



Camphill School Hermanus

School for children with Special Educational Needs

Since 1952

70th ANNIVERSARY



CHAIRMAN

Camphill School in Hermanus has contributed to South African Society and its Education system for the past 70 years. The original pioneers had great foresight on meeting certain children's educational needs and approached the Camphill Movement for support. That relationship locally and with the Camphill Movement remains strong to this day. In addition, we also share relationships with the other Camphill Schools in other parts of the world.

The Camphill ethos, which recognises the unique contribution everyone can make to Society has stood by the school for those 70 years and that ethos is as relevant today, as it was on Day One 70 years ago. What is different today is how that ethos is implemented, to continue to meet the needs of children in South Africa. We also recognise and appreciate the contribution of those past and present who have been responsible for the provision of Education at our School for the past 70 Years.

Camphill School is an independent school and while we receive some funding from the Western Cape Education Department, for which we are thankful, our reliance on sponsorship and donations cannot be understated, as local and overseas support and donations have ensured our sustainability over the last 70 years. Equally, our future will rely heavily on the generosity of all those who continue to support our School.

Whilst many of our learners have moved on, their learning and experiences here at our School will stay with them and their families for the remainder of their lives. More importantly, those learners and their families recognise the contribution their children have made and will continue to make to society in South Africa.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to our dedicated Board members, management, teachers and staff, both past and present. Our aim is that together, with our people, supporters, families, and friends, we ensure, or School continues to provide education for many more years to come.

Geoffrey R Weir

BSc, FCA, IBA
Chairman, Camphill School Board.



WELCOME

*Thank you for taking the time to read
our 70th Anniversary Booklet.*

This booklet will provide you with a brief overview of the history, ethos and principles of Camphill School Hermanus, showcasing the work that we do at our unique and special school. We hope that you will enjoy this momentous celebration with us and become part of our future. Please share it with your friends and family.

Venture of Faith:

In 1951 May Redman, the mother of a severely intellectually challenged boy called Robert, realised the need for a school where he would be understood. She kept him at home as she realised that there was no cure for him and no place which could provide Robert, and others like him, with the specialised support and care that they needed. May heard about the work of Karl König at Camphill in Scotland and appealed to Dr König to help Robert. He became instrumental in her quest to establish such a school here.

May had to start raising funds and find a suitable property to start the home. When she saw the farm “DAWN”, she knew she need not look further. Even the name was symbolic of the future. The grounds were sadly neglected, but there was a wonderful view, lovely old trees and an atmosphere of peace.

Up to this time May had fought a hard battle, but eventually decided to form a committee and a group of friends decided to serve on the council of management. With this support system of the Hermanus Rotary Club was asked to sponsor the scheme, which they did and later at the National Rotary Conference in 1951, the project was given national support and May's idea had become a reality.

With funds donated from the British Lottery, the farmhouse was expanded to accommodate 16 boys. The growth of the school at “Dawn Farm” alone had far exceeded May's dreams and after ten years there were 70 learners which together with the staff complement amounted to about 100 people living on the property.

As we celebrate our 70th anniversary this year, we remind ourselves of May Redman's determination and her venture of faith. Her vision continues to live on at our School and with each new generation, striving to keep the flame of hope alive in the divinity of each being that is touched by the Camphill way of life.



Seventy years of carrying the flame and passing it on.

In 2022 our School is privileged and blessed to celebrate 70 years of providing quality education, care and support to children with special educational needs.

Over the past 70 years our School has remained a safe haven, set in a therapeutic environment, in which nature plays a huge role in the nurturing of our children and in supporting them to develop to their individual unique potential. Seven decades ago Camphill School was built on the basic principles of love and respect and we continue in this spirit to this day.

Education

Camphill School works on the triad of holistic special education which encompasses specialised education ,homelife and therapies in working on the thinking, feeling and willing(doin)g of our learners with special needs.

