

# Oakhill Old Oaks

March 2011

## Contents

Oakhill in 2012	1
What you will find at Oakhill	2
Hockey	2
Cricket	3
Cycling	3
Numbers	4
The Oakhill Option	5
The History of Oakhill	5
Your news today	6
Some snatches	6
Tails and Treats	7
Horse Tales	8
Bursaries	9

## Oakhill Twenty in 2012

All eyes are on 2012 – when on 29th February, Oakhill turns 20.

Big Plans will soon be afoot to hold 20 different functions – with 2 or 3 primarily focussed on Old Oakhillians – that is any pupil who attended Oakhill. 423 have formally matriculated, but there are many whose blood has been blue for some time of their life.

We are hoping to hold 28 February for the Founder (or any) Pupils with the ex-Headmasters up on the 29<sup>th</sup>. If we had a Dinner Dance on the 28<sup>th</sup> then you can renew the cuddles of your youth. More news later.

I, PeeBee, am busy writing a History of the School, and it is interesting to make observations along the way. Those 18 first Matriculants of 1994 must all be in their mid-30's by now. Some are married, some are with children. Some have established their own businesses, whilst some are local and some are overseas. We do need your data. Who will be the first to have their child signed in by Barbie?

It would be great if you could offer your services to communicate with your own group, so that all Past Pupils know of the program of events that should be finalised by June of this year. Michael Hallick popped in on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and offered to round up the 1999's, with whom he is continually in contact. Jacqui Rodgers is now Mrs Botha of Plett. She was 1998 and I will ask her to round up her crew.

Unofficially, I was hoping that the celebration of Oakhill Twenty could be on 29 February where Allan Graham

comes out as our guest, and that the other Headmasters are simultaneously invited. At this time of the year, accommodation costs are low.



So watch out for the circular coming out in May or June that will detail Oakhill Twenty. Some of the more athletic may want to align their visit with The Oyster Festival, with a Big Walk, or a Cycle Race or a Swimathon. Then again, you might like to be here when the world and its mate are not around.



*Peebee is cle'a]ni.ng hi's ke]yb29oa;rd*

## What you will find at Oakhill

If any group would want a particular identifying event, please feel free to suggest. Our Drama is on a high, and though we are due to lose the great Jaci de Villiers, you may still wish to involve yourself in Drama. Amy Nuttall's Art continues year on year to astound the I.E.B. and to fascinate the kids.

Our golfers are earning (not yet fortune!) fame. Jack Duthie and Stephanie Perkins won the respective Boys and Girls S.W.D. Golf Championships titles at the beginning of March, and you all know how many world champions are being produced in the Southern Cape.

Kevin Evans, who runs his own cycling business in Plettenberg Bay and Carl Pasio both took part in the recent Cycling Race around the country. When they came through Knysna, a group of our children held banners of Oakhill. Sadly the Knysna Municipality were not organised so we lost our chance of appearing on national television. Kevin has been in contact with Headmaster

Shane Kidwell. By the way, Kevin – your great friend and captain Ingo Hilbert became the father of a really big lad a month ago.



Kevin Evans and family



Over 130 pupils play water polo in our 25 metre pool, so much so that teacher Lee Raynor is asking for a second pool. Our Water polo team undertook a tour to Cape Town to measure their quality. Our players are just too young at this stage, but our team of 2009 were stunners.

## Hockey

At one time, the only activity at Oakhill was hockey, with its matches and its tours. It still holds some status with half of the 30 boy players earning SWD Provincial colours. The girls are looking forward to their next season, and are a year older than when they formed in Holland.

The old disused tennis court is now a fully functioning 34m by 34m astro turf, on which we hone our skills. This has been a benediction, but there is such a demand where even the 6 year olds are coached in sport, so that the hockey players are lucky to get a look in.

In April, Oakhill will host an Independent Schools Hockey

Tournament at York High Astro. An Under 16 Tournament follows just after the 36<sup>th</sup> York Easter Tournament (Guess who organised the first one in 1975?), where boys and girls will play before going to the Brothers International in Cape Town. We expect 3 Girls and up to 12 boys to represent their Province at the Nationals.

I am sure that Michael Hallick will once again round up the 1999s to challenge the School some time. The school captain this year is Joshua Pieters, brother of Jonty, and younger son of Leslie and Di.

You won't recognise many of the new brigade but Guy Thesen's son, Leo – born in 1994 – is now in Grade 11 and is in the First XI as a tough, rough tackler.

We have just heard that Wesley Robinson, our vice-captain in 2010, is one of only 4 "Eerstejaars" chosen for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team trials at U.C.T.

