# SAUTENG SAUTENG SULJULY 2018 HOW TO MAKE YOUR PLOT PROFITABLE



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### **FRONT COVER**

A rooster crows. Read about the psychology of cocks crowing in this edition.

### **COMMENT, by Pete Bower Plan the plan**

hat was the first thing you bought when you moved on to your plot? Some sheep as live lawnmowers? Goats, or a cow, for milk? Chickens for the eggs? A pony for your kids? A tractor?

Often it is those new smallholders who populate their plots with all manner of livestock and stuff with great initial enthusiasm who lose heart and interest the quickest, and as a consequence are the first to abandon their efforts and move back to town.

How often, for example, have you noticed a new family move into your area, and then guickly seen the arrival of animals of various descriptions, only to notice, after a few months, that the pony is standing forlornly in a field, staring out over the fence, forgotten and unridden?

The point is that there is no quick win to be had on a smallholding. One's plot offers a unique lifestyle, sure, but it takes a long-term commitment, punctuated by many setbacks, to realise the full benefits of this unique way of life.

At the very guickest the four seasons dictate the pace of one's success, as we move through the process of ploughing, planting, nurturing and harvesting.

And if it's livestock one is dealing with the pace is even slower, as the cycle of fertility, pregnancy, birth and weaning dictate the times when one has animals available for sale, or use, or slaughter.

Anything one does on one's plot comes with a string of consequences. For example, before one can acquire animals one has to have secure fencing in place, and water in the paddocks, and suitable housing. Your plot may come with all its facilities intact and ready to use, or it will more likely need developing. Fencing will need repairing, or installing, stabling will need to be built, boreholes drilled and equipped etc.

Thus starts a long process which, it should be added, includes not only labour but also cash to achieve.

And the biggest mistake we all make when we start is to cut corners with one's purchases and developments. The (extensive) lawn needs mowing? We don't do the sensible thing first-off and buy a large, powerful ride-on mower that will last many years. Rather, we try to save money by buying a small, underpowered push mower that is totally overwhelmed by the task at hand, and which disintegrates after the first season. "Goedkoop is duurkoop" is an expression that could have been made up especially for smallholders...

And until one has more experience, that parsimony will be evident in many of one's purchases and developments. Undersized pumps, inadequate pipework, cheap and inappropriate fencing, the wrong kind of security, unsuitable building methods, insufficient cement in one's concrete. Sound familiar?

Of course, it could be that you moved to a smallholding with a plan already in place, say to start tunnel farming, or a stud, or to do broilers, or to open a riding school or livery yard. So the acquisition of your plot and its associated inhabitants was part of a carefully-calculated business model, even one that passed muster with your bank manager or financier.

But, frankly, such startups are few and far between. Most of us decide on the country lifestyle first, free of the noise and bustle of town, in our guest for peace and guiet, or in a guest for a natural and more healthy environment for one's kids (with, it should be added, the benefit of some natural sex-ed thrown in, courtesy of one's rutting animals). There is a way to ease the pain of the mistakes that one is likely to make, of course, and that's to plan ahead. It needn't be anything elaborate, but a plan laying out the steps that need to be taken to achieve a desired result will give one a set of milestones - deliverables, the eggheads call them  $\sim$  against which one can measure one's progress, however slow it may be.

A workable, measured plan will also protect one from the feeling of being overwhelmed by the thoughts of what one needs to do, as well as the disappointment of realising that one hasn't achieved, or can't achieve, one's goals.

And at the end of the day it is only with a plan to hand that one will prevent oneself from becoming one of the disappointed smallholders who soon come to see their move to the country as a mistake, and who scuttle back to the suburbs disheartened  $\sim$ and out of pocket.

But even if you ride it out, with a plan, and achieve your goals, it's hard to sit back for long and say "I did that...". For there's always maintenance and upkeep to prevent the whole edifice from collapsing. Yes, living on a smallholding is a full-time job!





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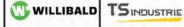
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### **NEWS**

# Renewed interest in E Rand coal deposits

oal mining ~ or at least prospecting for coal deposits ~ is making a comeback on the East Rand, with an environmental impact assessment of a proposed open pit mine within sight of Aston Lake near Springs and, more recently, with a group of residents in Bapsfontein concerned that the development proposed in their area is being undertaken under their noses, but without adequate consultation. Bheka Masinga Global is

proposing to prospect in a large area just 15,26km northeast of Kempton Park, to the south of the R25, and on both

sides of the R51 (Pretoria Road). According to a statement by the residents, "Other residential areas that

### **MAILBAG**

### Laminitis is not 'Monday morning disease' C ir ~ I would just like to incorrect

point out a factual error in your June 2018 edition.

In the article under the heading Horsemanship you refer to laminitis as "Monday Morning disease". This is

incorrect. Monday Morning disease is also known as "Tying up". These are two totally different diseases completely unrelated to one another.

**Petronell Vorster** By email

will be affected are Benoni North, Petit, Serengeti Estate, Bapsfontein, Nestpark, Daveyton, and Delmas," not to mention Marister, Dunblane Estate, and Hillrise as well as Transnet's Sentrarand marshalling yard. It should be added that some of these areas, such as Serengeti and Delmas, are so far away from the site that it is a bit of a stretch of the imagination to believe that they will be affected in any way whatsoever.

Continued on page 6



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







### **NEWS**

## Rain? Maybe. Maybe not. Daff hedges its bets

t might rain later this year. Or it might not. And average temperatures during the late winter might be warmer than usual. Or they may not.

That's the word from the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (Daff), based on

information from the SA Weather Service and released last month.

Daff says "According to the

From page 5

Seasonal Climate Watch issued by the SA Weather Service (SAWS) dated 28 May 2018, there is possibility for

above normal rainfall during mid and late winter. However, there is lack of confidence in Continued on page 8

According to a Benoni City Times report, the area for proposed prospecting and mining is more than 6 000 ha, with coal mining as the main activity.

Citizens from the Bapsfontein and Nestpark area are specifically concerned about the effect mining activities will have on their water supplies and the unstable dolomite

ridge that runs from Nestpark all the way to Daveyton and Springs. Lack of water in the area has already caused 23 sinkholes, of which three are currently known to be active and dangerous. Some of the smallholders in the area have run out of water at 70 m depth and mining activities in the area will destabilise aguifers and the dolomite ridge further.

In light of these concerns, among others, residents attended a public meeting of interested and affected parties held in Kempton Park in May. The meeting was declared null and void by consensus between the exploration company KeMuHoldings and the interested and affected parties, as there was no sound equipment, no accurate written information to hand, and no screen for the projection of information. It was mutually agreed to cancel the meeting and reschedule another, more organised one, as soon as possible.

Adding fuel to the concerns of residents that a subterfuge is being perpetrated was a report that public notification was posted on the Transnet gate of the study site, although residents have failed to locate official notifications regarding the sites for prospecting.

Moreover, emailed requests to KeMuHoldings, asking for confirmation of a new date for the meeting have, to date, proved fruitless.



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### **NEWS**

### Garden World show gets home-grown display

he cost of dismantling and returning to SA the backdrop and setting of this year's Sanbi Kirstenbosch exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show in May has proved prohibitively expensive and as a result, this year's Spring Festival at Garden World will not feature a reconstruction of the gold medal-winning stand.

Instead, Garden World has invited its own team of designers to build a unique four-scene exhibit featuring four iconic South African

Advanced Shooting

landscapes with their associated flora.

This stand, being especially constructed for the show. promises to be every bit as elaborate as the Chelsea exhibit was, and is only one of the features of the Garden World festival.

As usual, designers of every stripe will showcase their ideas at the show, passing them on to visitors as

innovative things to do in their own gardens, that range from small townhouse spaces to the largest space imagin-

An innovative design to be built this year, and which will attract interest from gardeners seeking to grow their own food, is a formal "edible" garden, containing vegetables and herbs but planted in the style of a formal decorative

garden.

