



Dear Old Boys

On the 1st of June 1866 Durban High School opened its doors for the first time with 7 boys arriving at "Mansion House" in Smith Street 150 years ago.

This makes us the second oldest school in KZN and the oldest public school in Durban.

There have been many exciting events celebrating the Schools 150th anniversary, please read below for an account of the festivities to date.

150th Golf Day

The festivities kicked off on Thursday 2 June when 260 golfers arrived to play in the DHS 150th Golf Day, due to the number of golfers the field was split between Royal Durban and Beachwood, with prize giving held at Royal Durban.

Old Boys representing all years attended and it was wonderful to see the camaraderie between them all.

The prizes and sponsors were fantastic and special mention must go to Deanne Hamilton who was instrumental in helping us out in this regard, and ensuring the success of the day.

Thank you to everyone who

supported the 150th Golf Day!



Pictured above are the winners of the golf day: Haydn McGregor, Wayne Bachman, David Hall and Brad Georgiou

150th Old Boys Special Assembly

On Friday we welcomed over 250 DHS Old Boys to a Special Old Boys Assembly. The Assembly has become an integral part of the Founders Day Celebrations. This year, on our 150th Anniversary, it was bigger and better than ever.

The ceremony, attended by Trustees of the Foundation, special guests, DHS staff and our boys, began with readings and prayers by the Head Prefects and included musical interludes by the Deo Fretus and the Mambazo Singers. Certificates and leather bound copies of the DHS 150th Heritage Book were awarded by Mr Erasmus to Trustees of the DHS Foundation who are Old Boys that have made significant contributions to School over the years and have played an active role in the upgrading and development of the School's infrastructure - Mr Chris Seabrooke, Mr Howard Buttery and Mr Stephen Saad. Mr Erasmus also recognised the contribution of Mr Mike Fennell and Mr Rob Mutch of the Foundation.

A new Mathematics prize, the

Wadley Memorial Prize was introduced by Mr Keith Barnett and Party. Mr Winston Owen, Chairman of the Governing Body addressed the school. Mr Owen, an Old Boy (Class of '89), highlighted the importance of the brotherhood at DHS that has been the pulse of School for 150 years. He voiced his pride in the boys that currently form the DHS body and thanked the Old Boys who continuously support DHS. He said, "the current young men at DHS look up to you, the Old Boys, and have enormous pride as they have seen and heard stories about your success and hope to emulate you."



Chris Seabrooke, Chairman of the DHSFT and Head Boy Mvumleni Mathenjwa

One of the highlights of the ceremony was a special 150th gift which was unveiled and presented to Mr Erasmus by Mr Hank Pike, the Durban Preparatory High School Headmaster. The gift of an exquisite mosaic of the DHS School badge was in recognition of the close relationship between the two schools which is so important to honour and remember. It was Mr A S Langley, the 4th Head Master of DHS, who founded DPHS in 1910. Four boys from Prep were in the audience and it was wonderful to have them join us.

Scott Mathie, Old Boy (Class of 2000) and current DHS Head of

Rugby, addressed the players, the DHS boys and Old Boys in a rousing and heartfelt talk about the small things, building blocks, wolves, and DHS boys being men of character. He received a standing ovation following his speech.



Old Boy Scott Mathie addressing the boys.

Then the fun really started ... our boys, led by the 1st XV and 1st XI and the war cry leaders, lifted the roof off the Hall with the School Song, the College Song and the War Cry. The spirit amongst the boys was tangible and fantastic to witness. The Brass Band came marching in and led the Old Boys down the red carpet and out the Hall while the whole School clapped and whistled and honoured them ... an incredibly moving ceremony which everyone, particularly the Old Boys, will long remember.

Horsefly 'til I die ...

1956/57 60th Reunion Luncheon

On Thursday 2 June the class of 1956 and 1957 held their 60th year reunion luncheon at the school.

The Old Boys had a wonderful time reminiscing about their days at School, and catching up with one another. A lovely lunch was served and the Head Master was honoured to welcome them all back to the school.

The Old Boys were treated to a tour of the museum after the lunch.

Thank you to the 1956/1957 committee for their hard work in

organising this reunion.



