

# Interschools' Edition

OLD UNIONITE ASSOCIATION

August 2025



## A Word from the Chairman

Dear Old Unionites,

As we gear up with great anticipation for Interschools 2025, there's a rising sense of excitement in the air.

**This year promises to be particularly special, with the entire event being held on our grounds, with some wonderful reunion groups joining us for the festivities.**

What a privilege it will be to welcome these familiar faces back to campus - to hear the laughter echo down the corridors again, to witness old friendships rekindle and new memories take root. Union truly becomes more than a school during this time - it becomes a living, breathing tapestry of legacy, connection, and joy. As winter settles gently over Graaff-Reinet, I find myself deeply reflective. This season of stillness is such a precious gift - a chance to slow down, draw inward and consider the beauty and purpose woven through our shared Union journey.

There's something comforting about winter's quiet. It gives us the space to hunker down in warm corners, both physical and emotional, and reconnect with what matters. For me, in one such moment of reflection, I lit a match to the wood in my fireplace and watched as a small spark grew into a steady, glowing flame. It struck me how much that single act mirrored what we are building together through the Old Unionite Association - a collection of small contributions, small sparks, coming together to create something extraordinary.

**Imagine this: if just 500 Old Unionites committed R100 per month, we would raise R50 000 every month.  
500 x R100 = R50 000  
That's not a pipe dream - it's entirely within reach.**

And the difference that level of support could make for the learners of the Union Schools is simply staggering. It's not about grand gestures.

It's about many small ones - like that one match - that together create a warmth and light that transforms everything it touches. And don't forget that every quarter, 10% goes to one of the regular contributors! Which, for those of you who need a little mad money, and can't be bothered to buy a Lotto ticket, would mean the following:

**R150 000 x 10% = R15 000**

If you have not yet signed up for our 100 Club, I implore you: don't wait. Don't overthink it. Just take the leap - click the button and do it. You'll be joining a growing family of people who believe in the power of education, in the value of giving back and in the legacy of Union.

Winter is a time for reflection, yes - but it can also be a time for action. And what better action to take than one that will warm not only your heart, but the lives of generations to come?

*Rhett Newton*

## Interschools 2025

We're gearing up for a super social **INTERSCHOOLS WEEKEND** - and you won't want to miss it! **JOIN US** on Friday, 15 August and Saturday, 16 August at the Graaff-Reinet Bowling Club for two unforgettable evenings filled with live entertainment, mouth-watering food and the best company in town.

**Pre-order your meals** via the link below to make sure you don't go hungry while enjoying what promises to be a truly legendary celebration:

**CLICK HERE** 



*The Old Unionite Association Presents*

**LIVE MUSIC**

**FEATURING**

**Simon Shaw Music**

**Interschools 2025**

**THE GRAAFF-REINET BOWLS CLUB**

*Support our fundraising efforts simply by having a good time!*

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**ON THE MENU:**  
FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST | CURRY & RICE  
SATURDAY, 16 AUGUST | LAMB SLIDERS

**OPERATING TIMES:**  
FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST | 17:00 'TILL LATE  
SATURDAY, 16 AUGUST | 16:00 'TILL LATE

**JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD, GREAT MUSIC & A GREAT VIBE!**





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A POST-INTERSCHOOLS

# Breakfast or Brunch



Join us for a lovely morning filled with delicious food and great company. We can't wait to see you here!

HOSTED BY

*the Old Unionite Association*

DATE & TIME

17 August 2025 | 09:00 - 11:00

on the deck of the Tony Burrell pavilion

RSVP 067 338 8098

R130 PER PERSON (BUFFET SERVICE)

We're thrilled to invite you to join us for a scrumptious breakfast or brunch at Union High School on the final day of Interschools' weekend, Sunday, 17 August!

**PICTURE THIS:** A delightful spread of mouthwatering breakfast favourites, lovingly prepared by our talented school moms. From freshly baked roosterkoek to sizzling bacon, we've got it all covered to kick-start your day in the most delightful way.

**What better way to end off what's sure to be an unforgettable weekend!**

Date: Sunday, 17 August

Time: 09:00 to 11:00

Location: the deck of the Tony Burrell pavilion

The event is open to all Interschools' weekend attendees, whether you're a part of a reunion group, a parent, a friend of the school or simply visiting our campus.

