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TransDale Extra

CAPE to CAIRO - by bike

Three farmers and a Greek - two Old Dalians and two friends - travel a hard way

OLD DALIAN farmer Richard Bennett was sitting in his bakkie, waiting for his staff to gather a flock of sheep, when he received a phone call from his friend Old Dalian Stelios Georgiou.

They were having a relaxed conversation, talking about business and why life is such a race. Stelios mentioned to Richard how he always dreamed of riding into his home town in Cyprus on a motorbike, from Fort Beaufort.

Richard responded and said he often thought about a similar trip through Africa from the southern-most tip to the most northern tip.

He had recently watched the DVD of Charlie Borman and Ewin McGregor with their epic journey on the long way down Africa. Both went quiet for a moment, then Richard said: "Swaer, we must do it!"

A few days later Richard saw a friend, Rufus Dreyer, at a braai and told him about his dream. With big eyes, Rufus said he would be in, if given half an opportunity, not realising the consequences. Richard, very excited, could not wait to phone his good friend Norman Emslie, who immediately showed

To Page 2



ADVENTURERS Richard Bennett (left), Stelios Georgiou and Rufus Dreyer

THE GREEK: A passion for biking

STELIOS GEORGIU (42), Dale matric 1987, First XV 1985 - 87, co-owns a family Spar in Fort Beaufort with his brother George, matric 1994. Born in Cyprus, he emigrated at age three with his family to Fort Beaufort, where he lives with his wife and first-born.

A few years ago he developed a passion for biking. With a sense of adventure, he has never turned down a challenge and was ready to bite the dust to Cairo with "a great bunch of guys."

THE FARMER: No biker, but ready to ride

RICHARD BENNETT (50), Dale matric 1979, is a sheep and cattle farmer near Adelaide in the Eastern Cape. Farming is his passion and the only bike he had ever ridden was an old one on the farm.

So it surprised his family when he bought a bright green KLR to attempt this trip. With a year of preparation, and the support of his wife and children, the other two farmers and the Greek, he was ready to tackle the exciting dream of Cape to Cairo on a bike.



Stelios Georgiou



Richard Bennett



Rufus Dreyer



Norman Emslie

THE ADVENTURERS: Four challenged the unknown

THE group consisted of four extreme personalities:

RUFUS DREYER, aged 42, matriculated in 1987 from Cradock High. A Winterberg farmer, he has spent his life on the farm Killaloe, Post Retief, near Fort Beaufort. He and his wife, with their three sons, have moved to a dairy farm near Oyster Bay. Rufus has always loved challenges. Described as “MacGyver,” he heads up the group as organiser, cook, photographer and a few more responsibilities, the IT boff, the WEB boss and, the ‘smoothest’ of the group.

One prediction: “Thank goodness they’ve got this man, otherwise they probably wouldn’t get further than Stellenbosch.”

NORMAN EMSLIE (54) another Winterberg farmer, all of 130 kgs, described as “a calm, quiet anchor man, a giant of a man, physically and a heart of gold, I think they are taking Norman as a stabilising factor...One, as the bouncer, and two, to keep the centre of gravity of the group low enough so they don’t topple over!! He is also being taken along to consume beer.”

RICHARD BENNETT (Dale matric 1949): “A hyperactive fox terrier, a real character. Hopefully Norman will keep him away from

any dreadlocked pigmented Central African roadblock cops! Richard is notorious for his love of red wine! It’s difficult to get him to stop talking after a bottle of red. A man of great character with huge enthusiasm and an infectious laugh... an extrovert *makhulu* who, when patience is needed, he’s always gone before the time, but with a spirit that will not easily be exhausted.

STELIOS GEORGIU (1987): “Medic, mechanic and rudder for the group, a great guy and the sort of bloke one would take into a war . . . calm, objective and a punch bag for Richard.” The father of seven-month-old Isabella.

At Dale College he was a member of the First Rugby Team for three years – 1985-87 – winning half-colours in 1985 as a prop forward.

He won full colours in 1986 and in 1987 as a member of coach Kenny Ball’s outstanding team which beat Queen’s and Selborne twice in the season. He played in Craven Week for Border for his final two seasons and was awarded a trophy for rugby performance in the last.

Stelios is described as “small but a tower of strength up-front, a hard grafter who needs to build up aggression.”

Bikers felt the heat in Africa ride

From Page 1 interest but wanted to pass it by his “boss.”

After some nifty footwork and competent negotiation skills by Norman,, the answer to Richard was ...”I’m in!!!”

So this is how the Three Farmers and a Greek came to being. And the trip was on!

It was soon pretty clear that the “Cape to Cairo” foursome had equipped themselves with all the alluring gadgets thinkable. The only problem was that they clearly did not know how all these gadgets worked.

Stelios had several attempts at putting up his new tent but never got it right. At the end, it very much resembled something like a cross between a rather flat Red Indian tepee and a Bushman “skerm”.

As the tour went on, the foresomes’ ability to ride and deal with crises was evident.

They were pelted with stones, chased and spat at by villagers in remote areas, scorched by the sun and lashed by gale-force winds.

But for three farmers and a Greek businessman, who rode 13 000km in 46 days from Cape Town to Cairo on motorbikes, it was all part of the adventure.

Life is short, thought Richard, opportunities seldom reoccur and tomorrow might be too late.

The four friends undertook the journey to raise R1.2-million for a water preservation system for the Adelaide Hospital, a small 60-bed provincially-aided rural hospital in the Eastern Cape.

The hospital was built by the community with the Cape Provincial Administration in 1959. It is subsidised 90 percent by the Department of Health as most patients are poor. It aims to provide a comprehensive medical service to about 20,000 people.

The four eventually collected R200 000 and on their blog – “Three Farmers and a Greek,.” They described their trip as “mind



PASSPORT DRAMA . . . Norman Emslie (right, seen here with Stelios) had to cut short his trip.

-blowing.”

They told of being attacked as they raced through villages in Ethiopia. “We sensed a change in the people’s attitude towards us in the more isolated villages deep into the mountains.

“Some were even spitting at us and we were all hit by stones. It is a helpless feeling when you sit, exposed on the bike, with stones flying past you.”

Border officials in Sudan presented another challenge. The men wrote: “In one of the offices, the official was sitting back with his bare feet on the desk while asking questions in limited English.”

Norman Emslie’s journey was shortened by

a week because his passport was stolen from an official’s desk at the Ethiopian-Sudan border.

“It was unbearably hot, 52°C and chaos in the immigration office on the Ethiopian side with people pushing and shouting.

“It seemed that the fixer that shouted the loudest got the job done first. The official behind the desk could not be bothered.

“Norman went back to fetch Stelios’s documentation at the bikes and when he returned was shocked cold. He could not find his passport. He had placed it on the official’s desk with all his documentation and it had disappeared? There was a commotion and nobody saw anything. What now!/? At 13:00 the official chased everybody out and went off for his lunch break. He couldn’t have cared less.

“It looked grim: Norman could not continue, without a passport or visa. We tried to get an affidavit signed with copies of his passport and visas but no joy.

“The official who signed him out would not sign him back in because he could not prove he had a passport! After another hour he finally said goodbye and set off.. “We were all emotional but what can you do?” Norman had to go home. His woes weren’t confined to the disappearance of his passport: “My motorbike (a Kawasaki KLR650) broke in half ... but we put it back together,” he said.

Despite the challenges, Norman added, the scenery on the trip through eight countries was breathtakingly beautiful.

“The views were spectacular and we must have climbed over four or five huge mountain passes with the road snaking up and down the sides with cliffs.”

The rest of the severely burnt team, having reached Cairo on a Sunday, flew home and landed in Port Elizabeth on the Thursday morning.

MAKAYA'S LAST HURRAH

But he's still going strong for Border, on TV and in print

*** A YEAR has passed since Old Dalian MAKHAYA NTINI retired from international cricket. As the first black African to play cricket for South Africa, he has been a national hero.**

Makhaya, who polished his fast-bowling skills while at Dale College, is still excelling in provincial matches for the Border-based Warriors.

He comments on cricket matches on SuperSport TV and writes a column for the Johannesburg-based daily newspaper, The Times.

After his first taste of TV commentary in a Proteas match against Sri Lanka Makhaya wrote: "I'm not sure if it's for me. I guess I'll get the hang of it, but it was very strange to be on the other side of the fence.

I guess the best route for a commentator is to be com-

pletely honest. If you say what you believe is happening out there, without having any axe to grind, then no-one can point a finger at what you say."

Since then Makhaya has grown in confidence on screen. After years of public exposure he is remarkably fluent for someone who came to Dale as a boy, speaking no English. His newspaper columns are equally fluent and well argued and presented.

This article sums up Ntini's historic and distinguished career and describes his farewell match for South Africa in a Twenty 20 encounter against India at the Moses Mabida Stadium, Durban, in January 2011.

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By ANDY BALL at the Moses Mabida

FOUR overs, no maidens, no wickets, 46 runs. They are a sorry looking set of figures. Given that it was a Twenty20 match and India won by 21 runs you could even say they cost the match, especially as the second of those overs went for 20, and was the most expensive bowled all day.

But then Makhaya Ntini was always about more than just the numbers. There was only one that ever really mattered.

Ntini was the first black South African to play cricket for South Africa. After 90 years of segregation and discrimination, he was the first man across the Rubicon.

In his final press conference Ntini said that while he would have liked to have beaten Shaun Pollock's record for most Test wickets by a South African, his favourite moment of his career was his first match. 101 and 390 – the number of Test matches he played and wickets he took – well, those were just more numbers.

"For each and every cricketer, if you want to play for your country, the first highlight is getting the cap, the green-and-gold cap. That for me stands out. Whatever I might have achieved after that, my aim was to wear that green-and-gold cap."

