



Camphill hosts international conference

The two Camphill Communities in Hermanus – Camphill School (established in 1952) and Camphill Farm Community (established in 1978) – are excited to announce that they have been selected as hosts of the International Camphill Dialogue 2020 Conference, taking place from 16 to 20 March 2020.

This five-day conference (last hosted in Hermanus in 2005) will be attended by delegates from Camphills all around the world, the focus of which will be on Camphill values, specifically on how they are being implemented in the various international Camphill Communities today.

One of the keynote speakers at the conference will be Christo Brand, who was Nelson Mandela's warder during his incarceration both on Robben Island and at Pollsmoor prison in Cape Town. Christo's values mirror those of Camphill in many ways, such as the fundamentals of respecting and accepting each human being, regardless of race, culture, political persuasion, sexual orientation or (dis)ability.

Camphill, an international movement, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Camphill was established in Aberdeen, Scotland, to work with those in need of special care and continues to provide for the educational and social needs of children and adults with a diverse range of disabilities.

The essence of Camphill is to provide an environment and way of life where children, young people and adults diagnosed with a learning or intellectual disability, can live and work together in a mutually supportive and safe community environment. Today, the worldwide Camphill Movement comprises in excess of 5 000 people, living and working together in over 100 Camphill Communities or settings, in 20 countries around the world

Whilst members of the worldwide Camphill Movement operate independently, they all share a common ethos and values, an example of which is associative working. In an effort to continuously improve on how they work with those they care for and support, there are various forums and gatherings of Camphills around the world, at which knowledge and experiences are shared. The three-yearly Dialogue Conference is an example of such a gathering.

For more information about the Camphill Dialogue Conference, contact either Jeanne-Marié Botha (Camphill School Hermanus principal) or Sam Hodson (executive manager of Camphill Farm Community Hermanus) via email: dialogue2020@camphill-hermanus.org.za.

You can also find out more information about the 2020 conference on: <https://camphilldialogue.org/>