



OLD WETPUPS

The official Newsletter of the Old WPPS Association, incorporating past pupils, parents & staff

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Assisted by Pauline Pearce

NEWSLETTER No. 14 • March 2010



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WELCOME TO OUR NEW OLD WETPUPS FROM THE CLASS OF 2009

News of Past Staff:

Past Staff Christmas Tea:

On the morning of the Wetpups Christmas Market on 29 October 2009, we hosted a tea party for the staff beforehand. There was a great turnout, with some new faces which is always a pleasure – especially as Evelyn (below left) came along too. After indulging in some tasty treats, some meandered over to the hall for pre-season Christmas shopping.



Back row – Lorna Ross-Thompson, Colleen van Druuten,
Wendy Bennet, Lawrie & Robyn Davies,
Gail Tonneson, Sally Bresler
Front row – Frances Crowson, Sandy van Dyk,
Evelyn Dunt, Thelma Raath

Evelyn Dunt – we were delighted to welcome Evelyn at our Past Staff Christmas tea. Evelyn taught art in the 40s and 50s and is our second oldest past staff member aged 93. She still lives on her own and does all her own housework, cooking and shopping. She is a fund of wonderful stories.



Evelyn Dunt



Martin Coomer in the
'good ol' days

Martin Coomer

Thank you so much for the most enjoyable tea. I thoroughly enjoyed the gathering and thank you for all you did to make the time so pleasant.

Best wishes.

martincoomer@gmail.com

Robyn Garlick (2001-06) writes:

Stanimir and I were married in Bulgaria two weeks ago. We had a special time with his family, and I enjoyed seeing some of the country and learning about the interesting history and culture.

So, we are now officially... Mr and Mrs Sokolinski and are very happy.

Warm regards

Robyn

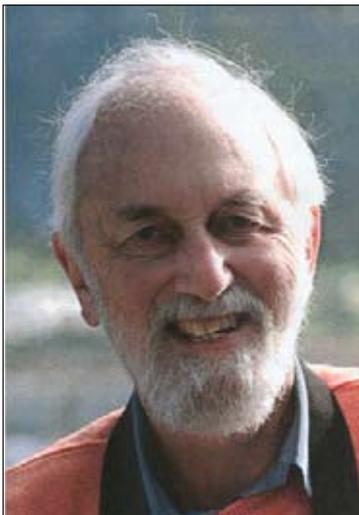


Duncan Todd and his beautiful little daughter, Anita, joined the staff for tea one morning – what a delight to see them again and both so well and happy in Canada.



Duncan and Anita

Obituaries:



Roger Wickens (1979-86)

Roger, a much loved and respected former Headmaster, died in October 2009 after a long illness.

The list of Roger Wickens' achievements during those eight years is remarkable. He extended so many aspects of school activity and had the vision and foresight to plan for the future. He reorganised

the timetable, allowing dedicated time for clubs and societies, introduced Xhosa and Computer Studies, expanded and re-housed the Remedial Department and initiated an enrichment programme for very able boys. He extended the fixtures list for the major sports and introduced tennis and squash at inter-school level.

He also masterminded an extensive renovation and decoration programme, which included the new library, a new large staff workroom and a computer lab. He initiated the fundraising drive which enabled us to acquire and plan to develop the Buxton site across Newlands Road.

Roger set in motion the founding of The Western Province Association which was a great success, drawing parents in to a healthy involvement in the school's activities and affording new opportunities for families to socialise.

On a lighter side, Roger brought to Wetpups his own love of folk music and boys and staff were encouraged to participate in

musical evenings and plays. Indeed, it was understood that he did not interview new staff, he auditioned them!

Our sincere condolences to Pam, Dave and Patty and families.

Vernon Staegemann

Several old boys from the late 40s and early 50s have mentioned **Vernon Staegemann** with admiration and affection (Gordon Pringle and Chris Danziger among them). We thought that we had found him, only to be told by his wife, Jean, that he had passed away suddenly in May 2008. Our deepest sympathy and that of many old Wetpups, who also remember you, goes out to you Jean.



Vernon Staegemann in 1945



Vernon with the three boys in Versailles ...

Vernon was at Wetpups from (1943-45). Among other achievements were breaking the high jump and long jump records and we understand that his long jump record at Bishops, set in 1950, still stands. While a student at UCT he answered an advertisement for "a junior housemaster who could assist at sports." He was appointed by John Stansbury and started teaching at WPPS in 1953. In December that year Vernon took three boys, Gordon Pringle, Jasper Knight and Newton Phillips on a memorable cultural tour of Europe (see photo above). Jean, his future wife, joined the staff in 1953 as a Standard 3 (Grade 5) teacher. Vernon left teaching and moved to Johannesburg in 1960 and went into Personnel Management, working first with AECL and then Checkers, where he became Personnel Director. He retired to the Cape in 1992.

Henry Foot (1931-36)

Henry was born in 1922, an only child. At the age of nine he was orphaned and was sent to a guardian in Cape Town. He went to Wetpups as a boarder from 1931 to 1936. He went on to St Andrew's College in 1937. He spent his holidays with school friends and school staff, the boarding house being his home. At St Andrew's he struck up a lifelong friendship with Jack Ruck. (father of Myles) He went straight from school into the South African Air Force and saw war service in Italy.

After the war he joined Syfrets where he studied and qualified in accounting. He then moved to Stephan Bros where he remained as a director until his retirement.

He married Gwen Jackson in 1948 and had three children

Martyn (1954-63), Rupert (1957-64) [OW and OA] and Mary.

Henry cherished both his schools, which had provided him with childhood homes, and served on the Boards of both WPPS and St Andrew's, contributing his expertise and enthusiasm and keenly supporting all activities.

He loved sport and played many sports. He was a life member of the Royal Cape Golf Club, WP Cricket Club, Olympics and Kelvin Grove.

