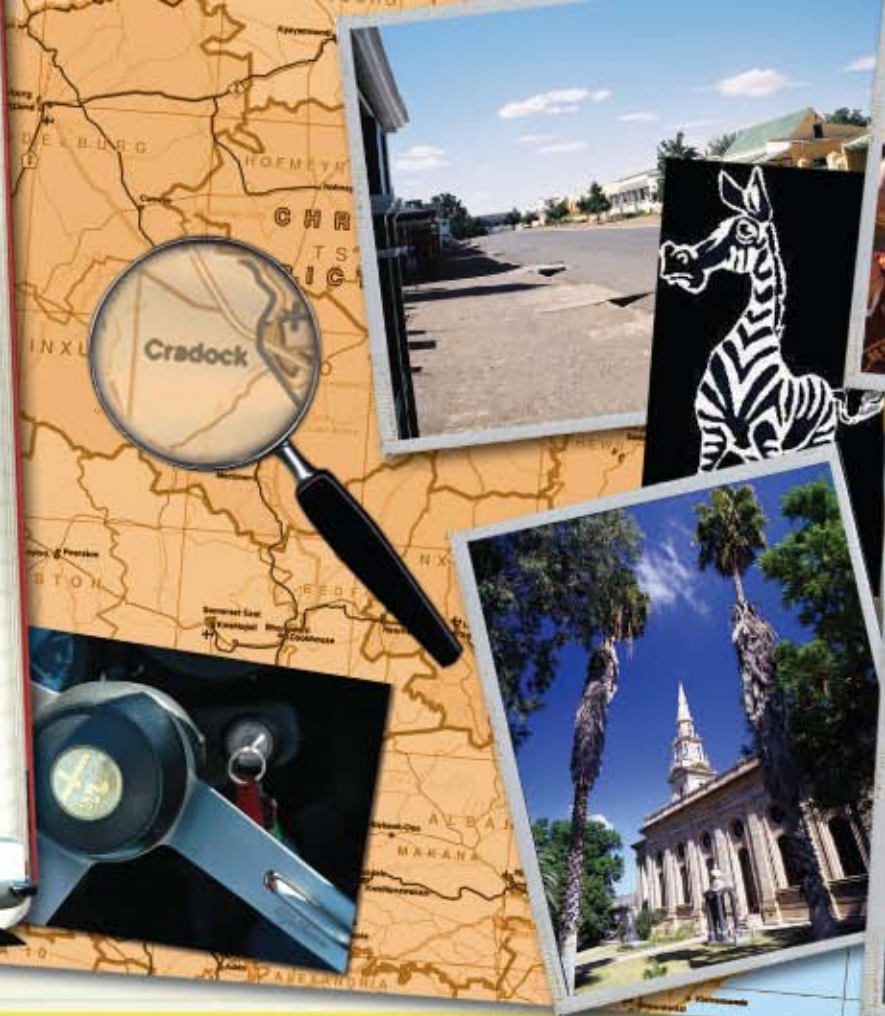


# CRADOCK

Sir John Francis Cradock, an Irishman, became governor of the Cape in 1811 and was very involved in the unhappy wars of the Border area. He was not at the Cape long and returned to England in 1812, where he was later made a baron. The town, about 260km from Port Elizabeth, was founded in 1813 on the banks of the Great Fish River to look after migratory farmers.

One of the ten oldest towns in South Africa, it is a centre for the farming of sheep, goats and cattle. It is a beautiful town nestled amongst the mountains. The Cradock Mountain Zebra Park, which plays an important role in saving these animals from extinction, is nearby. There is also a sulphur spa situated at what was once the home of Olive Schreiner, whose grave is at the top of Buffelstop. One of the most historical events the town has witnessed was the funeral of the Gariwe Four in 1985, which gave rise to the uprising which ended apartheid.



## Cradock High School



FOUNDED: 1972

MOTTO: NIL NISI NITENDO  
(NOTHING WITHOUT TRYING)

