



October 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

As I set about writing this prayer letter I am aware that today, Heritage Day, is a year since the big flood. Though much has been done to clear up in the past year, as you are aware from our on going reports, there is still much to be done. Today I had to explain to one of our guests that the road in front of Oak continues to be a problem, with the water table so high, when it rains. We fill the pot holes when it is dry, but the next rainfall has them reappear. On the topic of roads, it was a pleasant surprise this week to only have one stop/go on the R320 making the journey into Hermanus a little quicker.

In other areas we have been able to make progress. Thanks to the kindness of our neighbour at Bona Dea we have been able to clear more of the sand that was in the river bed. This has enabled the river to flow more freely and we no longer have stagnant pools. These were of great concern to us. As you can see in the accompanying picture the bridge is now fully visible. We hope to spread the sand across the field for the grass to grow through.

Various other projects continue as the need arises, so there has been much discussion and action taking place to ensure that our water supply will be effective during the coming summer months. Water tanks were moved around and installed on a separate line to make sure that the laundry has a sufficient and independent water supply. We still have to treat the water to make it safe for consumption so we have to keep the timing right to keep the reservoir full.

A project of a different nature is the Silent Auction, that VYLTP will host, from the 3rd to the 10th October in the Conference Room. You can contact the office regarding this fundraising event at Volmoed. Another event which is knocking on the door, it is now only a month away, is *'The Week of Reflection with Rowan Williams.'* If you want to attend this event there is still space.

Esther



OCTOBER VISITORS

4-6 Lulama Saleni & group of ladies

11-13 Ladies from West Coast Family Church

18-20 St Andrews Church Steenberg

Various individuals coming for times of individual retreat.

Erratum

We apologies for the error that crept in, in last month's prayer letter— our patron who attended the service and AGM is **Lionel Louw**.

Week of
Reflection
with
Rowan Williams
@ Volmoed
4-8 NOVEMBER



Public Lecture @ Dutch Reformed Church
Hermanus

In collaboration with Fynarts

Friday 8 November @ 18h00 Price R250

Tickets available from fynarts@hermanus.co.za or
whatsapp 060 957 5371

Dear Volmoed Family

What a month it's been. There were a few firsts as we expect in Spring. The first blossoms, the first sighting of the Bloukoppkoggelmander, first snake and the first call of the Piet-my-vrou. I was spoiled yesterday to hear the fish eagle call. The Clivias at the office are especially beautiful and vibrant. The most exciting first was the first day the group of alien (tree) clearers arrived. Every day we marvel at the progress they make. We look forward to having them here for at least another month, and we are thankful for the help coming via the Hemel & Aarde Conservancy and Dept of Agriculture.



In the next two months we will stand in solidarity with fighters, carers and survivors of Cancer, with special discounted prices. Please contact the office for more information.



Since we "celebrated" the anniversary of the floods last year with a sunny beach day this week, I share with you this month, the feedback from the staff re Flood:

- *Fear and lose people life
- *again I was worried about the bungalows and will us (Volmoed) be able to comeback from this disaster
- *the trees
- *I was fear and worry everywhere, the last thing I didn't want to hear is houses being destroyed and people getting hurt from the floods, there was damage on the grounds but the situation was not bad as other farms We thank God for that
- *It destroys our Volmoed nature, our road was closed, our neighbours and Volmoed business was in danger due to the floods
- *uitdaging sand en water, genade dat almal lewens behou, Here het gepraat met ons op aarde, Bome wat val erg, vrees was erg. Dankbaar vir woning
- *was disaster to everyone
- *it was difficult time for others it didn't affect me personally it was affecting me emotionally some part of it made me happy I remember people to come to Camphill cause it was always burning underground for me Im happy that it rained I can see how far it was burning, I believe God has a reason for everything
- *na die vloed is die plek anders, n ander gevoel. Dit lyk nie goed nie. As ons kyk na die skade vd vloed is die plekke anders lyk nie goed nie.
- *niemand het die vloed verwag nie
- *aanvaar dat natuur sy verandering doen, dankbaar geen skade aan geboue, veiligheid aan inwoners verseker, los Volmoed met baie uitdagings om rivier en infrastruktuur te herstel.
- *die mense was bang en die bome het om gelê, en die waters het verwoesting gebring, die paaie was stikend en die water het deur die strate geloop
- * The flood brought about a whole lot of extra work, during the storm and the days thereafter. Though we still look with a degree of sadness at the loss of what was once a beautiful area, with beautiful trees and a lush garden appearance and are very aware of the challenges still facing us in the aftermath. There is also the positive side of the extra wildlife that we know is out there as we notice more spoor from their coming and going as well as what we pick up on the camera.

Mathilda