



# THE 113<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HERMANUS CAMP

WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020 TO SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

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# Introduction

The Annual Hermanus Camp is a summer camping adventure for boys that promotes an outward-bound philosophy. It is styled on scouting traditions with a Christian ethos. Campers are accommodated under canvas in a beautiful Milkwood glen on a grassy site between the lagoon and the mountains of Hermanus, with direct access to the beaches.



The Camp aims to provide an opportunity for young boys and men to develop physically, socially and spiritually through a variety of enjoyable and challenging outdoor activities: sailing, canoeing, abseiling, hiking, swimming, games, competitions, beach games, archery and over-night hiking adventures.

Leadership and teambuilding life skills are developed in a friendly, fun and exciting natural environment, under the guidance of experienced, adult campers. Established in 1908, the Camp is a non-profit organisation, managed by a volunteer committee of former Campers.

The Camp accepts a maximum of **42** boys between the ages of **11-15** each summer. Additionally **16** junior leaders (“Back-Streeters”, aged **16-20**) are recruited from returning campers, who help the core of adult “Main-Streeters” organise and lead the Camp. Typically, 60% of our campers return each summer.

*“Our small size means that every camper gets to know everyone else, and our leaders are able to give each boy the attention he deserves.”*

Perhaps most important of all, at the Annual Hermanus Camp, boys form strong, meaningful friendships that last years after camping days have passed. Our alumni tell us these friendships are the most significant, enduring part of their Camp experience.

It is often repeated:

*“You don’t join Camp for just one summer...*

*You join for a lifetime!”*





# Activities and Expeditions

All our activities are challenging and exciting, combining aspects of adventure at a pace set to enhance exploration and appreciation of the natural world. Our activities teach outdoor skills and aim to build self-confidence.

## Sailing & Canoeing



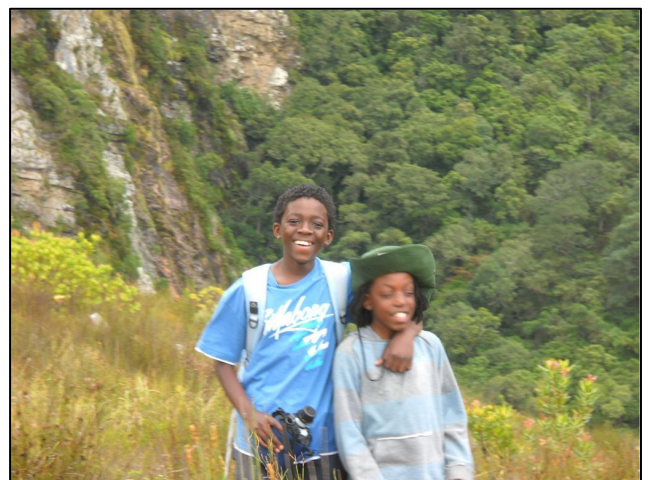
The Camp owns three sailing boats, a sailing dinghy, and various canoes that are used daily for sailing and paddling on the Hermanus Vlei. We launched our new boat, "The Star of the South III" in 2008.

Sailors journey to the south side of the Vlei to the "Haunted House" and the isolated beach called "The Cliffs". Learning to sail forms an important part of these expeditions. The high point of all boating expeditions is to reach the far end of the Vlei, but only after numerous "sea battles" and attacks from ruthless "pirates". Crossing the sand bar, the sailors continue up the tranquil Klein River that winds through quiet farmlands to the village of Stanford.

## Hiking

The variety of scenic mountain and coastal walks are endless. There are beautiful paths in the Maanskynekop and Vogelgat Nature Reserves. There is the challenge of the peaks – Mosselberg, Aasvoëlkop and Rocklands - and the river gorge in the Silvermijn Valley.

The ultimate challenge for the older boys is the 64km beach-hike to the Dangerpoint lighthouse, Gansbaai, and back in a day. Others may prefer to walk the Hermanus cliff-top whale route and abseil off the sea-cliffs, to walk around the Vlei to the old Haunted House, or learn the basics of archery.





## Sailing & Hiking

Sailing can be combined with walking expeditions. Visiting the Lower Waterfall requires one to beach a boat near the far end of the Vlei. Over 10 waterfalls and cascades, with magnificent pools, most of which are situated on private nature reserves, can also be reached on foot from the Campsite.

