



# Rondebosch Old Boys' Union

## NEWSLETTER

Established in 1909

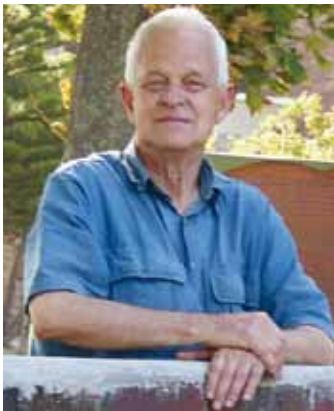
www.rondebosch.com

October 2009

## The Old Boys' Union celebrates 100 years

On 20 November 1909 a group of Old Boys and boys met in Canigou and established the RBHS Union with the first President being the headmaster, Mr Sydney Mason. From those modest beginnings the Union has grown to more than 6700 members in 47 countries and is one of the leading Old Boy Unions in South Africa and quite possibly in the world. Over the past 100 years the Union is proud to have made immense contributions to both the Prep and High Schools which have helped them become the leading schools they are today, with excellent facilities which have benefited generations of Rondebosch boys. The Union has also helped many Old Boys maintain contact with the school and with each other through numerous social occasions, including dinners, reunions and sub-union functions. Old Boys are thanked for their many and varied contributions to Rondebosch starting from when they were in the classrooms and on the fields of our school through to all that they have done as Old Boys by supporting the school over the decades, both in continuing the well known great Rondebosch spirit and in financial and other support. We look forward to the next 100 years of supporting Rondebosch.

*Altius et Latius*



### DEATH OF A RONDEBOSCH LEGEND

It was with great sadness that the Old Boys' Union informed Old Boys of the death on 6 January 2009 of the much loved and revered Professor I de V "Tinkie" Heyns. Prof Heyns was 84 and was involved with Rondebosch

for over 60 years. He died after suffering a stroke shortly after Christmas. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Known affectionately as Prof to thousands of Old Boys, particularly the boarders of Mason House, he came to Rondebosch in 1948 to assist with the coaching of sport. He also taught Maths for a period. He served the School in a variety of capacities both prominent and humble. Prof played a leading role in the coaching of Rondebosch athletics, cross-country and rugby over many decades. He served for various periods as secretary, vice-chairman and chairman of the RBHS School Committee (now the Governing Body). Up to his death he was a member of the Governing Body and was a trustee of the Carleton Lloyd Education Trust. *(Continued on page 2)*



The Carleton Lloyd Stand was officially opened by RBHS Headmaster Martin Barker during May. Guests, boys and staff were addressed by John Benn (E54) a former Chairman of the Old Boys' Union and now a trustee of the Carleton Lloyd Educational Trust. John spoke about Mr Lloyd and his support of Rondebosch and some of the RBPS and RBHS projects and bursaries to which the trust has generously donated funds. Mr Lloyd (E27) was a great supporter of Rondebosch sport, in particular rugby and cricket, and the Carleton Lloyd Educational Trust was established on his death in 2003. During his lifetime Mr Lloyd proposed the construction of a stand overlooking Rugby A. The stand is accordingly a memorial to him and acknowledges the tremendous ongoing contribution by the trust to Rondebosch. Rondebosch thanks the trustees for this magnificent new facility, and we acknowledge the leading role which Prof Tinkie Heyns had in ensuring that the stand was constructed.



Portrait of Carleton Lloyd (E1927) by Stephen Guess (E2006).



*Prof Heyns enjoying tea and watching a match on Cricket A during late 2008.*

*(Continued from page 1)*

He obtained his MSc in education at UCT and his PhD in Chicago. He was a lecturer, professor and Dean of the Faculty of Education at UCT and had a great influence on many students who went on to become teachers themselves.

Prof was also associated with sport at a much wider provincial level. As a runner he at one stage held the South African 880 yards record and was an athletics Springbok.

Prof started his first league refereeing career in 1947 and was a Curry Cup referee for 33 years. As an expert on the laws of rugby Prof Heyns had dealings with the International Rugby Board and edited the SA Rugby Laws for over 40 years and helped with their translation into Afrikaans.

In addition to being a referee, and being an expert on the laws of rugby, Prof Heyns attended to the appointment of referees and compiled the WP Rugby Union's club fixtures for 50 years – he had already set the 2009 club fixtures.

Prof Heyns was awarded Honorary Life Membership during 2008 of the South African Rugby Referees' Association. He was also a Life Member of Western Province Referees' Society and the Western Province Rugby Football Union. He served on the Executive Committee of the WP Rugby Referees Society for over 40 years and edited the SA Rugby law book for a similar period. He gave a lifetime of service to the game at many levels – referee, referee's coach, international touch judge and administrator. He was also responsible for the organising of the ball boys for matches at Newlands and many Rondebosch boys assisted with these duties. Prof Heyns coached rugby at Rondebosch for many years, was a much respected school rugby referee and was responsible for allocating referees for all home matches at RBHS.

Apart from a few years when he was doing research in the USA and elsewhere, he spent most of his Rondebosch years living in Dorm A in Mason House. To mark his 80th birthday in 2004 funds were raised for the extension of Mason House. In ending his birthday speech to a standing ovation Prof said: "If I had my life over, I would do things differently the second time, but I would quite certainly still want to be a teacher, to be at RBHS and to live at Mason House, the best house in the world." The Tinkie Heyns wing was opened in 2006 by Prof Heyns and included a suite of rooms for him.

Several plaques adorn the walls of the Tinkie Heyns wing. One acknowledges the generous donations from the Carleton Lloyd Trust, Professor Heyns himself, Old Boys and parents. The other reads: "This wing was built to honour Professor Tinkie Heyns' long association with Mason House". The dining room in Canigou is also named in his honour.

He was an honorary Vice-President of the Rondebosch Old Boys' Union and in 2006 Prof Heyns was made an Honorary Life Member of the Bosch Rugby Supporters' Club in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Rondebosch rugby. His presence will be missed, but his devotion to Rondebosch will always be fondly remembered.

Prof Tinkie Heyns will be greatly missed by all who loved, honoured and respected him. The memory of Prof as a humble gentleman is captured with the inscription on the plaque below one of his canes which has been mounted outside the new Mason House Prep Room: "In honour of a great man who gave so much and yet asked for so little".

André Ross (OBU Committee)

## TWO SERVICES IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR HEYNS

A church service was held at the NG Kerk in Rondebosch on 14 January and was attended by Prof's family, many Old Boys, staff, boys, parents, representatives of other schools and the rugby fraternity and other members of the Rondebosch community. David Melvill (E77) recorded his impressions of the funeral service.

"It was a very special occasion as we celebrated the life of our dear Prof. The service was ably led by Dr EJ van der Walt who had known Tinkie for 26 years where he had presided as an elder in the Rondebosch Dutch Reformed Church.

The church was packed despite there being a memorial service as soon as the schools reopen at Rondebosch. I took the opportunity to make a few notes as we reflected on this legend of Rondebosch, our own 'Mr Chips'.

Dominee van der Walt brilliantly summed up the life and attributes of Prof. Many of his unknown achievements were brought to the fore for me. He attended school at Nassau whereafter he moved up the hill to UCT, eventually acquiring an MSc in education. He also journeyed across the seas to Chicago where he obtained his PhD. Initially he was a lecturer, ultimately a Prof and then Dean of the faculty and finally was awarded the title of Emeritus Dean for his mammoth contribution to UCT. He started his teaching career at Hottentots Holland and spent a short spell in Port Elizabeth and the USA.

He arrived in 1948 at Rondebosch to assist with coaching rugby. Here he was to spend more than 60 years of his life, living in a single bedroom for most of the years in Mason House which he fondly referred to as the best house in the world.

On the athletics field he excelled in the 880 yards and the mile. He was later to become the South African champion and record holder. He coached athletics for many years. He is probably best known as a rugby referee. He refereed many a Currie Cup match. For 40 years he was the editor of Rugby Rules and vice chairman up until 1991 of the referees association. He still oversaw the ball boys at Newlands Rugby. He was a referee for 33 years.

Characteristics that come to mind were his upstanding, honesty, integrity, wisdom. He never sought the limelight; he always had the greatest respect towards people, deeming them more highly than himself, and mostly addressing them as 'sir' despite knowing their names. He held high standards and was a teacher par excellence. He always displayed dignity toward each boy. He is probably the most esteemed fellow associated with RBHS.

Four eulogies were presented. Firstly two ex-students from

UCT who are still part of his regular Bible study group – Genevieve Meyer and Elizabeth Kluge. They were followed by Paul Dobson representing the rugby and referee fraternity and Roy McCallum (E64) representing the school and the Old Boys' Union.

Paul Dobson recalled Prof's three most valuable characteristics of Tinkie as a referee and member of his committee, namely his reliability, availability and loyalty. Tinkie had 10 talents, and used all of them well. His life was contradictory in the sense that he wanted to live a humble and low profile life, yet he chose education which is always in the spotlight, and rugby which is high profile.

For 50 years he had compiled the rugby club fixtures in Western Province. He translated the rugby rules into Afrikaans. He was a respected servant for 45 years of the Western Province Rugby Union, and for 32 years he served on the committee.

Roy McCallum in his address thanked Kathy Duncan and the school for selecting him to make a speech. He felt there were others far better qualified to fulfill that role. None the less he felt that Tinkie would have wanted him to do it, or else bend for six of the best. He alluded to the 'wagon wheel' of a cricket score card of Tinkie's life. It would reflect the mere four places that he would journey to and back to the boarding house, namely Rondebosch Boys, Newlands Rugby, UCT and his church."

**The second service was held in the Memorial Hall at RBHS on 6 February. The service was conducted by the Rev David Gray (E68).**

**Eulogies were given by Martin Barker, RBHS headmaster, Jannie Olivier (E71) and John Kennedy (E93). Extracts are below and the full text of these eulogies appears on [www.rondebosch.com/obu](http://www.rondebosch.com/obu)**

**M**artin Barker, RBHS headmaster:

"Izak de Villiers Heyns (Tinkie) passed away on 6 January 2009 at the age of eighty-four, after sixty years of dedicated service to RBHS.

The young teacher/academic arrived at the school in 1948. He embarked on an illustrious career in education, which saw him achieve a doctorate and fill the positions of Professor and Dean of Education at UCT. Hundreds of teachers emerged from his faculty and recall him with respect and affection.

At Rondebosch Professor Heyns fulfilled a host of functions, despite the heavy demands of his academic work. He served as Chairman of the school's Governing Body (at that time called "School Committee") for a number of years. He also served on the Jubilee Scholarship Committee, which selects Old Boys of Rondebosch to be funded for post graduate study overseas. Even in his latter years he still served on the Governing Body as an elected member and on the Board of Trustees of the Carleton Lloyd Education Trust.

Sport was always close to the Professor's heart. Himself a Springbok middle distance athlete who broke the SA 800 metre record, he devoted himself tirelessly to coaching this sport at Rondebosch, with wisdom and great insight. His other sporting love was Rugby and he coached teams at the school for many years. His preference was to handle junior sides (under thirteen or fourteen); many boys who went on to become "big name" players passed through his hands.

Prof Heyns refereed Currie Cup A rugby for 33 years; was the editor of the SA Law Book for many years and was a member of the Laws Committee of SA.

Never one to seek the limelight, Prof Heyns lived for sixty years in the Boarding House as a housemaster of Mason House. It was in that role that he gained legendary status through his contribution to the growth and development of generations of young boarders. It was not uncommon for three generations (from grandfather to grandson) in a family to fall under Prof's tutelage over a period of years.

