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JUNE 2017  
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**Gauteng's Aloes ... Beekeeping**  
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**FRONT COVER**

Winter fodder alternatives on show in permanent displays of crops at the Nampo showgrounds outside Bothaville in the Free State

## COMMENT, by Pete Bower

# Make tech work for us



We all know the problem: one of the major stumbling-blocks to a viable smallholder farmer sector, be it among long-established (white) smallholders or among newly-established (black) small farmers, is efficient access to viable markets in which to sell one's production. Note the terminology: that's not the same as access to big municipal markets, most of which nowadays profess to be supportive of small producers. As a result, there is an awful lot of land, much of it close to urban areas with large potential markets, and serviced by good infrastructure, that could be cultivated with crops or stocked with livestock that could be sold profitably ~ if only the owners had some means of communicating their sales needs to potential buyers, and some means of packing, storing, and transporting their produce to willing buyers. That this is true should be obvious to anybody who takes a look at traditional small-holding areas, or at newly-demarcated areas of emerging small farms: Field after field of land lies fallow, often even unmowed (and thus vulnerable to raging winter grass fires), with, periodically, no more than a couple of sheep or a horse or two grazing languidly. How much better could it be utilised for intensive small scale crop production of high-value species that require little space but much management, such as garlic, radish or lettuce. Or for housing of small stock such as broilers or rabbits. Or for aquaculture tanks producing tilapia as a protein source. Or for housing the milch-goats that feed a small boutique cheesery.

For, one thing is for sure. If this was a country where land was at a true premium, and not merely an electioneering tool in the hands of corrupt politicians, you can bet your bottom dollar that such intensive production would be encouraged. This more than anything, therefore, is the devil-in-the-detail of a vibrant small farmer sector, which in turn is what will prevent the development of a small farmer sector from exercising its beneficial effects on unemployment, rural poverty levels and regional and national food security.

So what can be done? Of course it should be obvious to all, but it is only now beginning to dawn on the government that bestowing land upon a person with no training or knowledge of agriculture is a recipe for a mess. So training and knowledge transfer in the form of courses, literature, videos and advice from extension officers is a starting point. Next, no farm ~ however big or small ~ is productive without a considerable investment in capital items such as machinery, pumps, housing and fencing, and also in input costs such as fertilizer, seed, breeding stock, feed and medications. There are already channels through which qualifying emergent farmers can access soft loans for such development, but much more financial assistance and support is necessary if the development of a vibrant and meaningful small farmer sector is to be a success. Thirdly, and not necessarily in this order, new farmers need advice and support in choosing what it is they should grow. This does not only relate to physical attributes such as climate and soil quality, but more importantly should focus of marketing. How big is the potential market close by? What infrastructure is available to the farmer through which to sell his produce? And so on.

But, finally, small farmers invariably come up against a hurdle that larger growers don't. They periodically run out of produce to sell because the land they have available is simply not big enough to enable them to have a year-round supply. This is often the biggest hurdle to smallholder success.

And it's also a hurdle that could be overcome, we believe, by nothing more sophisticated than a savvy kid developing an appropriate app for a smartphone.

Zambian beekeepers have such a system on their phones and beekeepers in KwaZulu-Natal are adopting something similar. Bee products are, of course, a bit different from meat, fruit and vegetables in that they don't require refrigeration and can be stored almost indefinitely.

Small local co-ops here and there are already forming their own networks using nothing more sophisticated than Whatsapp. With a bit of imagination, some support from officialdom and clever marketing, a more sophisticated setup could, we believe, be developed to link growers, packers, middlemen, transporters and buyers so that a producer's erratic daily harvest could be combined with that of others, sold and delivered by a network of individuals working on messages passing over a cellphone network. And, linking such a system with a secure payment platform such as PayPal would take care of the money side, too.