Gwen died in 1974, and he subsequently married Maureen Pagewood Osborne, and they moved to Plettenberg Bay.

He died suddenly, but peacefully at home, aged 87, on 6 February, whilst watching South Africa beat India in cricket.

Our sincere condolences go out to his extended family.
(Ed: Grateful thanks to Rupert Newton Foot for supplying these details.)

Dug Gasson (1942 – 45)

We were pleased to hear again from **John Gasson** (1942-45) (see page 8), but sad to be told of the death of his brother, **DR PW (Dug) Gasson** in Australia on 17th November 2009, after a long illness.

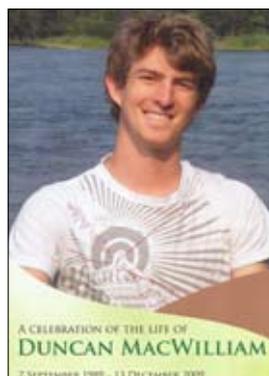
John writes: Dug was born in Bulawayo and the Gassons were two of the several boys who made the long rail journey to and from Wetpups twice a year. Dug went on to Bishops and then to UCT to study medicine. He completed his medical studies in Edinburgh and then decided to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology. After serving as a consultant in various hospitals in the UK, he emigrated to Australia and established a successful practice in Cairns. He was a popular figure, often greeted in the street by people he had delivered or whose babies he had delivered!

Interested in botany, he gathered one of the largest private collection of cycads in Australia (from all around the Pacific). These are planted in his garden in Cairns.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife, children, grandchildren, sister and, of course, to brother John.

Duncan MacWilliam (1996-2002)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the tragic loss of Duncan MacWilliam in December last year. Those who taught him remember a boy, much loved by his family and friends, who threw himself into school life. He played hockey and rugby, was awarded cultural colours for Lectern Club, had a part in the school play "Smike", attended Scripture Union and won the senior speech competition. Our deepest sympathies to Bev, Russell, Ryan and Stuart.



News from St Andrew's

Prefects:

Congratulations to all six of our matric boys were chosen as College prefects for 2010. They are:

- Jonty Arnot – Head of Armstrong
- Lachlan Macdonald – Deputy Head
- John Perrott – Academic Prefect
- Geoffrey Toplis – House Prefect
- Matt Kebble – Head of Mullins
- Angus Macdonald – Deputy Head of Merriman



From front left to back: Matt Kebble, Jonty Arnot, Angus Macdonald, John Perrott, Lachlan Macdonald, Geoffrey Toplis

The Armstrong Head and Deputy have been at school together since they were four years old...



Jonty Arnot and Lachlan Macdonald

Waterpolo:

St Andrew's College achieved the best waterpolo result in their history this past weekend, producing an outstanding performance to win the Vides Waterpolo tournament held over the weekend in East London. This is the oldest and one of the most prestigious schools' waterpolo tournaments in the country, not to mention one of the most

demanding with ten matches to play in just two days.

We can proudly mentioned that four of the six prefects from the previous page are in the waterpolo first team – well done boys!



Vides Winners 2010:

Back: Jason Sileno (coach), **Jonty Arnot, Lachlan Macdonald, Declan Cowen, Peter Cornish, Nick Eastwood, Matthew Malan, Brian Rushmere, James Baker, Mark Prior**

Front: **Matt Kebble, Wayde Guedes, Liam Henderson (captain), Angus Macdonald, Graham Creese (manager)**

Absent: Buddy Kebble

By winning the Vides Tournament, St Andrew's achieved their best ever result in a major schools' waterpolo tournament, and will be looking to build on this exceptional performance at the KES Tournament in Johannesburg in two weeks time.

First VIII Rowers:

This photo was taken of the First XIII looking awfully smart in the traditional St Andrew's kilt at the SA champs held in Pretoria on 25-28 February 2010. You will notice that all the boys have rather short hair cuts. This is a tradition at this regatta for the First VIII.



2nd from left: **Marcelle Bovijn** (Grade 10), 4th from left: **William Cahill** (Grade 11) from Wetpups.

Bryce Bosman (2000-2007)

On 7 March, Bryce shot a hole-in-one on the 8th whilst playing in the Border Junior Golf Tournament in Queenstown.

News from Bishops

School Officers 2010:

Head of Ogilvie - John Hawinkels
 Head of Kidd and Deputy Head boy - Daniel Linegar
 Head of Birt - Andrew Curtis
 Deputy Head of Mallett - Brandon Christians



Daniel Linegar

Daniel Linegar (1999 - 2005) has been appointed Deputy Head at Bishops. Daniel received the Old Boys' prize when he was at Wetpups and we are thrilled by his appointment.

Alistair Bashall (2000 – 06) was an exchange student to India last year and wrote this account of one of his experiences:



The Progression of a Bhangra

I remember it well. Without warning the music began.

"Challe!" I heard the Indian cry to unite, "let's go!"

I was whisked into the writhing throng of bright saris and dazzling jewellery, and the instinct took over me. My hands shot into the air in response to the loud traditional music pounding to gain entrance to my ears, my legs began pushing me into the air, as if they were suddenly possessed with the same Indian spirit that surrounded me. Bright lights and colours blossomed around me as streamers, fireworks and heavily decorated musicians flew about me in the purest expression of joy and celebration: *Bhangra*.

After two months in this country, I thought I'd seen it all and learnt enough, but that night was the one I'd never forget.

The taste of intense gun powder from the masses of bright flowering fireworks that lit the night sky. My ears screamed at me: "What's happening?" My mind screamed back: "Let go!" as my intense gut feeling of ceremony took control. My friend and guide through this strange wonder that was India joined me and we danced together, he and I, entirely unaware of the main attraction that was the groom. He rode through the convulsing swarm of rapturous people upon a white horse, its entire body strewn with garlands of fresh white and red flowers, thick paint and strings of extravagant jewellery. His head was engulfed by a huge red turban, tied especially for the event. His every limb was mottled with great rubies from before time, and diamonds which could blind the eye.