The show will be held at Garden World, on Bevers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift, from July 27 to September 2. In addition to show gardens a number of events have been organised, full details of which are contained in the Diary section of this magazine.

### RAINFA

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the forecasting system and therefore the forecast is very uncertain.

"Also, temperatures are anticipated to be above normal across the country during mid and late winter. Nonetheless, due to lack of confidence in the forecasts temperature conditions for the rest of winter remain

uncertain."

More helpful, perhaps, are the current forecasts for the development, or otherwise of an El Nino over the Pacific Ocean in the latter part of 2018 and into 2019.

The US government's National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Agency, Noaa, has compiled a number of different studies using various sets of data and formulae, the greater number of which are predicting a mild to moderate El Nino effect developing over the Pacific later this year. The bad news for southern Africa is that such an effect can result in lower-thanaverage rainfall during the summer months in the southern hemisphere.

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### **BEEKEEPING**

## A fireproof, theft-proof, permanent beehive

# Our regular column on beekeeping in Gauteng, supported by the three beekeepers' associations in the province

mong the many problems facing Gauteng's beekeepers is the destruction of their wooden beehives, either through fire, or through vandalism and theft.

Plus, being made of wood, a standard Langstroth hive deteriorates over time, even if the interior is well-coated with a preservative such as Waxol, because the bees generate significant moisture in the hive, which rots the wood of the hive.

Thus, in the quiet months the beekeeper spends many hours (and much money) manufacturing replacement hives, or repairing brood chambers and supers.

In various parts of the world other materials and designs are used as bee housing and in 2015 a dual-material hybrid system was developed locally by a BTech student named Ivan Brown, using a starter hive made of wood and cardboard, which is later replaced by a permanent, fixed hive made of cast reinforced concrete.

This has been refined into a design Brown has named the Bee Bunka and which he manufactures and sells through a startup named Beegin, which is based in Magaliesburg.

Although it is made of a lightweight concrete formulation the Bee Bunka is heavier than a wooden Langstroth hive, making it nighimpossible to steal, while being made of concrete it is fireproof.

While the walls of the brood chamber and the supers are thicker in the concrete version than in a wooden hive, the internal dimensions are identical, enabling standard Langstroth frames to be hung. The durable concrete does not need to be maintained

Continued on page 11 to 2015







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### **BEEKEEPING**

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space - assisting in the regulation of the internal temperature, reducing energy consumption.

The hive floor and the lid are loose concrete castings, and the brood chamber and supers are fitted with a series of small holes on either end into which removable metal handles are affixed when handling is necessary. The Bee Bunka comprises three main parts: a brood chamber (241 mm deep) with an attached floor and front entrance: a shallow (145mm deep) super chamber; and a telescopic lid. The chambers each take 10 x 35mm frames (11 x 32mm). The hive takes a normal queen excluder and

any type of inner cover. The

hive components all interlock and can be locked with a chain or cable. The components can be fire treated to remove bacteria.

Once the hive is assembled in the apiary, however, it remains in position and the beekeeper will remove full frames to a lighter wooden chamber for transporting, rather than lugging the concrete chamber about. Because there are no lifting points on the exteriors of the chambers thievery is discouraged because unless the thief has his own set of lifting handles he will have no way of easily lifting the hive. Concrete provides good insulation for the inhabitants and the entire hive is

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Commercially-available design of the Beegin concrete hive. Note the prototype design models in use in the right hand corner of the picture.

# Beekeeping course for beginners

A four-day course on beekeeping for those intending to keep bees and for newcomers. The course covers the theory & practical requirements to start as a hobbyist beekeeper.



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### BEEKEEPING

From page 11

watertight because the lid fits over the entire top of the chamber, including the vertical sides. The beehives can be purchased directly from Beegin as fully cured, professionally-finished, ready-made concrete components.

The price is similar to the cost of a standard wooden hive. The components can be purchased separately or as whole beenive unit.

t A set of moulds is also available should one wish to cast one's own hives, in which case the cost of manufacture is roughly half that of a bought hive.

For more information: Ivan Brown, Beegin, 076 980-

9974

All three Gauteng beekeepers associations encourage participation from people wishing to become involved with bees.

If you are in Pretoria or surrounds, the Northerns Beekeepers Association is your closest. Call Riekie on

082 972-1889.

For western or southern Gauteng or Johannesburg the Southern Beekeepers Association is your closest. Email Lanz on afromedia-@gmail.com for details. Easterns is the association for people on the East Rand and Mpumalanga, Call Mike on 083 430-8707











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## Introducing: Bugs that make compost

our compost heap is home to a wonderful variety of creatures, all of whom have roles to play in the process of breaking down organic matter into compost.

Generally, if you do have insects in your heap it means that you have a healthy ecosystem. They're all part of what earth scientists refer to as the soil food web.

A good compost heap is a





African Night Crawlers making vermicast

throughout your compost, they not only aerate it, they also excrete and that poop will eventually become wonderful fertiliser for your plants. The poop from these bugs becomes food for the microbes (eg, bacteria and fungi) in your compost pile, which in turn stimulates the microbial population to grow, so the ingredients in your pile

break down more quickly. These specific compost life forms have the ability to break down larger ingredients in your compost. That's why they're sometimes referred to as "shredders". This shredding of larger parts into smaller parts allows smaller organisms, such as the bacteria, to finish the process. As in any food web, some

bugs help keep all other organisms in check, especially any that may cause disease.

Where there are insects, you will find other insects that eat them. The predator insects in a compost heap will include centipedes, red mites and various types of spiders. Then there are compost heap shredders, which help to tear up and decompose the compost material. They are mostly beneficial in the compost heap (but some, like

Continued on page 16





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### **BLANKET** WASHING

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From page 14

the Rose Beetle larvae, become a garden menace in their adult form).

Black Soldier Fly and their larvae are very common and they eat the kitchen waste in your heap. You will also find sow bugs (also called woodlouse, pillbug, roly-poly, potato bug), spring tails and earwigs.

Lower down in the heap,

once it has cooled down, you will have earth worms. In South Africa these are the naturally occurring African Night Crawler, not the Red Wigglers that are used in worm farms.

In order to encourage insects in your compost heap, aim for a balance of heat, moisture and oxygen.

The composting process is speeded up by the heat that is produced by the heap itself. Ideally the temperature should reach 60°C for a short period, to sterilise the material of residual fungi and disease and to kill any seeds in the heap, so that when the compost is spread in the flowerbeds it doesn't result in a crop of weeds. However, if your heap is very hot there will be fewer bugs as they don't like such conditions.

When it cools down there will be more insects. Moisture is necessary to get the process under way, as long as there is not too much. In Gauteng's dry winters, the pile should be kept moist, as a completely dry pile doesn't compost. The different types of material should be mixed, as a thick layer of one material might prevent the

Continued on page 18



A millipede in the compost pile



Black soldier fly larvae



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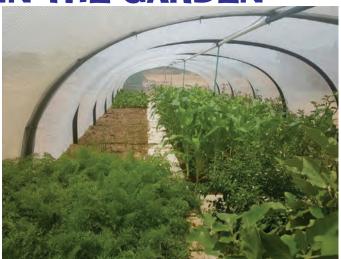


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# Pros & cons of growing in tunnels

ow that winter is here with icy winds and frost, smallholders with tunnels will be glad of the ability to protect their vegetables.

A tunnel has a frame made from steel or plastic, which is covered in clear polyethylene sheeting or shade cloth. Tunnels are usually semicircular, square or elongated in shape. The interior heats up because incoming solar radiation from the sun warms plants, soil, and other things inside the building faster than heat can escape the structure. Air warmed by the heat from hot interior surfaces is

ow that winter is here retained in the structure by with icy winds and the roof and wall.

Temperature, humidity and ventilation can be controlled by equipment in the tunnel or by manual opening and closing of flaps along the sides of the structure.

In addition to growing vegetables and flowers in tunnels, more smallholders are showing an interest in aquaponics for Tilapia fish farming in tunnels.