If you're looking for a statistic from his final international appearance that tells you something about his contribution to South African cricket you need to scan the small print at the bottom of the scorecard where they tell you the attendance.

The crowd at the Moses Mabida Stadium was the largest ever to gather to watch a cricket match in Africa. It was 47,000 strong, and yet none of them cared a great deal about the result.

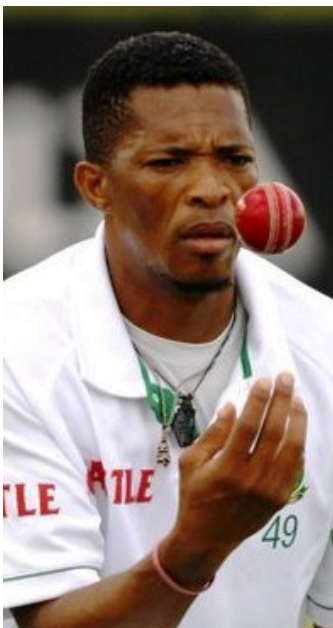
It was almost an exhibition game, staged in a stadium built for the World Cup and sold as both a tribute to Sachin Tendulkar and a celebration of 150 years of Indian immigration to South Africa.

But most were there to cheer Ntini, a pioneer whose achievements mean as



CAREER HIGHLIGHT . . . Makhaya kisses the hallowed turf at Lords ground, London, after taking his tenth wicket in the second Test against England in 2000

A genuine national hero



MAKHAYA NTINI . . . cricket pioneer

much to his own people as Tendulkar's do to his.

Ntini has been around so long, and become such a fixture of international sport, that it is easy to forget his roots. Not that he has ever been guilty of doing that.

Ntini's penultimate delivery was slapped

over mid-wicket for six by Suresh Raina, an insulting smear-slog of a shot. As ever, Ntini turned and ran back to his mark.

Never mind the runs conceded, the crowd rose to their feet and roared him in to the crease, falling silent only as he leapt into that quirky, kinked, delivery stride of his.

That sideways movement is ingrained into his action, a relic of his schoolboy days when the new set of spikes he was given by his first coach would cause sparks to fly as his feet pounded down on the concrete wickets in King William's Town.

That was two decades ago. Not long beforehand Ntini had been earning his keep as a goat herd in the village of Mdingi, keeping his feet warm on the cold nights, he says, by standing in cow pats.

In Ntini's village cricket you got a four if you hit a pig and a six if you struck a goat, or so the story goes. He never was much of a batsman. In 337 first class and Test innings he has never scored more than 34.

But the 20-mile-round run from Mdingi into King William's Town built up reserves of stamina that would see him through 12 years as a fast bowler. He was still sprinting in last Sunday, even if his

To Page 2

To Page 4

The 'guy who always cheered the boys up'

From Page 3 bowling itself has lost all its snap, crackle and pop, his miles per hour pace well down in the 70s.

He was first picked to play for South Africa in 1998. He was 19, and when he was told he had been selected he incredulously asked "Is this a joke? I don't believe you." Plenty of other people, with attitudes hungover from the apartheid era, felt the same thing. Almost exactly a year later he was charged with rape. His dream story took a nightmare twist.

He was innocent, and was acquitted on appeal. After 20 months out he came back into the team in 2000. Over the course of the last decade he has made himself a genuine national hero, and one worthy of the name - unlike a couple of others the Proteas have produced since they returned to international cricket.

He is one of the most popular players in the sport. And for a time too, around 2006, he was one of the very best fast bowlers in the world. But we should cut short the hagiography there.

"I don't want to be remembered as a person who did A, B, C, D," he said last week. "All I want to be remembered as is Makhaya Ntini, who played for South Africa. A guy who always cheered the boys up."

After he had finished his final innings – an undefeated one – he leapt on the back of a golf buggy and took a lap around the ground, waving to the rapturous crowd. He stopped to make a



IN ACTION . . the effervescent Makhaya Ntini

short speech to the crowd – "I would like to take this opportunity to say to each and every one of you, thank you, thank you, thank you for all your support" – in which, as he promised, he did not shed a tear ("Crying?" he had scoffed in his pre-match press conference. "I am not a baby.")

And then he disappeared down the tunnel one last time in a blaze of ticker tape. In retirement he was planning to start a cricket academy near Mdingi.

Whatever lessons he passes on, none will be as important as the one he has been hammering home for the last ten years – that the colour of your skin has nothing to do with it.

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LETTERS TO TRANSDALE EXTRA

Dale news is food for the soul - Ivan

OLD DALIAN Ivan Reynolds (1977)

e-mails from the United Arab Emirates;
THANK you for TransDale Extra. I am living in Dubai and work in Ruwais, about 350 kilometres away. I go home for weekends. To receive news like this is food for the soul.

I worked briefly here with another Old Dalian (Bob Lucas) and we shared a house until he moved back to Dubai. It amazed me that of all the far-flung and forlorn places on the planet, I should end up here with another Old Dalian.

I was intrigued by in the article in your last issue about Captain Graeme Kaufmann. (an Old Dalian SAAF hero in the Second World War.)

I, too, am interested in South African military history, particularly military and in South Africans who served on the SWA border.

As a medic at Grootfontein Hospital in 1979 I spent time with Old Dalians Bryan Gibson and David Clements when they came through with combat injuries, Bryan (matric 1976) was awarded the Honorus Crux for bravery in action.

He was an excellent rugby player at Dale. It was exciting to see him on the attack and he was brilliant on defence. He was also a black belt in karate. Where is he now?



IVAN REYNOLDS, (1977), who attended Reunion 2011 with his three brothers, all nicknamed Rocky. Rodney (1975) is regarded as the "real" Rocky.

Ivan was also known by classmates as Pebbles and Klippie. The others are George (1971) and Anton (1973). Their father, George Reynolds, is also an Old Dalian (1946).

I'll be at Reunion on Dale's 160th!

JOHN WRIGHT, who spent a year (1988-89) at Dale as an American exchange student, e-mails from the United States:

Thank you for the continued TransDales about what is happening at Dale and about old Dalians.

Unfortunately I can't make it (to Reunion) this year, but I will try to return for the 160th at the least. I am confident that Dale, like the mountains, will still be there Amadoda!

(* johnwrightjr@verizon.net)

Other messages to TransDale included:

* **Dr PAUL SMIT** of King William's Town, 2011-12 ODU national president: "Thank you for the most recent TransDale. Old Dalians everywhere enjoy this mammoth effort."

* **ROBIN ISHERWOOD** of Bolton, Lancashire, England, world-wide cricket statistician, contributor to and regular recipient of TransDale; "Another fantastic effort."

* **GAVIN SCHMIDT** (matric 1979) of Botswana: "Always glad to get this. Not many Old Dalians here but I have tracked down Dave Eyre in Francistown."

* **MALCOM ANDREW** of Port Elizabeth, Dale College headmaster from 1982 to 1996: As usual a stunning document that should please every loyal Old Dalian."

* **DUDLEY SCHROEDER** of Cape Town, former deputy headmaster of Dale College and later headmaster of Queen's: "As always a splendid publication."

DALE RUGBY ON A ROLL

Back in SA Schools Top 20 – now we're No 6



THE 'ALL WHITES' (1993) . . . captained by Grant Griffith, flanked by headmaster Malcom Andrew and coach Deon Boshoff. They were unbeaten. * See names on Page 6



THE 'ALL BLACKS' (2012). . . an informal picture of the present squad at the Kearsney Festival. They were unbeaten on that three-match tour.

THE CHANGING FACE OF OUR RUGBY

By **BARRY TURNER**

RUGBY at Dale College is alive and well and winning in the face of the doomsayers who predicted an end to Dale rugby after 1991. Transformation has embraced Dale sides and our First XV must be ranked as the No 1 school side consisting mostly of players from previously disadvantaged South Africans.

No school side in the Top 20 rankings can boast the same demographic make-up. Slowly school first teams are changing in demographic make-up as the enormous pool of talent is uncovered. Dale are now rated No. Six behind only Paarl Gim, Affies, Grey College, Paarl Boys' High and Paarl Roos.

If one were to measure success of the Top 20 rugby sides on an equal footing Dale College would be way up the rankings.

Regional and national school managements are not using this to the advantage of school rugby and sport and talent development to increase sponsorship to cover developmental costs.

The 2011 rugby season came and went quickly. In the World Cup year, the game was on everyone's minds and lips. There was no difficulty motivating the coaches or the boys and being caught up with in the rugby frenzy.

Rugby in South Africa is an economic force at any level and a consideration that has to be taken seriously. A talented team producing good results and wins brings in fee-paying spectators.

Contrary to the common belief in some sectors, that revenue goes a long way to maintaining facilities and helping rugby financially where possible.

The success of Dale rugby in 2011 showed this in spectator attendances at home games. The crowd of about 20,000 at Reunion was treated to top-class tactical rugby by both Dale College and Queen's College and should be the future yardstick.\

OFF WITH A BANG: THE 2012 SEASON

By **BARRY TURNER**

THE 2012 Dale rugby season has started on a most positive note. History has been made at the College in that the First XV of 2012 is a totally transformed "All Black" side.

Demographics are not static and there will be changes to the Rainbow side as we go down the years ahead. The side has upheld the traditions of Dale rugby and it is a pleasure to watch the style of open and high-speed running game for which Dale is famous.

The last "All White" side was in 1993 when the current Dale director of rugby, Grant Griffith, led the all-conquering Dale side in South Africa and Britain.

The future of Dale rugby is in sound and excellent health. The season began with a 45-3 warm-up win over De Vos Malan in King William's Town, followed by a 59-10 victory over Port Rex on the Border Schools Day.

