



## Climbing

We have had a very successful year with fifty-five boys joining at the beginning of the year. This meant having climbing on two afternoons per week. The boys have really been enthusiastic and many learnt to lead climb within the first three weeks of the year. Many of the boys have been training hard in order to work towards getting half colours. They have found that the standards for Half Colours were not as easy as they had thought.

Warrick Black did two of his climbs out at Waterval Boven and his last climb at Chospile at Hartebeespoort Dam, all of Grade 21. He is the second boy to receive Half Colours for climbing since the start of the sport. Wesley Black and Luke Harrison followed close behind and got their Half Colours towards the end of the year. We congratulate them all and hope that this has motivated the others to really train hard and give it a go in the new year. We visited Chospile a number of times during the year and had two weekends at Waterval Boven. The second visit was cut short due to our belongings being stolen during the night, from inside our tent, while we were sleeping. The boys were very supportive and I had to wear a pair of shorts belonging to a

boy as everything of mine had been taken. (Thanks, Luke, for the loan!)

We had a number of boys help out with the two climbing weekends for the Bush School. This involves going out to Chospile and giving the Form 2s an opportunity to climb on natural rock. Many of them are very keen and thoroughly enjoy it while others are apprehensive and are very proud of themselves when they eventually get to the top and can look right over the dam. There were six of the Bush School boys who did climbing at the school so they were able to demonstrate and encourage the others to go for it and enjoy it.

We say goodbye to Stefan Keys, our only matric boy, who really enjoyed the sport and was attempting to go for Half Colours but left it a little late. We wish him everything of the best for the future and hope that he continues with the climbing wherever he goes.

A big thank you to Mr Black for all the time and effort he has put into the sport and for his support of the boys. They have gained from his experience and expertise.

*Sandy Black, Master-in-Charge*



*Warrick Black on a climb at Chospile*



*Mr Black and boys at Chospile*



*The captain and crew after a days climbing*



*Making the move!*