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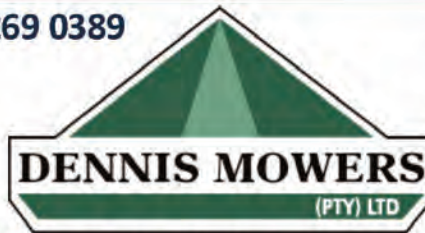
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## Conservancy compiles useful bird listing

Sir ~ Thank you for your always interesting *Smallholder* magazine, (even though we are not smallholders), and in particular for the article on the invasive ladybird-like beetle (*Smallholder* April 2017). Some of us involved in the Korsman Conservancy in

Benoni knew of the invader but were not aware of the related citizen science project. Jane Trembath, our chairlady, and I thereupon undertook to collect these ladybirds and I have been in correspondence with Dr Minette Karsten at Stellenbosch University accordingly, thanks to you

including her email address. We greatly value the help of persons such as yourself with similar aims. Our website is <http://www.korsmanconservancy.com>. You will see it includes quite a comprehensive checklist of flora and fauna to be found in the conservancy, which to some extent would serve as a proforma list for other similar habitats in Gauteng. In particular I have set up an Excel spreadsheet of South African birds, indicating the 140 species we have

recorded in the conservancy and those found in the SABAP2 (SA Bird Atlas Project Phase 2) 'pentad' which includes the conservancy. The file can be filtered to show, for example, those found on more than 50% of formal pentad counts, at certain times of year, by status etc.

**John Livesey**  
By Email

## Aloe changes name

Sir ~ With reference to the bee-keeping article in the May 2017 edition: *Aloe transvaalensis* no longer exists. It falls under *A zebrina* which includes a number of spotted-leaved aloes. The former *Aloe davyana* is now known as *A greatheadii* var *davyana*.

Just some useless info.

**Joop**  
By email

We take a more in-depth look at the aloes of Gauteng elsewhere in this edition. ~  
Editor

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.

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## Gauteng's wettest ... for many years

By the time of writing in late May we can be reasonably certain that this year's rainy season is at an end. For, bar a few short showers in the winter, the next real rains will only be in September or October. But what a rainy season it has been! From deadly flooding late last year which saw major roads rendered impassable and people drowning in washed away cars, to good steady downpours in the early months of the year, the highveld reversed its looming drought status of last year in a few short weeks.

To give some idea of how wet it has been, in Eastern Gauteng we recorded more than 1 150mm of rainfall from September 1. This is the most recorded since this magazine

began in January 2000, and therefore probably more than has fallen in more than 20 to 25 years.

And it has shown in both the dryland plantings on our own smallholdings, as well as on the large commercial farms. Excellent plantings of summer rainfall crops were recorded, meaning that South Africa's maize price should fall, and

there should be a gratifying surplus for export. A good maize crop selling at lower prices will have a beneficial effect on both human food costs and on the price of many maize-containing animal feeds.

For livestock owners who have to buy in fodder, grass should be plentiful this winter, of reasonable quality and at

reasonable prices.

One of the less-desirable side-effects of the very wet season, however, has been the larger-than-usual outbreaks of disease among all classes of livestock, including African Horse Sickness, spontaneous abortion and pneumonia, not only in Gauteng, but further afield as well.

## E Rand dairymen to meet on Womens' Day

The popular East Rand Dairy Day will be held this year on Women's Day, August 9, giving part-time farmers who may not be able to attend on a weekday, the opportunity of participating.

Last year the Dairy Day was held at the Bapsfontein Hotel, but this year it is back to its

usual venue, the Belnori Boutique Cheesery in Nest Park, Bapsfontein.

Speakers lined up for the day include:

Benita Bekker of Bloemfontein – a farmer's daughter, then farmer's wife and, when she lost her husband, a farmer for 14 years. She will speak about

the role of women in farming.

Kobus Mulder of Cape Town - Kobus is a cheese 'fundi' who consults all over Africa and he will chat about his travels there and what dairying elsewhere in Africa is like.

Leon Kruger of ARC Irene - An ever-popular presenter

Continued on page 9

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# SA flowers win gold at Chelsea ... again

**F**or the 35th time in 42 years, the SA National Biodiversity Institute's exhibit at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show in London has been awarded a gold medal.

And, in an additional accolade, the display was also awarded the President's Award.

Designers David Davidson and Ray Hudson, and a team of Sanbi staff based at

Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, put together the exhibit, which is circular in shape with the theme Windows on Biodiversity.