Prof revelled in an (at times) impish sense of humour, not always understood by those to whom he revealed it. There was the mother who arrived to fetch her Grade 8 son from the boarding house and was met by Prof who said: "Take this rubbish away and don't bring him back". In spite of the boy reassuring her that that was "just Prof", she still contacted the headmaster to ask for Prof to be dismissed.

One Saturday Prof encountered two Mason House boys after receiving a 70 – 0 drubbing at rugby. The boys said: "Prof, the referee was against us; he missed several forward passes by our opponents". "How could that have accounted for 70 points", Prof asked them. On their moving away, one boy was heard to say to the other: "Oh well, what does Prof know about rugby anyway?"

When Mason House was enlarged and modernized in 2006, Prof Heyns was honoured by the new wing being named after him. This place was his home, fondly called by him "the best house in the world". It was fitting that he should die while still a resident housemaster there.

Prof espoused so many of the virtues that we regard as cardinal at RBHS: humility, service, integrity, fairness, courtesy. We are poorer for his passing but richer for having known and worked with him.

"Tinkie" Heyns is arguably the most esteemed and well-known figure ever to have been associated with RBHS. The school and its community have been privileged to know him and proud to have worked with him. He leaves an indelible legacy that will always be treasured by his colleagues, his pupils and all whom he knew."

**J**annie Olivier (E71):

"When I share these experiences I do so on behalf of the thousands of privileged Mason House "old boys" and I'm only echoing the collective emotions and memories which we all share.

He taught us wonderful moves on the rugby field with even more wonderful names for these moves. The riempie which he always carried in his front pocket of his long rugby shorts was regularly removed and dramatically displayed and more often than not put to good use right there and then for "in loco", ...let's call it instant coaching lesson!

As meticulous as he was in performing all his numerous duties for the WPRFU, so was he in organizing his referees on a Saturday morning at the school. He humbly phoned my boys and others each weekend to ask and confirm their availability, almost as if they were doing him a favour. If he couldn't personally deliver each one's cool drink after the match, he saw to it that a "new pik" was assigned to do the job. He even went as far as arranging for my boys to referee and/or play at similar times on adjacent fields when he knew we were coming down to Cape Town for the weekend, so we could conveniently watch them both.

We as old boys are privileged not only to have personally known Prof Heyns, but to have personally experienced him and to have been part of history being made. As scholars we unconsciously witnessed one of the greatest men in the history of RBHS, as old boys we fully realize this fact. He was one of

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Editorial

For a variety of reasons it has been a long time since the last newsletter and much water has flowed under the bridge since then bearing with it both sad and happy events.

- Prof Heyns' passing and the memorable farewells.
- Old Boys' Centenary celebrations
- The Carleton Lloyd Rugby Stand and other significant physical amenities at the School.
- Successes academically (Matric first in the Province), on the sports fields and culturally, music concerts and two rousing rugby matches against Bishops spring to mind.
- Jonathan Trott's cricketing achievements for England (did you spot his Dad's Rondebosch cap?).
- A new OBU committee and specifically a new Chairman.

I was privileged to attend a "bosberaad" at which Steve Duffett, the new Chairman, in his vision for his term of office, and hopefully

beyond, was welcomed by all present and I would like to use this editorial to express my reaction. Basically the Chairman's hope was that we attempt to seek out and achieve a better balance between the various stated aims of the Union - particularly more opportunities for Old Boys to get together socially and fewer direct appeals for financial commitments as vital as these are.

These aims, together with helping the School in as many ways as possible, are all equally serious. It is perhaps important that many of us should realise that, if unable to donate significant amounts like the recent generous bequests or gifts, we can all do our bit, not always in cash. Making one's services or some physical asset available to the School or Union at reduced cost or free is an avenue open to many.

I personally commend the new Chairman on his vision and have been

pleased to see evidence already of more social opportunities. I have already agreed to be available to serve in areas where I have previously helped or wherever I can be of use. What about you?

Lord Kitchener (one for the History department, Clive) once pointed a finger and said:

"Your country needs YOU!" Maybe it is appropriate to paraphrase as "Your School and OBU need YOU - not necessarily only your money.

Think on it but, also, let's celebrate in style the excellence of what we have achieved in our first 100 years by making the Centenary celebrations something really special with bumper turnouts and real fellowship!

See you there.

Chris Murison



## Chairman's Report



Extracts from the annual report given by John Benn, outgoing chairman of the Rondebosch Old Boys' Union at the 2009 AGM.

"We look back on a year that has been busier than usual for those at the core of OBU affairs. But we have I believe come through well due to the input of two people in particular. So my special thanks go to

- Angela Andrew, our Administrative Secretary who in September will have served in that position for 20 years. This past year her load has been greater having to deal with Centenary matters as well.

- André Ross our Secretary who has acted as a very efficient Treasurer as well. André's input to the wider Rondebosch family extends way beyond his OBU duties. Apart from being on the Bosch Rugby Supporters' Club committee, he is always ready to assist Rondebosch in other areas, especially where his accounting and tax skills can be used to the School's best advantage.

In thanking these two people specifically I am in no way minimizing the roles of other committee members. The younger generation, represented by Arundal Thom, Robbie Morris and Anton Viljoen, have contributed hugely. I predict in years to come these three gentlemen will serve Rondebosch in a range of other areas as well. Our older stalwarts Ron Monk and Brent Farrell have remained good and faithful servants of the OBU. And special thanks go to Paul la Grange for his dedication in looking after the Honours Room and the enthusiasm with which he has grasped the Heritage Project we are developing with the High School. My job as Chairman has been made easier through the efforts of these people and I thank them accordingly.

Our Centenary sub-committee will continue to meet at least monthly as we move towards our Centenary celebration on 20 November. Here I must record further thanks for their input and support to André, Arundal and Anton as well as to Tom Glover, Neil Strybis, Lindsay Kennedy and Eddie Lockyer.

One of the highlights of 2008 was undoubtedly the winter sports

celebration. 100 years of past vs present sport was fittingly marked by handing out to all Old Boy participants a souvenir golf shirt, and by Jeff Louw (E55), who has achieved a half century of playing rugby against the School, speaking on behalf of the Union at the post match function.

My tenure as your Chairman comes to an end with this AGM. It has been an honour and a privilege to lead our Union into its Centenary year. I have enjoyed the ride. I have valued the support of those who have served with me, as well as words of encouragement from members far and wide. Our Headmasters and Chairs of Boards of Governors have also been most supportive and I would like to record my thanks to them.

I am indeed grateful for four good years of serving with such fine people and of meeting so many others along the way. I know that my successor Steve Duffett will be equally blessed as he moves through his term of office. I wish him every success.

*Altius et Latius"*

John Benn, former chairman

(Continued from page 3)

the custodians of tradition, which emphasizes once again that tradition cannot be bought and must be preserved, no matter what.

I believe that he and the Tickey de Jagers of the school were responsible for applying the basics right at that level and greatly contributed to the strength of Rondebosch rugby in those days.

Only recently I asked him what noticeable difference there was between today's boys and those in our time, and he immediately replied that we were naughtier, but that was because we had more time to be naughty and his "ruling with the riempie and the rottang" had the "desired results" and therefore fully justified. If you look at us all today, how can we not agree!

We will all remember him for the man that he was; humble, caring, loyal, and for his contribution in making RBHS the great school that it is. And above all, for making Mason House the Best House in the World! Prof, I salute you."

John Kennedy (E93)

"Prof led a rich life - certainly not measured by the clothes he wore or the car he drove, but in the way he covered all the bases. Physically he excelled on the sporting front, particularly in his athletics and rugby refereeing. Mentally he was an

excellent educator and at the forefront of academia. Emotionally he was tied into a wide network of relationships and he loved us. Spiritually he was a long standing servant of his church.

He was kind, he was fair, he was humble, he was dedicated and loyal. He respected all those that surrounded him and his integrity could never be questioned. Prof's values were the very essence of what each of us strives for.

As boarders he allowed us to find our own space and respect who we were as individuals. He nurtured us and inspired us; he disciplined us, was patient with us and drove us when it was necessary to. As Bosch Boys he helped us shape our own personal relevance.

*Do you recall:*

Prof on the steps of Mason House wishing us goodbye on weekends out or welcoming us home on a Sunday afternoon.

Do you remember watching him doing sprints on Oakhurst field? Bunking out at the pool - two steps ahead of us. No matter how well we planned it he was always two steps ahead.

Raiding the dorms and tying his door to the balustrade only to watch his scissors trying to cut the rope and hearing him "mutter" behind the door. Greeting everyone as "sir"

(Continued on page 6)



# OBU Centenary Dinner

PRICE **R350**

Date: **Friday 20 November 2009** • Time: **18h30 for 19h00** • Venue: **Kenilworth Race Course, Banqueting Venue**

Surname: ..... First name: ..... E-year: .....

Postal address: ..... Code .....

Phone: H..... W..... Cell .....

Fax: H..... W.....

Email: (Please print) .....

Names of others in party if you wish to make a table booking:

.....

.....

Our guest speaker is Richard Steyn (E60)

**Bookings close on 30 October 2009, or earlier if capacity is reached. NO late bookings will be accepted**

**PLEASE DO NOT** send cash or registered letters - crossing your cheque is sufficient. Your ticket will be posted to you on receipt of payment.

Please return this form to: **The Rondebosch Old Boys' Union, 25 Lochiel Road, Rondebosch 7700 by 30 October 2009**

- A cheque for R..... is enclosed

- I will transfer my payment directly into the Union's account. Please contact me on the above email address.

Should you wish to make payment by means of a direct transfer into the Union's bank account, please complete the form including your email address (please print clearly), mark the appropriate box and fax it to the Union's office on 021 686-1897 or email all your details to [obu@rondebosch.com](mailto:obu@rondebosch.com)

The bank account details will be emailed to you. After making payment please fax/email the confirmation to the Union.

**Bookings cannot be accepted unless payment has been made in full and confirmation of receipt has been received.**

- Tickets must be prepaid. No tickets are available at the door.
- There will be a strict cut off of numbers at 320 so please book early.
- Bookings close on 30 October 2009 or earlier if capacity is reached.
- **NO BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 30 OCTOBER 2009**
- Old boys will be allocated to tables by Eyear unless a specific

table booking is preferred. Table bookings will only be accepted on pre-payment of all tickets.

- Due to space constraints the dinner is only open to members of the OBU.
- Cheques should be favour of RBHS Old Boys' Union.

Further enquiries please contact Angela Andrew 021 686-1897 (ph/fax). Email: [obu@rondebosch.com](mailto:obu@rondebosch.com)

(Continued from page 5)

Do you recall him spending time perfecting the race track on Lower Desert, or how many of us were branded mentally defected kids or lower grade morons – and we loved it.

Maybe you were fortunate to get the score right for the Rondebosch Bishops match and receiving over the money bag which promised unbelievable wealth.

Maybe it was trying to keep up with your brisk pace on the way to church, our favourite due to its short service.

Or watching you give a good walloping to the one who kept dropping his pencil in prep, could it be that you were of one the individuals who had to push the Oros cart around on a Saturday morning with the refreshments for all the cricket players – keeping every sports team well hydrated.

Perhaps it was on video night and the promise of Jungle Book 6 as the main attraction for the night.

Or remembering that Prof's fridge was always a good bet for a yoghurt when your tuck had run out.

