



Hoërskool Bergrivier

School History

Hoërskool Bergrivier was founded in 1849 after 20 years of effort to get the school going. Like most schools it started small. Like all good schools it grew big. It started with 41 pupils in the Friendly Society Hall. It grew and acquired more property — the IOTT Hall, the Unity Society Building, Auntie Caroline's Cafe and the AME Church. In 1951 it became a high school and in 1953 it got a school building — a wooden one. In 1975 it gained a hostel and then a brick building and a hall. By 1983 it had roughly 2 000 pupils and Weltevrede, now great rivals, was born out of Bergrivier and then in 2003 Wellington Sekondêr. From its beginnings the school has excelled academically, culturally and on the sports field, from philosopher-poet Adam Small to Mayor Herman Bailey and recent sporting hero Randall April. In 1998 and 1999 Bergrivier was voted Boland's Sports School of the Year. It also does well in drama, dancing and choir.



FOUNDED: 1949

MOTTO: WERK LEWER SUKSES
(WORK PRODUCES SUCCESS)

ADDRESS: 325 VOOR STREET,
WELLINGTON





Rugby at Bergrivier

The school has its share of famous Old Boys — Jackie Abrahams, the president of Boland, François Davids who captained SARU and became, in unified SARFU, the convener of national selectors. Other SARU players from Bergrivier are Dawn Arendse, Francois Davids, Silvin Isaacs, John Cupido, and Daniel Roman. The school has also produced numerous senior Boland captains — Thys Adams, Cupido Cupido, John Cupido, Johan Williams, Dawn Arendse, Francois Davids. At Boland schools level, Danie Roman, Randall April, Stephanus Cedras, Franzell September, Charlton Manuel, Mario Jones, Jonathan Schalkwyk, Mario Nell, Burton Abrahams, Aden Goosen, and Garth April have all made their mark. Randall April, who played for SA Schools in 2004 and for the SA Under-19 team which won the World Championship in 2005, is perhaps Bergrivier's most familiar figure in recent years, along with Brendon April who plays for the Falcons.

Rival schools include Paulus Joubert, New Orleans and Charleston Hills of Paarl; but above all its own child, Weltevrede. Since 1986 Weltevrede and Bergrivier have competed academically, culturally and sportingly. The competition between the two has always been close but it has been a healthy competition that has not spoil community unity.

"Mervin Peterson and Hendrik le Fleur were instrumental in coaching me and giving me an enthusiasm for the game. Mervin was especially good at telling players where they needed to improve and how to focus on their strengths... The big derby was against Weltevrede, but there was also a big game against New Orleans. I often found myself being tackled out of the game in the bigger derbies!"

**— Randall April
(2002–04, SA Schools '04, SA Under-19 '05)**

"Because of FNB's involvement, rugby at the school is on a high. FNB have sponsored the trip for a combined Bergrivier-Weltevrede side to attend the KES Festival for the last few years. We were called the FNB Invitation side from Wellington, and played some of the 'bigger schools' at the Festival where we were very competitive. As rugby has grown, so too have we had some great players come through. Randall April and Garth April are special players with big futures."

**—Mervyn Pieteron
(21 years at the school,
coach 2002 to present)**