**Limited spots available**, so make sure to RSVP at 067 338 8098 by Wednesday, 13 August, to secure your table.

Reunion groups can reserve seating for the assembly, by contacting Mrs Krige at [admin@unionschools.co.za](mailto:admin@unionschools.co.za) (last day to reserve seating is Wednesday, 13 August)



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE OLD UNIONITE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON

**FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST 2025**

**AT 11:00 IN THE TONY BURRELL UNION**



[www.oua.co.za](http://www.oua.co.za)



**067 338 8098**

Notice is hereby given that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Old Unionite Association will take place in the Tony Burrell Union at Union High School at 11:00 (shortly after the Interschools' Assembly) on Friday morning, 15 August.

*All are welcome to attend.*

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO



UNION HIGH SCHOOL'S 2025

# Interschools ASSEMBLY

**FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST**

**09:00**

UNION HIGH SCHOOL HALL

*Guests to please be seated by 08:55*

WELCOME TO INTERSCHOOLS

# A letter from the Headmaster

**It is with immense pride and heartfelt excitement that I welcome you all to the Union Schools' campus for this year's Interschools.**

The 2025 edition is a landmark moment in the history of our school, as, for the first time since 1971, every single Interschools fixture - from the thrilling rugby clashes to the many other spirited encounters - will be hosted right here, on Union soil.

This long-awaited return to our home campus has been years in the making and it is our absolute pleasure to open our gates to the learners, staff, families, past pupils and supporters of both Union and Volkskool for what promises to be a festival of sportsmanship, pride and tradition.

Interschools has always stood as a pillar of our shared legacy - a weekend that is so much more than a scoreboard. It is a celebration of unity, of deep-rooted rivalry, of tradition passed down through generations. It is the culmination of weeks of dedication, discipline and determination. And this year, with the return of all matches to our beloved campus, that spirit will shine even brighter.

Moments like these forge memories that last a lifetime and help shape the culture of excellence and belonging that both our schools are known for. The energy, the community spirit, the roaring support from the stands - all of it fuels the future success of our learners.

**To our Old Unionites** - this one is for you, too. Whether you left Union last year or many years ago, you remain part of our story.

We hope you will return to celebrate this historic occasion with us.

Your presence on the stands, cheering from the sidelines and reconnecting with old friends, is part of what makes Interschools so incredibly special.

**We are also incredibly grateful to Montego Pet Nutrition for coming on board as a sponsor for this year's Interschools.**

Their generous support plays a vital role in making this event possible and we thank them for their commitment to youth, community and excellence.

Finally, I ask all our supporters - parents, staff, Old Unionites and friends - to get behind our learners this weekend. Wear your colours proudly, show up in full voice and be the wind in the sails of our teams as they step into the arena.

May this Interschools be one of camaraderie, joy, fierce competition and above all - lasting memories.

Welcome to Union.  
Welcome home.



Mr W.E. Pringle

HEADMASTER: UNION HIGH SCHOOL

**CLICK HERE**



**TO VIEW AND/OR DOWNLOAD  
THE OFFICIAL  
INTERSCHOOLS' 2025 PROGRAMME**





## Join us on the golf course!

Join us for a **GOLF DAY** on Friday, 15 August, teeing off at 12 noon, right after the Interschools' assemblies. This much-anticipated afternoon is open to everyone - **Oud Volkskoliere and Old Unionites alike** - and promises to be a truly fun event, filled with the unmistakable camaraderie that makes the Interschools weekend so special.

**American Scramble Drive | R115 per person - 18 holes**

**Enter as a 4-ball** (if you're not able to, we'll match players for balanced teams - highest to lowest handicap - for a fun mix!) **Tee-off at 12:00**

**TO BOOK** your spot, contact Sharon Krige via WhatsApp on 084 548 5373 or email [admin@unionschools.co.za](mailto:admin@unionschools.co.za)



Contact Sharon Krige via WhatsApp @ 084 548 5373 or [admin@unionschools.co.za](mailto:admin@unionschools.co.za) to find out more.

*(Carts are limited - reserve yours through the Club with Johan at 040 555 0036.)*

## Introducing our guest speaker

Union High School's annual **INTERSCHOOLS ASSEMBLY** will be held on Friday morning, 15 August, at 09:00 in the school hall.

This year, we are honoured to welcome Old Unionite **Mr Lloyd Collett**, representing the Class of 2000 - this year's 25-year reunion group - as our guest speaker.

**Other items on the programme** include the Headmaster's Address, a performance by the junior and senior choir, the Head Prefects' message and the introduction of the 1st rugby and hockey teams.

*All those interested are invited to attend.*

• The Assembly will be followed by tea and eats served in the Tony Burrell Union.

### More about our speaker:

Lloyd Collett matriculated from Union in the year 2000 and went on to complete a BComm in Financial Management at Stellenbosch University.

