



Camphill Farm Community Hermanus

Quality of life for adults with intellectual disabilities



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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WHO WE ARE

Camphill Farm Community Hermanus (CFCH) has provided residential care and CFCH supported work for adults with intellectual disabilities since **1978**. This rural Community is currently home to 50 residents, who share their lives with engaged staff and volunteers in a safe and secure environment.

Each resident is supported in such a way that they have opportunities to live self-fulfilled lives with access to sound nutrition, meaningful work, therapies and a versatile social and cultural life.

They are enabled and encouraged to embrace opportunities, develop their individual abilities and make a meaningful contribution to their livelihoods and the Community.

VISION

Camphill Farm Community Hermanus strives to provide a high quality of life for adults with intellectual disabilities, promoting choice, meaningful inclusion, equality, respect, and spiritual growth in a safe and sustainable environment.

MISSION

Camphill Farm Community Hermanus empowers people, especially our residents, to live in an intentional life-sharing Community in an environment that promotes and sustains independence, dignity, mutual respect and choice.

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Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

- Berthold Auerbach -

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY RAYMOND POTTON



Camphill Communities provide opportunities for children, young people and adults with neuro-divergent needs, to live, learn and work together with others in an atmosphere of mutual respect and equality. From its beginnings near Aberdeen in Scotland, Camphill has grown to become a truly International Movement, with communities in Europe, North America, Southern Africa, Africa and India.

Camphill welcomes people of all beliefs who respect our ethos; caring for each other, caring for the land and the environment; by following organic principles in their gardens and on their farms, undertaking to recycle and using environmentally friendly products and services whenever possible.

The past year was a trying year for Camphill Hermanus. The floods we experienced in 2023 caused great damage to our access road and it still has not been repaired. We have not received any indication as to when this will be completed, although the engineers are busy repairing the roads and it is easier to access the Community now. The residents are being well looked after, and indications are that they are generally happy and content.



Our beef herd is supplying the Community with prime beef and the Garden Workshops are supplying vegetables and herbs for cooking healthy meals.

I would like to thank Kurt Mätschke, our Executive Manager, for all his hard work in ensuring that Camphill remains running smoothly and keeping our residents satisfied.

The work he is putting into maintaining the estate, together with his maintenance team under the supervision of George Louw, is ensuring that the buildings, although old, remain in good condition and comfortable for the residents.



We were sorry to say goodbye to our chicken lady, Debi Diamond, who spent many years managing our Poultry Garden Workshop - she will be deeply missed. We have found a replacement for Debi, and we are rebuilding the stock so that we can once again provide chickens and eggs for the houses.

Once again, I would like to thank all our funders, our donors and supporters who have continued to support Camphill Farm despite the difficult financial times.

I would again like to thank the Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland (AoCC) for their generous support, both financially and in many other ways. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We are saddened to report the departure of one of our long-time board members - Julio Laset. After many years of living in South Africa, in the service of Camphill School, he decided it was time for him to move back to his native Philippines with his family. We wish them very well. He was replaced on our board by Jeanné-Marie Botha from Camphill School.



We were pleased to welcome delegates from all over the world to the Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025 in early May. 40 delegates and various guests attended and spent a week discussing the challenges that face the organisation.

As many of you will remember, the last conference held here in 2020 was curtailed due to the COVID pandemic.

Some of the newer Camphill delegates included those from Rwanda and Tanzania, and it was a pleasure to welcome them into the Camphill family.

According to the delegates present, their stay was extremely productive and a considerable amount was learnt about the challenges the various Camphill Communities have experienced over the

past 7 years, since the last Camphill Dialogue.

The residents enjoyed the conference as they were included in certain events and could also meet the delegates when they took them around the Community showcasing their workshops.

Thank you to all the residents for adding to the success of the conference. Also, a loud shoutout to Kurt, Geoffrey, Colm, Jeanne-Marie, Michelle and the rest of the Dialogue Team for making the conference possible.

Once again, I would like to make a special mention to Geoffrey Weir for all the work he dedicates to promote Camphill Hermanus within the Camphill Movement.



Geoffrey gives much of his time and energy at great expense to himself at no financial reward.

The residents are always pleased to see him when he arrives, as he takes time to see as many as he can while he is at the Farm.

Finally, to my fellow board members I owe a huge debt of gratitude for all the support you provide to the Camphill Community at no financial reward to yourself.

BOARD MEMBERS (April 2024 to March 2025):

- Ray Potton (chairman) • Esther Zietsman (vice-chairman) • Geoffrey Weir BSc FCA IBA •
- Colm Greene • Elma Young • Jeanne-Marié Botha • Julio Laset •

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S DESK

BY KURT MÄTSCHKE



It is once again time for us to reflect on the past year, and to realise how extremely blessed we are to live and to work at a place called Camphill.

This year I learned the phrase, "The Camphill Impulse". What a powerful word that describes what is happening within our Community here in the Hemel & Aarde Valley.

After making certain staff changes, we now have a group of people which have stabilised the Camphill ship and Community.

I cannot praise our staff enough for all the effort they have invested in the past year to look after our residents.

We have formed a "work family" which support and nurture each other. Not many businesses achieve this level of cohesiveness.

We started the year by purchasing a donkey which was named Pedro by the Community. Pedro has become a real character and is being treated with fruit and carrots regularly.

Pedro is the leader of our cattle herd which has increased to about 16 cattle.

Our young farmer Bryon and his team have tended the fields and pastures, and our beef was recently graded as grade A beef which is an indication of his dedication and attention to his field of expertise.

Bryon is one of those rare individuals who can farm but can also assist when you are having computer issues. He is truly talented and an asset to Camphill.

We are not yet producing enough beef to sell, but we have plans to grow the herd to the point where this will become a possibility.

We are blessed to have Mr Lucky Sekate and his team who have transformed the Herb Garden into the Vegetable & Herb Garden. Lucky and his team have made a huge effort to secure their produce from our local baboon troop who regularly come "shopping" in his garden.

The garden has been transformed, and we invite you to visit his workshop when at Camphill. They produce amazing teas, herbs & spices.

One of the latest additions to our Therapies and Workshops is the drumming team. Mr Bevil Spence who is a professional drumming instructor, has weekly drumming sessions with the residents.





Bevil has taken our residents to new heights with drumming, and they are now venturing to markets in Cape Town and the surrounding areas performing to the public.

We have very talented residents and Bevil is developing this newly found activity to new heights. Bevil has started producing Djembe drums in our Maintenance workshop, and we will be selling the drums at various markets.

Camphill residents assist with the construction and decorating phases which gives them a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

We sadly had to say goodbye to our Occupational Therapist Zia Sulliman who has been with us for two years. Zia moved back to Cape Town to be with her partner. Zia played an important role in stabilizing our Community and will be missed by all.

We wish her and her partner all the best with their future plans.

Luckily, we have secured the services of our new OT, Farrel de la Rosa. Farrel is a young and vibrant person, and we look forward to her contribution in our Community.

Farrel is very passionate about her field of expertise, and together with Marcia, our Social Worker, we have an excellent social care team to take care of our residents.

This year has seen the passing of Peter Eager and Wendy-Sue Petersen who were both residents at Raphael House. Both passed after a short sickbed, and they will be dearly missed by the Community. Both residents were part of Camphill for many years. Thank you to Mark Robson (Overberg 1 Life Rescue) and Paul Fick (Priority Ambulance) for your assistance when emergencies arose within our Community.

This year we welcomed 5 young volunteers from Germany who are spending a year in service at Camphill. Their enthusiasm is seen in all the workshops where they are present, and they have forged very good relationships with our residents.



We want to thank them for spending a year to enrich our Community and contribute to Camphill Hermanus.

On the fundraising side we have been very busy, and Michelle van Zyl (our fundraiser) has managed to negotiate the funding of a tractor and firefighting trailer for the farm through the Rotary clubs of Hermanus and Trent Bridge in the UK.

We managed to procure a 1951 Massey Furgeson tractor which is in show-room condition to assist the larger tractor with smaller loads on the farm. We have received a Fire Fighting Trailer which will give us time to respond to any fires in the summer in record time. The trailer can



be towed behind any bakkie and is manoeuvrable in the mountainous area on the farm.