*“All campers get to go out on a Two-Day Adventure hike: spending a night out in the bush, making their own shelters and cooking their own food! Most regard this as the highlight of the Camp.”*

## Facilities & Amenities

The Camp is pitched amongst ancient Milkwood trees on a large grassy site where the Hermanus Vlei meets the beach. All campers sleep in large canvas bell-tents. The Camp has flush toilets, an open-air bush shower and refrigeration facilities. Our site fronts both the Vlei and the beach.

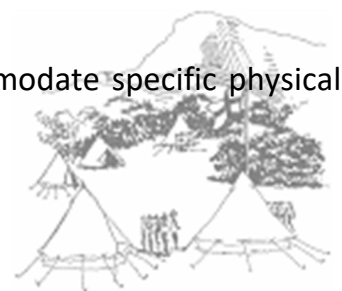
### The Marquee

All hot meals are served in a large marquee tent equipped with tables and benches. Our cooking and washing are done by our experienced chef and his assistants.

### Medical Facilities

We have a medical-tent staffed by trained First-aiders for treating any minor ailments and injuries. Our leaders are trained in basic First-aid and CPR. Hermanus has a public and private hospital within a twenty-minute drive. While the Camp may pay for minor medical expenses, parents are expected to cover all medical costs in the event of an accident.

Camp is an active, physical environment and may not be able to accommodate specific physical disabilities. Please contact us if you have an enquiry in this regard.



## Daily Programme

All awake to cocoa and biscuits. Each day starts with a few minutes thinking about the Christian faith. The Camp flags are raised, and then it's off for a refreshing swim in the sea.

Tent inspection follows soon after breakfast. The rest of the day is devoted to a choice of expeditions. Each boy is free to choose an expedition to go on from those offered daily. Most expeditions end with time for a game of stump cricket, a swim or quiet relaxation after a day well spent. After supper, the evenings include the inter-tent Puddox played on the beach, finished off with an evening activity over cocoa and a few moments of Christian reflection.



# Main Events

Our Camp is one of the oldest, continuously running youth groups in the world. We're a year younger than the UK Scout Movement and started at the same time as the SA Scouts. In 2018 we celebrated our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Campers returning from all over the world.

We are always excited to have old Campers return to join us for a few nights, or for a favourite expedition. Their memories and stories of adventures had on The camp in their time support the traditions of camp and are always welcome.

Here are the dates of some of this year's special events:

- **DANGERPOINT HIKE**

This blister making, cramp inducing hike is the Camp's toughest expedition. Only older boys who have proven their fitness on earlier hikes will be allowed to participate.

- **ROCKLANDS CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST**

Mainstreet will be leading a **6am** full-frontal charge up Rocklands for a sumptuous Champagne breakfast near the summit (juices for boys). Weather dependent!

- **THE EPIC PIRATE BATTLES**

Arrrrrr me maties! Bring your wacky hat and water pistol, it's gonna be chaos out there!!!

- **VISITORS' DAY – SUNDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY (MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID)**

For Campers wishing to participate, we celebrate Holy Communion at 08h00; with the remainder of Camp involved in beach activities until breakfast.

Should we proceed with Visitors' Day, parents and guests are encouraged to join the Camp for tent inspection at **10h30** followed by the Flag-raising Ceremony and short Family Service. Thereafter all visitors are invited to an American-style hotdog and ice-cream feast, though they are also welcome to bring their own picnic and relax under the old Milkwoods.

Lunch will be followed by the Sports events starting promptly at **14h00**. These will include the hotly contested Sisters Tug-of-War, Fathers & Sons Canoe Races and of course, the Land and Water race for the boys. Visitors' Day and Family Weekend closes after tea at **16h00**.



- **CAMP CONCERT – FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**  
At the end of Camp, the Circle tents and other bands of daring actors will present their drama or music. And of course, ‘King Shaka’ will pay a royal visit!



## Organisation

The 42 ‘**Circle**’ boys (ages 11-15 years) form the nucleus of the Camp. They are supervised by ‘**Back-Streeters**’ (16-20 years) and adult ‘**Main Streeters**’. 6 to 7 Circle boys form a ‘**Tent**’ and they share a spacious bell-tent. Tents compete against each other for various trophies.

Two **Back-Streeters** and a **Main-Streeter** guide each Tent. **16** Back-Streeters are chosen for their leadership promise, dedication and rapport with the Circle. These are mostly returning campers, but boys with suitable enthusiasm, camping and leadership experience may apply.