There are many obvious pros to growing in tunnels. You have an extended growing season and can grow a greater variety of vegetables in winter.

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### COMPOST

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moisture from leaching through the pile. Where the compost is too wet add coarse dry materials such as straw, finely shredded newspaper, hay or leaves to soak up excess moisture. The bugs of the compost heap require oxygen, so aim to ensure that the heap is loosely packed. The heap needs to be turned every few weeks, separating compacted

materials and allowing oxygen in

Turning the heap also means that all the material being composted is treated equally, and used up fully.

Aerating the compost pile puts a check on the anaerobic microbes, which often give the heap a bad odour, while encouraging the less smelly aerobic micro-organisms to grow and prosper.

From page 18

Sometimes there will be faster after crop growth and higher total yields and your vegetables will be unblemished, because they have not been battered by the elements. It is very pleasant in winter to work in a tunnel and it is cheaper than a heated greenhouse.

However, depending on the size of the tunnel, your startup costs can be considerable. Unless you want to grow vegetables commercially, most smallholders will not be able to justify the expenditure. Even if you do not invest in a great deal of climate-control equipment, you will still have to maintain the structure. Tunnels are vulnerable to hail and wind damage and the plastic will have to be replaced every few years because of sun damage. If you want to establish a tunnel business it might be possible to receive funding from entities such as Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) and the Gauteng Dept of

Development. Sometimes municipal agricultural departments also supply tunnels to qualifying smallholders.

There are various designs of DIY kits available and one can also buy them second hand.

Ventilation is an important factor to get right. A common way to ventilate is to have roll-up sides. It's the only way of keeping the tunnel from getting too hot during the day in the spring or summer or even in other months of the year.

Growing in protected culture requires greater attention to detail. You need to monitor your plants constantly, because the warmer conditions that favour your plant growth are also good for certain insects and diseases. Aphids, white fly, some thrip and spider mites can be problematic.

Companion planting should include plants that host beneficial insects.

Tunnels do reduce some diseases but exacerbate other diseases. Tunnels create micro-climates and disease can spread fast. Depending on the vegetables you are growing, you need to guard against powdery mildew and botrytis, Verticillium and Fusarium wilts and, depending on the area, bacterial wilt. Increase air flow, reduce humidity and use diseaseresistant varieties to help

Continued on page 20

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Above: A simple hobbyist tunnel suitable for a small family garden. Below: A sophisticated aquaponics tunnel combining tilapia tanks (not in picture) whose water and nutrients nourish the plants (shown).





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is UV treated to

withstand the

harshest sun

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The heat retention of the PE greenhouse design allows summer crops to be grown later into the colder months. Summer crops can also be planted earlier to extend their growing season

Galvanised 25mm steel poles easily fit together.



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### WATER



Uber Seal is formulated for cement structures such as this reservoir

# Water-based DIY sealer for cement reservoirs, walls etc

ollowing on from the success of its sealing compound for unlined earth dams and ponds, Aqua Plastech of Chartwell North has introduced a sealing liquid specifically formulated for cement structures.

Named UberSeal Multipurpose, it is a waterbased general purpose clear waterproofing compound designed for use on a wide variety of substrates.

UberSeal is especially suited

to sealing and protecting porous vertical masonry surfaces such as split faced or decorative concrete blocks. Aqua Plastech says UberSeal is particularly effective against wind driven rain and, unlike water repellent style sealers, is able to withstand hydrostatic pressures caused by significant weather events. "UberSeal is UV stable and provides long term protection of more than ten years."

Continued on page 22

### TUNNELS

From page 19

manage these diseases. Viruses can also be a problem. Disposable gloves, regular hand washing and tool disinfection will reduce the spread of viruses and other systemic diseases. Narrow aisles require careful attention to crop canopy management, so pruning and trellising are might be necessary.

Irrigation management requires greater care. Know when to increase irrigation

flow to maximize plant growth, but also know how to avoid root rot.

If you are not using any form of heating, do not think that you are going to grow summer vegetables such as tomatoes in your tunnel during winter, because it just won't get hot enough. In fact, many tunnel farmers in the colder areas will cease production in the coldest months, using the time to perform maintenance and repair tasks.







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Replica antique stoves are now cast in SA. Spares are also available.

### Grandma's old stove now made in SA

he warm memory of the smell of brewing coffee and baking bread in Granny's farmhouse kitchen, while the house is warmed by the crackling fire, does not have to be a thing of the past. That's because you can equip your home with a replica of an antique wood or coal-fired stove which, in addition to evoking rich memories of the past, will be yet another step in removing your family from the stranglehold of Eskom's electricity supply.

Since 1984, antique-style wood and coal stoves have been manufactured locally by a foundry, Ndebele Stowe in eastern Gauteng.

Moreover, genuine antique coal and wood stoves can be fully restored to their former glory, with all parts and accessories newly-cast and

sold through dealers country wide.

Coal stoves no longer have to be a farmhouse item only. This new range of coal stoves gives users a variety that will be an asset in any house. With different sizes, uses and patterns there is now a stove available for every home, says Ndebele Stowe.

Ndebele Stowe's retail outlet, Ndebele Appliances & Coal Stoves in Bronkhorstspruit, has the full range of stoves on display.

Parts, chimney pipes, accessories and more are also available.

Ndebele also gives clients the option to have their old stoves refurbished, and handles sales of second-hand units as well. For more information:

Ndebele Appliances & Coal Stoves, tel 013 932-1376

### WATER

From page 20

years. "

UberSeal dries to a clear low sheen finish and remains flexible to accommodate minor movement in the substrate.

It can be over painted with any acrylic paint. "Due to exceptional adhesion UberSeal is well suited as a primer for acrylic architectural topcoats, elastomerics and roofing paints.

The compound is a soft sealer

and not suitable for horizontal surfaces subject to traffic, for example paths, pavers and floors etc, unless they are to be covered with tiles, carpet, or harder coatings.

Two to three coats are applied at a rate of approximately 5m<sup>2</sup> per litre, by brush, roller or low-pressure sprayer, and the surface will be fully cured within seven days.

For more information: Aqua Plastech 086 199-5036

# Psychology of your rooster's crow

here is no sound that is as characteristic of rural life as that of a rooster crowing. Whether you think it sounds like cock-a-doodle-doo, kike-ri-ki or ko-ke-kokkoh, the sound is associated all over the world with sunrise.

However, any smallholder who keeps chickens or has a neighbour that does, will testify that cockerels start crowing before dawn, often as early as 04h00. So it is not actually the first rays of sunlight that bring on the first crowing. Roosters anticipate sunrise to get a head start on their daily hunt for food and defence of territory.

When a rooster crows, he's sending a signal to other roosters that if they trespass, they're asking for a fight. A rooster will often crow from a vantage point above his

Circadian rhythms are found

animals, plants, and many

microbes.

in most living things, including

territory so he can make others more aware of his presence and so that his "songs" travel farther.
Scientists, notably Japanese ornithologists, who have experimented with groups of roosters have proved that roosters have an inborn sense of time or an internal body clock that tells them when to crow.

All animals have what are called circadian rhythms - physical, mental and behavioural changes that follow a daily cycle. Sleeping at night and being awake during the day is an example of a light-related circadian rhythm.

The experiments showed however that the roosters anticipated dawn and would start crowing two hours before the light. Even when they were kept under 24 hours of dim light conditions for 14 days, scientists observed that the animals started running on a 23,8-hour day.

Furthermore, when biologists tried to trick the birds by randomly exposing them to bright lights or loud sounds at various times, while this did induce some crowing, they consistently responded more strongly to the stimuli by crowing more when they occurred around what would normally be dawn.

We know that there is a strict hierarchy in any group of chickens, which is called a

Continued on page 26





& residential areas. Also industrial areas, construction

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### **MACHINERY**

# The future is electric

e have seen the future, and it's electric. And so quickly and certainly is it going electric that we predict that within the next couple of decades the only place you'll see the small two- or four-stroke petrol engines such as commonly power lawnmowers, brushcutters and chainsaws today will be in a museum.