We wish to thank Patrick McPhail who was key in the negotiations and the Rotarians for their continued support.

The Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025 is an event in which the Board Members and Senior Management of the different Camphills across the world come together to discuss matters and plans for the future.

This year Camphill Hermanus hosted the event which took place from 5 to 9 May.

Much planning was done to host the delegates which arrived from Finland, UK, Scotland, Ireland and the USA.

The Theme for the event was *The organisational evolution of Camphill. What do we need to bring with us from our pioneering past to continue to differentiate.*

Interesting and challenging topics were discussed, and the event was closed on the Friday evening with a Gala Dinner at the neighbouring farm Bona Dea Private Estate.

Last but not least, I want to thank our parents for their support, positive messages, and always being willing to assist where needed.

You have entrusted your family members to our care, and we will continue caring, and developing their special abilities.

To our Board of Directors:

Thank you for all the meetings, all the guidance and words of encouragement. We truly have an engaging Board of Directors.

Geoffrey Weir travelled to South Africa 6 times this year without receiving any compensation for attending all these meetings.

Management, staff and the Community truly appreciate all the effort and personal time being donated to make this farm a special place for all who live and work here.

I would like to thank our Chairman, Mr Ray Potton who has served our Community for so many years and continues to support us wherever he can.

We appreciate you.



Someone said: A wise community stands together, valuing diversity and collaboration to achieve common goals. They learn from each other, practice empathy, and prioritise the well-being of all members. Their strength lies in their shared values and commitment to building a better future together.

FUNDRAISING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

BY MICHELLE VAN ZYL



The power of collaboration!

Reflecting over the past couple of years, since starting my journey here at Camphill back in 2013, and more specifically the past 6 years here at Camphill Farm: how my role as a fundraiser has grown from purely procuring funds for damages caused by the terrible fires in 2019; to pursuing personal growth and stirring a sense of purpose within a community. Mahatma Gandhi said; *The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

Fundraising brings people together. It gives individuals a sense of purpose and resounding joy knowing they're making a positive impact. However, there are many people who do not always comprehend the direct impact they make within our Community, and more significantly on our residents lives even if it is a once-off donation. Please know this; every contribution no matter how big or small gives our individuals a sense of purpose and fulfilment, knowing their lives matter and their outcomes can change! There is power in collaboration!

Our residents are the heart and soul of this organisation. The Camphill impulse clearly reflects that we see the ability and not the disability in a person - it is rooted in kindness, conveying compassion and empathy.



Our Purpose

For many of you who are not familiar with Camphill Farm Community Hermanus, established in 1978, with 47 years of experience in supported homes and work for intellectually and physical disabled adults (residents). As well as hosting and skills development for volunteers, locally & internationally.

It is a stable and well-known organisation with a principled reputation and support in Hermanus to the larger Overstrand Community. Each residents is supported in such a way that they have opportunities to live self-fulfilled lives with access to sound nutrition, employment, therapeutic interventions, and a versatile social and cultural life.

They are enabled and encouraged to embrace opportunities, develop their individual abilities and make a meaningful contribution to their livelihoods and their Community.

Camphill Farm empowers people, especially our residents, to live in an intentional life-sharing Community in an environment that promotes and sustains independence, dignity, mutual respect, and choice.

Besides offering residential care, Camphill, provides basic foodstuffs to the Community from the established food gardens.

The primary purpose of these workshops is to provide meaningful employment.

Within each workshop, staff members determine the tasks that need to be completed for the workshop to accomplish its function.

Each workshop's function is determined by the workshop co-ordinator. The co-ordinator's role is to ensure that tasks are appropriately matched to residents, to ensure that they are successfully building on skills, gaining new skills, feeling productive and able to effectively fulfil their role.

The various workshops then have opportunities to showcase and sell their products at local markets, events and various outlets during the year.

In addition to the workshops, we also offer therapeutic interventions to assist the residents with their emotional, physical, and cognitive development, teaching them to calm and centre themselves.

These therapy interventions consist of mainly art, yoga, music (which comprises of orchestra, & drumming), dancing and occupational therapy.



CAMPBILL DIALOGUE CONFERENCE 2025

THEME: *The organisational evolution of Camphill. What do we need to bring with us from our pioneering past to continue to differentiate?*

Since the early days of 2019, both Camphill Communities, Farm & School, had been preparing for the Camphill Dialogue Conference 2020.

The conference started with opening speeches and an address delivered by Christo Brand, the former prison guard of Nelson Mandela. Sadly the remainder of the conference was cancelled due to the calamitous Pandemic.

Now 6 years later our Community had the privilege to host the Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025, a five-day event, which took place from 5 to 9 May 2025. With Camphill being an international movement, the purpose of this conference was to co-ordinate and enhance the work of the different Camphill boards, by focussing on themes such as good governance, transparency, quality management, ethos and legislation.

We also welcomed various stakeholders that are affiliated to both Camphill Communities namely the Department of Social Development and the Western Cape Education Department. The Camphill Regions present at the conference were:

- African Region
- UK/ Ireland Region
- North America
- Northern Region

The gathering provided a valuable opportunity for Camphill board members, volunteers, engaged staff members and invited role players to come together for a time of meaningful exchange of best practices, questions, ideas, and working together on shared challenges.

Many worthwhile projects and relationships have been forged from the dialogue meetings and continue to do so. Individual relationships created over 40 years ago are still continually active within the Camphill Movement today, as stated by Geoffrey R Weir, FCA, IBA and AoCC co-ordinator.

CAMPBILL DIALOGUE CONFERENCE 2025



Glorious Gratitude

We continued to receive overwhelming support and contributions this past year from the local Hermanus Community and further afield. On behalf of everyone here at Camphill Farm Community Hermanus, our heartfelt gratitude to every donor, friend, family members, partner and organisation. Your support, commitment and interest of our Community is highly valued because you are investing in lives!

It would, however, be remiss of us not to make specific mention of the following:

With extreme gratitude, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the Association of Camphill Communities, UK and Ireland (AoCC) who assisted our Community with two brand new fleet vehicles. In addition, the AoCC along with Robert and Nicolette Johnson, sponsored a 4-seater golf cart! It will be especially useful during the wet seasons; arriving in the nick of time. A certain number of our residents with mobility aids and more physical needs were being excluded, due to weather conditions, to attend workshops or therapy interventions. This golf cart will now ensure that Camphill offers an environment that is completely inclusive. Thank you for your continues support, we value our partnership with you all!



Regular donations and subsidies give us the opportunities to improve the environment in which we need to operate and supply the necessary services to our individuals, with special needs, who have been placed in our care.

Hermanus parkrun

Camphill is very excited to announce that a new version of the original Hermanus parkrun 5km route now extends onto our farm. Certain residents participate on a regular basis and some of them will come out on the day cheering runners on with flags and gusto. On special occasions such as Valentine's Day, the residents and staff popped lollipops into the passing runners' hands.

This is a wonderful opportunity for visitors to come and see our scenic community.



Dynamic Duo

In closing, I would like to thank my fundraising partner, Berna van der Merwe, for her endless contribution of sewing beautiful hand-crafted material bags. She certainly outdid herself by making a bag for each delegate that attended the Camphill Dialogue Conference in May of this year. She is a remarkable lady and celebrated her 90th birthday this year.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS



Camphill Farm Community Hermanus, WC
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FESTIVALS & CULTURE

BY ELMA YOUNG



The residents participate in various festivals and drama performances throughout the year. Festivals performed broaden the social and cultural lives of the residents.

Apart from promoting structure and focus into the daily flow of life, everyone can explore new vistas for questioning, celebrating the soul.

An answer or insight that lights up now is never absolute but becomes part of an ever-expanding experience of consistent inner growth.

We celebrated all the Christian Festivals over the course of the year, starting with:

MICHAELMAS

Which celebrates overcoming obstacles.

1ST ADVENT SPIRAL

The Advent Spiral honours taking light into darkness.

Each residents/ staff member walks with a lit candle to the centre of the spiral: to be then placed in the middle of the spiral itself. This infers the universal light that is then brought into the world. The following three Advent Sundays were celebrated by Eurythmy performances and story-telling.



