



Vires Unitatis

WELCOMING EDITION



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Eendrag Archive

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From the Editor Luke Street

Get ready for an unforgettable year, one that will surprise you in the best ways. University is a time of change and growth; this is a place where those changes truly come to life. Stellenbosch University offers countless opportunities to get involved, challenge yourself, and make your mark. Your university experience is what you make of it, so seek out the spaces where you can contribute, connect, and truly belong.

Eendrag offers far more than just a room to sleep in. As one of Stellenbosch's proudest and most iconic residences, it offers a brotherhood built on tradition, character, and mutual support. Your new brothers will work, play, and celebrate alongside you. These corridors have been home to many before you, and you've earned the chance to become part of the Eendrag legacy and help shape its future.

As you begin this new chapter,

the advice is simple: participate and see every opportunity as a chance to build meaningful relationships and form new bonds. And just when you think you've figured out "university," something unexpected will come along and shake things up. Embrace change, lean into growth, and embody the values of character, style, and pride that define both Eendrag and Stellenbosch University.

Ed.

From the Vice-Primarius Taro Samuelson

Congratulations on your placement in Eendrag! The next few years (maybe even weeks) will be a defining period of growth for each of you, as it has been for thousands before you. The Welcoming period is an exciting part of Eendrag's heartbeat.

You'll find your first few weeks here will be a whirlwind of new connections, tradition, and a rewarding tiredness from diving head first into the best years of your life. Every day in Eendrag will shape who you are, and help define parts of yourself that you wouldn't have



thought could grow more. Embrace the challenge of growth: this place was built for it.

You are walking into a history written by thousands of men who once stood exactly where you stand: uncertain, expectant, and ready for something phenomenal. I ask that you embrace your uncertainty. Welcoming is the forge of our brotherhood. It is where strangers will evolve into the men you will soon call family. From experience, you'll never forget it. Take in every moment, and try to remember every name: these will be the names and faces caught in one of your most fervorous, dream-like

memories.

Soon, you'll have 279 brothers, all there for you, and all striving towards unprecedented greatness with character, style, and pride. Take comfort in knowing that while your path here will be distinctly yours, it is not a solitary one. Every senior down the hall has walked a similar road and should have some advice to offer. Eendrag will be your most tangible support network: embrace it.

The shoes you are about to fill are big, but the ground beneath you is steady. Step across the threshold with your head high. Your story starts now. Embrace your uncertainty.

Welcome home.



From the Primarius Thomas Claassens

Congratulations on your placement in Eendrag and at Stellenbosch University! This is a significant personal achievement, and you have every reason to be proud.

In Eendrag, there is a saying that runs deep within our walls, “*Jy is met die hand uitgesoek*”, which means that you were hand-picked. Next year, you will be joining a diverse community of critical thinkers and innovators guided by the values of Respect,



Care, Trust and Excellence. These principles form the foundation of our daily life - how we treat one another, how we show up on campus, and how we build an environment where everyone can thrive.

The journey ahead will be exciting, but also unfamiliar. For many of you, this may be your first time away from home. Some of you will arrive eager and confident; others will step through the door feeling uncertain or overwhelmed. All of these feelings are normal, and all of them are welcome here.

What matters most is not who you are on day one - but who you choose to become during your time here in Eendrag. You are entering a season filled with growth, responsibility, new friendships, and opportunities you cannot yet imagine. The Eendrag Leadership team and I are here to guide you, support you, and create a structure that helps you become the best version of yourself.

The House Committee, Mentors, Welcoming Committee, and I look forward to meeting you in Welcoming!

T.Claassens

From the Residence Head Mr Keagan van Aarde

Dear Eendrag Newcomer and Parents/Guardians
Congratulations on being provisionally accepted into Stellenbosch University and being placed in your new home, called Eendrag. It is with great joy and excitement that we welcome you into our community, marking a special occasion with a little extra celebration to commemorate our 65th anniversary.

Eendrag has a rich history and legacy that has endured since its opening in 1961. Over the last 65 years, it has been marked by years of growth, resilience, and a shared purpose. Wherein Eendrag has remained committed to its students, ensuring that we create an environment where we contribute to the development of all through

a holistic approach. This approach aims to ensure that you will leave Stellenbosch University as a well-rounded individual. As you join us in this landmark celebration as residence head, I would like to invite you to be part of this legacy, but in your own way, bring the

“A HOUSE IS MADE OF WALLS AND BEAMS; A HOME IS BUILT OF LOVE AND DREAMS,”
-Ralph Emerson

‘gees’ bring the vibrant you and contribute towards a legacy that will be long remembered afterwards.

