



October 2021

Spring has definitely arrived! On the 9th of September the Red Chested Cuckoo announced it's arrival with the familiar call of Piet-my-Vrou, which echoes with the calls or screeches of the Guinea Fowl and the Hadada Ibis. Less noisy, but putting on a beautiful display of colour are the Malachite Sunbirds. The pincushions and other fynbos add to this as well as the bright green of the new leaves on the Oaks, Pin Oaks and Plane trees, and the red of the Coral tree flowers and the pastels of the blossoms on the plum trees.

With the arrival of Spring we have also seen an increase in our visitors which is a blessing. We had a number of empty weekends at the beginning of September which filled during the course of the month, with all the cottages booked out for the long weekend. Families enjoyed the sunny weather, walks, games and braais. We have had further enquiries from some the people who stayed over during this time.



It was good to welcome back Hilary Cruywagen who had been to Volmoed in the past. He thoroughly enjoyed his stay, spending some time with Brother Roger as well as with Alyson in the art room. (You can enquire at the office if you would like to talk to either the brothers or Wilma our Chaplain. Also if you would like to get in touch with Alyson for an art session.)

September also marked the return of people doing the Pilgrimage of Hope—it is special to see them as they depart, or along the way with their signature red hats.

Another late booking was for a group from Project 90 BY 2030, whose aim it is to Inspire and Mobilise a low carbon generation. They had a good time, enjoyed going to the Mootel to help milk the cows and just generally relax. They ended their stay with a drumming session which reminded us of Unyoke and VYLTP who also incorporate drumming in their programs.



Freesia held Volmoed's name high as she assisted Hermanus Primary School with their fund raiser. She was collected early in the morning for her outing. This took a bit of effort due to her reluctance to go on this journey without her friends, but eventually she was on the trailer and off she went. Once there she was allowed to graze on the field and leave her 'calling cards' hopefully in the demarcated blocks which were sold. Her contribution brought in R 250 000.



PRIORY NEWS



We are trusting that Scott will get his ap-

pointment at the consulate during the week so that he can secure his visa and hopefully be back at Volmoed in mid October.

We celebrated Holy Cross Day, an important day on our calendar, with the Volmoed community and staff as we all enjoyed lunch together.

We wish Blazio well as he goes on leave and are happy to have Johan helping in the garden during his absence.



FEEDBACK FROM OUR GUESTS

Peaceful and Beautiful Place

Stayed in the old farm house. There was a lot of space, the house was very clean and fully equipped as per the description. The pictures on the website need to be updated as they do not do justice to the house.

Grace Cottage

A wonderful place to do a Solo retreat. Extremely peaceful and I enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and well marked nature walks in the Hemel and Aarde Valley. Grace cottage was perfect for my trip but the other accommodation options look great for groups / family trips.

We are always thankful for good reviews

OUR OCTOBER VISITORS

1-3 Craig Groome Group, Pilgrims, Megan Hughes

4-6 Clergy Retreat & Individuals

7-9 Tennant Family and Individuals

15-17 Christ Church Kenilworth Ladies

19th Pilgrims

22-24 Shofar Durbanville Ladies

25 –27 YWAM

29—5 Nov Journey South Africa



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Transformation



"See I am near, says the Lord, see, I make all things new!" (Rev 21:5)

September was a wonderful month of new beginnings. I slept in my own home for the first time since March 2019, my journey as a nomad ended, and I am slowly adjusting to living in a beautiful house that is a 'happy hermitage – not too small, not too large, just the right size!' I am busy unpacking and figuring out where things are, and soaking in the views, the birds and their songs, savouring quiet moments at the beginning and end of the day.

The day I moved in, the daily reading was from 1 Kings 19, the story of Elijah finding God in the sound of sheer silence – the core calling Scripture passage that affirmed my journey to study theology in the USA, back in 1984. During the first week, there were serendipitous visits and events that again affirmed God's call to bring me to Volmoed. Thank you all for your prayers – very much appreciated. I feel as if I have finally arrived and can put down roots.

Transformation continues inside and outside. Over the last few weeks, Deon Alberts and a wonderful team have worked to beautify the outside, adding a carport, entrance, retaining walls, adding soil to the berm for stabilising and planting, drainage, and more. Johannes Stallenberg is planting flowers and vygies to his heart's content, some from his own garden, some from Bruce and Michelle Fraser's prolific garden in Fisherhaven. It is a community effort, that will also benefit Volmoed. When the piles of sand and stones are gone, there will be an open house to welcome people to Casa Vuyo – house of joy – stay tuned. I am hugely grateful.



De Gloria!

Wilma

Esther