CANDLE WALK TO THE GRAVEYARD

Our traditional candle walk to the graveyard is to commemorate those who have passed away.



FAMILY FUN DAY

At the end of last year, we celebrated the year-end with our annual Family Fun Day. The programme commenced with our residents' orchestra, followed by singing to Abba's Waterloo. With a dramatic entrance, Chetna completed the concert with a traditional Indian folk-dance with gusto. She is the one who goes to our Executive Manager's office every day to ensure that he is working!



CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve the Nativity Play was performed including carol singing.



CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are made extra special for the residents who stay in Community during the festive season.

Tasty communal lunches were prepared at Raphael House and they also had an opportunity to visit Stanford to view the Stanford Christmas Lights.

And on New Year's Eve, everyone who wished to, sang songs or shared their personal highlights of 2024.



THREE KINGS DAY

The play performed for Three Kings Day, was *The Wise Men's Well* by Selma Lagerlof. It encompasses a story within a story. The original Three Kings and the ghostly three kings. The character *Drought* had taken over their Well which was to give water in perpetuity, and when he realises who the original Three Kings truly were; *Drought* ran off screaming and the Well could be used by weary travellers again.



THE THREE KINGS SPRAY

The Three Kings' preparation, consisting of Myrrh, Frankincense and Gold, which were the gifts of the Three Kings or the Three Wise Men. This preparation is stirred in a pot of warm water and then sprayed around the perimeter of the Farm and School for protection and deep gratitude.



VALENTINE'S DAY



Valentine's Day was celebrated with a community lunch followed by dancing. With the traditional red and white attire, great enjoyment was had by all!

HOLY WEEK FESTIVALS

PALM SUNDAY

We walked with palm branches to remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Unfortunately, our donkey Pedro did not wish to play his part!



Three plays were performed during Holy Week.

Our theme was three-fold: body, soul and spirit.

The stories progressively explore the three aspects through love and sacrifice, with the last one emphasising forgiveness too. Beside our residents participating, some of our young German volunteers, including one of their visitors joined in.

Monday's performance was the story of: *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry. Although a Christmas story, it tailored in with our theme of love and sacrifice. The story is about two young newlyweds who could not afford to buy Christmas presents for each other. The woman then sold her long hair to buy a chain for her husband's watch (the only item of value that he owned) and he sold his watch to buy an expensive comb for her hair.



Tuesday's story: *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde. The happy prince grew up privileged without any care in the world. When the story begins, he becomes a statue on the market square and can see the suffering of all the poor people.

A swallow comes and rests on him and he convinces the swallow to stay a bit longer with him and to distribute the jewelry, that is on his sword and that comprises his eyes, to the poor. The prince is now blind, and the swallow stays with him, although he should already have left for warmer weather. At the end the swallow dies and the statue of the prince cracks, but both their souls go up to heaven.



Wednesday's story: *The Saint and the Mountain Spirit* by Maja Muntz-Koundoury tells the story of a *Hermit* who lived in a cave up on a mountain pass in Greece. He was considered a saint by the people in the villages around, as he was also a healer, and on many occasions saved people who had fallen down the precipice. The Mountain Spirit appeared to him and told him that it was he who caused storms to blow people off the mountain path because he hated people. He agreed to go away if the hermit can convince him otherwise. However, the mountain spirit was not satisfied with the hermit's tales. Eventually the hermit was attacked by a robber who half killed him and ran off. The robber was blown off the path and the hermit, with the last strength in his body, managed to save the robber. The hermit then died, and his spirit could now see the Mountain Spirit clearly. When asked why he saved the life of somebody who was killing him, he said his God is a God of forgiveness who gave his own life on the cross for humanity. The Mountain Spirit then left the mountain, screaming.



SILENT SUPPER

On Maudy Thursday we do not speak and we remember Christ's Last Supper with his disciples.



CHRIST'S LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS

Were spoken through a poem, which accentuates the agony He had to suffer on the Cross.



EASTER FESTIVAL is a joyous occasion as it is a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

ASCENSION

We spoke about the meaning of Ascension; the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection. We then proceeded with a Mindfulness Walk up the hill to Castor House. During this time, we became aware (mindful) of the wind and its different sounds. An exercise about being present in the moment.



WHITSUN (PENTECOST)

Which is the festival of the future, when we will be able to communicate calmly with each other. We commemorated the tongues of fire that landed on the disciples, allowing everyone to understand them in their own language by reading John 1:1-5 in different languages, namely: English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, Setswana, isiZulu, Sesotho, Shona, Swahili, Dutch, German, French and Spanish.



ST JOHN'S

Is the Festival of John the Baptist. He said; *change your heart and minds* and to that effect we write what we wish to change about ourselves on a piece of paper, which is then burnt in a small fire.



COMMUNAL MEALS

Throughout the year we had several communal meals - braai days being a firm favourite. For this we would like to thank all the house staff and the volunteers who worked hard to make it happen. It is always a great occasion to have the entire Community come together.



FAREWELL TO THE LASETS

- Dr Julio, Geralyn and Emmanuel

We said a sad farewell to the Laset family who have been part of both the Farm and School Communities for 18 years. Along with Elizabeth, and Christoph Reppel playing music, they celebrated the Offering Services. Geralyn performed Eurythmy with the residents as well as solo pieces and curative Eurythmy with certain residents.

All three were actively involved with our festivals - Emmanuel taking part in our plays from a young age. Julio also served on our Board.

They leave an immense gap in our Communities. They have decided to return to the Philippines, where they originate from, with a dream of starting a Camphill Community there. We wish them the very best and pray that their wish will come true.



Geralyn offered Eurythmy with individual residents and Group Eurythmy. Emmanuel (on the Spectrum) grew up at Camphill and was in an integral part of both Farm and School. On the Farm side he joined certain of our workshops. He helped in the library and tuck-shop, participated in all our festivals and activities and was on the Residents Committee.

Farm and School jointly said farewell to the Lasets with performances done by the school kids, which were a blast. Some of our staff joined in the dancing and ululating. All who wished, had an opportunity to say their farewells. They will leave an immense gap.



RESIDENTS

MEET TWO OF OUR RESIDENTS, HERE ARE THEIR STORIES:

EMMANUEL LASET

I was born in the Philippines on 22 October 1988. I came here when I was 7 years old. My parents came to work at Camphill School. I went to school there. I did Mathematics, English, main lessons and Geography. I enjoyed it very much at school. During breaktime we went to the playground and played. When breaktime was over, the bell rang, and we went back to class to continue our work. At 12 o'clock we went home for lunch, then rest hour, then went back to school. I had many friends on the Farm – friendly people. My friends on the Farm are Bram, Tegan, Cathy G. Chetna, Sally, Shané, Roy and Peter. I was sad when Peter and Wendy passed on. At Raphael House there are still Claudia and Sandra. Andrew Uys and Jana are my friends too!



I helped in the library with the DVDs and in the tuck-shop. I enjoyed being in the workshops: Monday to Wednesday at Crafts, and Thursdays at Herbs. In the mornings I help the Maintenance team at school. I did a lot of work; I cut the grass, paint the walls, trimmed bushes and branches, and did gardening. I was also on the Residents Committee. I enjoyed that very much.

Saturday mornings I ran the Hermanus parkrun. I have done more than 250. My personal best time is 31 minutes for 5 km. I met my girlfriend at school in February 2012. She is very nice and kind. My hobbies are watching movies, making music videos and slide shows. I also do a bit of gardening. I used to have cats and ducks, but we had to give them away because we are going back to the Philippines. The next chapter in my life.

ROSS EDMANN

I was born in 1995 in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. I stayed there for 18 years. I went to school there. I was a prefect at my school. I played cricket at my school and did a bit of rugby too. First in St Christopher's which I did not like. It was pre-school, and then Peter Pan from 7-18. I liked it there. In 2019 my mom died of cancer and in 2020 my dad died of Covid. Then I went to stay with my aunt. I came to Camphill in 2023. I like it very much here. I have lots of friends here. I am full-time on the Farm, but if the Maintenance Workshop needs me, I go and help out with brush cutting, etc. I like both workshops a lot. I like playing and watching rugby, cricket and swimming. I am also good at playing pool and table tennis. I like watching TV movies and I listen to my music on Spotify. My favourite is house music, but I also listen to country and gospel music. I like watching my cousin play rugby. He is on the A-team for England, and he is only 20.



