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# OLD UNIONITE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## 2024 INTERSCHOOLS EDITION



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE OUA CHAIRMAN

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On behalf of the Old Unionite Association, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome all of you back to our beloved Graaff-Reinet for this year's Interschools event between our alma mater, the Union Schools, and Hoër and Laer Volksskool. It is always a remarkable occasion to come together, rekindle old friendships and celebrate our shared history and camaraderie.

This year promises to be filled with excitement, competition and, most importantly, the spirit of sportsmanship. I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all reunion groups gathering to relive cherished memories and to reconnect with old friends. Your presence here is what makes events like these so special.

To our talented sports teams representing Union Schools, I wish you the best of luck in your respective matches.

Play hard, support each other and most importantly, enjoy every moment on and off the field. Whether you win or lose, your dedication and passion for your sport exemplify the true spirit of the Union community.


I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the festivities and hope you have a wonderful time reconnecting and supporting our teams.

With warm regards,

Rhett Newton



It's an annual **SPORTING SPECTACULAR** for the books, and it's finally here: Interschools 2024 between the Union Schools and Volkskool. Please view the accompanying Interschools' programme - so that you don't miss a moment of the action:




## INTERSCHOOLS 2024

5 TO 10 AUGUST | GRAAFF-REINET


### MONDAY, 5 AUGUST

**14:00 u/10 Tennis**  
Top 6 Boys (on Hoër Volkskool courts)  
Top 6 Girls (on Hoër Volkskool courts)

**16:30 Chess** (Grade 1 to 4) in the Hoër Volkskool Hall  
**18:00 Chess** (Grade 5 to 12) in the Hoër Volkskool Hall



### TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST



**14:00 Junior Tennis (u/13)**  
1st Team Girls & Boys (Top 6) (on HVS courts)  
2nd Team Girls & Boys (on Botanics courts)

### WEDNESDAY, 7 AUGUST


**11:00 Senior Tennis**  
1st & 2nd Team Girls (on UHS Bremner & AKH Courts)  
1st & 2nd Team Boys (on Hoër Volkskool courts)  
3rd Team Girls & Boys (on Botanics courts)

**18:30 Cultural Evening** (Quiz & Speech) in the Hoër Volkskool Hall

### FRIDAY, 9 AUGUST

**ASSEMBLIES**  
**07:20** Union Preparatory School (in the school dome)  
**09:00** Union High School (in the school hall)


| HOCKEY  | RUGBY   |
|---|---|
| <b>09:30</b> Union Pre-School vs Weppie Preppie | <b>10:00</b> Union Pre-School vs Weppie Preppie (A field) |
| <b>10:30</b> u/7A & u/8C                        | <b>11:00</b> u/7A (C field)                               |
| <b>11:00</b> u/8B & u/9B                        | <b>11:30</b> UPS u/9B vs LVS u/8A&9B (C field)            |
| <b>11:30</b> u/8A & u/10C                       | <b>12:30</b> u/9A (C field)                               |
| <b>12:00</b> u/9A & u/10B                       | <b>13:30</b> u/11B (A field)                              |
| <b>12:30</b> u/10A                              | <b>14:30</b> u/13B (A field)                              |
| <b>13:00</b> u/13B                              | <b>15:30</b> 3rd XV (A field)                             |
| <b>14:00</b> u/13A                              |   |
| <b>15:00</b> UHS 2nd XI vs HVS Netball          |   |
| <b>16:00</b> Old Girls' Hockey                  |   |



### SATURDAY, 10 AUGUST


**SENIOR HOCKEY**  
(at the HVS AstroTurf)

**09:00** u/14A vs HVS u/16B  
**10:00** u/16A vs HVS u/16A  
**11:15** 1st Team



**RUGBY**  
(at the Botanics Sports Grounds)

**08:00** u/11A  
**09:00** u/13A  
**10:00** u/14A  
**12:20** u/15A  
**13:20** u/16A  
**14:30** 2nd XV  
**15:30** Cheerleaders' Entrance  
**16:00** 1st XV

 Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with all 2024 Interschools' news

Contact us:

**EMAIL:** oldunionites@unionschools.co.za

**WEBSITE:** www.oua.co.za

**FACEBOOK:**  
Old Unionites, Union High School, Graaff-Reinet

**WHATSAPP:**  
067 338 8098



# INTERSCHOOLS ASSEMBLY



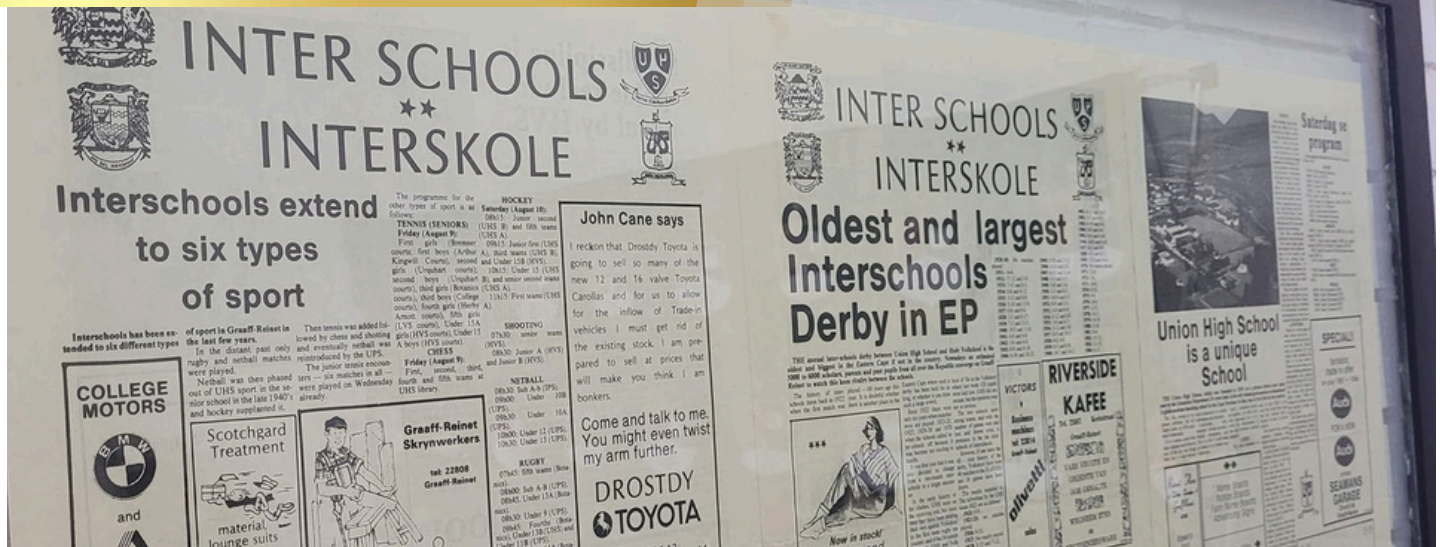
This year's **INTERSCHOOLS ASSEMBLY** will be held on Friday morning, 9 August at 09:00, in the Union High School hall.

- The Assembly will be followed by tea and eats served in the Tony Burrell Union, with the **OUA's annual AGM** following at 10:30.

**All those interested are invited to attend.**

*Reunion groups can reserve seating for the assembly, by contacting Mrs Krige at [admin@unionschools.co.za](mailto:admin@unionschools.co.za)*

## Down Memory Lane



In a delightful discovery that has charmed both learners and staff, Union High School has recently unearthed a treasured piece of history: a supplement from the Graaff-Reinet Advertiser dating back to the 1985 Interschools between Union and Volkskool.

*This 40-year-old collection of pages offers a nostalgic glimpse into a tradition that has shaped the character and camaraderie of these two institutions.*

Among the yellowed pages, anecdotes abound about the beloved annual Interschools dance, a highlight held in the town hall that brought the community together in joyous celebration.

**The supplement also highlights the immense hospitality efforts required to cater for the influx of 5000 visitors.**

Articles detail the logistical challenges and the community's commendable efforts to ensure everyone felt welcomed and comfortable, painting a picture of a town united by pride and tradition.

**In addition to these stories, the supplement offers a rich history of the Interschools event itself, proudly noted as the oldest of its kind in the Eastern Cape.** This historical account deepens the appreciation for the event's significance, underscoring the enduring legacy of friendly competition and mutual respect between Union and Volkskool.

To preserve this precious find, the supplement has been elegantly framed. The front of the frame showcases articles dedicated to Union Schools, while the back celebrates Volkskool, ensuring both schools' legacies are honoured and remembered.

The discovery of this supplement has not only provided a fascinating look into the past but has also reinforced what this specific event has meant to Union and Volkskool over the years. ***It serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of community, tradition and the shared history that continues to bind these two schools together.***





# INTERSCHOOLS STEAK NIGHT

Saturday evening, 10 August  
6:30pm | R150 per person

All parents, Old Unionites and friends of the Union Schools are invited to a steak braai in the Tony Burrell Union on Saturday evening, 10 August, at 6.30pm in honour of this year's Interschools.