Best of all sweepers in the country, Nick Heymans, captain in 2010, has reached the same status at Rhodes.

This augurs well. The brilliant McKenzie twins of 2005 are playing at Bergvliet Club.

### STOP PRESS:

Some official stuck in, so Wes will now be in the same 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> team with Robert Muir. It is not where you start but where you finish.

## Cricket

At the end of 2010, we had a scare where we really thought we would lose a run of our top players to other schools. Fortunately, this did not occur, but it does put us in the position where we must give them more than they would get elsewhere. Dave Pryke, the short fellow who used to bowl off the wrong foot for KwaZulu Natal, and who arrived at Oakhill a decade ago is pushed hard to raise the standard of our cricket. So far since October, Joshua Pieters has hit 103\*, Chris Marrow has hit 106\* and 103\*, Caleb Bell has scored 72, 80, 74 and 30\* and Tom Marrow who scored 132\* against Rondebosch 2 years ago has hit three fifties this season. Cheyne Hare's record of 143 still stands. Rain washed out four Saturday games.

We lost little Wouter Bezuidenhout to Paul Roos. It is as a hockey player that he will shine, and would have been one of our best ever. He idolised Rob Muir, Wes Robinson and Caleb Bell but even they would have bowed to him had he stayed at Oakhill. At Paul Roos, he would have to fit into a system. Someone passed the comment that we do too much for our good little talented players that they then dream of going elsewhere. Nonsense! If they go, they must be better because they went to Oakhill. If

they stay, they will get more opportunity. Kids are not commodities to satiate our egos.

Michael Hallick had a good chuckle when we recalled the 13 wides he bowled in the first over against Wittedrift. Michael is creating the right fixation in his mind. He wants Oakhill to get sporting facilities. His little Boetie Sean loved Grey, but Michael learnt about leading people at Oakhill.



*Benjamin and Nicola Giliomee*



*Harry Maarsingh*



*Brothers Tom and Chris Marrow*



*Caleb Bell and Josh Pieters*

## Cycling

It is not just Kevin Evans and Carl Pasio who can master "Baie Sukkels". Our matric S.R.C. President, Harry Maarsingh is a great cyclist with awards aplenty, but without that cruel relentless killer instinct to destroy others. He came 8<sup>th</sup> in the national mountain bike contest.

Young Ben Giliomee matches the tenacity of Adventure racers Nick Cuthbert and Brandon Wilcocks. Ben's sister Nicola is another case. Just when she was beginning to dominate the

Eastern and Western Province Provincial Horse contests and do well at Nationals she tried out on a bike and won both of her first two events at a canter. It's easier to have the horse do the work, is it not? Bicycles don't devour grass or eat the ground before them while building up a 'scene' behind...



## Numbers

For the old timers among you, you will recall that 55 pupils moved to the Heuvelkruin premises in April 1994, and that by 1995 there were 250 souls.

Now there are 450, with 97 coming in 3 buses from Plettenberg Bay. The capacity of the school is 560, with an utmost maximum of 650. The Board and Headmaster Shane Kidwell (who is only 41) are busy exploring the questions: Do we build two storeys? Do we find a totally new campus? Do we create a Senior or a Junior Campus on another site? Do we procure more land to provide for our sporting needs?

Things are taking place quite quickly and one day soon, you won't recognise the Old Oakhill, but you will still pine for the Old Oakhill where you had such great teachers as Marthy Watson and Tessa Edwards.



*First day of school, 2011*

## The Point



*Dave Pryke, making a point*

## The Oakhill Option

There are momentous decisions that are being made behind closed doors at the moment. It indicates however that the faith of the Founding Parents has been justified. Sure we were lucky in identifying with the then newly-formed I.E.B. and in being at Oakhill at a time where “the child was part of the solution”. It indicates too that the pupils of Oakhill are what matters most.

It is you early pupils who demanded to be treated with respect. It is you who made yourself available to go on a sports field. It is you who took Drama,

or Music or Art seriously. It is you who entered national academic and sporting contests, and it was you who realised when you left here that you had the ability to think for yourself and thus succeed at Tertiary level, and to fulfill yourself. It may even be, as with Churchill and G.B. Shaw that you succeeded despite your education.

So, if you glow in the news that Oakhill is currently on a high with enormous contentment from the parent body and increasing respect in the town, then thank yourself for your role.