Bright lights often took over my vision, as the video cameras were swung around by amateur cameramen to get a good view of the

groom. Wildly sewn decorated umbrellas whizzed overhead to add to my mindset: *I'm truly far from home*. My thoughts of alienation were scattered as my host's family members joined me in the intense dancing to the loud brass and drum production. As our progression slowly moved forward towards the giant entrance of the ceremonial tent we continued to jump for joy and celebrate as the groom floated elegantly through the crowd towards his marriage. Crimson powders floated in the air, *launched* by people holding vast pots filled with bright chalky rangholi. Suddenly everyone screamed as they recognised a loud voice singing over the passionate sound of traditional music. The thick Punjabi song launched over our heads seemingly to join those innumerable fireworks. My vision began to blur with the sweat that dripped from my decorative turban, past my *Kurta pyjama* and onto my eccentric, curly-toed Punjabi shoes. The smells of delicious butter chicken, naan and sweet Jelebis wafted through the vibrant atmosphere. As we neared the end of our ecstatic dance I could feel the buzz of elated celebration begin to calm and allow for the more serious part of the ceremony: the meeting of the families.

A sudden silence consumed the air around me as the groom's father eyed the bride's. He launched himself at the man and wrapped him in a hug only an Indian could produce. The music suddenly blared back to life and the other family members ran out to greet each other.

I remember that feeling.

Being part of a family, so unlikely and foreign.
This was my India.

Rondebosch:

Keegan Visser (2004-2005) is Head of the boarding house and a school prefect.

OTHER NEWS IN FROM OUR OLDER BOYS ...

The informal photograph sent to us by **Hugh Childers** and published in Newsletter 13, has provoked a lot of interest and comment, and created long-lost connections.

Hugh himself has been able to contact **Peter Muller** and **Alan Garlick**, who was the only one in the group that he has seen since school days.

Hugh has sent us an interesting resume of his life, which we summarise as follows.

Hugh went to Michaelhouse from WPPS but was not happy there and ended his school career by matriculating from Kearsney College. It was at this stage that he became aware of his Australian heritage, both his father and grandfather being Australian born. The country appealed to him so he decided to take what is now known as a 'gap' year, and spent a formative 10

months travelling and working in Australia. He worked as a cane-cutter, a labourer, a fireman and finally as a surveyor's assistant on the huge Snowy Mountains hydro-electric project, working 10 to 12 hour shifts, six days a week.

Deciding that Australia was to be his home, he enrolled at the University of Queensland, where he read economics, political science and public administration. He travelled overland from Australia to London where he took a job in university administration, followed by a stint in Germany teaching English.

He returned to Australia in the mid-seventies and joined the University of Queensland where he was involved with the post-grad medical education unit. A Masters in Public Administration followed. Later interests have been as a historian and community researcher and as road manager to his wife Ros's traveling puppeteering company.

(Anything you can't do, Hugh? Ed)

Peter McMorland (1956-59): wrote from North Berwick in Scotland ...

I was very interested to read Hugh Childer's contribution to the October 2009 edition of the Old Wetpups newsletter. I also have a copy of the group photograph taken in Adderley Street in 1959 with Sainty. If my memory serves me right, it was the occasion of an outing for those leaving Wetpups at the end of 1959. I remember it as a visit to the Planetarium (funny, Hugh Childers recalls this outing as a visit to a Tretchikoff exhibition – who was not concentrating? - Ed.)

Of those in the photograph, Hugh rightly notes that I was captain of cricket in 1959. My chief memory is when we comprehensively beat Bishops in a home match. Bowling my leg breaks, I took 7 wickets for 7 runs which included a hat-trick! (Do you still have the scorebook in your archives?). **Alan Ritchie** was the wicketkeeper and in the course of the season he made many stumpings off my bowling. **David Rennie** opened the bowling and **Douglas Butterworth** was the regular scorer. Also in the team was **Vincent van der Bijl** (although not in the photograph) who subsequently opened the bowling for South Africa. **Rohan Vos** was captain of rugby and five years later in 1964, we were respectively captains of cricket and rugby at Bishops.

I would like to mention **Gordon Denby** (1956-59) who was a good friend while I was at Wetpups. He was a very good pianist and gave me a lifelong love of the piano as a classical instrument. Sadly, Gordon, who I believe lives in the USA, seems to have lost contact with Wetpups and Bishops. (*We have managed to contact Gordon in the USA – see below – Ed.*)

I have fond memories of Wetpups as a boarder with many occasions of uproarious laughter. In my year, **Jonathan Ruffel**, **Pieter Bairnsfather-Cloete** and **Alan Ritchie** were natural comics who, with their facial expressions, never failed to make us all laugh.

The Afrikaans lessons with 'Louis' Lubasheur I remember as a highlight. I don't remember learning a lot of Afrikaans, but I will never forget the gut-wrenching suppressed laughter when

Louis got completely exasperated with us all. He did have a very distinguished war record, the result of which I believe he lost his eye, but cheeky horrors that we were, we gave him a hard time. Saintry, on the other hand, had no trouble in disciplining us and drummed the rudiments of soundly written English into us which I have no doubt, has stood us all in good stead throughout our lives.

Peter's life has been one dedicated to education. After training in London, he did a stint at a Cadet College in Pakistan, teaching English. He came to love the country and indeed the sub-continent, and has travelled extensively in the area at various times. His travels have taken him through the now war-torn areas of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Peter has taught at state secondary schools in England which he loved, but remains convinced of the value of a private education such as he had. He is currently engaged in research for a book on education in 19th Century India, to be followed by one on education in colonial Africa.

He hopes to visit WPPS for the centenary. (*Ed: We hope so too, Peter.*)

peter.mcmorland@btinternet.com

Gordon Denby (1956-59)

So many contacts and friendships have been re-established as a result of tracing the 'boys' in Hugh Childers' photo. One such new contact was Dr Gordon Denby now living in Seattle.

