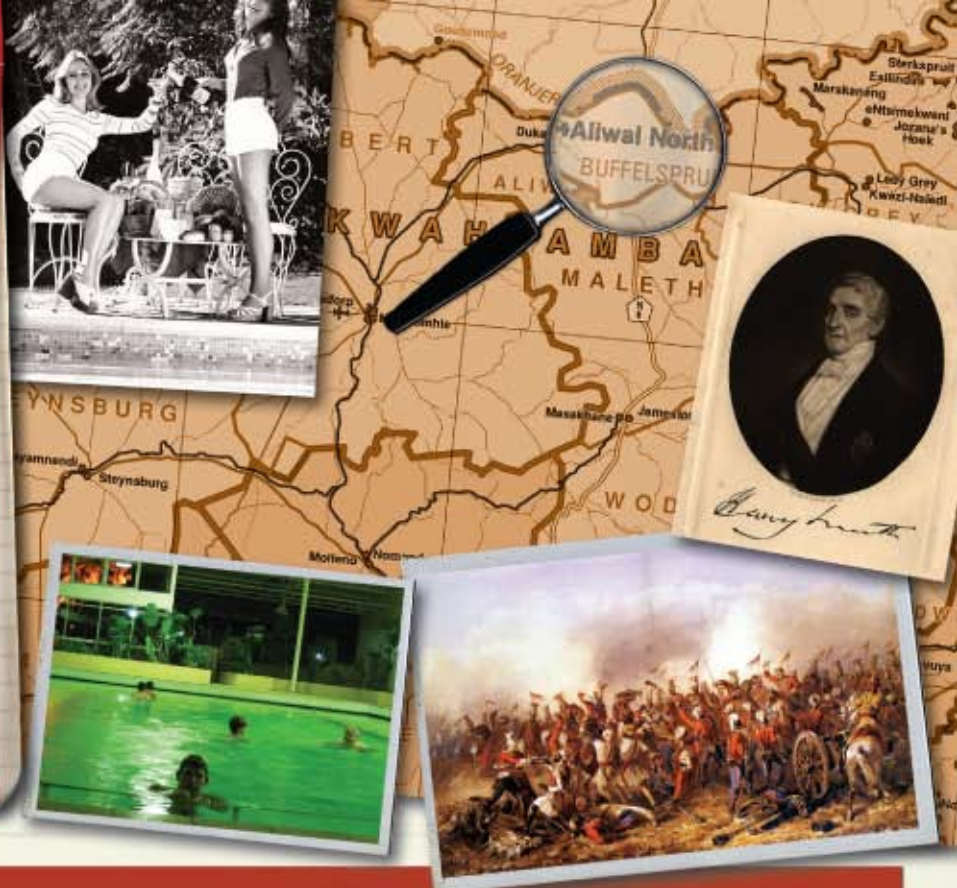


Aliwal North

The town of Aliwal North was established by Sir Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape Colony in 1849. He named the town after one of his big battles in India.

Aliwal North is situated on the banks of the Orange River and was originally founded on the farm Buffelsvlei. The buffalo still plays such an integral part in the history of both the Primary and High Schools that it is part of the badges of the schools. The rugby First Team also call themselves the "Buffels" (Buffaloes). The town is known for its hot springs and thousands of people visit Aliwal North solely for the healing waters of the springs. As a result of that, Aliwal North can be regarded as a holiday destination, a town that people use as a sleeper place on their way to the sea. Holiday accommodation is no problem in Aliwal North and tourism is high on the list of its sources of income. Aliwal North is still a growing town, unlike many of its neighbouring towns, and it has a healthy business sector.