Please contact Mrs Suzanne Marais at 082 823 8286 or [secretary@unionschools.co.za](mailto:secretary@unionschools.co.za) to reserve a ticket.

HOSTED BY THE  
OLD UNIONITE ASSOCIATION

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to each and every one of you to join us for a steak dinner at the Tony Burrell Union on Saturday evening, 10 August. *This annual event is being organized by the Old Unionite Association, and we can't wait to have you all there!*

**Picture this:** a cozy atmosphere, surrounded by the buzz of laughter and camaraderie, as you indulge in a delectable steak dinner. Whether you prefer your steak rare, medium or well-done, our talented braaiers will ensure it is cooked to perfection, just the way you like it! Connect with old friends, make new ones and celebrate the spirit of Interschools weekend. Share stories, relive cherished memories and forge new bonds while enjoying a scrumptious meal.

**Mark your calendars, because this is an evening you won't want to miss!** We encourage you to bring along your friends, family and fellow Interschools enthusiasts to make this occasion even more memorable. The more, the merrier!

Be sure to reserve your tickets with Mrs Suzanne Marais at 082 823 8286 or [secretary@unionschools.co.za](mailto:secretary@unionschools.co.za). See you there!



We are thrilled to announce that the Union Schools' **SUPPORTER STAND** will be open and ready to welcome you with open arms during the highly anticipated Interschools weekend!

On **Friday, 9 August**, we invite you to join us at the Union campus, where our supporter stand will be buzzing with excitement from 10:00 to 12:00. Get ready to cheer on our amazing learners and show your true school spirit!

On **Saturday, 10 August**, the stall will be relocating to the Botanics Sports Grounds, where the energy will be sky-high! From 10:00 to 15:00, we'll be cheering, chanting, and supporting our Union teams with all our might!





**Our Old Unionite rugby team is on the hunt for players!**  
On Thursday evening, 8 August, as part of the 2024 Interschools festivities, the **UHS Old Boys** will take on the **HVS Oudskolierie** in a friendly rugby encounter at the Botanics Sports Grounds. If you're interested in **TAKING THE FIELD** for the Union Old Boys in either the **full contact game** (under 35's) or the **touchies** game (over 35's) please get in touch with Sean Koeberg at 071 209 8614 to sign up!

**OLD GIRLS' MATCH**  
**INTERSCHOOLS 2024**

**UNION** **VS** **VOLKSKOOL**

**FRIDAY, 9 AUGUST @ 16:00**  
**HOËR VOLKSKOOL ASTROTURF**

**SIGN UP BY CONTACTING**  
**JENNIFER HOPE @ 082 927 0282**

**Interschools**  
**CURRY & RICE EVENING**

**FRIDAY | 9 AUGUST**

*Delicious Karoo lamb  
curry, rice & sambals,  
followed by dessert*

**R100pp**

**TAKE-AWAYS CAN BE COLLECTED FROM 18:30.  
SIT DOWN DINNER TO BE SERVED FROM 19:00  
TO 22:00 AT THE TONY BURRELL UNION**

**CONTACT 082 927 0282 BY 8 AUGUST TO PRE-BOOK YOUR MEAL**

**OLD BOYS' RUGBY MATCH**

**OUR OLD UNIONITE RUGBY TEAM IS ON THE HUNT FOR PLAYERS!**  
Join us this Interschools for a fun encounter against Volkskool!

**THURSDAY, 8 AUGUST @ 17:30** | **Contact Sean Koeberg at 071 209 8614 to sign up!** | **BOTANICS SPORTS GROUNDS**



As **INTERSCHOOLS 2024** approaches, so too does the annual hockey match between the Union High School and Hoër Volkskool Old Girls.

If you are free on Friday afternoon, 9 August, and would like to play for the Union Old Girls' team, **please get in touch**.

The match will start at 16:00.