Perhaps you're the one who got jacks for getting a duck on the cricket field and being a disgrace to your parents, your school, your house and to the human race.

Or maybe you were called a show off for scoring a try and given jacks for the amount of points you had added.

I just remember those roll calls, some of us could wake up easily, others not. The bell would clang a couple of times and the from the bowels of Mason House, reverberating through the passages we would hear:

The man is coming, the man is shivering with rrrrrrage!

Yes Prof could roll his R's better than a Malmesbury Farmer. He was a character and had an amazing sense of humour and however subtly, he made his influence on you, he did so.

I'm sure you will all agree that a school's foundation is built on the ongoing contributions of its broader community over time, be they pupils, parents or teachers. In Prof we had all three, he was a father, a mentor and he committed himself to lifelong learning.

"May all those who serve as masters and pass through as students forever uphold and maintain the fair name of this school" is a well known phrase that as boarders we all know well. Prof you exceeded our wildest expectations and as Rondebosch we are so very grateful.

Words can never do justice to what you meant to us but today is our chance to salute you and to say thank you for brightening our lives. Your greatest gift to us was how you lived your life and that was to the fullest and to enjoy each and every moment.

You stood tall as a human being of unique qualities giving far more than you ever took. Mason House is not only a great House; you made it a great home.

Your joy for life, boundless energy will remain in our hearts and we will cherish the memories for many many years to come. Your presence and magnificent shadow will continue to remain high and wide in our community, school and boarding house.

Sir, your legacy humbles us and will never ever be forgotten."

## TRIBUTES TO PROF HEYNS

**MIKE REELER**, president of the Old Boys' Union and a former RBHS headmaster

"Among the first words ever uttered by my one-year-old daughter (now Susan Carletti, a senior Mathematics teacher at the High School) were "Great house, Mason House". I was in charge of The Lilacs at the time and she would stand at the fence and "chat" to Tinkie every morning as he made his way, via a short-cut through the Prep School, to UCT.

Tinkie did own a motor car once. It was left to him on the death of his father and Ron Wiggett, a member of the High School staff, persuaded him to learn to drive. They proceeded to the Lower Desert where, within a short while, Tinkie accidentally reversed the car over the newly-watered, very soft cricket pitch and left evidence of this by deep tyre marks. This was to the extreme annoyance of Steytler Thwaites, the master-in-charge of cricket, whose apoplectic utterances had to be heard to be believed. To the best of my knowledge, Tinkie never sat behind the wheel of a motor car again!! The car eventually landed up in the hands of Dudley Baartman, the Housemaster at Canigou and long-time colleague of Tinkie's, who drove it for many years.

Not for Tinkie the modern advantages of gyms for keeping fit. I, quite often, would come across him on the "A" rugby field late in the night, "refereeing" a phantom rugby game, going through all the movements of keeping up with imaginary play, following imaginary balls kicked high downfield, bending down to peer into imaginary scrums, stopping to watch the "action" in imaginary lineouts. He explained to me that this was his way of keeping fit and preparing for his responsibilities as a referee.

The work of Lennox and his boarding house staff in the dining hall at Canigou was made very easy. Tinkie, usually the last person to leave the masters' table at the end of a meal, would pick up all the left-over fruit, surplus biscuits and even slices of bread to take with him to Mason House to sustain him during the early hours of the morning as he prepared in his little "cell" for the next day's activities.

In his earlier days at Mason House, Tinkie would love occasionally to travel overseas during the summer holidays from UCT. He would buy an "open" air ticket, pack a spare shirt and a couple of pairs of socks and underpants into a small suitcase and travel where the mood took him at the time. I once asked, when he came to tell me he would be away for

a couple of weeks, where he was going. He replied "Meneer(rrr), I will go to the airport and fly to Johannesburg and will then take any aeroplane that is going somewhere to Europe". "What will you do when you get there?", I asked. "Every country has schools and I will visit them to see how they teach children there", was his reply."

**MIKE BREWIS**, former Governing Body Chairman and now a trustee of the Carleton Lloyd Trust

"It is a gross understatement to say that the Rondebosch Family, and all of those who were privileged to have had an association with our dear Prof during these many years, will miss him deeply. His passing marks the end of one of our School's truly great eras. In many ways, for me, he was Rondebosch! His dignity, his integrity, his devotion to duty, his pride in his School, his rock solid set of values – all of these traits epitomize what is so special about Rondebosch.

I am a latecomer to the Rondebosch Family, and served the School as a member of its Governing Body over the years 2000 to 2003, concluding my contribution as Chairman. This is where I first got to work with Professor Heyns and to know him. His attendance at these meetings

was usually marked by a quiet dignity, almost a reluctance to engage in some of the many active debates that often mark such meetings, listening most carefully to the various points being put across. However, if ever there was a discussion around a subject that threatened the School's image, standing, ethos, or hinted at changing the way we do things, he was in! Many was the time when he would lead off with the following words:

"Sir, I would like to say something, if I may. A number of years ago, I remember that this matter was raised at a similar meeting. At the time we discussed it and the way we saw it was that ..."

As the Professor then took us through the topic, the accompanying debate, and the decision that was made at the time, we all realized that he was right. His instinctive and innate sense of the School's history and traditions always helped us all to find a balance in our own reasoning, as we dealt with some complex debates concerning the School's affairs. His contributions in this regard were invaluable, and he assisted us greatly in ensuring that the Rondebosch value system was never compromised.

More recently, I have been co-trustee, with Professor Heyns, on the Carleton Lloyd Education Trust. Tinkie was a very close friend of the late Carleton Lloyd, and has been extremely helpful in assisting me, and the Chairman, to understand the man Carleton Lloyd, his passion for the school, the intent of the Trust, and how best to apply his generous legacy to the long-term advantage of the Rondebosch Schools. Of all the fine projects that the Trust has to date been involved in, it is my sense that the pavilion constructed on Rugby A, would have been closest to Carleton Lloyd's heart, the avid rugby follower that he was. This was Tinkie's pet project, and it is a great pity that he did not see it completed."

**MICHAEL COOMBS (E67), UK Sub-Union**

"On behalf of all of the UK based Old Boys and the London Sub-Union, we express our deep sadness, having learnt of the passing of Prof Tinkie Heyns. So many of us were influenced by him. He was one of Rondebosch's greatest masters and he will live forever in the memory of those of us who knew him."

**GEORGE TZEMIS (E51), Port Elizabeth Sub-Union**

"We, the Port Elizabeth Sub Union wish to extend our condolences and sympathy. He will be greatly missed, and will long be remembered by all who knew him. His unstinting service and dedication to the School will never be forgotten"

**ERIC TORR (E70), Karoo Sub-Union**

"On behalf of the Karoo Old Boys Sub-Union we wish to extend our condolences to Tinkie Heyns's family, relatives close friends. Tinkie will be missed by all, especially those that had the opportunity to have been in Mason House, in his classes, lectures, rugby teams or athletic teams."

**PROFESSOR JP VAN NIEKERK (E53)**

"Tinkie first came into my horizon at school when he laid out the tracks for our sporting events and coached some rugby teams. I got to know him much better when he was Dean of Education at UCT and I was first Deputy and then Dean of the Medical School. His advice was most helpful at the time that we started the Sports Science Institute. Embarrassing to me that he always insisted on calling me 'sir' when I was many years his junior. A great man who influenced many lives positively!"

**DENNIS ENGEL (E55)**

"I remember the trim barrel-chested figure in white vest and white shorts doing fartlek up and down the rugby field in the late afternoons. He had a stern expression of

concentration on his face from his creased forehead down to his long broad chin. The things that he did, he clearly did very consciously and with strong application, a great example to us young people. The 800m, for which he held the SA record, is certainly a tough race which requires every bit of the competitor's application, mental and physical.

The item that sticks in my mind from the mathematics classroom is the demonstration class he gave on "The nature of the roots" of a quadratic equation. There were several of his education students sitting at the back of the classroom that day. He leant forward earnestly over the teacher's table inviting us by his posture to concentrate with him and told us that you could just state the roots simply by their values, but that there were certain characteristics that you needed to look for to really understand them. He moved to the front of the class: "Take Forman here" he said with is heavy rolled "r". Robert Forman sat in one of the front row desks. You can look at him from the outside, he said; he has brown hair, is five foot something tall, and he mentioned a few superficial characteristics. But to really know him you have to look inside and ask about his "character".

What is he really like? And then Prof Tinkie made the analogy to the subject of the lesson and explained that you have to look at the "discriminant" to really identify the nature of the roots. I have never forgotten that."

**ALAN PENNY**

Tinkie's influence and impact is what many of us would like to be remembered for. After I left RBHS my contact with Tinkie developed professionally, and there are few graduates of the School of Education at UCT who did not benefit from Tinkie's wisdom. He taught me how to deal

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Has your email address changed?

Old Boys who have graduated from university, college or technikon and have provided the Union with their student email addresses are asked to send their new email addresses to obu@rondebosch.com. Old Boys who are retiring, changing jobs or whose email addresses may change for any other reason are also asked to forward their new addresses to the Union.

## ANNUAL OBU DINNER

The annual dinner of the Union will be held on **FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2010** at **KELVIN GROVE**

Further details will be available by contacting the Union office later in the year. Email: obu@rondebosch.com or telephone/fax on 021 686-1897. Details will also be posted on the OBU website.

(Continued from page 7)

with the mandarins of Wale Street, skills I have appreciated subsequently.

We all have our 'best' stories of Tinkie, but probably the funniest one for me, given the context, concerns his pleasure at putting a pushy parent in his place without the person concerned knowing it. It was just into the summer holidays and Tinkie was doing some weeding on the Mason House oval. He was attired 'appropriately' ... shorts, a tatty shirt and a straw hat of sorts on his head. In Tinkie's words, a swanky car drove up, the window was rolled down, and a voice boomed out: "hey boy, waar's Dr Heyns?". Tinkie said he looked up and saw who it was, and replied; "Ek weet nie, master ". Back came the reply, "Se vir hom dat ek sal terug kom". "Okay, master".

**CARLOS JALON (E95)**

"Prof Heyns was such a rich character always providing support and discipline in equal measures and had a fantastically wicked sense of humour. Prof helped us all through our tougher times in boarding school and I look back fondly on some of the best years of our young lives in Mason House, "The Greatest House in the World" as he often used to say. Thanks so much for everything Prof, you're a legend."

**CLIVE MYLES (E61)**

"I first met Tinkie as a Mason House boarder. I entered Mason House in Standard 5 in 1956 and he was on his way back from an athletics tour/scholarship of the US. I was in awe of this wonderful man from the first meeting and even at that tender, innocent age, appreciated that this was a special person capable of applying strict discipline both in the boarding house and on the playing fields, be it athletics or rugby but also capable of showing great compassion for 'pikkies' like me, thousands of miles from home in Northern Rhodesia. Yet, within the context of this compassion, he was still able to maintain a sense of discipline that let you know you needed to grow and mature into the typical 'boy' that RBHS produced.

I started Standard 5 with dorm mates who included Ian "Dinkie" McCallum and John "Killie" Kilburn and it was always a sense of both pride and amusement that when meeting older old boys, I would often be questioned - " Oh! are you the Tex Myles that Prof Heyns often uses as an example with Killie Kilburn and Dinkie McCallum in his classes at UCT?"

Many years later, when I lived in Rondebosch while my son Gavin was in high school as a third generation Myles after me and my father before me, I met up with the Professor again and on the first meeting on the upper athletic fields one summer I was amazed that after 20 years he could remember - "Ah! Tex, the discus flower and hopeful of Tickey de Jager who did not blossom (after my brother Peter whose RBHS and WP records stood for decades) - how are you and are you still living in Lusaka?"

