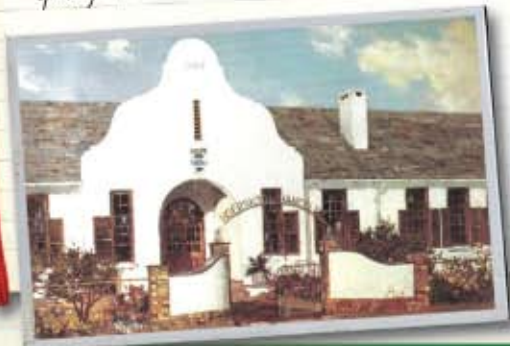


Queenstown

Queenstown is an inland, mountainous area and so cold in the winter. Winters are harsh, sometimes recording the lowest temperatures in South Africa at the Buffelsfontein weather station near Pen Hoek Pass. Towering above Queenstown is Hangklip, a dramatic outcrop of rock often clad in snow, higher even than its neighbours Madeira and Longhill. These mountains provide Queenstown with abundant water as it rests on the Komani River. The town is an educational centre for Afrikaans, English and Xhosa-speaking children.



Hoërskool Hangklip



FOUNDED: 1954
MOTTO: WEES STERK (BE STRONG)
ADDRESS: OLIVIER ST,
QUEENSTOWN
WWW.HANGKLIP.CO.ZA



School History

The history of the school starts in 1885, 27 years after Queen's College. It began as Queen's Drive Primary School, a dual-medium school.

Eventually the Afrikaans community gathered momentum and made a concerted effort to give Afrikaans its rightful place in Queenstown. This ambition reached fulfillment in 1947 when Afrikaans became the medium of instruction in the high school under Principal DB Malan. This achieved the long-cherished ideal of mother-tongue education. In January 1942 the school had its first Std 8 class. In that year the school committee, chaired by the Rev. Pollock, decided to change the name to Hangklip (after the mountain).

In 1951 CJ Potgieter, an inspector of schools at the time, referred to the mountain, saying: "The mountain that bears that name stands on rocks and rises up above all the mountain peaks in the area. It is a watchtower of strength and stands there like a noble man whose aims never waver." In 1945 the school status was elevated to that of a high school and in January 1946 it began with its first Std 9 class as Hoërskool Hangklip. The number of pupils grew to such an extent that it was no longer possible to accommodate both schools under one roof and wheels were set in motion to build a new high school. On 15 July 1952 Mrs E Louw, a member of the school committee, turned the first sod for the new school. The date 20 January 1954 can be regarded forever as the most important day in the history of the school. It was the realisation of an ideal that everybody had striven towards and so a reason for joy and honour. The words of the principal DB Malan spoke of his pride when he said: "The beautiful buildings reflect the pride of the Afrikaans-speaking community in Queenstown."

Hoërskool Hangklip has gone from strength to strength and is today the biggest Afrikaans-medium school in the Border region.



Rugby at Hangklip

For a small school that does not shy away from playing the big traditional rugby schools of the Border, Hangklip has had some successful rugby sides. The '64 team was a notable side, and in 1973 the school tasted its first victory over a Queens First XV. But it was the unbeaten '74 team that put Hangklip rugby on the map. Winning all 14 matches, the side only conceded a single try the whole season, despite playing the likes of Selborne, Dale and Queen's. The '75 team repeated the unbeaten feat with a memorable 7-6 victory over the powerful Dale side. Phillip Smit was selected for SA Schools and Gerhard Kitching played SA Schools as flyhalf and captained the Border team the following year. The '83 side and '96 side, who only lost to Adelaide, are recent successful First Teams; as is the 2007 side, who, although losing narrowly to Queen's, won the FNB Classic Clash against Aliwal North High School.

Hoërskool Hangklip had a Springbok as early as 1956. Chris de Wilzem, who played for Orange Free State and Northern Transvaal, toured with the '56 Boks to Australia and New Zealand in that year. More recently, Delarey du Preez played two tests at hooker for South Africa in 2002.

Hangklip has had some excellent coaches in its history. Tommy Snook (1970-80), Gert Coetzee (1981-87), and Willie Botha (1998-2006) have all made significant contributions to the school's rugby and its pupils. Andre Jacobs, who successfully coached St Andrew's, and the Bishops First XV for nine seasons until 2007, is a Hangklip Old Boy.

The school battles against the big local English school, Queen's College, whom it has beaten six times and drawn with twice, a rivalry dating back to 1963. It is notable, however, that three of these victories have come in recent years. The Burgersdorp and Cradock High School games are also big fixtures, but perhaps the most anticipated derbies are with the other two Afrikaans-medium schools in the Border area, Aliwal North and Grens of East London.

Internationals

South Africa:
Chris de Wilzem
Delarey du Preez

"I played for the Hangklip First Team in 1968 when I was in Standard 8. The big game was against Queens College whom our first teams first started playing each other four years earlier. They had Kenny McEwan, a gifted rugby player, playing for them at the time. That derby brought the town alive, and like all small towns, it was the attraction of the week."

— Andre Jacobs (First XV in 1968)

"In 1991, the Hangklip First Team had just returned home from a successful rugby tour to Natal and we were brimming with confidence for our upcoming match against Queen's. To further boost our confidence, one of the coaches decided to try something rather unconventional, especially for a conservative Afrikaans school. He brought in the services of a 'kop dokter', better known as a shrink. In the week leading up to the match, the team gathered at a player's house to meet with the shrink. Lying down, he 'hypnotised' us, convincing us that we would beat Queen's in the upcoming match. After the hypnotism, the team climbed onto the back of a bakkie and drove through the town and neighbourhoods of Queenstown hooting, shouting and chanting 'Queen's, we will klap you' and 'Hangklip will never lose'. We showed up at the match and lost 55-0!"

— Delarey du Preez

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AND FREE EYE FIXATION SPOTS

"Chris de Wilzem came from a very poor family, but excelled at school and in rugby. He was a tough loose forward, although he had a mild personality. He played eighth man at University (UKOVS), and later represented Free State and South Africa on a tour to New Zealand."

— Fanie Marais (Hangklip Old Boy and Schools sports reporter for Die Burger)