*You don't need to have been in 'training' as it's just a bit of fun. It's also a great way to connect with other Old Girls.*

If you can't participate, spectators are always more than welcome

**Any Union Old Girls eager to play, can contact Jennifer Hope at 082 927 0282.**



Looking for a delicious and flavourful evening? Then why not support Union High School's traditional Interschools' curry & rice evening on Friday, 9 August, at the Tony Burrell Union! Union's 2025 Matric Farewell committee is hosting this fantastic fundraiser, and for only R100 per person, you can enjoy a delightful serving of curry, rice and sambals made with love and passion, topped off with a delicious dessert. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support our school and indulge in a mouthwatering meal. **We can't wait to see you there!**



# MEET THE TEAMS

Union High School will be represented by the following learners in the 1st team rugby and hockey matches:



**1ST TEAM HOCKEY:** Joy Merifield, Charlize Vorster, Katelyn Trollip, Amy Waddelow, Sarah Jacobs, Mia Botha, Leigh-Ann Murray, Caytah-Leigh Koeberg, Sadé May (captain), Aaminah Steele, Kenza Neill, Mecoli Vorster, Amber Slater, Misha Newton, Tyra Binney and Tara Ferreira



**1ST XV:** Trystan Hulleman, Uyanda Tele, Bulela Zonke, Ababalwe Matutu, Joshua Swartland, Peter Michaels, Makukhanye de Beer, Asemahle Sakati, Na'eem Mahomed (captain), Shaakir Kazi, Xavier Barlow, Muhammed Ahmed, Kyle Liebenberg, Christopher Nqumashe, Jayden Odendaal and Nangawethu Macanda.



# In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Liz Melville (class of 1962), Rodney Gilmour (Class of 62) and Sheena Banks (class of 1975). May the memories that they

created throughout their lives, serve to lift their families and friends when grief threatens to overwhelm, and may their legacy live on in all who loved them.

## Old Unionites in the news

### The World Stage

While we can be excused for being fully absorbed by the war cries emanating from AKH and the hallways of our beautiful school, in the lead up to THE CLASH, further afield, armies from across the world have gathered in the greatest showdown.

**And we can proudly give 2 Old Unionites a massive round of applause for passing their karoo genes onto their offspring.**

Hannah Pearce, daughter of Haloise Middleton (Head Girl in 1986) is representing SA on the Astros of Paris, and we wish her every success.

The Hobson family have also raised a star, in Andrew Pearce, who is putting it all out there in Paris, and flying the SA flag so high. The Hobsons are part and parcel of the Union Fabric, and we celebrate with them all.

Hannah and Andrew... while not Old Unionites in the literal sense, we take such pride in you and trust that you know that Union and every Old Unionite are cheering you on.

And even closer to home, the cousin of Union's very own 1st team hockey coach, Mr Calvin Beck, is also playing for SA on the world stage. Our hearts truly are with the team!



### Old Unionite lands Golden Key award

Congratulations to Old Unionite **Matthew Basson** who was recently invited to become a member of the University of Cape Town's Chapter of the esteemed Golden Key International Honours Society.

*Matthew, now a second-year student at UCT, matriculated at Union High School in 2022, first in his class, boasting an A-aggregate and seven distinctions.*

By also excelling in his studies towards a Bachelor of Social Science in Psychology and Social Development, Matthew has now earned himself a lifetime seat at the Golden Key Society table.

Golden Key membership is the highest university accolade awarded only to students in the top 15% per field of study in any undergraduate and post-graduate degree programme, and it's strictly by invitation only, so yes, a lifetime membership is no trivial feat.



**Hannah Pearce, daughter of Haloise Middleton (Head Girl in 1986) is representing SA on the Astros of Paris, and we wish her every success.**



## Old Unionite represents province at IPT

**Passion, dedication and a love for the game of hockey can drive individuals to achieve greatness.**

One such individual is Old Unionite Christine (née Buckle) Whale, who, despite not playing first team hockey at school, continued pursuing her passion for hockey after matriculating in 2007 and, with unwavering commitment and determination, has become an accomplished player as well as an inspiring coach.

In May of this year, Christine had the honour of representing the Eastern Province at the Masters Hockey Inter-Provincial Tournament (IPT) held in Johannesburg. This was not her first time representing the province in this prestigious event, as she had also achieved this remarkable feat the previous year.

Continuing her string of achievements, Christine represented EP Country Districts at the SACD (South African Country Districts) tournament held in Port Elizabeth during the June holidays.

Notably, she not only participated in the tournament but also held the position of vice-captain for her team.

For Christine, the opportunity to represent her province in these tournaments has been nothing short of an honour.

Christine's story reminds us that true passion knows no boundaries and that with dedication and perseverance, anything is possible.

**We look forward to witnessing her continued success on and off the hockey field.**



## Serving with love and passion

When it comes to Old Unionites making an impact in our little hometown, there is no one who does it better than Suzanne Marais (née Jacobs) of the Class of 1999.

Affectionately known as the unofficial "mayoress" of Union, Suzanne embodies the spirit of service, dedication and community.

