row: Judy Hart, Melanie Elliot, Michelle Wienand, Julie Lentz and Sally Gomm. Front: Michelle Dennis, Dianne Everett, Bronwyn Webb, wife of Old Dalian Gary Webb.



WHO'S THE BLONDE? Brett Fyfer (2003, centre, from Canada) and Jacques van Collier (2006) won't tell us

** Pictures on this page: RICHARD DOMERIS, KEVIN WHITEHEAD and TERTIUS COETZEE*



THE TWO PATS . . . Dale Junior principal Patricia Thatcher meets Patricia Bransby, librarian and teacher at the Collegiate High School for Girls, Port Elizabeth, on a family visit to Dale



2005 MATRICS Dylan Pieterse (left) and Jared Gryvenstein with Jacques van Collier (2006)

AT DINNER . . .
Back row (left): Brendon Bezuidenhout (1994, Derek Butcher (1992), Simnikiwe Xabanisa (1994), Greg Mackay (1994 First XV captain).
Front: Daryl Edwards (1994 headboy), Ray Butcher (1988), Shaun (1992) and James Phillips (1994).



THE RANGERS: An illustrious Dale family

REUNION reunion:
Kevin Ranger (1975, top left), Murray (2002), John (1969), Ray (1975). Front: John Keith (2006), David (1980) and Alan (1968)



*** Picture: RICHARD DOMERIS**

PERHAPS the most distinguished Dale family represented at Reunion this year were the Rangers, seven of whom are pictured above.

Most active in Old Dalian affairs, John is in line to become ODU national president next year.

Few family members have been as prominent on the sports field – both at Dale and for SA provinces and abroad after leaving school. Some have captained Border. Rangers have played Dale first-team cricket and rugby, some at both sports. Three have captained Dale firsts at rugby and two at cricket.

Notably, Ray Ranger and both his sons were headboys of Dale Junior. Both sons were College headboys and Ray deputy.

Ray and his boys are the only father and two sons to captain the First XV. Guy is one of only five boys in College history to be headboy and captain of cricket and rugby in the same year.

Kevin Ranger captained Dale at athletics and won the Victor Ludorum trophy for three successive years.

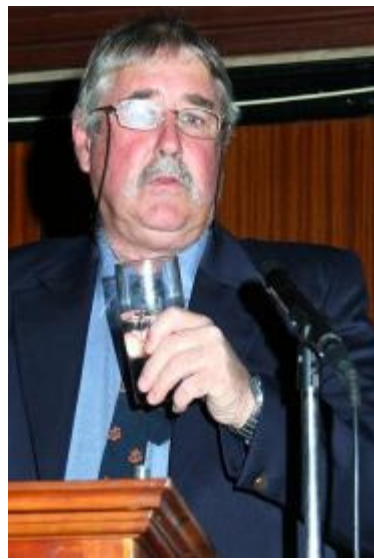
THE Ranger family is widespread. One branch includes five brothers, Alan, John, Kevin, Clive and David, all sons of Keith Ranger.

Their second names are all Morris as they were (Morris) Rangers. Another branch includes Ray the son of Dennis Ranger, a cousin of John's father.

Dennis was a distinguished and decorated Royal Marine Commander, who played a pivotal role behind enemy lines before the D Day landings. He served on both the Dale Junior and Dale College Governing Bodies.

Kevin, Ray and his sons Guy and Murray have all been outstanding

John: Dedicated and hard-working future president



PAUL SMIT, national president of the Old Dalian Union, has paid tribute John Ranger, who is in line to succeed him as president in 2012.

John, he said, was a natural choice to be the junior and now senior vice-president, though he himself had assumed these roles reluctantly.

“He is very loyal and committed to the ODU with a deep-seated passion for the school and affairs of the union. Unafraid to challenge and speak his mind, he contributes to meetings positively with good ideas.

“An incredibly hard worker, he dislikes the lime-light, but is never shy to roll up his sleeves. At any function, John will be the person behind the scenes doing the work.”

sportsmen. John's son, John Keith, is the only son of the five brothers to have gone to Dale. Another Ranger is Charles Ranger, son of Lawrie Ranger (a cousin to the above) of Kei Road.

Here are some of the achievements, sporting and other, of Ranger family members associated with Dale College:

John Ranger (at Dale from 1963-69) has been a tireless worker for the Old Dalian Union for many years.

At Reunion last year he was elected junior vice-president. This year he was chosen as senior vice-president and is now in line to become national president next year. John has been on the ODU executive committee since 2000 and once had a stint as secretary.

At Dale he played rugby from the Under 10A team to the U/15As. He also played cricket and tennis and took part in swimming and athletics.

After leaving school he took a technical

course and played rugby for the Midlands Schools first team.

In 1972 John joined the Parabats, obtained his wings, and saw action on the border and into neighbouring countries.

After attending the BIFSA Training College in 1973 he went into the construction business and farming near Kei Road. He and his wife Leonie, who has been secretary of the Old Dalian Union since 2005, have three children, Angela, John, Nadine and a grandson Kai.

John's cousin, **Ray Ranger (at Dale from 1968 - 75)**, was headboy of Dale Junior in 1970 and deputy headboy of the College in 1975.

He played for the 1st cricket XI in 1972-1975 and was captain in 1974 and 1975.

