

“Meesterplan” hampers parking

## Residences not satisfied



**WOENSDAG  
6 FEBRUARIE 2013  
GRATIS**

**KARL KEMP**  
The students of Stellenbosch can expect the latest building additions to campus to be completed by the end of year. The expansion of campus infrastructure commenced in September last year, with completion dates for the majority of the projects set for November/December 2013.

The Meesterplan, funded partly by the Department of Higher Education and Training, aims to provide accommodation to approximately 2500 students in addition to new study areas.

Rector Russel Botman has encouraged the idea of better student housing playing an integral role in transformation since 2010, having addressed the topic at the Student Housing African Summit in that year.

Munita Dunn: Deputy Director of the Centre for Student Communities, noted last year that 2013 will be a year of adjustment for students, particularly those directly affected by the

### COMPLETION DATES:

- Neelsie FHARGA - Phase 1 - February, Phase 2, April
- Koshuis/Hub between Eendrag/Irene - December
- Irene expansion - November
- Huis Visser + Marais - November
- LLL house - November

construction.

Safety precautions in the form of firewalls in the roofs of Huis Visser and Irene have been added, and both residences' bathrooms are being expanded.

The disruptive effects of the construction have already been felt by residences however.

Coenraad Bronn, HK: Eendrag, has stated that the residence has experienced “unending problems” with regards to parking.

“Eendrag lost 66 parking spaces between us and Irene at the commencement of the construction. The few places we have left are simply not sufficient for the amount of residents with vehicles. The alternative of parking around a central point and being driven around by a shuttle is highly inconvenient and impractical.”

Huis Visser has also experienced problems as a result of the construction. Popular clubhouse The Kingfisher was demolished last year and residents have been forced to move culture evenings and other social events to the interior of the building.

Avelino Rodrigues, HK: Huis Visser, Media, has stated that the situation is unusual to them: “Intersection sport will be a challenge this year, because of the limited space in our quad and even our beloved lawn. Luckily the construction doesn't affect our usual sport.”

“Parking is certainly our greatest worry, seeing as 80 to 90% has been lost to the construction.”

He is in agreement with Bronn regarding the shuttle solution, and said that a feeling of “effort” reigns among the students.

“It's become clear that studying before 17:00 will not be a reality this year in the residence, seeing as the jackhammers are still chatting along around that time.”

Students can stay up to date with the building developments by following @matiebuilder on twitter.



**MORE STUDENTS, MORE SPACE** From top to bottom: the space between Huis Visser and Dagbreek; the new upper corridor in the Neelsie, phase 1 of which will become FHARGA in February; and the view from the squash courts situated next to Helshoogte. The area directly in front of the squash facilities, which used to be several tennis courts, is being demolished to make way for extensive expansions.

Photos: FRANCO THERON