The exhibit, set against a photographic backdrop of the

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden and the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, is a rich and varied display of plants that represent all ten of South Africa's National Botanical Gardens: Free State, Hantam, Harold Porter, Karoo Desert, Kirstenbosch, Kwelera, Lowveld, KwaZulu-Natal,

Continued on page 10

From page 6

presenter hailing from Namibia, he will discuss wire worm in small stock.

□ Dr Brylene Chitsunge is an internationally acclaimed expert and facilitator and a tireless advocate for farmers in South Africa. She will discuss the challenges facing small scale farmers.

□ Dr Chris van Dijk - Brucellosis is rampant at present and he will discuss this.

Kobus Mulder will also talk to cheese-makers about the

entries in the 2017 SA Dairy Championships and how to improve their products.

There will be practical demonstrations of hoof-cutting and de-horning as well.

A number of local farmers will have their products on display. These will include dairy products, meat products and leather goods.

And, there will be displays by a number of concerns offering goods and services required by the dairy sector. They vary from animal feed, animal

## DAIRY DAY

medicine, cheese-making requisites, banks, real estate agents, solar heating and so on.

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Winner of gold ... Detail of this year's Sanbi exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show in London.

## NEWS

From page 9

Pretoria and Walter Sisulu.

"The richness of our biodiversity is one of South Africa's greatest natural assets," says Dr Tanya Abrahamse, Sanbi CEO. "South Africa is home to

nearly 10% of the world's plants and contains three regions that have been declared global biodiversity

hotspots, so it is fitting that we celebrate this heritage this year at Chelsea."

A win at Chelsea has a far-reaching effect. The award-winning Sanbi stand is one of the "must-see" attractions of the Chelsea Flower Show, drawing many of the more than 150 000 visitors to the grounds of the Royal Chelsea Hospital over the five days of the event.

Gauteng's flower-lovers will have an opportunity to visit a

reconstruction of the exhibit at Garden World in Muldersdrift from late July until early September, as the stand is reconstructed as a highlight of the Garden World Spring Festival each year. This year the transport and construction of the exhibit is being supported by Starke Aryes.

## Garden World Spring Festival starts in July

Spring means new life, new energy and a fresh start for the garden.

However, trying out something new, or planning a new look, doesn't necessarily mean starting from scratch. That's the idea behind this year's Spring Festival at Garden World, from Friday 28 July to Sunday 3 September.

Last year's show gardens have been retained, but will be largely unrecognisable because they have been "tweaked" to show off ingenious ideas that won't blow the budget. The theme is 'Colour My World' because colour never goes out of fashion. Changing colours, trying new combinations, or just going simpler and bolder, can make all the difference. Each of the 18 show gardens has been given the same brief ~ brighten up our lives with colour.

Along with water-wise gardening, the emphasis will also be on attracting bees to the garden, because bees are

Continued on page 11



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Alzu's new premises on Summit Road, Blue Hills

## Alzu opens Blue Hills feed & pet store

With a proud history of manufacturing horse feed for more than 20 years, something which stemmed from its stud's pedigree of breeding champion showjumpers and dressage horses, Alzu has opened a comprehensively-stocked feed and animal requisites store in the heart of Gauteng's horse country, namely Blue Hills, Midrand. The new shop joins Alzu's growing chain of its own retail outlets which include Bronkhorstspuit, Rayton, Delmas and Petit, and representation through many agents. Alzu manufactures a range of feeds for all livestock, includ-

ing four blends for horses available in both meal and cube form, as well as poultry feeds for layers and broilers, and feeds for sheep, pigs, goats, dairy and beef cattle and even game. All these feeds will be available at the new Alzu Depot in Blue Hills. In addition the Alzu Pet & Vet section of the depot offers a full range of animal medication, livestock equipment, vaccines, supplements, poultry equipment and dog food. The depot is on the corner of Summit and Plantation Roads and can be contacted on 082 827-9361

## — SPRING FESTIVAL

From page 10

under threat world-wide. The spring festival programme of talks and workshops includes an afternoon of music and garden mayhem with Tanya Visser, Richard Cock and Paul Vonk of Mayford Seeds presenting 'In Tune with Nature'. Other annual attractions at the festival are the school gardens, children's box gardens and floral exhibits of Interflora and the Gauteng Flora Union. Details of dates and times of the various talks and demonstrations are to be found in the Diary section of this magazine.