Main-Streeters provide the leadership, supervision and logistic support. A core of Main-Streeters is complimented by visiting adults who contribute with their diverse talents and experiences.

The Camp is a non-profit association, organised by a voluntary committee of Main-Streeters and supported by the St John’s Parish, Wynberg.

## Competitions

Camp competitions blend learning, action and fun; with everybody participating in a relaxed environment. Several historic floating trophies are awarded to individuals and tents.

***Puddox Cup*** - peculiar to Camp, Puddox is a combination of cricket and baseball, characterised by a vast amount of noise, dubious umpiring decisions and frenetic activity. The hotly disputed scorecard is scratched in the sand where it is subject to the vagaries of the wind, lagoon and bare feet.

***Tent Inspection*** - Judged daily after breakfast.





**Hawke Two-Day Shield** - The Camp favourite and most hotly-contested competition. Mid-Camp, each Tent spends one night out in the bush - around the Vlei or in the mountains - making their own shelters and cooking their own food.



**Canoe Races and Tug-of-War** - Held between Tents on Visitors' day. The father and son canoe race is always fanatically contested, but often ends up as an entertaining exercise in balance, co-ordination and sabotage.

**The Victor Ludorum** - The entire Circle competes in this premier running and swimming race held on Visitors' Day. The *Victor Ludorum* is awarded to the champion of the 'Land-and-Water' race.

**Prixton Orderly Cup** – Every Tent serves for a day as an Orderly – serving the meals and other small tasks, a vital service to ensure the smooth running of Camp. Creativity often wins this Cup!

**Flag Raising** - On the morning of the day a Tent is on Orderly duty, it is required to perform the traditional ceremony of raising the Camp flags.

**Griffiths Archery Shield** – Recognises the most promising Camp archer.

**Camp Concert** - Takes the form of a fun variety show of skits or songs held at the end of the Camp. Tents are judged for acting ability and entertainment value.

#### **Andrew Hurst Award**

This award recognises the Back-Streeter who contributed most to the Camp and its ethos, as voted on by his peers.

#### **Camp Spirit Award**

This rare award commends a camper who has distinguished himself in some heroic feat, that epitomises the Camp's spirit and ethos. Last awarded in 2000, to Trevor Ohlssen, for his brave rescue of some floundering sailors caught in a gale storm on the Vlei.



We thank the kind land owners that allow us access to their land:  
Vogelgat, Mosaic, Volmoed, Wortelgat and Fernkloof Nature Reserves, Dangerpoint Lighthouse, Walshacres and Crystal Kloof Farms, Mr Hoogie van Hoogstraten, Mrs E Ivey; Dr. Grant and Mr Charles & Elmiën de Kok