In line with the Camphill ethos, our School follows a curative and holistic approach, focusing on the individual needs and stages of development of each child. Academic learning is balanced with creative and artistic activities. These activities include form drawing, painting, crafts, drama and plays, music, movement in eurythmy, story telling and puppetry. Each child has an IEP (Individual Education Plan) specifically designed for their individual learning process and development.

Children with severe learning difficulties are supported with specific additional therapies addressing their conditions or developmental challenges.

The profile of our learners and the Camphill School approach to education has changed considerably over the past 15 years, to fulfil local needs. Whereas, in the past, the majority of our learners had residential placements, we are currently a day school, providing quality education and care to children from our local communities. Our School has 55 learners, of whom 98% are from our local community.

In line with our statutory requirements, our school follows the South African National Curriculum, adapted to the South African National Association for Special Education (SANASE) Curriculum, for children who are intellectually challenged whilst, maintaining our ethos and principles. The Camphill Curriculum combined with SANASE, is our method of delivering specialised education. Camphill School does not offer grades but phases and we cater for learners aged between 7 and 18.

The last three years of schooling focus on skill development within our workshops, ranging from gardening, housekeeping, invasive plant clearing, hairdressing to woodwork and crafts. We aim to teach skills relevant to the work realistically available to our learners after School in the local Hermanus Community. Our monthly stall at the Onrus market presents a platform for us, not only to generate an income, but to showcase the talents and work of our learners. The local support and kind words we regularly receive from this initiative is greatly appreciated by us all, in particular, our learners.

Whilst we are an English medium school, mother tongue education is very important for our learners. Each class has a classroom assistant from the local community who assists in providing translation. In this way we can embrace all 3 languages in teaching and learning and expand our learners' vocabulary. When competing for job opportunities after leaving School, communication becomes a very important skill.



Therapies

Our understanding of the human being recognizes the uniqueness of each individual. We accompany our Children in their awakening to their full potential towards self-actualisation in their life journey. This entails supporting their individual needs while shaping life spaces where they can be free to be able to unfold their own individuality either through speech, movement, artistic activities and music. Thus the therapeutic realm is not just confined in our therapy centre but goes beyond to the classrooms, the Homelife and even the care of land, nature and environment. We are still fortunate to be able to provide therapies that will address their challenges with therapeutic eurythmy, painting therapy, music classes, occupational therapy, speech therapy, massage, horse riding and for this year cranio-sacral therapy.

Our children would not have access to therapies if they were not offered at our School.

Homelife

In 2019 a decision was taken to temporarily close our boarding facilities, due to a lack of applications for full fee paying boarders, the scarcity of suitably trained staff and the enormous cost associated with operating this residential facility.

As such, we work closely with the institutions delivering social support services to our children and their families in Hawston, Mount Pleasant and Zwelihle where they live. Together with the Association for People with Disabilities (APD), the Department of Social Development and the Hermanus Children and Family Services, we offer support and services to all. We are always seeking better ways in which to communicate with parents and to involve them in our work.

NURTURING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

It is our understanding that the health and well-being of the children with special needs depends on an active spiritual life. At the core of our holistic special education in Camphill School is the spiritual life in the community through the religion classes, Christian Festivals and Religious Services (Children's, Youth and Offering Services). Through the years, Camphill School has continued to celebrate Advent and Christmas Festivals, the Easter Festival, Ascension and Whitsun Festival, St. John's Festival and Michaelmas Festival. All our children and staff within our School Community participate in these festivals.



Our financial situation

The majority of our learners come from a disadvantaged background and community. Parental contributions to school fees tend to be little or nothing. As a result we have to raise about 65% of our annual budget annually through fundraising efforts, in order for our School to survive and continue to provide education to these extremely vulnerable children.

With the cost of living continuing to rise, fuel transport costs continue to be a major burden on our finances, representing one of our biggest expenditure items. Our infrastructure is old and in much need of upgrading or replacement. However, with limited finances available our efforts are concentrated on maintaining them as best we can.