**PETER MYLES (Head Prefect 1959, Mason House 1954 – 56)**

"Anyone who was coached by Tinkie, whether it be rugby or athletics, will know that he had a talent for placing you in the right position. His famous "pepsi cola or cuts" motivation was always received as a challenge by any rugby team that he coached. He had the ability to bring out the best in each player individually while at the same time developing a strong team spirit. I was amazed that after meeting him again in 1983, nearly 25 years after my matric year at RBHS, he still remembered an incident which I would like to share.

During one rugby match against another school, when Tinkie was the referee, our team was behind in points. Although physically strong I was fairly placid in nature and Tinkie felt that an extra effort was required to win the game. Being the referee in the match while at the same time the coach of the RBHS team, he had to remain neutral. However, very quietly and unnoticed by anyone, he whispered in the ear of one of our team players, to kick me on the shin. The plan was to bring out some "aggro" and an extra effort from myself in the scrums! Well, the plan backfired because I spent the rest of the game hobbling around and muttering to myself about the dirty tactics of the opposing team. I was amazed that Tinkie still remembered this amusing incident after so many years. Anyhow, we won the match and our team remained unbeaten for the entire season!"

**DAVID INGRAM (E49)**

I matriculated at the end of 1949 but have very "fresh" memories of Tinkie and have always thought of him as a humble man of great integrity. To have remembered him so vividly after 60 years certainly indicates the lasting impression he made on me."

**PIET DANEEL (E62)**

"I had the privilege of getting to know Prof Heyns as a prefect in Mason

House during my matric year. He also was a great lecturer and I will never forget how his physics lectures made sense to me during the early days of trying to master the subject. He was a great man who dedicated his life to Rondebosch"

**ASHLEY FREEMAN (E83)**

"Thank you for letting me know of Tinkie's departure. I see it as a departure because with it there is an arrival to a place of some form. My feeling is that he will actually not really go anywhere.

Mason House the Greatest House in the Universe will be blessed with his spiritual presence in perpetuity."

**PAUL DUMINY (E63)**

"Mag ek egter net ook my hulde bring aan 'n besondere mens wie ek kon leer ken tydens my jare aan RBPS/RBHS. Hy het, ondanks sy verhewe akademiese status, deur al die jare 'n werklik nederige en beskeie man gebly, soos net dié wat werklik groot is dit kan doen. Vir ons was hy altyd "Tinkie" en dit was goed om hom te kon ken.

Ek wil dan graag aan hom die woorde van Jan FE Cilliers in sy gedig 'De Wet' toedig:

"Stil, broers,  
daar gaan 'n man verby  
hy groet,  
en dis verlaas.

Daar's nog maar één soos hy;  
Bekyk hom goed."

**SIMON NORVAL (E76)**

"He taught me at both Prep and High School and was my U13A rugby coach (under whom I suffered greatly!). He was quite an extraordinary man, highly principled, dedicated and a superb example to me as a youngster at the time. He epitomized the congenial genius that he was."

**KEN GIE (E67)**

"He was my substitute father in Mason House having lost my dad at 14. The qualities Tinkie taught me as a boarder played a huge role in my life. I remember how he would observe us pikkies as we romped and ran around the little wall in front of Canigou, while waiting for the supper bell to ring. He would walk up and say, "Gie, I want to see you in Dorm A after supper". He would close the door and give me 4 cuts (not too hard but still burnt a bit) and remark something about "getting out of hand ". This happened twice, if I remember correctly. Many other boarders went through this "getting back into line" ritual and astonishingly, no one ever complained to their parents about get-

ting cuts for no clear reason or offence. Tinkie knew how a child's mind works.

Tinkie had the incredible ability not to have any favourites. He treated the naughty boys with as much respect as he did the not so naughty boys. His consistency and fairness was so unquestionable that the naughty boys respected him greatly. During my stay in Mason House I never heard a bad word about Tinkie emanating from any of the "rebels".

His humility was so endearing, yet puzzling. During our recent 40th reunion Tinkie greeted each of us (E67) with "Hello Sir". His raincoat donned during the Cape drizzles fascinated me to no end as the shoulder part of the coat was faded almost white compared to the grey of the rest. I always wondered how long he had owned that coat and why he never bought a new one! Like Tinkie's raincoat, a small part of him I may forget over time, but fond memories and the legacy this great man left behind about integrity, sincerity and kindness will remain as large as the rest of his coat."

**PETER GLOVER (Ex Staff)**

"I have just celebrated my 60th birthday. That means Tinkie began his association with RBHS in the year I was born. With the benefit of this personal benchmark I am all the more in awe of his incalculable contribution to the school. While we may remember Tinkie as somewhat "complex" in his behaviour, like all great men, he was actually a very simple person. That is, Tinkie never complicated the important things in life and he never deviated from his immutable set of personal values. If you wanted to know what those values were you had to watch him live his life because you were unlikely ever to engage him in conversation about them.

One value was certainly devotion to duty, witness Mason House, his church, rugby referees, RBHS and UCT. Another was generosity. Tinkie's generosity, both literal and of spirit, has long since become legendary. Another - and perhaps the value that stood out for me - was his downright kindness. If one ever needed evidence one could look at how children related to him, and he to them. My own daughter was a two-year old Canigou "miss" when she first met Tinkie. Like any other youngster she immediately saw through his faux

sternness and warmed to him because his scowls and reprimands were, to children at least, discernibly playful. The gentle magic he practiced when integrating even the most timid Mason new boy surely correlates with the great number of devoted Boland Old Boys!

Everyone will have at least one favourite Tinkie story. Mine is of a night in 1975 and the Canigou matrics' midnight raid on Mason House. The big boys were done with their mayhem and had regrouped on the tarmac outside. All except for one large, Calvinian van

what was possibly his greatest strength: an extremely keen intellect, though never flaunted and always more likely to be garbed in banter. "



**MICHAEL RUSSELL (E72, Staff 1978-1996)**

He taught me geometry in Std 6, and then later I did his stats course in my B.Ed. Both learning experiences were marked by his mischievous anecdotes, his teaching in a plastic raincoat in the winter months. Abstract and dry subjects became thoroughly enjoyable and understandable. (Imagine a post-grad course where statistical principles were based on how the number of cuts or cream buns impacted on boys' punctuality!)

It was a privilege to have taught at 'Bosch during his time there, and I always enjoyed Tinkie's humour, mischief and gentle wisdom. He'd tell us that our first athletics championships had to be attended in a suit and tie. He had a special way with us young teachers and a particularly special way with his Mason House boys. There must be thousands of Old Boys who arrived at Mason House with great trepidation, hundreds of km from home, but who were welcomed, comforted, distracted by being kept active and on their toes, as Prof somehow hit a unique balance between discipline and pure fun, filled with legends of the Mason House Police, which both distracted them from their homesickness

and accelerated their assimilation into both the boarding house and RBHS."

**ALAN STEWART (E77)**

"As part of the E77 year group I started as a boarder in Mason House in 1975, one of three of us who were new to the school and new boarders (Bernard Nichols from Paarl and Kenya and Ian Fourie from Oudtshoorn were the other two; I was from Windhoek). We somehow ended up in Mason House which was for Standard six and seven (years A and B) despite being in Standard Eight (Year C) when we should have been at The Lilacs with Bill Schroder as Housemaster - there were too many boarders that year for the crowded Lilacs sleeping arrangements.

(Continued on page 11)

## Prof

No longer will your bedroom light fill the passages,  
nor will we wake to the opera playing from your radio  
in the middle of the night  
No longer will you endlessly ring the bell,  
nor warn us of "The Man"  
who's coming in the morning  
No longer will you bless our meals with grace,  
nor join us for Sunday Tea  
No longer will you beat our bottoms  
with your infamous cane  
No longer will you read  
in the shade of the old oak tree

Your footsteps will forever echo in the hallways of Mason House  
Your spirit will watch over us while we eat in Your dining room

Your influence will pass onto generations to come  
Your legend will grow with the passing of each New Year  
You have changed our lives in so many ways  
You have given us so much, and never expected return  
You have come so far in life that in death  
St Peter will surely open the gates,  
and upon your arrival he will announce:  
"The Man has come"

"This Man has been through hell\* 60 times over,  
Welcome home Professor  
And finally may you Rest in Peace."  
For now it's "Lights out" Sir,  
till we meet again.  
*Benjamin Cowley (E2002)*

Niekerk twin who had been delegated to hold Tinkie's door closed until operations were over. The noise had subsided and he waited, now a little alarmed, for Lincoln Sparg's signal to release and run. The signal never came. But a delicate tap on his shoulder did. Yes, it was Tinkie, who later claimed to have descended from his first-floor window on knotted sheets! Of course there was no such thing. Tinkie had hidden in his study and allowed the raid to proceed. (After all, his Mason House boys couldn't be denied this important memory of their stay in the Great House).

Tinkie always knew what was about to happen in the hostel; usually before the would-be misadigers knew it themselves. Tinkie's style celebrated

# Reunions

## E1959 50TH

On Thursday 13 August forty-seven E59ners gathered for their 50th reunion at the Mowbray Golf Course. Seven were from overseas. From Canada were Dave Smith and Don Buchanan who brought photographs of school events which generated a lot of interest. From the USA were Malcolm Geffen and Brian Kent and from the UK, John Latham and Peter Kipps from Australia. Some of us not having been in contact for the past 50 years,

introductions were necessary but in no time there was lively conversation and laughter, exchanging news of the intervening years and reminiscences of school days past.

On Friday 14 August 27 Old Boys (most with wives/partners) making a total of forty-five, were taken on an interesting tour of the Prep School led by the headmaster, a most enthusiastic Tony Ryan. After a performance by one of the school orchestras we enjoyed a delicious

lunch in the Prep School hall. In the afternoon we were taken on a tour of the High School and Mason House (the best house!) by Paul la Grange.

On Sunday 16 August 44 of us including wives/partners, had breakfast in stunning weather in Kirstenbosch. Those who attended felt that the events were so momentous and enjoyable that they voiced their disappointment in having to wait another 5 to 10 years before reuniting again."

*Helm van Zijl*



## E59 LUNCH AT THE PREP SCHOOL

*Those who attended the E59 50 year reunion lunch held at the Prep School on 14 August.*

## E1950 60TH

Thursday 11 March 2010. Guided tour of the Prep School led by Mr Tony Ryan followed by lunch. Friday 12 March: tour of the High School led by Mr Paul la Grange followed by a braai. Wives and partners are welcome to attend both events. For further details contact Graham Crisp on gecrimp@aol.com or telephone him at 021 797-3442, cell 083 237-4476.

