1991: 23 May, Rev Geoff Normington and Dr Martin Snyman, Paarl Rotary members, called a public meeting at the Banqueting Hall to discuss the possibility of opening a hospice in Paarl. 40 People attended and a Steering Committee was elected that included Martin Snyman, Benjy Dubovsky, Bob Strachan, Jill Longworth, Eleane Koch, Sheila Neumann, Debbie Knoesen, Pat Bell, Nuraan Ebrahim, and Sister L. Sleigh. The Congregational Church provided a room on Main Street to commence a homecare service every Tuesday morning. The first patient was seen by Jill and Eleane who together with 6 volunteers did a volunteer hospice course at Stellenbosch Hospice in preparation to work in Paarl, Wellington, Klapmutts and surrounding areas. Many talks, public relations and fundraising projects (Valentine’s Ball, Miss Paarl Beauty Pageant, Country bazaar, street collection) were held and assistance was received from Churches and other service organisations such as Round Table and the Afrikaanse Sakekamer. Rotarian Ronnie Kroukamp had the logo designed.

1992: Hospice was open twice a week with only a handful of patients. The first AGM was held in the Congregational hall and a Management Committee was elected; Chairman: Martin Snyman; Vice Chairman: Hans van Rensburg; Paarl Rotarian and Lawyer: Benjy Dubovsky; Treasurer: Bosman Slabber; Fundraiser: Evelyne Durr; Home Carer: Jill Longworth; Secretary: Diane Parry; Publicity: Nuraan Ebrahim. Merle Matthews, Thelma Chenoworth, Evelyne Durr, Lydia Harrison, Di Parry, Lorraine Fieuw and Lyn Brodovsky attended a volunteer course in Stellenbosch. Volunteers provided patient care, did office work and fundraising. There was much activity on the fundraising scene; R38,785 was raised. Evelyne and Merle organised the first Golf Day, a Town Hall Valentines Ball and Street Collection was held and an art exhibition was organised by David Zeller.

1993: Hospice cared for 14 cancer patients, ten of whom passed away. The volunteer numbers increased sufficiently to open Hospice every day. There were 10 active volunteers, Chris Bertie was the Chairman and Di Parry the secretary. Nuraan, Lyn and Eleane facilitated the 1st volunteer course. Sue Nieuwmeyer facilitated a volunteer course at Heldenberg Hospice which was attended by Una West and Elaine Payne. Elizabeth Boezak and Eleane organised a Remembrance Service which was held at Auret Street Church for all the Hospice patients who had passed away, this tradition continues. Hospice Week was held in May to increase Hospice awareness Nuraan put the first newsletter together. The golf day was supported by Tiny Neethling, who later became a life member. Other fundraising events included a Valentines Ball and Christmas Lights sale; Anne Kruger (Paarl Post) provided free publicity. Liberty Life gave a substantial donation boosting fundraising income to R102 350.

1994: Sr Helen Mars joined Jill in patient care and Una started the first Day Care so patients could benefit from added care and the opportunity to relax at Hospice. Sr Jenia Grafton was appointed in the first paid position in a half-day post on 24 hour call, still supported by Jill. Rob Koch and Lyn Brodovsky joined the Management Committee. Eleane facilitated a volunteer course attended by 28 participants, these included Anneka Hauptfleisch, June Kroukamp, Bernice Maron, Rob and Betty Waddington who remained heavily involved for a number of years. Eleane also facilitated the first bereavement course. The usual fundraising events including the Golf Day, the sale of Christmas lights and cards and the Street collection continued.

1995: Approximately 9 patients were cared for per month. A 24 year old man from Mbekweni was the first HIV/AIDS patient. Day Care was every other Wednesday and very successful. The first syringe driver was bought to better manage chronic pain. A Palliative care conference was held at Stellenbosch, Merle Mathews went as the Hospices representative and helped with the organisation. HASA (Hospice Association of South Africa) called a meeting attended by Rob and Eleane Koch, out of this HAWC (Hospice Association of the Western Cape) was born. Chris Bertie remained Chairman of the Management Committee, Betty Waddington, Merle Matthews and Ronnie Kroukamp joined. Lyn Brodovsky took on the role of fundraiser, Eleane organised the newsletter and Paarl Rotary donated the first car, which is still in use today and the Golf Day also continued.