I had lots of jobs when I left school. Washing lawnmowers and learning how to service them. I worked for DSTV, putting up satellite dishes. On the farm I help to put out mineral blocks for the cattle. We also move the cows. We remove branches that the hackers have cleared of the alien trees and do wood chipping too. I fetch the meat with Bryon and help with the fire breaks in autumn.

I am on the Residents Committee. I enjoy that very much. I'm learning more things about Camphill, and I will teach people who will take over from me one day. I take part in the drumming and enjoy that too. It was also fun to go and play at Volmoed and the Castle in Cape Town.

IN MEMORIAM

TWO OF OUR RESIDENTS CROSSED THE THRESHOLD AT THE BEGINNING OF 2025 AND ARE DEARLY MISSED.

PETER EAGAR

6 November 1949
– 28 January 2025 †



Peter was a resident at various Camphills since his 28th birthday: first at Novalis House, then Cresset House – both in Johannesburg. He then went to Camphill Village West Coast, where he stayed for 17 years. He was at Camphill Farm for about 34 years, where he lived out the remainder of his life.

Whilst living at Camphill Village West Coast, he would run around all day fetching huge wheelbarrows filled with sand, as he helped to build their Camphill.

Here at Camphill Farm, it was wheel-barrows filled with cow manure, which he took to the vegetable garden, which was then jointly run between Camphill School and Farm. He had an amazing work ethic and continued right up until his last days at the Herb Garden Workshop.

WENDY-SUE PETERSON

14 August 1960
– 7 March 2025 †



Wendy-Sue joined Camphill School Hermanus when she was 8 years old. After her school year, she calmly transitioned to the Farm. She knew every song (lyrics and music) and recited every poem she ever learned in her life.

Many years ago, when we still had the Bakery, it was her responsibility to deliver the bread. Lawrence Adler, our founding member, was living in a flat up the hill at the time. One evening Wendy-Sue did not arrive with his bread delivery; she was nowhere to be found. Frantically the police were notified, but no trace of Wendy-Sue. Everyone was in a state. Early the next morning there was a knock at Lawrence's door and there stood Wendy Sue. "Here's your bread", she said. It turned out that she went strolling over the mountain and was put up by a farming community nearby for the evening - safe and sound!

RESIDENTS COMMITTEE

From time-to-time residents on the Residents Committee join our Board Meetings. We enjoy being in the Committee. When people from overseas Camphills were here for the Camphill Dialogue Conference we took them around the Farm. We enjoyed meeting them and talking to them.



RESIDENTS FORUM

The Residents Forum is a platform for all residents to speak what is on their hearts. It is also an opportunity to become comfortable speaking in front of people.



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS FROM GERMANY – THEIR STORY

We are 5 volunteers from Germany who come to live & work at Camphill Farm Community.

Each of us is situated in a different Residential House where we receive our private room, and where we eat meals with the residents. We are coming with a willingness to work and to create bonds and memories with the residents at Camphill. Being at Camphill is a unique experience and a journey to grow, for all of us. We are thankful for all the experiences that we make and the love that we feel every day.

During the week, from Monday to Thursday, we work at one of the various workshops, together with the residents. Camphill has an Egg Garden where chickens are taken care of, the Farm takes care of the cows and the fields, as well as of the bees that produce honey.

Maintenance is maintaining the houses, the streets and the gardens, and the Herb Garden grows a variety of herbs and vegetables and produces tea. At the Craft Workshop, the residents can get creative with handwork like knitting and weaving.

Besides the workshops, we all have duties in the houses. We make breakfast and supper and one evening per week, we spend time with the residents of our house, playing games, watching a movie and socialising together.

Additionally, Camphill offers programmes which residents as well as volunteers can join in during the afternoon. That may be drumming, orchestra or yoga.

The routines at Camphill are well established and make sure that the residents have a healthy rhythm that balances work and resting at home.



Because of living so closely with the residents, one can say that we do not only learn to cope with different individuals with special needs, but especially learn to love everybody for who they are.

What makes Camphill such a unique place is that everyone is welcomed in the Community - residents, staff and volunteers! The 5 of us can embrace ourselves in our passions, talents and social skills; we can integrate these in a natural way within the Community. While we spend time at Camphill, we notice that every individual feels safe and confident in talking, to live and to laugh. Camphill creates a very supportive environment.

Something we really appreciate is that we can use one of the cars from Camphill to get to know places during the weekends, outside of Camphill.

But more importantly it gives us the opportunity to recharge our social batteries from the very beautiful but emotionally intense work here at Camphill. Although living in the same house, sharing the bathroom, the living room and the kitchen with the residents create unique bonds with them, it is also necessary for us to have some days off by spending a weekend in Cape Town, for example. That way we also try to balance our daily life.

What makes our year special as well, are the various festival and plays that we practice, together with the residents, such as Christmas, Easter, St John's and Good Friday. We present the plays at Mercury Hall and invite all to come together and celebrate. We appreciate learning about the different festivals and enjoy adding a little bit of music by playing the flute or the piano at such events. More importantly, these occasions give a sense of togetherness for everybody, which is beautiful to see.

Another musical enrichment for us are the various outings that take place with drumming teacher Bevil. The drumming circle gives everyone participating the possibility to express oneself, have fun and gain more confidence by seeing the improvements that the group makes in time. We presented drumming at Camphill Village West Coast, at the Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025 including art exhibitions in Hermanus.

All in all, one can say that we enjoyed our time at Camphill a lot. We feel the love everywhere and learn a million new things that we are going to take back with us to Germany.



SOCIAL

The residents enjoy a rich and varied cultural life as stated before. We have noticed that outing opportunities have a profound impact on the well-being of the residents. The cultural outings encourage educational opportunities & experiences as well as encouraging the residents to become more independent, assist in developing their social skills and to be aware of their surroundings outside of their Community.







SOCIAL CARE

BY MARCIA MAKAPELA (SOCIAL WORKER)



I have been at Camphill Farm for two years now and am enjoying life within the Community.

Working with the residents brings many challenges, but includes many rewards. One of our focus points for the year was to create a team and a family-feeling among staff and residents.

It is heartwarming to see new residents arrive at Camphill, and how they are assisted and accepted by the older residents. This creates a feeling of well-being and togetherness.

Recently we experienced the loss of two of our older residents, both affiliated to Raphael House. Through support and guidance from the Social Welfare Team, we were able to support the house and family members in the grieving process.

We held a small memorial ceremony for the Community and scattered their ashes; which gave closure to the loss experienced in the house and within the wider Community.

ADMISSIONS OF NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We are constantly striving to improve our policies and procedures and have included the following processes to our admissions: Adults with intellectual disabilities, of all race groups, religious affiliations or gender, are welcome to apply to join our Community.

Suitable candidates who show an interest in joining Camphill are offered a two-week trial visit which, if successful, is followed by a further trial period of three months. When a parent /guardian applies to place a family member at Camphill, we invite them for a meet and greet visit, and to show them the farm and the different activities on offer.

This is the first step is to make the new applicant feel welcome and assist in giving time to process that change is inevitable. This is not only applicable to the new applicant but gives the parents/guardian peace of mind that their family member will be entering a caring and loving community where they can grow and thrive.

During these trial periods the applicant can experience all aspects of our social, cultural and working life and discover whether this meets his or her needs and expectations. At the same time, we can assess whether our situation and resources are appropriate to meet the needs of the applicant.

As part of the application process, we invite the parents/ guardians to use our visitor's accommodation for a two-day period for them to experience the Camphill rhythm. When the new resident is placed in a residential house, he or she will have peace of mind that their family is nearby and can offer support in the first few days.

We are continuing providing residential services and protective workshops for 51 residents: full-time and day-time residents.

SOCIAL CARE TRAINING

We are continuing with training with The Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disabilities (WCFID). During 2025 we partnered with the Western Cape Government and Senecio and three months training was provided for the social care team to improve their knowledge of the different diagnoses and planning programmes for our residents. We have established a working relationship with the local Neurodiversity Centre who are providing us with psychological services.

