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FRONT COVER

Mahindra's 5690 4-WD tractor was unveiled to farmers at the Walkerville Agricultural Show last month.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Making a difference



Load shedding. Global warming. Mass killings. Broken sewage works. Corruption. Plastic pollution. Drought. Racism. Poor service delivery. Broken trains. Expropriation without compensation. Genetic modification. There is bound to be something in that list that makes you profoundly depressed, or very angry. And, let's face it, that list is hardly exhaustive (add to it gang violence, road deaths and poor schooling, for example, if you like). Yes, the world is, indeed, a mess at the moment, and South Africa is as much of a mess as the rest of the planet.

But, while there may be a glimmer of light at the end of our South African tunnel in the form of an outcome to next month's election that hopefully will see President Ramaphosa more firmly entrenched in his position as ANC leader and therefore as president, many of the global problems faced by the human race are simply too huge to solve quickly, if at all.

For example, global warming is not going away soon, however much the more sensible nations of the world might wish it when they set targets for reductions in expected temperature increases. That's simply because the world's ever-increasing population will continue to burn hydrocarbons in their homes, factories, cars, aircraft etc, despite the huge advances being made almost daily in alternative energy supplies.

Likewise, plastic pollution of the seas, manifested in the vast gyres of floating rubbish now found in the centres of all the world's oceans, is not going away soon, simply because it is too difficult and costly to recover it. People who suggest that it is feasible to sail a ship out into the middle of the ocean and simply lift the filth aboard for transport back to land clearly have no conception of what's involved, technically or financially. It's not like one is sailing a raft out into the middle of Hartbeespoort Dam to lift out an invasion of water hyacinth. It can take a fast cargo ship five or more days to reach a point mid ocean, and when it gets there the state of the sea is often not a millpond.

Factors such as these can contrive to make one profoundly depressed, a situation not helped when one switches on the radio in the morning to be bombarded by news of corruption and larceny on a grand scale among our politicians and business luminaries. Will it help to see these thieves before a court of law and, eventually, in prison? Yes, it probably will, in a token way, but however many finally swop their suits for orange overalls it will not undo the damage they have caused. For the money is gone, either out of the country (courtesy of the Gupta family, for example) or simply wasted. It would be naïve, for example, to think that Chancellor House, Hitachi and others who have frittered away billions while building two sub-standard, obsolete, highly-costly and behind-schedule power stations are going to give back the money in some form of corporate *mea culpa* gesture.

The best we can do, therefore, is to start afresh, building what was started before the Zuma era, into something that will once again reflect the high ideals and promise of the Mandela years.

And that's not something that we as individuals can do alone. It will take the combined efforts of us all to put our differences behind us and strive forward with the sort of common purpose we achieved in the glory days of the 2010 World Cup, or those now far off days of triumph in 1995 when South Africa won the Rugby World Cup.

But while collective effort towards a common good is the only way we as a country are going to get back to where we wanted to be, we still have to live as individuals. We still need to deal with the everyday issues of keeping a roof over our heads and food on the table, of ensuring the best possible education for our kids, making provision for our old age, looking after our health, and doing our own individual bit to minimise our impact on the planet. So that when we leave it after our allotted "fourscore years and ten" (or however many years destiny has planned for us), we do so safe in the knowledge that we left it in a slightly better state than we found it in.

And it's not so difficult to do, so long as one arms oneself with an awareness of the issues that beset us, and the knowledge to overcome them. For, truly, ignorance is the enemy. If you don't know that there's a problem you won't know what to do to fix it. And some of the fixes are neither difficult to do, nor onerous. Preventing pollution by recycling one's waste, eliminating plastics, composting organic matter, ensuring favourable habitats for nature's little helpers ~ these are all things one can do on one's smallholding. And should be doing. And doing them will make one feel much more positive about life in general.



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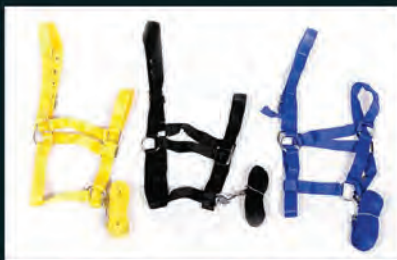
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Insect 'tolerator' despairs of poisons

Sir ~ I read with despair your article on insects and why they are dying (March 2019).

About six months ago I stopped trying to save my clivias using poison and I control them now with a torch at night and cutting any marks or diseased leaves by day.

I don't kill spiders in my house, I catch and put them outside.

I have a 30 year old bee hive at my gate that no one is allowed to touch and wasps hang like grapes by my front door.

Then I see your article about killing the aloe pests! Really!

Could you perhaps go on a programme like Jakaranda 94.2 and ask every household in the listener area to do just two things to save our insects. Each household must have food and a haven for one insect (prey) and one insect (predator). How about it? Would you do something like

this for the insects?

From a concerned insect tolerator. (Don't love them, just one of God's creatures I am trying to help preserve.)

Lee Greeff

By email

~While we don't condone or suggest the wholesale use of pesticides, or of chemical formulations of any kind (we prefer to do things the organic way) there are times when their use is one's only recourse. ~ Editor

Kimberley flamingoes remain in crisis

Sir ~ I have just received your March 2019 edition and was very pleased to see the article on the Lesser Flamingos from Kamfers Dam. I would just like to make a correction ... the crisis is still ongoing and there is definitely not enough water as yet. We are now concerned about the fledglings that cannot fly yet. There are about 5 250 at the moment who are in

danger of also dying as there is not enough water and algae for them to feed on. We are hoping for rain ...!

For all updates go to Birdlife SA's Facebook page.

Sabine Anderson

By email

The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and opinions, but reserves the right to edit and shorten as necessary. Senders' names and addresses must be included.