The welcoming program will be the start of a journey that will forever be part of your

career. It’s my privilege to welcome and congratulate you in Eendrag and

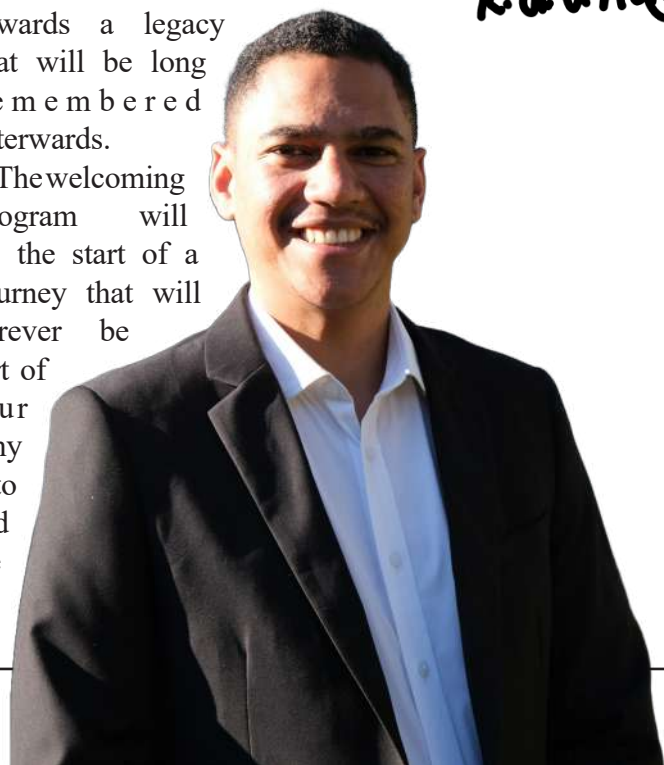
can’t wait to meet all of you.

I would like to wish you a blessed and safe festive period, can’t wait to meet you in 2026!

Regards

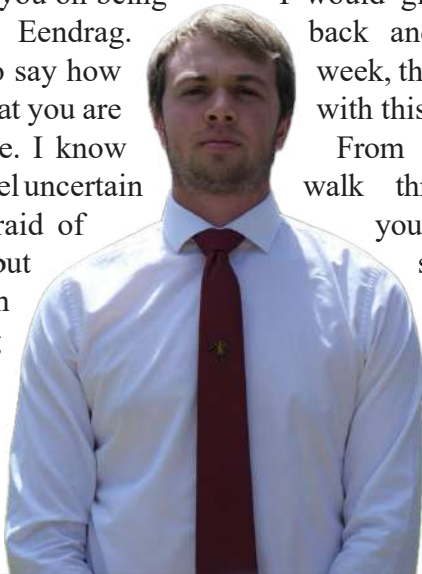
Mr. Keagan van Aarde

K.G.V.Aarde



Ouman Voorsitter Ben de Bruyn

First of all, I want to congratulate you on being placed in Eendrag. Secondly, I want to say how envious I am of what you are about to experience. I know many of you may feel uncertain or even a little afraid of what lies ahead, but rest assured within days of arriving you will realise that Eendrag is not just the building we live in, it is the 280



brother you gain I would give anything to go back and relive that first week, the week I fell in love with this residence.

From the moment you walk through the doors, you become part of something far bigger than yourself. You are immediately connected not only to the men standing beside you, but to the thousands that

have walked these halls before you. Our rich traditions and storied history bind us together in a way you will soon understand. The Oumanne, the fourth years of the residence, have spent years serving, supporting and fighting for this house. Our time here is drawing to a close and now we have the privilege of passing this passion, responsibility and love for Eendrag on to you.

On Behalf of all the Oumanne, we look forward to spending our final year in Eendrag alongside you.

Opportunities Sport, Culture, and Committees

Getting Involved 101

By Taro Samuelson

Red clay roofing, a dining hall, and hallways packed with rooms might define most residences on campus. The opposite is true for Eendrag. Our residence transcends its physical infrastructure, and is defined by its residents, their spirit, and initiative. Within this close-knit ecosystem, everyone has the opportunity to express themselves authentically and showcase their talents in countless ways.