At rugby he played for the First XV in 1974-1975, captaining the side in his final year. After school he played *To Page 16*



FLASHBACK TO REUNION 2002. Two Rangers were among honoured former Dale rugby captains. Here 2002 rugby captain Murray Ranger is hoisted by fellow captains after Dale's 10-nil victory over Queen's. His father Ray (1975) is seen in a blue shirt on the far right. Guy Ranger (2005) was absent. Ex-captains present were (back row from left): Marc Petzer (1997), Gavin Busse (1958-59), Bruce Butler (1967), Andrew Bennet (1990) and Steven Hatley (1991). Middle: Tom Warren (1954), Bryan Hurn (1950), Peter Skinner (1961), Peter Minnie (1998) and Jason Hosty (1999), shouldering Murray Ranger (2002), Grant Griffith (1993, leaning forwards), Rodney Long (1987, with cap), Deon Linde (1980-82) and Ray Ranger. Front: Viv Gehring (1956), Chow Bissell (1965), Adrian van Deventer (1996), Martin Sheard (1974) and John Mullins (1986).
* Picture: TransDale magazine

Rangers among honoured rugby captains

From Page 15 cricket for Border from 1976 to the late 1980s, captaining the side during the 1980s. He was vice-captain of SA Country Districts in January 1984, and also played for Western Transvaal. He played overseas in Scotland for a season.

Ray married Sandra Wardle, who matriculated in 1975 at KHS. She was a school prefect and represented KHS at hockey (first team) and tennis.

The Rangers' sons, Murray and Guy, have both been distinguished sportsmen at Dale and after leaving school.

Ray and Sandra sold their home farm near Amabele a few years ago and now live in Beacon Bay, East London.

Ray, now recovering with typical courage under treatment from cancer, is an agent selling solar energy and generators.

Elder son **Murray Ranger (at Dale, 1991- 2002)** was headboy of Dale Junior in 1997 and of the College in 2002.

He played rugby for the Dale First XV in 2001 and captained the side in 2002. After playing cricket for the Dale Junior Under 13A team and the Border U13s in 1997, he represented Dale College U/14As and Border PG Bison U/15s in 1998.

In 1999 he played for Dale College U/15As and Border PG Bison U/1 5s. After playing for Dale and Border Under 17s in 200 Murray was vice-captain of Dale firsts in 2001.

He withdrew from the Border U/1 8A Coke cricket team due to injury.

Again vice-captain of Dale firsts in 2002, he was awarded honours for cricket and



GUY RANGER ... Headboy, cricket and rugby captain

* Pictures from the Dale College Magazine



MURRAY ... Rugby captain and headboy

played for the Border U/18A Coke team. Playing for Border U/19s, he made the highest score of 167 not out against Griquas.

After leaving school Murray captained the Border team from 2003-08 and the Border amateur team in 2005-06. He recorded his best bowling

figures of 6 for 32 against a Boland amateur team and made his highest first-class score of 96 against Eastern Province.

Murray made his debut for the Warriors franchise team in the Standard Bank Pro 20 competition, and played the last two matches of the season against the Natal Dolphins and the Cape Cobras.

In England during 2003, he was the top scorer for the Worcester Cricket Club Taverners in the Birmingham Division One League.

From 2006-09 he played professionally for the Elworth Cricket Club, scoring the most runs in each season for the club.

This included 965 runs in 2006 (top score 112), 710 in 2007, 889 in 2008, when he captained the team, and 737 in 2009 when the club won the league. He took 35 wickets for his club in 2006, 65 in 2007 and 34 in 2008. Murray owns

To Page 17



RAY ... Deputy headboy, rugby and cricket captain



Kevin: Victor Ludorum three times

From Page 16

and runs a cricket academy in East London for youngsters aged five to 18. "I'm still playing cricket myself," he says.

A boarder at Dale from Sub A to matric, Murray says his best memories were his many friendships and the big derby days against Selborne and Queen's.

Guy Ranger (Dale, 1994 - 2005) was headboy of Dale Junior in 2000 and of the College in 2005.

At rugby he played flyhalf through all age groups and captained the Border U/13 side. He played for the Dale 1st XV from 2003 to 2005, when he captained the side.

He missed the Craven Week trials due to a fractured shoulder.

After school Guy went to the Sharks Academy, played for Sharks U/19 in 2006 and the Natal Duikers in 2007. He played rugby in Germany in 2006, and in France in 2008 - 2009.

At cricket Guy captained teams through his age groups, and played for the 1st XI from 2002 - 2005. He was vice-captain in 2003 and captain in 2004 and 2005. He captained Border U/11, U/13, U/15 and U/17 sides and played for the U/19 Coke side in 2004. Guy now works for the Investec International Rugby Academy in Joburg.

Kevin Ranger (1975) was a boarder at Diocesan Hostel, a hostel prefect in 1974 and a school prefect in 1975. He captained the athletics team and was awarded colours when Dale won the Hirsch Shield in 1974.



KEVIN RANGER
Athletics captain and three-times Victor Ludorum

He was Victor Ludorum from 1973 to 1975, represented Border in junior athletics at the SA Champs and was captain in 1974 and of the Border senior team in 1975.

At rugby he played 50 games on the wing for the First XV from 1973 to 1975. He was awarded colours and was vice-captain in 1975, toured Rhodesia 1973, Natal, Transvaal and Rhodesia in 1975.