The Graeme College Rugby Day followed, where Dale beat a very big Marlow Agriculture School side 6-3 in rain and mud. Scores on both sides were through penalties. Considering the conditions, Dale showed that they can take on teams in the wet.

At the Grey High School festival Dale played very well to beat Brandwag of Uitenhage 22-5.

This was followed by the Kearsney College Festival near Durban. Dale showed their mettle and style of rugby that had one and all talking and complimenting the boys.

The results were outstanding - winning one game (11-10 against Westville) and drawing two against very reputable rugby schools much larger than Dale and with a much bigger pool of players. The scoring: 24-all against Glenwood and 27-all against the formidable Paul Roos.

Back on the Border, Dale continued to wow spectators, beating Grens 65-3 in a game blown ten minutes early at To Page 6

After a 27-27 draw, a prayer together and two war cries

I ATTENDED two of Dale's three matches at this year's Easter tournament at Kearsney. Dale held two historically-strong rugby schools to draws in the games I watched.

These were the 24-24 game vs Glenwood and 27-27 vs Paul Roos (after a 11-10 victory against Westville in their opening match).

I was very impressed with the self-belief of the Dale team, as they ran the ball with flair and confidence, showing scant regard for the reputation of their opponents.

But what was perhaps most significant was the way the Dale team concluded their tournament. After the final whistle of their last

match, the team invited their opponents from Paul Roos to join them in a circle on the field and led them in a moment of prayer, which was followed by each school's war cry.

I was proud of this display of good sportsmanship and character by our players and the leadership shown by the Dale captain. This demonstrated how sport can be such a great unifier.

Well done to the coach and team for a successful tournament, returning unbeaten and flying the Dale flag high.

- *STUART SUTTON (matric 1983) of Mount Edgecombe, Kwa-Zulu Natal*

Unbeaten Dale shine at Kearsney Rugby Festival



DALE man of the match flyhalf Luke Masasiere goes over for one of his tries against Paul Roos *Picture: q4action



FLYING HIGH! Dale captain and centre Sibanye Bukani leaps to foil a defensive try-line kick *Picture: Kearsney College website

Three tries for Luke in high-scoring duel

DALE remained unbeaten at the Kearsney College Easter Rugby Festival after winning one game and drawing with two of South Africa's strongest schoolboy sides.

In high-scoring matches Dale drew 27-27 with powerful Paul Roos, rated fourth in the FNB Top 20, and 24-24 with Glenwood High, rated eighth. At this stage of the season Dale were rated sixth. In their first match Dale beat Durban's Westville (rated 12th) 11-10.

Dalians were named man of the match in all three they played at Kearsney. They were scrumhalf Akhona Sihuna against Westville, centre Mailani Mqhaya against Glenwood and flyhalf Luke Masasiere against Paul Roos. Luke scored three tries and goaled a penalty and conversion in this game.

In a seesaw battle Dale and Paul Roos were level at 19-all at half time after each side had scored three tries. In the second half each side scored a try and a penalty. Paul Roos's equalising unconverted try came with five minutes to spare.

The Dale-Westville encounter was a game of two halves. Dale led 11-nil at half time, through an unconverted try by Masasiere and two penalties by Sihuna. In the second half Dale were scoreless while Westville scored two unconverted tries.

In the second match Glenwood led 24-5 at half time with lock Tino Zakeyo scoring Dale's sole try. The second half was all Dale, who had most of the possession and camped in Glenwood's half. Try-scorers were Lwanda Mbi, Rocur Julies and Lazarus Chisaya, with two conversions by Sihuna.

* Thanks Kearsney and Schools Tribune for extracts from your website reports.

Who's who in Page 5 team pictures

DALE FIRST XV 1993. Top row (from left): Courtenay Woodin, Mark Francies, Stratton Tierney, Alex Smith, Pieter Loots. Middle:: Marcus Levey, Warren Spring, Lennard Wilmot, Greg Cummings, Mark Pater-son, Tyrone Schwartz. Front: Patrick Stöter, Justin Corrans (vice-captain), headmaster Malcom Andrew, Grant Griffith (captain), coach Deon Boshoff, Sean Sharp, Michael Nel and Barry Hayidakis

* Picture: Dale College Magazine

DALE FIRST XV 2012. Back row (from left): Milani Mahayi, Mvolontshi, Ayathandwa Tsengiwe, Clement Chirwa, Mhhlali Mgdle, Tapiwe Tsonondo, Rocur Julies, Zimi Ngqonwana, Mhhlali Mtongana, Thabani Mgugudon and Malwande Mhamhe: Middle: Samila Jho, Anda Nanto, Sibanye Bukani, Puzo Kwezi, Lwanda Mbi, Akhona Sibunu, Luke Masasaire, Anathi Nompandana. The player in a white shirt is Lindakuhle Kenene, Lying in front (from left) Lazarus Chisaya and Tinotenda Zakeyo.

Our 'All Black' First XV are leading the field

From Page 5 the visitors' request, Port Rex 64-19 in a normal non-festival fixture and Stirling High 26-nill.

Finally came a close encounter with Selborne in East London.

The clash lived up to a typical derby day match between these two great schools that ground out a 10-9 win for Dale. This match has been the talking point from far and wide with all social media carrying predictions and adding to the hype. Typically defence by both sides was the decider in the end!

This rugby game was history in the making. It was possibly the first time in Selborne history that their First XV has been beaten by a side consisting of so-called Black South Africans. The Dale side of 2012 will look back with pride.

Meanwhile, younger Dale teams are also playing exceptional rugby. The U/15 side played well in a tournament in the Western Cape, losing only one game.

The new U/16 side is showing character and will develop into a good side and feeder into higher teams next year.

What is of concern in the changed demographic landscape is that no other traditional and historic school in South Africa has embraced the changed environment as far as Dale College.

Snide remarks of the past have given way to compliments and have caused critics to re-evaluate the bright picture of South African schoolboy rugby.

One looks ahead with concern that no school is capitalising on transformation and embracing the changed world like Dale College and the Dale Brand. "All White" schools still court successful sponsorship.

The last "All White" Dale side was Griffy's 1993 unbeaten First XV. We have an "All Black" side that is doing exceptionally well and no one is pushing that.

We should have sponsors knocking at the door or else be out there, internationally as well as locally.

The changes and the success of an unbeaten side at this time of the season beg for exposure to court sponsors to help with developmental resources as well as educating the youth.

As I write, there are still several heavy games ahead during the season. These will be the litmus test of character as the less transformed will want to trumpet success against the transformed.

Dale rugby at Junior and at College upper-open sides is healthy and we look forward to the remainder of the season.

A BLAST to THE PAST!



BROTHERS Adrian (left), his daughter Kate and Colin. Kate proposed a toast to generations past and Colin to those to come.

THE MEYER FAMILY – associated with Dale College for more than 60 years – have celebrated the 150th anniversary of their ownership of Linton, their farm in the Mankazana Valley near Adelaide Cape.

It was a special weekend (August 5 to 8, 2011) for members of the extended family. They included ten of the 11 grandchildren and some great-grandchildren of Andries (Boet) and Grace Meyer.

Boet's grandfather, Andries, bought Linton in 1861. For many years Meyer families owned up to five farms in the area.

Twenty-one family members spent the weekend at Linton, where several were born, and some stayed on neighbouring farms. On the Sunday they were joined by other family members nearby and further-away friends at a celebratory lunch. Altogether 120 well-wishers attended.

There was a private moment to commemorate the life of Uncle Pat Meyer, who died earlier last year, the last survivor of three Meyer brothers. His ashes were scattered close to a memorial stone in the family graveyard where four previous generations of Meyers have been buried.

Pat was an honorary Old Dalian - an award made for his long service to the school as a parent and uncle.

His son Peter, an East London doctor and 1976 headboy of Dale College, attended the celebrations with his wife Sheryle and their family.



LINTON . . . the 18th century family homestead renovated in the next century

Old Dalians and their kin celebrate 150th- year link with family farm

Pat's younger brother Andrew ("Porkie") Meyer (matric 1943) was the first of the family to attend Dale College as a boarder in the early 1940s.

According to a booklet written to mark the 150th celebration, Andrew was sent to Dale College after becoming involved in a political argument at Adelaide High School ending in fisticuffs.

Close family members at the celebration included Andrew's widow, Elisabeth (Liz) of Fish Hoek, their elder son Adrian, present custodian of Linton, his wife Heather from Barbados, West Indies, and their four children, some of whom are at school in England.

Others were Adrian's brother Colin, who owns a brickfield in Grahamstown, his wife Karen and their daughters, Adrian and Colin's sister Jill Bysshe of Cape Town and her two daughters.

Adrian and Colin followed their father as pupils at Dale, Adrian becoming deputy headboy in 1979, Their father died on his farm aged 47, but Linton has remained in family hands. After Andrew's passing, his widow Liz, moved



AT DAD'S GRAVESIDE . . . Peter Meyer, with his cousin Judy, wife Sheryle and daughters Mikaela and Julia



to King William's Town for several years and served on the secretarial staff of Dale Junior.

A long-time Meyer - Sutton family friendship began at Diocesan Hostel, Dale College, where Andrew he became a close schoolmate of a fellow boarder, Joe Sutton (Dale matric 1944.)

When Joe and his wife Bunty went abroad for two months in 1970, their son Stuart, then aged four, was sent from Johannesburg to Linton to stay with the Meyer family.

The Meyer-Sutton bond, including Alan (Dale matric 1978) and Stuart Sutton (1983), Adrian (1979) and Colin Meyer (1981) and their families lives on today.