The technology that is making this silent, pollution-free revolution possible is the lithium-ion battery, about which you can read elsewhere in this edition. The superior charging ability of Liion batteries is well-known, and in small items such as cellphones, watches and cameras they have become commonplace.

Detractors of rechargeable battery-power point to the high cost of the batteries and chargers and the argument holds some merit at present. But Li-ion technology is developing rapidly and the batteries are becoming more Continued on page 27

### **POULTRY**

From page 23
pecking order. Where there is more than one cockerel in a group, the dominant rooster is the one who will crow first in the morning, followed by its subordinates, in descending order of social rank

This was proved when the scientists worked with four roosters and watched what happened when they removed the highest ranking rooster from the group. They found there was a systematic rule in the order of crowing, with each taking turns according to their social rank. In addition, the starting time for the first crow for the most dominant rooster varied from day to day, but the crowing

of the lower ranking roosters always started right after he began his call. The data suggested that subordinate roosters have the potential to crow, but they are patient enough to wait for the topranking rooster's first crow. Presumably one cock crowing will also set off other roosters on other properties. The crow of a rooster serves several functions. Along with being used as a warning of sorts to let other roosters known the boundaries of its territory, the crow can be used to communicate with his hens and sometimes to celebrate the mating with a hen. Crowing can also indicate fear of possible threats or predators.



### From page 26 efficient, with their prices dropping dramatically every year. At the upper end are



A familiar sight ... cordless screwdriver for home workshop

the large units powering electric cars such as the Tesla and Nissan's Leaf, and in Elon Musk's elegant domestic solar power pack that will enable households to live wholly or partially offgrid without disrupting or defacing the dwelling.

And now progressive manufacturers of power equipment are seeing the benefits of Li-ion power for their machines.

Stihl, for example, has developed three ranges of garden and farm machines, with different specifications, to suit homeowners with the smallest of townhouse gardens, those with more extensive properties to maintain, and full-on commercial or professional users such as farmers, landscapers and municipalities.

Across each range the battery packs are interchangeable between machines and the



chargers universal to the particular range. Thus, in a domestic situation for example one buys a small Stihl chainsaw, a string trimmer, a blower and a hedge trimmer, one or two batteries and a single charger. When one has finished pruning the branches of one's trees with the chainsaw, or cutting up a few logs for firewood, one removes the

Battery backpacks for professional electric machines.







### **Easyhatch Incubators**

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Continued on page 28



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### MACHINER



Battery-powered domestic range from Stihl

From page 27

battery from the chainsaw and slides it into the string trimmer before neatening the edges of the lawn. With that task completed one removes the battery again and slides it into the blower to clean up the trimmings. And so on. Much the same system is employed by Makita in their power tools, which are

proving popular with contractors such as electricians, repairmen and plumbers who find not having to run out extension cords to run their tools up in ceilings and workspaces a boon. Such users will buy a single battery powered tool, say a drill, and a clutch of batteries and chargers.

Continued on page 30

### Li-ion deconstructed

ike all batteries, a lithium-ion battery contains an anode and a cathode separated and yet conjoined by an electrolyte.

Unlike your car battery where the electrolyte is a liquid (battery acid diluted with distilled water), the electrolyte of a Li-ion battery is either a liquid polymer or a solid of

The anode is usually lithium, graphite or a variety of lithium alloys or silicon.

The cathode, by contrast, is usually a lithium metal oxide, with oxides containing nickel and cobalt being the most studied and most stable.

To remind you of your high school chemistry, the formulae for these compounds are LiMn2O4 or LiCoO2. Lithium, to remind you, is element number 3 on the Periodic table, lving between helium and beryllium, and Cobalt element number 27, lying between iron and nickel. Lithium is thus the lightest metal and in its natural state quite unstable. But it is cobalt that is the elephant in the room as far as Liion battery technology is concerned.

Half of the world's known deposits of cobalt are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with other deposits found and mined in Zambia and the Central African Republic. Cobalt is also a by-product of platinum and nickel mining.

And here's the problem: of the cobalt mined in the DRC, industry observers say that up to 20% is mined by hand,

the small operations being both physically dangerous and exploitative of the workers, who are often children.

Thus, activists have taken to raising awareness of the nature of cobalt mining as a fertile ground for exploitative child labour and have started making calls for users of Li-ion batteries to insist, and to certify, that the cobalt used in their batteries be ethically sourced.



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### **MACHINERY**

From page 28

During the course of a workday they simply replace the depleted batteries with freshly charged units to carry on working, charging the depleted batteries overnight for the next day's work. Depending on the make of tool the intended use and the size of the motor, the batteries will be 12V, 24V, 36V or 48V types, and some of the more powerful tools will require two at one time, for example  $2 \times 48V = 96V$ , to run. At the top end, the professional tools are powered by battery backpacks with the machines attached to cables. Stihl, for example, has a range



of straight-shaft brushcutters and clearing saws every bit as powerful as the large petrolpowered machines. The battery packs contain suf-

ficient charge for a day's work, thus making them suitable for use by parks departments, farmers and landscapers.

And, in true Germanic style, Stihl has some impressive arithmetic to show that the initial outlay on the machine and battery pack is very quickly recouped in the saving on fuel cost over the machine's lifetime.

And that, despite the eyewatering cost of the battery packs ~ north of R12 000 in the case of the bigger units. Having said that, the cost of lithium-ion batteries is decreasing steadily, while



All the leading brands now offer battery-powered models. Here is a chainsaw from Husqvarna

their efficiency is improving at the same time.

Apart from savings in operating costs, batterypowered tools have other significant benefits. First and foremost is the saving in the cost of petrol and oil, and the associated benefit of not having to store and cart around canisters of potentially dangerous fuels. Then there is the benefit of operating a pollution-free machine, for despite many advances in design in recent years, two-stroke engines are notoriously inefficient burners of fuel and thus disproportionately guilty of air pollu-

Thirdly, if you have only ever used a petrol-powered brushcutter you will be forgiven for admitting that you have never heard the "whishing" noise the string makes as the head spins. That's because the noise of the string is drowned out by the noise of the engine. An electric unit, by contrast, has no engine noise, the only sound being the movement of the string head. As a result, you need no ear protection to operate a battery powered brushcutter, only safety glasses. That's one less item of PSE (personal safety equipment) you need to worry about for your workers, and one less point for the OHSAct inspectors to get nit-picky about. And if you live in close proximity to your neighbours, they won't need earplugs either every time you trim your lawn.



# AROUND THE HOME

Diatoms viewed under an electron microscope.

# Diatomaceous earth: A benign natural powder with many uses

iatomaceous Earth (DE) is a soft, silicabased rock powder made from fossilised marine algae known as diatoms, and contains a number of beneficial trace minerals. It has a long list of wonderful uses for people, livestock and pets alike.

It has been used for various purposes for many decades. In the '60s, for example, it was used as a filter medium in a tube-type swimming pool filter, where a coarse form of the powder was used to line a mesh bag, the dirty pool water passing through the medium in the bag.

For human, pet and livestock use food grade DE should be used. This form will have been milled until it is almost completely amorphous. This means it has no crystalline (<0.5%) form left to cause

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damage to larger organisms. Instead it has small sharp edges which can damage tiny parasites, insects and larvae found on stored grain, in animal manure, on infected plants and in the stomachs of livestock and humans. It is advisable to wear a mask when working with DE, as it must not be inhaled. In the lune edition of the Gauteng Smallholder, we described how DE can be used to get rid of bird mites and lice, but DE is also used for human and animal consumption, household pest control, as tick and flea powder and in grain storage. Diatomaceous (pronounced: di-a-tom-aye-shus) Earth is effective in eradicating pests because the diatoms are essentially very fine, sharp and abrasive particles that eliminate parasites by drying out the natural oils and fats on their exoskeletons, which causes them to shrivel up and perish relatively quickly. DE particles also stick to an insect and get stuck between its exoskeletal joints. As the insect moves, it is physically cut up.