In our efforts to present a service of excellence, the social care team continue to provide training to staff members every second Wednesday.

CARE PLAN AND ASSESSMENTS

Individual Developmental and Care Plans (IDPs) have continued with input by the social worker, occupational therapist, house leaders and workshop leaders. The IDP assesses the person, and the social care team will use this information to develop a plan which will assist the resident in developing themselves to a level which is achievable for them.

SOCIAL CARE GROUPS

In 2025 I continued and expanded the anxiety group which is of great help to the resident to cope with their anxiety matters. In 2025 I plan to continue and to select other residents to participate in a psychotherapy group.

The objective of the group is to promote self-care, to enhance communication skills, to promote inter-personal relations, to develop work habits and promote social and vocational skills. This will be done with the assistance of the Occupational Therapist for the needs assessments of this group.

RESIDENTS HOLIDAY

In March 2025 we took the unsupported residents on outings on two separate days. On the first day we went to the Penguin Sanctuary in Gansbaai; the second day we visited the exotic animals centre in Stellenbosch. The brave ones held a Ball Python; others watched carefully from a distance!

I wish to thank my colleagues in the social care team who are always assisting and supporting me in improving the lives of our special people.

Social care is a multifaceted system of support designed to assist individuals with a wide range of needs, including physical, mental, and social well-being.

It encompasses a variety of services, from practical help around the house to specialised interventions and advocacy, aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals and families.



Site visit from the Department of Social Development

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

BY ZIA ZULLIMAN



For over a year, I have had the privilege of facilitating Occupational Therapy (OT) groups at Camphill. Through structured yet engaging activities, these groups aim to develop essential life skills, enhance social interactions and provide a sense of purpose and enjoyment.

Due to the unique needs of each resident, it became important that residents are seen on an individual basis as well. Individual sessions focused mainly on providing a safe space for residents to talk about, understand and to find ways to manage their challenges.

By utilising each resident's interests as a therapeutic tool, it allowed OT sessions to become a safe and comfortable space for them, which is key to assisting residents in managing challenges.

The four groups I have been running – baking, social, craft and leisure groups – each serve a unique role in fostering growth and independence amongst the residents.

Baking group: More than just sweet treats

The baking group is one of the most rewarding activities for residents, offering a hands-on way to learn and apply essential life skills.

Beyond the joy of creating something sweet and delicious, this group helps residents develop.

- Money management skills

Residents learn about budgeting and making purchasing decisions when buying ingredients.

They have the opportunity to go to the shops, select the items we need as well as make payment at the till.

They also sell the product at the tuck shop on Fridays.

Perfect opportunity for socialisation as well!

- Following instructions

The residents receive step-by-step guidance in recipes, which reinforces listening skills, attention to detail and sequencing!

- Problem solving and adaptability

If a recipe does not go as planned (it has happened multiple times...), residents are guided with alternative ways to salvage the baking product, therefore learning to adapt – crucial skills for everyday life.

These skills are not just useful in the kitchen but also translate into greater independence in daily living and workshop settings.

Social Group:

- Learning to Connect and Communicate

Many of our residents struggle with managing emotions and navigating social inter-actions, often leading to conflict.

The social group provides a safe space for residents to practice key interpersonal skills in a structured and supportive environment.

- Building friendships

Through shared experiences, residents develop a sense of connection and belonging, reducing feelings of isolation.

- Appropriate communication

Through discussions, role-playing and games, residents practice expressing their thoughts, listening to others, and understanding social cues.

Handicraft group:

Creativity, focus and self-expression

The craft group is a space for creativity, self-expression and skills development. Many residents struggle with verbally expressing themselves due to the nature of their diagnosis, therefore this group provides a space where residents express themselves creatively, by creating products such as bags, painting, working with clay, collages etc. This group also incorporates a variety of skills that are improved through creative expression.

- Focus and Attention

Completing a project requires concentration and persistence, thus strengthening cognitive skills.

- Confidence and a sense of achievement

Completing a craft project builds self-esteem, as residents see their efforts result in something tangible and meaningful.

Therapeutic intervention does not end there! For the new year, my work has also extended into various workshops. My main goal is to equip the workshop leaders with the skills and methods to engage with the residents more effectively as well as to equip the residents with skills and/or adapt their tasks to enhance autonomy and ultimately productivity. The workshops are a valuable part of the residents' everyday life and therefore each resident should feel that they are contributing and engaging in tasks that are meaningful to them.

The responsibility of an OT does not stop there! Homelife staff are a key and integral part of the resident's life, and they are a part of our beautiful Camphill Community as well. Therefore, this past year my focus also extended into developing the skills of the staff through training sessions. Our training sessions focused on topics such as the handling of residents, understanding different diagnosis, wheelchair transfers, understanding policies and legislation, and much more.

OT interventions and training focus on creating spaces for residents and staff that are meaningful, valuable and not forgetting - FUN AND EXCITING.

With the added benefit of skill development. YAY! Thank you to all residents for their efforts, support and care for their Community.

As I am preparing to leave Camphill, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Community for the invaluable experiences and support received over the past year. I have learnt and grown so much, not only professionally but personally too. This chapter holds a special place in my heart, and I carry with me the lessons and memories we've shared.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW OT:

FARREL DE LA ROSA



As I start my journey here at Camphill Farm Community Hermanus, I am reminded of the Occupational Therapy principles 'Being, doing, belonging'.

I spent the first month integrating into the Community through developing relationships with the residents and staff.

This allowed me to understand the environment in which they spend time, as well as seeing where adaptation is needed to improve their quality of life.

I entered the Community at a time where the residents were experiencing a lot of change. This was due to grief, Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025, people leaving or going on vacation and even certain adjustments to schedules. Thus, individualised sessions started to help identify the needs and goals of the residents. As well as setting goals with those who can vocalise themselves - highlighting the importance of including them in therapy.

The residents are involved in therapy through setting goals together, to find out what their interests are, as well as assessing their level of functioning. Thus, building on the structures already made available, I intend to continue the groups made available to them.

This includes life skills and handicrafts groups through concrete activities with tangible products.

The life skills groups will focus on coping skills, personal boundaries, hygiene practices and social skills - as well as other areas identified.

This will aid them to navigate struggles faced, as well as eliminate the lack of volition and motivation.

Handicrafts and social skills groups allows the residents to express themselves as well as understanding what it is to build and maintain meaningful relationships at Camphill.

I am starting a new programme called "Armchair Travel", with the older residents of Raphael House. This is a powerful and engaging therapeutic activity for the older adults to engage in virtual, sensory and imaginative experiences through 'travelling' to different countries from the comfort of their own homes. It is aimed at reducing boredom, frustration and isolation through participation, particularly with those who are retired from their workshops.

Continuing with pre-existing activities like Zumba allow the residents to engage in fun physical activities that promote health, participation and inclusion. I also found that it is important to guide them on joint-protection principles to avoid injury and strain.



ACTIVITIES

Activities and therapeutic interventions assist the residents with their emotional, physical and cognitive development, teaching them to calm and centre themselves.

Great enjoyment is experienced across all the multi-disciplines and projects. Residents are also involved in their own healing process.

THERAPEUTIC ART

With Ashleigh Temple-Camp

Our focus in the therapeutic art room this year was, once again, to provide a non-judgemental space where the residents could express themselves freely and uniquely and where their fears, joys and dreams could arise in a safe environment. I made use of guided therapeutic processes that encouraged personal insights to emerge that would not necessarily arise through verbal dialogue alone. Finding meaning and a sense of purpose was encouraged.



Approximately 24 residents participated in hourly guided creative processes, with all 6 sessions taking place on a Wednesday this year.

The small groups of 4 enabled them to have individual attention and to engage into a deeper therapeutic process. The techniques included wet on wet painting, mixed-media and collage, drawing, mono-prints, printing, clay work and rubbings. At times an atmosphere of fun was encouraged in the art room, and at other times they worked in silence, or with classical music. Personal growth, meaning and a sense of purpose were encouraged.

Creative skills were also developed over time, and the residents were proud to be able to give artworks to family or friends, or to hang them on their walls.



