

PRESS RELEASE:

In remembrance

28 January 2015, marked 45 years since the tragic accident involving a school bus and train, occurred in Daleside. 23 school children died when the schoolbus stalled on a railway line and was hit by an oncoming train. Johan le Roux was one of the young men on the bus that day, and he is hailed as a hero for his actions in assisting other children to climb out of the bus, resulting in his own death. To mark the incident, and to remember the lives of Johan and the other children on board that bus, the Daleside Volunteers Association has set up a memorial space in Daleside, with 23 crosses representing the 23 children who passed away that day, and members of the public can pay their respects at this space, and remember the lives that were lost.

In a moving ceremony, Johan le Roux's friend spoke about what kind of a boy he was, and read a poem about the accident, while another resident of the area wrote about how the lives of the entire community were affected by the tragedy, about the parents who lost all their children in the crash, and about the silence on the day of the mass funeral. There were also several musical items, with an impromptu song offered by the learners of Dr Malan School, the school which lost the most pupils in the accident. Midvaal's MMC for Social Services, and Ward Councillor for Daleside, Rob Jones, spoke about the character of a boy like Johan le Roux, who gave his life in the service of others, and urged all those present to contemplate the ways in which they should be of service in their daily lives.



Learners from Dr Malan School sing to remember those past learners from their school who passed away in the accident



MMCs Rob Jones, Pat Hutcheson and Speaker Freddie Peters unveil the memorial erected by the Daleside Volunteers Association