*His professional journey has taken him across continents and industries, with earlier roles in sales in both Scotland and the USA, before returning to South Africa where he gained extensive experience in agricultural finance and consulting.*

Lloyd was previously a partner at ACS Consulting, where he advised dairy farmers on everything from pasture and financial management to budgeting, tax, and succession planning. He also served as Head of Finance and Administration at Amadlelo Agri.

Currently, Lloyd is a sharefarmer at Bloekomlaan Agri, a thriving dairy business situated 30km outside of Humansdorp towards Tsitsikamma.

With 1 800 cows under his care, Lloyd and his team are committed to becoming one of the most efficient, low-cost dairy producers in the region – a goal they are pursuing through strategic decision-making and an emphasis on staff empowerment and well-being.

**Lloyd is married to Beth, and together they are raising two boys - Joshua (10) and Oliver (8).**

*We are delighted to welcome Lloyd back to Union and look forward to hearing his inspiring journey at this year's Interschools' Assembly.*



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## In other news

### UNITED IN GENEROSITY: The Old Unionite Association Rallies Like Wallace's Army to Answer the Call

When the call went out for benches to grace the deck of the Tony Burrell Union at Union High School no one could have predicted the remarkable wave of generosity that would follow.

*But respond they did - like the fiercely loyal army of William Wallace - members of the Old Unionite Association stood up, rallied and gave with such spirit that the original goal was quickly surpassed.*

The outpouring was so extraordinary that not only was The Union's deck transformed into a warm, welcoming haven, but the generosity overflowed to other parts of our campus. Our newly upgraded AstroTurf is now also adorned with smart new seating, offering players and spectators alike a comfortable place to gather and enjoy the vibrant energy of school life.

**This wasn't just about benches. It was about heart. It was about legacy. It was about the incredible bond that Old Unionites share with their alma mater - a place that shaped them, inspired them and continues to live in their memories.**

To see such swift and heartfelt support was profoundly moving. It reminded us all that Union is more than a school - it's a community, a heritage and a home.



The contributions made were not just acts of generosity; they were affirmations of a shared love for this place and a collective commitment to ensuring its legacy flourishes for generations to come.

To each and every Old Unionite who answered the call: **thank you**. The campus is brighter, stronger and more welcoming because of you. And as future Unionites sit on those benches, watching the world with wide eyes and open hearts, they'll be surrounded - literally and figuratively - by the enduring spirit of those who came before them.

- Class of 1977
  - Sheard Family
  - Class of 1997
  - Class of 1992
  - Class of 1996
  - Kroon Family - Joe, Sigi, Cindy, Joe, Lionel, Amy, Ben
  - Brendon & Clayton Kleynhans
  - In loving memory of Stephen Bezuidenhout Class of 1999
  - In loving memory of Mr Fanie Bez Class of 1999
  - In Loving Memory of Conrad Spingies, Pat Spingies & Grania Spingies
  - Class of 1990
  - Amity 1967-1978
  - Charley van Schalkwyk & Family
  - Class of 1998
  - Class of 2004
  - Isabelle & Ruben Bester
  - As you rest your ass, know this was an amazing class. As you sip your brew, know we are so good, we donated 2! Class of 2000
  - Class of 1976
  - Pringle Family
  - Class of 1991
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# Celebrating Mike Hobson: Union High's Class of 1997

From the quiet farmlands of Careysbrook near Jansenville to the skies above foreign lands, Old Unionite Mike Hobson's journey is a remarkable testament to the power of hard work, resilience and daring to dream.

Born in Graaff-Reinet in 1979 and raised on a farm just 25 minutes from Jansenville, Mike's story began humbly - and from the very start, his Union High School roots ran deep.

**During his time at Union, Mike distinguished himself not only as a capable student, but also as an outstanding sportsman.** A proud member of the Class of 1997, he played hooker for the school's rugby team, earning full colours for both rugby and shooting.

*One of the defining highlights of his school years was being part of the side that claimed a long-awaited victory in the 1997 interschools rugby match - Union's first in nearly a decade. That moment remains one of his most cherished memories.*

**After matriculating, Mike charted a bold new path by moving to the United States.**

There, he enlisted in the US Air Force, setting in motion an extraordinary career. His potential was soon recognised and he was nominated and accepted into the prestigious United States Air Force Academy.