Adrian, now a banker in Barbados, Alan and his Old Dalian cousin, Allan Cawood, (1975), are shareholders in Colin's brickfield.

* Adrian's wife Heather, who compiled the booklet

To Page 9

CUSTODIAN Adrian and Heather Meyer of Barbados, with their children Torie, Kate, Andrew and James

HOCKEY BACK TO TOP FORM

It's no longer 'that other sport' trailing behind rugby'

By the DALE COLLEGE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

"What a great game . . . That was such an entertaining game of hockey"

THESE are just some of the comments made alongside the hockey field in the last year. Dale College hockey has done a complete turnaround in the last 18 months. Unfortunately hockey at the College had just been another sport at the school, mainly played by boys who didn't play rugby.

Times have somewhat changed. Hockey is not seen as that "other sport" any more. Dale are now back at the top of their game, the same place they used to be ten years ago, fighting for top honours at festivals and gaining the label of being the "most entertaining" team to watch. The flair and distinct trademark of hockey that only the Dalians have are back.

In 2011 Dale acquired the services of two level-two coaches, Calum Crichton and KJ Friend. They are to be complemented on their hard work and commitment to the school and

to the boys.

Many hard hours were spent on the turf with a few frustrating times, but the boys kept going and never stopped.

These coaches gained the confidence and the belief of the boys. Unfortunately, at the end of 2011 we lost the services of Calum as he headed for Britain.

Dale College is extremely proud of Mkhululi Calana, who achieved double honours last year. He was selected for the South African Schools U/18 team, which played in a three-match Test series against Australia in June/July and reached the same heights at cricket (See Page 9.)

At the start of the season, Dale hosted a very successful Founders Hockey Festival over three days. Ten schools from all over the country attended, some from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

By the end of the festival Dale had a mixed bag of results, winning two, drawing two and losing two. This was a much improved performance compared to their previous festival, where all the hard work started to come together.

The boys played with pride, passion and dedication and this showed in their results, winning five of their six matches.

Throughout the season there were some really good performances from the First XI. A good draw with Selborne at home after being down, a 3-0 win over St. Andrew's in Grahamstown, beating Kingswood 5-0 and the season's most notable performance, saving the best for last, beating Queen's College on their home turf 2-0.

This was a fine way to end a hockey season. All the age groups and their teams had a steady season with participation increasing as the season went on - something the College has not seen for a while.

There were an increased number of provincial

representatives throughout the age groups this season. This is testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved.

2011 saw the rebuilding of the hockey culture at Dale and revival the interest and participation in the sport. This was done successfully with 2012 looking good.

2012 started with a bang! Boys were

Water polo, swimming: A big revival

DALE COLLEGE has produced many great water polo players, the latest being the Greyvenstein brothers.

Now, after a decline, both water polo and swimming are on the way back.

In 2011, Dale had four boys selected for Border squads and two for the Border U/14 side.

Aquatics has since improved greatly after only a handful boys were attending water polo and swimming.

In 2011 and 2012 junior swimmers competed in the Athlone Shield and swimming in the open division.

The results for water polo, consisting of a mixed age group team, are something to be proud off.

The boys have developed into one of the stronger sides, losing only to Selborne and Stirling in East London and Grey in Port

out in January preparing for the upcoming season.

There was no problem in trying to get the boys to their pre-season training - if anything the boys were getting their coaches out on to the field.

In March the First XI attended the Founders Festival in Durban. This turned out to be a good tour with a lot of positives coming out of it.

To Page 9



PLAYING WITH FLAIR. . . The Dale First Hockey Team. Back row: (from left) : Rocur Julies, Berny Martin, Milani Mfingwana, Somthenba Makinana and Mbulelo Feni. Middle: Anathi Gembla, Buntu Vena, Siyamkela Sityana, Dehan Mollentze, Sivuyile Mгимjima and Yanga Mhlaba. Front: Wela Mfenyana, Calum Crichton (manager/coach, Mkhululi Calana (captain), KJ Friend (coach) and Shelton Mollentze. Absent: Sibanye Bukani.

Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape.

At various tournaments (Port Rex, Selborne, Stirling and Kingswood) the boys have played excellent games in a league where they face club first teams.

With the upgrade of facilities, change-rooms and filters, numbers have increased in water polo and swimming with their new coach, Ms Pretorius, to add to the expertise of Butch Wiggett.

In September 2011, the water polo and swimming team consisted of only a junior side of 12 boys. Numbers have since more than doubled.

Currently there has been increase of 34 swimmers and seniors becoming more interested in water polo.

Enthusiasm has increased and more boys are becoming involved in the sport.

Dale water polo have the most multi-cultural teams in the country. Polo is on the up and will just keep rising.

Double honour for Mkhululi Calana

Cricket emerging from a slump

CRICKET at Dale College has had a steady improvement over the last two years, coming out of a slump. This improvement is due mainly to the coach's positive involvement and getting the boys to play the game again.

Cricket, not being an action-packed sport attracting huge crowds, often suffers. Nevertheless, there are still boys and supporters who give up their days to play this gentleman's game.

In the recent past Dale has had a number of cricketers representing South Africa, including Makhaya Ntini and Monde Zondeki. The latest in 2011 is, South African Schools player, Mkhululi Calana.

He has played in the College 1st XI for four years, captaining the team in 2010 and 2011, making the Border Schools U/19 team in both years.

In 2011 he was selected in the South



TWO-SPORTS STAR . . . Mkhululi Calana, cricket and hockey international

MANAGER/COACH Calub Crighton. . . a loss for Dale hockey



HOCKEY COACH KJ Friend

African U/19 World Cup squad. He also played for the South African U/18 Schools hockey team.

The Dale First XI have had a steady two seasons, turning their fortunes' around - from losing more than they won to winning more than they lost.

This turnaround is due mainly to the passion and dedication of their coach, Terry

Nqolo, a CSA level-three coach .

His hard work and commitment, with a team of dedicated young cricketers, has put cricket back up there with the other top cricket playing schools in the country.

Last year saw the hosting of another successful Cape Schools Cricket Week in the September holidays. This festival has been going for many years and is hosted by different schools every year.

Unfortunately it was also rain affected, having two days washed out. This festival gives the boys an opportunity to play against some of the best schoolboy cricketers and to test themselves against them.

A big thank-you must go to all the supporters, boys and especially the coaches, for their hard work, time and effort they put into their teams.

Without their passion, our boys would never have the opportunity to play this wonderful game.

The 2012/2013 season bodes well for Dale College as the boys are already out doing their winter season training.

2012 looks good for hockey after build-up last year

From Page 8 Many coaches commented on how they don't enjoy playing against Dalians because of their natural ability, speed and flair.

They also said how they enjoy watching Dale play against other

teams for the same reasons.

The rest of this season bodes well for this exciting team. They are setting the attitude for the rest of our teams this season.

Good luck to all the coaches and boys for the 2012 season.

Fun on the farm with the celebrating Meyers

From Page 7 on the history of Linton farm to mark the 150th anniversary, summed up the celebratory weekend with these comments:

"The community of this corner of South Africa is made up of extremely precious people and the family also honoured those relationships in the community that have supported them and been part of the journey across the generations.

"The highlight, however, was really watching the next generation build relationships with both their cousins and the community.

"All in all this was a blast ... loads of laughs and much joking marked this special time together which we think will have a positive knock-on effect for years to come."



ANDREW MEYER'S widow Liz with grandchildren Andrew and Kate

WEDDING DAY . . . Andrew and Liz



WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR IT WAS

Dale Junior's Patricia Thatcher reports on a busy 'baptism' 2011

HERE are edited extracts from Ms PATRICIA THATCHER'S report for 2011 as the first lady Principal of Dale Junior. She reflects on the lessons, challenges and achievements of an "extremely busy, but wonderful 50th year."



A WONDERFUL 50TH Principal Thatcher

FOR ME, 2011 was like a hunting expedition and I have learnt these lessons.

- * Money will always be an issue,
- * Every situation can be made into a drama, depending on how you handle it.
- * Everyone must have a common goal and you need to know where you're going.
- * Planning and preparation are vital if you are to succeed going forward.
- * Someone is always watching.
- * There will always be someone around to give their advice or an opinion.
- * You never know what is going to jump out at you and, from time to time, you will stumble and even step in poo!
- * There will be dark days, but if you have a strong team, anything is possible and you have nothing to fear.
- * A sense of humour and quick thinking are vital for survival and success in life.

So, as this great expedition of 2011 comes to an end, it gives me great pleasure to report on our extremely busy, but wonderful 50th year.

Though forced to downsize and become a weekly boarding facility, DV Taylor House continues to thrive. We plan to give our little hostel a much-needed face-lift and feel confident this will attract more boarders.

Much emphasis has been placed on improving and maintaining our high academic standard, in particular the level of results and skills in both English and mathematics.

We have introduced a Top Achievers' Group to stimulate and encourage these learners even further.

We took part in the annual SACEE competition and were proud of Simeon Smit

and James Monaghan who achieved over 90 per cent.

Our participation in the National Conquesta Olympiad again proved a most challenging and beneficial experience for our boys, who overall achieved 7 platinum, 13 diamond, 8 gold, 19 silver, 13 bronze and 46 copper awards. Taha Anjum and Muhammed Zakariya Munga won the Grade 6 District Mental Maths Competition.

Muhammed Zakariya was placed in the top five in the Provincial Competition. 612 Heron certificates, 25 merit and 35 academic awards were awarded.

Our Foundation Phase staff are well-prepared for the introduction of CAP's in 2012 and we plan to offer both Afrikaans and Xhosa as a first additional language throughout the school.