Afrikaans letters will be translated. Post mail to: Letters, PO Box 14648, Bredell 1623 or fax 086 602-3882 or e-mail gautengsmallholder@gmail.com



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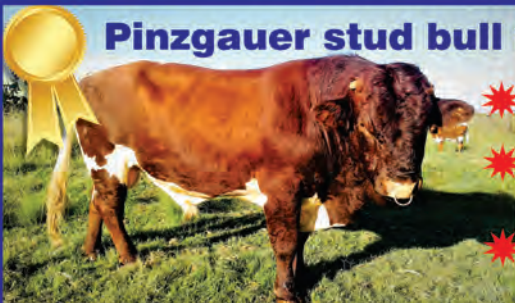
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Twitter, Facebook abuzz with AHS anguish

As has become the norm at this time of year, social media feeds are carrying an increased number of posts from horse owners distressed at the loss of their animals to African Horse Sickness (AHS). In most of South Africa, except for a small part of the

Western Cape, AHS is an endemic disease outbreaks of which are expected to occur from November to May, often with a peak from February to April - depending on climatic factors such as rainfall and temperature. Outbreaks of AHS in Gauteng and Mpumalanga were officially

reported to the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (Daff) in February and March. However, says Daff, "there is currently no conclusive information indicative of unusually high incidences of AHS outbreaks for this time of the year." Daff says it is working with the equine industry on protective measures for horses with the aim of reducing the severity of AHS outbreaks, "while being neither too restrictive on the movement and trade of equines within the AHS infected zone, nor too onerous with regards to the administrative and financial burden of all role-players involved with equines. "Horse owners are advised to contact their local state veterinarians to ascertain whether local movement

restrictions have been implemented for a particular area, and it is vital to report cases of AHS to the state vet, so that they are aware of these cases which enable them to make informed decisions," says Daff. The Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no. 35 of 84) requires that owners and managers of animals take all reasonable steps to protect their animals and prevent the spreading of diseases from their animals. The movement of equines that are infected with the AHS virus may increase the risk of AHS to other equines and should therefore be limited. Apart from vaccinating equines annually with the two-part live vaccine manufactured by Onderstepoort Biological

Continued on page 9



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Unlikely bedfellows

Natural predators & GMO maize the solution to Fall Army Worm pest

News of the invasion of the Fall Army Worm (FAW) in South Africa in 2017 was greeted with great alarm in the grain producing sector. However, Dr Annemie Erasmus, a senior researcher of entomology at the Agricultural Research Council, reports that natural enemies of the worm have emerged and if an integrated pest control programme is

followed, the effect of the worm will be reduced. The Fall Army Worm is polyphagous, which means that it eats a wide range of crops. This is partly what makes it so difficult to eliminate. But it is particularly partial to maize and can devour almost the whole plant. In its larval state, it attacks the leaves and damages the silk.

Continued on page 11

AHS

From page 6

Products (OBP) there a number of practical steps that horse owners can take to mitigate against their animals contracting the disease. These revolve largely around preventing the culicoid midges that carry the disease from biting the horses in the first place.

Thus, apart from timeous and correct vaccination each year, some of the steps that you can take to protect your horses from AHS are listed below, but always consult your private veterinarian who will be able to assist you in tailoring strategies to help protect your horses, include:

☐ Culicoid midges gather and breed in moist or muddy areas; so try to eliminate likely breeding areas by, for example, removing pools or

puddles of standing water, siting manure heaps away from the equines and eliminating muddy areas such as around leaking taps and water troughs.

☐ Don't allow horses out of their stables until the dew on the grass is dry. Do not allow horses to graze on wet or marshy land if possible.

☐ Stable the horses from at least two hours before sunset to at least two hours after sunrise.

☐ Treat the horses and the stable facility with a culicoides midge repellent and/or insecticide registered in terms of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies & Stock Remedies Act 1947 (Act no. 36 of 47). In addition, consider the use of day sheets to help protect horses from midges.



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From page 9

It then proceeds to eat into the ear of corn from the outside and inside. It feeds at the base of the cob as well. Even the stem and the tassels receive its unwelcome attention. Larvae tend to hide from sunlight or move into shade or under cover. Local etymologists have been monitoring the worms and have been heartened by the parasitoids that are attacking the worm. A parasitoid is an insect that completes its larval development within the body of another insect or its eggs, eventually killing it. The parasitoid is then free-living as an adult.

An indigenous egg parasitoid ~ *Telenomus remus* ~ has been discovered that feeds on FAW eggs. Apparently it is also present in the US and has been used effectively as a biological control agent.

Erasmus states that an integrated pest management programme, with the use of biological and insecticide measures, is the method to be adopted in the fight against this invasion.

Farmers need to keep up to date with reports of invasions and must monitor their crops very carefully. Early detection and the proper timing of insecticide application are critical. Insecticides must be applied only when necessary and with great care, partly to avoid eliminating the natural enemies. The insecticide should be registered for control of the pest.

Fall Army Worm

Preventative sprays for FAW are not viable.

The other good news lies in the research done into FAW and genetically modified maize. The ARC, in collaboration with North-West University, has conducted trials to determine larval susceptibility to Bt maize. Larvae were placed into maize whorls of non-Bt maize plants (the control group), as

well as into first-

generation Bt maize in commercial use in South Africa (Bt1) and second generation Bt maize (Bt2).

95% of the larvae on the control maize plants survived after feeding for 14 days, 47% on Bt1 and 0% on Bt2. It can be concluded that Bt1 will suppress FAW,

while Bt2 has the potential to control larval infestation. Erasmus emphasises that there no single control measure to manage FAW.



Fall army worm on maize



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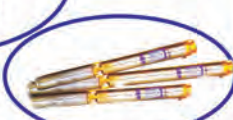
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Limpopo FMD outbreak controlled, says Daff

Since the last positive location of a foot and mouth disease (FMD) infection was reported from Limpopo in early February, there have been no new clinical cases of the disease or serologically positive test results in the animals surveyed, says the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries.

Roughly 13 500 cattle distributed across 27 diptanks have been vaccinated and identified as vaccinated in the former foot and mouth disease free area since mid January.

The department is assessing information obtained from more than 400 local livestock owners across 16 rural villages interviewed in Limpopo with a view to developing a future action plan to control the disease in the area.