For information on the Spring Festival and booking for the talks, workshops and music contact Garden World on 011 957 2545 /011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142. Or go to [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

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## Impressions of a mega-show

Compared to last year's fairly muted affair, this year's Nampo Harvest Day show outside Bothaville in the Free State was both more vibrant and filled with more visitors and exhibitors. And, in truth, the show has now become too big to take in all in one day, certainly if

those aspects. If one is interested in livestock then one must forego anything to do with crops. If planting is one's thing, then one won't make it to the cattle section. Or one can decide to cover all the outside exhibits, which will leave too little time to

**If you couldn't make it to Bothaville last month, here's a small sample of some of the stuff you missed**

(eastern) Gauteng, and when it's busy like it was this year merely parking one's car and buying a ticket can take up to an hour.

What about spending two days at Nampo to see it all properly? Well, if you want overnight accommodation in the area you'd better book now for next year because every B&B and hotel for miles around is full at Nampo time, housing the hundreds of workers manning the exhibition stands.

Having made those points, a trip to Nampo each year is a must for anybody interested in, or involved in, agriculture big and small, as much to see new things as to press the flesh with established suppliers and customers. And every year one can discern different trends at the



Taking over from the Chinese? A small Malaysian tractor being marketed in South Africa as a Zar-Trac

show from the nature of the exhibitors and their wares. For example, southern Africa's romance with Chinese tractors seems to be ended. When the Greenfields group represented Foton in South Africa there was always a big

To page 13

Right: Proof positive that we're no longer a manufacturing nation ... forester's leaf rakes proudly imported from China



A useful Aussie invention called the Atom turns just about any chainsaw into a powerful wood auger. Call 056 213-3222

one is commuting to the venue from Gauteng. So one has to decide what one wants to see and focus solely on

walk through the (generally packed) exhibition halls. Or one can concentrate on the halls, with their bewildering



Conversions for your ATV from Mfangano Solutions: Left: firefighting unit with built-in tank. Right: Paramedic's seat and stretcher for sportsfields.

array of products (from Persian carpets and furniture to clothing and computers) and miss out on seeing the mammoth tractors outside. For it's a three-hour drive from

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ZZ90093	PERKINS 4.236/4.248 SPLINED NOSE ROPE SEAL	R 3,000.00
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Smallholder stuff from Backsaver of Bultfontein: Left: Expanding epoxy foam for setting fence posts quickly. Centre: Local take-off of an Australian design fence-wire tensioner. Right: Michris Janse van Rensburg of Backsaver demonstrates his new adjustable, precise granular fertilizer dispenser

From page 12 display of these Chinese models, large and small. With Greenfields having thrown in the towel only a couple of small Foton Lovol tractors were in evidence, almost as an afterthought, as part of the Dura Equipment Sales stand. Thus, the only Chinese brand properly represented at Nampo this year was YTO, which offers the full range of

machines from 20HP upwards. Having said that, there's a new range of small Malaysian tractors available in South Africa, branded Zar Trac for this market and distributed by a Ballito-based company of the same name. There are three models rated from 12kW to 26kW, the larger two having Cat 1 hydraulics. Zar Trac also markets a set of

small implements and is clearly aiming its offering at emergent Black farmers. South Africa has also, it seems, got over its love-affair with hydroponic containerised fodder production. Only one purveyor of such equipment was to be seen at Nampo this year, down from four or five from previous recent years. The move towards tracked, rather than tyred, tractors continues among the larger machines with conversions from wheels to tracks now being possible as an after-market purchase for older tractors. A trend over recent years has been a focus on wood-farming and working machinery

including log splitters, chippers and wood handling machinery, as well as forestry and fire fighting equipment and this continued at this year's show.