## E1975 35TH YEAR REUNION

Contact: Butch Pulker on pulker@mtnloaded.co.za Cell: 083 500-5249

## E1980

The E80 30th year reunion will take place at the annual OBU dinner in Cape Town on 19 March 2010. Contact Johann "Budgie" Buitendag on johann.pld@snowisp.com or Richard Cullis on richard@cullis.co.za



## 25 FROM E63 MEET TWICE

*The E63's held a get together on 22 June in the Honours Room, Mears Centre for Martin Furman of Israel who was visiting his father in Cape Town. A function was also arranged on 3 August for Richard Spring visiting from the UK at the Wild Fig restaurant.*

*At the Wild Fig were: Sitting (left to right) Billy Trengove (former staff), Richard Spring, Chris Newell, Geoff Duckitt and Roy McCallum. Standing (left to right) Lindsay Kennedy, Peter Scholte, John le Roux, David Taylor and Roy Schreiber.*



#### E83 25 YEAR REUNION

*During November 2008 E83 celebrated their 25 year reunion which was organized by Paul Hablutzel, Altus Giliomee, Terence Craig and André Ross. The class renewed old friendships at a cocktail party at Kelvin Grove till the early hours and this was followed the next day by a tour of the school and boarding houses and a family braai at RBHS attended by wives, children and some of the former masters. E83s flew to Cape Town from around South Africa, Hawaii, the UK, Zambia and Shanghai to attend the reunion weekend.*



#### E64 FORMER BOARDERS MEET

*On Saturday 6 December 2008 four former E64 boarders met at Bruce Barber's house in Fish Hoek while Otto Beyers from Gauteng was in Cape Town on business.*

*Left to right: Bruce Barber, Otto Beyers, William Versfeld and Peter Truter.*

*(Continued from page 9)*

I recall well Tinkie's patrolling of the corridors after lights out, his study with all its books and his daily run up to the university. His athletic prowess was of course legendary and his shepherding of the new intake into the boarding system each year was done with firmness but kindness underneath what was often a gruff exterior. His commitment to Rondebosch was never in question and when I visited the school some 15 years after leaving, taking my children to see it on a visit from London where they were born, I bumped into him and he remembered me instantly. Rondebosch has lost another giant with the passing of Tinkie. With his passing and the recent passing of Tickey de Jager it feels as if an era has come to an end."

**M**ARTIN PENSTONE (E61). Sussex, UK

"Not having been back to the school for thirty years, on driving up and parking at Canigou, I was approached by Prof who asked if I was collecting a student, as it was an exeat week-end. I explained that I was an Old Boy, visiting for the first time in a while. He looked at me, said 'I can't remember your name, but you are one of four brothers who caught the train down from Rhodesia'. When I told him my surname, he reeled off all our Christian names! That is a measure of the man."

**B**ILL DUMINY (E41)

"I did not know him well but met him on a number of occasions with my sons Peter, whom he helped

tremendously at UCT and Alister and I was involved with him when I designed and installed a reservoir and an irrigation system for the "Desert" and other fields. My earliest recollection of Tinkie was when he was still at university and running at a sports meeting on the old track at Bellville. As we were about the same age he must have been in his early twenties. My dad and I were watching and there was this unknown runner with a unique style. Dad said "Look at that man's style. It is so economical. He is going to win "and of course he did.

Soon after that a reporter asked him what he thought about as he ran "I think up a mathematical problem and work it out as I run, so I don't dwell on getting tired" was his reply."

**D**ARRYL BURMAN (E53), Port Elizabeth

"Unfortunately I could not attend the service. However, my grandson, Gregory Burman, agreed to "represent" me, so I was there in spirit. I am one of those fortunate enough to have had the honour of knowing Prof Heyns since 1950; to have been coached by him; to have admired his prowess in other fields, such as athletics and rugby refereeing; to have hosted him in my home when attending OBU functions in Port Elizabeth; to have had one of my sons attend the school under his watchful eye from Mason House; to have personally entrusted two of my grandsons into his loving care and received his usual warm and humorous responses and reassurances. The Burman Family

will remember him."

**L**EO BENNING  
"I am a SACS Old Boy who taught at RBHS for the second half of 1963 in a temporary capacity. I

taught Physical Education to the whole school and Geography to the Std 6s. The following year I moved to SACS. When I moved into Canigou as a housemaster in 1963 Tinkie was of course already in Mason House. He warned me to watch out for Roy McCallum because he was very strong and could climb the ropes in the gym using only one arm! Roy was then in Std 8 I think. How amazing that Tinkie Heyns lived in Mason House for practically his whole life and that he never owned a car."



**P**AUL VON WIESE (E58)

"I have many treasured memories of Tinkie. Regrettably currently based in Panama Central America there is no means of attending memorial services but my thoughts and good wishes remain. Tinkie played an important role in inspiring a love of running in me and many others."

**L**ANCE LAWSON (E95)

"I would just like to send my sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of Prof Tinkie Heyns. It's a sad day and I just want to acknowledge the greatness that he contributed to so many lives. Thank you sincerely Prof. May all those who serve there as masters, or pass through as students forever uphold and maintain the fair name of this school."

# Profiles of OBU Committee

**S**tephen Duffett, chairman of the SOBU has a long and multifaceted relationship with Rondebosch which began with his enrolment as a grade 1 pupil at the Prep School. In 1975 he matriculated having achieved distinctions for both athletics and rugby and after serving as a prefect at both the Prep and High Schools. He went on to complete his BA LLB degree at Stellenbosch University and married a Rustenburg old girl, Lynda Gillett with whom he has a daughter and two sons, Gordon (E2003) and Michael who is currently completing his matric year.

Stephen was chairman of the Board of Governors at the Prep School for seven years prior to which he was secretary of the OBU as well as serving on the committee for ten years.

A senior director at a large Cape Town based law firm, Stephen's involvement in educational matters extends to currently holding the position of Chairman of the National as well as Western Cape Chapter of the Governing Body Foundation, a voluntary association which advises approximately 800 schools nationally and in the Western Cape. This inter alia entails consultations, giving advice on educational legislation and regulations and also includes negotiations with various provincial educational authorities and the National Minister of Education.

Stephen continues to be actively involved in various sporting activities, enjoys scuba diving and has completed in excess of 60 marathons. He has his permanent blue number having completed 12 Two Oceans Ultra Marathons and has also completed 13 Argus Cycle Tours.

**N**eil Strybis has a long association with Rondebosch. He matriculated in 1977 and then went on to qualify as a chartered accountant. He has been with PKF, a large auditing company, since 1980 and is a currently a director of the company.

Neil is married to Michelle with whom he has two sons, Chris (E2008) and Matthew who is currently in grade 9 at RBHS.

He served on the Board of Governors at the Prep school for seven years prior to which he served on the OBU as Treasurer for six years under Dennis Nick and Lindsay Kennedy. Prior to election to the



*Stephen Duffett, Chairman of the OBU Committee*

OBU committee this year Neil is serving on the Centenary Sub Committee.

He is an avid sports fan and regularly competes in the Two Oceans Half Marathon.

**A**ndré Ross joined the Old Boys' Union committee in 1999 and served a full term as Treasurer through to 2005. He was co-opted back on to the committee and was re-elected to the committee in 2006 and now continues to serve the OBU as Treasurer. A Chartered Accountant by profession André has many years of accounting and tax law experience having worked in a large professional services firm. He has also studied some aspects of marketing management.

In addition to his Old Boys' Union duties André is Treasurer and Secretary of the Bosch Rugby Supporters' Club and assists Rondebosch with various other matters, including managing the OBU website, contributing to the newsletter and compiling the Enews. André enjoys travelling and has met with Old Boys round South Africa and in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere.

André is the son of an Old Boy and also acts as the liaison between the Old Boys' Union and the boarding houses as he is also a Mason House and Canigou Old Boy. A keen follower of sport and in particular Rondebosch rugby and cricket.

**B**utch Pulker (E75) after a year's army service at Potchefstroom joined the Standard Bank where he attained the Certificate of the Institute of Bankers In South Africa. In 1981 he joined Caltex Oil and, except for an 11 month break with another company remained there until

he was "retrenched" [early retirement!] in July 2009 by Chevron South Africa (as Caltex has become known).

He was an internal auditor, first in the field based in Bloemfontein where both his children were born, then at Head Office. He moved around within the organization, from audits to Finance and Accounting, to the SAP implementation team and other projects. The bulk of his time at Caltex was as the Assistant Administration Manager of the Marketing Operations Division and his final position was that of Lease Co-coordinator, Africa Pakistan Europe of Marketing Logistics.

In 2000 he obtained the Certificate in Estate Agency [C.E.A.] of the Estate Agency Affairs Board. He began studying part time at the University of the Western Cape in 2003 and completed his LLB degree at the end of 2008.

He has been very active in Freemasonry since 1981. For a short while he was back in uniform as the Group Scouter of the Monte Vista Scout Group.

**A**rundal Thom (E93) joined RBPS in 1983 participating in a myriad of activities that the schools offered. He travelled with Vetta Wise and an ensemble choir in 1989 to represent our country at the Bach Cantata Festivals in Italy, and played in the school orchestras, marching bands and chamber choir. He trod the boards in all the school plays and cabarets, debated and competed in both the English and Afrikaans Speech competitions. He edited the school's pupil newspaper The Root and assisted with the editing of the school magazine.

After school and a short time at UCT, he worked in a succession of cocktail bars, hotels and restaurants before joining a young business with big ideas in 1997 with Paul Sainsbury (E88). This firm, which provided part-time work for a large number of youngsters including many Old Boys, has grown into an international event company where Arundal is currently the CFO and a Senior Event Specialist. He also heads up a separate company which specializes in manufacture and export of free-form tents as well as sitting on the board of the UK operation.

Arundal has worked with STEP and Shawco, as well as tutored and mentored

many pupils from Cape Town's less fortunate areas over the years in English and history. He assists with coaching of young badminton players from all around the Cape and is actively involved in several charities in the Western Cape. He participates on committees which are working with the government to recognize and empower events as a bona fide entity in the trade sector.

**R**obbie Morris's association with Rondebosch goes back to long before he was born. Starting with his father Richard (E63), uncles John Morris (E57), Vine Morris (E54), Keith Lawley (E57) and cousins Andrew Lawley and Bruce Lawley (E90) all matriculating from the High School. Robbie matriculated 1998 where he, among other activities, represented the Cricket 1st Team. Robbie has served on the committee for two years, managing the sporting days between the Old Boys and the School. Robbie works for a commercial property company, Chelsea Manhattan and in his spare time plays cricket for Western Province Cricket Club.

**B**rent Farrell (E77) was a prefect at both RBPS and RBHS. He attended UCT after matriculating and worked as an accountant from 1981 until 2002. In 2003 he joined Greeff Properties as a property consultant. He has a daughter Jaime Lynn who is at Oakhurst Junior School and he serves as the treasurer on the PTA. He became the OBU's Sub-Union representative on the committee in 2006. Brent is a member of the Kirstenbosch Rotary Club and is a director of amaBele Belles (breast cancer survivors).

On the sporting side Brent was awarded the Victor Ludorum at Rondebosch, played rugby for the 1st team in 1976 and 1977, was a member of the WP Athletics team, holds the 100m record for 1977 and was four times the 100m SA Junior Gold Medalist. On the rugby side he played and took part in the WP Rugby Craven Week; played for the UCT rugby 1st XV; is a member of Villagers Rugby Club where he plays in the Old Cocks team. He has run many marathons including two Two Oceans Ultras. He is a member of the WP Cricket Club, Kelvin Grove and Olympics.

**A**nton Viljoen (E87) attended both RBPS and RBHS. After two years

national service, he studied and qualified in the media industry. Currently he is with RTG and handles all media work for the company regarding print and design for Africa and parts of Europe. He is the co-coordinator for the E87 class and has a website for E87 as a group.

**P**aul la Grange serves as Curator of the Rondebosch Old Boys' Union Honours Room looking after the archives and memorabilia. He grew up on the family farm in the Montagu district and after qualifying as a teacher, taught at Mossel Bay before joining the staff of RBHS in 1968. He spent most of his teaching career at Rondebosch where he taught Afrikaans as well as woodwork, metalwork and technology. As a 'farm boy' himself, he understood the needs and wants of the boarders very well and spent a total of almost 20 years in Canigou where he served as assistant housemaster.

