



OPRA (Old Port Rexian Association)

Toolbox talk



VOLUME No. 1.

NEWS LETTER

EDITION: 1.

11 July 2011

Annual OPRA Founder's day Assembly; AGM & Re - union weekend on the 12 - 14th August 2011.

The new, and proudly into the future:



The Port Rex Technical High School campus today.

The past, but not forgotten:



The Old school. East London Technical High School. Technical College in Lukin Road. Selbourne. Which, shared premises with the East London.

The "PRESIDENT" of the



OPRA (Old Port Rexian Association)

Hereby Cordially Invites

All past Port Rexian and past East London Technical High School's "Alumni" To kindly join in celebrating our "Alma Mater's" 109th year of existence, at the Founder's day Assembly, and over the Re-union weekend, of the 12th to the 14th August 2011. In keeping with tradition, the ten year group, which is the "class of 2001", will gather here in numbers over this weekend, in a display of "patriotism and commitment towards one another and our "Alma Mater" as they celebrate their ten year reunion. I urge all of us "REXIES" young and old, to make a concerted effort to attend this weekend's events and festivities, as we celebrate and honour our proud heritage, which spans over a hundred years, by strengthening the bonds of comradeship, of this "elite" group of technical student.

The "Old Port Rexian"

FOUNDERS DAY ASSEMBLY

Date: 12 August 2011.
Time: 08:30.
Place: Frank Cowie Hostel.
Address: 55 Chamberlain Road.
 Berea
 East London
Dress code: Preferably. OPRA formal dress code
Or Smart / Formal dress, an OPRA tie, or a Matric tie will suffice.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Weyer. (OPRA President)

All enquiries to Mr WEYER at Cell No: 0827175503
 or Email: waynew@capacity.co.za

"Once a REXIE Always a REXIE"... HUA!!!

Some very important information

OFFICIAL OPRA DRESS CODES:

Men (Formal):

- Black Blazer
- Old Port Rexian badge (Honours)
- Plain white shirt with collar
- Old Port Rexian Tie
- Khaki long pants / chinos
- Black shoes

• **Men (Informal):**

OPRA Golf shirts

• **Woman (Formal):**

No Formal dress code as yet.

(Still awaiting some female representation on the OPRA executive)

• **Woman (Informal):**

OPRA Golf shirts

OTHER ACCESSORIES:

For more info on these please feel free to contact our President Mr Wayne Weyer, on Cell No: 0827175503 or Email waynew@capacity.co.za

CONTACT DETAILS

President: - Wayne Weyer.
Cell No: 0827175503
Email: waynew@capacity.co.za

Vice President: -
Secretary: - **Sedley Gower.**
Cell No: 0826598591
Email: sedley@amley.co.za

Treasurer: - John Acton
Cell No: 0823726811
Email: john@schrader.co.za

FOUNDERS DAY – REUNION WEEKEND

Traditionally, schools, and especially the more affluent ones, have celebrated their founding day, with much pomp and ceremony, which is held over the weekend nearest to the day that the school was originally founded. However, it has unfortunately, been a little difficult for us to pin point any one day as that all important day, as our Alma Mater has had to share facilities with other facilities prior to its move to its present day address. Of latter times the powers that be, have decided that we would celebrate this very important day in the Month of August, which is why the weekend of the 12 – 14th of August has been chosen this year. (Please see the history briefs, elsewhere in this news letter). It has therefore been decided, by the present OPRA Executive, that we need to work very hard at re - instilling the past traditions and honors of our forebears, by engendering a sense of continuity and pride of these traditions and honors, borne from the past, and to be firmly instilled in future generations to come. They have therefore decided to embark on an ambitious plan to try and encourage the notoriously lethargic **Old Port Rexians** and the **ELTHS Old Boys and Girls**, many of whom feel, that they have been alienated, and are no longer part of this institution any longer. So! A **“CLARION CALL”** goes out to all Port Rexians, young and old, to please make every effort to attend this year’s Founders day ceremony, and the weekends festivities, in honoring and never forgetting the meaning of this institution, as well as those who have passed through these corridors of learning, and the achievements attained by many of them. The plan is for the entire weekend to be a celebration of reunion, where individually and collectively, members can fraternize, reflect, celebrate and honour all that has been achieved, through a high degree of professional respect, fellowship and comradeship for one another and, by honoring achievements, successes and good memories of this brother / sisterhood which is the Old Port Rexian. It is also meant to be a time of recommitment and dedication towards ensuring, and maintaining the sustained growth of this, our Alma Mater. The **“Port Rex Technical High School”** in the fields of technical and academic education, and sporting prowess, by our continued service, support and contributions towards the well being of the students, educators and the school.