Over the years international

Continued on page 14



Range of plastic water troughs from Rototank



Stihl's smaller, lighter battery-operated pruning shears for the domestic or hobby market

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# NAMPO 2017



Slashers and (behind) personnel trailers are new to Afri-Ca Implements' line-up  
From page 13

participation has grown, with more overseas exhibitors, either participating as individual firms or as part of government-led trade delegations and this year was no exception. Compared to other countries such as Australia, South Africa is well-served in the large tractor, implement and machine market, but hitherto has been woefully under-served in the small tool market, in the view of one Australian vendor because South Africans have tended to rely on the manual work of its labourers to get tasks done rather than employing a specialist tool for the job. This is changing, and innovative hand implements and tools are turning up at Nampo, aimed at both the emerging agricultural sector and the commercial user. Leading this field is undoubtedly the ever-innovative and industrious Bultfontein mielie farmer Michris Janse van Rensburg, with his Backsaver

range of hand and animal-drawn implements and tools. His stand, at the junction of the two main thoroughfares of the showgrounds has become something of a mecca for

smallholders and now includes devices made and marketed by associates aiming at the same market. Among Backsaver's latest developments is a wire tensioner for stranded fences which is both simpler and more effective than the traditional lever-action-and-chain "koko" tensioner commonly found throughout South Africa. Van Rensburg got the idea for this device from a similar Australian tensioner. Backsaver also makes a hand-push granular fertilizer dispenser which is accurate and precise in its delivery. However, Backsaver is not the only player in the hand-drawn implement field. Also aiming at the smallholder farmer market is Eden Equipment of Potchefstroom with their hand seeders. With the 24 ha showground (which includes its own airstrip) dedicated to the Nampo show, seed companies have been able to



Rubber tracks are now available as a retro-fit for older tractors

develop permanent exhibition plantings, a practice that has been adopted from similar agricultural shows worldwide. These plots, along the eastern edge of the grounds, are now in their second year and feature stands of every imaginable crop including different strains of maize and, more importantly, fodder crops for winter grazing, silage etc, such as Japanese radish, sugar beet, various lupins and Brazilian and Russian evergreen fodder grasses. While Nampo boasts of being the largest agricultural show in the southern hemisphere (this year there were more than 700 exhibitors) and while it is certainly the largest agri-show in Africa, by no means every manufacturer, dealer or distributor of agricultural stuff is present

each year. Many find the cost and logistics of transporting goods and exhibiting at the show too daunting, especially when other shows, notably the Royal in Pietermaritzburg, Mbombela's Lowveld and specialist forestry, dairy and viticulture shows in the Cape, also require attendance.



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## Why boreholes can weaken over time

In Gauteng at least, the drought may be over, but that doesn't mean that your borehole will instantly become a gushing fountain. And, you may have memories of it becoming weaker and weaker as the drought wore on.

Here, therefore, are some of the reasons why a borehole's output may lessen over time, courtesy of John Tonkin, editor of the Borehole Walter Association's journal.

In addition, this article may help you to calculate what you can reasonably expect from your borehole over time.

Let's consider some of the possible reasons for water delivered by a borehole becoming less and less. It could be that the pump's inlet has been blocked by a

plastic bag, cable ties or other foreign objects in the borehole. There is also the possibility that the pipe in the borehole carrying the water to the surface has developed a leak. This is especially true of long-established boreholes where the metal connectors may have corroded through with age and burst under the pressure of the pump output. However, these reasons are more the exception than the rule during times of drought. The more likely explanation is that due to the very low rainfall, not enough rainwater was added to the aquifer from which the pump is drawing its water. The term "recharge" is used to describe water on the surface of the ground percolating downwards into an aquifer.

Groundwater can be compared to water in a sponge. It

exists through rainfall that happened recently or many thousands of years ago and is stored in various types of formations. The type of formation determines how quickly water moves through it. Water moves very slowly through clay or fractured granite but a lot faster through

loose sand. This affects the rate of recharge of an aquifer. Other factors on the surface such as tarred roads, paved areas and large expanses of rooftops reduce the ground surface area into which water can be absorbed to eventually percolate into the

Continued on page 17

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From page 15

aquifer. In addition, in developed areas, rainwater ends up in storm water drains and does not reach the aquifers in the area.

