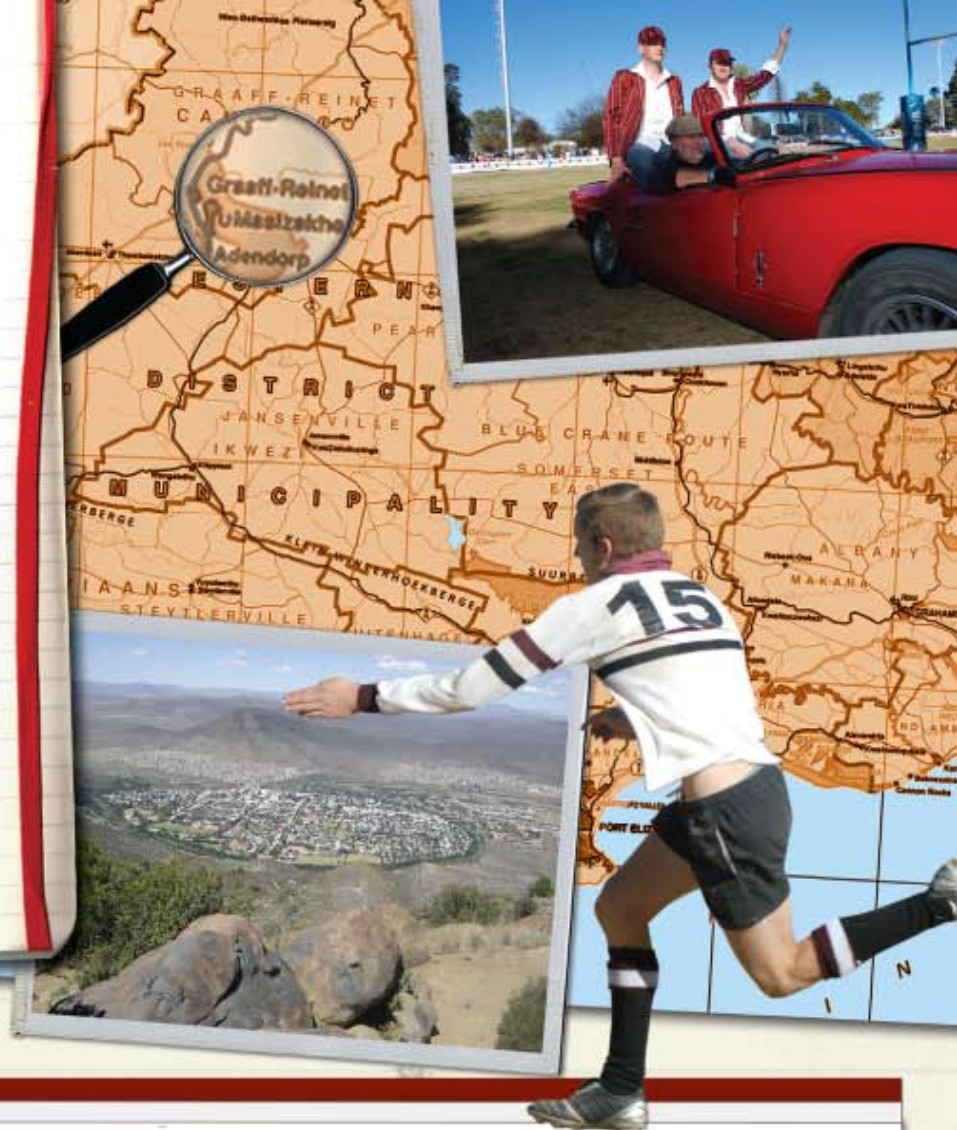


# GRAAFF-REINET

Graaff-Reinet, the jewel of the Karoo, an oasis amongst dry dramatic mountains, whose nearest neighbour is the Valley of Desolation. This beautiful town with wonderful Cape Dutch buildings, wide streets, gracious trees and bright gardens was named after two people — Governor Van de Graaff and his wife, Reinet. Cornelis Jacob van de Graaff was the Governor of the Cape when the town was founded in 1786, making it the fourth-oldest town in South Africa.