Our outdoor education programme used the Jonginenge Adventure Centre, numerous farms, Kidd's and Kayser's Beaches, Lekkerood, Glen Muir, the SPCA, 43 Air School, the Police College, the Stutterheim Forest, The Burnside Touch Farm, Strawberry Fields, the Lion Park and the Orient Pools. Our councillors enjoyed outings to Glen Muir as part of their leadership programme.

Our Media Centre and Computer Lab continue to be a hive of activity. Mrs Sonia Mulder runs an intensive programme, both in class and after school.

Mrs Chetty and her monitors and prefects ensure a vast supply of interesting reading material, general knowledge and interest displays in the library.

The **inter-house quiz**, in a new "Weakest Link" format, and the Grade 7 **Oratory contest** allowed boys from all grades to demonstrate their confidence, general knowledge and public speaking skills.

Ms Coetser and our **GAP facility** continues to provide boys and their families with much-needed counselling support. She organised a visit to the town by Dr John Buswell from Rape Wise.

The workshops presented to boys, staff and parents were hugely successful and extremely informative.

Emphasis was placed on **Community Outreach** and giving. We took a whole-school approach to various projects and boys, with the PTA, outdid themselves.

It was overwhelming to see how eagerly Dalians and their families supported local causes.

Success reigns on and off the sports field

REVIEWING extramural achievements, the Principal said:

We continue to strive for excellence in both the manner we play and in the results we achieve. Staff are thanked for their incredible efforts and time spent with their teams.

The extremely popular Wild Life Club visited the Double Drift Game Reserve and the Addo Elephant Park. Mrs Scott also started the Outdoor and Interest Club for junior learners.

Our First Aiders were invaluable at all fixtures, and we thank them for their dedication, expertise and service.

Ms Mntummi continues to inject life and enthusiasm into our aspiring actors in the Drama Club.

Our Choir has again grown in numbers and perform with an infectious exuberance. They have been a highlight at many a function.

Thanks to our very talented Ms Van Biljon, a number of learners demonstrate their talents through private piano tuition.

Interest in Chess has grown so much that we have separated practice times.

Mrs McLean often wins arguments with the rugby staff over which extra-mural activity is most important and popular at Dale Junior. This year Luke September and Zukisa Mawu made it into the Border U/14 team with Allan Thomas and Lindokuhle Gantsho as reserves.

Rugby triumphs at Dale Junior



WINNERS! Dale Junior's highly successful Under 13A team: Back row: Lutho Lwana, Lelona Mseti, Mhlali Mjame, Lunathi Fonte, Ukhanyo Charles, Hennie Otto, Alshano Boswell, Hluma Zondani, Libhongoletu Geza. Middle: Lukhanyiso Ntoshwana, Mlungwana Somhlaho, Masithembe Sontlaba, Athi Halom, Hlumelo Mekuto, Sakhula Kwaza, Samkelo Gubuza Xabiso Kama Seated : James Monaghan, Thembele Mbada (assistant coach), Lutho Nomoyi (capt), Patricia Thatcher (Principal), Khwezi Mafu (vice-capt), Luyanda Mpande (head coach) and Anda Mbabaza.

Well done all, says top coach

DALE JUNIOR rugby teams continue to be one of the most respected and feared in the Border and Eastern Cape (said Ms Thatcher, reporting on outdoor activities at the school).

All teams did us proud, she added. The U/11B team won their section at the Central Primary School Winter Sports' Day and the U/13Bs played A teams and were unbeaten at the Union High School Rugby Festival.

Our U/13A team lost only two matches out of the 21 played. What a proud moment it was when they beat Queen's 50 - 0 at our 50th Reunion.

As part of our 50th Celebration year, Dale College Boys' Primary School hosted a **Development Rugby Festival** called the Andile "Ace" Jho Development Rugby Festival. The aim was to equip the teams and develop the game within the communities surrounding King William's Town. Five schools from local communities were invited. The festival was a great success.

Our Border representatives included Likhona Dywili, Malakiwe Zondeki and Kamva Fatyela for the U/12 team and Lutho Nomoyi, Khwezi Mafu, Lelona Mseti, Hennie Otto, Lukhanyiso Ntosholwana, Masithembe Sontlaba and Athenkosi Halom for the U/13 Border and 7s teams.

Hockey continues to grow and our U/13A team, under the enthusiastic and demanding eye of Mrs Buitendag, performed very well. Hennie Otto, Keogh Penhall, James Monaghan and Hlumelo Mekuto were chosen to represent Border.

IN his 2011 season report, Dale Junior's senior rugby coach Luyanda Mpande commented:

The highlight of the season was the Under 13A game at Reunion against Queen's. The team played a fantastic game beating Queens 50-0 on the school's 50th birthday.

A wonderful, well-deserved result.

I really enjoyed coaching this 50th team, a talented group of boys I hope will go far.

Throughout the season the team played quality rugby. Running the ball and tight defence played a big role in the team's success.

Our forwards showed mobility and played "fiery" rugby. The backline was slick in their execution of moves and could score from anywhere on the field. Well done to the eight U/13A and three U/12 boys who represented their

province at Craven Week. Congratulations also to Brendon Cloete on being selected as the Border coach.

The U/13 age group did the school proud once again, taking part in festivals during the season. The U/13A team went to the Queen's Junior Twizza Festival, where they lost one game out of five. The U/13B team had another fantastic tour to Graaff-Reinet where they were again unbeaten, winning three out of three games.

The U/13C team performed well against other schools' A teams in the Central Primary sports day. Overall Dale Junior rugby teams played 140 games in 2011, winning 103, losing 32 and drawing 5 - a record that any school in the country would be proud of.

In **Swimming**, nine boys were awarded or re-awarded red team costumes for making the Top 8, Top 10 or Amathole Regional Team: Tristen Worth, Billi Graham, Conner Coetser, Lawula Bata, Kyle Lines, Eric Farrer, Tye Findlay, Clayton Goliath and Hennie Otto.

In **Water polo** we look forward to a more competitive 2012.

Our **Equestrians** in the horse-riding team do us proud and mention must be made of Dylan Webb for his many achievements. At **Tennis** Siphesande Kempele is ranked Number 3 in the U/10 age group in the Border.

Our annual **Squash** Festival was again the highlight of the year. Our boys have played outstanding squash. Keogh Penhall was selected for the Border Squash Team. Our **Cricket** teams have faced tough opposition, but continue to display potential and skill. Our U/13A team fared well at the Cape Schools' Cricket Festival hosted by Selborne. Lutho Nomoyi and Athenkosi Halom made the Border Squad.

Our recipe for the future – by Patricia Thatcher

QUESTIONED by TransDale on future challenges after Dale Junior's successful 50th anniversary year, Principal Patricia Thatcher emphasised these basic principles:

* Sweat the small stuff .

* Address every issue presented.

* Ensure open communication, feedback and thorough preparation.

* Apply realistic goals and strategies. These are vital.

Moving on: Old Dalian Allan Cawood quits top post to pursue new interests

OLD DALIAN Allan Cawood (1974-75) is heading for a new phase in his prominent business life.

After ten years as chief executive officer (CEO) of Dimension Data Middle East and Africa, he has left the company to “pursue other personal and professional interests.”

Announcing Allan’s decision, Didata referred to his “dynamic career” and added: “Allan’s leadership has contributed extensively to the development and success of our MEA business.

“He is responsible for almost all of what we consider Dimension Data MEA today. He saw the business through the market implosion of the early 2000s and had the vision and the faith to continue to build and invest in many areas that have driven growth over the last decade, including emerging Africa and the Middle East IT services, the public sector and telecommunications.

“During his tenure as CEO (2001-2011) revenues grew from \$426,790,000 to \$1,198,000.

“Thank you Allan for your truly outstanding leadership and contribution.” Describing Allan’s move as “an end of an era” Brett Dawson, CEO Dimension Data plc, and Andile Ngcaba, chairman of Didata Middle East and Africa, wished him “all the best in his

new challenges and pursuits.”

Allan joined his cousin Alan Sutton (matric 1978) as a boarder at Dale College in 1974. He left the College in 1975 to join his family in Johannesburg. He matriculated at Parktown Boys’ High School and began his working career spending nine months at Mercedes Information Systems selling office equipment (including typewriters_ where he foresaw the future of IT.

He joined Olivetti in 1980 as software programmer. While at Olivetti he studied at night and graduated BCom at UNISA.

“Bitten by the IT bug” and anticipating the dynamic future of the industry he started his own company DNS (Digital Networking Systems) in 1989 and was joined by his cousin Alan as financial director.

Four years later Dimension Data, headed by Jeremy Ord, whom he had met at Olivetti, acquired a 35 per cent stake in DNS.

In 1998 they bought out the remaining shareholding, and (to quote Allan) “so began my roller-coaster ride of highs and lows at Dimension Data.” Allan intends to focus on value added private equity investments. He is already a shareholder in a company with Alan Sutton and another with Alan and the Old Dalian Meyer brothers. Adrian and Colin.

30 exciting years in the IT world

*** In a personal message to family and friends, Allan has told of his experiences in the “exciting” world of IT amid the massive growth of the industry. Here are edited extracts from his letter.**

THE ONE thing that plays an important role in all aspects of life is time and timing. Whether in sports, career choices, investing in stocks, or just about any other endeavour, timing can dictate the difference between huge disasters, nothing eventful happening at all, or fantastic success.

I believe that for Dimension Data and myself, time has been on our side. Thirty years young. That’s how I would describe the modern era of ICT.

If we think of some of today’s commonplace technology it has only entered our lives relatively recently.

Think about it. The Internet/broadband/www (browser and HTML), PC/laptop computer, mobile phones, email, DNA testing, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), microprocessors, fibre optics, office software, liquid crystal displays, online shopping/ecommerce, social networking via internet, graphic user interface (GUI), ATMs, and bar codes and scanners. All these have been around, in mass adoption mode, for only the past 30 years.