Photographs of them together with their work were often included in the weekly diary. Short weekly reports were sent to the Social Care Team as a way providing an overview of what came up for each resident that week.

In addition to the therapeutic side, we had an exciting and successful year in terms of public art exhibitions which fostered an immense sense of pride for the residents participating in this intervention. They particularly enjoyed their outings to see their art works exhibited in Hermanus on three separate occasions!

An Expression of Self – Step by Step was a mixed media and collage art project that took place over 8 weeks. The intention behind the project was, firstly, to provide a therapeutic and empowering experience, where they could express an imagined version of themselves, and secondly to showcase the work where the public could gain an authentic insight into the vision and personality of the artists. These artworks were exhibited for the first time at the FynArts Gallery from the 14 to 20 October.

The exhibition was officially opened by Joke Gonggrijp, who has a life-long commitment to the affirmation of people with disabilities. The exhibition was remounted to mark International Disability Day on 3 December at Whale House Museum for the 2nd year in a row. It was a great success with several works being sold to the public, fostering a great sense of pride for the residents.

As this exhibition was so beautiful and touching, we decided to exhibit the remaining artworks on Family Fun Day at Camphill Farm on 14 December 2024. A third public showcasing of artwork by the residents was at the charity event Night of a 1000 Drawings. This took place on the first Friday of December in 2024. These A5 artworks were exhibited alongside art works of artists from around Hermanus.

The event itself was a success, but due to inconsistent weather the residents visited the artworks on Saturday morning; great fun was had by all. We are looking forward to a meaningful and exciting year ahead for the residents.



MUSICTHERAPY

The residents participate in weekly music therapeutic classes namely two varieties, drumming and orchestral practice. The music classes assist residents to exercise choice and control in areas of communication, cognition, including physical & emotional development. Music is also an avenue of social contact and non-verbal self-expression. They hold concerts where they love performing for an audience. This is a wonderful occasion for them to express themselves and to overcome certain fears especially when they perform solos.

MUSIC

With Christoph Reppel

Residents in Orchestra: Duncan, Sharise, Shané, Ralph, Ross, Barry, Agnes, Nancy, Roy, Janet, Colleen, Emmanuel, Nicky and Brendon.

Christoph composes and transcribes music for the Orchestra, soloists and for our church services on Sundays, where he also performs the music. He creates and performs music for many of our festival and plays. Certain residents have music lessons with him once or twice per week.



DRUMMING

With Bevil Spence

Over the last year our regular Thursday drum session has grown from 10 participants to close to 30 regular participants; residents, staff and volunteers. We have arranged a number of outings and events for our drummers, including a Spring Day drumming event at the Hermanus amphitheater, drumming at the opening of Kalfiefee, drumming at the Castle Market at the Cape Town Castle of Good Hope, a drumming session in Long Street with Manan, a renowned Ghanian drummer, a very successful trip to Camphill West Village Coast, and also as the entertainment for a birthday party for one of the residents.

We were privileged to participate at the Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025. All of the dialogue delegates were given numerous opportunities to experience the drumming and drum with our regular drummers.

Some of our drummers have also participated in corporate events, such as for PEP Africa's cultural day in Cape Town and for The Learning Hub in Hermanus.

The drumming has also now expanded to include drum and instrument making. This is an activity which we hope will also engage some of the residents who have not been able to come to Thursday drumming sessions and will provide an

opportunity to generate an income for Camphill Farm, from the sale of drums and instruments.

The residents produced over 60 little "Joli" drums which were given as momentous for the Dialogue delegates, displayed at the Camphill West Village Coast monthly market, and were for sale that the Winter Gift Market hosted at Curro School. All of the Joli drums, which are made of predominantly recycled materials, were assembled and decorated by the residents. We have started the production of rattles/shakers and wooden drums, which will also be on sale in the coming festive season.

We are really encouraged by the positive response received thus far towards the drumming sessions, events and drum making



YOGA

With Hanli and Petro

Teaching Iyengar Yoga to the Camphill Community residents is a deeply rewarding experience filled with moments of connection, growth, and joy. The different personalities bring a unique energy to each class, transforming even the simplest poses into shared celebrations of presence and effort. Watching individuals discover their own strength, balance, and calm - often for the first time - is such a magical moment.



The careful, accessible approach of Iyengar Yoga allows each person to participate with dignity and confidence, regardless of ability. As trust and familiarity grow, so does a beautiful sense of community, where smiles, laughter, and small breakthroughs become cherished highlights of the practice.

Thank you for the joy of sharing our yoga and for all the lessons we are learning along the way.



Love Hanli and Petro.

EURYTHMY

With GERALYN LASET

After my Eurythmy training was completed in 2016, I immediately began working at Camphill Farm Community with only five residents. For the next nine years, the number increased and reached up to thirty residents who were doing Eurythmy in the individual therapies and weekly classes.

The Eurythmy therapy was done with individual adults for their specific conditions and illnesses and the weekly classes were held with a group of residents for social and artistic purposes.



But what is Eurythmy? Eurythmy is an art of movement and healing. But unlike other forms of movement, Eurythmy works with the creative formative forces from the cosmos, the same forces that created the human being and the world. These cosmic forces also live and work in the human being so that when we do Eurythmy we connect to the forces that enliven our whole being, bring us healing and keep us healthy and strong.



So, what did the residents learn after years of doing Eurythmy individually or as a group?

Through specific Eurythmy exercises, they learned to use the forces of healing inherent in the gestures and movements that address a variety of disorders such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, etc. and ailments such as anxiety, stress, nervousness, breathing irregularities and motor difficulties.

They became more aware of their body, the space around them and directed their movements properly by overcoming difficulties in balance, co-ordination and spatial orientation. They also learned to move in rhythm and harmoniously as a group, and they learned to overcome differences within group dynamics and social interaction when moving together.

More importantly, they were able to tap into their soul-spiritual nature as human beings expressed in the gestures and movements with speech sounds and musical tones. In so doing, they were able to connect deeply into the spiritual sources of speech and music.

This was also carried out in the Community celebrations of the festivals of the year where the themes of Christmas, Easter, St John and Michaelmas which were performed with poetry and music by the residents.



It has been a privilege to do Eurythmy with the residents through the years and I am grateful for this wonderful experience. Not only was I enriched in my practice as a Eurythmist but that Eurythmy as a healing art of movement becomes alive when it is practiced.

For this, my heartfelt gratitude goes to the residents who have been part of this beautiful healing art of movement called Eurythmy.

LIBRARY

With Elma Young

Saturday afternoons is Library and DVD time.



ART EXHIBITION: STEP-BY-STEP EXPRESSION OF SELF



HOMELIFE

BY CHARLENE MATINKA (HOMELIFE COORDINATOR)



What is homelife at Camphill? Camphill is home to so many of us, not only for the residents but for the staff members as well. We treat individuals with neurodiversity with dignity and respect, recognising their unique strength and challenges. Pity is avoided, instead we try to build & uplift everyone, and we focus on what Camphill Farm Community is all about. Fostering a sense of belonging is especially important to us, because we believe each one has a purpose; it's important to understand and accept who you are. In-house training is provided across many aspects of our work, including on how to manage challenges.



The support of family members, to both their loved ones and to us as caregivers is particularly important. Being part of Camphill Community is such a blessing. Every day is unique, and come with its own tests. We welcomed new residents as a few had moved on.

Birthdays are big and we aim to make them feel special on their day. At times we plan picnic outings to Fernkloof Nature Reserve, at other times it would be a meal at Spur. It's lovely to see how their eyes light up at the thought of going on these outings. Even a walk on the beach can lift their moods.

Outings to unfamiliar places can be especially exciting for our residents.

At least once a month we have community gatherings at Mercury Hall, whether it's a coffee-bar or lunch, to catch up with one another.

During the December holidays we celebrated Family Day, which included a concert at Mercury Hall followed by a picnic lunch on the lawn.

There were outings planned for our residents who did not go away for Christmas. A highlight was going to watch the Stanford Christmas lights. Christmas lunch was hosted by Raphael House where everyone was showered with gifts from donors, family members and Camphill. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day were both spent communally at Raphael as well, and was much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

We had a Valentine's Lunch and Dance where we once again came together to share this happy occasion. During February and March two of our beloved residents crossed the threshold. It was a huge loss for our Community. However, we will always remember the good times and they will always live on in our hearts.