Meanwhile, the continuation of trade in safe commodities has been prioritised. The department successfully negotiated the revision of veterinary health certificates for beef to Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mozambique, Qatar, Swaziland and the United Arab Emirates.

Trade in pork from FMD-free pig areas has been re-opened to Lesotho, Mozambique, the Seychelles and Swaziland,

Limited meat & meat product exports resume to a few countries after vets carry out rapid vaccination campaign of 13 500 cattle in northern Limpopo

and partially to Namibia. Negotiations with Namibia (for beef) and Botswana (for pork) are still underway. The markets for dairy products have largely been restored. Some markets for the export

of hides, skins and wool are still affected and negotiations are underway, particularly for products that have been processed to ensure the destruction of the virus. Agriculture minister Senzeni

Zokwana has met with the Chinese ambassador to discuss the continuation of trade and acceptance of South Africa's safe commodities. Stricter proceedings to ensure necessary assurance for future trading have been agreed upon.



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WALKERVILLE SHOW 2019



The Democratic Alliance visits the ever-popular conservation stand. Midvaal executive mayor Bongani Baloi with Lauren Parkes Els (Thorntree Conservancy) John Moody (DA) and Ivan Parkes (Thorntree Conservancy).

This year's Walkerville Agricultural Show enjoyed better visitor attendance and also an increase in the number of agricultural exhibitors, according to the organisers.

Among the new exhibitors this year were Alberton Mahindra, who used the show to launch the new 68,6kW Mahindra 5690 4-WD drive tractor.

As always the conservancy shed was very popular, with snake awareness demonstrations and education in snares, traps, poisoning and pollution.

In the livestock section, last year's turnout was sparse because of the threat of communicable disease among the animals. This year no such threat existed and the complement of animals at the show was much more satisfactory.

And, for the first time in a number of years the arena saw a full programme of equestrian events on the Sunday.

Apart from a comprehensive programme of live entertainment, a number of annual competitions have made the Walkerville Show their regular venue. These include the Livingseeds Giant Pumpkin Competition, which saw a new



Above: Waterford Colossus Titan (Clydesdale) owned by B Cabral and ridden by T Salkow.

The Draught Horse Club added a feature to the equestrian events that one doesn't often see at today's shows. Here are a few of the competitors.



Above: Tug of war, anyone? Mafura Zabio (Percheron) owned by E Martin and shown by M Calitz with Elite Exquisite Starlight (miniature) owned and shown by T Arkner.

Right: Trodan Neil (Shire) owned and shown by C Clark.



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WALKERVILLE SHOW 2019

South African record being set, and the Livingseeds Chilli Eating competition.

As has become the norm, the good folk of Walkerville made full use of the bar and dining area, where the usual wide range of food was on offer.

The Walkerville Agricultural Show is, year by year, becoming more and more established as the leading traditional regional farmers' show in the province of Gauteng.



Above: Among the livestock on show was this fine Nguni bull.



Left: Crowds enjoying a drink and a meal under the trees.



Right: Di Kruger of Drumblade Alpacas showed her animals and conducted spinning shows in the hall



Left: A collection of restored vintage tractors, shown by Dietmar Krupke.



Right: Among the poultry on show, were these quail, which were also on sale.



Fine rabbits line up on the judging table. The Gauteng Rabbit Breeders Association is a firm supporter of the show.



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WALKERVILLE SHOW 2019

Giant pumpkins: they grow 'em bigger in Gauteng

South Africa has a new giant pumpkin growing record, set by Peet Joubert, a first-time grower, who grew a pumpkin weighing 613kg. His efforts were rewarded at the Giant Pumpkin Competition organised by Livingseeds of Midvaal at the Walkerville Show last month. Joubert walked away with prize money totalling R30 000,

sponsored in equal parts by Livingseeds and Fastway Couriers. Second place, worth R7 000 sponsored by Talborne Organics, went to long-time pumpkin grower Wykus Lamprecht with a personal best pumpkin of 357,5kg. Third place, worth R 2 500 also sponsored by Livingseeds, went to Hugo Le Roux with a pumpkin of

331kg. The entire junior category was sponsored by Fastway Couriers and won by young friends, Johan Du Plessis and Ruan Maritz, who fielded three pumpkins this year, with a

personal best of 212.5kg. This is the second year that they have dominated the Junior category, having cleaned up in every position last year as well. Joubert says growing his monster was one of the most stressful things that he has accomplished. These pumpkins grow at such a rapid rate that one can see them gaining between 25

Continued on page 19



Standing behind the new SA record pumpkin (L-R) Hugo Le Roux 3rd with 331Kg, Peet Joubert SA Record 613Kg, Wykus Lamprecht 2nd 357.5kg and Sean Freeman from Livingseeds.co.za

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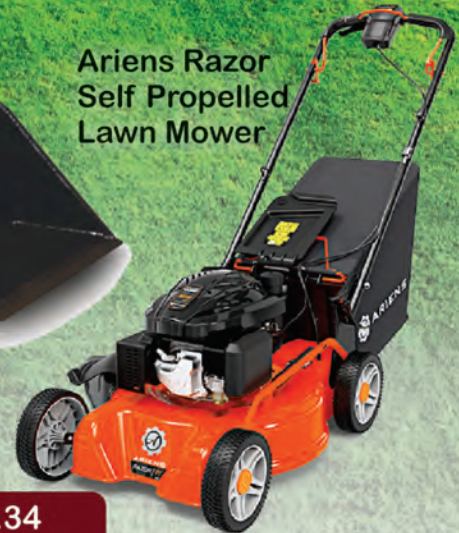


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WALKERVILLE SHOW 2019

From page 16 and 30kgs a day. With an average growing period of between 70 and 80 days,



Faces of pain... biting off more than they can chew...chilli eating contestants.

close attention is required to ensure that nothing goes wrong with such a prized pumpkin. Joubert estimates that he spent at least two hours a day tending to his prize winning pumpkin, with the December period seeing in excess of five hours a day of pure love and attention being

poured into his behemoth. Loading such a pumpkin from one's veg patch in the back garden is also a logistical mission that cannot be underestimated. Joubert's trailer that was used to carry the pumpkin became bogged down in the soft soil with the weight of the pumpkin, and he had to now lift a 3 ton trailer that also had the added weight of the South African record breaking pumpkin on it, and it had to be done in a way that did not put the 'life' of his pumpkin in jeopardy. Any structural damage to the pumpkin caused by a wrong move, or the trailer slipping off a jack would have disqualified his entry, even before it had arrived at the weigh-in.