Thank you to all our friends and sponsors

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor, supporter and sponsor, who has helped us to continue providing high quality education, care and therapies to our learners. We wish to also give thanks to all who assisted us during the time when the peat fire in the wetland below our School continued to burn. Our School was forced to relocate in order to continue to deliver education and support to our learners. In addition, our thanks are extended to those who helped and supported us during the Covid pandemic.

Thanks are also extended to the Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland (AoCC) and their members, for their financial and other support afforded to us over many years. The projects supported by you have made a life changing difference.

Thank you to the organisations that make regular donations in helping us provide nourishing cooked meals to our children on a daily basis.

Our future

As Camphill School is one of only two special Schools in the Overberg district, the need for our services is great and ever growing. Daily our four school busses provide transport to and from school for our learners and staff. Going forward, our aim is to enrol more learners for the next academic year.

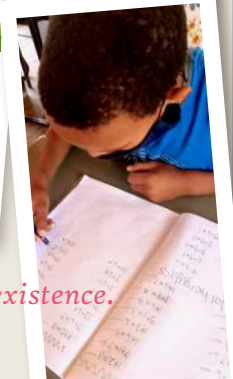
We are continuously adapting and adjusting in order to remain relevant in meeting the development and educational needs of our children. During the past years we have built strong relationships with partners within the Hermanus Community, making Camphill School a true Community School. We continually work associatively with other organisations that provide training opportunities and collaboration in the special needs sphere.

Conclusion

Not only is Camphill School Hermanus 70 years old this year, but we also mark 70 years of Camphill in Africa. There are now four Camphill Communities in Africa; Camphill School Hermanus, Camphill Village West Coast, Camphill Community Trust in Botswana and Camphill Farm Community Hermanus next door to us. Together we form the Camphill Africa Region (CAR) and are part of the International Camphill Movement. Happy 70th Birthday to Camphill in Africa!

In conclusion I would like to say that we have been truly blessed throughout the 70 years of our existence.

Jeanne-Marie Botha (Principal)



THE PAST 70 YEARS



1952

1952
The official opening of Camphill School at Dawn House (after 2 years of planning and fundraising)



The first visit of Dr. Karl König (founder of the worldwide Camphill movement)

1959



Robert's House built after Robert Redman

1962

1960



Cloister House built as young adult training centre)

1973



Bohemia House as additional residential facility

1972

1982

1985



New School Complex completed and inaugurated



St. John's Hall built from foundation of the existing little school house

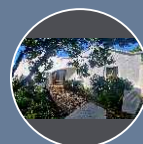
1999

1992



Opening of the Mercury Hall, a community hall shared with Camphill Farm

2002



Opening of the Phila Therapy Centre, another shared facility with the Camphill Farm

2005

2002

2019



Camphill School survived the big veld fire that swept the valley - Residential facilities temporarily closed down 2020 - Camphill School became a community school, all learners from Hermanus



Registration of Camphill School with the Western Cape Education Department

2007

2012



2020



Camphill Dialogue

MISSION STATEMENT

Camphill School Hermanus is a therapeutic community set in a rural environment for children and young adults with special needs.

We use a Curative Educational approach in home, school and therapies.

We aim to uphold the dignity of the human being by addressing the spiritual uniqueness in everyone, creating opportunities for developing individual potential.

VISION

We envisage Camphill School Hermanus as a thriving centre of Curative Education for children and young adults with special needs.

We are a committed community of appropriately trained people, adequately resourced, working with sound communication and professional practices, striving to identify and meet new challenges.

HELP US TO HELP CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Become a Friend of Camphill School and help us support these special children.

All donations made to Camphill School by South Africans are tax deductible as per Section 18 A of the South African Income Tax Act.

Non-profit Organisation 003-320 NPO | Section 21 Incorporated Association not for gain. PBO.

Banking Details

FNB Hermanus | Acc name: Camphill School

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COLOURPIX GRAPHIC DESIGNS