



Left: Surette Moggee, middle: Elsabe Lintvelt, right Iréne de Waal

MANAGEMENT UP TILL NOW

Iréne de Waal, a registered nurse was the founder of the Wamakersvallei Centre in 1998. In September 2010 she was appointed by the Rapportryers as the 21th Wellingtonner of the Year.

Mr Bailey said that “this award is a token of the exceptional way that she has served the people of the Drakenstein area through the years. In 2001 she also received an Certificate of Excellence from the senior citizens and ACVV for her services to the elderly. In 2004 she was honored 3 times when she received a special certificate from the Wellington Rapportryers for her services and dedication to the community. She was named Communicator of the Year by Toastmasters Paarl. Later that year, she was also named Woman of the Year by the Lions. In 2006, the Drakenstein Municipality honored her with an award for community work in the field of education. Her work is characterized by sincere love for her fellow human beings, an urge to help others. She has a passion for helping people to develop their skills talents. She performed her duty with dedication and overcame tremendous obstacles to establish the unique educational centre that it is today. In many ways, her work overlaps with the work of Dr. Andrew Murray more than a century ago.”

Surette Moggee Project Manager of Wamakersvallei Centre in 2011 said that: she is amazed every time to see how motivated the students are to take the courses. "I think the message is clear that our students clearly benefit from our courses. It especially helps students who have struggled to get a job. The feedback from the employers confirm this statement”

In 2011 she launched a mentoring program. Eunice Ralarala was the first person to be included in this mentoring program. Eunice has just started her new business: Grateful Cleaning and Catering,

where she cleaned houses, business premises and, among other things, arranged food schemes at schools. She also signed a contract to feed 35 school children with her soup kitchen. Moggee sees this as the ideal opportunity to empower students to dramatically improve their living conditions.

Elsabe Lintvelt started as the new principal at the Centre in 2013 till present. According to her, one of the biggest surprises that awaited her was the tremendous support that the institution received from the residents of the town. "People donate their time, talents and money freely to the Centre. It is clear that the whole community is proud of what has been achieved here in the recent years and that they therefore want to be part of what is happening here."

"We are constantly creating new career opportunities for our students. This is evident by the job opportunity Prudence Small got, to work as an au pair in Florida USA after completing the childcare course."

Each certificate ceremony is a special occasion to honor the students. "These students and what they are capable of, despite sometimes very difficult circumstances and negative things, is something that gives each of us hope and it can serve as motivation for many others."

WE ARE GROWING

1998

- The opening Ceremony takes place on the 18th of May 1998.
- The first Life Skills course was offered in rooms made available by the Boland College of Education in Wellington.
- The first logo was designed by Mr Andries Combrinck. Amelia Botha did the marketing.
- The presentation of the Child Care as well as the Frail Courses were scheduled.
- The first Certificate Ceremony took place on the 24th of June 1998.

1999

- Courses are extended to Reading and Writing, Gardening and Handymen.
- The first fundraising dinner was planned at Cummings House.
- Mrs Antounette Labuschagne was appointed as the first administrative clerk.

2008

- **Cooking /Housekeeping for domestic workers.** Mrs Sannie Nel developed a Cooking Course and a Recipe book. A brand new kitchen was sponsored by Douglas Green Bellingham. Training took place once a week over a period of 8 weeks. The Winelands Health and Safety officer equipped the students with the necessary hygienic information.

2012

- **CommunityCare project.** The Wamakersvallei Centre along with the Department of Social Development has launched a 3 month project, Caring for the Elderly. It was a pilot project, including a 100 carers who had been trained in frail care at the Wamakersvallei Training Centre. The main aim was to promote a healthy lifestyle and also educate and care for senior citizens.

There were a 100 carers who all had 10 elderly clients, that they visited at home. It included farm workers and clubs for the elderly.

- Boland Press hosted the first golf day to the benefit of the Centre. Since 2012 this event was hosted over a period of many years.

2013

- **Several short courses** were developed and offered especially on farms. Training took place mobile in the workers' own circumstances. Topics covered are, Personal Development, Hygiene, Money Matters, Nutrition in Creches, Child Safety and First Aid.

2014

- **5 day Cooking:** The Housekeeping course for domestic workers is adapted to a 5 day Cooking Course.
- A **business breakfast** is presented for the benefit of the centre and the guest speaker is Mr George Steyn, former manager of Pepkor retail and currently involved with Stellenbosch University
- **Salon Assistants:** Three students completed the new course in Salon Assistants, presented by Salon Scissors in Paarl. This is a great example of a local business that got involved in training. Since then, several students have been trained.

2015

- **10 day Cooking Course:** The 5-day cooking course is expanded to a 10-day course with funds sponsored by Douglas Green Bellingham. The top achiever is given the opportunity to do a Learnership at their Franschoek restaurant. Wamakers entered in a collaboration agreement with Unisa to present a Baking course to complement the current cooking course.
- **Ancillary Health Care Learnership Level 1** by Philani Training Solutions NPC
- A **tea** function is presented and the guest speakers are Jacky Goliath, Entrepreneur of the Year nominated by the Department of Agriculture and an alumnus. Christina Klaasen from the local Soetendal Primary School. Christina's life story impressed everyone and it became a morning that everyone would remember.
- Wamakersvallei Training Centre and the social workers at **Paarl Community Corrections** held their community work project with the focus on the development and empowerment of female parolees and probationers at Wamakers Centre. Women were encouraged to rise above their circumstances by equipping themselves through skills development.

2016

- Mr Conrad Poole, Mayor of Drakentein Municipality attends the certificate ceremony. He pays tribute to the staff and students and was full of praise for the work done at Wamakers and the positive contribution it makes to the community. He said: "sacrifice brings reward and Wamakers is a place where these words come true, it is a beacon of light and hope."
- A course in Client services was developed and presented at the local Business Butterfly World.

2017

- Wamakers, Valcare and Ranyaka (Nedbank) offered a range of courses in **Child Safety, Hygiene and Nutrition in crèches**. This training included the preparation of dried food as it was issued to crèches. Recipes are processed to suit the given number of children to be fed.

2018

- The first group of **Receptionists** was trained in a short course of 3 days.
- Christina Claasen, former student, received the **Winnie Rust Award** as Woman of the Year.
- Collaboration agreements were concluded with Elemental Training and the Athlone House for Abused Women.

2019

- The **Home Care Refresher Course** was compiled and presented with Valcare funding for previously trained carers from the surrounding old age homes, as well as private carers.
- Connie Abrahams, former student and employee was honored with the **Winnie Rust Award** as Woman of the Year.
- Wamakersvallei Training Centre celebrated its 21st anniversary. It was a glorious event attended by several people involved over the past 21 years.
- Wamakers attended the Strategic Workshop presented by Ezra Training, with the support of Valcare .

2020

- Wamakers was chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the Paarl Post Golf day.
- Wamakers continued the strategic planning made possible by Valcare and presented by Ezra Training.