

# Centurion

A posh area south of Pretoria, Centurion was first called Lyttelton, then Greater Lyttelton and then, in 1967, Verwoerdburg (named after HF Verwoerd, the prime minister who had been assassinated the year before). It was not a politically correct name and so was changed to Centurion in October 1995.

The change was interesting because the city took its name from the cricket field, Centurion Park. The cricket field was built by the municipality of Verwoerdburg which then sought a name for the ground. Because of the large number of military bases in the area it was decided to call the field Centurion Park - after the rank in the Roman army. The school's crest even incorporates some of this military symbolism - airforce wings are beside an open book, signifying the pursuit and power of knowledge.



## Centurion High School



FOUNDED: 1958

MOTTO: STEEDS HOËR

(EVER HIGHER)

ADDRESS: SELBORNE AVENUE,

LYTTLETON, CENTURION

[WWW.HSCENTURION.CO.ZA](http://WWW.HSCENTURION.CO.ZA)



### School History

The school also underwent numerous name changes. It was founded in 1958 as Hoërskool Lyttelton, then in 1975 became Hoërskool Verwoerdburg and is now Hoërskool Centurion. It is very much a neighbourhood school. The name Verwoerdburg is retained in a much adapted form of the school's nickname, "Woeries". The school is a coeducational, Afrikaans-medium school with some 1 300 pupils.

### Woeries Rugby

In 1971 and 1975 the school won the Northern Transvaal Administrator's Cup. At that time as many as seven players were chosen for the Northern Transvaal Craven Week side. In 1975 Barry Schoeman was chosen for SA Schools. Others who have played provincial rugby include Pierre du Toit (Leopards), Werner Kiedson (Griquas), Corrie Scheepers (Pumas) and Gerhard van der Merwe (Blue Bulls Sevens team). At national level, Louis Moolman and Johan Roux have played for the Boks. Both played their provincial rugby





*"There has not been a lot of rugby tradition at the school recently — things like photos of previous teams and captains on the wall didn't exist before. But we've begun changing that, and we've also built a Rugby Room that holds Centurion memorabilia and donated kit from Springbok Johan Roux and others. It was opened on 5 March 2008, just two days before the Waterkloof game. We were only able to make it happen through donated money. The point is to try and create a rugby culture at the school.*

**— Leon Jelliman  
(coach 2007–08, 25 years coaching experience)**

for Northern Transvaal, though Roux later moved to Transvaal to play most of his rugby there. Niel du Plessis played for North West and South Africa Under-21 in 2000. Recently, 2005 and 2006 were particularly good seasons, as the First XV won the City Trophy. Now Centurion is pushing for a place in the Super16 to join the likes of Nelspruit, Ermelo and Monument. The school's main derbies have traditionally been against Zwartkop and Eldoraigne, both in Centurion. Since 1990 the rugby season has ended with a dinner, attended by all First XV players, their parents and coaches, and all the captains of the various teams and outstanding players and personalities, as guest speakers. The Woeries celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2008, and can look ahead with even greater expectation. The experienced Joe Cloete heads up the school's Sport's Office and his vision for the school's rugby is that every pupil

excels, according to their own potential. Leon Jelliman joined Centurion full-time in 2007. Before that, he had spent many years at UNISA and had accumulated 25 years of coaching experience in the process. Centurion High School is a rugby school for the future. With excellent foundations, enthusiastic coaches, some recent success and talented junior teams emerging, this is a school that will soon be vying for a place among the big rugby schools.

### **Internationals**

**South Africa:**  
Louis Moolman  
Johan Roux