Diatomaceous Earth will kill all insects, including beneficial Continued on page 32



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### **AROUND THE HOME**



DE around a plant will prevent harmful insects

From page 31 ones, so it should be used in a targeted manner. DE food grade is a natural pesticide that can be used safely in the garden. It works on insects such as beetles, mites, spiders, flying insects and ants. However, it will kill

bees, so should not be used near flowers rich in pollen or nectar.

DE can be mixed in poultry and bird feed to remove internal parasites.

Livestock owner report good results when adding DE to their animals' feed. It saves

albumen, destroys harmful acids and safeguards the stomach. It improves the health and growth of young animals and improves digestion, allowing animals to absorb a higher percentage of protein from their regular diet.

DE is a bio-available silica and trace element supplement in feed. It also improves milk production and absorbs methyl mercury, e coli, endotoxins and even some

viruses. It increases appetite and helps to prevent scours. DE provides a broad-spectrum of naturally occurring chelated minerals that include calcium, magnesium, iron, phosphate, sodium, titanium, potassium and others. Another benefit of

adding DE to
Powder
livestock feed is that
it acts as a natural preservative. Its porous nature allows
it to absorb moisture that
would otherwise cause feed
to mould or rot, helping the
feed to last longer than it
would otherwise.

Some livestock owners spread it in bedding for odour and moisture control. An added bonus is that reduced fly hatching is usually observed in manure from livestock fed DE. Its presence in the faeces prohibits larvae and develop-

ment of adult flies and thereby reduces fly problems. Diatomaceous earth for pets acts as a non-toxic tick and flea remedy for dogs and cats. Simply brush the powder into your pet's hair and sprinkle it over their bedding. It can also be added to pets' food as a safe natural deworming treatment.

It is a good idea to sprinkle DE in rubbish bins. It helps to absorb unpleasant odours and will discourage maggots.



Powdering a dog with DE

DE can also be used as a soil amendment, where it enhances the effectiveness of fertilisers and prevents

Continued on page 34



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### **FINANCE**

### Financial management for the smallholder

outh Africans recently awoke to the depressing news that the economists had got their predictions spectacularly wrong. What was supposed to be a small GDP growth of 1,1% this year, will in fact be a contraction of 2,2%.

Thus, while the economy continues to languish we all need to manage our finances more carefully and more actively, particularly given added whammies of eyewatering fuel price rises,

increased electricity tariffs and

a hike in the VAT rate. And, the alarming talk of land grabs, despite the sensible and sensitive approach to the expropriation and redistribution of land which middle of the road government leaders point to, is affecting the sale of plots and small farms. Until

there is greater clarity on the matter, nobody wants to buy land which they might lose, so smallholders are increasingly anxious about the value of their property.

So a guick fix to your financial distress, namely offloading all or part of your land to settle

debt, is hardly a sensible option at this stage. All the more reason there-

fore why we need to plan, budget and save, even though our expenses are different from those of people living in town. What smallholders save up for will in some cases be different from what town dwellers buy. Often our priorities are quite different. And, happily, we also have the option of earning income

Continued on page 35

### THE HOM

From page 32

leaching. It also assists in water retention of the soil. Apparently DE it doesn't harm most beneficial microorganisms in the soil. Worms, for example, are not affected by the microscopic edges in diatomaceous earth particles. In human consumption. some of the benefits of using DE internally are said to include reducing odours, helping to curb flatulence, cleansing the digestive tract,

boosting liver function and absorbing harmful toxins within the blood.

DE acts as a natural chelating product used for pulling heavy metals from the bloodstream. Other alleged benefits include lower cholesterol, lowering of blood pressure, relief from arthritis pain, increased energy, more regular bowel movements, smoother complexion and cough relief.

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From page 34

from our plots.

Most of us know that we should live according to a budget, save something every month, invest to grow our wealth, minimise debt and ensure a financially secure retirement.

However, we often don't know where to start, which means we never start at all. It doesn't help that financial terminology can be intimidating, so we sometimes stick to limited financial products simply because we understand them.

Financial planners tell us to start by drawing up a budget. This is a simple exercise but it gives one a clear picture of ones circumstances on a monthly basis.

It's not rocket-science: draw a vertical line down the middle of a blank page.

On the left, list all your monthly expenses. Start with fixed expenses such as rent or bond, insurance, school fees, retail accounts, credit card payments, etc. Then move on to variable expenses such as food, petrol, clothing, electricity, animal feed, etc. If any of these items are paid by your employer before you receive your salary, don't include them (eg, tax, pension and medical aid). Don't forget to add sneaky little expenses such as bank charges, parking fees, car guards and the indulgent little latte and apple Danish that you enjoy when you're peckish at work. Write everything down. This might entail keeping a notebook with one for a month in order to write down every little thing one spends money on. On the right hand side, write down your net salary, which is the amount that is paid into your bank account every



month, ie, after deductions. If

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you receive other income, list it here too. An example of other income could be rent charged for cottages on your plot, profits from the sale of livestock, fresh produce or other products made on the plot.

Add up the left column, and add up the right column. Hopefully the right column totals more than the left, which means that your income is greater than your expenses.

You may find that you need

to adjust it constantly. In most months there are unforeseen expenses – someone in the family falls ill or your car packs up or your brushcutter is stolen. Perhaps you forgot something, you estimated the cost of something incorrectly or your commitments change.

If your income is more than your expenses you should open a savings account and transfer some of the surplus



The value of saving money lies in giving you a safety net. This will ensure that if your borehole pump breaks, you Continued on page 36



### FINANCE:

From page 35

have a veterinary crisis or your child needs new school clothes, there will be money available and you won't have to use your credit card. If you don't have to use credit for emergencies it means that your credit card and retail accounts will soon be paid off

However, if your expenses are more than your income, then you need what financial planners call "an SOS plan." Carefully check all your expenses and determine which are nonessentials that you can live without for a while. For example, cancel the satellite TV subscription. Don't go shopping for clothes for six months (some would say that maplotters are rarely noted for their fashion style

anyway).

Another option is to consider how to increase your income. The Gauteng Smallholder's Companion lists a number of ideas on how smallholders can use their plots to

Continued on page 38

# Useful plants ... the whole lot

eople's Plants – A Guide to Useful Plants of southern Africa is a fascinating book that is a must for anyone interested in useful plants, new crop plants, medicinal plants, new product development, ecotourism, rural development, traditional crafts, African culture, ethnobotany and botany in general. People's Plants is a scientific review of all of the most important useful plants of southern Africa.

It remains the first and only fully illustrated ethnobotanical

reference source for southern Africa.

In this expanded and updated second edition, traditional and contemporary uses of more than 700 plants are described and illustrated in 20 chapters, each dealing with a specific category of plant use:

- Foods and drinks, including cereals, seeds and nuts, fruits and berries, vegetables, roots, bulbs and tubers, and beverages.
- ☐ Health and beauty, including general medicines, tonic plants, mind and mood

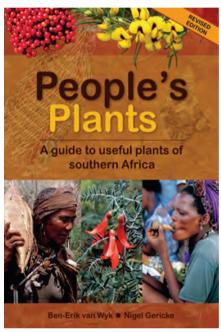
plants, women's health, wounds, burns and skin conditions, dental care,

perfumes and repellents, and soap plants and cosmetics. Skills and crafts, including hunting and fishing, dyes and tans, utility timbers, fire-making and

firewood, basketry, weaving and ropes, thatching, mats and brooms.

The Expanded and

revised 2nd edition, published this year, is by Ben-Erik van Wyk and Nigel Gericke. ISBN: 978-1-920217-71-6. The book is 416 pages long, in a hard cover and full colour throughout. And sells for the recommended price of R455.