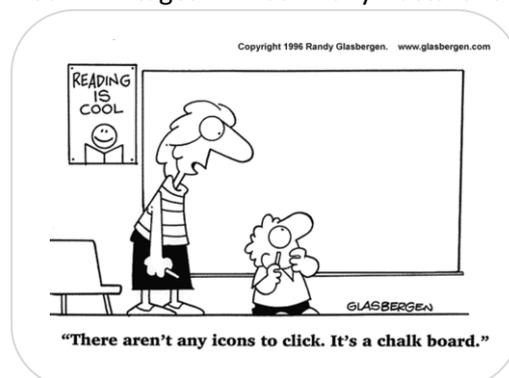
## The History of Oakhill

In writing the History of Oakhill, I am going to talk of the history of Knysna, and of the education that existed in the town; and for the clamour for “Something Unique”. Then I am going to do a “STRUTTING THROUGH THE AGES”, where the significant events or changes are arranged chronologically – year by year.

We did not have a Yearbook for each of our “vintages”. Thus many facts and

events and pictures got lost. Tessa Edwards gave me some photos. But what I do need are contributions of any nature from you. It can be a photo, a comment, a look back, a recalling certain achievements of yourself or of another or activities you undertook; a recollection of a camp; a tour or your Matric Farewell.

We had a wonderful letter from Marc de Motta that we put on the website that really encapsulates everything that Oakhill is. You do not have to be a ‘goody two-shoes’. If you are, then we have failed you.



Oakhill is not what a paid Public Relations officer says it is. It is what you recall. Oakhill is you, like the Oak is the Acorn, and the Acorn is the Oak.

## Your news today

Later in the year, we will synchronise efforts to plan 2012. For the time being, please feed back your details, like emails and other snippets. I can barely handle emails, but get terrified of Facebook, Twitter and some other strange names. Instructions are just too plenty. I get terrified if I have to push a button. So please for the time being communicate with [peebee@oakhillschool.co.za](mailto:peebee@oakhillschool.co.za) or Elna Brown via [e.brown@oakhillschool.co.za](mailto:e.brown@oakhillschool.co.za), as all the other communication will stay in the ether.



I still write on wine, and the other day, I typed on Google ""PeeBee"" and ""Peter Bishop"" in a moment of self-adulation, and there stood almost every wine article, I have written for CX Press. Now

tell us of your claim to fame.

Talking of fame, I have put 2 letters into the History. One was from a Dad who was so grateful that his kid 'got through' despite everything pointing in the counter direction and another from a lad who was quite tough when at Oakhill, but who has thrived as he developed on the base he absorbed. It is not all about heroes. Often anti-heroes is what we brag about most. Nevertheless, if we can brag about our Alumni then Barbie can sell the school to new parents, so that when your children arrive, you will be proud of Oakhill.

For instance, Frances Maughan-Brown (2001) is doing her Ph.D. in Boston University. Mark Rodgers is creating an Empire in Plettenberg Bay.



## Some Snatches

Amanda Barnard's son, Mika, matriculated in 2009, and went to New Zealand for a year where he played first division hockey keeper in Christchurch. He returned to join Stellenbosch University where he wants to study politics.

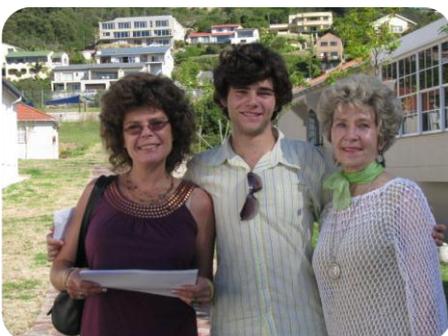
Moira Schady's two sons are thriving. Nicholas - in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at U.C.T. doing Building Science – no ladder is ever needed by a Schady. He is still boxing and is the reigning Western Cape Super Heavyweight Champion, awaiting SA Champs in June.

Stuart is at Rhodes doing his Masters in Financial Markets – having completed a Bachelor of Economics, with Honours in Economics with distinction. He is captain of the Rhodes Rowing Team for the 2<sup>nd</sup>

year, being Oarsman of the Year. He is now in the S.A. University Grudges team.

But what is Your News? Barbie needs to brag.

Let us know when you would like to meet in 2012, or even in 2011, and your wish is our command.



*Mika flanked by mom and gran*



*Nicholas with parents Moira and Dave*

## Tails and Treats

A visit and a letter received from past pupil, Lara Maré :-



Thanks so much for such a lovely welcome today! It really was so wonderful chatting and getting to see all the changes (and seeing people who hadn't changed one bit!).

The website for the Centre for Early Childhood development is [www.cecd.org.za](http://www.cecd.org.za) and you can email Prof. Eric Atmore on [cecd@iafrica.com](mailto:cecd@iafrica.com) for additional details and/or how to get involved.