# The Journey to Camp

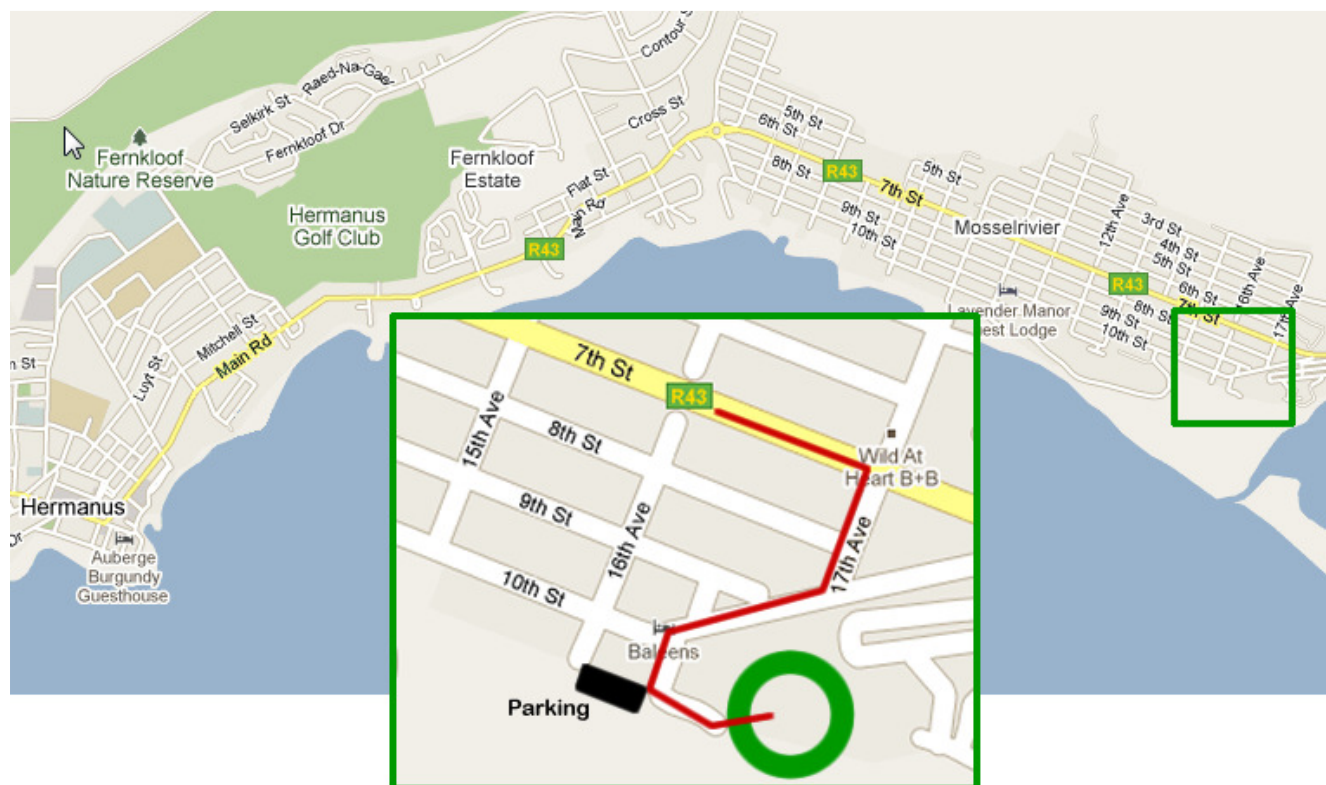
Camp will be pitched on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 10h00** by the Advance Party of **Main-Streeters, Back-Streeters & Tent Leaders**. Transport and lifts will be arranged for them. They also undertake various training, leadership and teambuilding exercises.

**Circle boys** arrive on the **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 10h00**. If you require a lift up to camp please indicate so on the application form, also if you will be able to offer lifts so we can ensure that all campers have transport.

We strike Camp on **Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> January**, finishing at **12h00**. Campers are to be collected by parents; boys may share lifts back to Cape Town.

## Directions to the Campsite

Drive through Hermanus and through the traffic circle. At the end of town where the road narrows, take the last right (17<sup>th</sup> Ave). At the T-junction, which leads left into the Die Mond Caravan Park, turn right and then take the first left. This lane banks down hard left into the Campsite parking-lot.



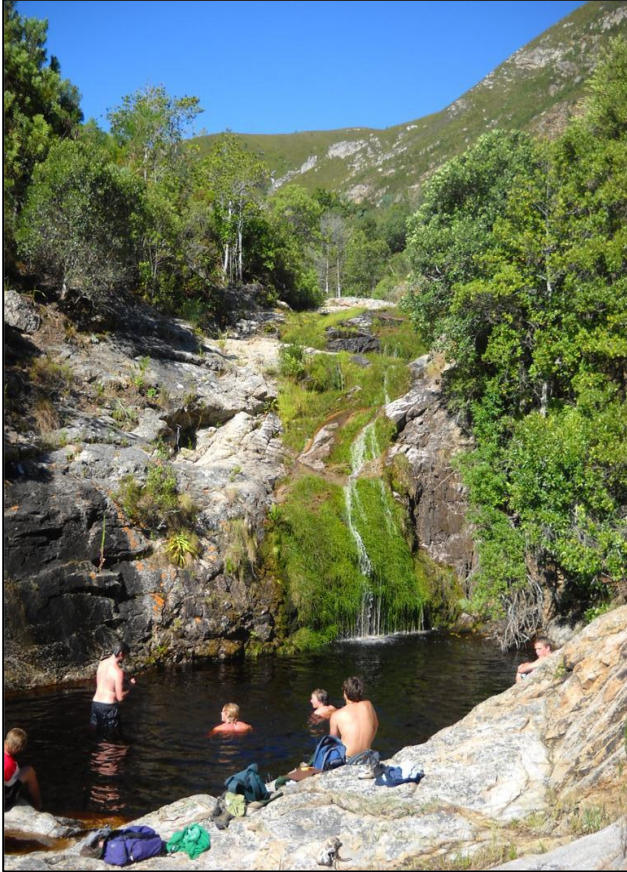
# Individual Equipment List

All equipment & clothes (**which MUST be marked CLEARLY!!**) must be packed into one suitcase/tog bag **and** one rucksack/large daypack - hiking through the mountains carrying a suitcase for 2 days is not comfortable! The following items are essential:

- Sleeping bag, water-proof groundsheet & pillow.
- Thin foam mattress is recommended, but must be able to be rolled or folded up. Back-Streeters & Main-Streeters may bring stretchers.
- Hiking boots/walking shoes & slippers/sandals,
- Socks, underwear, shirts & shorts,
- Hat, towel, costume.
- Water-proof wind breaker, sweatshirt/jersey & long pants/tracksuit.
- 2 white shirts & 1 pair khaki/brown shorts (for when on Orderly duty).
- Toiletries (**NB: SUN CREAM**).
- **Water bottle**, torch, plate, mug, knife, fork & spoon.
- Suggest bringing some Omo and pegs for a mid-Camp clothes wash.
- Life-jacket – only if you have your own that you prefer to use, Camp have many of our own
- Optional extras: binoculars, cards, games, rope, etc.
- And a weasel, in case you run out of clean underwear!



# Code of Conduct



We expect all campers to uphold this Code of Conduct, in the interest of the safety, well-being and enjoyment of all. Attending camp is a privilege that parents have chosen for their sons:

1. All campers must obey all lawful instructions of the Camp authorities, covering any aspect of the Camp, at all times. The Camp reserves the right, if necessary, to reprimand any camper.

2. Circle campers may not:

- Drink alcohol or smoke and/or be in possession of such;
- Leave the Camp area without the permission of the Adjutant or duty Main-Streeter;
- Absent themselves from Camp between 'Lights Out' and the 'Morning Bell' without the express permission of the Adjutant or the Commandant.

*Circle campers will be sent home if found to have contravened these regulations, as will ANY camper found to be in possession of any illegal substance or*

*a dangerous weapon. In the interests of the safety and security of all the campers, the Camp reserves the right to search any camper and their belongings should there be reasonable cause.*

3. The Camp reserves the right to send any camper home, without a refund, whose behaviour is disobedient, undesirable or anti-social.
4. No boat or canoe shall be taken beyond Dutchie Point unless accompanied by a senior camper. Campers must wear life-jackets at all times when boating.
5. Campers can hand in their pocket money, and any other valuables to the Adjutant for safekeeping. Cellphones, smartphones, tables and other electrical toys must be left at home. Camp is a time away from all these distractions. The Camp cannot accept liability for any lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. Back-Streeters will be expected to:  
Be fully involved with the Camp, from the early morning swim to lights-out; Fulfil their duties at Camp; Return to Camp before 01h00 (camp time) after having been granted leave-out by the Adjutant; and will not be allowed to drink alcohol or smoke while at Camp or on expeditions.
7. All campers will be expected to involve themselves enthusiastically in all activities and will at all times show consideration, tolerance, helpfulness and respect towards their fellow campers.

*Every camper must sign the Enrolment and Indemnity Form indicating that they will abide by this Code of Conduct. The Camp accepts no liability, whether the indemnity form is signed or not, For many boys this is the first time they will sign a commitment and will be a good opportunity for parents and boys to discuss their good behaviour at Camp.*



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How can campers be contacted while at Camp or phone home?**

The first three days are allowed for the boys to adjust into the Camp programme. From then on, boys may visit a nearby café and public phone. In the event of EMERGENCIES, the Adjutant, Mike Rushby can be contacted on his cellphone (074 147 3611) or the Commandant, Nigel Gwynne-Evans at (083 641 5173).

## **Can friends or brothers be in the same tent together?**

We generally try to put friends together. But sometimes are placed separately so as not to cause imbalances in ages and sizes between tents. We tend to place brothers in different tents, but do indicate your preference on the Enrolment Form.

## **What if I don't know anybody else going to Camp?**

Making new friends isn't all that hard. At the Annual Hermanus Camp, everyone is immediately part of a tent group. New friends are made easily this way, and those friends can last a lifetime!

## **May I go to my favourite activity all the time?**

The sign-up allows boys to take a turn at selecting activities and expeditions first, generally being able to choose to go with their friends. One day you can choose your favourite activity but the next you may need to try something else.

