



Piketberg High School



FOUNDED: 1846

**MOTTO: VIVAT CRESCAT FLOREAT
(TO LIVE, GROW AND PROSPER)**

**ADDRESS: 2 SIMON VAN DER STEL
STREET, PIKETBERG**



School History

The school has its beginnings as far back as 1846, when a Mr LH Fick took the reigns as the school's only teacher, with 36 students. The school was used as a hospital in the second South African War, by the order of Boer commander Maritz. When school buildings returned to educational purposes, it soon grew. In 1914, high school buildings were established, and in 1935, buildings for primary school education was set aside. In 1956 the school hall was built, in 1958 a hostel, and in 1962 a girls' hostel. It now has 640 students and 30 teachers.



Rugby at Piketberg

Piketberg has produced some notable Springboks. The first was Champion Myburgh — a 1924 Springbok. Jan du Preez was a member of the Boks 1956 tour to Australia and New Zealand. He has been, and still is, lecturing Chemistry at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth. Joos Prinsloo, a 1951 matriculant, is a double Springbok, having gained national honours in both rugby and athletics. More recently, Edrich Lubbe and Derick Hougaard spent time at the school, although that was at Piketberg Primary School.

The school has seen a number of its recent pupils represent the Boland. In 2005, Coenraad Lambrechts made the Boland Craven Week side, and Buys Wiese captained the Boland Academy side. In 2007, Riaan Engelbrecht played Craven Week for Boland. In that year the First XV were privileged to tour France where three games were played against local club sides. The only previous international rugby tour had been undertaken in 1998, when Johan Kotze's side travelled to Namibia. There are currently plans for an Argentinian tour in 2009.

Recent Piketberg sides that have stood out were the 2004 side, captained by Jacobus Eksteen, who is now playing for Hamiltons, and the 2007 side. Both seasons ended with unbeaten First XVs.

The school plays derbies against Porterville High School, about 25km from Piketberg, and Augsburg Gymnasium from Clanwilliam, but perhaps the most anticipated derby is against Schoonspruit.

"Games against Malmesbury were really tough when I was playing. But I won't forget playing for Western Boland Schools with the famous Butch Lochner. He was from Vredenburg, and we later played together for Stellenbosch, Western Province, and the Springboks. Things have certainly changed since I was at Piketberg. When I was at the school, the country was at war, and we had no school rugby jerseys. Any jersey would do then. I also remember the playing fields being a lot further away than where they are today. In fact, they were at the bottom of the hill, beyond the town itself, and just getting there for practice was a feat in itself! Not many looked forward to the long uphill return after practice."

**— Professor Jan du Preez
(1947, 1956 Bok tour)**

"Our rugby season preparations begin in summer, and soon thereafter we send a combined Piketberg-Schoonspruit side to the St Stithians Easter Festival. But there is no love lost in the local derby. Historically, our Interschools is against Porterville, but the Schoonspruit derby has really grown in recent years."

**— Chris van der Merwe
(First XV coach since 1993)**