



Onderstepoort residence centenary celebrations

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WHAT WOULD SIR ARNOLD THEILER HAVE SAID ON 14 APRIL 1924 WHEN HE INAUGURATED THE NEW STUDENT RESIDENCE AT ONDERSTEPSPOORT IF HE HAD KNOWN THAT 100 YEARS LATER A CROWD OF PEOPLE WOULD CELEBRATE THE HISTORIC OCCASION?

Music festival, fun and games

Celebrations took place on a large scale at the Onderstepoort residence on the sports fields of OP Village on Saturday 6 April 2024. Colourful fun, lots to eat, more to drink and music with a good vibe! The games included a tug-of-war competition that was won by: **Easy Company**, a men's corridor established in 2008, kicking dust in the eyes of **Old Res** and **Kampala** (a second-year men's corridor). Well done to the men of **Easy Company**! Even the ladies competed against each other in the tug-of-war and the winning team was duly rewarded.

A lofty stage, multi-coloured tents and stalls turned the OP Village sports fields into a festive venue. The on-stage line-up included **Zakes Bantwini**, **Droomsindroom**, **Rubber Duc**, **ONS Musiek**, **Celso Fabbri** and **Eloff**. Oom Hannes marinated and nurtured four lambs on the spitbraai to perfection and there was an array of drinks to quench everyone's thirst. Centenary merchandise sold out at a fast pace: wine, caps, jackets, T-shirts and more.





Marnus Zaaiman, Marius Hornsveld and Dricus Oerlemans





Zakes Bantwini in action



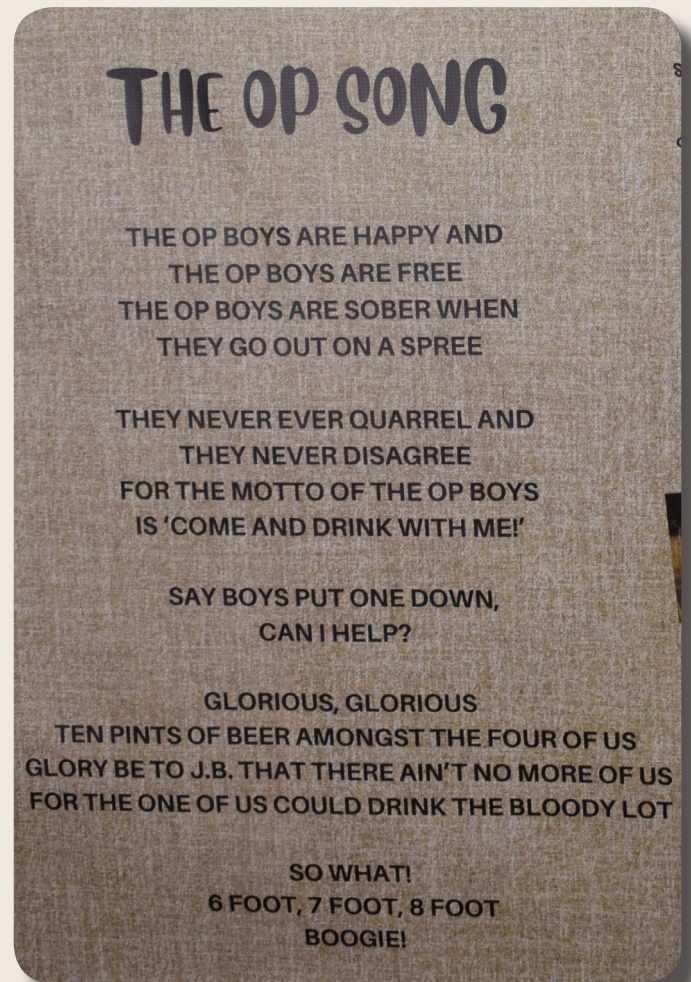
Droomsindroom on stage





A trip down memory lane

A must-see on the day was the exhibition of memorabilia in the Common Room: photos, trophies, T-shirts and a banner with a timeline of traditions (created by Cecilia van der Walt and Sarah Biesman-Simons of the Centenary Committee). These two very creative ladies went to great lengths to collect and display items of historic interest and create a 9-meter-long banner depicting OP traditions over the decades.



The collection displayed during the centenary celebrations will find a new home in a dedicated Archive display room. Any alumni who would like to donate beer mugs, rugby shirts, photographs, certificates and other items of historic value, can contact Marnus Zaaiman at OPVillage.Chairperson@tuks.co.za

Teamwork OP style

The joyous event was months in the planning by a group of Onderstepoort stalwarts comprising the Centenary Committee headed by Marnus Zaaiman (also the OP Village House Committee Chairman).

Dr Alischa Henning attended every committee meeting and organised countless aspects for the day and Marnus Zaaiman and his team outdid themselves. The House Committee (HC 2023/2024) worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Centenary Committee and contributed greatly to the smooth running of the event, particularly on the day, organising shift workers and putting up barrier tape, signs, etc.

Many other students (the boys of Old Res in particular) helped with the setting up and packing up of all the tables, gazebos, etc. The Centenary Committee is very grateful to all the OP students who volunteered their time on the day to work shifts – amidst tests and assignments.

For those who attended the festivities, among them, Dr Marius Hornsveld (the houseparent in the 1980s), lecturers and staff, parents and students from the main campus, OP Village was honoured to have you as their guests.



OP Village Centenary Committee 2024.
 From left to right - Front row: Vibreezia Solomons, Nikita Gironi, Sarah Biesman-Simons, Middle row: Matsepo Taala, Derick Beytell, Sanje Fourie, Hannah Nash, Elze Stadler, Back row: Solitha Kruger, Salmo Cilliers, Xander Juhl-Jürgens, Lizette Kakebeke. (Not in the photo but on the committee: Marnus Zaaiman, Cecilia van der Walt, Mari Theunissen, Dr Alisha Henning.)



Arnold Theiler (left front) as a young veterinary student at the University of Zürich in Switzerland with his 'lieber Bierbrudern' c. 1888. As the father of veterinary science in South Africa and the visionary who had Old Res built in 1924, he would surely have enjoyed the festivities!



Cecilia van der Walt and Sarah Biesman-Simons created the exhibition in the Common Room for the centenary celebrations.



OP Village
 HC 2023 - 2024



OP Village HC 2023-2024:
 From left to right: Salmo Cilliers, Ceilidh Ferguson, Luyanda Mashanda, Xander Jurgens, Marnus Zaaiman (Chairman), Tiaan Henning (houseparent with young Rudolph and Laubscher Henning), Dr Alisha Henning (houseparent), Paul-Hendri van der Merwe, Paballo Lekgate and Vosjan Grey. Sitting/ kneeling from left to right: Yusuf Matwadia, Niel van Wyk and Dirk Wijnbeek.