Gordon recalls how, arriving at Wetpups in Std 3 he was immediately made to feel welcome by both boys and staff. "We played hard and got our studies done, but after one rugby game in which we didn't do so well, parents got involved and Doug Ovenstone (1956-59) and Frank Waring (1958-60) gave us a new understanding of 'exhaustion'!"

Gordon graduated as a civil engineer from UCT and in 1972, after marrying, went to live in London. Work on a construction project in Zambia stimulated his interest in the study of soil mechanics which resulted eventually in an MSc from Duke University and a PhD in geotechnical engineering from Stanford University. He moved to Seattle, where he has been working as a geotechnical engineer for many years, and is now President of GeoEngineers, a large consultancy company.

Gordon's current recreational interest is in cycling and this year, with his son, he will be riding along part of the Tour de France route in support of Lance Armstrong. They have been involved in his charity rides in the USA.

gdenby@geoengineers.com

(Ed - Take a holiday in the Cape one March and compete in the Argus cycle tour Gordon and combine it with a visit to Wetpups!)

Rick Hudson (formerly Hoare) wrote from Canada, "Enjoyed the latest OW newsletter and as result have sent off a couple of emails to two colleagues from the 1950s with whom I had long since lost touch! Ah, memories, memories...!"

Rick will be visiting Cape Town in February/March so anyone who would like to meet up with him can contact him on: rickhudson@shaw.ca

[shaw.ca](mailto:rickhudson@shaw.ca)

And, yes, Rick, we'd be delighted to show you around.

John Dickson (1947-50) Googled 'John Stansbury, South Africa' and was pleased to find the OWs website. Thanks for making contact, John. Like many others, he recalls the unique privilege Wetpups had of holding the annual fathers' cricket match at Newlands. John played in the 1st cricket and rugby teams and was athletics Victor Ludorum. He mentions 1950 headboy, **Peter Hole**. He, and we, have tried to find him in SA, Australia and New Zealand, without success. Can anyone help?

John arrived in Cape Town after traumatic wartime experiences in England and recalls, "Wetpups gave me more than just an education—it was, in a strange way, a place of peace for me, and I have good memories of my time there."

John held managerial position in the Argus Newspaper Group and senior position in local airlines for the following 30 years. He now lives in Dullstroom and London.

Please visit us when you are in Cape Town, John.

johnd.dickson@btinternet.com or jddprojects@iafrica.com

We tracked **Philip Hinton** (1952-55) to Australia and he responded with many memories of his time at Wetpups—not all happy, he admits. He crossed swords with headmaster John Stansbury in leading a 'walk-out' from Scouts and admits to being the rebel and class clown! "But though it seems that I learned nothing during those years, in fact, I gained all I needed—through one special teacher, Dorothy St Hill. 'Saintry' gave me the key to all learning - language. In her classes, I learnt to love English. I learned how sentences are constructed, what authors to read, and how good literature can unlock the imagination". It was certainly she who set the course for my working life as an actor. Like many other boys, I'm sure, I still honour the memory of Dorothy St Hill." (*This is a recurrent theme in some many letters form OWs...A remarkable woman. Ed*)

Philip remembers, among others, **Ranulph Fiennes** as a weasel in Toad of Toad Hall, artist **Walter Vaughan-Jones** and **Vernon Staegemann**. (See obit in this issue) **Gordon Pringle** was in his cricket team, as was **Steve Leith**, remembered for his "wicked sense of humour and wide smile." **Tudor Lacey** was "king of the pool by a mile." Philip has been in touch with **Chris Danziger** and life-long Wetpups friend **Michael Taylor**.

Philip has had a distinguished career on the stage and TV, initially in England with the Royal Shakespeare Company and on BBC TV. He settled in Australia in 1974 where he is a well known and respected actor both on stage and in popular TV series. He is greatly in demand as one of Sydney's busiest voice artists. Google him and hear what a 'lekker Seffrican' accent he can still produce!

Contact him on lingua@optusnet.co.au

Gary Taylor (1962-1969): reports that he has been appointed Vice President for Human Resources of the King Abdullah University for Science & Technology in Saudi Arabia. Not many old Wetpups can relate to a country where the summer temperatures can reach 60, public executions still take place and where women may not drive. Despite the differences from

the Cape, he and his wife Alix are having a ball diving the Red Sea and exploring historical sites inaccessible to outsiders. Gary has fond memories of Wetpups, and of the collie, Simba, who greeted all boys arriving at school every morning, and who is buried in the far corner of the sports field.

Gary is contactable at gary.taylor@kaust.edu.sa

Mike Buchanan (1958-61)

It was wonderful to meet Mike and show him around the school.

mikeb@gestetnervw.co.za



Mike Buchanan looking back whilst on his visit

Thank you, **Stephen Goodson** (1955-61) for sending us your reminiscences. Yet another OW with the fondest memories of 'Sainty' and the thorough grounding she gave her pupils in English. We are building up a clear picture too, of 'Louis' Lubasheur with his impeccable dress code and glass eye. Among Stephen's many personal memories is one that has helped to explain a change in the school photos;" At the end of each year, the school photograph would be taken by the rotund Mr Charles Field. All the tables would be carried out of the dining room and stacked up. In 1958 disaster struck when a part of the 'structure' collapsed. A number of boys were mildly injured and thereafter two photos were taken, one of boys from Pre-Prep to Form 111 and the other of boys from Form IV to Form VI."

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My sincere apologies to **Peter Hazell** (1954 - 58) for overlooking his marvellous letter of 2008. I was re-reading it, to glean anecdotes about staff members and realised that we had not included it in any subsequent newsletters.

Peter writes of the 'gift-giving competition' between boarders and dayboys, trying to out-do each other in buying Christmas gift for 'Sainty'.