As master in charge of shooting, he introduced boys of all ages to the fine art of target shooting and helped to lay the foundations of quite a number of provincial and South African shottists. His love of the great outdoors and his involvement in the Outdoor Society at the High School continues to this day. Having retired from teaching in 2000 he has more time for organizing tours, hikes, camps and various outdoor activities in which numerous boys partake on a regular basis.

As a Vice-President of the Old Boys' Union, Paul maintains a lively interest in the affairs of the Union and shares his passion for the School with generations of Old Boys, many of whom he taught.

Paul has made his home in Melkbosstrand where he has invested in



*A group of parents and Old Boys at the Boland Sub-union braai at the farm of Philip Myburgh (E84). The co-organizer was Johann Buitendag (E80) (on extreme right)*

a portfolio of properties, mainly with a view to accommodating local and overseas visitors, although he also lets some properties to long-term tenants. He is active in the Blouberg branch of Probus, where he serves as treasurer.

**R**on Monk (E1958) has served on the committee under five chairmen, Dennis Nick, Lindsay Kennedy, Mike Russell, John Benn and Steve Duffett. He is a sales representative for a company which distributes products for the building and hardware industries. Ron has been a committee member of the Almar Cricket Club for 16 years and played actively until two years ago. As a member of the ACC he has participated on seven occasions in an international six-a-side cricket competition in Chang Mai, Thailand. The competition was started some 22 years ago by cricketers Clive Rice, Alan Lamb and Barry Richards to encourage the growth of cricket in Thai schools. About 20 schools have benefited from this association. Almar is the only South African club among the 31 teams from other countries. Ron is divorced, has three sons and is a grandfather.

## Angela Andrew serves for 20 years

**T**he Old Boys' Union Administrative Secretary is Angela Andrew [wife of Roy Andrew (E58) and mother of Neil Andrew (E85)] who in September this year completed 20 years of loyal and invaluable service to the Union. Since 1989 many Old Boys have met or spoken to Angela or have been in email contact with her about numerous matters pertaining to the Union and their former classmates. She has a formidable knowledge of the Union and its members. Angela's duties are as diverse as maintaining the extensive database, taking minutes, attending to bookings and seating arrangements at the annual dinner and other functions, attending to OBU correspondence, answering members queries and compiling the newsletter, amongst other important roles. We thank Angela for ongoing loyal service to the Union and our members.

The OBU Committee

**A**NTONY JOHN (TONY) PULKER (E43), father of Ian (E70), Anne (Rustenburg E72) and Butch (E75), died 3 February 2009. A memorial service was held at St. Oswald's Church, Jansen Road, Milnerton on 6 February 2009. Tony was a past chairman of the OBU in 1964 and for more than 30 years, was the secretary of the Rondebosch Boys' Overseas Scholarship.

He qualified as a chartered accountant and practiced until he retired in 1981. A highlight of his life was his election as a director of the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank (as it then was) in 1969 at the age of 42 – this was unheard of! It is believed that when he retired aged 75 he had served on the board of the Good Hope Bank (as it became known) for the longest term. He was a widower and is survived by his three children and their families.

**D**OUGLAS SPENCER BATES (E35) died at home aged 92 in Cape Town on 12 March 2009. His grandson, Sheldon Bode (E1996) wrote: "A proud old boy, he was a prefect and represented the school in rugby, athletics and tennis. He worked in the insurance industry from soon after leaving school until his late retirement, with exception of the time during the Second World War. Doug fought in the Dukes who were among the first South Africans to be called into battle to defend North Africa. My brother Nicholas Bode (E98) and I attended RBPS and RBHS and miss our grandfather but the tradition will live on."

**R**OBIN BRENDON BATES (E61) died of cancer on 5 May 2009. He leaves his wife Eily, three children and his brother William (E1970). Eily writes: "He was always very loyal about his old school and wore his Rondebosch Old Boys' tie every Friday without fail. He worked in the health department of the Cape Town Municipality for 30 years and retired only three months before he died, courageously refusing to take early retirement in spite of his worsening health conditions and increasing pain. He had hoped to retire to Betty's Bay, but this was not to be. Robin's family [including Brendon, who had attended RBPS and Eily, who taught at RBPS for 10 years, as well as William] really appreciated the attendance and support of a number of Rondebosch Old Boys and Rondebosch retired teachers, at his funeral"

**K**ENNETH BLUMBERG (E59) of Claremont died on 16 December

## Obituaries

2008. He leaves his wife Tammy and family members.

**R**OY CYRIL BOUCHIER (E59) died on 20 July 2008, at the age of 68. He had kidney failure early in 2004, and his wife Joy was able to give him a kidney later that year. The kidney did well right to the end but he was beset with all sorts of other complications which led to his death. He leaves Joy, three children and five grandchildren.

**T**REVOR BRAMWELL (E60) died in January 2009 at the age of 67. He had two sons, Justin and Gregory who lives in Australia. He distinguished himself as the 8th man in Rondebosch's unbeaten First XV in 1960. The team played and beat Prince Edward School in a curtain-raiser to the Rhodesia vs All Blacks match in Salisbury (now Harare).

**N**OEL WILLIAM BRYANT (E40) died in Cape Town on 26 March 2009.

**E**RIC FREDERICK BUTLER (E45) died in Cape Town on 26 April 2009. He was a good sportsman and broke many records on the athletic track and was awarded the Victor Ludorum in 1943, 1944 and 1945, a feat perhaps never repeated at RBHS. After school he worked for Irvin and Johnson in Windhoek, Namibia; Pretoria and Port Elizabeth. He retired to Cape Town where he cared for elderly people in his community. He leaves his wife Molly to whom he was married for 57 years; son Peter, daughter Susan, brother Basil and their families.

**A**LBERT JOHN COATON (E34) died in May 2008 in Pinelands. He leaves his son John (E66) and family.

**R**ICHARD JAMES DRYDEN (E63) of Simonstown died on 30 July 2009. He leaves his wife Victoria and a son and daughter.

**C**OENRAAD HERMANUS (LINKIE) GROENEWALD (E53) died on 7 June 2009. Linkie was a boarder from the Caledon District where his family farmed. He played for the First 15 in 1953, and subsequently went on to play Provincial Rugby for Boland. He was a school prefect as well as head of Canigou. After school he spent two years at Grootfontein College and took over the family farm when his father died. He was active in the business community in Caledon and was chairman of the local co-operative for many years. He is survived by his wife Barbara and four daughters.

**B**LAKE HANAFEY (E2008) died on 31 July. At his funeral service which was attended by many Old Boys, friends and staff eulogies were given, amongst others, by fellow E2008s, Nick Gara, Nick Roth, Nic Groom and Zahier Abrahams. E2008 Deputy Headboy Nic Groom writes: "Blake tragically passed away together with his girlfriend in a car accident in the early hours of 31 July. Blake was a member of the Rondebosch 12 year club and wore the Rondebosch badge on his heart. He was a passionate rugby player at school, but it was in bodybuilding that he achieved his Western Province colours and was placed at the South African Championships.

The boys of E'08 will always remember his friendly nature and his fearless approach to everything he did. Our thoughts and prayers are with his parents Marguerite and Kevin. Blake will always have a special place in our hearts."

**H**ARALD LESLIE (PODGE) HANSEN (E56) died on 21 November 2008 after a short illness a month after his 70th birthday. His son Gavin writes: "The Hanssen family farmed on the family farm near Windhoek until 1993 when we moved to Swakopmund to start a business. Podge chaired the South West (Namibian) OBU, the Desert Rats, for many years and till the end was an avid Rondebosch supporter. He was a keen fisherman and spent many weekends along the coast with his family. He played an important role as the mechanic and in the logistics in our touring business and later the new prefabricated building business. Janet, his wife and our mother, died in 2004." PETE HANSEN added the following: "He earned half colours in rugby in 1955 and 56. He was a school and Canigou prefect in 1956 and was on the shooting team and active in theatre production as he had a good voice."

He is survived by his sons Garth (E86), Gavin (E87) (namespace@iway.na), his brother Pete (E55) (phanssen@earthlink.net) and three grandchildren Shawn, Justin and Kim.

**K**EITH LLOYD (E53) died in Cape Town on 15 February 2009 after a long illness. He was a very prominent figure in Western Province golfing circles and was a past Captain and President of the Westlake Golf Club as well as Captain of the Western Province Nomads. Keith was one of a small group who initiated the annual golf match between the OD's and the Rondebosch Old Boys some 27 years ago and for a period of many years

until he died was the Honorary Captain of the Rondebosch team. It was through the efforts of Keith and others that it is now such a wonderfully popular and successful event. He has in various other respects also done much to promote the cause of Rondebosch golf. He leaves his wife Anne and two sons.

**D**R CHRISTOPHER HARRY BEN MARLOW (E51) died on 19 March 2009. He had practiced for many years as a vet in Cradock.

**D**ONALD CLEMENT MADELL MILLS (E34) of Rondebosch died on 12 December 2008. He leaves his son Rory (E69) and family members.

**J**P (PERCY) NIEHAUS (E25) of the Strand died on 8 December 2008 two months short of his 99th birthday. He was the leader of the Opposition in the old Legislative Assembly of South West Africa (now Namibia). He was also the sole member of the United Party in the chamber. He matriculated at the age of 15, gained law degrees at UCT and the London School of Economics, fought in World War 2, practised law as a QC and farmed in the Maltahohe district of Namibia. He also became a senator in South Africa.

*With thanks to John Scott, Cape Times.*

**J**OHN GERALD OVENSTONE (E36) of Somerset West died aged 90 during July. He leaves his wife Joan and family members.

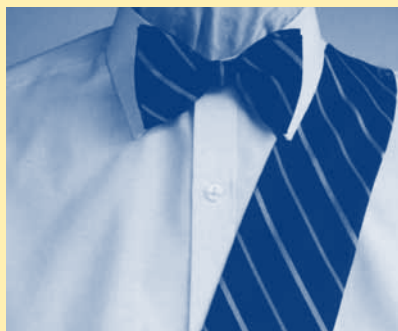
**R**ORY PALMER (E2000) of Rondebosch died as the result of an accident in August 2008.

**R**ONALD PETERS (E35) died in Somerset West on 20 December 2008. He was the founder of the paper merchant group Peters Papers and will be remembered as a pioneer in the paper industry in South Africa.

**D**ONALD MACKENZIE POWIS (E1942) died on 29 January 2009 at Port Alfred.

**A**LISTAIR JOHN PURCELL (E85) died on 17 April 2009. His brother David writes: "He was a free spirit who lived by his own rules, had a wicked sense of humour, irresistible charm and an amazing talent on the hockey field. He will be sadly missed by his parents Mike and Anne, his brothers Stuart (E84), David (E88) and his sister Sally."

**R**ORY MACDONALD NEALE RSHUTTE (E60) died in Randburg on 14 December 2008. He leaves his brothers Chris (E54) and Tim (E58) and family members.



*Old Boys ties, which are traditionally worn on Fridays, may be purchased through the OBU office*

**C**RISPIN WILLIAM SIDDLE (E66) died in Worcester on 13 August 2009 after a long illness. Affectionately known to many as Cippie, his 60th birthday party held in the Centenary Pavilion in December last year was a joyful occasion attended by a number of his old Rondebosch friends and was also probably one of the last social functions attended by Prof Heyns.

