



Newsletter April 2025



The Tsessebe facelift

The head of Tsessebe House, Prince Mhlanga at the freshly painted Friedenheim Gates, on Matron's Walk

Editorial - Richard Mac Callum

We are delighted to share our Jeppe Journey which began over 50 years ago and continues to this day with our remarkable school.

We come from very humble beginnings and grew up in a tough but loving environment, where our inspirational mom somehow managed to raise three children on a shoe-string budget.

In 1972, we were accepted at Jeppe Prep and Mpiti House, and we both went on to Tsessebe House. We did not know it at the time, but our mom had specifically selected Jeppe because it is a highly respected school with solid traditions and a great ethos.

Her choice changed our lives. Whilst at Tsessebe, we had a few housemasters who were like father figures and mentors to us, but above all others stand Warren “Beaky” Boden and Gerry “Bushy” Wernars.

They had a major influence on us through their positivity. They also identified and nurtured our leadership ability. Syd “Guff” Thomas was also present throughout our schooling. He was kind enough to see our potential and admitted us to Mpiti on a subsidy and thus began our journey.

My brother and I both embraced the opportunity of participating in many of the sporting activities that were available, but we had a love for rugby above all else and we both represented the 1st XV for two years, with Lawrence as captain in 1978.

After school, Lawrence unfortunately had a few injuries and stopped playing rugby while still at Wits, and I played for well over a decade for various clubs and even travelled abroad to experience other rugby cultures.



Richard and Lawrence MacCallum (1978 and 1979 Tsessebe).

We have been blessed to have had successful careers in engineering and the financial services respectively. Lawrence emigrated to the USA in 1991 to work as a chemical engineer, whilst I remained in SA.

Rugby remains our passion and with the Rugby World Cups and Springbok tours, we have managed to use this as a reason to connect and enjoy each other’s company, whilst exploring various countries.

Our connection with Jeppe has never been forgotten and once we were able to offer support, we jumped at the opportunity. We have proudly contributed via bursaries, to the Theo Jackson Scholarship Fund, the JBA Legacy Club and more recently to the very successful Tsessebe Renovation Project.

The last three years (2022 – 2024) have been a massive learning curve in fundraising and the challenges of Project Management. It has been a privilege and humbling experience to be able to give back and make a difference to Jeppe and the students.

We, together with all Tsessebe Old

Boys are extremely proud to have been part of upgrading Tsessebe Hostel into a world class boarding facility, one that would quite easily match any other top school in SA.

Tsessebe old boys, locally and living abroad, have certainly stepped up to the plate when approached to make financial contributions, which has once again displayed the wonderful competitive spirit that Tsessebe boys are known for.

On behalf of all Tsessebe old boys, we extend an “invitation challenge” to the Oribi, Sable and Roan old boys to embrace the opportunity to become involved with the much-needed upgrades to your hostels. It is possible and only takes the effort to become involved in one way or another.

2025 has presented us with another wonderful challenging project. Dale Jackson recently approached me to chair the High-Performance Centre committee and co-manage the project. This will be Jeppe’s largest project to date - exciting times ahead as Jeppe continues the upward trajectory.

We encourage all Jeppe Old Boys and the greater Jeppe Community to “Pay it Forward”. Become involved in our wonderful school, by joining and contributing regularly to the JBA Legacy Club. Every amount small or large makes a huge difference and helps to change the lives of our students.

Even though we did not have children of our own, we have given back to Jeppe because it had such a significant impact on our lives. You too can change young men’s lives by contributing in some manner.

Forti Nihil Difficilius

Old Boys in the news



Matthew Coetzee (2024 Sable) was in the SA U19 team that went on tour to Georgia in February.



Jethro Eustice (2007 Eland) was in the South African indoor hockey team that won the bronze medals at the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup.



Greg King (1969 Sable) defended his Grand Masters title to win the 4th Beyers 8 Km Road Race from Greenstone Shopping Centre

Back to school for a visit

We are always thrilled to have old boys come to see us at the school.

To book a tour of the campus contact Kevin Robins at krobins@jeppeboys.co.za



Ian Adam (1964 Sable) and Neil Crighton (1959 Oribi) took a walk around the school. They are both former headmasters of schools.

Bernard Fridman (1966 Oribi) paid us a visit from Australia.



Tim Cheyne (1990 Impala), came to speak to a selection of Grade 12s on commodities trading and the decarbonisation of industry.