"My own personal contribution to the boarders' superior arsenal of surreptitiously accumulated largesse was an itchy-bitsy dark blue rubber-stoppered bottle of something strong called Evening in Paris, allegedly some sort of scent for dabbing behind the saintly ears. I think it cost me all of two shillings and sixpence.

If Sainty had had any sense she would no doubt have thrown it away tout suite. Be that as it may, it was given with the bashful devotion of a small boy to a favourite teacher."

Peter goes on to write about the occasion when, wanting to 'belong' to the mischief makers, he was caught flicking ink at the back of Louis Lubasheur and was immediately unjustly blamed for ruining all five suits.

*Peter, thank you for your letter which provides such an insight to your time at the school. You are instantly recognisable as a pupil of **Dorothy Saint Hill**. (PP)*

Crispian Trace (1946-49)

I am writing my memoirs and this bit concerns Wetpups, perhaps you can use some of it! Good luck in your endeavours in this direction, they are much appreciated.

Crispian remembers **Tom Barlow** (1947-50), who went on to become the Tiddly Winks Champion of South Africa, as well as the Bowls Champion, you just never know do you? I always did have odd friends. We had been weekly boarders there and had some funny times together.

Unknown to me Tom hated porridge, which we got every day for starters at breakfast. When no one was looking he slid the entire contents of the bowl onto his napkin, down his lap and thence to the floor, where he rubbed it into the woodwork with his feet, he showed me the hardened midden pile as we left on the last day!
(It has been removed! Ed)

We slept on a verandah, which ran around the outside of the building; my bed was under one of the sliding sash windows leading out from the dining room.

The boys were rampaging one night, when the Headmaster threw up the lower window and stuck his head out over my bed to see what was going on.

The building was old, the sash cords weak and at that moment they broke.

He was guillotined, caught, his face purple with rage and pain, inches from my pillow. It was one the funniest episodes in my life and could not have happened to a nicer fellow. Of course I got thrashed for that, but it was well worth it!

There were a few other crazies there too: John van Ryneveld, had the second finger on his right hand missing, he was a good cricketer but he had a temper and did not like to be bowled out. I was an erratic, fast bowler, the most dangerous kind. I clean-bowled him on one occasion in the first few balls, he stood there howling his eyes out with his hands over his eyes, but of course he could see out of the finger less gap. I was convulsed, which enraged him further and he came for me with the bat. Luckily, I was a fast runner - I had to be because I was still very small - it was a survival necessity and has stood the test of time.

Boy Scouting was great fun; we went off into the Tokai woods to camp for invariably wet weekends, had to pass various tests to collect badges which we sewed onto our tunics, built bivouacs, rope bridges and learnt to orientate with a compass. In the rain, our fire lighting and porridge cooking tests were quite challenging. I kept a small bottle of paraffin in my pocket for just

such occasions. When asked to demonstrate my fire lighting ability, we were only given one match and one piece of wood to start it off, I proceeded to douse the pile of chips with my 'fire starter' and away it went with great success. The Scout Master was not impressed and complained that I was cheating. "Not at all" responded I, "I am but merely 'being prepared' "- our motto! He had to pass me!

Yours Crispian

cgnt@telkomsa.net

We received a full and interesting letter from **Christopher Danziger** (1951-54). Chris has lived and lectured at Oxford for many years and has published a number of books, mainly on South African History. We have a number in our library. We include a couple of paragraphs from his letter:

However, for me, and most of my contemporaries, the most powerful influence on my development came from Dorothy St Hill. She was at one and the same time, a fountain of knowledge, an inspiration and encouragement, the embodiment of kindly authority, a combination of pastoral and scholastic virtues. She held strong opinions and it never occurred to us to challenge her. The Mona Lisa was the best picture ever painted. Kent, the Garden of England, was the most beautiful county. The Leaning Tower of Pisa was the most exciting building in Europe. Much as I revered her, I knew that my friend **Roger Elletson's** assumption that she was a real saint was wrong. In my last year at school and for a few years afterwards, she invited three or four of us to tea in her Rondebosch flat, and then took us to a cinema. One film I remember going to was 'A Kid for Two Farthings'. I remember when it was proposed that the library be named after her; I said to the headmaster at the time what a pity she could not have had that recognition in her lifetime. He said that it had often been suggested but that typically she would not entertain the idea.

Cricket started as playground games, dozens of them, side by side, played with tennis balls, with arcane rules such as anyone hitting the school buildings full toss was deemed out. Then it gravitated to the playing field with its idiosyncratic slope, and its tradition of superb teas on match days. Just to the left of the steps going down to the field was a small viewing terrace reserved for boys who had been awarded colours for school sports. In January, it was rather select, with just a few cricketers, but by September it was dangerously crowded. In my last year the XI was captained by **Murray Lomas-Walker**. When we played at Marist Brothers, next to the Rondebosch tannery, he would ask, "D'you want to bowl with the smell or against the smell?" The highlight of the cricketing year was the annual match against the fathers on the test match ground at Newlands, an amazing privilege for prep school boys. In the summer holidays, there was even the prospect of being invited to play in the so-called Frank Reid games, where half a dozen times the test match ground was given over to schoolboy cricketers from various schools. Every summer county cricketers would come out from England to coach at WPPS: Neville Rogers of Hampshire was a particularly well-liked coach. But a much more permanent presence was Jack Newman, also of Hampshire, who had settled in the Cape, even then in his late 60's, with an infectious enthusiasm for the game. The bedrock of his advice was "Hit the ball!" I suspect I took it too much to heart.

