

Hans Hoheisen Wildlife Research Station



History

The original Hans Hoheisen Research Station was built on land donated in 1980 by the late Mr Hans Hoheisen and officially opened on 15 July 1983. The Station was managed by the former Transvaal Provincial Administration and later Limpopo Provincial Government's Environmental Affairs Department.

Mr Hoheisen, who was also the owner of the celebrated Delheim Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, was a very keen conservationist and, apart from the 37ha portion of his farm



Kempiana donated for building the Research Station, also donated the rest of his Timbavati farms adjacent to the Kruger National Park to the former South African Nature Foundation (today World Wildlife Fund – South Africa) in 1990. This totalled almost 14 000ha of land (estimated at R17m in 1990) and is believed to be the biggest donation of its kind in those days, worldwide!

Hans Otto Hoheisen (1 March 1905 – 8 July 2003)

Hans Otto Hoheisen was the son of Alfred August Hoheisen (1878-1965), a German born building contractor. Alfred Hoheisen moved to South Africa with his wife, Clara Hedwig Goll, in 1903, just after the Anglo Boer War in anticipation of the construction boom on the Rand mines. His son, Hans, was born in Braamfontein on 1 March 1905. Being a German citizen, Alfred Hoheisen was incarcerated in Baviaanspoort camp during World War I, while his wife and children lived on a farm in Hectorspruit. After the war, Alfred Hoheisen continued his business and completed some large projects such as the two cooling towers in Pretoria.



In 1923 the family moved to Cape Town where Alfred Hoheisen's business did very well, building among others the University of Cape Town's Upper Campus, the Medical School at Groote Schuur Hospital and the Barclays Bank branch in Adderley street (the last Herbert Baker building in Cape Town).

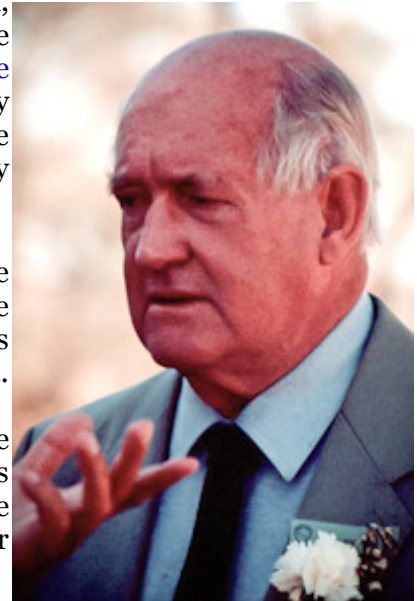
In 1933 Alfred bought the Timbavati farms Kempiana, Morgenzon, Birmingham, Lillydale and Spring Valley, and in 1938 he also bought the fruit farm, Drie Sprong, in Stellenbosch, which his son, Hans, converted into a wine estate in the late 1940's. The name Drie Sprong was later changed to Delheim, stemming from the name of a cousin of Hans's wife, Del. Del's Austrian husband, Spatz Sperling, was appointed the manager of Delheim in 1951, and is considered to have pioneered the Stellenbosch wine route.

After his father's death in 1965, Hans Hoheisen inherited the Timbavati farms and converted them into game areas.

Hans Hoheisen had no children and donated all his Timbavati farms to the former South African Nature Foundation (SANF, today [World Wildlife Fund – South Africa](#)) in 1990. In 1992 he donated a further R1m to acquire the farm Ngala, which he also donated to SANF and, in combination with the rest of the 1400ha donated, today comprises the [Ngala Private Nature Reserve](#), run by the *&Beyond* group and overlooked by [SANParks](#). The fence between the Timbavati complex and the Kruger National Park was dropped in 1993, significantly enlarging the area of the Greater Kruger National Park.

Due to his German descent, Mr Hoheisen also influenced the decision to build the [Southern African Wildlife College](#) on one of his farms. This R20m project was completed in 18 months and still trains students in game/conservation management.

Mr Hans Hoheisen passed away on 8 July 2003. His close friend, Dr Anton Rupert, had the following to say at his funeral: "In his quiet, humble way, without publicity, he made an impact in the conservation arena which will leave our children in awe for decades to come"



Sources:

M Bosazza. "Alfred Hoheisen". [The Parktown and Westcliff Heritage Trust](#)

E Dommissie. "Anton Rupert - A biography"

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S Joubert. "Kruger National Park - A history"