Prices include VAT, E&OE, while stocks last.
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### **FINANCE**

From page 36 augment their income.
Do some research on what people need in your area and develop a solution that will meet that need as well as bring in profit to you.
If, however, your budget has shown that your credit card and other debt are out of

control, you will have to scale down your lifestyle until you recover from this. Speak to every contract service provider about how to reduce your payments. For example get quotes on cheaper insurance, negotiate lower bank charges, downgrade your cell phone contract when it's up for renewal (you can also remove caller ID and other add-ons). If you don't own the property that you live on, talk to your landlord ~ if you are a good tenant he may consider helping you out for a while by reducing your rent. You will never know if you

can get things cheaper if you don't ask. This applies to all budget scenarios, not just to those who are in dire straits. In any situation where you can save yourself some money, it will enable you to add to your savings. Having a savings account is

Continued on page 40

## Beware: You can be nailed for veld fires

he National Veld and Forest Fires Act of 1998 clearly outlines what is considered an offence, and provisions of the act have been used in recent years to secure convictions against those who break the law or neglect their responsibilities as landowners or occupiers. The act divides such offences into categories.

For example, there are penalties listed where a person lights, uses or maintains a fire in the open

air or in a road reserve, as well as concerning smokers. It is an offence where a person fails to prepare and maintain a firebreak on his or her side of the boundary with adjoining land or when an owner burns a firebreak when the local Fire Protection Association has objected. When a fire breaks out on your own land and you fail to take reasonable steps to extinguish the fire, confine it to that land or prevent it from causing damage to property

on adjoining land, you are liable to a fine or imprisonment for two years.

It is an offence if you have reason to believe a fire on your land may endanger life, property or the environment but you fail to notify the fire protection officer in your area (if such an individual has been appointed), or failing him or her, any member of the executive committee of the FPA if one exists for the area, as well as the owners of adjoining land.

You are also liable for penalties if you fail to meet the standards of readiness for firefighting by not having the equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel for extinguishing fires.

An owner on whose land a veldfire may start or burn or spread fails to meet the standards of readiness for firefighting by not ensuring that in their absence, a responsible person will be present on or near their land who if there is a fire will extinguish it or assist in doing so; alert the owners of adjoining land and the FPA if there is one, is also committing an offence.

The act also states the offences that may occur if a fire breaks out on adjoining land or people do not cooperate with firefighting personnel.







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### FINANCE!

# Finance & support for emerging farmers

mallholders and emerging farmers who want to make money from their agricultural enterprises will at some stage need support, in the form of financial assistance and in improving their skills and

knowledge.

But, to make money out of land and livestock needs one to think and plan like a businessman or woman, and the old saying "you need money to make money" applies to agribusiness too.

Money is needed to buy seed, fertiliser, equipment, livestock ~ the list is endless. Fortunately, for emerging farmers there are many possible organisations that can

☐ One of the target markets

for the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) is businesses involved in agriculture, specifically land reform beneficiaries and contract-farming activities. There are quite a few criteria to be met, which are stated on http://www.sefa.org.za/contacts/apply. Phone 012 748-9600 or 011 403-1761.

☐ The government has more than one programme that could benefit an emerging farmer. There are agricultural

Continued on page 41



From page 38 the first step towards financial freedom.

With some savings in the bank you need to do some research or take advice on turning your money into a wealth-building investment portfolio.

Most of us would like to be able to improve our present lifestyle and we also need to consider saving for retire-

What you do with the money

that you are saving depends on your goals. Put your goals and strategies firmly in place and be clear about what you want the money to do for you. If you don't know how to achieve these financial goals consult a qualified financial planner. Make sure that he or she is independent and not going to emphasise a particular option because of the commission that might be earned.

But even then you must do

your homework beforehand. Be very sure you know what you want from your money first and make sure that the planner understands your goals and your motives. Even if you do take advice from a professional, arm yourself with knowledge so that you can understand what is being suggested. There are many easy books available which demystify the world of money, saving and investment.



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### FINANCE

From page 40

grants, which generally don't need to be paid back by the recipient. However, there will be specific criteria for determining who will be eligible for a grant and once awarded, strict guidelines around what the fund can be used for. For more information on grants phone 012 319 7020 or visit the closest Land Affairs or provincial agricultural department offices. On the other hand, agricultural government funding is typically when a project or business derives part or all of its financial support from



government. This funding needs to be repaid after a specific period of time, which is agreed upon by both you and the government.

The government funding options available to the agricultural sector include:

The Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (Mafisa) has as its purpose to ensure that smallholder producers have access to finance and that they form part of the mainstream economy. The loans are for the purchase of production inputs (fertilizers, seeds, pesticides etc); small equipment and implements; breeding livestock, medication, feed, branding material etc. Contact 012 319-7263/6825/7216 or PortiaMahl@daff.gov.za or ElizabethKh@daff.gov.za; ☐ The Isivande Women's Fund funds the improvement of women's economic

empowerment in the

agricultural sector. Contact 011 772-7900 or email info@idf.co.za;

Strategic Business Unit (SBU): Agri-business and agriculture: the aim of this agricultural funding opportunity is to develop competitive processed food, beverage, fibre, and forestry and derivative industries. For further information go to

www.idc.co.z a/sbuoverview/agro-

view/agroindustries.ht ml

Land
Redistribution
for
Agricultural
Development
(LRAD), a
joint venture
with the
Depts of
Agriculture
and of Rural
Development

. Through the programme, qualifying beneficiaries may acquire land for agricultural purposes.

The Land Bank provides finance to all sectors of the agricultural economy and agri-business. Call 012 686 0500 or email info@landbank.co.za;

Continued on page 43







and you will be notified of your Post Office tracking number or other delivery details.

## IN THE WORKSHOP

# Good air filtration is vital on dusty Highveld

outh Africans, particularly the Highveld variety, tend to forget how dusty our winter environment can be. But that this is so should be obvious to Gauteng's smallholders, at least those whose plots are down untarred roads, as they battle fruitlessly to keep their cars clean and dust free. And if the cars are dusty on their bodies and windows, imagine how dust accumulates in the air filters of any machine, from the smallest chainsaw or mower, to the largest turbocharged diesel tractor, which works on a dusty Highveld plot or farm. Indeed, air filtration is a highly-developed science nowadays, and modern tractor dealers often have special deals on filter elements to entice new owners to ensure that their filters are cleaned regularly.

Moreover, on many models of tractor designed and built in wetter, less dusty climates, one of the modifications that is undertaken before such machines are made available on the local market is to upgrade the air filtration. Modern air filters are usually of a paper element type, at least on larger engines. These are disposable after use, and mechanics warn that blowing them "clean" with a compres-

at skhalele.njoni@gauteng-

At municipal level assistance

form of advice and physical

help, such as provision of

ground preparation, grass

tractors and ploughs for

cutting etc, as well as

extension services.

is also available, usually in the

.gov.za.

sor and re-using them is not recommended.

Smaller engines, such as are found on chainsaws and brushcutters, and certain mowers, are fitted with air filters that comprise nothing more elaborate than a piece of sponge, often lightly soaked in light machine oil. These are reusable, except that repeated washing and recoating with oil causes the sponge to disintegrate, in which case it should be replaced, rather than risking leakage of unfiltered air into the carburetion system. When re-coating a sponge element with oil, ensure the sponge is coated through, but that all excess oil is squeezed from the sponge. Also, use only a light oil. A heavy, viscous oil will cause the sponge to remain out of form

Continued on page 44

#### From page 41

☐ There are commercial products also available. such as the Old Mutual Masisizane Fund, which funds agribusiness with support for grain and vegetable crops, Livestock, Implements and Equipment. Tel 011 217-1746 or email

tmagodla@oldmutual.com. ☐ The four major banks all have agribusiness departments, although smallholder requirements might be rather smaller than the banks will be prepared to support.

Top Bloedlyn & Geregistreerde Wit Dorper Stoet

The term "Emerging Farmer" is commonly applied both to farmers who are emerging in terms of scale and to farmers who are emerging in terms of lack of skills.

security for all and ensure the sustainability.