After leaving Dale, Kevin served two years in the Army in Kimberley, and spent three years at Stellenbosch University. He is now working in Cape Town for various automotive companies and in 2000 opened his own automotive paint distribution company there.

Kevin and his partner Angela, who live in Durbanville, Cape, have a 17-year-old son at Paarl Boys' High. He enjoys road cycling and mountain biking and has completed 25 Argus cycle tours.

"I still enjoy a run on the rugby field with the

Villagers Old Crocks and plenty of beers afterwards," says Kevin.

John and Leonie's son, John Keith, (at Dale, 1997-2006) was known as John-John at school.. He came to Dale Junior in Grade 2 from Komga Junior School, played all sports and was a prefect in 1996 at DV Taylor House. He played hockey, rugby, cricket, swimming and tennis..

At the College John won first team hockey colours and played for the Under 16 Border team. At cricket he played for the Border Colts Under 16A team.

After leaving school John worked in the UK for two years at PGL, a market-leading provider of activity courses and holidays, and then for Jonginenge Eco Outdoor Adventures in East London, SA.

John now works for Club Med at Cherating Beach Hotel, Kuantan, Malaysia, organising tree-top climbing and other outdoor activities.

Alan Ranger (1965-1968) started at Dale Junior in Std 5, and was one of the first boarders at Dummy Taylor Hostel. He started at the College in 1966, played rugby, tennis and cricket, and matriculated in 1968.

After leaving school he studied land surveying at Natal University, but switched to civil engineering and graduated in 1974.

Alan and his wife Glynnis have two children, Shelley, married and living in Perth, Australia, and Shaun, who lives near New Orleans, US, after completing his studies.

Alan is with Rumdel Construction Cape as a site agent based in East London. He is company shareholder and is now working in Maseru, Lesotho, on a waste-water project due for completion this year.

The Kietzmans: Dalians from '62 to '70



TOGETHER AT REUNION ... Stud cattle breeder Alan Kietzmann, (third left, 1970), of Thornhill, near Port Elizabeth, with his cousins, brothers Malcolm (left, 1962), Kelvin (1969) and Trevor (1970). Alan donated a stud bull for auction at Reunion, raising R30 000 for Old Dalian funds. His wife Pam is from the Old Dalian Knott family.

*** Picture: KEVIN WHITEHEAD**

Dale Junior's Reunion day of triumph



VICTORS . . . Under 13A team. Flanked by coach Luyanda Mpande (left) and staff member Thembela Mbada with principal Pat Thatcher in the back row. Kneeling on right: Hennie Otto. Left to right: Khwezi Mafu (vice-capt. kneeling), Siviwe Mgudlwa, Lutho Nomoyi (captain), Anda Mbabaza, Sakhula Kwa-za, Hlumelo Mekuto, Lelona Mseti, Alshano Boswell, Lutho Lwana, Athi Halom, Masithembe Sontlaba, Ukhangyo Charles, Hluma Zondani, Lunathi Fonte.



PRINCIPAL Pat Thatcher with Under 13A captain Lutho Nomoyi (front left) and vice-captain Khwezi Mafu, with (back) Alshano Boswell and Hennie Otto

** Pictures: KEVIN WHITEHEAD and RICHARD DOMERIS*

50-nil in 28 min. – then the game is called off

By LUYANDA MPANDE (Under 13A coach)

FROM the Under Nine A team to the Under 13As, Reunion Saturday was an exciting day for Dale Junior rugby. They won eight out of 14 matches played, drew one and lost five.

The cherry on the top was the Under 13A team's 50-nil victory over Queen's.

This was a game to be remembered. The Dale side played with pace and aggression and executed their game plan 100 per cent. With Dale 50 points ahead the game was called off after 28 minutes.

Tries were scored by Khwezi Mafu, Lelona Mseti, Athi Halom, Lutho Nomoyi, Hluma Zondani and Hlumelo Mekuto.

Conversions were goaled by Mafu and Mekuto.

Mafu opened the scoring after ten minutes when he thundered past the Queen's defence. Mseti scored the second try and from then Dale were home and dry as they showed their class.

Throughout the morning a high standard was set with running rugby and hard tackling. Dale couldn't have

To Page 19



SHOWING THE FLAG ... Kuhle Nomtayi (left), Siviwe Rhawana, OnaBadi, Samukelko Thomas, Inga Qaboba, Billi Graham, Lisakhana Makwetu, Daniel Deutschmann

Dale passion keeps school spirit alive

By PATRICIA THATCHER, principal of Dale Junior (welcoming Old Dalians, Dale staff and parents at a reception launching Reunion 2011)

A great school is not great because of its achievements. The achievements are the fruits of the identity, values, and dynamism of the people who work together to form the school spirit. - Dr Walter Woollies, a former English teacher at Dale College.

OUR school spirit is alive and well, thanks to the passion of our staff, learners and Old Boys.

We have no place for mediocrity or negative passive attitudes; and to instil pride and confidence in our learners so that they are motivated to perform at their full potential is not an easy one.

Yet we remain confident and are proud of the achievements of the fine young men we have produced. 150 years after their

inception, our two schools continue to strive to uphold the values and traditions on which our foundations were built.