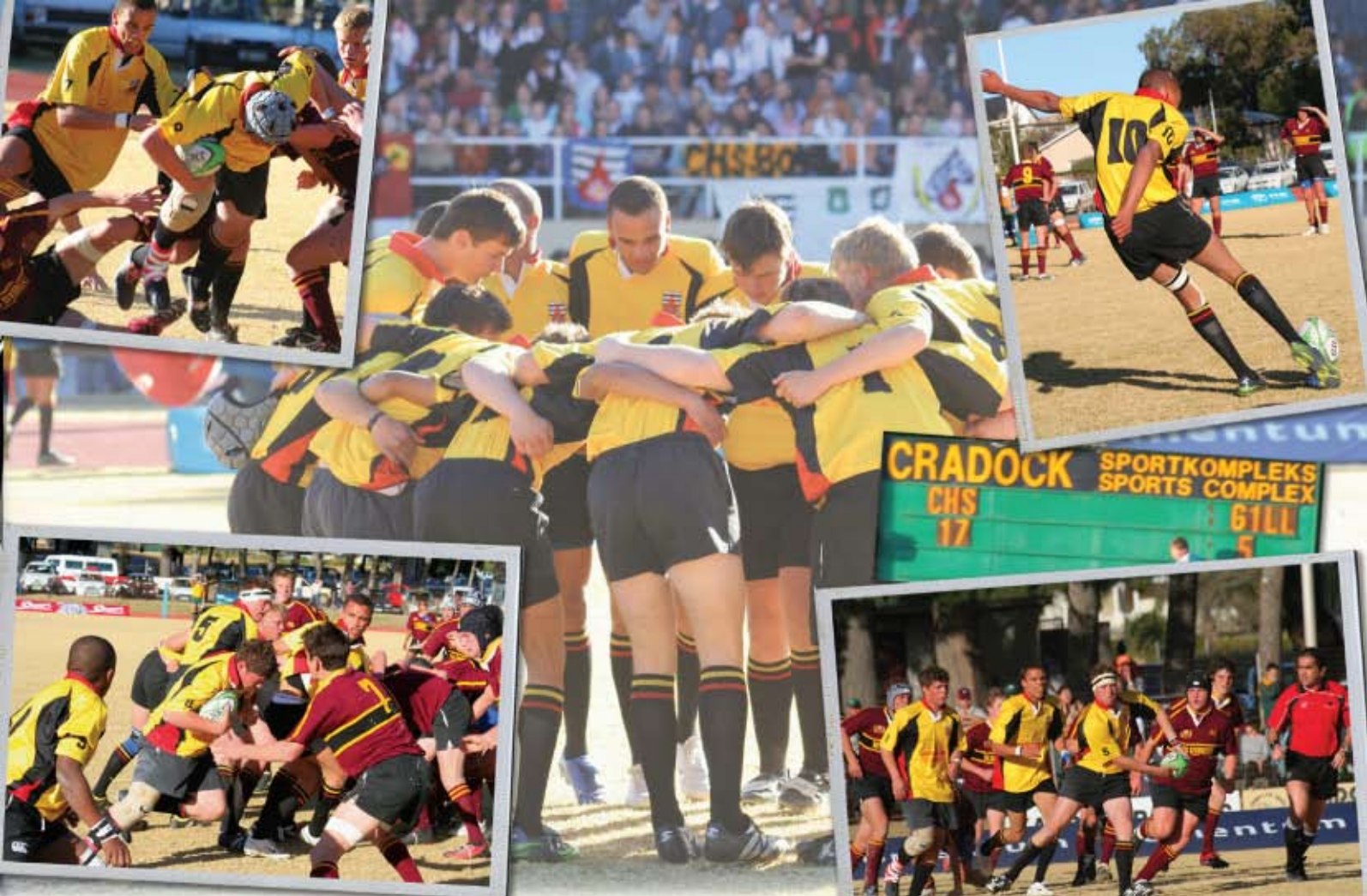
ADDRESS: NAESTED STRAAT, CRADOCK

[HTTP://CHS.ISAT.CO.ZA](http://chs.isat.co.za)



### School History

Cradock is an old town by South African standards and so is the school. Its roots go back to the early 1830s (before the Great Trek), but it was forced to close because of financial difficulties. In 1838 the Cradock Free School was established, but in 1870 a boys' school was founded by L Eaton with 20 pupils. In 1900 it moved to a new building in Bree Street with 145 pupils. In 1932 the boys' school moved into the Teachers Training College. In 1869 Rocklands opened as a girls' school, though it takes 1875 as its foundation date. In 1972 Cradock Boys' High and Rocklands amalgamated to form the present Cradock High School. The boys' school became the Cradock Primary School, and Rocklands became the High School.



## Rugby at CHS

Craddock Rovers is one of South Africa's oldest clubs, sadly a casualty of the shrinkage of rugby in country areas, especially after the reduction in the number of provinces from 22 to 14 in 1996. One of those that vanished was North Eastern Cape, founded in 1903. The rugby opportunities for schools were further curtailed in 2001 when the number of teams at Craven Week was chopped from 32 to 20, and then in 2004 from 20 to 18. Despite the odds and competing against many bigger rugby schools, the school still has regular Craven Week representatives and has produced a number of Springboks.

Famous Old Boys include Mannetjies Michau and Baby Michau, who played for South Africa in 1921. Three more Old Boys were selected in 1949 to play against the All Blacks — Fiks van der Merwe, who played in the first Test, and Salty du Rand (who later captained the Springboks) who took his place in the second test. Jorrie Jordaan also played for the Boks that year, while Willem Louw and St Elmo Wilken played in the final Springbok trials, but missed out on selection. Perhaps much of the school's success can be attributed to the coaching foundation laid by legendary Springbok "Flap-pie" who coached at the school in the 1940s. Giepie Wentzel toured the United Kingdom with the 1960/61 Springboks. His great-nephew, Deon Stegmann of Grey College, was chosen for SA Schools in 2004. One of its Old Boys, William Schreiner,

was prime minister of the Cape and president of the South African Rugby Board. Some of Craddock High School's earliest derbies were against Union High and Volkskool, the two Graaff-Reinet schools. The traditional derby, of more than 50 years, is the one between Craddock High School and Marlow, the agricultural school just outside Craddock. It is played on the town field, a neutral venue. However, this derby has waned recently, and the Gill fixture has gained in prominence. The Craddock High records show that the earliest game against Gill was played in 1911. It became an official Inter-schools fixture in 1986, and recent results have largely gone the way of Gill.

Craddock High School, with an enrolment of 200 boys (half of which take up rugby as their winter sport), does remarkably well.

## Internationals

### South Africa:

Mannetjies Michau, Baby Michau, Jorrie Jordaan, Fiks van der Merwe, Salty du Rand, Giepie Wentzel (These players represented South Africa before the school took its present form)