

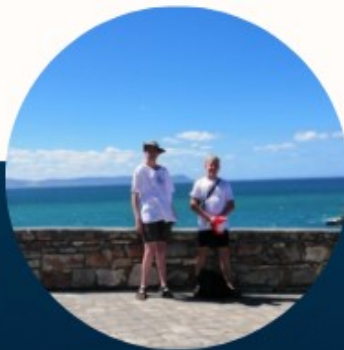


# Camphill Farm Community Hermanus

*Quality of life for adults with intellectual disabilities*



Newsletter May Edition 2019



# MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S DESK

Sam Hodson

As we start the approach into June and the end of the first half of the year, who would ever have guessed that the year would start out in such a way? Memories of major events tend to fade in time, but the events of the day of the fire on 11 January, together with the aftermath, will, I suspect, linger in the hearts and minds of many Camphill people for some time to come.

There have also been numerous silver linings following on from the fire, with perhaps the most telling being the overwhelming support from the greater Hermanus community, the country and indeed from various people and organisations internationally. Our huge thanks goes out to each and every one of you!

Although I don't like singling out specific people, I would like to say a huge thank-you to two in particular, namely:

1. The Association of Camphill Communities (UK and Ireland) – and Geoffrey Weir in particular – for their ongoing support, both generally and in very direct and specific ways. We could not do without them! Just one example of their recent support was the donation of a new 16-seater Nissan bus in January, that the Farm and the School share; and

2. Rotary Hermanus – and Ann Wright, their president – who, apart from being an ongoing partner over the years, literally came right alongside us when the fire happened and offered assistance (e.g. trauma counselling), raised funds (e.g. The Long White Table Event) and encouraged (cajoled?) others into assisting and donating.

The main challenges now are:

a) the extinguishing of the underground fire currently burning at the bottom of our property, for which we are receiving critical support from the various governmental organisations (the Fire Department and local Environmental Department,

Working on Wetlands, Working on Fire etc);

b) The rehabilitation of the affected area (a much longer-term process); and

c) Using the window of opportunity that we have to keep the invasive plant vegetation at manageable levels.

Please keep an eye on both our website and Facebook page for updates on the recovery/ rehabilitation process.



Moving on to the ongoing life in our Community, it gives me great pleasure to welcome three people who are filling key positions, namely Michelle van Zyl (PR/fundraiser), Brooke de Bruyn (social worker) and Erika Nagel (Craft workshop coordinator). Although they have only been with us for a short time, they are already adding great value to the lives of everyone here at Camphill.

We had a full programme for Holy Week and Easter. Included was a performance of visiting eurythmists from England and Cape Town. The people in this group were already known to most of our residents which made it even more fun.

Very excitingly, the 'Friends of Camphill Hermanus' our hives were burnt down.

group has been revived. Many years ago this group came into existence to support the work done at Camphill, but faded as the family members of our residents got older and became less able. However, the revived group is raring to go in assisting us in our endeavours. In this regard, thank you to Patrick MacPhail and his committee for the work that they have put in to get things going again.

Tokara wine estate kindly invited us back for their annual Rare Plant Sale (earlier this year – April). Thank you to Ann-Mare Ferreira and Aidan Morton for sticking with us as the main beneficiary and for Tokara's very generous donation (again).

The training of our staff members received a boost in March when we received training on 'managing challenging behaviour'. There were many learnings and re-learnings throughout the three-day course.

And not only our staff..... A residents' men's group was started again in May, focusing primarily on social skills . This takes place every second Saturday and will continue for 17 sessions.

Our farm is in a stable position at the moment, although there are various challenges, the main one being the shortage of staff. This is being addressed, though, with a view to inviting internships as a way of getting more hands on deck. Sadly, our honey production will take some time to recover after the fire, as all but three of

I'd like to end here by saying a special thanks to four groups of people:

1. Firstly, to our residents. We've been through a lot together in a short space of time and you have kept us all grounded throughout.
2. Secondly, to our staff who work in often challenging circumstances. Thank you for staying dedicated and loyal to this Community and for the tasks you are required to do and more!
3. Thirdly, to our volunteers. These young adults commit a year of their lives to serving into our Community and the current group are a super bunch, always ready to assist where and when they can. And also to the local volunteers (you know who you are!) who selflessly come up to the Community regularly to just help.
4. And finally to Camphill School – and Jeanne-Marié Botha (principal) in particular – for the strong working relationships being forged as we journey together. Thank you!