My career in IT began over 30 years ago. The PC was in its infancy and at the tipping point of mass adoption. The Internet was not yet available to the general public, and a mobile phone weighed nearly 1kg, and South Africa was subject to sanctions and governed by an apartheid regime.

While many people may have thought the opportunities and possibilities were limited, I had a feeling that IT, the industry I had chosen to enter, could and would bring about change.

I could never have imagined the immense global impact ICT would have. I wasn’t the only one who spotted the possibilities of IT. It was 30 years



**ALLAN CAWOOD . . .
‘a dynamic career’**

ago, in 1982, that Dimension Data, was founded.

The excitement of the IT industry is partly because it is predictably unpredictable. Also, like many an industry, its health is inextricably linked to macro-economic fluctuations.

Who can forget those heady days of the dot com bubble followed by the almighty crash that turned the industry on its head.

Dimension Data had listed on the London Stock Exchange to much fanfare in 2000, and five short months later the stock market crash which saw the loss of \$5 trillion in the market value of internet companies from March

2000 to October 2002 had begun.

The early 2000s may not have been the best of times, but in hindsight I can look back at this time as one of learning, growth, and a few headaches. It was in no way the worst of times.

These difficult financial times at the beginning of the new millennium demanded, from management across the board, a return to the founding principles of what makes a successful entrepreneurial culture.

This meant us understanding the opportunities for the time and developing a multi-stage, end commitment strategy. It involved accepting that risk was required to deliver a return to growth, and to ensuring value creation.

There were two critical factors to turning around the company’s fortunes. The first was recognising and understanding the Pan African and Middle East opportunities. The second was the need to transform the company to be truly representative of the new South Africa.

Seeking a comprehensive African footprint the company expanded into markets not only in east, west and North Africa, but also the Middle East – all before the end of the decade. And this strategy resulted in Dimension Data being named Africa ICT Company of the Year in both 2007 and 2009.

Addressing transformation was crucial to our turnaround success. With a BEE partner (Andile Ngcaba) in place, we demonstrated our commitment to transforming and laid bare a clear roadmap to transformation.

Our corporate social investment focus on education has been highly successful and by utilising networking technology the Saturday School run by the company now reaches over 15 000 learners across the country every weekend.

I have met a number of people over the years who have shaped the direction of my career. These meetings may have been fortuitous.

But my career has also been the *To Page 13*

GETTING BETTER!

Old Dalian Blyth Thompson (83) is fine after heart-valve operation

VETERAN Old Dalian Blyth Thompson (83), who moved with his wife Wendy last year from bustling Johannesburg to a quieter retirement environment on the Cape coast, is recovering from an open-heart operation.

This followed a shock discovery of a faulty aorta valve after a routine medical check-up early this year.

Despite leaving Dale after two years in 1943 to matriculate at Bishops (Diocesan College) Blyth has remained a loyal and active Gauteng Old Dalian.

While living in Joburg for more than 40 years, he has played regularly in Dale golf tournaments.

In his later years Blyth became active in raising funds for Deansgate Home for the Aged in Craighall Park, of which he became chairman.

In October 2011 he returned to Joburg to open a new high-care wing for Alzheimer disease patients at the home. When he unveiled the plaque he was astonished to read that it had been named "The Blyth Thompson Wing."

The Thompsons were settling happily into their new home in the quiet Kingwood Golf Estate overlooking the



Blyth Thompson opens a new wing at a Johannesburg retirement home

**Picture: Graeme Shackelford, Rosebank Killarney Gazette*

Outeniqua Mountains, near George. Wendy is pursuing her computer business (computerburd@telkomsa.net) and Blyth was playing golf. They travelled frequently.

Then came a "hell of a shock" - a call from a physician that Blyth had a faulty aortic valve needing urgent replacement.

Replying recently to inquiries by TransDale Extra about his health, Blyth wrote: "My life since then has been a struggle for survival, having had an open-heart operation at the Vergelegen Hospital in Somerset West on March 16.

"In the six weeks since I have not been allowed to drive (a car) and have been recovering little by little each day. I am now out of the woods."

He and Wendy recently spent a week's timeshare with family members at Kruger Park Lodge.

"The prognosis is now pretty good and I am hoping in a couple of months to be able to resume what I call 'old man's golf.

"I had been working hard and quite successfully on my swing. The last thing I said to the surgeon before I went under was to protest that he was going to bugger up my hard-earned swing in a couple of hours!

"In our fathers' time there was no such operation so a defective valve usually spelt the end."

"Now, as one friend put it, the operation is a lot better than the alternative! But it has been quite the most protracted pain I have ever experienced."

PETER MINNIE: New Old Dalian Union national president

PETER MINNIE, 1998 Dale College head-boy, rugby captain and later an SA water polo international, is set to be the Old Dalian Union's new national president.

After his expected election at the union's AGM he will be inducted at the Reunion Assembly in the Hallowed Courtyard.

Peter takes over from Dr Paul Smit who has been ODU president for a record four terms of office.

Educated at Dale Junior and the College from Grade 1 to Grade 12, he has been an accomplished sportsman.

He played First XV rugby in 1997 and 1998

when he captained the Dale side.

Peter was awarded honours for water polo, playing for Dale from 1995 to 1998 when he also captained the side.

He was awarded South African colours for water polo in 1995 and 1996 when he represented an SA U/16 team in Europe.

In 1997 he toured Europe again with the SA U/17 side and played for SA Schools.

At Dale he was chairman of the Student Christian Association, vice-chairman of the Interact Society and a cadet student officer.

After leaving Dale he was selected for the

SA Junior national (U/21) team taking part in the world age-group water polo championships in Kuwait and finally in 2000 was selected for the senior SA men's water polo team to tour Britain.

Peter studied at the Port Elizabeth Tech for a national diploma in information technology. He also completed a programme for management development through the Gibbs Business School.

Peter and his wife Susan, an accountant educated at Hudson Park High School, East London, have a son Daniel, aged 18 months.

Watch the match at Reunion lunch

FOR the first time Gauteng Old Dalians will hold their own lunch this year to celebrate the Dale Reunion.

This will be held Saturday, May 19 at the Higher Ground Restaurant, St Stithians College, Randburg, for Old Dalians unable to attend the celebrations in King William's Town.

Plans have been made for the Dale vs Queen's College First Team rugby match to be videotaped and streamed to lunch guests. Wives and

in Joburg

girl friends will be welcome and a big turnout is expected by YODAs as well as older Old Dalians. The cost: R175 a head.

The occasion, from 11am to 5pm, with lunch at 1pm, will include touch rugby by YODAs in the morning.

* In King William's Town, the Old Dalian Union will be expecting returning Old Boys from

the matric classes of 2002, 1992, 1982, 1972 and 1962.

The First Team hockey match against Queen's is scheduled for Friday evening.

* Old Dalian Kaunda Ntunja, past SA Schools rugby captain, who is now a SuperSport television commentator, will be the guest speaker at the Saturday morning Reunion breakfast.

It's all about time

From Page 12 result of taking advantage of opportunities as they presented. Has luck been involved? Probably lots of it. Dimension Data has over the years also been blessed by great timing - and a bit of luck.

To enjoy getting up and going to work every day is not afforded everyone. I have been lucky to work in an industry that is exciting, forever changing and attractive to weird and wonderful people - creative, intelligent and decent.

My time at Dimension Data has been many things - most significantly it has been about time. And now - it's time. And so in the words of Bob Dylan: 'The times they are a changing'.

OLD DALIAN vs OLD DALIAN

Red-and-black stars contest a top final as Sharks and Lions

By **BARRY TURNER**

THE 2011 Currie Cup Rugby final was a history-making game for Old Dalians and Dale College. Two of Dale's favourite sons, Keegan Daniel for the Sharks and Bandise Maku for the Lions opposed each other on the day. Keegan Daniel's Sharks side lost to the Lions in the final.

Both Daniel (2002/03 First XV) and Maku (2002/03/04 First XV) are former captains of the Dale College First XV. Both have earned Springbok recognition and the future is bright for them.

No where in our history can we find two Old Dalian rugby players in opposing sides at Currie Cup Final level.

At international level history was also made

when Gcobani Bobo (1995 /96 Dale First XV) and All Black Greg Somerville (1995 Dale First XV vice-captain) opposed each other in England when a Barbarians Selection XV played the All Blacks New Zealand touring team.

Greg Somerville represented the Crusaders in eight Super Rugby Competition finals and has 131 Super Rugby caps to his name as well as 66 All Black caps. No other Dale boy has earned that many International caps.

BANDISE MAKU (Dale first XV in 2002, 2003 and captain in 2004)

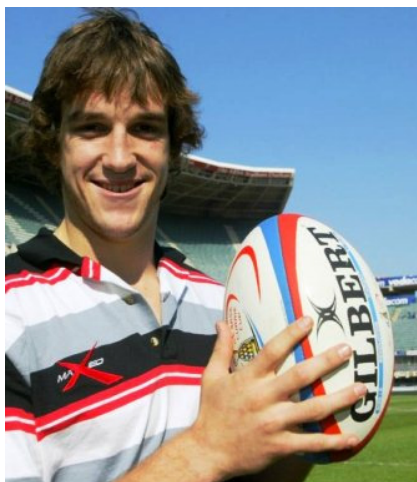
BANDISE made his debut for the Lions in 2011 after joining them from the Bulls. He is a specialist hooker, who in times of crisis is adequately experienced to help as a loose head prop.

In his five years with the Bulls he played U/19, U/21, Currie Cup, Vodacom Cup and Super Rugby. He was part of the U/21 South African World Cup squad in 2006, and impressed to such an extent that he was selected for the Emerging Boks in 2007 and 2009.