In South Africa, growers have been competing for the last 7 years and all of the records above 500kgs have been held by Gauteng growers. There is

fierce competition from the Western Cape where
Continued on page 20



Junior winners Johan Du Plessis and Ruan Maritz with their 212.5kg pumpkin

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BEEKEEPING

The importance of forage for bees

What bees eat and how they collect their food, by Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association stalwart Peter Clark

The availability of pollen and nectar from flowers, ie, the forage, is at the very heart of keeping bees: no forage, no swarms, no bees, no honey. Bees will simply vacate their hives and swarm off if moved into an area when there is little or no

forage.

Forage comprises nectar for honey which is the carbohydrate, providing energy, and pollen their protein, for sustenance of their bodies and water for their wellbeing. House bees, young bees and

Continued on page 23

WALKERVILLE SHOW

From page 19

conditions are ideal with a much longer photoperiod, theoretically enabling them to grow record breaking pumpkins.

The previous South African record was held by Hugo Le Roux with a monster 556kg pumpkin and preceding this, Midvaal grower, Shirley Olivier was the first in the country to break the magical 500kg barrier with a pumpkin of 506kg.

The next target for South African growers is the 750kg barrier.

The current world record is a massive pumpkin of 1 190 kg held by a Belgian grower. While the pumpkins grow to a massive size, you are not likely to be encountering their flesh cooked up in your favourite restaurant. The flesh, sadly, is bland and watery and they are usually consigned to cattle feed as a result.



Walkerville Chilli Challenge organised by Livingseeds.co.za with the winner, Ben Putter, second from right. He walking off with R4 400 in cash and a IFAK and first aid course to the value of R1 500.

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From page 20

nurse bees consume nectar and pollen to which they add enzymes from their own digestive systems, to produce royal jelly to feed to the very young developing larva and daily to their queen to maintain her egg laying ability. Through the seasons (and commencing with winter), there is not much about and the bees are surviving on their winter stocks from the previous season. There will be minimal flying, only to fetch water. But as the weather starts warming, the days lengthen and scout bees fly in search of forage. For example, on a certain early spring day a scout bee discovers pollen-yielding plants two kilometres in an easterly direction from the hive.

The scout will return to the hive and with excited waggles she dances over the combs to alarm the other worker bees. There are a variety of dances to convey the distance to the newly discovered pollen and nectar source, and the direction to an angle of the direct rays of the sun. These wagging dances vary from

circular clockwise and then anti-clockwise, from figures of eight clockwise and anti-clockwise and at different angles on the face of the combs on which they are dancing.

Interested workers encircle this dancing bee and attend to the communication signals, while at the same time the dancing bee secretes from her mandibles a minute portion of the nectar of the plants that she has discovered to these workers, to convey the odour of the flowers from which she had gathered the pollen or nectar.

Suppose the entrance of the hive faces north and 30 degrees east of north are the

direct rays of the sun. Out of the hive the foraging workers fly, take the angle to the sun and the distance as conveyed by the number and rapid succession waggles of the dancer.

After flying the 2km distance for some minutes, their two very sensitive antennae locate the odour for which they are searching. They gather the pollen for which they came and a little nectar and return to the hive.

On arrival they off-load the pollen into a pollen storage cell and then regurgitate the nectar to another worker bee while performing their waggle dance to convey their message to others.

Throughout the days of the period of the pollen or nectar flow they daily gather until the flows are over, which might be for a week or up to 30 days.

As the swarm needs pollen, the bees search for and gather pollen and as the swarm needs nectar they gather nectar, but never nectar and pollen on the same foraging flight. When collecting pollen, the foraging bee will only visit the same flower species secreting the same pollen and not mix other pollen from another species of flower on the same gathering flight, and similarly with collecting nectar (which

Continued on page 27

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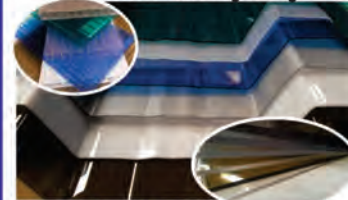
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BEEKEEPING

From page 23

is why honeys taste and look so different when not blended together into a commercially-viable single large quantity for mass supermarket sale).

When the spring pollen flow is being secreted by various flowers the bees do not seem to be choosy to prefer a type of pollen from a special source. Pollen is pollen and that is that, but in the case of nectar the bees are more selective. Should there be a variety of flowers secreting nectar at the same time, the bees will draw from the flowers with the higher sugar content in the nectar rather than spend valuable time

taking nectar from a less concentrated sugar source. For example, if a beekeeper places hives around a pumpkin field to pollenate the crop, but on an adjoining farm within about 2km away another farmer plants buckwheat, the bees will fly to the buckwheat before they spend their time on the pumpkins and a poor pollination of the pumpkin crop results. Although the buckwheat nectar makes a honey that is dark and has an unpleasant musty flavour but a large variety of minerals, it is greatly preferred by the bees. How does pollination actually occur? Well, as a by-

product of nectar collection. The foraging worker bee delves deeply into the base of the flower to suck up the nectar with her long proboscis tongue, drawing up the nectar into her special carrying stomach, and when loaded she returns to the hive. But at the same time particles of pollen from the anthers of the flowers adhere to her hairy thorax and as she visits another flower of the same

species the pollen rubs off on to the stamen of the next flower and completes the pollination of that flower. In the hive she faces the recipient bee face to face and touches her antennae to her recipient's antennae as a greeting and conversation of sorts as she regurgitates the nectar to a house bee or young bee, who passes it to another bee and again from

Continued on page 28

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BEEKEEPING

From page 27

other bees to others as a process of dehydrating the nectar. They also add enzymes from the hypopharynx glands in their heads which converts the sucrose sugar of the nectar to fructose and glucose sugars, the two principal sugars of honey (although honey contains up to nine other minor sugars). After the nectar is reduced to a thicker mass it is stored in

the cells. At night or on rainy days when the bees are unable to forage, they fan with their wings at the entrance of the hives to create an outward draught, which draws off the excess moisture from the nectar until the moisture content is reduced to less than 19% and the cell is then capped with wax.