Chris is still in touch with old Wetpups friends, including **Anthony**

Ractcliffe, Mike Taylor, Erskine (Brian) Tanner and Gill (Grandpa) Joyce.

chrisdanziger@onetel.com

Sadly space does not permit the inclusion in the newsletter of all the valuable reminiscences we are receiving from OWs, but all are being recorded in our school archives. PP

John Gasson (1942-45)

While scratching in boxes of documents, we found a letter dated January 1946 from John Gasson's mother to Mrs Stansbury, who was then in charge of the school, thanking her for the influence the school had had on her two sons. We sent him a copy and he comments inter alia as follows:

"My mother had good reason to be grateful to Western Province for the way we got on and for the happy years we spent there. We failed the entrance to Bishops Prep in 1941, where we had been entered at birth and were currently at Whitestones, a new prep school in Bulawayo. We were very unhappy there and were sent to Wetpups. Failing the entrance exam for Bishops was the best thing that ever happened to us! Western Province was a much more humane place than Bishops Prep. in those days. I owe my Rhodes scholarship to my time at Western Province: not what it taught me academically but what its ethos enabled me to become."

johngasson@mac.com

WHAT WILL THEY GET UP TO NEXT?

Scot Kirton (1989-94)

Scot is making a great impression as the new chef at the River Café, part of the Constantia Uitsig group of restaurants. Scot trained for five years at Haute Cabriere in Franschoek and for two at the Savoy Grill in London. After two years as sous chef under award-winning chef Luke Dale-Roberts at La Colombe, Scot is now revitalising the River Café menu. It is open for dinner, as well as an all-day café, where the menu can change daily with fresh ingredients. Worth giving Scot's talents a look and a taste, OWs!

scotkirton@hotmail.com

Ivan Groenhof (1976-82)

Ivan, together with Galeo Siantz, is involved in the creation of a 720km hiking route from the Northern Cederberg to the Outeniqua Mountains above George. It is called "The Rim of Africa." Ivan and Galeo have done the full hike and are anxious to allow others to share this amazing experience. It is a 12 day route, where hikers will carry most of their needs with them, although food drops will be made. Experienced guides will accompany the group.

Exploratory hikers who took part in the first Rim of Africa were profoundly affected by the remoteness and the beauty of the terrain. To quote Ivan: This is not just slogging backpacks through wild mountain country. It's a facilitated walking experience that touches on the dynamics at play in a landscape."

Indeed a blast from the past. Sorry this is a very quick mail from Rwanda. Wrapping up some work here but will be back in Cape Town of Friday. I hope the picture below does the trick.

Thank you for your interest in Rim of Africa. It has been a complete joy for me to watch it manifest over the past five years.

Kind regards

Ivan

ivan@rimofafrica.co.za



Ivan Groenhof 'on top of the world'

Chris Bertish (1981-87)

Congratulation to Chris on his outstanding success in the Mavericks Surf Contest in Half Moon Bay, California, on 13 February. The judges said that the waves were the biggest ever in the world for a paddle-in, with faces of up to 60 feet. "This took surfing to another level". Chris survived several brutal wipe-outs



Chris and the killer wave

but knew that he had to get back into the competition. The head judge said that Bertish's willingness to take risks and make death-defying drops won him the title. The American media played up the epic proportions of his victory saying: "On a day when agony of defeat wipe-outs outnumbered thrill-of-victory successes, Chris Bertish of South Africa was the last man standing!"

Not to mention that Chris also had to borrow a surfboard and wetsuit as his equipment did not arrive in the States. Chris also had to borrow money from his brother **Greg** (1977-83) and two friends to get to America so will have to part with some of the \$50 000 prize money to pay back his debts.

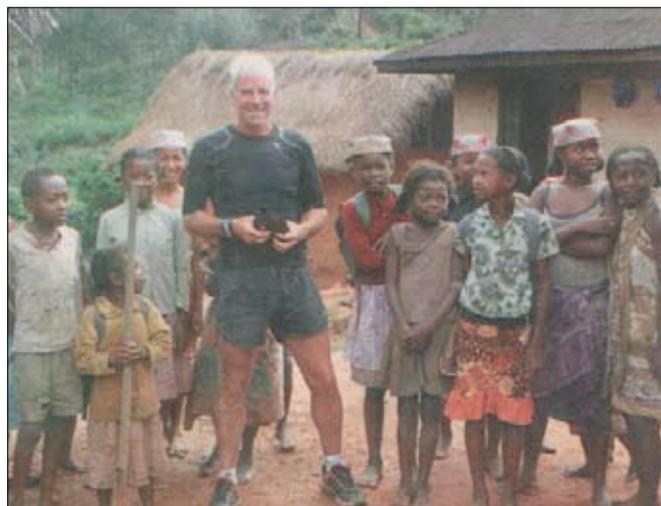
Simon Grier (1966-71):

2000 Extreme kilometers underfoot for brave Cipla Adventurer!

Although he's 15 kilograms lighter thanks to numerous bouts of food poisoning, swamp fever, infected leech bites and now bilharzia, intrepid David Grier today crossed the 2000 km mark in his run of the Madagascan island!

With another 600 km to go, a physically depleted but mentally strong David looks likely to reach the finish before 16 March.

The past two weeks have exacted a massive physical toll on the 50 year old Capetonian chef. With monsoon rains destroying many roads and bridges beyond Ambatondrazaka, the support vehicle had to make a 1000 km detour to get around while David, accompanied by cameraman Nick Heygate, was forced to spend over a week making his way through dense, hot, humid and remote bush and swamplands cut off from contact with the outside world and with only as much food, clothing and medical supplies as the pair could carry on their backs.



Simon in one of the remote villages

'Food, there is nothing. A bit of fruit, the odd rice cake, that's it. I trek hungry all day, sleep hungry, wake hungry, all I do is think about food as I slowly wilt away and my energy drains by the day' and 'Five days now, hardly any food, one bowl of rice, some warm Zebu milk, two tins of sardines and green bananas, starting to feel weaker, but managing my 40km a day'.

His relief at finding his way out of the jungle and meeting up with the support vehicle was short-lived. A debilitating bout of swamp bug was swiftly followed by the shock of discovering he's

contracted bilharzia! Nevertheless he pushed on slowly and a few days later is back to running his daily 40 km! His sense of humour returned too and he tweeted on Sunday: "Great to be finally back to normal. Like a greyhound now after shedding 15kg in weight. I am a bag of rattling bones breaking the sound barrier on my way to the sea."