On behalf of Dale Junior and Dale College, I would like to thank you for the toast to our institution, for your continued interest in our school and 150 years of support. To all our returning Old Boys and their families, we wish you a wonderful Reunion.

It's time to celebrate and relive the past as well as to be part of our present and future and hopefully, make many memories this weekend that you will remember and cherish.

If the spirit of a Dalian is questioned, I would like to end with the words of a young Dalian, who was given the task to sum up the enigma that is Dale.

"A Dalian is a person who stands out from the crowd; Who shouts the loudest; Who is a true gentleman; Wearing red and black their pride never ends."



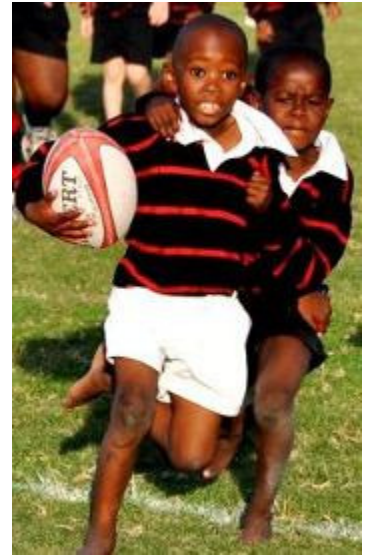
THE FEMININE TOUCH . . . Principal Pat Thatcher encourages her young pupils



UP AND COMING . . .

**Matthew Stevens (left),
Qaqawuli Loyilani,
Emihle Fani, Mihle Mat-
inise, Aliziwe Matwa
and Lukhanyo Kwaza**

*** Pictures:
RICHARD
DOMERIS**



GOTSHA?

**Lulibo Xotyeni
overhauls
Ayabulela Kalipa**

Our rugby stars of the future



**JUNIOR COACH
Mzuyanda Mtinka**

**BATTLE FOR
THE BALL
Avuyile Mki, Sibobuhle
and Billi Graham**

**CATCH IT!
Ona Badi outstrips
Siyambonga Stefane**



Younger sides outplay QC

AND ELSEWHERE ON THE DALE JUNIOR FRONT

From Page 18 had better opposition than the Queenians for the College's 150th birthday.

The outstanding 50-nil performance by the Dale U/13A team anticipated significantly Dale Junior's 50th anniversary next year.

All in all, it was a wonderful occasion of camaraderie and fellowship between the two schools.

* **Dale Junior results:** U/9A team won 14 – 10, U/9Bs won 34 – 0, U/10As won 5-0, U/10Bs lost 5 – 21, U/10Cs lost 0 – 12, U11As won 8- 5, U/11Bs won 15 – 0, U/11Cs won 22 – 0, U/12As lost 5 – 26, U/12Bs lost 0 – 17, U/12Cs lost 12 – 24, U13As won 50 – 0, U/13Bs won 15 – 0, U/13C s drew 10 – 10.



Staff member Carol Farrer leads Dale Junior boys in the War Cry

OLD DALIAN LEADER INDUCTED AS DALE JUNIOR SPARKS 150TH ANNIVERSARY



OVER TO YOU, PASTOR PAUL

Outgoing ODU national president Robert Gemmell inducts the Rev Dr Paul Smit as his successor in Dale's 150th anniversary year

*** Pictures: RICHARD DOMERIS and KEVIN WHITEHEAD**



Paul Smit in 4th term as ODU president

PASTOR Paul Smit (matric 1980) was elected for a fourth term as national president of the Old Dalian Union at its annual general meeting on Reunion Thursday.

John Ranger (1969), junior vice-president in 2010-11, was chosen as senior vice-president and Peter Minnie (1988) as junior vice-president.

Dr Smit, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in King William's Town, was inducted by outgoing national president Robert Gemmell at a reception held later that evening at Dale Junior as Dale's 150th Reunion celebrations got under way.

The Dale Junior party attracted a large gathering of Old Dalians from many parts of South

Africa and some from abroad. Earlier in the afternoon the Reunion kicked off at a successful tournament held at the King William's Town Golf Club.

Paul Smit's wife Rose is deputy headmistress of Dale's sister school, KHS (Kingsridge High School for Girls.)

John Ranger (1963-1969), a farmer and long-time Old Dalian stalwart, has been a member of its executive committee for 11 years. His wife Leonie has been secretary of the ODU office in King William's Town for six years.

Peter Minnie, 1998 headboy and first-team captain of rugby and waterpolo, has been a member of the ODU executive since 2009.



FAMILY MAN . . . Paul with Rose with their eldest daughter Alison, ex-KHS, now a student at the Nelson Mandela Metro University in PE



Dale Junior hosts a cheerful party on the first Reunion evening

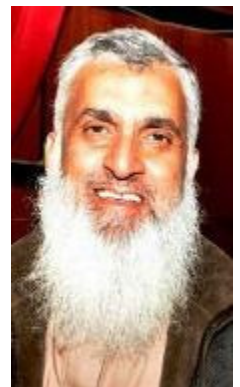


DALE JUNIOR STAFF . . . Brendan Cloete, Ignatius Genade and Luyanda Mpande, head rugby coach