A resident non-migratory strong swarm in company of

15 other hives on a site of two good yielding periods of forage yielding flowers, will annually yield 20 to 25 kg of capped honey.

However, place 30 swarms on the same site, and the average yield will be halved to 10 to 12 kg of capped honey as there is only that much nectar available within the reach of the swarms' foraging radius.

Therefore, in an area where there is a vast number of hobbyist beekeepers, or commercial beekeepers, overstocking holding sites awaiting the following pollination contract periods, the honey yields on good swarms can be reduced to an

average of 6 to 8 kg per hive, which is hardly enough to carry the swarm through the winter dearth period, and the bees will starve or abscond to abandon the overstocked area.

Therefore, good beekeeping is all about ensuring the forage to sustain the swarms and it should be stressed that, to advance beekeeping, it is not that additional number of beekeepers are required but that mass planting of good, correct, sustainable supporting forage yielding plants is necessary.

By Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association stalwart Peter Clark 071 084 6971.



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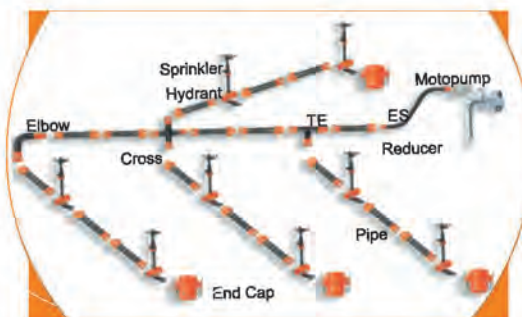
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How to attract bats to your smallholding

Pay no attention to the negative perceptions about bats that have been created by vampire stories ~ bats are seriously useful creatures to have on your plot. To take advantage of a bat's contributions to the environment, consider making your yard and garden bat-friendly.

Their main value lies in the fact that most of them are insectivorous, living mostly on mosquitoes, moths, midges and beetles.

A common bat in Gauteng, the Cape Serotine Bat (*Neoromicia capensis*), weighs only six to ten grams. On average, a household mosquito weighs 2,5mg. Therefore, if an 8g bat exclusively eats 2,5mg mosquitoes nightly and requires a conservative 65% of its body weight to sustain it, it will eat no fewer than 2 080 mosquitoes per night! While most insect-feeding birds are diurnal, feeding on insects that are active in daylight, bats have perfected a feeding strategy that is targeted at night-flying insects. Moths and mosquitoes may be their mainstay, but they also feast on insects ranging from gnats to flying ants to large flying beetles.



Cape serotine bat

Owners of horses should particularly encourage bats to visit as they eat the midges that carry African Horse Sickness.

Some bats eat crop pests, so smallholders who grow crops should encourage them to take up residence.

The number of insects consumed by a bat will depend on the breed, its reproductive cycle and the season.

Most smallholdings have security lights, but garden lights will also attract insects which will then attract the bats.

Bats need a source of clean water. In the wild, most bats swoop down over the surface of open bodies of water such as lakes, ponds, or slow-moving streams to take a drink. A garden pond with short plants on opposite sides is an excellent water resource

for bats. They may also use raised birdbaths that are located in an open space. Water also allows for insects to breed.

They are attracted to flowers that open at night and are fragrant, such as the *Barringtonia racemosa* (powderpuff tree) and *Kigelia Africana* (sausage tree). They are also attracted to large white, scented flowers such as

Continued on page 35



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WILDLIFE

From page 31

the Baobab.

According to Gretchen Grenville of Grow Wild, the best trees for bats are *Harpephyllum caffrum*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Syzygium cordatum*, *Strelitzia nicolai*, *Halleria lucida*, *Acokanthera oppositifolia*, *Vachellia sieberana* and *Kigelia africana*.

Most bats roost in the same

place every night, and favour tall trees as roosting sites. Dead trees form hollows that the smaller bats can nest in. They also attract insects.

Bat boxes can also be bought or constructed to hang in the garden.

Although the study of artificial roost site selection in insectivorous bats is ongoing, there are some things of which scientists are now reasonably certain.

Location, orientation, type of box, environment and proximity to water are all

important components in turning a bat house into an occupied bat house.

There are ready-made bat boxes available from EcoSolutions in Strydom Park. The alternative is to make a box. This is fairly simple for a reasonably handy DIY

maplotter. For information on buying a bat box or for plans to make a box, contact EcoSolutions on 011 791-7326/ 072 365 9777/ info@ecosolutions.co.za. The other common bat in Gauteng is the yellow house

Continued on page 36



Yellow house bat



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PROPERTY MATTERS

Keeping the peace with neighbours

The poet Robert Frost had a neighbour who always quoted, "Good fences make good neighbours." However, it sometimes takes a great deal more than good fences to keep the peace between smallholders. There are many possible reasons for acrimony to arise

between neighbours, and perhaps one should focus on prevention of disputes rather than cures.

Getting to know the neighbours is a good place to start. People are more open to discussion with individuals they know. By being neighbourly and a good listener,

your neighbours will be more likely to come to you with a complaint instead of reporting you to an authority or enforcement agency. Likewise if you have a problem with

what your neighbour is doing, you will be willing to discuss it before things become too bad.