In 2010 Maku made his debut for the Springboks playing against Italy. He contributed massively to the Lions during 2011. He has been out of Super Rugby for a while through injury. Once regularly fit again it is only a matter of time before he wears the green and gold again.

Chow Bissell (1962/63/64/65 First XV), a legendary Dale and former Border provincial rugby player, has described Maku as a complete player at both hooker and prop and predicted a great future for him.

Chow played four seasons for



KEEGAN DANIEL ... Sharks captain and tactician



BANDISE MAKU ... Bull, Lion and Bok

Some emerge as Griquas, Cheetahs, Bulls – and Boks



BJORN BASSON ... the "speed demon"

Dale's First XV, Border Schools, SA U//20 and more than 70 games for Border.

Bandise's after-school playing career includes 66 provincial Vodacom Cup Caps and 33 Super Rugby caps

KEEGAN DANIEL (Dale First XV in 2002 and captain in 2003) - "a guy that leads by example."

KEEGAN is captaining the Sharks in their Super Rugby campaign this season. The 26-year-old loose forward retained this role after a successful first stint during last season's Currie Cup when the coastal team reached the final.

"I was really impressed with Keegan during the Currie Cup last year, the way he grew as a leader in what was a difficult campaign," said coach John Plumtree.

"We had to deal with a number of interruptions, through injury and Springboks coming back, so it was difficult to manage and I thought he did really well."

Daniel has been with the Sharks since 2006, making more than 100 combined appearances in the Currie Cup and Super Rugby.

"He has the respect of all the players in the team, which is obviously very important, and also for the way he plays," Plumtree said.

"His friendliness and the person he is off the field makes him a popular leader. "I'm giving him

this opportunity to keep the growth going and we'll see how it goes.

"He's also tactically astute so I am keen to have his leadership and to give him the responsibility to grow within the group."

So far this season Keegan has excelled as a No. 8 and flank forward, leading from the front, though his form has not been matched by the inconsistent Sharks.

He has 83 provincial Sharks caps and has 74 Super Rugby caps. He is a thinking player who, as well as scoring tries, has engineered many of his side's tries.

Keegan played both rugby and cricket at Dale. He led by example and was head-boy in his final year.

He is a man who does not let fame or popularity tarnish his ever-approachable and genial but methodical approach to life. Many critics have said that the Springbok side could do with a Keegan Daniel.

BJORN BASSON (Dale First XV in 2003, 2004 and 2005)

BJORN usually plays as wing – a position in which he represented the Central Cheetahs in 2010.

In 2011 he moved to the Bulls. He has also been selected to play for the senior Springbok team.

Known as the "speed demon," he was the first man to score 21 Currie Cup tries in a season.

Now 25, Bjorn was the Currie Cup Premier Division player of the year in 2010. Having found a place in the Springbok World Cup squad in New Zealand he has gone from strength to strength.

Bjorn is a firm Bulls fan's favourite at Loftus and wherever else the Bulls are playing. He played wing for the Griquas in 2005, wing for the Cheetahs in the Super14 team and wing for the

To Page 15

BJORN . . . try-scoring wizard for Bulls

From Page 14 Springboks.

In 2008 he was chosen to represent the Emerging South Africa team, which went on to win the IRB Nations Cup in Romania. In 2008 he was selected for the Springbok tour of Britain and Ireland in 2010.

He made his Test debut in June 2010 against Wales in Cardiff.

Bjorn signed a two-year contract with the Blue Bulls in September 2010. Now he has expended his contract with the Pretoria outfit until October 2014.

Bulls coach Frans Ludeke has said: "Bjorn is most sought after because of his brilliant try-scoring feats and his uncanny ability in the air."

As I write, Bjorn has scored five tries for the Bulls this season. He is one of the leading try scorers in the Currie Cup competition and now the sole record-holder for most tries in a Currie Cup season, with more than 20 tries.

There were no record-breaking feats last year, but Bjorn finished his first Currie Cup season with his new team by scoring a hat-trick of tries against the Leopards.

Those tries also took him to the top of the try scorers in the Currie Cup, with ten tries to his tally.

Basson has again showed he is a lethal finisher, using great pace and anticipation, excellent in following up and catching a high ball, good support play, cross defence and a willingness to go for the line.

He has amassed 30 Super Rugby caps and six Test caps in addition to his 55 Griquas and nine Bulls caps.

LOGAN BASSON (Dale First XV 2006 and 2007)

LOGAN, a Springbok Sevens international, is a younger brother of Bjorn Basson.

Both represented South African national teams in the same year.

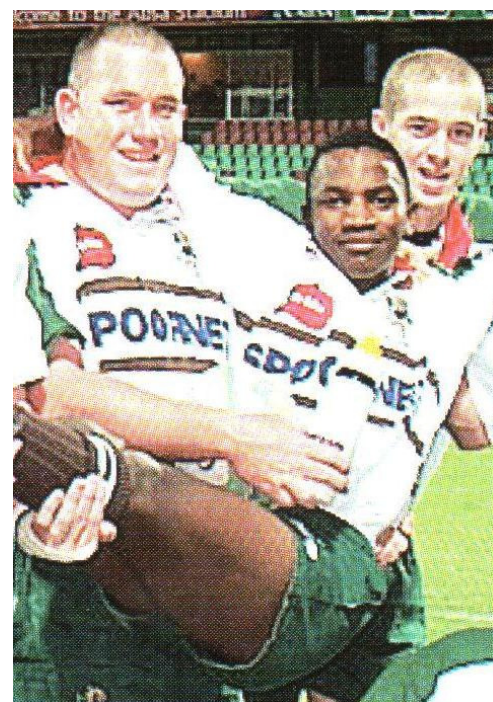
Logan began his career at Border, representing them (and later the Sharks) at age-group level, before making his Currie Cup debut in 2010 for Border.

A gifted player comfortable playing at fly half, fullback and on the wing, Basson's ability to take the gap and his pace off the mark, make him a great attacking asset.

Also a reliable goal-kicker, Logan was signed by Griquas for their 2011 Currie Cup campaign.



GARETH KRAUSE . . . Italian door is still open for him



HE AINT HEAVY . . Chumani Booie is assisted by fellow Old Dalian Bulldogs Robin Swanepoel and Pietie Loots.

CHUMANI . . . Bulldog since 2001

CHUMANI BOOIE (Dale First XV, 1999) was one of nine Old Dalians who played for the 2001 Border Bulldogs. He has 63 Bulldogs caps and is still playing Vodacom Cup rugby for them.

Last season he captained the Border side.

Chumani's career on the field has also seen him playing Currie Cup and Vodacom Cup and Super Series rugby.

He has played for South Africa A, also known as the Emerging Springboks, and the UK Barbarians.

Chumani has represented Western Province and Griquas at Currie Cup level.

His Super Rugby career includes playing for the Sharks, the Lions and the Stormers. Chumani has certainly been around.

GARETH . . . from Griquas to Cheetahs and then Italy

GARETH KRAUSE (Dale First XV in 1997-1999, captain of the Dale touring team to France in 1999.) Now aged 29, he is helping to coach Stirling High School's First XV in East London.

Gareth played 95 games for Griquas before moving abroad. The quote, "He is probably one of the best foreign players to come to Italy in the last five years" sums up the former Griquas captain and Springbok Sevens international.

A hard player, he came through the ranks at Dale to lead the College on tour in France and playing club teams there.

He played for Border Schools in 1998-99, Border U/21 and the provincial side before linking up with Griquas.

On moving to Italy in 2007 after spells with the Griquas and the Cheetahs, he played for Venice, Viadana and eventually Aironi.

Gareth retired at the end of last season amid confusion over the use of overseas players by Italian teams.

A try-scorer in Aironi's Magners League win over Connacht, he accused the Federazione Italiana Rugby (FIR) of "indecision."

Aironi have refused to rule out the possibility of calling on Krause again should there be a change in policy.

Describing Gareth as "a great player and a great guy," Aironi director of rugby Franco Tonni said: "He is probably one of the best foreign players in Italy in the last five years."

"The door will stay open for Gareth. If rules change or if Aironi need help during the season, he could be back.

"Meanwhile, we just can thank him for his behaviour on and off the pitch."

Back in the Eastern Cape, Gareth led a Kings combination XV, including Old Dalians, against the Cheetahs last year. He is now captaining Border.

New 'boys' on the block

Lubabalo Mtembu (Dale First XV 2006-08 and captain in 2009), SA Sevens Springbok, represents the Natal Sharks in the Vodacom Cup.

Shane Spring (Dale First XV 2004-06) SA Sevens Springbok represented South African Academy Sevens in Harare. He is also a regular Border provincial player.

Sphu Msutwana (Dale First XV 2009-11) has also represented the SA U/19 Academy Sevens team.

A number of young and promising Old Dalian rugby players are making their way up the ranks through Academy provincial sides and are keeping the Dale flag flying.

Rugby 2011: The best since 2004

By **BARRY TURNER**

LOOKING back on the 2011 rugby season and records at both Dale College and Dale Junior there is satisfying progress in maintaining the traditional "Rugby School" spirit for which Dale is renowned.

The side of 2011 achieved the best win rate of all First XV sides since 2004. The First XV boasted a brilliant backline and if they had more weight, beef or size up front would have finished much higher in the South African Top 20 Rugby playing schools and on the log guideline.

They finished a credible No. 10 spot last year and have since improved on that. As I write, Dale are rated No. 6 on the 2012 FNB list with only Paarl Gim, Affies, Grey College, Paarl Boys' High and Paul Roos ahead.