So, we plead with you, this elite group of proud individuals who have attended this exquisite institution over the years, to please consider, and to reflect on the time spent here at your Alma Mater, and all that you gained in preparation for your life's journey. Please, make the effort and give back just a little Our mission in life should be, as the salmon, or the great animal herds in Africa do, to be drawn back year after year, to that place where it all began, and to celebrate with our ALUMNI "our" founder's day with much aplomb and fanfare, in honor of this our Alma Mater... Port Rex Technical High School...

"ONCE A REXIE. ALWAYS A REXIE"...
HUA!!!

Something to think about

"Essentialists, hope that when students leave school, they will possess not only basic skills and an extensive body of knowledge, but also disciplined, practical minds, capable of applying schoolhouse lessons in the real world."

—William Bagle

IN MEMORIUM

Jan Preuyt: (☀ 1923 – † 27 April 2006).

Mr Preuyt was the chairman of the South African Schools Rugby Association for 25 years. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Craven Week rugby tournament.

*While studying at Stellenbosch University he came under the watchful eye of his mentor and coach, **Danie Craven**. He played for Griqualand and was a Junior Springbok in the early 1950s. Local clubs **Cambridge** and **Buffaloes** later had his services in their teams.*

*He taught at the **East London Technical College** from 1956 and ended his teaching career as Deputy Principal of **Port Rex Technical High School** in 1987. He started rugby at the Tech in 1956 and coached the first team until he retired 31 years later.*

He served as Chairman of Border Schools and SA Schools Rugby Association for 25 years. In 1974 and 1983 he was manager of the SA Schools Teams which toured Italy, France and Wales respectively. In later years he devoted his organising talents to other codes of sport and in 1986 he was the first President of the SA Schools Union (all codes).

OUR POSTAL ADDRESS

OPRA (Old Port Rexian Association)
PORT REX TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
55 Chamberlain Road
Berea
East London

A FOUNDERS DAY

*There's a day in the springtime as the campus knows well,
When the book is laid upon the shelf and silent's the bell.
Tis when we REXIES, young and old, link arms and stand,
To honour the bygone, and to face the future hand in hand.*

FOUNDERS DAY – REUNION WEEKEND PROGRAM

Friday Program:

- 08-30: Program Starts.**
Gathering of Old Port Rexians for registration & refreshments, at the Frank Cowie Hostel
- 09-30: OPRA. AGM: @ Frank Cowie**
Meeting to be concluded at **10:40** sharp
- 10-45: OPRA's move to the Assembly area**
- 10-55: OPRA's to be seated.**
- 11-00: Formal Assembly ceremony begins**
- 12-30: Formal Assembly ceremony ends.**
- 12-28: War cry.**
- 12-30: Closing.**

- 12-45:** Luncheon at the "PIT STOP". Please join us for a luncheon with the dignitaries, schools educators and staff departments, past association presidents, past head masters and teachers, past head boys / girls, and Old Port Rexians.
- 14-00:** **Port Rex Technical high school vs. Stirling High School.** Sports Derby day program commences for the afternoon, into the early evening. The 1st Rugby teams will play the final match of the day, under lights.
- 19-00:** Please join OPRA for its traditional cocktail and snack social at the **GYM Club** with OPRA members, teachers, family and friends, after the rugby game.

END OF THE DAYS ACTIVITIES

Quote

"If you are ashamed to stand by your colors, you had better seek another flag".

~Author Unknown

Saturday Morning Program:

- 10-00:** Start of the day's activities:
Cricket: OPRA Legends vs. Port Rex invitational side.
- 10-30:** *Hockey: OPRA Legends vs. Port Rex invitational side.*
- 12-00:** *Netball: OPRA Legends vs. Port Rex invitational side.*
- 13-30:** *Rugby: OPRA Legends vs. Port Rex invitational side.*
- 14-45:** Prize giving:



Evening Program:

INVITATION

TO THE...

OPRA (Old Port Rexian Association)

Reunion Dinner

The President of the **OPRA** cordially invites you to attend the 2011 **Old Port Rexian Reunion Dinner**. The evening's proceedings will be hosted by the class of 2001.