The Gauteng Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development (Gdard) states that its function is to enable and support the agriculture sector to actively contribute to economic growth, inclusion, equality and employment creation and to boost food







### **FACEBOOK**

# Don't miss out ~ some of our recent posts

n case you missed them, here are some of the snippets posted on our Facebook page recently. In many cases they contain links to further resource articles to be found on the internet. If you are not linked to our Facebook page why not join today. You will receive Facebook notifications when new material is posted ~ which is regularly ~ and also be able to enjoy the comments that are made by other readers. The url is facebook.com/gautengsmallh

#### Water storage

Unless you are lucky enough to have a permanent spring bubbling away on your property, giving you an endless supply of water, the average borehole will be insufficient to pump constantly and endlessly. So, to provide for your irrigation needs, you will need to pump and store.

Your choices for storage are earth dams, lined dams, above ground reservoirs of

concrete, corrugated or galvanised sheeting or plastic, or rotomoulded plastic water tanks, either on the ground or up a tank stand. We gave more detail on each.

#### Acquiring sheep for a plot

Sheep are ideally suited to being kept on a smallholding. They can use vegetation which is unsuitable for human consumption and many thrive on hardy grasses and shrubs.

Sheep are cheaper to buy and feed than cattle and they

have a higher reproduction rate and shorter pregnancy period.

We supplied contact details for breeders' societies for Dorper, Merino, Ile de France, Suffolk, Mutton Merino, Dohne Merino, Dormer and the Blackheaded Persian breeds.

#### **Firefighting Equipment**

Already the Gauteng skies are being smudged with smoke from veld fires.

Continued on page 45

### IN THE WO

From page 43

when squeezed, and will likely clog up, rather than coat, the sponge, leading to starting problems and slow running of the engine. Older tractors (and vintage cars and trucks) were often fitted with an oil-bath air filter. Typically this comprises a column of fine wire mesh, not much looser than coarse wire wool, at the bottom of which stands a bath of engine

Air travels into the filter and over or through the oil in the bath, and then upwards through the mesh, which catches any particles of oil and dust, before entering the engine.

The oil-wet fine strands make an efficient trap but in time



How an oil bath air filter works.

become coated in oil and oilwet dust.

Two factors are necessary, therefore, to ensure a fully functioning oil bath air filter.

Firstly, it is necessary to regularly check the level of the oil in the oil bath, and to

> replace it at least annually. That's because it will, over time, dry out as it is wicked into the wire mesh. And, counterintuitively,

petroleum products such as engine oil, while they appear to reject water, are in fact hydrotropic, ie, over time they absorb moisture from the atmosphere. Thus, old oil in a filter becomes an agent for rust, rather than a rust repellant.

Secondly, it is necessary to clean the filter element by washing it in petrol or some other solvent, then drying it thoroughly in the sun and finally giving it a good coating of fresh oil, before reinstalling it. That's because all the dust it catches will remain attached to the fibres of the filter, rendering them less efficient and, in time, leading to contamination of the oil

reservoir

But why is it important to take such care of the cleanliness of the air entering the engine? Because if you allow dust-laden unfiltered air into your engine the dust particles will act as an abrasive, causing unnecessary wear to cylinders and pistons.

In fact the only faster way to ruin an engine than neglecting your air filter would be to throw a handful of sand into your engine's sump.



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From page 4439

Smallholders need to make sure that we have adequate firefighting equipment. Any firefighting efforts you take need not only to extinguish the advancing flames but they also need to overcome the energy of the convection winds.

We looked at sprayers, blowers and safety equipment.

#### Put Blackjacks to good use

Many of us regard *Bidens pilosa L.* or the Blackjack as a weed and a pretty bothersome one at that.

However we were able to point out the different uses of blackjacks, including a recipe for Sautéed blackjack!

#### Reduce the size of your lawn

Nowadays we recognise that maintaining a lawn is not ecologically sound in terms of biodiversity and is costly in terms of time, water, fertiliser and labour.

There are various ways of removing patches of lawn, some slow and others more immediate. We gave details of how to do that and what to replace the grass with.

#### **Homemade liquid fertilisers**

Homemade liquid fertilisers made from free, natural ingredients, such as grass clippings or chicken manure, can give your plants the quick boost of nutrients they need to grow stronger and be more productive.

We wrote about why liquid fertiliser is effective and described different ways to make it.

#### **Smaller equipment**

It is probably fair to assume that on a very large proportion of Gauteng's smallholdings any powered item one may find trimming edges, cutting wood, blowing leaves or pumping water is not the ideal item for the job. This is because one of the greatest mistakes made by any smallholder is to buy with an eye on the depth of his pocket, rather than with an eye on the job at hand. So, precisely what powered equipment does one need on a plot? We wrote about lawn tractors, brushcutters, chainsaws, shredders and cultivators.

#### Gauteng's Aloes

Aloes are becoming more and more popular, but despite their rugged looks, they are not all as hardy as one might expect. So if you want to plant aloes, it makes sense to consider the aloes that occur naturally on the Highveld. We listed *Aloe arborescens* (krantz aloe), *Aloe Davyana* (spotted aloe); *Aloe marlothii* (mountain aloe): *Aloe* 

verecunda (Modest Aloe) and Aloe zebrina (zebra leaf aloe, spotted aloe).

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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** 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.

#### 2018

#### <u>July</u>

6-7: BEECON 2018, hosted by the Kwa-Zulu Natal Bee Farmers Association, Pietermaritzburg. Themes for discussion include feeding of bees and the Capensis problem.

7: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09h00 - 14h30. Huge variety of crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, park activities, pony and camel rides. A great outing for the whole family. Contact Janine 072 713-3332 13: New Moon

20-22: WODAC - World of Dogs & Cats &

Pets Show, Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand. 0900-1730 daily. Products for Dogs and Cats etc in the pet & veterinary industries.

21: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting at Silver Valke Rugby Club, Silverton. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. Dr Lynne Hepplestone will talk on Wound Management Using Honey. For further details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-

23-25: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 26: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 27: Full Moon

27: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

28: Garden World's Spring Festival event: Tjhoko Paint Workshop, 13h30 for 14h00. Nadine Vosloo from Tihoko Paint will demonstrate various paint techniques to create a masterpiece on a crate. R400 pp & includes the workshop,

everything you need to create your masterpiece, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Call Garden World, on 011 957-

#### **August**

4: Beekeeping for beginners course (four Saturdays, one per month for four months). It will cover both practical and theory needed to start as a hobbyist beekeeper. 186 Uys Road, Rynfield Agricultural Holdings, right next to Highveld Honey Farms. Convener: Mike Alter, 083 430-

4: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09h00 – 14h30. Huge variety of crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, park activities, pony and camel rides. A great outing for the whole family. Contact Janine 072 713-3332

4: Garden World's Spring Festival event: Container Gardening, 09h30 for 10h00. Johan 'Panda' du Preez from Starke Ayres plants up an edible box full of scrumptious veggies. R250 per person & includes the workshop, container, plants, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545 5: Country Charity Market in aid of the Manger Care Centre, 0900 - 1500, Plot 31, Uitzicht, Van der Hoff Road, Pretoria West. Fresh produce, food, arts & crafts and live entertainment. To book stalls etc call 012

376-0042 (The market will run every Sunday thereafter).

9: National Womens Day

9: Garden World's Spring Festival event: Topic: Women's Day Makeover, 10h30 for 11h00. Hannon Bothma, the Glam Guru. performs a live makeover on stage. No persons under 18 will be allowed. R200 pp & includes the demonstration, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 95- 2545 9-11: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Landgoed, Donkerhoek.