## **I have never done outdoor stuff before.**

That's no problem; everybody learns the basics at Camp. It's a great place to learn new skills and sports. For some Campers these have turned into passions, leading them to become professional sailors, others extending their hikes to conquer Kilimanjaro.

## **Can I bring my cellphone, tablet or other electrical devices to Camp?**

We believe that this Camp period is a good time to get away from electronic distractions. Too often these devices act to exclude you from your peers, and get damaged and lost. So, please leave them at home!

## **What about fishing rods, boogie-boards, sports gear or pocket-knives?**

You are welcome to bring your cameras, binoculars, frisbees, fishing rods, sketchpads, musical instruments and boogie-boards. We have our own soccer, rugby, volleyball and cricket balls for your use. Small, folding camping-knives/pocket knives are allowed.

## **When can campers receive visitors?**

Visitors are welcome on Visitors Day and to make short visits on ordinary days between 4 and 6 pm, provided they are not disruptive.

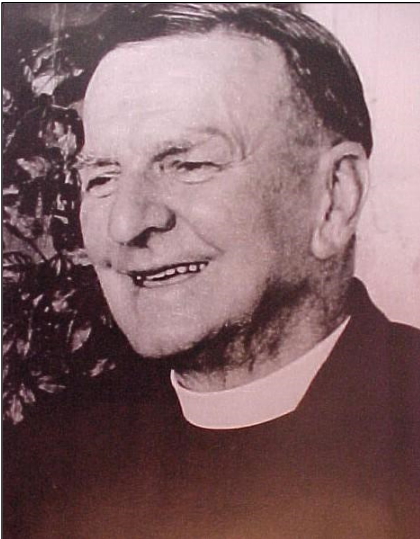
## **How can I help sponsor a camper?**

Individuals are most welcome to sponsor boys of their own choice or make a donation towards our Sponsorship Fund. Please contact us in this regard or simply make an addition in the Enrolment Form. Your support in giving a disadvantaged boy the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and learning activities of our Camp would be greatly appreciated.



## History of the Annual Hermanus Camp

In 1908, the Reverend Ernest Lasbrey (affectionately known as 'Lab') became the Rector of St John's Parish, Wynberg, and founded the St John's Boys' Camp, which he organised along the lines of boys' summer camps he had been on in England. Concurrently, in late 1908, Geoffrey Noakes and his friends had obtained a copy of Baden Powell's 'Scouting for Boys' and had set themselves up as the 1st Kenilworth Scout Troop! In 1910, Lab became their Scoutmaster, and proceeded to develop the Troop, bringing it more into line with the fledgling Scout Movement.



### The Scouting Years

Lasbrey took the concept of his St. John's Boys Camp and incorporated it into the Scouting calendar as an annual feature. The first Scout Camp was held at Hout Bay in September 1910 (this being the 3rd annual camp), but was found to be too cold and windy. The fourth Camp was held in January 1911 on one of the Rhodes Fruit Farms, at Simondium.

Camp was moved the following year down to Hermanus where the fishing was reputed to be excellent. Their Camp was at Mossel River in the 'Hollow' below the Riveira Hotel (near 'Piet se bos').

Finding this site too small, they moved in 1916 to 'The Buff' - the caravan park of today - which although clean and had a beautiful view, was exposed to the elements and the winds. Old Campers recall clinging desperately on to flapping guy ropes with bags of sugar and potatoes strategically hung to prevent disaster!

A final move was made in 1919 to a grassy site called 'The Dimple' near the mouth of the Klein River lagoon. Fences were put up, and by tradition the site became the Camp's. Despite the closing in of suburbia, it has few faults. In 1974, the 'Camp' split from the 1st Kenilworth Troop, to form a volunteer-run Association, preferring to operate independently from the Scout Movement.

### By Oxwagon to Camp

'Young' campers since 1961 have had it easy in their journeys down to Camp. That year saw the final train journey: from Kenilworth Station to Bot River. At Sir Lowry's Pass Station the old hands knew a trick. On the pretext of 'going to stretch one's legs' they would wander to the engine and, with the engine driver's compliance, ride on the footplate for the remainder of the journey.



At Bot River, the Troop would be met by an oxwagon that would take all their equipment along the untarred road to Hermanus. The Troop would outspan 8 miles from Bot River at Hoopies River and spend the night under the stars.