The class of 1956/57

1966 50th Reunion Dinner

The class of 1966 gathered at AJ's at DHS on Thursday 2 June to celebrate the 50th reunion of their Matric class. Below is an account of the reunion from Cedric Parker.

Around 100 delegates (including a number of Teachers and a past Headmaster from their era) attended. There was a wonderful spirit of unity and goodwill as Classmates and Teachers alike shared their memories and reconnected again after half a century.

Mike Mun-Gavin welcomed everyone and introduced the current Headmaster, Leon Erasmus, who inspired everyone with his passion and commitment to excellence in the address that he gave. Denzil Andrews then thanked Leon and introduced the current learner leadership team ("Stash" Mathenjwa the Head Prefect - and his two deputies, Libo Mngomezulu and Josh Spooner).

We held a simple ceremony to remember our deceased Classmates - by lighting a candle for each one. This was followed by projecting video greetings from Classmates around the world who had not been able to make the reunion.

There were 51 Classmates from South Africa; 6 from Australia;

3 from Canada; 2 from France; and 1 from Zimbabwe. We gave each delegate a "goodie" bag containing a magnum of 'Wrinkles' McIver Wine of Maturity Merlot; a special bookmark with the names of deceased Classmates, a discount voucher from La Bella Restaurant, an engraved stylus key ring/torch and the commemorative embroidered golf shirts that had been ordered by them. These gifts were made possible by a number of very generous donations that we received from Classmates.

The following morning some of the Classmates attended the special Founders Day assembly at the school. This was a deeply moving experience for us, as it became so clear that our school has built on the wonderful traditions of the past and evolved into a superb, inclusive institution. A recurring theme which struck a positive chord with us - was that the boys have a sense of entering a noble brotherhood when they join DHS. I felt so proud to be an Old Boy as I witnessed the DHS of 2016 in all its glory. There is an infectious enthusiasm amongst the teachers and learners that pervades everything they do. The boys showed tremendous respect and courtesy in the way that they interacted with us.

On the Friday evening some of us attended the formal banquet at the Greyville Convention Centre where over 800 Old Boys and teachers gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the School. This too was an inspiring event. Lee Irvine was the MC, and the speakers included Chris Seabrooke, Stephen Saad and Joe Parker - who was the after-dinner entertainer.

On the Saturday morning we were privileged to go on an interesting tour of the school conducted by Jeremy Oddy. This culminated in a fascinating slide presentation in the Seabrooke Theatre - which mapped out the history of the

school. In the afternoon we watched two thrilling rugby encounters with Maritzburg College - winning against their 2nd team with only 14 men - and then losing narrowly to their first team - in a match that could have gone either way. We were left with no doubt that we are developing as a top rugby school under the astute leadership of Scott Mathie (ex Sharks).

The prevailing sentiment was that the weekend had been profoundly significant - in that it had cemented our brotherhood tradition. It was resolved that we should remain in touch through our website and connect again more regularly in future.



The class of 1966

150th Old Boys Banquet Dinner

The Old Boys Banquet, hosted by the DHS Foundation, was held on Friday 3 June at the Greyville Convention Centre.

The event was attended by almost 800 DHS Old Boys who arrived in Durban from all corners of the world to celebrate this very special anniversary. Old Boys came from the USA, Canada, UK, Ireland and Australia to name but a few places. Our oldest Old Boy was from the class of 1951, Graham Mckenzie and our youngest Old Boys' were from the class of 2008.

DHS Old Boy, Lee Irvine, was MC for the evening, with Chris Seabrooke welcoming the Old Boys and Stephen Saad and Head Master, Leon Erasmus, addressing the audience. Tony Human said Grace and he received a standing

ovation. The very exuberant crowd were entertained by the always amusing Old Boy, Joe Parker.

The College Song and the School war cry were sung during the evening and once again the brotherhood of the Old Boys was very evident.

Thank you to our DHS moms, past and present, who made the venue look beautiful, and to all others who helped make the evening a great success!

The Old Boys Banquet Dinner was truly a memorable evening!