11: New Moon

11: Garden World Spring Festival event: Mother & Child Fun Day with a Flower Arranging Course, 09h30 for 10h00. Join Ina Roodt, Interflora & Makro Home & Garden for a fun-filled morning where you can create your own beautiful flower arrangement, the perfect workshop for mother and child! R140 per child & includes the workshop, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545

18: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For times, venue and details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-1889

18: Garden World Spring Festival event: Succulent Container Gardening, 09h30 for 10h00. Join Efekto & John Sauer from Ngena Succulents as he will show you how to plant a succulent container garden, and also discuss water scarcity in South Africa due to a growing population and rapid urhanization

R100 pp & includes the talk and demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways including Succulents in container. Contact Garden World on 011 957 2545

25: Garden World Spring Festival event: High Tea with Sandy Roberts of the Margaret Roberts Herbal Centre, 10h30 for 11h00. Join MayFord Seeds & Garden World for a high tea morning with Sandy Roberts on anti-ageing herbs used to rejuvenate, revitalise & restore. A beautiful morning on healthy herbs & how to make teas from your garden at no cost. R140 pp & includes the talk, high tea, a goodie bag & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 95- 2545

26: Full Moon 27-29: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 30: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 31: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

<u>September</u>

1: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09h00 - 14h30. Huge variety of crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, park activities, pony and camel rides. A great outing for the whole family. Contact Janine 072 713-3332

1: Garden World Spring Festival event: In Tune with Nature, 13h00 for 13h30. Anna Cilliers, Richard Cock and MayFord Seeds offer a delightful spring afternoon laced with good gardening advice from Anna Cilliers. paired with heavenly music & song brought to you by SA's most well-known conductor,

Richard Cock. R100 pp & includes the event, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545

1: Garden World Spring Festival event: Classic Car Show, 09h00 - 16h00. The Classic Car Show is a vehicle event worth noting. It's a fun experience that features vintage cars, classic cars, muscle cars and much more. It's the motor-heads go-to. Entrance is FREE. Contact Garden World on 011 957-2545

8-9: African Bird Fair, Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort. Organised by BirdLife Africa

15: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For times, venue and details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-

17-19: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 20: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 21: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

#### October

6 Christmas in October Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09h00 – 14h30. Huge variety of crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, park activities, pony and camel rides. A great outing for the whole family. Contact Janine 072 713-3332 20: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For times, venue and details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-1889

22-24: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 25: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 26: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

27: Halloween Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene Boksburg. Call Janine or Joan 072 713-3332

#### November

3: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09h00 - 14h30. Huge variety of crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, park activities, pony and camel rides. A great outing for the whole family. Contact Janine 072 713-3332 17: Northerns Beekeeping Association

members' meeting. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For times, venue and details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-1889

24: Christmas Night Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene Boksburg. Call Janine or Joan 072 713-3332

# ESTOCK SA

Auctions: Bronkhorstspruit - Every Tuesday Gys Taute 083 253 6906

Delmas - 2nd & 4th Thursday Johan Taute 073 204 7646

Belfast: Wednesdays - Ermelo: Thursdays - Standerton: Fridays

Vleissentraal Ermelo 017 819 1106 www.vleissentraal.co.za



# **Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets**

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held to a regular weekly or monthly schedule. Markets held less frequently 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 editor@gautengsmallholder.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.			
Friday								
Last Friday	Walkerville Farmers Market	18:00 - 22:00	112 R82 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076 7680	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area.			
Last Friday	The Market In The Garden	09:00 - 15:00	Garden Shop, Braam Fischer Drive, Bryanston (next to Sandton Clinic)	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, home industry & craft, food etc. Enquire about stall prices			
Saturday								
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	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	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, kaiings with pap & boerewors rolls.			
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	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	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 showgrounds on the R82	Noorunisha 074 141 8485	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			
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	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	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			
1st Saturday	Bonaero Market	08:00 - 14:00	Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bonaero Park, 26 Geldenhuys Rd	Magda (Secretary and Organiser) 083 8457660	Crafts, food stalls, coffee shop, kids play area, books, white elephant, veggies, safe parking			
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 - 14:00	Cor van der Walt & Dirk van der Hoff Road, Brakpan	Marius 082 904 8852 or 011 744 2322	Over 50 stalls, food, art crafts etc.			
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	Cnr Main & High Street, Modderfontein(behind 33 High St)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 wardek@iafrica.com	Over 50 stalls, fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food & more.			
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 - 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940 0201 realfood4realpeople@gmail.com	Local fresh produce direct to the public.			
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 - 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	083 445 1608 adelekoffiepit@gmail.com	Homemade crafts & food stalls, bakery & coffee shop and entertainment.			
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 etc.			
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!			
Every Sunday	Carlington Craft & Food Market	09:00 - 15:00	The Bru House on the R563 Hekpoort-Krugersdrop Road	For stalls 0827824142 Debbie.Prinsloo@outlook.com	Restaurant, live music, kids play area, safe parking			



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### THE BACK PAGE

# **Celebrating love**

ove, when it is deep and abiding, (and not a destructive adolescent infatuation), is the best thing there can possibly be. And such a love was highlighted and celebrated recently in a little ceremony that took place in Benoni's Rynsoord cemetery.

The ceremony was organised by a group of Benoni residents and historians that included the convenor of a Facebook group named Benoni Now & Then, Glynis Cox Millett-Clay, Peter Wood, David Thomas, Flo Bird of the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation and the Anglican Dean of St Dunstan's Cathedral in the town.

Central to the ceremony were a lady from St Helena named Esther Henry, and a larger-than-life Yorkshireman named George Eaton. How they met and fell into a deep and lasting love is not known, but what is known is that they ended up in Benoni, owning and running the Chimes Hotel (which still exists today) among the mine dumps of Modder B.

Although they sold the Chimes after the Anglo-Boer War, George had become one of Benoni's wealthiest residents and they continued to live in style in the town, until George's death in 1939.

Esther duly had George buried in a double grave she bought in Benoni's cemetery, in the hope that when she, too, got gathered, she could rest eternally alongside her beloved.

But it was not to be. Esther, you see, was a person of mixed race and Benoni's cemetery was reserved for "whites" (even in those far-off pre-grand Apartheid days racial segregation was alive and well), so her adopted ("white") daughter had to have her buried in the "coloured" section of Boksburg's cemetery. And there she lay, forgotten and unremarked, for some 75 years, until the little ceremony recently, when the group of about 20 Benoni residents gathered around George's grave to pay homage to their two departed townsfolk and, in a small way, to celebrate their lives, by affixing a stone of remembrance upon George's grave.

Now stop a while, and consider the hurt and pain that Esther's bereaved daughter must have felt when she realised that she couldn't have her mother buried alongside her father because of the colour of her skin. That, surely, is a hurt that must burn hotly and brightly in one's heart forever.

Consider, also, that Esther died only four years after George, ie, during the war years. Which was some time before the National Party took hold of the country in 1948 and formalised the racial

prejudices of "white" South Africans into grand Apartheid. So the indignity visited upon Esther and her daughter had not yet been formalised into law, but was just part of the natural order of things.

(Yet it's hard  $\sim$  and wonderful  $\sim$  to believe that only 25 short years after the collapse of this awful system we can look back on the past with horror and disbelief at the madness and cruelty that was Apartheid.)

Speaking at the ceremony, one of the participants summed it up: "We are here today to attempt to right this wrong that was done to Esther and George Eaton, through the placing of the stone of remembrance to be unveiled this afternoon. That stone not only speaks Esther's name and celebrates her life, but also testifies that we who are here today are members of a new South Africa which has left the old era of both legal and informal racism behind.

"We are welcoming Esther and George into our new commu-

nity and in so doing we are repeating the words quoted by Martin Luther King: 'Free at last, free at last, thank God, we're free at last'."

To be sure, the ceremony was symbolically significant in celebrating the righting of a racial wrong. But, for me, it was a celebration of love, that condition of the heart and mind that binds a couple together in lifelong unity and even, as this ceremony shows, in death.

It makes me proud to be a member of a society in which a group of ordinary citizens can band together in a common purpose to perform such a genuine act of restitution, and such a celebration of love, that played out under the autumn sun in Benoni recently.

There must be other Esther and George Eatons buried throughout South Africa. Wouldn't it be wonderful if residents of other towns and cities could identify such couples, and perform similar ceremonies for them? What a celebration of our new country! What a celebration of eternal love!





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