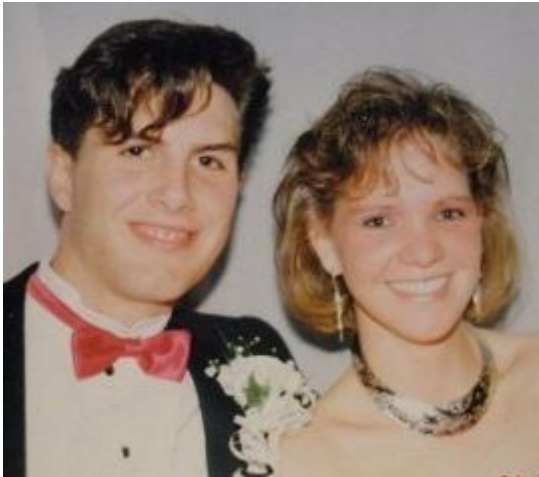


Teacher Mary McLean and Deputy head Craig Graham

ISMAIL MUNGA... Chairman of the Governing Body for seven years



BACK AT DALE AFTER 22 YEARS



JOHN WRIGHT, an American exchange student at Dale in 1988-89, returned this year after 22 years to celebrate the College's 150th anniversary.

Over the Reunion weekend he met old schoolmates, his former matric dancing partner, then Hilary Alexander, and her husband Patrick McKenna, who came with her from Cape Town.

Here John looks back on his experiences as a Rotary visiting student and his nostalgic return. Hilary tells her story on Page 22.

THE WAY THEY WERE . . . Matric dancing partners (pictured on the left and right) John Wright and Hillary Alexander in 1989

The Yank who didn't want to go home

By JOHN WRIGHT

REUNION 2011 was quite an experience for me and many memories were relived.

I arrived at Dale in June 1988 and was placed with the following year's matric class. I would be in King for a year.

The school and the Rotary Club, which arranged the exchange, thought it best for me to remain with the same group of boys at Dale.

I made very good friends and enjoyed some incredible experiences, including the chance to watch and play rugby.

I scored in two of my three games - one against Queen's.

The school was very different from my own alma mater. Originally I lived in Jefferson, a town near the Catskill Mountains, just south of Albany.

I now live in Central New York state, south of Syracuse. It is called the Finger Lake region due to the Glacier Lakes left behind from the last Ice Age.

Jefferson is a K-12 (primary-matric) school with only about 300 students in my day and it was co-ed.

I enjoyed a strong sense of school spirit, and friendships (which are still strong today.) But nothing I experienced prepared me for what took place at Dale.

At Jefferson we did not have uniforms, nor restrictions on hair or personal jewellery, which led to some issues with the headmaster at Dale. The sense of connection at Dale was incredible; the tradition; the camaraderie was amazing.

The way the lads had this easy way with each other. I have always valued strong friendships and this I found at Dale.

The school spirit was equally strong.



AT REUNION 2011 . . . John with fellow Old Dalians Niels Interbiethen, Wayne van der Hoven and Dale Ladner

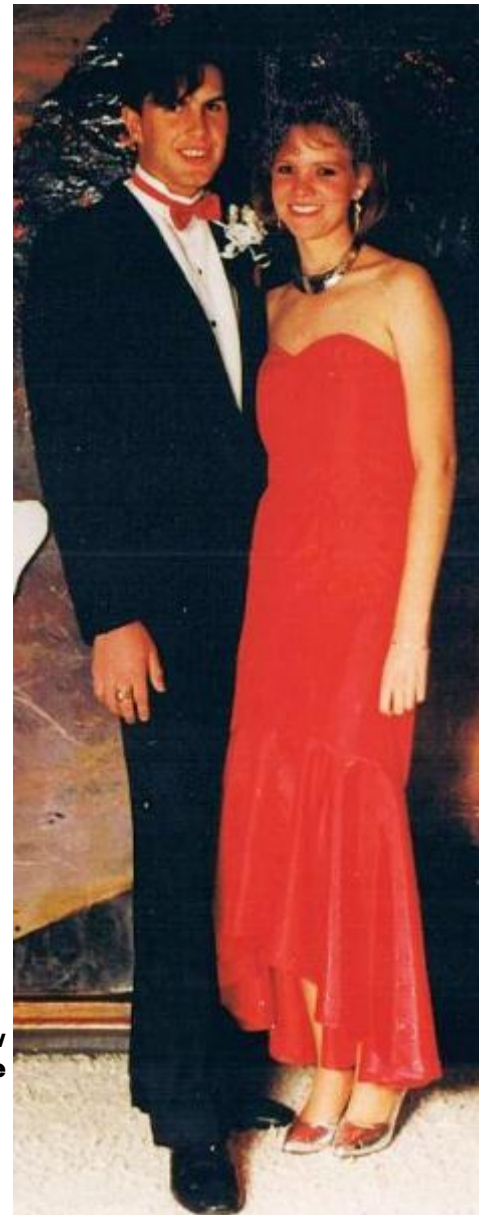


**LIKE OLD TIMES . . . John with Tayler Tait
Picture: RICHARD DOMERIS**

The sing-songs at the games . . . the War Cry at Assembly and at the Vic Grounds for the rugby first- teamers . . . all the traditions.

My kind hosts during my exchange stay included Old Dalian Jackie Hendricks (matric 1961), his wife Sandy and Stuart and Heather Farrow, who again hosted me on his return this year. The Hendricks' son James is also an Old Dalian (1991).

