



Lückhoff School

Banhoek Road, Stellenbosch

The story of the *old Lückhoff School Building*

Background

The old Lückhoff School Building in Banhoek Road, Stellenbosch, is an important beacon in the history of the community who lived in the area between Victoria, Bird, Banhoek and Joubert Streets known as Die Vlakte. The school, named after the missionary Reverend Paul Daniël Lückhoff, opened its doors in January 1935 with 45 learners and 3 staff members.

The school was known for its excellent teachers, good reputation, high level of discipline, and the neatness of the children's school uniforms and the school grounds. Soccer, netball, rugby and cricket were the main sports of the school. The pupils, teachers and parents were proud of their school.

With the introduction of the Group Areas Act, the existing integrated community was forced apart. On 30 October 1969 teachers and pupils were moved to the current school in Bloekom Avenue, Idas Valley with mixed feelings.

The contribution of the Lückhoff School

Lückhoff was the first Afrikaans high school for "coloureds" in the Boland and surrounding rural areas. Pupils came from as far afield as South-West African (now Namibia). This institution had the calling to help in the formation of a healthy society. The school was the training ground for many leaders of the future: doctors, teachers, church ministers, nursing staff, craftsmen, clerks, business leaders, politicians, an ambassador, inspectors of education and a director of education. Lückhoff has produced sportsmen and women who have competed on provincial, national and international levels.

The Lückhoff School and Stellenbosch University

The school building came into the possession of the university through an exchange agreement between the Cape Education Department and the university. On 15 October 2007, Prof Russel Botman, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University, rededicated Lückhoff School to the broader Stellenbosch community.

The old Lückhoff School today

Today, the old Lückhoff School serves as a beacon of reconciliation, hope and healing as it has been dedicated to the upliftment and service of the people of this historic town. It houses the Division for Community Interaction of Stellenbosch University, Matie Community Service, as well as several other NGOs and community-based organisations. Together, they strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders in order to make a meaningful contribution to the community.

See the past in pictures

The Lückhoff School houses a permanent exhibition of photographs containing treasured memories of that era, the school and social events around that time. It is clear that the school had an important positive influence on the community it served. At the same time, the photographs also highlight the impact the Group Areas Act had on this community.



Photos: US Archive University of Stellenbosch

"We're here to ensure that the spirit of Lückhoff, namely the spirit of community, harmony, caring, neighbourliness and striving for excellence in all areas, will live on in the future use of this building."

– Prof Russel Botman
Vice-Chancellor and Rector of Stellenbosch University
Speech at rededication ceremony of the Lückhoff School on 15 October 2007

Contact us

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