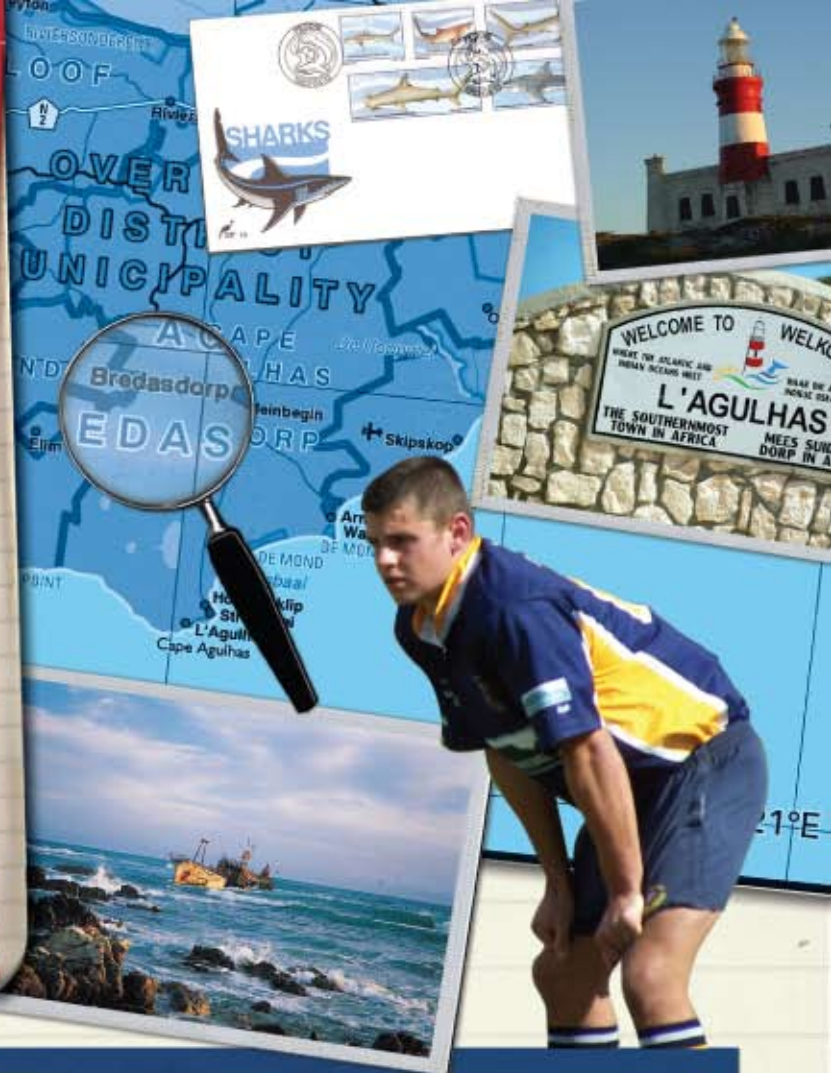


BREDASDORP

Bredasdorp is at the end of Africa - and that's official. It is the most southerly municipality on the African continent and Hoërskool Bredasdorp is the most southerly high school on the continent. (There is a little private school at Struisbaai which is slightly further south.) After all, Cape Agulhas is just 25km away and that is the very bottom of Africa.

The town was founded in 1838 and named after the most important farmer in the area - Michiel van Breda, the first mayor of Cape Town. It is at the heart of the sheep industry. In fact there is a statue of a merino ram nearby. The merinos were on their way from Spain to Australia when the ship became another shipping casualty down the road from Bredasdorp and Michiel van Breda gave them a home on his farm Zoontendals Vallei, thereby becoming the father of South Africa's sheep industry. The name Zoontendals was taken from a wrecked Dutch vessel down at the Agulhas.

Shipwrecks were common down the road and include the wreck of the Birkenhead at Arniston. There is a shipwreck museum in Bredasdorp. For the rest it is an open, peaceful area where blue cranes, storks and secretary birds stalk the wheat fields and great proteas bloom as the land slopes up towards the Preekstoep and away from the mountains with broad, flat fields down to the sea.



Bredasdorp High School



FOUNDED: 1957
MOTTO: AARBEID ADEL
(WORK ENNOBLES)
ADDRESS: BONDSTRAAT,
BREDASDORP



School History

The school was founded in 1957 and has some 490 pupils. It has developed a great interest in target shooting and underwater hockey. Carien Gagiano, Jaco van der Walt and Daniele van der Westhuizen have all represented South Africa at underwater hockey in Australia.





"I think there are some really positive things happening at Bredasdorp at the moment. Coach Arthur Jansen is an excellent coach, and the school now has four open teams, compared to the two when I was there. It offers more depth to your rugby and you are more able to compete against the bigger schools. Tangible evidence of this was seen when Bredasdorp won the kleinskole section of Die Burger competition in 2007.

A big derby for us was against Albert Myburgh, as they were the other Bredasdorp school. So it was a game to determine who had the best rugby team in town. The game is played on the town fields to hold the large crowds that come to watch, and it does seem that the whole town rocks up for the game! But it has got a bit ill-tempered in the past and some of the supporters can be a bit over-passionate! In my year, we were leading 10-7 when the ref had to stop the game because some of the supporters were running onto the field and disrupting the game."

**— Corne Uys
(1997-99, WP debut 2004 vs SWD)**



Rugby at Bredasdorp

The present coach of the First XV, Arthur Janson, is also the assistant coach of the Boland Craven Week side and the coach of the Boland Cavaliers Sevens team. Under him the school has flourished. The Under-19 team won the Southern Region Championship for Small Schools by beating Lückhoff in the Strand, Calvinia in Moorreesburg, Piketberg in Worcester, Langenhoven in Riversdale and then Zwaanswyk in Wellington. This made them the Southern Regions representatives in the 2004 Media24 competition, and they played HTS Nic Diedrichs of Alberton in Bredasdorp in the semi-final. It was tough and desperately close. Four penalties by scrumhalf Kim Valentine got the home side home 12-11. Then they travelled to Johannesburg to play Vryburg at the Johannesburg Stadium. The whole of Bredasdorp was talking about its rugby team. Bredasdorp started nervously and were down 19-0 after six minutes and 36-10 at half-time before fighting back to 36-32. Vryburg eventually won 46-32. Bredasdorp were brave. The school's rugby has gone from strength to strength, and has regular derbies against the likes of Overberg High, Albert Myburgh, Hermanus High School and Montague. The big Interschools is with De Villiers Graaff of Villiersdorp.

The most prominent rugby Old Boy at present is Corné Uys, the big Matie and Western Province centre.

COACH FOCUS

Arthur Jansen (coach since 2001)

"Hoërskool Bredasdorp struggles to reach the heights of some of the other strong rugby schools for a few reasons. It loses a lot of players to big rugby schools to such an extent that we are only able to fill four rugby teams. Our facilities are also not as good as those schools. Nevertheless, those pupils that do play rugby are particularly dedicated. Pre-season training begins in February, and throughout the season, because of our position, we travel a lot. Corné Uys, the WP centre, is our most distinguished Old Boy, but watch out for Tromp Kleynhans."