



Helshoogte Newsletter



Good day Oumanne,

We live in interesting times. The COVID-19 pandemic brought everything to a halt. Our country's borders are closed, schools and universities are under lockdown, our economy has ground to a halt, and most of us are, or were, confined to our homes. If someone told me a year ago this was what would happen in 2020, I would probably not have believed him.

As much as I want to talk about positive things, because that is the kind of person I am, I have to admit that there are many challenges right now. The reality is that many businesses are struggling to make ends meet and large numbers of people will be suffering immensely in the months to come. However, as South Africans we have the ability to do remarkable things. That is why today I appeal to all our Oumanne of Helshoogte – let us notice the distress of people out there and let us help where we can. It really is all we can do now, help where we can, and hopefully get stronger for it.

What is going on at the residence?

First years

The residence took in a record number of 176 first years in 2020. The reason for the large intake is, of course, the building project at the residence, which I gave feedback on in my previous newsletter. We are very excited to observe the momentum and dynamics that such a large group contribute to the traditions and spirit of the residence.

News from the House Committee

Currently there are 20 Helshoogters who unfortunately could not return home prior to the national lockdown and still reside at Helshoogte. From this group, a temporary leadership committee was appointed to assist resident head Luke Cuff to keep the residence going. This group is truly outstanding in the role they have played so far and we are very proud of them.

Nevertheless, the House Committee carries on fulfilling its responsibilities and meets online every week. Although keeping a community of 270 students

together in such uncertain times presents a major challenge, that is not an excuse. A plan of action has already been drawn up as a guideline for these uncertain times and until students are allowed to return to campus. This approach is focused primarily on using social media and technology to stay in touch, ensuring that valuable experiences are not lost in the process and putting in place plans and measures to facilitate the transition period back to residence life.

The House Committee continually strives to achieve its goals for the year despite this major disruption and works hard to ensure that Helshoogte remains committed to reaching “new heights”.

The Rooster will crow again!

Photo of the Year Competition

During 2019, we launched a competition from the Old Bond’s side to ensure that the residence is provided with enough photographs actively to supplement the archive. This competition was a huge success, to such an extent that the residence was able to compile a digital yearbook last year with all the photographs they received. The competition was launched again this year and Johannes Els will be running it as before. Please find some of these photos attached at the end of the newsletter.

Homecoming Weekend and Woordfees

Maties had their respective first-year group Homecoming Weekend earlier this year. Alumni who were first years in 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 gathered during the opening weekend of the Woordfees in Stellenbosch where a mass year group reunion took place on Friday evening, followed by individual reunions on Saturday evening. However, no annual groups from Helshoogte participated in the weekend. We will be considering how to support this weekend and arrange annual group reunions as of next year. We are therefore looking for representatives of the first-year groups for:

- 1971
- 1981
- 1991
- 2001
- 2011

I would be delighted if representatives from these year groups could contact me as soon as possible.

Helshoogters in the News

Justin Corrans, a first year of 1995, was appointed as the head winemaker at KWV. Justin was previously at Mountain Ridge Wines near Wolsley and at Distell. Congratulations, Justin! We are proud of you.

Condolences

In the past, we have been spreading news about the death of former Helshoogters via e-mail or social media. In the future, we will be publishing such news in this newsletter. Therefore, please use the Oumanne e-mail address (oldboys@helshoogte.co.za) to share information about the passing of former Helshoogters.

COVID-19 and Helshoogte

The doors of the residence were also closed on 26 March 2020, except for 20 students who were unable to return home owing to various circumstances. At this stage, we are not yet sure what the rest of the academic year will look like and when the rest of the students will be allowed to return to the residence.

The University is currently following an online teaching system and it appears that the June examinations will also be conducted online. One really hopes the students will be able to return to campus as soon as possible.

To conclude, I would like to wish everyone all the best and good luck. I know we are facing uncertain times and that we all follow different life journeys, but we are and will always be there for each other.

Stay safe!

Helshoogte greetings,

Stompie Buys

Photo of the Year Competition: A few of the submissions...



The winning photo of the first instalment of this competition was taken by Michal Venter, who lived in Helshoogte between 2016 and 2019. This photo was taken at our annual Bonfire event on the night before “Bergklim” takes place. This is a new tradition that was established in 2017 and serves as an opportunity for the first years and the seniors to get to know one another a bit better.



Almost the entire Helshoogte community gathers to sing the House Anthem at the final of the first year’s rugby tournament in 2017 – Sent in by Frederick van Zyl (2017-2020)



Gwappe steals Simonsberg's flag (2018) – Sent in by Erik Vermeulen (2018-2020)



Derby Touchies 2019 – Taken by Ettiene Mouton (2017-2020)



The view from Botmaskop.



Social in the section.



Helshoogte vs Dagbreek Box 2019 – Taken by Nathan Nyatondo (2019-2020)



Derby celebrations after points are scored in the dying moments of the game –
Taken by Michal Venter (2016-2019)



Father and Son 2017. Always a highlight on the yearly calendar!



The highest in Stellenbosch!

Stay in contact!

1. Please join the Helshoogte Old Boys Facebook group to connect with fellow Helshoogters:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HelshoogteOldBoys>

2. Keep your contact details up to date to ensure that you receive all of the newest information:

www.helshoogte.com/oldboys