

WELLINGTON

The mountains are the same, the winter rain is the same, the spring flowers are the same and the summer heat is the same. But there is much that Stone Age man would find strange. For one thing there are the relaxed vineyards roundabout, and the town itself. As you come in there is the grand Dutch Reformed Church with the great Andrew Murray gazing thoughtfully down the gentle main street. There is nothing loud or brash about Wellington, just a thoughtful kindness. The mountains are the Groenberg and the Hawequa, the river the Kromme, although the Berg River between Paarl and Wellington is the big river with its famous canoe marathon each year. The vines came with the Huguenots who found a haven there. Andrew Murray was the learned dominee. And so Wellington is a place of religion and education - and rugby for it is home to Boland Rugby Union's headquarters at Boland Stadium, not a swanky ground but a comfortable one. Stone Age man lived there and so did the

San and the Khoi till people came from Europe, mostly Dutch, French and then English. The Dutch called it 'Limietvallei' - the boundary (limit) of their African world. The French came and called it 'Val Du Charron' which in Dutch/Afrikaans became Wagonmakersvallei. The English came and their hero was the Duke of Wellington, the Iron Duke who smashed Napoleon's ambitions at Waterloo and then became Prime Minister - the saviour of his people. The place then became Wellington in 1840. It became more accessible in 1853 when Bains Kloof Pass was built and even more accessible in 1863 when the railway reached Wellington. Because the farmer who gave the land for the station did so on condition that every train stopped at Wellington, every train stops there. From Andrew Murray's time churches and schools have flourished in Wellington.



Weltevrede Secondary School

Rugby History

Weltevrede has played competitive rugby from Under-14 to Under-19 level in the Boland region since 1987. Since then, the sport has grown rapidly as more and more pupils take to it. In recent years, the school has combined with rivals Bergrivier Secondary to take part in the FNB KES Tournament, raising the school's profile.

A number of Weltevrede pupils have been selected for Boland Craven Week and provincial sides. Among them are Delwayne Baron, Tino Prins, Kevin Williams, Alshuan Bock, Donovan Abrahams (Under-19), and Christo Fransman (Under-18 Academy; Under-19 Sevens). Alshuan Bock is the school's most prominent Old Boy. He is currently playing for Boland in the Vodacom and Currie Cup. He previously played for Griquas and South Africa at Under-21 level.



FOUNDED: 1986
MOTTO: VINCIT OMNIA VERITAS
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Weltevrede have many anticipated derbies in the Boland. There are the games against New Orleans, Klein Nederburg, and Noorder Paarl that draw crowds and good rugby. The local Wellington derby against Hugenote is also eagerly anticipated, but it is the Bergrivier game that has become the school's calendar highlight. In recent years, this game has been fiercely contested and neither school has had consistent victories over the other. The close score lines testify to its derby stature. Collin Green has been the First XV coach since 2002 and has done much for the foundation and future of Weltevrede rugby.

"Weltevrede has a great rugby spirit and the majority of boys play rugby. The big derby is against Bergrivier, and there was always a tough week of training leading up to that game. Every year, on the Friday night before that game, the whole team would leave to spend the night on Kanonkop farm, just outside Stellenbosch. A huge fire was built and lit, and each player received a piece of paper, on which he would write something, usually how he intended playing the next day. Once that was finished, the paper was thrown into the fire. We were then asked by a motivational speaker, who had come to join us for the night, to close our eyes. He'd tell us to 'breathe in blue, breathe out red'. I guess that kind of mental preparation worked in my final year in 2000, because we had a great win over Bergrivier!"

**— Alshaun Bock
(1998–2000, Boland since 2002)**