Small things matter in

Continued on page 39





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BATS

From page 35

bat (*Scotophilus dingani*), which is great for keeping aphid populations down. It will readily occupy a bat house. It also enjoys the shelter provided by human architecture and buildings. Ignorance and superstition are bats' greatest enemies. Among the common myths are that bats suck blood, and will fly into one's hair, neither of which are remotely probable. Unfortunately many people misunderstand bats, they fear them and consider them dangerous, so will not hesitate

to kill one if they find it in their homes. This, combined with human encroachment on their natural habitats, is placing pressure on bat populations.




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PROPERTY MATTERS

From page 36

maintaining good relationships, such as a wave and a smile. Be particularly mindful of sensitive neighbours. Little gestures of friendliness go a long way toward fortifying goodwill.

Sometimes ones neighbour does not carry out any agricultural activities and they object to the unintended

consequences of your activities. For example, if you keep livestock, they might be bothered by the flies that usually accompany farm animals.

One might argue that we live in a semi-rural area and therefore they must accept that such an area will have pests or farmyard smells. But

there are things that we can all put into practice that will help to keep the peace.

If we think about our property and what we do there from a neighbour's point of view, we will become much more sensitive and aware of the impact of our actions and one should try understanding their viewpoint as non-agricultural neighbours living in a smallholding community.

Good management can mean that a small poultry operation, for example, does not have to cause odours, noise, flies and dust.

Since people often "smell"

with their eyes, screening from public view production, manure storage and composting facilities might help to limit the effects.

Don't build the manure heap near boundary lines, roads or waterways. Cover the manure heap and hang fly catchers nearby. If you are transporting manure, ensure that it is covered to avoid spilling on to the road.

Try to be considerate when applying manure to your fields, by doing it on a calm day or working with the prevailing winds to blow the smell away from next door. It

Continued on page 41



"Good fences make good neighbours..."

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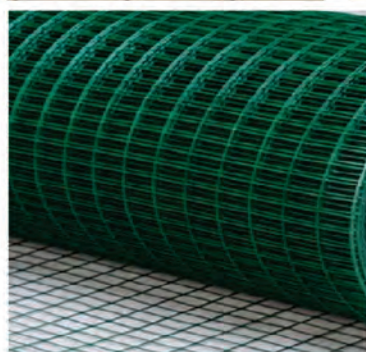
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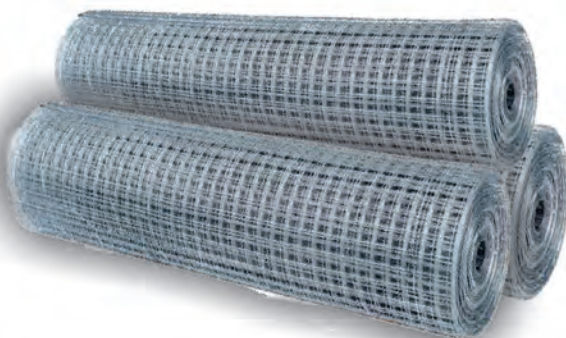
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PROPERTY MATTERS

From page 39

is suggested that spreading manure in the morning hours allows for greater odour dissipation and manure drying throughout the day. Keeping communication channels open with your neighbours will mean that you will know when they are holding a special party or there's a garden wedding and so you will not spread manure round about that time.

If you have workers on your smallholding make sure that they understand the importance of appropriate manure handling and odour control.

Ensure that you maintain your fences ~ those oft-quoted good fences ~ in good condition so that your animals do not wander into the road or on to the property next door.

If you are using chemicals, be extra careful that they do not blow on to the plot next door. Naturally, ensure that none of your activities affect the ground water in your area. Be

sensitive in the use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides to ensure that groundwater is not contaminated.

Caution should also include the construction of new buildings and particularly applies to the establishment of new sewage or septic tank systems and also to the storage or disposal of waste such as used motor or

cooking oil. Obviously we will be affected should our own water be contaminated, but the neighbours have equal right to clean water. If you are using a borehole, ensure that the abstraction rate is appropriate for the borehole. The total abstraction from a borehole should be less than the natural groundwater recharge, and a borehole should be pumped in such a manner that the water level never reaches the position of the main water strike.

Noise is also a problem on smallholdings. Unfortunately

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PROPERTY MATTERS

From page 41

most smallholders can only work on their plot on weekends and that's when the neighbour wants the peace that he moved to the country for. Again, discuss with him when it would be least intrusive to use your machinery or carry out building activities.

Let the neighbours know if you are having a noisy teenage party, then maybe they can go out for the evening. Or, invite the neighbours to join the party. Backyard shebeens are a huge source of exasperation and will lead to souring of most relationships.

Church services run on a smallholding might be cause for tension if they are particularly noisy and last for a long time.

Gunshots in the night ~ or at any time for that matter ~ are unreasonable, unless you

are in the middle of a crime incident. The Smallholder knows of someone who, late one night, decided that it would be a good idea to fire his weapon into the night sky. This woke the 2 000 chickens in the poultry farm next door and they proceeded to squawk and crow for the rest of the night. So nobody got much sleep and relations with the neighbour took a downward turn!

Sometimes there are arguments over boundary lines or shared walls. With boundary walls and fences, the generally accepted rule is that it is the joint property of the neighbours who are both equally liable for the walls/fences maintenance and repairs. However neither can make any changes to it without the consent of the other. Boundary encroachment is seen as one of the most common disputes, and

this can cover anything from tree trunks and branches encroaching on a neighbour's property, roots uplifting neighbour's driveway or at times leaves falling into the neighbour's pool.

If you are building, follow the by-laws stating the distance of a building from a boundary fence.

Invite your neighbours over to see what you do. People are often ignorant about where their food comes from and you can then "show and tell", so that they have a better understanding of what's involved in working the land or keeping poultry or sheep. The occasional gift of eggs or vegetables also won't go amiss.

The appearance of your smallholding plays an important part in what others in the community think of you and your farming operation. Eyesores create

less goodwill and public sympathy if problems arise. Be sympathetic and caring if your neighbours express their concerns and try to act quickly to solve the problem. If you are unable to reach an amicable solution, you should consider appointing a mediator to achieve resolution to the dispute.