- Time: - 18:00 for 18:50.**
Date: - Saturday 13th August, 2011
Place: - DE LA SALLE hall @ Port Rex.
Dress: - Formal
Cost: - The cost will be R100.00 pp
Menu: - A 3 course gourmet meal
Program: - Presidents speech
Special Awards
Program by Class of 2001
Facilities: - A cash bar.
Entertainment: - Music and dancing until late

PLEASE RSVP to Sedley Gower. OPRA Secretary by Friday, 05th of August 2011.

Email: - sedley@amley.co.za

Fax: - 086 5781 656

Or please contact him for more info on.

Cell No: 0826598591.

N/B: Please feel free to contact Sedley Gower if you have any menu enquiries / requests.

REUNION DINNER PROGRAM

- 18:00:** Della a Salle Hall
18:00:-18:50: Registration/Check-in
18:50: Start of program announcement (guests to move to their seats)
19:00: Opening Remarks
19:15: Invocation (Grace)
19:20: Dinner Served with light music
20:30: Program resumes
20:35: OPRA President
20:30: Class of 2001
21:00: Music and Dancing

Till Late:

END OF THE DAYS ACTIVITIES

Quote
“My patriotic heart beats maroon and blue”.
 ~Author Unknown

Sunday Program:

09-30 - 10-00:

10-00: Interdenominational Church Service:
 All Past and present “REXIES” are invited and urged to attend as a family, this very important part of the Founders day / reunion weekend, as the weekend activities draw to a close. It is also a time where we can spiritually reflect on the past, and seek guidance for the future.

11-00: A “REXIES” Brunch, Bacon and egg rolls to be served @ the GYM Club.

12:00: Closing:

END OF THE WEEKENDS ACTIVITIES



And so my friends, as we reach the end of what promises to be a most memorable weekend, we should not be saddened or disheartened as we bid farewell to one another, as we part ways. Instead, we should remember, that we, the ALUMNI of the Port Rex Technical High School, have once again answered the call of our ALMA MATER from all over the world, through THE ORDER OF THE OLD PORT REXIAN ASSOCIATION to annually gather, as a legion of proud brothers and sisters of this elite technical institution, to honor, celebrate and show allegiance to it, and one another, through this simple act of showing true comradeship, pride, and solidarity. As we continually strive towards ensuring its sustainability, by keeping its proud heritage alive, by passing it on for generations to come through this noble and selfless act of observing our Founders day each year.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR
“ONCE A REXIE ALWAYS A REXIE”...
HUA!!!
 Ed.



OLD PORT REXIAN ASSOCIATION (OPRA)
Executive Committee

- WAYNE WEYER:**.....President
- SEDLEY GOWER:**.....Senior Vice President / Secretary
- GAVIN BOTTCHE:**Junior Vice President
- JOHN ACTON:**..... Treasurer
- SHAWN STAFFEN:**.....Member
- GRANT KINDNESS:**.....Member
- KEVIN BEZUIDENHOUT:**.....Member
- BRAIN WEISS:**.....Member
- DEON VAN DYK:**.....Member
- TONY HISCOCK:**.....Parents/Fathers club
- BAZIL BIRCH:**.....Teacher
- HOWARD ZIEMAN:**.....Governing Body



The history of the Port Rex Technical High School is closely linked with that of the East London Technical College as this school was part of the mother institution until it was taken over by the Cape Education Department on 1 April 1968.

The East London Technical College:
In 1902 the Railway authorities thought it advisable to start a small school connected with the Railway workshops. During 1913 it was taken over by the School Board and rather languished but in 1916 interest was revived and 21 students enrolled for two subjects being taught by two teachers. The classes were held in the old Selborne College buildings in Lombard Road.

In 1923 the Higher Education Act came into force making provision for a technical college with the Union Department of Education as parent body. On 1 January 1924 Mr. E.N. Popkiss assumed office as part-time Principal.

Mr. David Rees, wat die eerste voorsitter van die Kollege-Raad geword het en die ander lede mnr. John Bissker, George Prior en James Stewart het baie ter bevordering van tegniese onderwys gedoen. Die gevolg van hul ywer was die stigting van die Oos-Londense Tegniese Kollege. Die eerste vergadering van die Raad wat op Maandag 26 Oktober 1925 gehou is, moet ook beskou word as die geboortedag van die Oos-Londense Tegniese Kollege.

170 studente het ingeskryf met 'n weeklikse klasbywoning van meer as 600 wat die volgende kursusse gevolg het: Ingenieurswese, Boukunde, Handel en Huishoudkunde. Die vakke is deur veertien deeltydse onderwysers onderrig. Die klasse is in

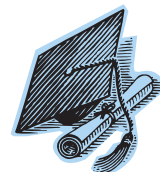
Op 1 Maart 1926 het die eerste voltydse Skoolhoof, mnr. A.H.E. Rogers, van mnr. Popkiss oorgeneem.