Always at the back of his mind is the thought of the children who will smile for the first time when he completes his toughest Cipla Miles for Smiles Challenge yet. Please help make his journey count – www.milesforsmiles.co.za

(Ed: Article courtesy of website)

David has been nominated as Adventurer of the Year by Out There Magazine.

David made it home on by Sunday, 14 March. Congratulations on completing your toughest challenge yet – you have done us all proud.

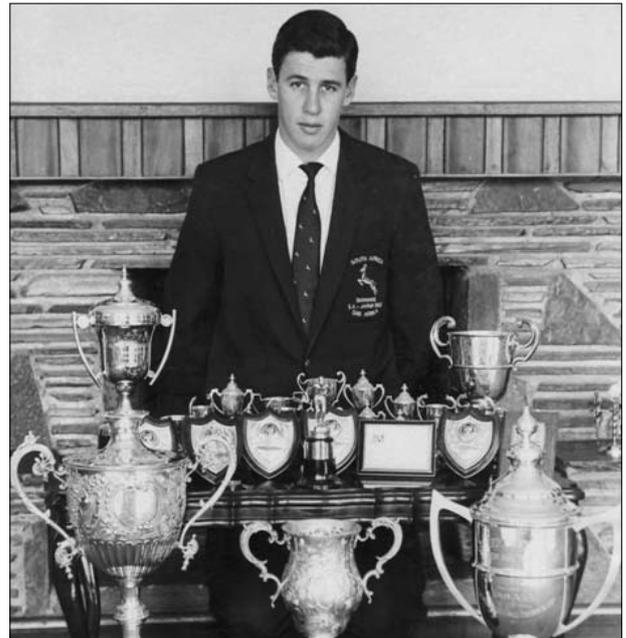
Tudor Lacey (1953-55):

On a recent visit to Grahamstown, I was able to meet with another one of our Old Wetpup Springboks and catch up with Tudor about his life since leaving Wets in 1955. Tudor went on the St Andrew's College and after matric, went to the States on a swimming scholarship to the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. During his time in America, he achieved numerous titles, broke many US and world records. Unfortunately, Tudor was unable to compete in the 1964 and 68 Olympics as he was on a South African passport during the Apartheid era.

After his swimming career came to an end, Tudor became a stock broker for 25 years, ending up a Regional Manager. The hankering for Africa never left him and five years ago, he mentioned to his family that he wished to return to South Africa. In 2008 he made the move back with the intention to go and live on his farm in the bush, but three weeks before he was due to leave, friends of his from Jo'burg called him about the ad they had seen in the Sunday Times - DSG in Grahamstown was looking for a swimming coach. Tudor applied and began his post there in January 2009. He made such a difference to the girls' swimming that St Andrew's approached him to coach the boys too. Tudor has his hands full with coaching DSG and St Andrew's pupils, Rhodes students and the general public.



Tudor Lacey today ...



Tudor Lacey in 1962 with his impressive scoop of trophies.

Matthew Pearce (1977-82)

Congratulations to Matthew who was named as Broadcaster of the Year in the SASOL Springbok Media Award at the end of last year. Matthew toured with the Springboks to Australia and New Zealand, and to Europe last year.

Congratulations too to **Rory Hamilton-Browne (1992-96)**

who, aged 22, has just been appointed Captain of Surrey County first team and is tipped to be included in the England ODI squad.



Chris Cooke (1991-99)

Chris has been picked to go to Dubai for an Emerging Players Cobras side. He is currently playing for Western Province.

Twins **Andrew** and **Brian Chapman (1997-2000)** aka Locnville, are hitting the musical headlines with the release of their first album and single, "Sun in my pocket". Their second number from this album called 6 Second Poison is already being well received. Their love of music started on their 6th birthday when



Brian (left) and Andrew (right)

they each received a guitar and they wrote their first song when they were 7! They have experimented with various styles but seem to have found a winning formula, judging by the excitement their music is creating. They have their own online record label company called Contrabanned. Not bad for two young men who matriculated last year! Well done, Andrew and Brian! We shall follow your career with interest.

(I remember the twins sitting on the steps down to the playground when they were in Grade 3, singing and playing with an admiring circle of friends around them. PP)

Functions:

So far ...

Wine-Tasting Evening – this took place on a perfect summer's evening (a bit too hot as most of us felt like an ice cold beer, but could not affect our taste buds for what was to follow!) We had seven Old Wetpups winemakers presenting their wines. They were:

Graceland Vineyards – Paul and Sue McNaughton (past parents)
Paul Wallace Vineyards

Elgin Vitners (Paul and Nicky Wallace [past parents] and **James Rawbone-Viljoen** (1972-75)

Tierhoek – Shelley Sandell (current and past parent)

Meinert – Martinl Meinert (past parent)

Klein Constantia – **Lowell Jooste** (1965-72) [current and past parent]

Spookfontein – **Mike Davis** (1963-71)

A great evening was had by all, even though we have since learned that our timing was not great – definitely the wrong time of the year but this will be rectified next year. Having this function later in the year will more convenient for the wine farmers as they will not be harvesting at that time, so the plan is to have a cosy tasting session in winter.



Robert Wainman, Jackie Wilter (teacher) and Alastair Ross



What's on for the rest of the year...?

Vetpups Luncheon – date to be advised

2005 Mums Lunch – 19 May – diarise the date – more to follow.

2005 Leavers' Reunion – August/Sept – tbc

Grades 8-11 – date and event to be advised

Past Staff Gathering – 4th term.

News From WPPS

Bus4Us Auction – we have a new bus – a sparkling white Toyota Quantum. R350k was successfully raised last year with our on-line auction.