Leaving Dale in May 1989 was one of the hardest things I have ever done. I had felt so accepted and close to my friends and hosts that I didn't want to go, even though I missed my



own family.

I have often struggled to explain the experience to people at home. Fortunately my family and friends accepted what I could tell them.

I was equally fortunate that my wife and family understood my need to return this year to King for Reunion.

I had lost touch with most of my South African friends my time over the past 22 years and had missed the ten-year Reunion when an amazing thing happened with Facebook!

Almost overnight I tracked down friends from Dale and SA. Incredibly they not only remembered me, but were eager to reconnect.

I was virtually threatened to show up for our 20-year class reunion in 2009. Unfortunately I could not make the Reunion that year and it ate at me.

I started thinking a lot more of my time in SA, particularly Reunion. I remembered meeting former To Page 22

REUNION: A GIRL'S-EYE VIEW

Great fun, but one nostalgic visit left her 'a bit sad'

HILARY ALEXANDER (as she was then) tells how she and her husband Patrick McKenna, drove from Cape Town to King William's Town to attend the Dale Reunion and meet old schoolgirl friends and, after 22 years, her former dance partner. Here are edited extracts from her story of a memorable weekend, mostly joyful, at times hilarious, but when she visited her old school hostel, a little sad.

HILLARY was a boarder at Dale's sister school, the Kaffrarian Girls School for Girls, now called Kingsridge, but still proudly known as KHS. She spent five years at Clarendon House with about 70 other girls, 1 000 kms from her Johannesburg home. Her brother went to Dale as a boarder.

Hillary was 12 years old when she was dropped off abruptly as her parents had to drive home soon.

"I felt bereft. I cried for two hours" until she realised she had to "get on with it."

"And I did – and loved it," she says.

During her King visit, Hillary took a trip down memory lane visiting old haunts. "I've been back in King five times since I left school and visiting the hostel was is like a little ritual for me.

"Over the years it's been expanded, but the grand old dame has started to show her years.

"With just 26 girls living there now, many of the dorms are locked up, the extensions blocked off and the spaces empty.

Unused furniture is stacked away, doorways are closed up. It just seems a bit too big for its purpose, like the clothes that hang off an old lady's shoulders.

"As I walked through the jet room (seniors only), the prep- room, the dining- room and what was the TV lounge, the dorms and bathrooms I could hear our laughter, our tears and sense our hormone-fuelled teenage anxieties.

"I felt the excitement of getting ready for the discos, or the exhaustion of another netball game lost to our big rivals. I saw the frosty lawn where we rehearsed our drummies sequences. I felt the thrill of the tall dark handsome (or depending on the year, the blond, blue-eyed) beau coming to visit on a Sunday afternoon."



AT REUNION 2011 . . . Ex-dancing partners John and Hilary

I left, a little sad and disappointed about how the place had changed. But after 22 years this must be expected.

"I stopped by a house where a boy I loved lived. And did the familiar walk to the rugby fields, past the house where I found out about a boy friend's infidelity.

"Past the corner where we would meet the boys, exchanging love letters and coy, flirtatious glances. Past the house where Ronnie lived. He who tragically died too early.

Past the boys' hostel, my memory recalls hearing catcalls, we filed past in our pristine uniforms. But it was mostly a time of fun and laughter as friendships were renewed and enjoyed with Patrick the atmosphere of an historic weekend.

She had not seen many of her schoolmates since her final year. "Among many others I was excited about seeing my matric dance partner - a tall, dark, handsome exchange student from America. He swept into the town and many girls off their feet.

"He danced the night away with me (in 1989.) Then he left. We drifted into our own lives and lost contact. He found me on Facebook a couple of years ago and said last year that he was coming to the Reunion.

Here are edited extracts of Hillary's impressions of the Reunion, which her parents had loved, along with Dale's traditions. She had shared their feelings.

"The weekend is about remembering those who have gone before and enjoying the spectacle of Dale getting/giving a hiding from/to their biggest rugby rivals," she says..

"It is about getting together with friends who you haven't seen for donkey's years, sharing stories, screaming your support until you're hoarse, drinking beer, and high-fiving into the wee hours.

"THE MEMORIAL SERVICE: The most poignant part is the reading of the Roll of Honour. So many names. So many lives. So much promise taken away violently and too early.

The haunting sounds of the Last Post fill the air as we do sincerely remember those who have fallen.

"Later, headmaster Mike Eddy) formally welcomes the Old Boys. They stand up to our applause as the decades are called – from 1943 to 2010. One Old Boy, Uncle Jack Rosenberg, has been coming to Reunion every year since 1946. Now that's what I call school spirit!

"The littlest of the junior boys file on to the podium, forming a mini display of Dale pride. They bring the house down with their War Cry, directed by tail-coated, top-hatted cheerleaders who conducted with haphazard abandonment. Priceless."

After the Friday afternoon entertainment Hillary headed back to the Malcom Andrew Sports Centre "to find three musketeers from Joburg just where I'd left them, in the corner of the bar. Dale Reunion is all about getting together after donkeys' years.