Crispin was the eldest of four brothers who came to Rondebosch from their home town of Worcester and his arrival at Mason House in 1962 marked the start of a lifelong association with the School. He was married to Madeleine Roothman and their two sons Robert (E2001) and Richard (E2002) followed in their father's footsteps at Rondebosch.

Crispin took an active interest in the affairs of Rondebosch throughout his life and was the chairman of the Worcester Sub-Union of the Old Boys Union for many years. Whilst his sons were at Rondebosch he was a dedicated and popular chairman of the Boarding House Committee.

Crispin was a prominent figure in local business and community affairs in Worcester and was described by one of his old friends as being "the rock of Worcester." He will always be remembered for his ready smile, his kind and generous nature and his compassion for his fellow human beings. Our sincere condolences go to Madeleine, Robert, Richard, and all the other members of his family.

**D**OUGLAS MONTAGUE SIMONS (E47) died in Cape Town on 22 March 2009. He was head prefect at RBHS in 1947. He was the fourth of seven brothers most of whom attended Rondebosch. After qualifying as an architect, he joined a firm in the Vaal Triangle eventually developing his own practice settling in Sasolburg. He specialized in concrete structures, one of which, the local public library, won a prestigious award. His pride and joy was

the house he built on the banks of the Vaal River where he made the most of the aesthetic surroundings. After he retired several years ago, he sold up and decided to move back to Cape Town where he joined an architectural house for a while. He spent much time in road running and at the gym. One of Doug's passions was motor cars, especially sporty saloons. His last was a Mini Cooper S, cabriolet.

*Compiled by his brother Richard Simons (E45). Other brothers are George (E41) and Eric (E51).*

**B**ERNARD SINGER (E46) died in Auckland, New Zealand on the 24 December 2008. His son Dave (E74) wrote: "All his schooling was at Rondebosch and he always spoke very fondly of his time there. He also spent 12 years watching me go through RBHS. He had lived in New Zealand since 1995 and watched every cricket and soccer game that his grandson Jeremy participated in and always reminded Jeremy that Auckland Grammar would have been hammered by Rondebosch! He was a keen RBHS Old Boy and was a member of the New Zealand Sub-Union."

**M**ARTIN EDWARD (EDDIE) SMUTS (E37) of Kempton Park died on 21 November 2008 aged 90.

**G**ORDON RONALD WAKELIN (E29) died on 5 June 2009 at the age of 96. He started at Rondebosch in 1924 at the age of 11 having moved to Claremont in December 1923 to a house in Harfield Road at the rear of the Kingsbury Hospital. This house is now a doctor's surgery. He left Rondebosch in 1929 at the end of standard 8 some eighty years ago. *David Wakelin (E1962).*

**B**OUDEWIJN WEGERIF (E52) died in 2004. An obituary was sent by Allan Davison (E1952) who writes: "The main characteristics I remember were his rebelliousness, eloquence and flair for the dramatic. On the web one discovers that his later life was dominated by a struggle in which he used his flair for dramatic rebellion to work toward the redress of injustices of many kinds. He was exiled from SA in 1971 after he produced and distributed a long-playing record 'Address to the Churches' by Martin Luther King, which was immediately banned.

His energy came from a compassion for those who were marginalized by poverty, exploitation, and oppression. He outlines this in a book and autobiography on <http://www.what-matters.nu/index2.html>. A leading film

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15)

maker produced a documentary which was shown on SABC in 1997.

**R**ONALD FRANK WELLS (E39) of Sun Valley, Fish Hoek died on 24 August 2009. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Shelagh, three sons and their families.

**V**ICTOR WHITE (E59) died in Gauteng on 25 November 2008.

**K**EITH ALFRED WHITEMAN (E42) of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe died during 2008.

**H**ENRY WHITTAKER (E42) of Port Elizabeth died in October 2008. He was 84. He ended his career as managing director of Phillips Carbon Black (now Algorax).

**D**R GUY WILLOUGHBY (E73) died in Cape Town on 11 August 2009. Neil Veitch (E63) who taught him wrote the following tribute. "He was marked out, well before his matric year, as a most gifted and unusual RBHS product. An academic, satirist, distinguished journalist, entertainer and actor in later life, Guy, while still a schoolboy, had a talent to amuse but also to educate those, teachers and pupils, who cared to absorb what he was really about.

A farceur of note, he transformed cricket practices into high comedy by his unorthodox play and observations and,

The Union offers its sincere sympathy to all Old Boys, their families and friends who have been bereaved in recent months.

for a time, ran a successful fruit and veg operation, catering mainly to the boarders, in a corner of my senior English class. His accompanying commentary on life, a mixture of the existential and music-hall, put paid, deservedly, to any kind of formal tuition. His wit, penetrating intelligence and quirky views made him a notable analyst of life at Rondebosch and, subsequently to academe and the South African entertainment world and he will be much missed."

**J**OHAN EDWARD WITNEY (E49) of Howick died on 5 December 2008 at the age of 76. He leaves his wife Sydney, three children and seven grandchildren.

**A**LAN WRIGHT (E1944) died in Gauteng on 29 June 2009.

## Subunion News

### UNITED KINGDOM

**M**ichael Coombs (E67) reports: "The 2009 Old Boys' dinner was held on 15 May at the Gallery in Cowcross Street, London. To mark the centenary of the Union we welcomed Old Boys and their wives/partners. We had a bumper turnout of 82 and despite some wet weather at the start which restricted the pre-dinner drinks on the roof terrace, the evening was a great success.

After the 2008 dinner, the committee decided to invite a special guest to the Centenary London dinner and we were in the process of making arrangements to have Professor Tinkie Heyns with us when we received news of his death. It was very unexpected coming so soon after the death of Tickey de Jager whom we remembered last year.

We decided to hold the dinner in honour of Tinkie and I spoke of my personal experiences of the great man. I was not in Mason House or Canigou but lived across the road in Oakhurst Avenue and spent much of my time with the boarders on the playing fields. I got to know Tinkie well as a result. I was being coached rugby by Tinkie in the U14As and Bs when in a practice match, I broke my neck. How caring Prof was throughout my treatment and recovery, jogging across the Common every evening to visit me in the nursing home. Later I captained the legendary Fourth Team at cricket. Tinkie adopted this team in the summer months.

We had a message from Arundal Thom of the Mother Union also honouring Tinkie, which was read out by Jim Pettit. Arundal had planned to be with us but had to cancel at the last minute. Throughout the evening many of us swapped happy memories of Tinkie, a Rondebosch icon.

John Gibberd (E67) and his wife Shelagh were with us from Cape Town which was a great pleasure for me as John is one of my lifelong friends. His son Christopher (E08) who



At the London dinner were (left to right) Mo and Reg Webb (E69), Claudia Coombs, Derek Hudson (E53), Donna and Ian Trott (E71), parents of Jonathan Trott (E99) who recently made his debut for the England cricket test team.



Left to right: Andrew Goosen (E94), Trenton Williams (E94), Neil (E97) and Catherine Harrower.



Left to right: Clive Plimsoll (E68), Michael Plimsoll (E97) and John Gibberd (E67).

is over here with a group of young Old Boys working on the Isle of Wight, joined us. As before we had a wonderful turnout of recent Old Boys of the School. I am, however, a little concerned that with the new UK visa restrictions, the numbers may dwindle. I am not sure if we can do anything to help on this front, but it might be worth looking into. If anyone wants to raise the matter, please can they get in touch.

We drank the usual toast to the School and sang the first and last Old Boys' verses of the School Song led, as has become traditional, by Deon Melck (E62). In fact we had a considerable Melck presence this year with Deon, his wife, his cousin Alan (E50) and his nephew Justin (E2000) who is playing professional rugby for Saracens.

Next year's dinner is scheduled for Friday 7 May and we look forward to welcoming as many Old Boys to it as possible."

# Old Boys' Union Centenary Projects

A major focus of the Old Boys' Union's Centenary year is the construction and equipping of the new Rondebosch Art & Design and Technology Centres. These facilities are used daily by a great number of school boys.

## ART CENTRE

The new Art Centre is used by over 300 boys with a separate specialist area being set aside for the 115 boys who also take Design as a subject. Rondebosch pupils excel at Art (which includes Ceramics and Pottery) and Design and the school is an acknowledged leader in these fields. The focus is on teaching in a practical environment and manner which assists our boys after school in areas as diverse as Architecture, Animation, Photography and Computer Graphic programmes. Rondebosch strives to provide all boys with the skills to be creative and to think laterally which enables them to be

innovative and imaginative in whatever career they choose.

## TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Technology teaches boys to analyze real life situations and to identify practical solutions to these issues. Technology is compulsory for all Grade 8 and 9 pupils and embraces Industrial Design and Processes, Construction and Food Processing. The modern room is equipped with computers, work benches, specialized equipment, a machine room and a high technology interactive whiteboard.

## ENGINEERING GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

The subject, which includes CAD/CAM, broadly speaking replaces the drawing aspects of metalwork and leads on to all disciplines within engineering, as well as architecture, quantity surveying and building construction. The modern approach is for drawing also to be done on computers, requiring computer capacity and a small workshop. This includes PCs, a server, cabling, networking and work surfaces.

**We urge all Old Boys to financially support the school and in particular the Art & Design and Technology Centre projects by making a donation to the Centenary Appeal as we were recipients of a great education and formed lasting friendships during our time at Rondebosch.**

## OVERBERG

On Friday 6 February the Overberg sub-union held a lunch in memory of Professor Tinkie Heyns. John Wollheim organized the event at Kidbrooke, Onrust and Rob van Zyl (manager) assisted with Warwick Kitchen (training school) who provided an excellent fish lunch.

Neil Malan, chairman welcomed all and asked the Rev James Gray to say Grace. Allan Powell gave an interesting account with anecdotes about Tinkie which brought back many memories. Tank van der Merwe added to the occasion with a poem he had written about Tinkie. Many of those present added anecdotes and all enjoyed the fellowship.

Neil writes that attending Old Boys' functions in Cape Town seems to be getting more difficult as one grows older and it was resolved that more local get togethers would be organized in the future.



### OVERBERG SUB-UNION MEETS AT HERMANUS

Among those attending the lunch were Neil Malan, Johan Botha, Terence Mulligan, Kosie Krige, Guy Krige, Allan Powell, John Groenewald, Rob van Zyl, Ian Opperman, Johan Coetzee, John Wollheim, Dawid van der Merwe, Mike Brownlee, Ronnie Hazell, Malcolm Gordon, Albertus du Toit, Metcalf Fick, James Gray and Billy Robertson.

## BOLAND

The Boland Sub-Union was established in mid 2008 with the purpose of keeping Old Boys in the Boland in touch with Rondebosch and to help recruit Platteland boys for the school. Only boys who are academically strong and top achievers on the sports field have to date been recruited and are mostly boarders. The rugby results of the U/14 age group this year speak for themselves.

Philip Myburgh (E84) and Budge Buitendag (E80) head up the Sub-Union and various functions held as fundraisers have been very successful. The second annual Sub-Union dinner was held at Joostenberg and was attended by about 50 Old Boys from the Boland area, new parents and friends. Last year a very successful braai was held on Philip Myburgh's farm. Live music, braais and good Boland wine made it a great day. To date the Boland Sub-Union has funded new gym equipment for the boarding house gym and donated about R15, 000 to the Bosch Rugby Supporters' Club towards bursaries for rugby playing boarders.