# A note from behind the desk

## Michelle van Zyl—Fundraiser

Well this year started off with the proverbial bang.

No one will forget the devastating fires of 11 January 2019 that swept through the Camphill Community and parts of Hermanus leaving behind nothing but traces of black ash and smoke. Nevertheless, the resulting devastation led to an incredible drive of compassion, dedication and support from near and far which in turn inspired fundraising events, water and food drives, fire relief donations and clean-up initiatives.

As the weeks have progressed we have also continued to do what we do best at Camphill, following the rhythms of daily living, despite the challenges we are facing. We have started rebuilding, replanting and reviving our workshops, buildings and estate. We also took to the streets and had our first street collection on 26 January and raised just over R 6 000.

We are still in awe at the overwhelming support which we are continuously receiving. Merely saying 'thank you' to all our parents, donors and Friends of Camphill does not even begin to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

As stated by Sam Hodson, *"May the deep sense of Community spirit created by the recent fires last a long time".*



## My Camphill Story

### Magdalena Kraft—Volunteer



My name is Magdalena, I am nineteen years old, and I am currently volunteering here at Camphill.

When I first arrived, seven months ago, I didn't expect this place to grow on me so quickly. I was scared and excited, and of course I needed some time to adapt to this new way of living, but now it feels like I have been at the farm for far longer than just half a year. Camphill is more than just a place where I work. My whole life revolves around Camphill – I am part of the Community; it is like living in a big family.

On 11 January, we survived the fires that threatened to destroy Camphill and we endured the problems that followed afterward. Since then, I am assisting in the Herb Garden workshop, cooking Friday evenings and on Sundays I organise 'dancing classes' along with the other volunteers. There is not much we require to create a good atmosphere, just a few ABBA songs and some snacks.

So all in all, I really enjoy my time here at Camphill with all its ups and downs and I am sure that it will always be a part of me.



# Rotary Hermanus raises funds for Camphill

Writer: Taylum Meyer (The Village News)

The Rotary Club of Hermanus hosted a Long White Supper Table fundraiser for Camphill Farm in the Hermanus High School hall on Thursday 31 January. Hermanus Rotary President Ann Wright said the response from the community was overwhelming and that the funds raised exceeded all expectations.

Camphill was one of several properties that suffered extensive damage during the recent runaway wildfires in the Overstrand and the funds will be used to help them rebuild what was lost, including outbuildings, fences and a large barn. The teachers' staff room was also extensively damaged, and 27 beehives were destroyed in the fire.

The guests each received a small jar of honey from Camphill, created by the bees and packed by the residents



to thank them for their support. Ann also extended her thanks to the community, on behalf of Rotary Hermanus, for their contribution towards making this event such a huge success.

## Meet the Friends of Camphill Hermanus ('FCH')



Chairman, FCH committee

PATRICK &  
JULIE  
MACPHAIL

We are Jonathan's parents and he has lived at Camphill since 2012.

Until recently he was in Cinnabar but has now moved into Castor and enjoys being there. Jonathan spends his working life at the Crafts section in the mornings and then moves to the Herb Garden after lunch. He enjoys being in both sections of the community. Jonathan is 34 and is the youngest of our three children.

We moved to Hermanus in 2017 from White River to be closer to Jonathan. Patrick was formally a Professor of Medicine at Wits and I used my training in psychology and English working as a journalist and an administrative secretary. We have always been active on various PTA's and wish to contribute to the smooth running at Camphill.

# DONATE TODAY



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Account Name: Camphill Farm Community Hermanus

Bank Name: First National Bank

Branch Code: 200412

Account Number: 52470701065

Account Type: Cheque Account

Swift/IBAN: FIRNZAJJ



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