"DINNER in the school hall: Walking down corridor at night, lined with pictures of sports teams from past years. The polished cabinets, the chaise longue in the reception area, the portraits and certificates, the trophies. Suddenly I was there, rushing down the corridor with friends, gossiping about

To Page 23

My pilgrimage to my Mecca

From Page 21 Springbok rugby player CB Jennings, having recognised him from pictures on the wall in the Old Dalian Hall. I felt that if he could make it here many times, I'd do it at least once.

I have joked that it was my mid-life crisis. Call it my pilgrimage to my Mecca. There would be no safari, no trip to the Cape with my family, and no real panoramic photo shots.

This was simply about Dale and reconnecting with some of the best mates I have made. Many of my boets couldn't or didn't make the trip, unfortunately for them and for me. I enjoyed my time with the lads that made it. We were back with more hair and less excess weight. The most profound change I noticed at the school was the loss of the hostels. It was strange to see one converted to shops.

I must confess to some chills when I walked down to the fields one night - the only difference was the Astroturf hockey field. My friends, Tayler Tait, Dale Ladner, Wayne van der Hoven, Howard Hughes and others were there. The composition of the boys did not surprise me. A Dalian is a Dalian no matter his colour. All in all, it was an experience being back that I will treasure until my next visit.



CLASS OF 1988/89 . . . John Wright (centre, kneeling) with schoolmates. Who are they? Please email joe@sutton.co.za



**HUSBAND
CAME , TOO**

**Patrick McKenna
joined his wife Hilary
on her nostalgic trip to
her old school and the
Dale Reunion**

**RIGHT : Here they
are seen with John
Wright's former
school friends Dale
Ladner and Wayne
van der Hoven**



Ex-KHS Hillary: A week I won't forget

From Page 22 who got off with whom."

"Dinner over . . . into the mayhem that was the marquee. Flanked by my husband and my dance partner, I shook off the formality of the dinner and shifted into party mode.

"More hugging. More kissing. More high-fiving. More beer. And that's just the girls! As for the boys, well, picture a group of 40-somethings who've been at it since 12 o'clock.

"SATURDAY: The rugby. There were familiar faces all around-girls between the fields, in the marquee, in the grandstands, in the bar. Guys crowding around the bar, trying to find some food, sitting around watching the games.

"And then came the tokatokatoka of a helicopter above. It circled once. Twice. Then came in to land on the field. The cheerleaders stepped out to rapturous applause, tail coats flapping in the wind and conducting batons held aloft. Now this how you run a rugby spectacular!

"While the cheerleaders completed their grand entrance, Old Boys rushed on to the field. Led by a bloke in a big yellow sombrero, they arranged themselves into a circle. "This was the War Cry, like so many other traditions recalled on this 150th anniversary weekend, bigger and louder than ever before. *Aha aha aha, kangela eDale College...* the chant rang out, twice, to tumultuous applause, and a police escort had to clear the field!

"Whistle blown, the match got under way. Thirty strapping lads, strong,



ROTARY HOSTS . . . John Wright (back) with Jackie and Sandy Hendricks (left), and Heather and Stuart Farrow. Both couples hosted John during his exchange visit to Dale. John stayed again with the Farrowes on his return for Reunion this year. The Hendricks' Old Dalian son James is seen on the right.

powerful, in their prime, pushed and shoved, ran and kicked, scrummed, rucked and mauled their way through 80 minutes.

"With a final score of 7-3 to Dale, the game was tight, but we won. We beat Queen's! We invaded the pitch. We cheered the team. We toasted their success.

"We moved to the marquee and the last night of our grand Reunion began. A brilliant band and the laughter of friends. The taste was steak rolls and the sweetness of a shared history.

"We moved in and out of the crowds, meeting more people we hadn't yet seen. We danced like no-one was watching. We shared quiet, inward moments.

The band played their last encore, barmen called last rounds and the stragglers left the building. What a weekend! Thank you, everyone who made it one to remember.

"We prepared to say goodbye again to the small town that held such big memories. I thought it would be a quick touch, but John's kind hosts invited us to lunch.

"With the familiar feel of King's balmy autumn days, under grey clouds, we shot the breeze a little bit more, eating the first properly- nutritious meal of the weekend and sedately sipping a glass of juice.

"We exchanged business cards with the hosts, and there were big hugs all round at the end.

"Thanks to the family for such gracious, spontaneous hosting. And thanks again to John for coming back. Not to mention his wife and children for letting us borrow him for the weekend. "We hit the road for the next 22 years apart. Or as they say at the best of all family gatherings:

Last touch!"



**JOHN
with a
former
school-
mate,
Howard
Hughes**

**And with
Hilary and
another
Old Dalian
friend,
Wayne
van der Hoven**





A SQUAD OF SUPERSTARS . . . from spring chickens to old fossils: Darren Ogden, (left), Tayler Tait, Jared Greyvenstein, Michael (Bushcat) Nel, Grant (Griffy) Griffith, Robin (Swannie) Swanepoel, Steve (Big Daddy) Turner, Gavin Jones and Luthando Mondliwa
 * Pictures: RICHARD DOMERIS and KEVIN WHITEHEAD

Old rivals call back the past

By **NICK EYRE (matric 1999 and Sevens Springok)**

WOULD I like to play in an exhibition game on Reunion Friday against our oldest foes, Queen's College? Of course I agreed.

To once again have a chance to relieve the memories of some of my fondest rugby days on that field of dreams while growing up as a boy wasn't going to go amiss.