The Sub-Union is fast growing and they encourage all Old Boys in this region to contact either Philip on [philip@joostenberg.co.za](mailto:philip@joostenberg.co.za) or Budge on [johann.pld@snowisp.com](mailto:johann.pld@snowisp.com) to be included in the functions and activities.

It is important to bring back the Platteland boys into the Boarding House. This year alone there were 89 applications by boarders for the 25 grade 8 beds available. Gary Endley, head of the boarding house, said that his job was made difficult as they were all extremely good applicants.

The Sub-Union looks forward to hearing from Boland Old boys who would like to make Rondebosch an even greater school than it already is.

*Budgie Buitendag*

## €1955 55th anniversary in 2010

Thursday 18 March: Tea at the High School followed by a tour and lunch. Friday 19 March: the Old Boys' Union annual dinner. A family braai on Sunday 21 March.

Contact Keith Brooke-Sumner on 028 3410799/ 0729053935 or [keithbs@itec.co.za](mailto:keithbs@itec.co.za)

## OLD BOYS SCHOLARSHIP

The Old Boys' Overseas Scholarship in our Centenary year has been awarded to Stephen van Helden (E2001) who is to continue his business studies at Stanford in California. We wish Stephen all the best for his studies and career. The Nan Mears Scholarship for post graduate study in the humanities, the arts or law at Emmanuel College Cambridge is available for awarding in 2010. Interested Old Boys should contact the OBU office for more information before 31 March 2010.

## Prefects' Photographs

The 2009 RBHS prefects are collecting and putting all the various years prefects' photographs in the Prefects' Common room.

Listed below are the years that are still missing and donations of the photographs with the matric year and names would be gratefully received.

1934, 1939, 1940, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960,

1962 – 1978, 1981 – 1984, 1986,

1988 – 1997 (have 1995), 2001

Anyone who has a photograph of any of these years is asked to contact the Union office on [obu@rondebosch.com](mailto:obu@rondebosch.com) or telephone 021 686-1987.

## TOUR D'AFRIQUE

In May Allan Benn (E85) completed and won the 2009 Tour d'Afrique cycle race from Cairo to Cape Town. The annual event crosses 10 countries, covers 12000km and takes 4 months to complete.

The trans-Africa epic started from the pyramids in Cairo on 10 January and headed south along the Red Sea before moving inland to follow the Nile into Sudan. The route then crossed the Nubian and Sahara deserts and climbed the Ethiopian Highlands, at times above 3100m altitude. One section in Ethiopia was a time-trial out of the Blue Nile gorge - a single climb of 1800m for which Allan smashed the previous record.

"Northern Kenya has the worst roads imaginable" said Allan of the lava rock desert. "There was a 480km section which alternated between corrugations, soft sand and rocks. I felt I was fighting the road and getting a beating every day."

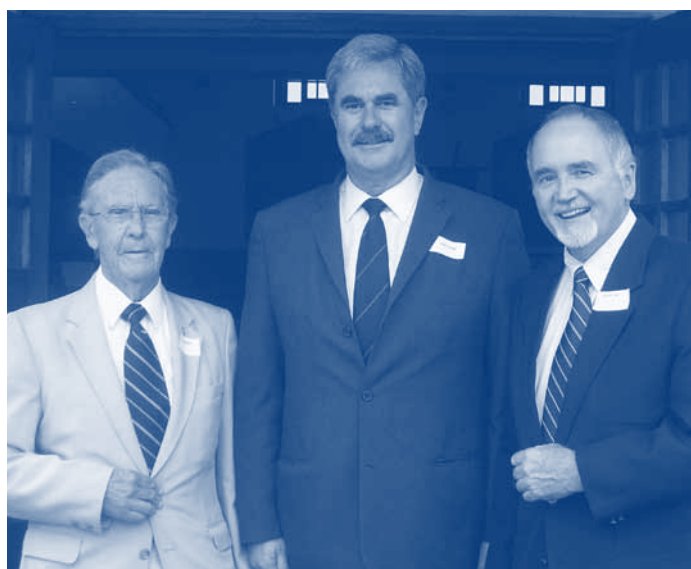
Roads varied from recently completed tarred surfaces in the Sudan that were like glass to gravel tracks in Tanzania that even 4x4s struggled with. "We could average 50km/hr on the good roads in Egypt but struggled to get above 10km/hr in northern Kenya."

The adventure passed the source of the Blue Nile, Mount Kenya, the Serengeti, Mount Kilimanjaro, Lake Malawi, the Victoria Falls, the Okavango delta, the Kalahari and finally ended at Table Mountain. Camels, goats, sheep and pigs were daily obstacles but in Botswana the riders also encountered elephants and giraffe.

The trip is three-and-a-half times longer than the Tour de France or more than eight times the N1 road from Cape Town to Johannesburg. Added to this was having to coping with dehydration and heat exhaustion every day especially in the Sahara where temperatures were above 40° C.

Allan has a black belt in Taekwondo and has completed an Ironman triathlon but said that this was the toughest challenge that he has attempted. "I lost lots of weight during the first two months and struggled with the off-road sections."

On 9 May, 59 riders from 11 countries made it across the finish line at the Waterfront to tremendous celebrations. Asked if he was tired during a radio interview days after finishing, Allan replied "I've been tired for four months. Now I feel great."



### SENIORS' LUNCH AT RBPS

On 18 March 2009 during Founders Week the Union organized a very pleasant lunch for our more senior Old Boys and their wives in the Prep School Hall. Before the lunch guests were taken on a tour of the school by Tony Ryan, Prep headmaster. Mr Ryan (centre) with Ray Holmes (E36) and Bruce Lane, both former Prep headmasters.



### CARTOONIST ADDRESSES HISTORY SOCIETY

Well known cartoonist Zapiro, Jonathan Shapiro (E76) addressed a meeting of the RBHS History Society during April and spoke about some of his famous cartoons. Here he is pictured with a group of boys in the Old Boys' Union Honours Room with the master in charge of the society, Mr Roy Hellenberg.



*Allan Benn at the Pyramids in Egypt at the start of his epic cycle ride.*



**FLYFISHING AWARD**  
*CHASE NICHOLSON (E2008) who won a silver medal in the Youth World Flyfishing Championships held in Czech Republic during July this year. Chase has been flyfishing since the age of six and has won numerous awards both in South Africa and overseas. He is at Rhodes University studying for a BSc degree in Ichthyology/ Mariculture.*



*The First XI hockey side after their 2-1 victory against traditional rivals Bishops when Rondebosch hosted the derby match.*



*Old Boys vs School boys rugby: The traditional annual hockey, rugby and squash past vs present matches were played on 25 August. Picture above is the Old Boy Centenary First XV team with the Rondebosch First XV team. The match was a draw with six tries each.*



**E2001 OLD BOYS PLAY IN ENGLISH RUGBY DERBY**

*The Oxford v Cambridge annual Rugby derby took place on 11 December 2008 at Twickenham. It is steeped in tradition having taken place over the last 144 years and up to 40 000 people attend it annually. Cambridge won the last three matches but Oxford as the favourites were victorious.*

*James Richards (E2001) (left) played full-back for Cambridge and did all the kicking for the team earning his Blues for Cambridge. Nicholas van Zyl (E2001) came on for Oxford to play lock. He too has his Blues for Oxford as does his brother Anton (E97).*



*The Rondebosch 2009 First XV side after their excellent 16-10 win at Bishops.*



#### **BOSCH RUGBY DINNER AWARDS**

*At the annual Bosch rugby dinner awards were made to two players. Scott van Breda was awarded the Ian McCallum (E61) / Tickey de Jager trophy for the most improved player in the First XV and Chris Keet received the Players' Player of the year jersey. Pictured on the left are First XV coach Sean Friedenthal with Chris Keet and on the right Elaine, Scott and Sandy van Breda (E76). The most improved player award was presented by Ian McCallum in recognition of Tickey de Jager's coaching contribution and is the boot Ian wore during the 1970 series against the All Blacks.*

## **Jonathan Trott makes test debut for England**

**C**ongratulations go to Jonathan Trott (E99) on his excellent debut for the England cricket test team in the last Ashes match which England won at the Oval. Jonathan is the son of Ian (E71) and Donna Trott. Jonathan scored 119 and on reaching his maiden test century Ian was shown on TV wearing his Rondebosch cap. Jonathan captained the Rondebosch 1999 First XI and played for South Africa U15 and U19, Boland, Western Province and Otago and presently represents Warwickshire. He also represented England in two Twenty-20 Internationals against the West Indies in 2007 and an ODI versus Ireland during August 2009. We wish Jonathan all the best for his international cricket career.



# Rondebosch Old Boys' Union Centenary Fund Appeal

Please return this form to the Rondebosch Old Boys' Union  
PO Box 731 Rondebosch 7701, South Africa or fax +27 (0)21 686-1897

Public Benefit Organisation reference number 930014204

## 1 MY DETAILS

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ E year: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone home: \_\_\_\_\_ work: \_\_\_\_\_ mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2 MY DONATION [Please mark your choice]

I commit myself to making an annual donation in each of 2009 and 2010 of :

R100 R200 R300 R500 R1000 R2000 R3000 Other amount: R/£/\$/€ \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to make a single donation in respect of the two years:

R500 R1000 R2000 R3000 R4000 Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*Due to exorbitant bank charges on the clearing of foreign cheques we suggest that Old Boys who live outside South Africa make use of the credit card facility where possible.*

## 3 PAYMENT OPTIONS

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ in favour of Rondebosch Centenary Fund

I will deposit or transfer my donation directly into the following account:

**Rondebosch Centenary Fund**

**Standard Bank, Rondebosch. Account 270618961 Branch code 02 50 09 Swift code SBZAZAJJ**

Should you want to make an annual donation by cheque or bank transfer, the Old Boys' Union will assist you by sending a reminder to you during 2010 and will again provide the bank details.

Please debit my credit card with a single donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Please debit my credit card with \_\_\_\_\_ during 2009 and again in 2010 with the same amount.

*(Diners Club and American Express cards can unfortunately not be processed.)*

My card number is:

Expiry date:  M M Y Y Card No:

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Signature: .....

Date:.....

Should you wish to make use of a debit order facility, please contact the Old Boys' Union office.  
Debit orders may unfortunately only be processed to South African bank accounts.

## 4 INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

Donations for educational purposes are deductible from South African taxable income in terms of section 18A of the Income Tax Act. **Please post a tax certificate to me** Yes  I do not need a tax certificate

**Thank you for your support**

**RONDEBOSCH OLD BOYS' UNION CENTENARY**

PO Box 731 Rondebosch 7701, South Africa

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**PLEASE TURN OVER**

## DONOR BOARD

To acknowledge and recognize donors an Old Boys' Centenary Board will be erected in a prominent position at the E1942 Centenary Pavilion. Old Boys who donate R2 009 or more will have their names displayed on the board. The names of Old Boys and Eyears who contribute R20 090 or more will be displayed in another section and those who contribute over R200 900 will be acknowledged in a special section. All donations are personally acknowledged and all donors' names are listed on the Old Boys' website. Recent donors are also listed below.

## Donations to the Union are tax deductible

Have you made your donation to the Rondebosch Centenary Fund? Remember that your donation to the Union may be claimed as a deduction from your South African taxable income subject to certain limitations. An official tax certificate will be provided to you.

Please refer to page 17 of the newsletter for more information on Old Boys' Union Centenary Projects.

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The Union thanks all those who have contributed funds and also those Old Boys who have provided time and expertise to the OBU and the schools.