Gedurende Februarie 1927 het die Stadsraad van Oos-Londen 'n perseel op die hoek van Lukinweg en Eltonstraat aan die Kollege-Raad geskenk. Die Kollege-gebou is teen R80 894 deur mnr. D. Phillips opgerig. Die argitek was mnr. Cordeaux, Farrow en Stocks. Dr. D.F. Malan, die Minister van Onderwys, het op 31 Augustus 1927 die hoeksteen gelê.

Na die voltooiing van die gebou is dit op 10 April 1929 amptelik deur die oud-burgemeester van Oos-Londen, raadslid M.O. Norton, geopen en 742 studente het ingeskryf. Daar was ook 'n tak met 150 studente in Kingwilliamstown.

Op Vrydag, 13 September 1929 het die Kollege-Raad besluit dat die Vrydag naaste aan 25 Oktober van elke jaar as gedenkdag erken sal word. Die Kollege-wapen is deur mnr. E.G.J. Beresford, 'n lektor in die Handelsafdeling, ontwerp. Die Kollegekleure van bruinrooi en Cambridgeblou en die leuse "Mente Manuque" is vroeër op besluit.

Toen die einde van 1937 het die geboue heeltemal te klein geword en daar was 'n ernstige behoefte aan 'n vergadersaal. Die Stadsraad het in Julie 1939 die perseel wat aan die Kollege grens, met die voorkant na Eltonstraat, aan die Kollege oorgedra. Na die goedkeuring van tenders en argitektheit het die bouwerk in Januarie 1946 begin, maar is eers in Oktober 1947 voltooi. Mnr. E.P.D. Grodde, wat in 1930 van mnr. Rogers as hoof oorgeneem het, se pos is deur mnr.



Port Rex Technical High School has its roots in the Technical Section of the East London Technical College [1928 - 1968]. In 1968, day scholars of the Technical and Commercial divisions separated from the Technical College to form the East London Technical High School and the East London Commercial High School.

In 1974, on a suggestion by the then headmaster, Dr Johan Brittz, the East London Technical High School changed its name to Port Rex Technical High School. The name Port Rex has its origin in George Rex, a British sea captain who landed at the mouth of the Buffalo River in 1823. Until 1847, East London was named Port Rex. Dr Brittz was also instrumental in the design of the current Port Rex school badge.

By the early 1980s, the premises in Lukin Road had become too cramped to house three separate educational institutions. Urgent attempts were made to look for an alternative location for Port Rex Technical High School. The De La Salle College [1935 - 1976] in Devereaux Avenue became available. The premises were purchased from the Irish Catholic Brothers, for R6 million. Dr Brittz was again influential in negotiations with the Public Works Department so that the De La Salle property was allocated to Port Rex Technical High School. After major extensions amounting to R3 million, the pupils and teachers trekked to the new premises on 9 August 1982. In recognition of our former tenants, the school hall was named the De La Salle Hall.

In 1983, Mr Piet Venter was appointed as the new headmaster and an immediate effort was made to find suitable sports fields. Port Rex Technical High School made use of the John Griffin sports fields before building its own rugby fields, which were officially declared open in 1988.

In 1989, girls were permitted to attend Port Rex Technical High School. In 1993, Port Rex Technical High School became a Model C School with other race groups being enrolled. Mr Neville Rudman became

headmaster in 1997. He was succeeded, in 1999, by the current headmaster, Mr Rob Piderit.

MORE IMPORTANT INFO

• ACCOMMODATION:

“FRANK COWIE HOSTEL” Is pleased to announce that they have beds available for this weekend.

- **Main dorms @ R100.00** Per bed for the weekend. (1 or 2 nights)
 - 1 x bed with no linen provided.
 - No towels provided.
 - No food is provided.
- **Mini dorms @ R100.00** Per bed for the weekend. (1 or 2 nights)
 - 1 x bed with no linen provided.
 - No towels provided.
 - No food is provided.
- **Rooms @ R300.00** Per room for the weekend. (1 or 2 nights)
 - 1 x bed with no linen provided.
 - No towels provided.
 - No food is provided.



- Off main road, uncovered, secure parking is available.
- There will be plenty of food and drinks available over the whole weekend @ the various activities and functions.

Please contact Sedley Gower to book your accommodation at the “FRANK COWIE HOSTEL”...