Graduating in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Mike continued to shine on the rugby field, representing the Academy all four years and earning three selections to the Collegiate All-Americans - a group made up of the best college rugby players in the country. **In 2005, his team clinched the Collegiate National Championship, crowning them the top college rugby side in the United States.**

Mike's rugby career also extended to the international stage. He proudly represented the US national rugby team, earning his cap in a match against Romania and touring countries like Ireland, Italy, and Japan - all while honouring his roots and representing his adopted nation with pride.

Following his graduation, Mike was commissioned as an officer and began pilot training, eventually taking to the skies in the legendary A-10 Warthog.



**He served two combat tours in Afghanistan, accumulating over 830 combat hours and receiving ten Air Medals for aerial achievement** - a reflection of his courage, precision and unwavering dedication to his mission and team.

In 2015, he took on a new challenge as part of the pioneering cadre for the US Air Force's F-35 fighter jet programme. As an instructor, he helped shape the next generation of pilots until his retirement in December 2024, completing 25 and a half years of distinguished military service. **He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.**

Today, Mike continues to follow his passion for flight as an airline pilot with Southwest Airlines. Based in Phoenix, Arizona, he enjoys a fulfilling life alongside his wife Andrea, a devoted neonatal doctor, and their three daughters - Isla, Reagan and Harper - who are each thriving in club soccer and embracing the same spirit of determination and teamwork that defines their father.

*Mike Hobson's story is more than a personal success - it's a message to every Old Unionite and every learner walking the corridors of Union High School: no dream is too distant.* From that legendary win on the rugby field to combat missions and shaping future leaders, Mike has shown that with grit, courage and heart, you can rise from the Karoo to conquer the skies.

**His journey is one to be proud of - a legacy that inspires, uplifts and proves that your beginnings don't limit your destination. Keep reaching, keep dreaming and always remember: your Union roots can take you anywhere.**

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## Congratulations to our 100 Club winner

We are delighted to announce that Old Unionite William Copeman has been drawn as the lucky winner of the 100 Club draw for regular contributors, held on Friday, 30th May 2025. Congratulations, William - we hope you enjoy a bit of well-deserved "mad money"!

This win couldn't have gone to a more deserving Old Unionite. William is the epitome of selfless service, pouring his time, energy, enthusiasm, and financial support into Union Schools. His commitment ensures that the Union legacy not only flourishes during his children's time here but continues to thrive for future generations.

The Copeman family's deep love for Union is truly inspirational.

Rebecca (Grade 11) and Mark (Grade 4) are passionate Union kids through and through, while Vanessa supports everything Green & White - from hostel fundraisers and school events to cheering loudly on the sidelines.

**We extend heartfelt thanks to the Copeman family for all they do. Congratulations, William! Your win is a small token in return for your tremendous contributions.**

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## Show your support this Interschools!

We're excited to announce that Union High School's official **SUPPORTER JERSEYS** - created in collaboration with Old School Ltd - have arrived!

Stylish, spirited and proudly green, these jerseys are the perfect way to show your #UnionPride this Interschools!

Grab yours from The Outpost Supply Co. in Graaff-Reinet and wear it loud and proud as we back our teams all the way!

**NOT IN TOWN?** Secure yours by contacting 066 596 1223.

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This Interschools, the Union Schools' boarding houses are delighted to offer **FARMER'S BOXES** - a delicious and convenient way to stock up on farm-fresh treats for the weekend!

*These thoughtfully curated boxes are available for pre-order via the link below, where you can also view full details of the contents and pricing.*

Don't miss out - **support our boarding houses while enjoying a taste of the Karoo!**

👉 Click here to order your Farmer's Box:

**CLICK HERE**





**HOW TO DONATE**

# TO THE OUA



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**STEP 1: SCAN QR  
CODE OR LOG ON TO  
WWW.OUA.CO.ZA**

**STEP 2: CLICK ON THE  
GREEN DONATE BUTTON**

**STEP 3: CLICK ON THE FUND OF YOUR  
CHOICE – ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE FUND,  
SPORTS ASSISTANCE FUND OR  
DISCRETIONARY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**STEP 4: CLICK ON THE GREEN DONATE  
NOW BUTTON**

**STEP 5: SELECT THE CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT  
OR PUT IN A CUSTOM CONTRIBUTION**

**STEP 6: FILL IN YOUR DETAILS. SHOULD PAYFAST BE  
SELECTED, YOU WILL BE RE-DIRECTED TO A SECURE  
BANKING SITE FOR CONFIRMATION. SHOULD EFT BE  
SELECTED, YOU WILL HAVE TO MANUALLY PROCESS THE  
TRANSACTION.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT – EVERY CENT IS A VALUABLE STEP  
TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR EVERY UNION LEARNER!**



*Thank you for reading!*