Some sport codes Eendrag excels at include Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, Tennis, Rugby, Chess, Waterpolo, Golf, Table Tennis, and Hockey. Rarely, if ever, has a year gone by where Eendrag did not feature on multiple podiums for the different campus leagues.

There's also a diverse and rich cultural landscape to explore in res, including activities such as English and Afrikaans Debating, A capella, Connect Comm, the Vires Unitatis

team, and Social Media Comm.

Speaking of committees, there are just too many committees in Eendrag to try and list them all. Committees play a vital role in shaping the unique and vibrant culture of the house. These groups oversee everything from organising flagship events like Damestouch to maintaining facilities through the Structural Management committee. Ultimately, our committees adapt each year to meet the house's evolving needs.

Eendrag is privileged to offer several unique opportunities for students excelling in their sport, culture, and academics. Michiel le Roux, Co-founder of Capitec and a proud Eendrag alumnus, sponsors a R75,000 prize for the

winner of Eendrag's Top Academic Achiever award. More detail is included in the insert. Koos Bekker, current Chairperson of Naspers and another proud Eendrag Alumnus, sponsors the yearly Eendrag Koos Bekker Entrepreneurship Competition, which provides a platform for Eendragters with existing businesses to win cash prizes for their business. In 2025, these prizes were R200,000 for first place, R100,000 for second place, and R50,000 for third place. Taking initiative is key to getting involved—if you have an idea or want to organize something, all it takes is approval from the relevant HC member and the determination to make it happen. In essence, Eendrag provides the platform to excel beyond other residences in any area you choose, whether it's sports, culture, academics, or service.



Eendrag History An Overview



65 Years of Eendrag

By Stefan Rossouw

When we reflect on the history of Eendrag we do it for two reasons: firstly, to look back at past achievements of the thousands of Eendragters that lived in our home before us and to draw pride and motivation from them. Secondly, is to learn from the past mistakes made and to grow into the future through the preservation of old traditions and the cultivation of new ones.

Eendrag was built in 1961, and its name translates to unity: a value we try to instill in all Eendragters that is essential to the idea of a brotherhood of friends you live with for three or four years—your support structure. In those days, the residence head chose all the newcomers that were placed in Eendrag. He picked the best and the brightest, causing Eendrag to be synonymous with academic success on campus. From this practise originated the saying, “*met die hand uitgesoek*” which translates to “handpicked”. To be placed in Eendrag means that you are the cream of the crop, destined for great things. We can all stand on the shoulders of the Eendrag alumni before us and say we can also win the Chancellor’s Medal as ten previous Eendragters have since 1964.

Eendrag’s rich academic success can also be ascribed to the direct link Eendrag allegedly has to the Stellenbosch University library. In the 1970’s the then minister for transport visited Eendrag for unknown reasons, yet it was said to be of the utmost importance for Eendragters’ academic achievement.

A few months later 160 bags of cement disappeared from the building area between Eendrag and Simonberg where a new residence (Helshoogte) was being built. It is said that these materials were used to build Eendrag a tunnel to the library. To this day it is thought to be one of the main reasons Eendrag has the edge over all other residences on campus.

Another great historical tradition of Eendrag is Teekan. This tradition originated in 1968, and was originally known as *Koffiekan*. Teekan has since lived on to be one of the most popular daily gathering places for Eendragters to share stories and wisdom. Lectures will be ignored to attend this great event.

Eendrag has a rich history, too many great stories and wisdom to be able to share in a brief article, yet through the years you will spend in Eendrag you will learn about Damestouch, Cappie’s Corner, Eagles Pub, the history of each section in Eendrag, *Die Hoek van Helde* and so much more. We are very happy to welcome you to Eendrag!

#helloMaties — Stay Safe

From sun.ac.za/safety

Our historically safe, vibrant student town has recently become a targetted area. Campus Security thoroughly patrols all university property, especially at night. Though, mugging hotspots have popped up in the areas right outside Campus Security’s patrol range. Keep these precautions in mind when walking around campus after dark:

- Never walk alone, especially at night. Plan to walk in groups.
- Keep your phone and valuables out of sight of other people.
- Choose the safest route, even if it is not the shortest. Victoria Street and Bosman Street should be the core of your route.
- Avoid isolated areas, especially when exercising early in the morning or late in the afternoon.
- If you suspect that someone might be following you, change direction.
- Hide any valuables in your car and consider utilising a steering wheel lock.