WORKSHOPS

The primary purpose of the workshops is to provide meaningful employment for the residents at Camphill. The workshops, for the residents, operate from Monday to Thursday from 08h00 till 17h00. Full-time staff members and volunteers work alongside residents in their work environment.

The Garden Workshops are a wonderful opportunity for an outdoor classroom and provides a rich environment for skills development on all levels. They also deliver fresh produce every Tuesday to all the Residential Houses. The 40ha arable land is under pasture for the beef herd. The facilities team have an enormous task of keeping the entire estate and all the buildings in tip-top condition with limited resources throughout the year.

In addition, the various workshops have opportunities to showcase and sell their products at local markets, events, and various outlets which provides a passive income which is then re-invested into the workshops. These workshops really do become part of the resident's identity, and they take great pride in their work.

CRAFT WORKSHOP

Written by Valda Coetzee

The Craft Workshop aims to create meaningful employment, as well as developing resident's fine motor skills by completing puzzles, painting, sewing, knitting, beading and colouring in.



They produce a variety of beautiful hand-crafted items whilst listening to music. Music is an avenue of social contact and non-verbal self-expression. The Craft Workshop accommodates 19 residents daily, including myself and our assistant Jana Mätschke. Certain crafters rotate with either the Poultry Garden or the Herb Garden Workshops twice per week. Our workshop is largely dependent on donations to be able to do our daily activities. We are thankful for all the donations that have come our way to assist us with producing our craft items.



We try to accommodate our residents with activities that they are comfortable with and can manage. Our main activities include knitting, beading, painting, weaving mats and needlework. Our residents are very proud of their work.

Our focus this year was to create new products to exhibit at the Winter and Christmas Gift Markets. Our residents are very proud of their work, especially knitting scarves, knitted lavender pillows, mittens & headband sets for little girls, and neck buffs for ladies.

We received a donation of leather earlier on in the year and we explored various options. We are currently producing nifty draw-string leather pouches and beautiful bookmarks. Having the opportunity to sell their products on these occasions gives our residents immense satisfaction.



As a fun project from other various donations gratefully received, the residents loved making necklaces with buttons: not just a few buttons but close to 70 000 buttons donated of all shapes and sizes. Thank you John!

My job is very rewarding to my spirit and my soul, and I am looking forward to meeting my residents everyday morning.

HERB GARDEN WORKSHOP

Written by Lucky Sekate

I'm proud to say the year 2024 was the best year ever for the Herb Garden! The dream and the plan was to find a way to use our garden not only to grow herbs, but also to make use of the land by investing in growing vegetables. This was so that we would be able to provide our Farm Community with organic vegetables which in time would help to minimize the expenses of buying from supermarkets.

With the support of our hard-working management and fundraiser, Michelle, we thankfully received another extremely generous donation from Haygrove Farm to help us with this undertaking. The green-house shade nets, and vegetable tunnel has made a huge difference and really promotes our slogan *WE BUILD TO GROW*. The name behind the project was inspired by Barry Mathew, one of our residents. It was through a simple conversation with him during work time, when he told me about a building construction business that he had back in the days before he fell ill. I found the story inspiring, and the name suits our project perfectly.

For the past four months, along with the farm team and residents, we managed to build three big tunnels which helps to keep the baboons, porcupines, rabbits another little critters out, that destroy our gardens.



With these news structures in place, it helps to minimize the damage caused by the furry animals.

At the end of the summer season, we managed to grow and harvest flavoursome vegetables such as tomatoes, spinach, green beans, chilies, lettuce, green peppers, sunflowers and many more varieties, which was a huge success for the residents. We cannot wait for the next summer season to double our produce.

From myself and my team, we say thank you to everyone who joined forces to make our gardening projects successful - ***WE BUILD TO GROW** - a dream come true.*



POULTRY AND FOOD GARDEN WORKSHOPS

Written by Deanne Fouche

They say, "The only constant in life is change". Due to recent developments, the scope of our workshop is pivoting. The vegetable garden has moved to the Herb Garden Workshop and, in its place, thanks to a kind donor, two exciting new ventures are taking place: a seedling shed and an expansion of our fruit orchard.

In summary, this year has been a smooth ride. This is due to placing an emphasis on a harmonious working environment for all, fostering mutual respect and kindness within the team.

Of course, there have been a couple challenging moments. However it has been a focus to address and iron these out as they arise - with love and guidance from our staff. Mentoring, encouragement, and upliftment is always encouraged.

We were pleased to welcome new workshop members Jessica Woodward, Tegan Rieper and Sindisiwe (Sindi) Pullinger. Jessica joined us in March. With her previous experience in volunteering at an animal shelter in the US, she dotes on the chickens and geese and her love and care for them shines brightly. Teaming up with Tegan and Sindi has since given names to all 77 chickens.



Sindi also joined us in March, with her previous experience in dog grooming, Sindi brings a certain calm and technical experience when working with the chickens. She assists in administering medication and treatment when necessary. Tegan was previously at the Craft Workshop fulltime. She now attends our Workshop twice a week, as she has a love for animals and wishes to gain more experience working with them.

A change in our team of staff members has also given way for our workshop to blossom. In December we welcomed Alexander Chirwa to our team, following the departure of Theo Funani. Alexander is no spring chicken, but he brought spring into our workshop with his enthusiasm, fresh ideas and laughter. His efforts are graceful, and we appreciate the hard work he puts in. Alexander is from Malawi, bearing work experience in both gardening and social care.

POULTRY GARDEN

During the period of January 2024 to December 2024 our chickens produced a monthly average of 492 eggs, totalling 5900 for the year. 33 Fertile eggs

introduced the arrival of 33 chicks in December 2024.

Sadly 2 of the chicks did not make it to adulthood due to a fatal injury from an unknown cause and the other to immunocompromise. The remaining 31 appear to be strong and healthy.



With the moving of the vegetable garden, our energy has funnelled into our poultry gardens, giving us the opportunity to improve our workshops image to welcome visitors. Making compost tea provides our trees with the nutrients that they need to flourish.

This is also how we manage weeds, as these provide a third of the nutrients used to make the teas.

Summer season brought a brief abundance of apples, pears and quinces. Making purees and sauces stimulated the team's appetites and love for cooking.

With gratitude to a generous sponsor, a new seedling shed will soon be installed. This will allow us to provide the Herb Workshop with the seedlings that they need for their vegetable garden, as well as an alternative space in which to enjoy tea breaks together. In preparation for the new shed, we presumed that we would need to uproot and let go of a beautiful mulberry tree. With much effort from our residents, we managed to replant the tree elsewhere in our workshop. This tree is our miracle tree.

Within a few weeks there is regrowth, and to our astonishment – mulberries!

Harbouring new skills - we can expand on residents' skills and experience around seedling production. These seedlings will be sown, grown and distributed to our fellow Herb Garden Workshop.

Increase egg supply - Although we are only supplying eggs to the Community, it is our aim to increase egg production to sell outside and to attract more awareness about Camphill Farm Community.

Sowing for the future - the seed has been sown for a plan to plant a fruit orchard where the old vegetable garden used to be. In years to come this will allow the workshop to expand on fruit production for the Residential Houses, in terms of variety and quantity.

Service to the larger community – we understand the value of giving. When our residents have been able to gift something to another, they light up. It's powerful. As a group, we've agreed that, if given the nod, a monthly beach cleanup is a way our Workshop would like to give back.

FARM WORKSHOP

Written by Bryon Sharpe (Farmer)

The farm team consists of myself and my two assistants Mpilo and Prosper. We have three residents that join us throughout the week: Egon Bonthuys, Barry Matthew and Ross Edlmann.



It is quite physically demanding work that we are doing now and due to this not many residents are capable; yet the ones we have want to come to work every day of the week including weekends. I have now been the Farmer for nearly two years, and we have accomplished a huge amount during this time. We have also been joined by wonderful volunteers from Germany who help on the farm. Magda Biltz and Merle Handmann work on a weekly rotation, each of them for a full week at a time. We are extremely thankful for all the hard work that they have done and all the love and support they extend to our residents.