Suzanne's official title is 'Secretary to the Headmaster' at Union High School, but her role extends far beyond this.

She can be seen decorating the Tony Burrell Union for functions, climbing into roofs to reset plugs, standing on ladders to fix clocks, cheering on the side of the sports field, serving as the secretary of the Old Unionite Association, baking thousands of cupcakes and serving steaks during OUA events.

*Suzanne's contributions are countless and her involvement is a testament to her unwavering commitment to our school and community.*

Her heart for our wonderful school, the learners and staff, and the broader community of Graaff-Reinet, is evident in everything she does. **Suzanne shows us all what it means to serve tirelessly with absolute love and boundless energy.** Her beautiful heart, permanent smile, enormous passion and can-do attitude are the epitome of what it means to be a Unionite.

**We are incredibly proud to call Suzanne one of our own.** Her service and dedication inspire us all to be better, to do more and to love our community as deeply as she does.





## Thank you for your service

The Union High School Development Trust bid a heartfelt farewell to retiring trustees, Old Unionites Doug Stern and Lionel de la Harpe, during a moving event held in the Tony Burrell Union recently.

**As stalwarts of the Trust, Doug Stern and Lionel de la Harpe have dedicated numerous years of service,** generously sharing their time and expertise for the advancement of the Union Schools.

*Their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions have made a lasting impact on the education and development of countless young Unionites.*

The Trust, along with the entire Union Schools community, expresses its profound gratitude for the dedication and leadership demonstrated by Doug and Lionel throughout their tenure. **Their passion for supporting education and cultivating a nurturing environment for learners will be remembered and cherished for years to come.**

Their presence and influence will be deeply missed, but their legacy of service and dedication will forever remain a cornerstone of the Trust's mission.

**Farewell to two exceptional individuals whose impact will be felt for generations to come.**



## Down Memory Lane



Throwback to Union High School's annual Sports Day, 1964: The **Open Boys 1 Mile** race begins with determination and hope. E. Blignaut, R. Rous and A. Wood made their mark, claiming first, second and third place respectively, etching their names into our school's storied athletic history.



# Exciting developments at Union High School

## Introducing Mr André Human – Union's new Director of Rugby

We are thrilled to announce that Mr André Human has joined Union High School as the school's new Director of Rugby.

*With a wealth of experience and a proven track record, Mr Human brings a blend of passion, expertise and ambition to the rugby programme.*

Mr Human has dedicated the past 17 years to the sport of rugby, working as a professional full-time coach at various levels, both nationally and internationally.

His coaching journey has taken him across South Africa, Ireland and even Uzbekistan, where he served as the National Coaching Consultant for their Rugby Federation. *His extensive experience as a head and assistant coach has resulted in a remarkable success rate and accolades along the way.*

Beyond his coaching prowess, Mr Human also holds a qualification as a maths educator. This educational background allows him to prioritise the holistic development of our young rugby players, maintaining a healthy balance between academics, rugby and personal growth. **He firmly believes in creating a learning environment where players can thrive in all aspects of their lives.**

Notably, Mr Human's own rugby career adds to his depth of understanding and knowledge.

He played for Stellenbosch University while pursuing his B. Comm. (Maths) degree and later competed in club rugby in Italy and France. He went on to represent the Stormers and Border Bulldogs professionally, as well as the SA Defense and SA Central Union Team.

Mr Human's coaching journey began at high school level, where he honed his skills at Stirling High, Grens High and Dale College. He then progressed to coaching professional rugby, leading the Border Bulldogs in the Vodacom Cup and Currie Cup for five years.

With an impressive rugby CV, Mr Human's experience spans coaching schools, premier club rugby in South Africa and Ireland, as well as the Currie Cup and Super 15 Rugby. His strong understanding of schools' rugby further enhances our programme, as he brings valuable insights and strategies to elevate our team's performance.

**We are looking forward to seeing the rugby programme flourish and reach new heights under his guidance.**

His passion, expertise and commitment to the holistic development of our young rugby players align perfectly with our school's values.

His expertise also extended to coaching international sides, including Galway Corinthians RFC and Old Crescent RFC in Ireland. Most recently, he made significant contributions as the National Coaching Consultant for the Uzbekistan Rugby Federation, mentoring both men's and women's rugby teams in 7s and 15-a-side formats.



We urge any Old Unionites who would like to submit an article of interest for inclusion in the OUA newsletter, to please submit it via email to [oldunionites@unionschools.co.za](mailto:oldunionites@unionschools.co.za)

*Thank you for reading!*