1996: Hospice was still only caring for an average of 10 patients but there was a significant increase in patient referrals from Paarl Hospital. Hetty Steenberg from St. Luke’s Hospice brought a new approach through distinguishing between caregivers and enablers and introduced accreditation. Betty Waddington was appointed as the administrator; the 2nd paid staff member. Rob Koch became Chairman of the Management Committee and Dr Bob Strachan vice-chairman. Another volunteer course was run by Eleane after which Ronnie Lotz and Ingrid Boag became active volunteers. Lyn Brodovsky organised the Grande Roche Moonlight Serenade, a Valentine’s Ball was held, the Golf Day continued but the Beauty Pageant was cancelled due to disagreements over who was chosen to win.

1997: Patients increased to an average of 19 per month. The first AGAPE, AIDS action group meeting was attended by Jill. This was the forerunner to Luthando Frail Care Centre and was organised by Zelda Fortuin and Sr Milly Joyi. HASA suggested forming a Section 21 Company and Elsabe Koch joined the Management Committee. A very successful wine auction, Golf Day and Hospice Week were held.

1998: Patient numbers rose to around 20. Food parcels donated by Paarl Rotary were managed by the Board social worker. Interdisciplinary patient rounds started with the sisters, doctor, social worker and the Coordinator in attendance. The Palliative Care Nurses Forum was established by HAWC to co-ordinate and discuss current issues. Eleane was appointed as the Coordinator and Ilse Dahms as the first social worker; together with Betty and Sr Jenia they were the only employees. Merle Mathews was appointed as the homecare representative on the Management Committee and Life Membership was introduced. The 1st MANCO (Management Coordination Meeting) was held and Jeanne Tomaszewski took over the management of Day Care, Dr. Jill te Water Naude was appointed as a volunteer Medical Practitioner and Freddy Lackay became the first coloured man to complete the volunteer course. Ronnie Lotz and Zelda Kaufman became involved with the new Hospice Shop. The Grande Roche Sunset Concert was televised on the ‘Cape at Six’ TV programme and the Golf Day continued.

1999: An average of 25 patients were being cared for. The Day Care was in full swing. Tommy Golliath joined Freddy and played a key role in transporting patients to the weekly day care. A Palliative Care symposium was held, and we acquired our first cell phone. Fran Tong was appointed as a social worker, Sr Jenia resigned,
Hospice now cared for approximately 30 patients due to increased awareness of the service delivery. Dr. Jill built up a good relationship with Paarl Hospital enabling improved referrals, hospice doctor prescriptions and monthly co-ordination meetings. The establishment of Luthando Frailcare Centre in partnership was well under way. Sr Jenny resigned and Srs Elizabeth Scrimgeour (Lombard) and Anna Eksteen were appointed and commenced the palliative nursing course. Paarl Hospice became registered as an NPO and a Section 21 Company. Rob Koch was elected 1st new Board Chairman. The building next door became available and accommodated part of the administration. Dr. Jill arranged a very successful Hospice Week. Rob Waddington’s fundraising team brought in more money than ever. The income rose R238 000. The main projects were the Grande Roche Concert and the Golf Day taken over by Vital Health Foods (Grieves family) who have supported us ever since. Paarl Round Table donated nursing equipment.

2001: Patients numbered 30 per month. The Hospice Schedule Drug cupboard placed at Paarl Hospital and Dr. Ati van der Leek joined the team. Elizabeth and Fran started their Masters degree in Theology, specialising in Narrative Therapy and staff nurse, Pam de Freitas, was appointed. Hospice registered as a Non Profit Organisation. Fran and Eleane facilitated a volunteer course with 30 participants. Long service awards were given at the 10th anniversary, Hospice Week, a swimming mile, the Vital Golf Day, the Smock Brothers Rock show and a dance at the Town Hall were part of the fundraisers. In October, Tommy Goliath organised a Spring Walk which was a huge success. 273 walked 11km through Paarl and the arboretum raising just under R7000.

2002: The patient data base was started. Fran and Elizabeth held a counselling training course on pre and post AIDS counselling. This was the first year patients could be discharged as their condition had improved. Sr Kitty Jordaan, joined the team, who now worked full day. Eleane resigned as co-ordinator and Yvonne Arendse joined as a volunteer. As the congregational church needed extra space, new premises needed to be found. Kaufie Kaufman, through the Paarl Hebrew community, offered a building at 109 Breda Street at a reasonable price. While renovations were under way, Hospice activities continued from two rooms at the Patriot Square Clinic. Day Care and the equipment store room were located at a shop donated by Mr Ferruchi and staff meetings were held at the Wimpy. The building renovations were under the guidance of Rob Koch, Kaufie Kaufman and Dr. Ati van der Leek, Solly Truter was the building contractor. The Paarl community responded with great generosity to requests for sponsorship and support. The Spring Walk, Grande Roche concert, the Vital Golf Day and club 500 were the major fundraisers.