*The following morning, the senior Campers would trek across the mountains through the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, while the younger ones would remain on the dusty coast road to Hermanus with the oxwagons. What a far cry from the rapid, ninety minutes that is all that is necessary today.*



## *Expeditions*

*There has always been an enjoyable mixture of relaxation and activity, and Camp tradition has been intertwined with the Vlei. Sailing was not encouraged in the early years and centre-boards were forbidden - to ensure that all boys learnt how to row! Generations of Campers have climbed Mosselberg and Rocklands - the notes in the books at the beacons are a Camp history in themselves.*

*Harry Lawrence, former Cabinet Minister, reminisces: "The memories of the lagoon are very pleasant, when one has been close to it in practically all its moods. In the frail body of a Canadian birch-bark canoe I have seen it shimmering in the heat of the day; and, one of a very weary and sleepy thirteen which lost the channel in the dark and was compelled to spend the night in a small boat in cramped positions. I have watched it take on the colours of dawn, heard the calls of birds awakening to life and seen the tall, dark mountains keeping their silent watch. One looks back upon these experiences with very happy recollections, for they have proved to be strong links binding together many strong friendships."*



## *St John's Parish Wynberg and the Camp*

*Throughout its history, the Camp and the 1st Kenilworth Scout Troop has been linked to the work of the Wynberg Parish. After 'Lab' founded the Camp, he continued as Commandant for 35 years until 1950. His successor as Rector, Reverend Stanley Wakeling, also succeeded him as Commandant and continued until his retirement in 1969. Successions of Padres have since provided spiritual and leadership support to the Camp. Murray Bridgman recently retired after serving 8 years as Commandant, and is succeeded by Nigel Gwynne-Evans.*

*The Camp maintains a Christian ethos founded on the Scouting tradition. Each day starts and ends with a few minutes thinking about the Christian faith and how it relates to the day's experiences, and is concluded with a short prayer. In this way the boys enjoy a holistic camping experience, developing their bodies, minds and their spiritual selves.*

*St John's Parish consists of: Emmanuel Church, Wynberg | St Luke's Church, Diep River | St John's Church, Wynberg | St Philip's Church, Wetton | Church of the Holy Spirit, Kirstenhof | Christ Church, Kenilworth*



## Camp Directors

President	~	Alec McDonald
Chairman	~	Anthony van Hoogstraten
Commandant	~	Nigel Gwynne-Evans
Adjutant	~	Mike Rushby
Padre	~	TBC
Treasurer	~	Richard Ferguson
Fiscal Shrike	~	Rory Latimer
Camp Doctor	~	Dr Roy Huson
Quartermaster	~	Yassien Hartley
Training	~	Morgan Griffiths & Geoff du Toit
Sealord	~	Ricky Allerdice & Chris Rushby

**Other Members:** Peter & James Day, Rory Latimer, Grant & Murray Bridgman, Greg Mills Tim Morris, Charles Pohl, Peter Penny, Peter Kantor, Mark, Richard, Greg & Charles Simpson; Luke Pemberton; Dirk Hoffman, David Gwynne-Evans; Aidan & Matt Morton; Simon Karo; Jonathan Steytler; Keith Richardson; Tom and Derek Moss; Ben Wiley; Graham Duk; Jeremy Jansen; Andrew and Richard Mandy; Maarten Turkstra; Trevor Ohlson; Sipiwe Salakhuphatwa; & Josh Raynham.

## Camp Dates

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Advance Party – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Boys Arrive – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December

Visitors' Day – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January (Tbc)

Strike Camp – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January



The application, indemnity and proof of payment may be emailed to [annualhermanuscamp@gmail.com](mailto:annualhermanuscamp@gmail.com) before the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## Enquiries

Please direct any enquiries to [annualhermanuscamp@gmail.com](mailto:annualhermanuscamp@gmail.com), or (in case of emergency) directly to the adjutant, Mike Rushby (074 147 3611).

Please note that only **42** Circle-aged boys will be accepted. Early application is therefore essential. Old campers are encouraged to invite their friends, brothers and cousins, to join in the fun. We rely on old campers to recruit new campers. Fathers who would like to join their sons on the Camp (or part thereof) are welcome to make arrangements with the Adjutant.

Updated details can be found at:

[www.hermanuscamp.co.za](http://www.hermanuscamp.co.za)

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