BizSite – We are thrilled to be able to offer you the opportunity to advertise your business on our new BizSite. Check out the Wetpups web site for further information – www.wetpups.co.za.

Eco School – Wetpups has been officially awarded the green light! We were presented with our Eco-School flag at the beginning of this term and are proud of all the efforts made by the entire school body – keep it up and remember our slogan – 'Keep it Clean, Keep it Green'.

Remembrance Day – 2009

– on Wednesday, 11 November 2009, we enjoyed an extraordinary chapel service dedicated to our fallen heroes. History teacher, Sue Cooke, explained to boys and adults alike, all about World War II and the futility of war.



After the service, **Grant Bridgman**

(1993-2001) [above], played his bagpipes as **Jan Newman**

(1964-67), escorted by his two sons Jack (Grade 4) and Harry (Grade 3) laid a wreath on behalf of the Old Wetpups. Many of us were moved to tears as the whole of the Grade 7 class looked on.



Who's been visiting?

Laurie Wale (1925-30) was our guest of honour for this year's inter-house sports day. Laurie was accompanied by his great-grandson Qiyam Neave, who is in Grade 2 at Wetpups. The Headmaster acknowledged Laurie's age as being virtually the same as the schools – 96th year! Mr Hosty also made mention of Laurie's successful athletics career to date – Laurie is still competing in both local and international competitions for shot-put and is still involved with his "brainchild" The Building Centre, which he established in the 50s.



Qiyam Neave and Laurie Wale

Laurie was given a standing ovation as he left the track where the boys made a tunnel with flags. Laurie was not ready to go home yet – he had heard that there was a photograph of him in the pavilion, so off we went to go and see it. All the while we were walking around, Laurie was cracking jokes and there is certainly nothing wrong with his hearing! Keep going, Laurie!

Patrick Quinan (1958-63) popped in on 24 February whilst on a visit to Cape Town. Patrick was Head Boy and rugby captain in 1963 and his father, **Storm** (1940-44) was also Head Boy. Patrick's son, **Nicholas** (1985-91) was third generation at Wetpups and is now living in Johannesburg. Patrick has not been back to Wetpups in 47 years and was amazed at all the changes.



Patrick Quinan

Hi Carey,
Thanks for your time in giving me an interesting tour of the school. It certainly re-awakened many memories, most of them fond.

I wish you and the staff best of luck in the future and would appreciate if you could include me on your Old WPPS newsletter list.

Yours sincerely
Patrick Quinan.
Patrick@caerlas.org.uk

John Olivier (1952-53) and his lovely wife Joan, popped in for a visit whilst on holiday from the chilly UK. John will be reuniting with some of his Bishops mates later in the week. John is another one of our Old Wetpups who has not been back to Wetpups since leaving here. He remembers Mr Wace as his maths teacher who was meticulous in his scrutiny of the workbooks.
oliverjohn@hotmail.com



John Olivier

Calling all Vetpups Especially our octogenarians!

Congratulations to Judge **Edwin King** (1936-40), who celebrated his 80th birthday in England with his wife Estelle, children, grandchildren and friends.



Family News

Engagements:

Brendan Kevany (1987-94) proposed to Neasa in a very smart restaurant in Vienna on 27 February. She accepted! Congratulations and we look forward to featuring the wedding photograph!



Eugene van Eck (1987-93) got engaged to Claire Williams on 28 February and plan to wed next year.

Weddings:

Murray Carlyle (1978-84) married Lauren Cowan (brother **Gareth Cowan** 1985 – 91) on Saturday, 27 February 2010 at De Hoop.



Births:

To **Andrew Lashbrooke** (1973-80) and Inken, a daughter Sophie in September.

To **Anthony Sedgwick** (1975-81) and Caroline, a daughter Paige in September.

To **Anton Raubenheimer** (1975-82) and Debbie, a daughter in February.

MOST IMPORTANT:

If you change your email address please let us know. We do not want to lose contact with you!

Should anyone wish to contact any Old Wetpups, please contact neill@wetpups.org.za or phone Carey on +27 21 7618074.

CENTENARY BOOK

Please don't forget this very important project that will rely heavily on input from all old boys: we need your memories and impressions of all aspects of school life - the staff, your schoolmates and of your life at the school. There are periods for which the school records are sketchy, so, senior old boys in particular, please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and let us share the richness of your memories. Tell us who your friends were and, if possible, where they are now. Many OWs have achieved great things - we know about some of them, but would hate to leave any others out of the book through ignorance. **We continue to receive many wonderful 'memoires' from our 80, 70 and 60 year olds but very few from our 50 year olds and hardly anything from the 40s and the 30s. Come on you younger OWs! We need to hear from you, too!**

The questionnaire can be found on www.wetpups.org.za under "Old Wetpups" or we can post or fax one to you.

'SOS. has anyone got a photo of the old Library Tram?

Pauline and Malcolm Pearce

Archives

We have big plans for an archives room to display material and for Old Wetpups to have a quiet place where they can come and browse through old school magazines, look at photographs, memorabilia, etc. In the interim, we have a new display cabinet for various bits and pieces and for our current school memorabilia to be 'on show'.

We have had some of the old photographs restored and these are on display outside the Old Wetpups office (upstairs by the

workroom/stooges quarters). We will work our way through the hundreds of unframed photos and hope to have them all up within the next couple of years.

DATABASE UPDATE

Should anyone wish to contact any Old Wetpups, please contact neill@wetpups.org.za or phone Carey on +27 21 7618074.

Most Important: If you change your email address please let us know. We do not want to lose contact with you!

Update Form

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAMES: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

SALVETE: _____

VALETE: _____

HOUSE: _____

(Blue, Red, Yellow, Green)

HIGH SCHOOL: _____

VALETE: _____

TERTIARY: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

MARITAL STATUS: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

BUS. PHONE: _____

CELL NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____



OLD WETPUPS

The official Newsletter of the Old WPPS Association, incorporating past pupils, parents and staff.

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