

REKTORSREDE BY ONTHULLING VAN BLOU GEDENKPLATE

Baie welkom aan ons eregaste by hierdie spesiale en geskiedkundige geleentheid in die 154 jarige bestaan van Paul Roos Gimnasium, naamlik die onthulling van die Stellenbosch Erfenis Stigting Blou Gedenkplate op drie van ons pragtige historiese geboue:

- Die hoofgebou;
- Die Japie Krige-saal; en
- Die Laerskool Paul Roosgebou , alombekend as die LPR.

Graag verwelkom ek die volgende eregaste:

- Esther Groenewald, Stadsraadslid, Wyk 8;
- Antonie Jacobs, ons vorige beheerliggaam-voorsitter;
- Jock de Jager, Paul Roos Gimnasium se rektor van 1993- 2007, en mev. De Jager;
- The Adjudicating Committee of the Blue Plaque Schools Project:
 - Mrs Sigi Howes: Principal of the Centre for Conservation Education and Education Museum, as well as Project Coordinator: Blue Plaque Schools' Project;
 - Ronel Fourie: Stellenbosch Erfenisstigting; en
 - Sonja Buys: Stellenbosch Belangegroep;
- Arend de Waal, PRG 150-Trusteelid;
- Petro du Toit, Stellenbosch Visio en Tip Africa Publishing;
- Wilna van Heerden, hoof van Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof, en haar adjunk, Winnie Viljoen;
- Nelis Koegelenberg, skoolhoof van P. J. Olivier Kunssentrum;
- Gary Skeeles, principal of Rhenish Primary School;
- Henk Weyers, hoof van Laerskool Eikestad;
- Yolande van Zyl, verteenwoordiger van Hoërskool Stellenbosch;
- Elza van der Walt, Old Boys Office;
- Annelie Blomerus, voorsitter van die OOV; en
- Ander vriende van Paul Roos Gimnasium.

Ons motivering vir Blou Gedenkplaat-status is op die ouderdom van Paul Roos Gimnasium gebaseer. Ons vier vandag ons 154 ste verjaarsdag. Ons skoolprogram het vanoggend begin met 'n spesiale saalbyeenkoms, waartydens die gasspreker die oud-skolier en Springbok-wêreldbekerspeeler, Schalk Brits, was. Die onthulling van die gedenkplate span die kroon op die viering van ons 154 jaar.

Die waarde van dié gedenkplate word kortliks in die volgende aanhalings saamgevat:

- *A blue plaque plants the seed that perhaps a place is a spot to pause, reflect and take a second look.*

- *A blue plaque is a reminder that people who came before achieved something special. Blue plaques celebrate people, places, architecture and events.*
- *They are historical markers and spike curiosity. In less than 100 words the distinctive china blue fibreglass plaque gives a thumbnail explanation of the historical significance of a heritage worthy site.*

Die bewaring van ons drie historiese geboue is vir ons baie belangrik en baie moeite word gedoen om hul historiese karakter te behou.

Paul Roosers played an enormous role in the dynamic development of our country. We have a proud history, treasured traditions, notable achievements and most memorable successes and we have made an enormous contribution to the intellectual capacity of South Africa.

Ja, ons fokus op die toekoms, maar sal nooit vergeet om met trots op ons tradisies en prestasies terug te kyk nie. *Yes, we focus on the future, but will never forget to look back with pride on our past traditions and achievements.*

As 'n skool verbind ons onself vanoggend weer opnuut tot die kosbare en tydlose waardes van ons skool:

- Trots / Pride.
- Respek/ Respect.
- Gentlemanskap / Gentlemanship.
- Nederigheid / Humility.
- Uitnemendheid / Excellence.
- Integriteit / Integrity.
- Verantwoordelikheid / Responsibility.

Paul Roos Gimnasium is vandag 'n moderne wêreldskool wat sy leerders toerus en bemagtig om hul plek in die breë Suid – Afrikaanse samelewing en ook in die wêreld met sukses vol te staan, maar is steeds 'n skool waar bogenoemde onveranderlikes met sorg nagestreef word.

The Motivation for Blue Plaque status, drafted in 2019, reads as follows:

The age of Paul Roos Gymnasium

In March this year, Paul Roos Gymnasium celebrated its 153rd birthday. The school is situated on the old Welgevallen farm, which is the oldest farm in the country situated in the oldest town outside of Cape Town. In 1690 Simon van der Stel granted the farm Welgevallen to Steven Jansz Botma.

The decisive step to make Stellenbosch a centre for higher education was taken with the opening of the Theological Seminary in 1859. This created a demand for an institution where future theology students could be trained so that they could complete their preparatory studies needed for the Seminary.

*The first two professors of the Seminary were Professors John Murray and NJ Hofmeyr and the minister of the local Dutch Reformed Church, Reverend JH Neethling. They were the founder members of this school which was already named in December 1863 : **Zuid – Afrikaanse Gymnasium te Stellenbosch.***

On January 28th 1864 these men, who called themselves ‘eigenaren’ or shareholders of the Stellenbosch Gymnasium, met in the old Reading Room in Dorp Street as formal founders of the ‘Stellenbosche Gymnasium’.

*The school was officially **opened** in the Dutch Reformed Church on the 1st of March 1866 which is also the date that Paul Roos Gymnasium takes as its official birthday. On this day 88 boys enrolled. The name had been officially noted as: Het Stellenbosch Gymnasium. The first five boys matriculated in 1870.*

But the founder members had more in mind than just an ordinary high school in Stellenbosch. It was to be an institution that would offer something more in the line of a university education. Therefore in 1874 the Arts Department, the forerunner of the later University of Stellenbosch, was founded as part of the school. In 1881 this Arts Department became known as the Stellenbosch College and in 1887 it was renamed the Victoria College (so named because it was Queen Victoria’s 50th year on the throne) Eventually in 1918 it became known as the University of Stellenbosch which celebrated its centenary under this name in 2018.

In 1946 the school that started as Stellenbosch Gymnasium, then the Stellenbosch Boys’ High School, was renamed the Paul Roos Gymnasium after the young man, Paul Roos, who matriculated here in 1899 and who, in 1906 became the first Springbok rugby captain. It was also Paul Roos who gave the name Springboks to our national rugby players. In 1910 he became the rector of his old school, a post he held for 30 years up to 1940.

*In 1866 the school started with humble beginnings . Today, with 1252 boys, it is truly one of the top schools in South Africa with a motto **Semper Splendidior: Always brighter/ Altyd meer uitnemend.***

Dit is steeds die tradisie na 154 jaar.

Ter afsluiting, spesiale woorde van dank aan:

Sigi Howes, vir haar bystand met die motivering;

Mariena Kotze, vir die verwerking van die motivering, volgehoue ywer om die projek te verwesentlik en ongelooflike liefde vir Paul Roos; en

Antonie Jacobs, die vorige voorsitter van die beheerliggaam wat ‘n reuse bydrae van 2012 tot 2019 gelewer het.