For the game we were given a special edition 150th Reunion jersey which incorporated both the red hoops of Dale and the yellow of Queen's and the Dale College 150th Reunion badge.

This once-in-a-lifetime piece of memorabilia that we received will be treasured for the rest of our lives. Thanks again Steve Turner, convener of the Old Dalian Union's activities for the 150th anniversary, who invited us to this Legends encounter.

I walked into the change-room to the smell of Deep Heat and the sounds of friendly banter and nervous laughter.

Most of the guys had not played in over a decade, some in over 20 years.. I stopped and looked around. There sat Grant (Griffy), Griffith, 1993 Dale captain and now the Dale First XV coach, Barry Hayidakis, Patrick Stotter, Brendon Witles, Bruce Freitag, Ryan Pickering, Robin Swanepoel, Steve (Big Daddy) Turner and Michael (Bushcat) Nel.

Wow! These guys were my idols as a young kid at Dale Junior. I watched them all play while sitting in the stands cheering my heart out. In touch rugby games I was always Griffy.

A few guys were smuggling nibbles from Weber braais. Bruce said that round is a shape. I couldn't wait. Even cricket star Makhaya (Macky) Ntini with his massive ever-present smile was putting on his red-and-black rugby socks.

Other boys from my Dale playing days were out for the occasion, too. From Francis Kingston, who took many tackles on my behalf at school, and Adam Robertson, my flyhalf from the age of ten playing barefoot rugby to wearing the Golden Heron on our hearts.

Adrian van Deventer (another ex-Dale rugby skipper), Wesley Peak, Maidu Ndungane, Darren



I'M EXHAUSTED . . . Nick Eyre

and Glynn Ogden., among others were all there. My very first friend at Dale and still my best friend, Stuart (Wagem) Lustgarten, was getting changed next to me. I thought, "This is going to be a good day."

Some great younger Old Dalians were part of this superstar team. It didn't matter if you were a spring chicken or a fossil in rugby terms; we were all ready once again to go into battle for the red and the black.

The game started with a few gentle tackles and the sense that most were avoiding contact as much as possible.

This didn't last long! The tackles became harder, the game faster and ruck times became a shooting range; bodies were the bullets.

Fortunately casualties were few. Blood did flow, however, which again showed the commitment of the boys. Swanny Swanepoel wouldn't leave the field even though he was cut and bleeding profusely.

I would go to war with him any day; and we'd win. I have seen very few people hit a ruck like I saw Stotter's hit that day, he is an animal.

This only pushed the game to the next level. We loved it.

QC scored first and converted. The first half flew by. Robbie Kempston, the legendary Springbok prop, gave me and a few boys a hard time only like Robbie can, always with a smile and a wink, of course.

We pulled together and put together a few great passages of play, one being where Griffy ran half the length of the field. Twenty years ago we would have been giving Griffy high fives under the posts but the engine ran out of steam and he was caught five yards from the finish line.

The second half went a lot better for us and we were in the Queen's 22m for most of the time. All credit to the QC boys, they tackled like demons.

We finally got our well-deserved try. Quick ball from the ruck to Ryan Pickering and great hands from our backs saw Adrian van Deventer get the ball with a two-to-one overlap.

The pass was perfect and Luthando Mondliwa used his pace to finish off the well-worked team effort. We took the conversion too casually and missed which would come back to haunt us later.

The boys kept pushing hard and the rolling subs were flowing like cold beer on a hot summer's day. The beers were flowing, too, mostly for the pain.

We had some forward momentum; our pack began to dominate ruck time with the boys knocking the white jerseys over like skittles.

Griffy called for the ball from a scrum and the backs set up in the centre of the field. Our pack cleaned superbly and the ball was passed to Jaques van Coller, who went blind and scored our second.

He got straight up, walked back and converted his own try. Jaques is a kid to look out for in the future. Dale Legends 12, Queens Legends 7.

The next 20 minutes made me once again feel so proud to wear the red and the black. The boys defended as though it was their last game they would ever play - and for most it probably was.

Only an absolute cracker of a try from the Queen's winger, who beat six of our players was enough to give them the lead and the win.

He danced his way through our resolute but now exhausted defences. Queens converted the try. We lost the first two halves by two

To Page 25



DALE LEGENDS . . . Reliving memories of days on the rugby field * Pictures: RICHARD DOMERIS, KEVIN WHITEHEAD

From Page 24 points but won the third by six beers which was played in the Dellwood's Pub.

That was a tough half! The QC lads CAN drink.

Thank you to the Queen's boys for making the effort and coming out for our special weekend. Thanks Bubbles and Miggie, it would never have been the same without you guys.

Game losers – beer winners!

Thanks to the referee and the amazing support from the whole school and cheering crowd.

Finally a huge thanks to all my fellow Old Boys who took to the field with me.

It is one of my most treasured memories. It was a great honour to play the game with you all.

We were once again "The 15 down there on the field" - if only for one last time.

See you all at Dale's 175th for the rematch!



TRY TIME!
Jacques van Coller scores

Luthando Mondliwa heads for the tryline



Captain: Grant Griffith



Raring to go: Bruce Freitag



Pass that ball! Francis Kingston



Smiling salute: Makhaya Ntini



Big Daddy: Steve Turner



Luthando Mondliwa



Ex-capt. Adrian van Deventer