Enquiries/reporting/safety escort:

021 808 2333

WhatsApp:
021 938 9507

Eendrag History 987

A Story of Resilience

By Taro Samuelson

Eendrag has long been known as one of the most prestigious residences on campus. Its history reflects the growth of SU and the ever-growing lore behind what it means to be a Matie. One day in Eendrag's history stands out above the rest: 9 August 2007. On this day, frequently referred to as 987, every past and current Eendragter's heart twisted in their chest. Around 06:47, the fire alarm rang through the main building, and students quickly started hammering on each other's doors and making their way out to the Bun.

This day holds a special place in each resident's heart, not because of the tragedy, but because of the profound perseverance that shone through. Case and point: One of the biggest residences on campus

was nearly destroyed, but *Die Matie*, SU's student newspaper, reported that "Eendrag lives". No more than half an hour after the whole third floor went up in flames, Eendrag's residents stood around the smoking building and sang the house song with pride.

While residents scattered to nearby residences and private accommodations, 160 residents still regularly booked their lunches at Eendrag to eat with their brothers. In an interview with *Die Matie*, the outgoing Primarius, De Wet Spies, commented "At the end of the day, you need to ask yourself what your definition of a residence is. It's not the traditions or physical infrastructure. It's the people."

While facing the immense challenge of not having a home to complete their academic year from, the incoming Primarius, André Coetzee, set an example to all residence leaders: House Committee elections continued less than a week after the incident. This HC group further set the example by acting as "crisis managers", all while facing the same problems as the rest of their community.

Many former Eendrag residents emphasised the importance of community. Riaan Cruywagen, a South African news anchor and



TV personality, recalled his time in Eendrag after the incident, saying that he felt as though "part of his own burnt down here." Shortly after the fire, a support fund for contributions from Eendrag alumni was established to supplement the support from the university.

The story of Eendrag is not defined by its building, nor its traditions and ceremonies, but by unyielding spirit and unwavering brotherhood. Though tragic, the events of 9 August 2007 brought to light the true essence of what it means to be an Eendragter. Through the flames and ashes, a stronger community emerged.

Source: *Die Matie*, 15 August 2007

Photograph by Francois Malan, 2007



History From The Archive

Pluto was a Friend to All

By Ludwig Gebhart, Newc. 1978

Can a person's best friend also be an entire hostel's best friend? If your name was Pluto and you lived in Eendrag's quad, the answer is a very clear yes, definitely!

I got to know Pluto as a newcomer—and by then, he was already a senior. In fact, he was everyone's senior. He was even more senior than André Barlow, who had already been in Eendrag for seven years—because remember, every dog year counts as seven human years.

No one was quite sure where Pluto had come from or who he actually belonged to. We assumed he might have been Oom Bun's dog at some point, but by the time we got to know him, he clearly had only one owner, and that was Eendrag—everyone in Eendrag. Pluto was mostly black, a kind of sheepdog-meets-Labrador black, with a white patch here and there. He didn't really have a pedigree or family tree—any tree in the quad was good enough for him.

During welcoming, which Pluto was ever excited for, Pluto loyally stood by the House Committee's side. All the newcomers were calmly accepted by Pluto, and he would easily settle down at one's

feet during Teekan or come beg for a treat in the dining hall.

Apart from the Eendrag residents, Pluto also shared his quad for shorter or longer periods with other creatures. There was Bernus' lamb—or was it Koos Barnard's lamb? At one point, there was a tailless cat named *Hond*, who occasionally made

me now, but the year was 1980. There was the sorrowful day when old Pluto departed for the tree-filled quad of the great residence above the clouds. A place where the food bowls are always full of meaty bones, where the cats run slowly, and where the winter sun warms the *stoepe*. The funeral was a grand affair. My roommate,

Rossouw Badenhorst, and I officiated the ceremony. I can no longer recall which of us delivered the sermon and which handled the burial, but I do remember that there was no subtle sniffing or pretending to cry. Everyone was sniffing so loudly it sounded like a herd of elephants slurping up water.

And so, a good friend of Eendrag was bid farewell—with great fanfare and a genuine lump in many a throat—and laid to rest beneath the green grass of the quad. And if you don't believe me, go take a look; the gravestone is still there!



Photograph from the Eendrag Archive

Pluto's life exciting. If I recall correctly, there were also, for a time, a few chickens with chicks, a duck or two, and even a piglet.

After Hanedinees and other social occasions, there were even a few big pigs that made themselves at home in the quad. Old Pluto tolerated them all and was friendly with everyone.