The class of 1991 at the Banquet Dinner



The class of 1988 celebrating at the Banquet Dinner

Founders Day

The culmination of the Celebrations was our 150th Founders Day on Saturday 4 June.

The sheer volume of the 1000s of people and Old Boys that attended was almost overwhelming and the support for our School was incredible!

And what a wonderful day it was, the crowds, the excitement, the expectation, the cheering,

the rugby, the war cries, the war cry leaders, the marching band, the 150th cake, the Old Boys, our boys, the passion, the pride, the blue and gold ...

Our 1st XV played a splendid game, but unfortunately lost to a better team on the day.



Old Boys proudly wearing the navy and gold.



Thank you to each and every Old Boy who supported School on Founders Day, whether you were there in person or in spirit, the boys were blown away by your support and encouragement!

Midlands Mob Celebration

The Midlands Mob headed up by Lionel Cason, had their reunion on Friday 24 June at the Fern Hill Hotel in Howick.

Around 90 Old Boys and their wives attended the function, along with the Head Master, Leon Erasmus, and CEO of the Foundation Trust, Mike Fennell.

The evening was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Lynton Cousins Terry Sandy at the Midlands Mob Celebration

150th London Celebration

On Saturday 25 June, around 40 Old Boys gathered in London to celebrate the 150th birthday of the school. Organized by David Higgins, the Old Boys met at a Sports Bar and Grill in Farringdon to watch the SA vs Ireland rugby match, and to catch up. Old Boys attended from all over, with some flying in from Ireland! The event was a huge success, and hopefully one of many more.



The UK Old Boys celebrating in London

Old Boys 150th Celebration in Brisbane, Australia

The 150th celebration organized by Neil Ryder and Andrew Howes was attended by 73 old boys who travelled far and wide to join in the festivities. Below is the speech that Neil gave on the night.

Our oldest Old Boy tonight is Arthur Lith, Class of 1953, who incidentally made the huge effort to attend this evening, being based in Sydney.

Our youngest Old Boys tonight are Scott Williamson, Class of 2010, David Jackman class of 2008 and Chesney "Julius" Berrange, Class of 2001.

A huge welcome to Tom Lawton and Dick Cocks this evening, both Tom and Dick REPRESENTED AUSTRALIA, DHSOB's Rugby Club and Natal.

Tom winning the Curry Cup with Natal for the first time in 100 years, while playing for the

DHSOB's Rugby Club.

Why all the effort - good question, I guess the pride and impact that Durban High School had on me and many a fellow old boys lives, it is the driving force and to possibly link connections in Australia, the country we now call home. I do feel very passionate about our School, being an Old Boy of Durban High School is most certainly the glue that binds all us Old Boys.

Quite a bit has changed at 255 St Thomas Road with the DHSOB club being sold, the upgrade of Blackmores House, which was well over due. Rugby is now being taken more seriously with significant resources and support being allocated by securing services of Scott Mathie as Head Coach. Good coaching, conditioning and instilling some pride back into the jersey is starting to pay dividends and its only early days. Nowadays the school war cry is sung with the gusto of a Lion King Broadway production! It is not all about the rugby...the basketball team has enjoyed an era of domination at the top drubbing their opponents by 50 plus points.

Things that haven't changed are the basic layout of the school (the pool is now officially 50m so the records are now real) and AJ Human just racked up 52 years of service, that is over One Third of the schools age - what an achievement and loyal dedication he has displayed considering his roots were at Glenwood. Arguably the best Head of Blackmore's in the history of the school. Many of us Old Boys in attendance in Brisbane on the 14th of May 2016 will testify to that.

As we all know DHS a few years ago procured the services of Leon Erasmus from Rondebosch High School. He is the 14th Headmaster of the Durban High School; I haven't personally met the man,

but look forward to doing so in June. With the new changing times, he has been steering the ship in the right direction and by all accounts I believe he has been doing an excellent job.

DHS continues to pride itself in being a pillar of the Durban society producing young aspiring men who hopefully develop and nurture the essential qualities needed to be constructive and productive members of society, corporate, community and family life.

"Deo Fretus"



Andrew Howes, Arthur Lith, Harley Nortje, Glynn Williams and Neil Ryder at the Brisbane function



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