In the end, it takes all sides to resolve disputes. The most effective and efficient means involve simple time-tested tools: communication, consideration, and ultimately, respect. A win-win solution will keep the matter out of court, and a legal battle is to be avoided at all costs.

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An interesting variety of new books has recently been published in South Africa which will prove of interest to smallholders.

Dance of the Dung Beetles

Due out this month is the intriguingly titled *Dance of the Dung Beetles - Their Role in Our Changing World*.

Scientist Marcus Byrne and writer, Helen Lunn capture the diversity of dung beetles and their unique behaviour patterns. They follow the history of these creatures over 3 000 years, highlighting how they were fundamental to some of humanity's most cherished beliefs and have been ever present in religion, art, literature, science, as well as, obviously, the environment.

Over 6 000 species can be found worldwide and they play an important role in keeping the planet healthy. They are at the centre of current gene research.

Outlining the development of science from the point of view of the humble dung beetle is what makes this story of immense interest to general readers and entomologists alike.

The book is published by Wits University Press and the recommended price is R320.

Wilder Lives- Humans & Our Environments

Also published this year is *Wilder Lives - Humans and our Environments* by Duncan Brown, (UKZN Press, R285.)

The book is concerned with debates about 'wildness' and 'rewilding', and explores the question of whether we can find ways of rethinking 'wildness' which are more enabling in understanding the complexities of human interactions with, and responsibilities towards, the biological systems and processes on which life depends.

It covers issues such as wildness and conservation, wildness and local language, wild seams and margins, wild cities, the wild and the farmed, wild fish, and wild

ethics.

Brown's argument in this book is wide-ranging, inquiring, challenging, but finally inspiring.

"It's not about romanticising the natural world," he says.

"It's making a conscious choice and commitment to a different sort of engagement. Learning how to think and dwell differently. Rewilding is about rethinking human relationships with the environment."

Field Guide to Wild Flowers of SA

A fully updated edition of *Field Guide to Wild Flowers of South Africa* was published in January by Penguin Random House South Africa.

The book covers more than 1 100 species of flora, focusing

on the most common, conspicuous and 'showy' plants around the region. An informative introduction discusses plant diversity, vegetation types and includes a key to identifying plant groups.

The species descriptions follow and each is accompanied by a vivid photograph, a distribution map showing range and an indication of the plant's flowering season. There is also a key to plant families for easy identification.

This invaluable, up-to-date guide provides the tools and information needed to identify flowering wild plants across South Africa.

The author, John Manning, currently works at the Compton Herbarium, SA National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

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DIARY

ATTENTION CRAFT MARKETS, CLUBS ETC.: If you would like details of your events included in the Diary, please fax or email your information to the Editor. For non-commercial enterprises this service is FREE.

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 47. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

Every Sunday
SA Lipizzaners weekly display at 10h30. SA Lipizzaner Centre, Dahlia Rd, Kyalami. Go to www.lipizzaners.co.za for details of special shows.

Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Rayton. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180 horses@diamondxranch.co.za, www.diamondx.co.za, R500 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09:00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 012 651-5509. Gail 072 477-0708. A small community who worship together. We have a Youth and Children's church.

Premier Mine Presbyterian Church, Lower Oak Ave, Cullinan. Garden of Remembrance (Columbarium), 079 060-9990 or 012 734-1640, Worship and Sunday school. Holy Communion for all on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Every Monday
Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, Benoni Agricultural Holdings, Marcus 082 042-7730. Warren 082 335-0049. Glen 072 239-3024. If you want to drink - that's your problem! If you want to stop - that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned fellowship.

2019

April

5: Planted pastures workshop in Afrikaans at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R850. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

5: New Moon

6: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

19: Full Moon

19: Good Friday

20: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Easter Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

22: Family Day (Easter Monday)

27: Freedom Day

30: Leon Thom Jerseys auction, Hartbeespoort. Vleissentraal Ermelo

May

1: Workers' Day

4: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

5: New Moon

7-9: Holistic veld management course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

14-17: Nampo Harvest Day, Nampo Park, Bothaville district, Free State

18 Full Moon

27-31: Accredited veld management course at African Land-use Training's farm,

Modimolle. R4 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

June

1: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

3: New Moon

16: Youth Day

17: Youth Day spillover

17: Full Moon

21: Winter Solstice

July

2: New Moon

6: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

16: Full Moon

16:18: Combatting soil erosion course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

August

1: New Moon

3: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

8-10: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Estate, Rayton district, Pretoria. Call 087 231-1644

9: National Womens' Day

12-23: Farm planning (agricultural land-use planning) course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R9 950. For



reservations email courses@alut.co.za

15: Full Moon

30 New Moon

September

7: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

14: Full Moon

23: Spring Equinox

24: Heritage Day

28: New Moon

October

5: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

8-10: Control of problem plants course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

13: Full Moon

28: New Moon

November

2: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 - 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

12: Full Moon

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Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held weekly. Markets held less frequently (eg 1st Saturday of each month) are listed in the DIARY section of the magazine and we urge readers to check each month for dates and events of interest. We would like this list of food markets to be as comprehensive as possible. If you know of farmers' food markets that are not listed here, please email us the contact details of the organisers, and details of the market. Only FOOD markets are included. Similarly, if you know of markets in this list that have CLOSED please inform us so that we can delete incorrect or outdated information. We invite you to tell us of your experiences when visiting these markets so that we can better inform our readers. Were they as advertised? Was the produce on sale plentiful, well-priced, well-presented and fresh? Email your comments to gautengsmallholder@gmail.com