Tsessebe Upgrade

A better living space for the Tsessebe boarders

The generosity of Tsessebe old boys around the world has been amazing



On the 5th Feb 2025, we welcomed some very special old boys to the re-launch of the newly upgraded Tsessebe House.

The upgrades were initiated by Richard Mac Callum (1998), a fiercely loyal and dedicated Tsessebe old boy. Richard and his brother Lawrence, who lives abroad, decided that the Tsessebe boarders deserved an upgraded living space.

They began the process in 2022 and slowly but surely the generosity and big-heartedness of the Tsessebe family came to the fore. Through many donations, big and small, Richard's visions for the boarding house started becoming a reality.

The wooden bunk beds in the dorms were replaced with sturdier metal ones; floors were re-tiled; the inside of the house was repainted; the kitchen was refurbished; the quad was upgraded; to mention but a few of the projects



Jonathan Hurvitz (2001 Tsessebe) thanks donor Meryl Naisby.

undertaken.

A number of major donors were invited to the relaunch and they were escorted on a tour of the house and shown all the upgrades.

They were taken to the unveiling of the Matron's Walk. Mrs Penny Boden unveiled the plaque to commemorate the lives of previous Matrons who had

passed away during their service at Jeppe.

The guests then returned to the Tsessebe kitchen and enjoyed a boarding house lunch, while reminiscing about their days as Tsessebe boarders.

Richard thanked the donors for their contributions which facilitated the upgrades and transformed Tsessebe into a world class boarding facility, and they were presented with plaques to mark the occasion by JBA chairman, Jonathan Hurvitz.

Dale Jackson then spoke and he reiterated the immense impact that the generosity of the donors had on the lives of the boys at Tsessebe.

There are a few outstanding items on the agenda to complete the Tsessebe upgrade but, all in all, the house is looking wonderful and the boys are extremely happy in their new home away from home.



Much-loved housemasters ... Dudley Wallendorf and Warren Boden



The ever-ebullient Victor Vermeulen (1991 Koodoo).



Laurie Stegmann (1976 Eland) and Grazer Normand (1956 Duiker).



Prince Mhlanga (2007 Koodoo), Belinda Ruckard and Richard Mac Callum (1979 Tsessebe).



Penny Boden

Joburg breakfast

On Tuesday the 18th February we hosted our first old boys' event for 2025. Despite torrential rain, despite treacherous traffic congestion and despite having to negotiate parking at the hockey fields because of the water-logged fields, we had a fantastic turnout.

Over 60 old boys joined us for a catch up and a chat, ranging from a 1955 old boy to a 2024 'new' old boy. The Payne Hall was decked out in the iconic black, white and gold and a delicious breakfast was served.

Quintin Starkey, the JBA's vice chairman welcomed all back to Jeppe and invited all the guests to take a tour of the school and see the many improvements and developments that have taken place. He encouraged more old boys to subscribe to the Legacy Club as every little contribution helps towards making all the progress around campus possible.

Richard Mac Callum was the next speaker who chatted briefly about the generous donations received for the upgrade of the Tsessebe boarding house and what an enormous impact the donors have had on the transformation of the boarding house into a world class establishment for the boys.

Our Headmaster Mr Dale Jackson was up next and he thanked all the guests for braving the weather and making the effort to be at the breakfast, especially the older gents to whom he was especially grateful. He also touched on the importance of having a strong alumni contingent in order to preserve the many facets of our school that are neither covered by school fees nor government grants.

The recent completion of the Art Class; the Innovation Hub; the proposed development of the Museum and the soon to be built High Performance Centre being just a few of the projects funded by the old boys.

He also spoke of his upcoming departure and his reasons for calling time on his stint at Jeppe. He reiterated that he is by no means done with Jeppe but that his time at the helm has come to an end and he believes his successor can take the school to the next level.

A short Q & A session followed and some of the guests then enjoyed a tour of the campus with our expert Jeppe historian Mr Kevin Robins.

A big thank you for your support and we look forward to the next JBA event which we will advertise on all our social media channels shortly.



Derek Cooper (1957) Graham Hall (1957), Kevin Tait (1967).



Jopie van Honshooten (1964 Impala), Chris Povall (1974 Oribi), Andre Grobler (1976 Koodoo), Mike Ellison (1972 Impala).