I've attached two links, the first being the link to purchase the book online and the second link being to the "Tails and Treats" Facebook page where you can become a fan and be kept abreast of happenings as we undertake book readings, cookery classes and book signings- so we'll hopefully get a lot of Oakhill footage on there....

[www.publisher.co.za/cart/details/42/5/children/tails-and-treats](http://www.publisher.co.za/cart/details/42/5/children/tails-and-treats)  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tails-and-Treats/168951676473448>

The above pages don't contain the background to this book- so I thought I'd reiterate it here:

"Tails and Treats" was inspired by a children's book I had to write in Std. 7 in Mrs Pasio's English class, "The magic moonbeam". I loved English whilst at school but decided to pursue a qualification in Management Accounting (which I'm sure PeeBee would be proud of). Accounting textbooks and financial models drained me of my creative juices as you can imagine, but whilst on maternity leave last year I was gripped with this desire to be creative again and thus decided to write a children's book.... "Tails and Treats" was born!

The book is targeted at children between the

ages of 5 and 10, and profits from the sale of the books are going to the South African Centre for Early Childhood Development ([www.cecd.org.za](http://www.cecd.org.za)), the aim being to invest in the lives of those most vulnerable in our society whilst investing in our children at the same time.

It was important for me that the book:

- Allowed for the children to be creative and stimulate their "right" brain.
- Provided the children with facts and information to stimulate their "left" brain.
- Contained a message to instil values at a young age.
- Was proudly South African.

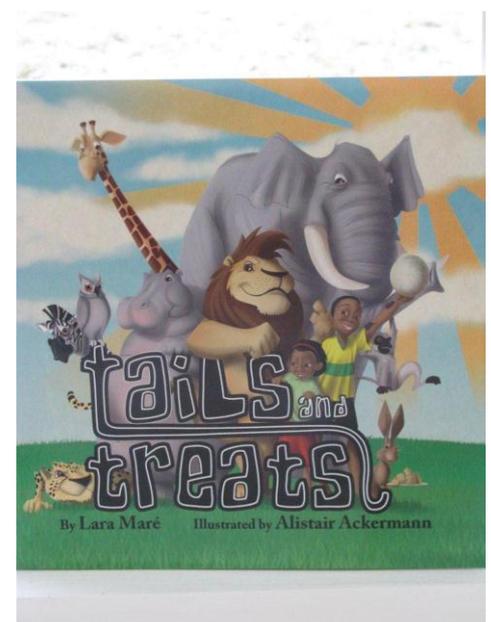
The book (and Chef Uniform) is now also available at the following outlets for R150:

- Exclusive Books
- Fascination Books
- Wordsworth Books
- Estoril Books
- Selected P.N.A's
- C.N.A

Otherwise you can order books directly through me at a discounted price of R100 by emailing me at :

[info@tumbleweedtrading.com](mailto:info@tumbleweedtrading.com)  
 or phone me on 082 446 6296

Thanks so much for your enthusiasm. I look forward to taking this forward!



## Horse Tales

Letter received from past pupil Danielle Pieters :-

Oakhill was one of the first schools in the Eastern and Western Cape to be supportive of Equestrianism in the late 90's when I was in my final years of school, and it is in no small measure with thanks to Oakhill that I have been able to pursue my passion.

Today I have my own equestrian yard and have been privileged to be able to compete with some of the best riders in the country. It is gratifying to see that Oakhill is now a dominant force in the National Equestrian School League competition.

I am incredibly proud to be associated with



*Competing at the SA Championships*

Oakhill both in the hosting of many of these shows at my training base in Rheenedal as well as in the coaching of many of the Oakhill riders.



*Competina at the Team Championships*



*Danielle surrounded by her equestrian pupils*



## Bursaries

I spoke to Shane Kidwell about an ALUMNI Bursary for Tertiary Education, and to do that in 2012. Don't worry, we won't fleece you nor hound you. We are intensely proud of the number of Alumni who have taken the opportunities that their parents provided and who finished their studies successfully.

He did say that Oakhill's focus at the moment is to give bursaries to deserving pupils to attend Oakhill, and that if they responded the Universities would give them the further bursaries. Leading the initiative is Vanessa Eyre.



**Oakhill School**  
 Uitsig Street  
 Heuwelkruin  
 Knysna, 6571  
 South Africa

**Phone:**  
 +27 44 382-6506

**Fax:**  
 +27 44 382-5753

**Old Oaks E-mail:**  
 peebee@oakhillschool.co.za

[www.oakhillschool.co.za](http://www.oakhillschool.co.za)

*Please forward your news, snippets and images to  
 peebee@oakhillschool.co.za*