And then, the day and date escape

Today, Pluto's legacy lives on through Eendrag's award-winning a capella group, fittingly named Plutosêr in reference to the joy Pluto could bring to Eendrag with just a bark. Pluto's grave stands in front of our dining hall as a reminder of the many unexpected things that bring us together.

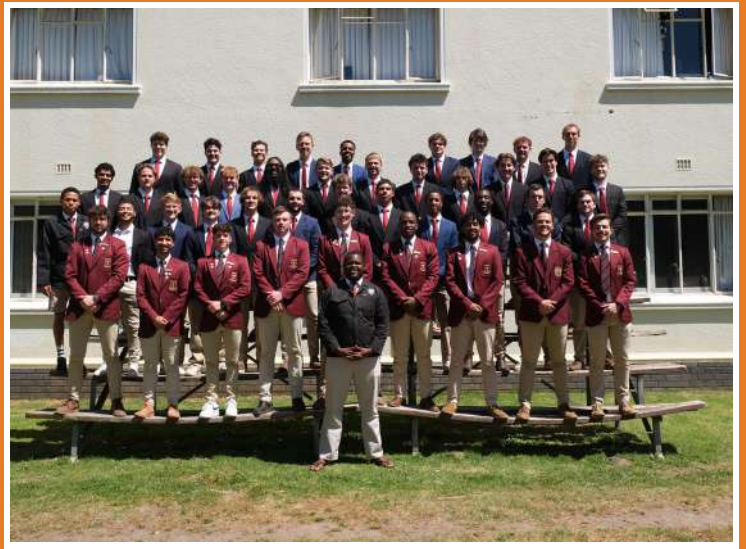
Meet Our House House Photos



Eendrag 2025



Oumanne 2025



Third Years 2025



Second Years 2025



Newcomers 2025

Meet Our Leaders



INSIDE

HOUSE COMMITTEE
2025/2026

MENTORS
2025/2026

CLUSTER
CONVENORS
2025/2026

Meet Our Leaders House Committee



Thomas Claassens
Primarius

- *Prim Committee*
- *Campus Engagement*
- *Eendrag Weekly*
- *Leadership Development*



Henry Potgieter
Financial Manager

- *Finances*
- *Care Fund Administration*
- *Bursary Management*



Ronen Marais
Secretary

- *Meeting Management*
- *Parking*
- *Room Allocations*
- *Wordfees*



Francois Rademeyer
Social, Academic &
Cultural Affairs

- *Academic Support*
- *Dances & Socials*
- *Cultural Events*



Wisdom Gyan
Student Engagement

- *Connect 2026*
- *Cluster*
- *Critical Engagement*
- *Koos Bekker Competition*



Marco Prinsloo
Internal Relations

- *C3 and Staff Appreciation*
- *Hanedinee*
- *Room Points*



Nicolas Oudtshoorn
Social, Academic &
Cultural Affairs

- *Academic Support*
- *Dances & Socials*
- *Cultural Events*

Meet Our Leaders House Committee



Taro Samuelson
Vice-Primarius

- Welcoming
- Safety
- Discipline
- Leadership Development



Adam Isaacs
Eendragter Development

- Gym and Physical Wellness
- Personal Development



Pieter de Kock
Brand & Merchandising

- Printed and Social Media
- Eendrag Website
- Merchandise



Rudolf de Wet
Alumni Relations

- Reunion
- Section 13
- Archive



Verner Krynauw
Facilities & Sustainability

- Maintenance
- Quad and Facilities
- Social Impact
- Sustainability



Michael McDonald
Sport Coordination

- Sport
- Derby



Dawid Kriel
Eendrag Recreation

- Intersection
- IBN
- Damestouch

Meet Our Leaders Mentors



Kian Claassen



Solomon Khumalo
Head Mentor



Kehan Taljaard
Vice-Head Mentor



Herman Fourie



Kenneth Garrod



Njabulo Mokoena



Brendan Oosthuizen



Matthew Coker



Kyle Trompeter



Ian Pansegrouw



Ethan van Zyl



Wikus van Biljon



Stephanus de Kock



Boheng Zhu



Gerhard van Deventer



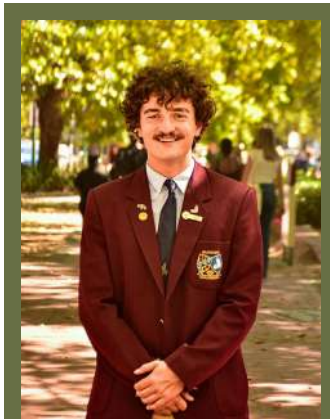
Markus Taljaard

Meet Our Leaders Cluster Convenors

Congratulations on embarking on this incredible journey at our university! We want to extend a warm welcome, not only to Stellenbosch and your respective student communities, but your greater Wimbledon Cluster!

