



**AUGUST 2025**

Dear Prayer Partners,

July started off wet and an early morning deluge caused all sorts of chaos in Hermanus due to flooded roads. We didn't escape either as a blocked drain caused flooding in the office. We spent a morning mopping up as best we could as we had to wait until the next day before we could get the carpet people in to suck up most of the water. As life goes on, we took a break from our task to join the brothers for the regular Thursday morning service at the Chapel. As we were so few, we used the Sanctuary, which really gave a sense of calm in the rather chaotic morning.

Despite the cold and wet weather the group of ladies from Women at the Well Ministries, who arrived that weekend, had a good retreat. They blew the ramshorn and sang up a storm, kept the meeting room warm with a fire and themselves with hot water bottles. The rain let up on the Saturday afternoon giving them a chance to get out and explore a little.

Introducing a new trustee:

Anton de Gruchy

I first came to Volmoed in 1986 when a request was made for volunteers. I have been involved with many various aspects of Volmoed life: catering, alien clearing, building projects and then with my wife Esther as an on duty couple.

After several years in the USA, we returned to South Africa in 2015 to be with my parents, who live on Volmoed. Esther started working in the office and I have been involved in various projects.

After moving onto the property in 2023 I have become more involved with Volmoed, especially with the infrastructure. I am a Software Architect by profession and work for a Computer Consulting Company here in Hermanus. When I am not at my desk I can usually be found either in my workshop or walking our dog Megan around the property.



*Esther*

Planning for our Volmoed40 celebrations is going full steam ahead, with some events and activities already in place and new ideas being added to the programme as we realise the possibilities and richness of this kind of anniversary.

Please visit the Volmoed40 tab on our website for more details about the sustainable intentional community events. We are delighted to have several people registered.

Some of the other events we are planning include:

- The inaugural Volmoed de Gruchy Legacy Lecture at 18.00 on 6 November 2025 at the Hermanus Learning Hub.
- An online Lenten retreat.
- A celebration in April to acknowledge all who helped build Volmoed in various ways, on the anniversary of the registration of the Trust.
- Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Volmoed Youth Programme in June.
- An art exhibition and event in September, which is also the fortieth anniversary of Desmond Tutu's inauguration as Archbishop of Cape Town

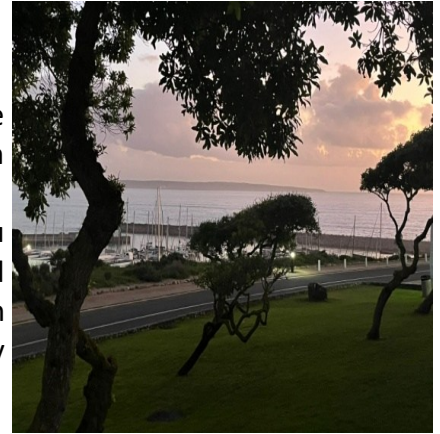
More news and updates to come in the weeks and months ahead.

Dear Volmoed family

It's been a busy month....

I enjoyed a 2 week break during the school holidays, away from the everyday activities and jobs around the house. Time to catch up with thoughts and family time.

I think again how translation lacks the language ability to say what you mean. Family always seem too big/ extended to mean your husband and children as is your "gesin" rather than "familie" in Afrikaans. Much the same we spoke about "tameletjie" the other day describing a sticky situation.



As you know we are busy with the planning and arrangements for Volmoed's 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. With that comes paging through history and memories. What a gem Jane's photo albums/history books are! Even for me who has been here many years less than others it's such a joy remembering! I realised again that even though you sometimes don't feel like taking a picture or being in the picture, the value of being able to look back and remember. Very often we use the pictures for a timeline too.

With that said we hope that many of Volmoed's friends will be able to return for a visit, retreat, debriefing or planning session in the year to come. Please do make a booking to share this special year with us and build more memories.

We realise again that the more things change the more they stay the same, but as John said in Thursday's homily, Jesus always stay the same no matter what. So through floods and fire (and accidents on Appeldraai) Volmoed stands because He is **always** here.

Remember to take a picture today. Make a memory!



Mathilda

#### AUGUST VISITORS

7-10 Michael Battle

11-13 University of St Thomas'

11 -15 Lena van Wyk

29-31 VYLTP—Christian, Moslem dialogue group

Various individuals

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

- The AGM which will be held on the 21st August.
- The continued planning of Volmoed 40, with the first event starting on the 3rd of November.
- Increase in visitors to Volmoed