The current herd size is 14 animals: 10 heifers of which half are Herefords and the other half are Jerseys, 2 steers (one from last year and one new one) and 2 Hereford bulls (one of the bulls castrated last year was not completely successful; we are trying with him to impregnate our females.

Otherwise, the other are nearly 2 years old, and should the older bull be unsuccessful, we have backup. Most of our herd are now beef animals (Herefords), as we are still phasing out the Jerseys and using them to supply meat to the houses and to breed with them. We send an animal away for slaughtering every 3 months for inhouse consumption. Our Herd is still very young, and our aim is to build the herd to 22 cattle.

Pedro, our donkey, has now officially been with us a full year and has become the farm mascot as he is a loving and photogenic. He has made an incredible recovery from being rescued and has put on good weight and muscle and has developed a good character.



The past summer was the warmest and driest we have had in a while and for this reason we had to set up the irrigation system for the first time in three years. Due to the long time in storage, repairs and maintenance was needed, but we quickly had the system up and running. The bottom fields of the farm between the office and the river are mainly irrigated as these having irrigation points. Due to the fields being more intensely grazed we have seen a great improvement in the grazing and grass coverage and an increase in palatable species.

Moving into winter now we have accumulated a good amount of wood from our ongoing invasive clearing programme and it's unlikely that we will need to remove any trees from our gum forest this season.

We continue to chip a fair amount of the organic matter that can't be used for firewood which is used around the Community and in our gardens.



The remainder of the organic material is disposed of to be burnt when the annual burn season arrives around April. The invasive trees have for the most part been removed from the bottom part of the farm along the river with the assistance of the [Land Care Group](#), and Government funding. Occasional sweeps will need to be done in the future to deal with any regrowth. On the upper parts of the farm most of the invasive vegetation have been cleared up to the powerlines. There is still a decent amount of dense growth from the powerline next to our neighbouring farm Volmoed.



This clearing has been done with the assistance of Frank, Belinda and the [Hermanus Hackers](#) that come every Tuesday and Thursday morning, weather depending. There has been a vast improvement in the landscape with lots of indigenous fynbos species reappearing and re-establishing themselves.

Over the last year we have received new equipment with great thanks to [The Rotary Club of Hermanus and Trent Bridge, UK](#). With their help we have acquired a second-hand Massey Ferguson 35 tractor as well as a brand-new firefighting trailer.

The tractor has already been a great help around the farm taking certain tasks away from our larger Massey tractor. The smaller tractor is used for multiple tasks such as assisting in carting away the wood chips produced by our larger tractor, pulling the irrigation trailer (it is lighter and has smaller wheels meaning it has less of a damaging impact on the fields) and with the delivery of firewood to the houses during the winter months. The firefighting trailer is fully road worthy; we will be using it in the fire season to assist with fires in the valley and surrounding areas.



We are very fortunate to have the Bruwer bee farming family from Struisbaai involved in our bee keeping efforts at Camphill. Our bees continue to provide honey to our Residential Houses.

During the past spring our bees were used on stone fruit plantations to assist with the pollination process. The Bruwer family use the bees for pollination on different farms and asked if they could use our bees to assist. The honey has been enjoyed by the whole Community and has been the best seller at all the markets that we have attended in the past year.



FACILITIES

Written by George Louw

The facilities team consists of the following members: George, Michael, Phila, Brendon, Duncan, Greg, Ross, Barry, Magda and Stella.



Their biggest undertaking this year was to prepare the entire estate for the Camphill Dialogue Conference 2025, including all the general maintenance inside and outside the buildings, which were completed before the delegates arrived in May of this year.

On rainy days we restored old furniture from the various Residential Houses, as well as restoring old pot plants that were donated to the Community. Our team ensures that the Community has sufficient water daily, which comes from our own boreholes. The team really came together and repaired many of the estate's roads due to the ongoing rains.

Thank you to all the team members!



WISH LIST FOR CAMPHILL FARM COMMUNITY HERMANUS

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Camphill operates under significant financial constraints, however, we aim to vastly improve the lives of our residents and we do this through programmes and projects, as the funds permit. We are grateful to each and every person who plays a role in supporting Camphill's vision and ethos to improve the lives of our residents - in this extraordinary environment, adding a calming and supportive aspect to their lives, however complex their individual needs may be.

7 RESIDENTIAL HOUSES

- Blood pressure machines for each house
- Single bed duvets/innners
- Single bed covers
- Standard pillows
- Single mattress protectors
- Fridges
- Washing machines 13kg
- 3-piece lounge suit
- 2-seater sofa
- Adult pants (diapers)
- Vacuum cleaner
- Dinner plate sets for each house
- Hand towels
- 2 slice-toaster
- Pots & pans
- Sandwich press
- Electric blender
- Braai drums

ADMIN OFFICE

- Blinds
- Paint
- New flooring
- New lights
- Reception desk

CRAFT WORKSHOP

- Various types & colours of wool
– this is a firm favourite, and we require wool all year round.
- Teaspoons and coffee mugs
- Wood glue, craft glue & glue sticks
- New material scissors
- Craft paint
- Pre-cast pottery items (plates, vases etc)

GARDEN WORKSHOPS

- Wheelbarrows
- Gumboots
- Ponchos or rain jackets
- Pruning shears
- Garden scissors
- Packaging material for products produced

MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

- White outdoor and indoor paint 100 litres
- Green roof paint 100 litres
- Primer 50 litres
- Air Compressor
- Stihl petrol brush-cutter
- Industrial high-pressure hose
- Safety boots

FARM WORKSHOP

- Protective beekeeping suit
- Rain jackets or ponchos
- Spades
- Rakes
- Tools (hammers, screwdrivers etc)
- Safety boots / gumboots
- Servicing of equipment

DONATIONS APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

Donor	Amount
Association Of Camphill Communities Uk And Ireland (AoCC).....	660 000
Bequest VY Lawton.....	25 000
Berna Van Der Merwe	4 600
Christie Foundation	100 000
Christoph Kortstiege	31 839
Donations Fundraising	37 220
E R Tonnesen Will Trust	74 150
FF Charity - Night Of A 1000 Drawings	20 000
Fuchs Foundation	10 000
Grandslots CSI.....	50 000
Hermanus Office National	4 156
Investec Bank Limited (Investec Social Investment)	20 000
Mazda Foundation.....	20 000
MySchool.....	6 937
P M M Gray Trust	45 540
Potton Family	100 000
Rotary Club Of Hermanus.....	77 202
Rotary Club Of Trent Bridge UK.....	18 283
Rotary Club Oregon USA	5 693
Steve Woodward.....	20 000
T H Mathers Will Trust	42 750
The Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust.....	150 000
Tokara	70 000
Wyss Family	375 000
Grand Total:	1 968 369.26

HELP US TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF OUR RESIDENTS



DONATE TODAY!

SCAN THE YOCO QR CODE & LIVE TO LEAVE A LEGACY!



CONTACT US

Camphill Road, Off Caledon Road, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley,
Hermanus 7200, Western Cape, South Africa
P.O. Box 301 Hermanus, 7200, Western Cape, South Africa

NPO Number: 003-322 | **PBO Number:** 18/11/13/4249
NPC Registration Number: 1978/003803/08

Email: admin@camphill-hermanus.org.za
Web address: <https://farm.camphill-hermanus.org.za>
Facebook page: Camphill Community Hermanus
Tel: +27 (0) 21 200 2230

BANKING DETAILS

Bank: First National Bank | **Branch Code:** 200 412
Account Name: Camphill Farm Community Hermanus
Account Number: 5247 070 1065 | **Account Type:** Cheque
Swift/IBAN: FIRNZAJJ



*It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight
harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present.
And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary decent egg.
We must hatch or go bad.*

- CS Lewis -



Camphill Farm Community Hermanus

Quality of life for adults with intellectual disabilities



*Empathy has no script. There is no right way or wrong way to do it.
It's simply listening, holding space, withholding judgement, emotionally connecting,
and communicating that incredibly healing message of "you are not alone".*

– Brene Brown –



Proudly supported by **Office National Hermanus**

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