We're overjoyed to welcome you to the place we proudly call our second home a space where we're working tirelessly to make sure you feel like you've found your second home too. University is a place of growth, discovery, and transformation. It's a time to embrace change, and challenge yourself. As you navigate through the streets of Stellenbosch, remember that it's okay to feel a mix of excitement and nervousness. You are not alone—everyone around you is on a similar journey.

Embrace the change that comes with university life. This is a



Corné Prinsloo
Co-Cluster Convenor



Carina Steytler
Co-Cluster Convenor

unique opportunity to expand your horizons, both academically and personally. Step out of your comfort zone, join committees, attend events, and meet new people. The diversity of experiences and perspectives on campus is vast, and it's in these interactions that you'll discover new passions and forge lasting connections. Now, you may be trying to digest all of this new information being thrown your direction.

Wimbledon is our bridge

between our 6 student communities, namely: Aristeia, Vesta, Sonop, Irene, Eendrag, and Helshoogte. Wimbledon offers you a host of events, clubs, sports, personal and professional development opportunities and social events to ensure you are exposed to students from different communities. Cluster also offers you the Wimbledon Hub,

conveniently located at the epicenter our communities - it is a place to study, meet up with friends, grab food, and relax.

Cluster will be introduced to you during welcoming, and we are so excited to call you a WimbleWinner!

We can't wait to witness the incredible impact you'll make. Best wishes for a fantastic journey ahead. We cannot wait to meet you!

Carina and Corne



What is a Cluster?

A cluster is a larger student community made up of various residences and CSCs that are geographically close to one another. The concept of cluster was introduced in 2007 as a way to connect and involve

commuter student community (CSC) students with the activities and facilities available to students living in university and to create network opportunities for all.

Clusters promotes community building, offer a wider support

structure and allow for collaboration and innovation to take place. They provide platforms that enable holistic development, networking opportunities, foster belonging, promote active citizenship and integrate and bridge gaps between different members of society through engagement.

Eco-friendly living

How to reduce your carbon footprint and join the Net Zero Carbon journey

Water

- Water restrictions still apply.
- Use only 80 L /person/day.
- Shower 3 -5 min.
- Use eco-friendly personal products.
- No rinsing or washing with running water.

Energy

- Use LED lamps only.
- Limit fridge use to one 150 L bar fridge per room.
- Airdry clothes when possible.
- Turn off lights & unplug devices when not in use.
- Use A++ energy efficient appliances (low wattage).

Transport

- Everything is within easy walking distance on campus.
- Walk or cycle instead of driving.
- Hire a Matie bike.
- Share rides or use shuttles.

Waste

- SU has a zero waste to landfill goal.
- Buy less items that must be thrown away.
- Bring reusable bags, cups, bottles and containers - no single use items.
- Compost food scraps & sort recyclables properly.
- No wet items in the recycling bin.

Get involved

- Join your community Green/ Sustainability Com.
- Follow: @su.environmental.sust

Our House Song

In Eendrag we stand
Heads held high, outstretched hand
Staying true to the people around us
We our home, to the core
Like an eagle we will soar
Taking charge of our new generation

Ngaphantsi kwencambu ezomeleleyo
(Deep are the roots of the)
Kumthi weJakaranda, apho kuphuma
(Jacaranda tree steadfast)
Amaqabi amatsha awavela komlilo
(From which new leaves appear)
Siyasanyuka, sadubuleka
(From the flames we have risen and
bloomed)

Eendrag is hier gebou,
(Eendrag was built here)
Om 'n eenheid voor te hou
(To exemplify unity)
Hegter as al die ander hegte bande
(Stronger than the strongest bonds)
Vir Eendrag se naam en sy glorie, eer en
faam
(For the name of Eendrag and his glory,
honour and fame)
Is daar nêrens iets groters te vinde
(Nowhere anything greater is found)

Melody by Loch Lombard
Original lyrics by the newcomers of 1973, under the
supervision of John Slabbert and Lötter de Witt





VU