The 2011 side was well-balanced and combined well with forwards and backs interplay brilliant on "good" days.

The season had its ups and downs with the First XV producing satisfying results. An in-depth analysis will show that they could have had a far better season. Fitness was not questioned but focus at critical times lacked for the First XV and many of the other sides right down to Under 9 levels at Dale Junior.

A famous general once said "there is no substitute for winning". At times the First XV and all the other sides might have lost a battle but did not lose the war! A bad display was generally followed by brilliance.

The Dale College First XV under the guidance of Old Dalians Grant Griffith and Vince Gelderbloem continued to build on the past and join other First XV sides who have achieved success for the season of equal to or above the win rate of 65 per cent.

Our First XV rugby history shows that 65 teams have achieved a win rate of 65 to 69 per cent. There have been 42 teams to enjoy 70 per cent and 17 teams having a win rate of 71 to 79 per cent.

The 2011 side in achieving a 70 per cent win rate have placed themselves in this band of above average Dale First XV sides.

The win rate and national ranking could have been higher but for a game being cancelled through grounds being flooded, some lapses of concentration, some questionable referee decisions and just bad luck.

To Page 17



THE 2011 Dale Seven squad that won the @lantic series at Stirling High, including: Spho Msutwana Kamva Mfikili, S. Soyizwapi, Mailiviwe Simanga, Jason. Buchholz, Achumile Mashalaba, coach Vincent Gelderbloem, Ayabonga Masiba, coach Steve Turner, M Mqhayi, Sibanye Bukani, Malwande Mhamhe, T. Zakeyo, little Josh Turner, Somila Jho and Bungu Kobese.

*** Picture Q4Action**

Blitz Herons ninth in South Africa

DALE COLLEGE has over the years become a force in local Rugby Sevens and the "Blitz Herons" had an equally good season in 2011. Their fast-paced game influences the pace at the 15-a-team main game.

* They won the regional @lantic Sevens tournament played at Stirling High School, East London, beating Queen's 47-10 in the final.

* Earlier, in the pool games Dale beat Port Rex 43-nil, Cathcart High 67-nil, Stirling Barbarians 56-nil. They beat Grens 43-nil in the final. Results: Played five, won five, points for 256, points against ten. * After this success Dale finished ninth in SA in the Champion of Champions Tournament held in Rustenburg. They played five games, winning two and losing three. They beat Pioneer 31-0 and Waterkloof 26-21, lost to HTS Louis Botha 19-35, Monument 7-28 and Brandwag 12-27.

Coaches Vincent Gelderbloem and Grant Griffith accompanied the Border U/18 Sevens team to the national tournament in Rustenburg.

Of the 12 selected, eight were Dalians; Achumile Mashalaba, Kamva Mfikili, Sibanye Bukani, Spho Msutwana, Malwande Mhamhe, Mailiviwe Simanga, Somila Jho and Ayabonga Masiba.

The Border side finished fourth in SA after beating Zimbabwe, Leopards, Griquas and South Western Districts and losing to Western Province and the eventual tournament winner, the Bulls.

Two of the Border players, Johan Meyer from Queen's and Spho Msutwana from Dale, were selected for the SA Schools side.

Joburg Golf Day: September 14

GAUTENG Old Dalians will hold their annual golf day at Leeuwkop GC on Friday, September 14. Details will be announced later. Meanwhile please mark the date.

'Dale: The most exciting team to watch'

OLD DALIAN Doug van der Merwe (matric 1956), who watched Dale's three games commented: "The Dale First XV did us proud. I was fairly bursting with pride to see Dale playing with a 'spirit that will never die' (to quote an old rugby song)."

Here are extracts from Internet blogs picked up by Doug: * After the last day: "Dale College remain unbeaten after drawing with the powerful Paul Roos side who had been carrying all before them this weekend.

* "Those who braved the cold and got out of bed early this morning were treated to a spectacle of rugby. Hats off to Dale College for taking the game to Paul Roos and running the ball from everywhere.

"The score was neck and neck, the entire game and the final result a fair reflection of what happened. For me, Dale was the most exciting team to watch the entire tournament."

* "My team of the Kearsney fest: Dale College - for playing by far the most attractive, enterprising rugby - well done Dale and to Old Boy Doug van der Merwe, who urged his team to keep running the ball - even when they were 24 -5 down at halftime! And to Kearsney College for hosting such a fantastic event!

- from a Glenwood Old Boy who sat near Doug in the stand.

"Well done Dale, keep your feet on the ground, plenty of tough East Cape derbies to come. Amadoda! -- Proud Old Dalian.

* "Dale were very good with ball in hand? They proved this against every team they played. Both Glenwood and Paul Roos were under the kosh in the second half."

* "Looking back on Dale's three games the one they probably came the closest to losing was against Westville.

"Westville kept them out of the game in the second half and missed four kicks, one of which hit the upright. But well done to all the boys for a great weekend of rugby. Hats off to the organisers!"

**"Well done Kearsney on an awesome schoolboy rugby showdown!"

The state of rugby at Dale: How the coaches see it

DALE COLLEGE has been able to retain most of its key players in recent years after the exodus and poaching from the College and Dale Junior since 2005 which saw the disappointing seasons of 2006 and 2007. The 2009 season did not live up to its high expectations after the loss of five First XV players to Johannesburg.

Surrounding Border and Eastern Cape schools continue to approach the young Under 13 players annually without recourse or reprimand. This leaves the College finding it difficult to retain these youngsters and no room for additional new-player approach and development.

To add to this Dale College finds itself with few capable rugby coaches. Unfortunately in the teaching profession today it is difficult to find male staff who can contribute extramurally.

The trend of late at the College has been that should a male

staff member leave he is replaced with a female who does not contribute to rugby at the College.

Finding capable "outside" coaches in King Williams Town has been a challenge on its own. These individuals cannot find the time away from their work during the week and on weekends this leaves the College to select inexperienced coaches into high positions where they will not cope.

The Under 14 and 15A and B sides continue to perform well weekly but this could change soon with the lack of coaches to drive these youngsters to use facilities such as the Dudley "Dooks" Andrews Gym to build to compete against more physical schools.

Head coach Grant Griffith and his 2011 assistant, Vincent Gelderbloem (in their seasonal report.) Vince has since left Dale College for Johannesburg.

Stop these angry scenes on and off the field!

From Page 16 These were games that could have been won. That is unfortunately the way the game of rugby pans out.

The highlight of the season was the magnificent win and tenacious and focused defence to beat an equally rampant Queen's College side. Were the same values and focus employed at all other games the results record would have painted a different picture!

Other games of note were the wins against fancied sides KES, Grey High School and the last game of the season against Queen's where Dale ran out winners by 38 to 31.

The referee, who is not always given credit – he interprets the laws of the game very strictly – was run off his feet and afterwards commented on the high standard of play by both sides.

There is a tendency by some schools to "cosy" up to referees during the week before games and this should be discouraged. Referees should only have contact with players on the field of play.

Familiarity unfortunately breeds contempt and favouritism and frustration boils over as well. This is not doing the game any good.

The First XV team played well as a unit. It is always unfortunate to pinpoint any problem areas within the scope of success. Management would do well to fix early any signs of anger, abuse or unsavoury behaviour on and off the field by any player.

The leadership of the on-field captain (Bungi Kobese, who top-scored with 147 points) showed immaturity at times. To be red-carded for referee abuse leaves questions unanswered about leadership qualities and the captain's role. Popularity does not a good captain make!

The captain, though a very talented player, did not always lead from the front or by example. His second team replacement, Dean van Schalkwyk, was a more fluid player who lacked experience but deservedly earned selection for the Border Academy Team.

This was a fitting tribute to his coach, Gordon Ephraim, and Dean, who topped-scored for seconds with 123 points.

The 2011 Dale fullback, Siviwe Soyizwapi, is



THE 2011 First XV, led by Bungi Kobesi, with coaches Grant Griffith and Vince Gelderbloem in the front row. Headmaster Mike Eddy is on the right.

an exciting player for the future. He was the top-scoring back with 13 tries and a total of 103 points.

A critical look at the main sides shows great depth of talent that has to be harnessed and developed.

The Dale Second XV, traditionally the first team battering ram in general acquitted themselves extremely well on and off the field. The Third XV had an exceptional season, losing only one game to St Andrew's College.

* Coach Grant Griffith was named the Canterbury Schools coach of the year – an international honour.

Congratulations to a man who is humble, human and has an eye for talent. Being the senior coach will still see him keeping an eye on teams from low levels to the First XV.

His exuberance and joy and frustration can always be seen at every game.

Well done Griffy!

Rugby achievers and award winners

HERE are the leading rugby achievers for 2011 and the top award-winners:

Top points scorers:

Bungi Kobese: Four tries, 32 conversions and 21 penalties. Total 147 points. Siviwe Soyizwapi: 13 tries, 26 conversions and four penalties. Total 103 points.

Border Craven Week Reps:

Maliviwe Simanga, Jason Buchholz (he has a contract with Free State Cheetahs from 2012), Achumile Mashalaba, Sphu Msutwana, Milani Mqhayi.

Border Academy Reps:

Abongile Mnyaka, Tinotenda Zakeyo, Brandon Kemp, Zinzo Tom, Malwande Mhamhe, Sibanye Bukani, Ayabonga Masiba, Kamva Mfikili, Dean van Schalkwyk.

Honours were re-awarded to:

Bungi Kobese and Siviwe Soyizwapi.

Colours were re-awarded to:

Achumile Mashalaba, Msutwana Siphumelele and Simanga Maliviwe.

New awards went to:

Jason Buchholz, Masiba Ayabonga, Mhamhe Malwande, Abongile Mnyaka, Mqayi Milani, Linda Zindela.