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
Thursday					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 - 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	Konrad or Glenda 011 706 3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.
Saturday					
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 - 09:30	Moreleta Street entrance, Krige Street ext, Silverton	012 804 8031 or 079 987 1025	Fresh produce & traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap & boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	The Fresh Co-op Weekly Farmers Market	07:00 - 10:30	204 Allan Road, Glen Austin Halfway House, Gauteng	info.freshproducecoop@gmail.com 082 369 7755	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves, home industry, arts and crafts, food etc.
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 - 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, Cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie St, Menlo Park, Pretoria	Rietha 083 554 5636 www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Waenhuiskrans Plaas / Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	Cor of Veda & Enkeldoorn Ave opposite Montana Traders and next to Kollonade Centre	Phil Jansen - 083 5050 329 or office 012 567 6076 to book a stall	Stalls: Food, arts and crafts Fresh produce, eggs, chicken, meat, fruit and veg, Kiosk, Maders Pies, coffee
Every Saturday	Glenfresh Farmers Market	08:00 - 12:30	118 Allan rd, Glen Austin	Stefan: 082 829 0185 market@glenfresh.co.za	Local naturally grown produce, hand crafted goods, home baked treats, raw honey, biltong
Every Saturday	Jozi Real Food Market	08:30 - 13:30	Pirates Sports Club, 25 Braeside Road, Greenside	Ingrid 083 532 2992 jozirealfoodmarket@gmail.com	Outdoor pet & child friendly, organic vegetables, food, arts & crafts
Every Saturday	Bapsfontein Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	7 Edith Street, Bapsfontein	Charlene: 082 892 4304 / Paul: 083 296 8006	Fresh produce, Livestock Sales, Flea Market, Hand Crafts, Food stalls, Great outdoor vibe that is pet & child friendly
Every Saturday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main Road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book etc.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 - 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	Konrad or Glenda 011 706 3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.
Every Saturday	Waterfall Estate Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	Waterfall Estate, Waterfall Cor Midrand	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry & craft, food etc. Enquire about stall prices.
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	112 R82 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076 7680 info@wfmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area.
Every Saturday	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 - 15:00	Walkerville Country Market @ the Showgrounds	Ivan 084 590 2312 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, kids play area and pet friendly.
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	10:00 - 19:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553 2846	Outdoor country experience working farm cattle, sheep pigs. Free range meat, cheese, eggs and poultry. Craft beer
Sunday					
Every Sunday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main Road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book
Every Sunday	Carlinton Food & Craft Market	09:00 - 15:00	The Bru House on the R563 Hekpoort-Krugerdsorp Road	For stalls 0827824142 Debbie.Prinsloo@outlook.com	Restaurant, live music, safe kids play area, safe parking
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 - 15:00	Cor Montecasino Boulevard & William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceries... in the garden!



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Plot life and pets

Over the three decades that our family has lived on our plot we have seen our fair share of mortality among our pets, of which we have had an adequate, but not excessive, number. For at various stages our three children all had pets of their own, and we parents have kept dogs and cats for as long as we've been married.

But as time has passed the inevitable has happened: a couple of cats were run over on the nearby main road, a dog died of biliary, another died after an attack by a neighbour's dog, and others we were able to relieve of their suffering in old age by euthanasing them. (It is one of life's great conundra that we can legally arrange to have our pets euthanased but we cannot do the same thing for our loved ones. And that the state, in many countries, can legally euthanase criminals, although death by hanging, firing squad or the public spectacle of execution by legal injection as meted out in the USA can hardly be called euthanasia. But I digress).

So earlier this year we found ourselves reduced to one little dog, a sweet enough but brainless little chihuahua cross-breed from Brakpan.

So my beloved and I ~ with great encouragement from our children (all of whom have now flown the coop) ~ resolved that the time had come to obtain more pets.

What breed to get became a big decision, and we settled on a Labrador. We wanted a dog that was at least basically house-trained, so we started to look at animal rescue centres for a suitable mutt.

After some considerable desk-research we set off one Sunday, accompanied by our adult daughter, to a rescue centre that seemed to have a suitable selection.

It would seem, however, that people of our vintage (we are just past retirement age) should not be looking for pets, for the first question we were asked was "What will happen to the dog, ahem, if your circumstances should change?"

Initially I took this to mean what would happen if we were to lose our jobs and be forced out of our house and I said something about "Well, I've run my own business now for more than 30 years and I don't think my circumstances warrant changing any time soon..." when it dawned on me that the lady questioner was discretely asking what would happen to the dog if, due to our advancing years, we should pop our clogs. Hardly an encouraging start, and as it happened we found no candidate there suitable to share our home.

So instead, our daughter heard of a litter of mistakes and we recently acquired two pavement specials. They're supposed to be Jack Russell x Daschhunds, although as they were being handed to us we were told there was some Bull Terrier in them, too. Not that you can tell if you didn't know beforehand. One is similar in colour and shape to a black and tan Daschhund and the other looks like a classic Fox Terrier.

So they may look odd, but they're very sweet and loving, and we know that they will be fiercely protective and alert when they're adult. And, hopefully, good ratters.

But for the moment, we are enjoying watching them grow and adapt to their new surroundings. Every day that passes they become a little bolder, venturing further into the garden on their own, playing with each other more enthusiastically, terrorising the older dog and bounding about, chewing everything they see.

It's been a long while since we had puppies about the place and it's been fun and rewarding for us to watch them play and horse around and then, suddenly, collapse in a heap at our feet and fall sound asleep.

But there's one thing about having puppies around the house that is beginning to cause some friction, and that's the question of house training. While we managed to have fairly consensual views on how to bring up children successfully, it appears we don't share the same approach when it comes to pets. I come from the "rub its nose in it and throw it outside" school of house training, and my beloved comes from the "positive reinforcement" school. (For the uninformed this entails not berating the pup if it pees in the house, but praising it fulsomely each time it widdles or takes a dump on the lawn.)

In the interests of marital harmony (and so as to minimise stress and confusion in the puppies) I have declined to apply my method and have opted to support my beloved's approach. I'm not sure that it's working though. Oops, I'm off to mop up another puddle.



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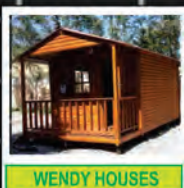
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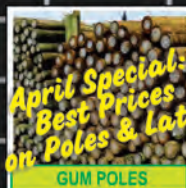
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