Cell No: 0826598591

Email: sedley@amley.co.za

REGISTRATION AND RSVP:

- **RSVP:** It is absolutely crucial to RSVP timeously to all the main activity invitations in order to avoid dissatisfaction and to assist with the catering and accommodation needs.





- **REGISTRATION:** At the various registration points is also absolutely crucial, as this is when you will get your entry passes for the weekend, and all other important info with regards the weekend and its activities. In an effort to make your stay and visit most pleasant and memorable.



*Please contact Wayne Weyer for any further Information on:
 Cell No: 0827175503
 Email: waynew@capacity.co.za*

SPORT PARTICIPATION:

- We are desperately are looking for Old Port Rexian's who would like to partake in our Saturday "SPORT CHALLENGE" against invitational sides from the school. The sporting codes for this years challenge are:

- **Netball: -** 
- **Hockey: -** 
- **Rugby: -** 
- **Cricket: -** 

These sport challenges will only take place if we can get enough participants to partake, for both the OPRA teams and the invitational school sides. So that's the challenge then. Get hold of all your old school mates and get them to come along for the weekend. The winning side of each code will be awarded with a floating trophy. Any teachers or coaching staff wishing to participate in these games, they are welcome to. However, if they are not Old Port Rexians then they have to play for the school invitational sides, but if they are Old Port Rexians, then they may play for the OPRA sides.

*Please contact Wayne Weyer for any further Information on:
 Cell No: 0827175503
 Email: waynew@capacity.co.za*

HOSPITALITY FACILITY:

We are also intending to have a hospitality tent available for all of us Old Port Rexians on the opposite side of the grand stand, at the A rugby field, for Friday afternoons sports derby day. This venue will also be the gathering place for this years honoured Class of 2001. However, it should be noted that admission, will be strictly controlled with the school rules being firmly applied at all times. As you all know, this is a public venue, and our behaviour will be under extreme scrutiny at all times. Therefore: **“ONLY OLD PORT REXIAN’S WHO HAVE ATTENDED REGISTRATION AND ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE VALID OPRA IDENTIFICATION; WILL BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THIS VENUE”.** Surely this is not to much to ask for. Anyway we need to set a good example for all the junior “REXIES”, the community, and the school as a whole. We thank you for your assistance in this regard.

“ONCE A REXIE. ALWAYS A REXIE”... HUA!!!



CLASSIFIEDS

AN URGENT APPEAL:

OLD EAST LONDON TECH & PORT REX CHANTS - SONGS - WAR CRIES - ETC:
If anyone has the original words of the schools war cry, school song, and or any other songs or chants that we used to sing wont you please **“URGENTLY”** post / fax / Email to Sedley Gower ASAP on:
Email: sedley@amley.co.za
Cell No: 082 659 8591
Fax: 086 578 1656

COMUNICATIONS:

OPRA would love to hear from you. Please send any “COST EFFECTIVE” OR “CHEAP” suggestions and or ideas that are easy to impliment and that will add entertainment and enjoyment value to this our Founders day / weekend. Please contact Howard on:
Email: rolling@telkomsa.net
Cell No: 073 310 7007
Fax: 086 554 3793

MEMORABILIA DONATIONS:

If there is any one who has any memorabilia that they would like to Donate to OPRA for safe keeping and display. Photos, Year Books, Items of clothing please contact our President Mr. Wayne Weyer on:
Cell No: 0827175503
Email: waynew@capacity.co.za

MEMBERSHIP:

In order for any Association to succeed and and grow it is imperrative that it has a strong support base. We therefore implore you to please sign up ASAP. An OPRA membership form is attached.
PLEASE BE A PATRIOTIC PORT REXIAN AND DO THE RIGHT THING... SIGN UP...



Old Port REXIAN Association

C/o OPRA, 22 Lorenzo Avenue, Rosemount, East London, 5201

Telephone: 082 659 8591

Fax all filled in forms to 086 5781 656 or Email: - oprasecretary@gmail.com

OPRA bank account number: - Absa 9221182755: branch code 632005:

OLD PORT REXIAN

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership of the OLD PORT REXIAN ASSOCIATION

And agree, if elected to become a member, to abide by the constitution of the Association.

SURNAME:

FIRST NAMES:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

_____ POSTAL CODE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

HOME:

BUSINESS:

CELL:

I confirm that I am a past student of Technical College / Port Rex Technical High School

YEAR LEFT SCHOOL:

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

DATE:

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: R200.00

INFORMATION: (If a current matriculant – what will you be doing next year; if a past pupil, please submit news for the newsletter.)