JOBs at the Noord-Suid Festival

We were down at Paul Roos Gimnasium for the Noord-Suid rugby festival last weekend. To catch up with some of our Cape-based old boys. Quite a large group of them turned up on the Saturday to watch the games against Rondebosch. The consensus was that, although the first team lost to a very good team, the boys did us all proud, and it was good to spend the day with old friends and fellow Jeppe people.



Leyton Aries (2024), Garon van der Merwe (2023) Gianni Roman (2023) Bukho Matsolo (2023) Tristan Smith-Harding (2022).



Tyron Wood (1996 Eland) and Quinton Starkey (1996 Roan).



Jon (1961 Tsessee) and Yvonne Lavies.



Basil Holford (1961 Eland) and Brian Holford (1975 Oribi).



Dylan Tasdhary (2020 Koodoo) and Euan Springfield (2000 Duiker).



Quinton Starkey and Dale Jackson with SGB chairman Heath Samuel

Richard Dickinson (1979 Sable) watched all four of Jeppe's matches at Paul Roos Gimnasium. We caught up with him on the Tuesday.

"I spent 40 years working in the baking industry, and after I retired a few years ago, I took an interest in schools rugby and have been watching matches here in Cape Town on most Saturdays," he told us. "So, when I heard my old school was in town, I was thrilled to be able to see them in action for a change."

Richard has been back to the

school on a few occasions – KC Dickinson, one of the teachers is his sister-in-law – most recently for the 1st leg of the KES game last year.

"I was impressed by the guts and commitment of the Jeppe players here but, as I expected, the Cape Schools are too strong, in general, for the up-country schools at this festival.

It was, however, great to see Jeppe play, and to catch up with other old boys and some of the Jeppe staff."



In memory

Our condolences go to the families and friends of the following members of the Jeppe family. May they rest in peace.

| Name | Year | House | Date of birth | Date deceased |
|--------------------|------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Derrick Brown | 1952 | Impala | 1935-02-04 | 2025-02-05 |
| Harry Crabb | 1961 | Impala | 1943-11-13 | 2025-01-11 |
| Dave Steele | 1963 | Impala | 1945-08-02 | 2024-12-05 |
| James Fairhurst | 1964 | Koodoo | 1947-09-14 | 2025-03-07 |
| Gary Harms | 1978 | Duiker | 1959-09-30 | July 2024 |
| Dean Wright | 1983 | Tsessebe | 1966-05-18 | |
| Alistair MacDonald | 1989 | Eland | 1972-06-30 | 2025-03-02 |
| Tyron Henderson | 2004 | Tsessebe | 1985-09-20 | 2024-12-30 |
| Dean Boyd | 2008 | Oribi | 1989-01-14 | 2025-01-10 |

News in brief

- We were delighted to welcome a number of sons of old boys to Jeppe at the Grade 8 Induction in January. [Grade 8 Induction](#)
- Cricket legend Alan Kourie and top coach Byron Geyve, both old boys, have joined the Jeppe cricket coaching team. [Coaching legends](#)
- Old boy Mark MacKaiser has stepped down as head of the school's Rugby Patrons Association after a long period of exemplary service. [Mark McKaiser](#)
- The Dan Swart Art Centre and Ben Colling Amphitheatre were opened in February. [Art Centre](#)
- Old boy Andre Grobler was the guest speaker at the Annual Academic Prizegiving and delivered an inspirational speech. [Prize-giving speech](#)
- After 27 years, a letter buried in Oribi House sees the light of day again. [Oribi Letter](#)

Leave a Lasting Legacy: Support Jeppe High School for Boys

As a proud Old Boy or supporter of Jeppe, you're part of a community that values excellence, tradition, and community. By joining the Jeppe Legacy Club, you can help ensure that our beloved school continues to thrive for generations to come.

The Legacy Club is a group of dedicated individuals who share a passion for Jeppe's success. By contributing a small monthly amount (starting at just R100), you'll be supporting initiatives that benefit the

school and its students, such as:

- Developing a High-Performance Centre to enhance sporting excellence;
- Upgrading academic, sporting, and school infrastructure to provide a world-class learning environment;
- Preserving Jeppe's rich history and heritage for future generations.

By joining the Legacy Club, you'll not only be making a tangible difference in the lives of Jeppe boys, but you'll also:

- Receive recognition for your contributions, including Section 18(a) tax certificates ;
- Be part of a community that shares your values and passion for excellence;
- Have the satisfaction of knowing you're helping to shape the future of our beloved school.

So why not leave a legacy and support the Legacy Club.

Click on the link to join today:

[Legacy club](#)