2003: Hospice was caring for 85 patients, 50 of whom had a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. In the beginning of the year there were few AIDS patients in the light of a growing pandemic. This encouraged Elizabeth and Patricia Ženani to work in Fairliland (a new informal settlement) who discovered very ill AIDS sufferers, who because of stigma, no ARV’s, little money and lack of understanding were dying in their homes. A new Day Care for Aids patients and their children was started on Thursdays which was run by Joyce Tromp assisted by Liandi le Roux, Stella Truter and Gail Thomas. Mervin White, a local chef, provided food. Patricia and Connie Bitterhout were appointed as the first home based carers. Hospice moved to our current building in May which gave a new lease to Hospice life, a renewed sense of confidence and much needed publicity. Dr. Ati was appointed Board chairman. A cycle race was held as a new initiative but was not a great success. The Spring Walk had another successful year with 650 participants and the Vital Golf Day also continued to grow.

2004: Hospice was now caring for just under 100 patients and the 1st HPCA accreditation was completed in June. On the 2nd February the DoH, under the guidance of Dr Nelis Grobbe-laar, started the ARV roll out. Hospice patients were the first to receive ARV’s as they were a group and had been provided with information on ARV’s. An ethics committee was established, Srs Mariaan Myburgh and Joy Broskie were appointed and 25 palliative home-based carers were trained by Elizabeth and Joy for 3 months. The candidates were selected from the Drakenstein district including Saron, Gouda and Hermon. The HBC training selection criteria were unemployment and no other qualification beyond schooling but involvement with voluntary work. 18 HBC workers, paid by the EU and DoH partnership, were appointed on Sept. 13th. ARK training for ARV adherence management was included in the HBC training and service delivery after a hefty debate on whether patients and their families (infected and affected) with a diagnosis of a life-threatening illness that could potentially live should be part of Hospice care. Rona Starke became a paid shop manager. Paarl Hospice changed its name to Drakenstein Hospice. New Board members appointed were: Emarie Botha; John Crowhurst; John...
Gainsford; Dr Lize Hellström; Boy Louw; Michelle Sequeira; Eleane Koch and Merle Mathews. The Code of Conduct was written by a combined meeting of Board, staff and volunteers. Magda Bezuidenhout co-ordinated Wednesday Day Care and Joyce Tromp the Thursday’s Day Care. Paarl Valley Motors donated a VW golf and loaned another for a year, with the option to buy. Funding was received from the Global Fund, EU/DoH, Ark, First National Bank (training), Vital Golf Day, the Spring Walk (600 participants), Grande Roche and the Hospice Shop.

2005: 220 Patients were registered at the beginning of the year and by the end there were 265. For the first time the number of HIV/AIDS patients exceeded cancer patients. The Agter Paarl NG Church enabled Hospice to provide 29 families with a meal. Maria van Backström joined Hospice as a volunteer and commenced working on the COHSASA accreditation process. Networking was becoming important. Elizabeth Scrimgeour was appointed CEO in March, Sr Cheryl Pienaar and social worker, Justine Gollah, joined the caring team. Eleane Koch joined as nursing manager, Kitty resigned and Anne-Marie Swarts and Marilyn Sacks were appointed. A house mother and driver were also appointed for the first time.

HPCA designed a new logo which was adopted as the Hospice logo and a website was created. The Butterfly House idea was investigated and proposed by Joanne Whelan and Jennifer from Denver, Colorado. Creating a palliative community resource centre - taking care of patients and their families in the community, with the community, was born. Paarl Round Table, under the chairmanship of Adriaan Venter, explored the possibility of a partnership. A Butterfly House working committee with interested parties was established. Fairview House (sponsored by Charles Back in memory of his parents) was purchased to act as a training centre and base for the psychosocial department. Renovations were completed under supervision of John Crowhurst and Kaukie. Hospice funding came from DoH/EU; Lotto; Pepfar via HPCA; Ark and DG Murray Trust. The Grande Roche concert, Spring walk, Vital Golf Day and street collections continued. The newsletter took on a new face with ‘positive marketing' managed by Lesley Crowhurst and Sharon Montgomery.