Aliwal North High School



FOUNDED: 1871

MOTTO: AUDENTIOR ITO
(GO MORE BOLDLY)

ADDRESS: SOMERSET STREET,
ALIWAL NORTH

WWW.ALIWALHIGHSCHOOL.CO.ZA



School History

The first teacher in Aliwal North was appointed in 1850, but it was only in 1871 that the Aliwal North Public School was started with Mr Postma as the principal. In 1884 the public school amalgamated with the Collegiate School for Girls of Miss Rittman. In 1899 the name of the Public School was changed to the Aliwal North High School. As a result of growing numbers it was decided to separate the primary and secondary sections of the High School and in 1924 the High School occupied its new premises, a site on a hill overlooking the town. A Cambridge man, J Carson, was the headmaster at this time, and he served the school from 1908 to 1935. Originally the high school had 119 pupils with nine staff members. In 1974 the school was enlarged and a new hall was added. Today the Aliwal North High School has 510 pupils and a staff of 20 teachers. It has two rugby fields, two hockey fields, two netball courts and four tennis courts. The school also introduced soccer a few years ago and has two boys' teams and a girl's team in the field. Boys are given the opportunity to participate in both rugby and soccer.





Rugby at Aliwal

Rugby plays a very important role in the proud history of the Aliwal North High School. The two Osler brothers, Bennie and Stanley, spent some time in the high school before 1924 and two more Springboks, Dawie Ackerman and Leon Vogel, also attended the Aliwal North High School. The test referee Alec van der Horst is also an Old Boy of the school.

Since 1914 the North Eastern Districts schools competed for a shield, donated by the North Eastern Districts Football Union. The list of winning schools in the past makes interesting reading and includes the high schools of Steynsburg, Molteno, Venterstad, Lady Grey, Jamestown, Burgersdorp and Aliwal North. The depopulation of the platteland has resulted in only Burgersdorp and Aliwal North competing for the shield today. Aliwal North High School and Burgersdorp High School still compete fiercely for the honours. The traditional two-match bi-annual Interschools has been replaced with a single encounter in the second week in August. Needless to say, both towns come to a standstill as far as other activities are concerned for that day. Hangklip of Queenstown and Cradock High School are also big derbies. And then there is the 340km and 330km travel to away games at De Aar and Volkskool in Graaff-Reinet. As Aliwal North sits on the border of the Free State and Eastern Cape, many Free State schools, including Sentraal, are also part of the school's broad fixture list. Aliwal North used to be part of the old North Eastern Cape Province at Craven Week, but since 1996 the school has joined Border.

The school is always competitive, and has produced a number of notable sides in its long history. The 1979 side was perhaps their best in recent history. Led by locks Francois Botha (c) and Frank Norval (vc), they convincingly beat a powerful Marlow side in Cradock, and won the return encounter against Burgersdorp 14-12. Other good teams were the '81, '90 and '95 sides. Landman Goosen was chosen to represent the USSASA Academy side in 1995. Wilken Heyns' 2006 side also did the school's rugby proud. Since the mid-90s, the school has consistently produced Border Schools players, which is remarkable when considering the many Platteland schools, and that the dominant "big" schools of Selborne, Dale and Queens are all competing for provincial representation.

Internationals

South Africa:
Dawie Ackerman
Leon Vogel

COACH FOCUS

Hennie "Oompie" Jansen (Intermittent coach for 12 years from 1986)

"To those that know me, I'm known more as a motivator. It's probably because I get really excited and involved in the game. Sometimes it's to my own detriment; like at Craven Week when I was once escorted by the security guards behind the advertising boards because I was getting too involved in the game! Or at another schools game where I ran alongside the field the field next to the play, and as the centre scored with a dive, I dived as well! Maybe I was a little over-enthusiastic, but it was all light-hearted stuff and probably happened because I'm passionate about rugby! Burgersdorp is the traditional derby, and you'll never find either school dominating for years. De Aar's Interskole is also against us, and it is their last fixture of the season. And then there is also a big game against Hangklip. Aliwal North loses many talented players to cities, and technical and agricultural schools. Some of the better rugby players end up at Grey Bloem, which is not that far away. Francois Steyn spent a number of years at Aliwal North Primary school."

— Hennie "Oompie" Jansen

"Aliwal North High School has, over the years, become a rugby side to be reckoned with. It is always a good sign when you hear that teams take great care in their preparation for the encounter against us and that they are very glad if they do beat us. For a school with only 220 boys, and the fact that rugby competes with soccer and hockey, the school does remarkably well."

— Marius Loubser (1979-85; '89-92)