



JUNE 2025

Dear Prayer Partners,

The halfway mark of this year is in sight and as winter approaches we are looking at our quiet months, so we are inviting you to make use of our Winter Special during the School Holidays. Where children 12 and under stay free. Our pensioners' discount and birthday special are still available too.

Take a break, come and enjoy the winter scene of aloes and strelitzias that add a bright splash of colour to an otherwise stark surrounds of either leafless trees or the odd ones that still are wearing the autumn coat of browns and yellows. In early June you can join the buzz of the FynArts festival in Hermanus.



**VOLMOED
WINTER SPECIAL
27 JUNE—22 July 2025
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER
STAY FREE**



There is still much to be accomplished this year, but we are also looking ahead to 2026 when Volmoed will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. Your prayers will be appreciated as the team headed by Bob Farris and Theresa Edlmann explore possible events to mark this milestone.

Mentioning events for next year, the dates for the Icon Course, facilitated by Charlotte Pedersen have been set for 22nd—27th February. (The brochure is attached in the email or enquire at the office.)

Events don't only include programs, it also covers things that happen on Volmoed. Sometimes those events are planned like the removal of trees, due to their age and that they were starting to rot making them a liability to people's safety. So we've had to take out two trees at Oak Cottage. Then the unexpected ones, like an interrupted morning walk because a Duiker (little buck) got hit by a vehicle and needed to be taken to the vet. Unfortunately due to its injuries it had to be euthanized.



When looking forward it is good to look back over the years, reminding ourselves of how far we have come, where people have encouraged us or just been thankful for their time spent on Volmoed.

The following written in a letter in 1988 by a couple who had spent some time on Volmoed really encouraged me. *'We know that God is in control where Volmoed is concerned, so don't worry about anything—He is the God of the unexpected. All He requires of you is to: Keep your minds stayed on Him and he'll keep you in perfect peace! Isaiah 26:3'*

Esther

Dear Volmoed Family

I hope you are all well. We are feeling the change of season with certainty now. The sun takes its time to come over the mountain in the mornings keeping the cold lingering a bit longer.

With Mother's day celebrated this month I wanted to share this thought with you.

Vandag, op moedersdag, dink ons baie spesiaal aan al die ma's, ouma's en groot-ouma's. Ons eer hulle. Ons eer ook al die ma's wat iemand anders se kind grootgemaak het as hulle eie. Ons eer elke vrou vir wie dit nie beskore was om 'n ma te wees nie, asook elke ma wat 'n kind verloor het. Mag die Here julle seën en gelukkig maak.

Bringing honour to all mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers on this day. Honouring every mother that brought up someone else's child as her own, and each woman for whom it wasn't meant to be a mother. We honour every mother who lost a child. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

We also celebrated a special 95th birthday this month. Nigel has been a part of Volmoed for MANY years and we are privileged to share another year with him.

It was a busy month. I was invited to an AI workshop. How blessed were we to have a workshop at a venue overlooking the ocean! Then spoiled by the dolphins passing through the bay. AI is something amazing but also a bit scary, like all the electric cables running to keep everyone's laptop powered and connected. The sight of all these cables gave Esther and myself a little giggle wondering what the reaction of our Health & Safety officer would be.

Other than that we had the annual Colloquium early this year. It was lovely to have Graham Ward with us again as one of the Speakers over the weekend.



When it comes to prayer time, we ask you to join us in prayer in a time and a place where gang violence is something very real in our surroundings. We pray for safety and for the Lord to touch those engaging in these acts of horror. We pray for the safety of our staff and every other innocent person caught in the middle of it.

I would like to end with this prayer: Lord, thank You that Your love, care, protection and presence can surround me each day of my life. May I know that You are guarding and guiding me every step of the way. Thank You that You hold me in Your hands, both now and forever. Amen.

Mathilda

News from the Chair of the Volmoed Board of Trustees.

For those who do not know, Volmoed is governed by a Board of Trustees, which is primarily responsible for financial management, oversight of property, and general policy, and

a Council, previously known as the Board of Reference, which has responsibility for programmes (Youth, Art, Retreats etc), and a Leadership team that meets weekly to deal with day-to-management.

Edwin Arrison, who is chair of the Council, apart from many other responsibilities, recently resigned from the Trust after serving for more than ten years. We are very grateful to him for all that he has done, and continues to do, for Volmoed and grateful that he has agreed to continue as chair of Council. We pray for his ministry as acting priest in charge of St Peter's Parish in Hermanus, his leadership of the Volmoed Youth Programme, and his ecumenical involvement across the country and further afield.

The Master of the Supreme Court has finally approved the appointment of three new Trustees: Fritz Holscher (who is the new Deputy Chair), Rene August, and Anton de Gruchy. Alyson Guy and I will continue as Trustees for the foreseeable future, but I will retire as chair of the Board as soon as Fritz, who is the Managing Director of an IT company in Hermanus, is able to take over. In addition, Theresa Edelmann, Bob Faris, and Liesel Joubert have been appointed members of Council, and Theresa has been elected Deputy Chair to assist Edwin.

As you will not all know the new Trustees and Council members, I am asking them to provide a brief autobiographical sketch for the next Prayer Letter. Suffice it to say, they have all had a long association with Volmoed, are deeply committed to its vision and mission, and they bring to their new roles a great deal of experience. We are delighted to welcome them on board. They are an answer to prayer!

John de Gruchy

Chair, Board of Trustees

When not busy with being Chair of the Board of Trustees, John has been busy recording a video podcast.

Titled:- My Faith Journey After Steve's Death. On Being Human. Led into Mystery. If you are interested in this you can follow the link. https://youtu.be/1SXk_Se7r7A