2006: The annual patient number was 557, a 6% increase from the previous year. Patients averaged at 260 per month. Care for children was addressed as it was discovered that 36 sick children lived with HIV challenging the boundaries of the ‘no end to caring’ Hospice motto. Srs Cynthia Johannes, Kathy Carey and later Sandra Exner joined the team. Eleane resigned as patient care manager. Karin Lafite took over financial management from Patrecia Steyn. Ann Maralak was appointed as financial and admin assistant to work on the Butterfly House project and Maria was appointed Butterfly House Co-ordinator; paid by HPCA through the Princess Diana Fund. The name of Drakenstein Hospice changed to Drakenstein Palliative Hospice (DPH) to highlight the palliative expertise. Four strategic objectives were established and the mission statement and vision where revisited. Nico Nortje, Jo Laza-rus and Piet vanSchalk joined the Board, Boy Louw was chairman, Carleen Schreuder managed day care. Ivar Koteng and Nina visited. The Butterfly House Board consisted of Adriaan Venter as Chairman, Marnelle Helling, Elize Morkel, Solly Truter, Marlo Laubscher, Maria Justine, Mariaan, Fran, Elizabeth, Nathan Ramalaine and Amanda Nzele. In November the boundary fence of Butterfly House was erected. D.G Murray Trust, the Cheese Festival, the Spring Walk (950), Grande Roche concert, Vital Golf day, Podalshuk, EU, Pepfar and Club 500 funding continued.

2007: The patient numbers continued to remain relatively stable with approximately 265 patients per month (54 sick children) and 150 orphans and vulnerable children (children with sick parents). Finding innovative ways of managing these children was Hospice’s new challenge. The relationship with the DoH was on-going but difficult to manage as expectations were continuously being adjusted. At the HPCA conference Maria’s paper was entitled ‘Hope has Wings’, introducing a positive attitude to our butterfly. A scoping session was held and a decision was made that DPH and Butterfly House should become one entity as Butterfly House would address optimal living with life-threatening illness aspects of care provision. At the AGM a new Board was elected. Fran was appointed Patient Care Manager but resigned to become an HPCA Western Cape mentor. Elizabeth was appointed WC-HPCA Chairperson, Fiona Brophy as Butterfly House co-ordinator and Lee-Ann Bushby as a social worker focusing on children. We were COHSASA accredited for the 2nd time! On the hottest day in February, a sod turning ceremony was held for the Princess Diana Fund. The name of Drakenstein Palliative Hospice changed to Drakenstein Palliative Hospice (DPH) to highlight the palliative expertise. Four strategic objectives were established and the mission statement and vision where revisited. Nico Nortje, Jo Laza-rus and Piet vanSchalk joined the Board, Boy Louw was chairman, Carleen Schreuder managed day care. Ivar Koteng and Nina visited. The Butterfly House Board consisted of Adriaan Venter as Chairman, Marnelle Helling, Elize Morkel, Solly Truter, Marlo Laubscher, Maria Justine, Mariaan, Fran, Elizabeth, Nathan Ramalaine and Amanda Nzele. In November the boundary fence of Butterfly House was erected. D.G Murray Trust, the Cheese Festival, the Spring Walk (950), Grande Roche concert, Vital Golf day, Podalshuk, EU, Pepfar and Club 500 funding continued.

2008: The patient numbers continued to remain relatively stable with approximately 265 patients per month (54 sick children) and 150 orphans and vulnerable children (children with sick parents). Finding innovative ways of managing these children was Hospice’s new challenge. The relationship with the DoH was on-going but difficult to manage as expectations were continuously being adjusted. At the HPCA conference Maria’s paper was entitled ‘Hope has Wings’, introducing a positive attitude to our butterfly. A scoping session was held and a decision was made that DPH and Butterfly House should become one entity as Butterfly House would address optimal living
Koteng teams came to help. On November 2nd Butterfly House was officially opened. The opening was attended by Norwegians; Ivar Koteng and Nina Glad, representatives from SpareBank and BUFELAT. The American Consul General and Dr Liz Gwyther, CEO of HPCA together with many ‘old’ and ‘new’ Board members, sponsors, supporters and friends also attended. Liberty Life took over the Spring Walk sponsorship from Nedbank Personal Loans. Lotto money was received after a year’s absence, the Vital Golf Day was a great success as was the Grande Roche concert. Funding was received from Monte Christo Ministries, Verticor, Finmar, Podlashuck Trust, Pepfar, CIDA and from the EU/DoH relationship.