It was once the scene of a rebellion against the British take-over of the Cape and once the capital of its own brief republic.

Ostrich feathers made it wealthy but sheep have now taken over from the desert bird. It is also an educational centre, boasting an excellent Teachers Training College, and two highly regarded schools — Hoër Volksskool and Union High.



# Volksskool High School



FOUNDED: 1922  
MOTTO: ONS SAL HANDHAAF  
(WE SHALL PRESERVE)  
ADDRESS: PLASKETSTRAAT,  
GRAAFF-REINET  
WWW.HVSGRT.ORG.ZA



## School History

Nestled in the horseshoe-bend of the Sundays River and protected by the Sneeu Berg Mountains, lies Hoër Volksskool. Its near neighbours are Union High School, who are literally a stone's throw away. Volksskool was founded in 1922 by Dominee JF Naudé, and was the first Afrikaans-medium school in the Cape Province (three years before Afrikaans supplanted Dutch as an official language). Mr A Hattingh took over as headmaster in 1976. He upgraded many of the existing facilities and added further fields and a clubhouse, "Die Volksie". Numbers at the school grew and it became one of the biggest schools on the Platteland. The small town of Graaff-Reinet has a rich indigenous and settler history, just as this small school has a rich past and strong traditions.





## Rugby at Volkskool

In 1926 Mr C Smith of Aberdeen donated a cup for competition between Volkskool and Aberdeen, a match Volkskool won 53-0 that year. Subsequently, the big match has been between Volkskool and Union High — a passionate match to end off the season. Other traditional derbies are played against Gill College of Somerset East, HS Cradock, HLS Marlow and Adelaide Gymnasium.

For most of its history, Volkskool has provided at least one player for the Craven Week side each year. One of its very best teams was the First XV of 1947, which had an unbeaten run of 17 matches.

Loyal Volkskool Old Boy Olivier Dippenaar returned to coach his alma mater in the '50s and '60s. He had played for EP against the touring All Blacks and, as a lock, used his knowledge of forward play to consistently produce dominant packs. As far as back play was concerned, legendary Union High Coach, Puggie Munnik, rated Louw Pearson and GT Ferreira — a tall, slender centre, and now a top businessman — as perhaps Volkskool's finest backs at the time. Under the coaching of Dawid Botha, Hoër Volkskool produced its most impressive results against Union High. Botha coached from 1981-98, and in that time won 14 of the 16 Interschools games. According to Botha, it was almost like a "Boere-Brit oorlog", although in recent years, and especially since it became only an annual fixture, the match has probably become a healthier rivalry.

The schools host one another for various sports in the week, and in the evenings they compete at General Knowledge quizzes and other activities. Both schools hold a "Big Brag", where chairleaders lead their school in song and war-cry, and teams and captains are introduced. As the evening progresses, the excitement and competitiveness inevitably leads the hostel boys to their neighbouring rivals' hostel to serenade and taunt, before making a hasty retreat. And then there are the masses of Old Boys, many coming from overseas, that descend upon the town. Interskole culminates with the First XV game.

During Botha's coaching tenure Hoër Volkskool has averaged over four Craven Week players in the North-Eastern Cape Craven Week side every year. Perhaps the most prodigious talent in that time has been Francois Horn, a junior prodigy who once in an Under-14 match against Marlow scored the vast majority of points in tries and kicks in a 105-0 end score. The talented centre/fullback had his career cut short by concussion and injury. Neil Schreuder took the coaching reigns from Botha with some success, and coached the First XV for nine years. The 2005 side, captained by Ettiene Terblanche, lost only a single game (to Otto du Plessis). The 2006 side toured Gauteng, Botswana and Namibia. Although their season ended in defeat to Gill, Sentraal and neighbours Union High (30-3), some excellent results were recorded against strong rivals Despatch (12-6) and Hangklip (21-19).