2009: Patient numbers continued to remain reasonably stable at 260, but the OVC numbers increased to over 220. Sis Mandy Batts joined the team and Myrtle du Plessis was appointed as the Patient Care Admin Assistant. At Butterfly House, Petro Gordon was appointed as the Pre-school teacher, Mercy as housekeeper, Gail Thomas as cook and Mervin, her husband, started a cooking school. A Partner Project Planning Workshop was held at Butterfly House where all possible partner organisations were given the opportunity to introduce their work and network with each other and plan future partnerships. DPH changed the logo to include 3 butterflies, one for Fairview, Hospice and Butterfly House. Wayne August was appointed as a driver and youth worker and to help Mr. Stevens with the security and a teacher, Chico Schulz, was appointed as the Pre-school teacher, Lizette Swart, who is focusing on basic reading and maths skills in partnership with MCMiqlat. Paarl Round Table is sponsoring a roof over the BH courtyard and the new Franschhoek Rotary Club will be erecting classrooms and an ablution block for the out-of-school youth on the BH front lawn. Ivar and his friends came to visit again this year and although the world credit crunch is having a negative impact on funding opportunities, this may be another ‘dangerous opportunity’ as we know, after 21 years, volunteers and partners will help to ensure our sustainability and quality care.

2010: Patient numbers increased to 280 in addition to care for over 220 OVC parents. At Butterfly House 128 children and 174 youth attended programmes. A HB introduction to palliative care training course was provided to various organisations and the TAC (team around the child) was introduced. All children at Butterfly House were admitted, wore name tags, hand washing was introduced and programme planning became a priority. Sr Riana Meyer joined the team. DPH Directors were Barnard Afrika; Dulcie Cotton; Deon Erasmus; Bernard Frey; Tommy Goliath; Marlo Laubscher (Chairman); Nelis Grobbelaar; Nathan Ramailane; Nora van der Hoeven; Bosman Slabber; Adriaan Venter. Butterfly House Directors: Marlo Laubscher; Bernard Frey; Adriaan Venter; Elizabeth Smitmeur; Karin Laflite. The Vital Golf Day reached new heights and the Spring Walk and Grande Roche remained a success. Lotto funding was turned down for 2 yrs.

2011: Patient numbers increased to 330 with equal numbers of cancer, chronic and HIV/AIDS patients. We were accredited by COHSASA for the 3rd time with 99%. DoH requested we include generic HBC for Mbekweni which meant appointing 6 HBC workers to work from the newly opened and renovated iBhabhathane (butterfly) at the Be Part site. More structure was put into the Butterfly House programmes and in Dec. Jacques Beukes was appointed co-ordinator. We became part of the HPCA Health Systems Strengthening and Department of Correctional Services projects which are managed by Maria. Srs Annelene Revelle and Louise Malan, social worker Nadia Plaatje, staff nurse Sonja Nel and the first marketing manager, Ludell Voorma were appointed. Caitlin Behrmann, an American professional nurse worked with us for 5 months and enabled us to renovate Hospice House, under the guidance of Sally Chapman. The space enabled the accommodation of 2 teams thereby dividing the patient load into districts. Vigdis Eriksen, a volunteer social worker from Stavanger stayed for 3 months and contributed to team cohesion. A partnership with MCMiqlat started to develop: we are assisting with policies and procedures and provide additional interdisciplinary team members for Bowy House children. A new logo and motto was introduced; helping people help people, and ‘no end to caring’ was replaced with ‘no end to hope’. Lotto money was received, Vital again reached new heights with the Golf Day and promoted us on television, Podlashuk trust and Verticor have continued to fund us and the Grande Roche concert, the Spring Walk and cheese festival remained successful. International funding is becoming scarcer but the relationship with Ivar and his friends remain good. 2012: This year we will formalise partnerships with MCMiqlat, Khula, Koinonia, DoCS, ANOVA and Be-Part as well as participating in creating the Drakenstein Health and Wellness Forum; the need is too big and too complex to manage separately. Justine is managing a very competent patient care team, we will soon have 35 HBC workers employed. A new sister, Muriel Adams, has been appointed and Margaret de Villiers has taken over the financial management from Karin Laflite. The programmes at iBhabhathane will be expanded with a focus on wellness and healthy lifestyle. Butterfly House has a new teacher, Lizette Swart, who is focusing on basic reading and maths skills in partnership with MCMiqlat. Paarl Round Table is sponsoring a roof over the BH courtyard and the new Franschhoek Rotary Club will be erecting classrooms and an ablution block for the out-of-school youth on the BH front lawn. Ivar and his friends came to visit again this year and although the world credit crunch is having a negative impact on funding opportunities, this may be another ‘dangerous opportunity’ as we know, after 21 years, volunteers and partners will help to ensure our sustainability and quality care.

Thank you Kate Hardy-Buckley for putting this history together and honouring all the people who have made Drakenstein Palliative Hospice the professional organisation, with heart, that it is.

Happy 21st Birthday to all.