The number, proximity and depth of other boreholes in your area will also affect your

hole, especially if they are drawing on the same aquifer. Pumping too much water out of your borehole without adequate rainwater to recharge the aquifer will result in your borehole delivering less water. The dynamic becomes quite simple: no

rain plus high abstraction (removal) rates equals a diminishing (or vanishing) resource. If you are lucky, after a few weeks of good rains your borehole may return to its former strong output. Experience with numerous commercial installations have shown how quickly water levels in boreholes can recover after a few good downpours. But is this always the case?

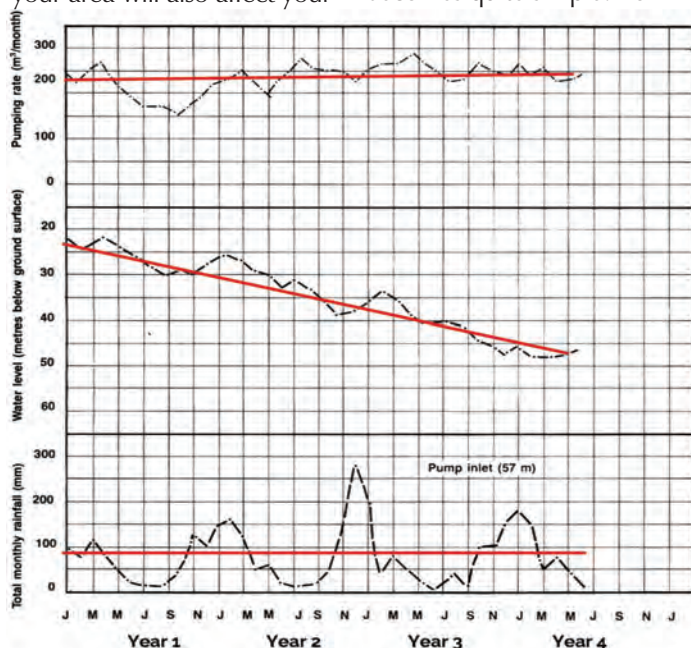
For, what happens if a borehole is being over pumped?

The accompanying graph shows data that was collected from a borehole over a period of 30 months. The top graph shows how much water was taken out of the borehole. An installed totalising water meter will give you this reading. The red trend line shows that the rate of abstraction increased slightly over the 30 months that the hole was monitored.

The bottom graph shows that the rainfall was erratic but the trend was constant.

The middle graph, however, shows that even though rain had fallen in the area, the water level in the borehole dropped from about 25m below ground to 46m. That's a drop of 21m in the water content in the aquifer. The good rainfall in December of Year 2 did not have a significant influence on the overall situation. The owner of this borehole was clearly taking out more than what

Continued on page 18



Graph showing borehole yields over four years

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## BEEKEEPING— Know the pitfalls

**To be successful a beekeeper must be aware of the many problems he or she may encounter with bees, hives and sites.**

**Article by Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association**

**B**ecause of the high initial cost of hives and equipment and the many disturbing factors around keeping bees, it is necessary that an aspirant keeper be aware at the outset of the many pitfalls that he could encounter.

One purchases beehives as assets to earn an income and to declare a profit at the end of the day, but beware: these so called assets can also be liabilities and here are some of the pitfalls that turn assets into liabilities.

☐ **Overstocking.** Do not overstock with beehives.

When starting beekeeping,

start with the number of hives that you can manage properly, and as you grow your market, so you increase the number of hives. Do not overstock the bee sites with hives. A site can only carry a certain number of hives. In the case of a eucalyptus site on the Highveld, depending on the number of large nectar yielding trees, 20 hives should yield a good honey crop of 300 kg, from 600 large flowering trees. Inspect the trees for the previous season's fruit to determine whether they are good flowering trees, as

Continued on page 20

## WATER—

From page 17

was being put back. This situation is not sustainable. By gathering this type of information, the borehole owner can take remedial action to prevent the borehole from drying up completely. Reducing the pumping rate is the most obvious first step, but expert advice should be sought to manage groundwater effectively in these situations.

How do you know how much water can be safely pumped out of your borehole?

Each borehole will have its own characteristics. Boreholes that are only metres apart can have completely different water levels and delivery capabilities. But, if you and your neighbour are pumping from

the same aquifer, over pumping your hole could cause his hole to dry up. The best way to find out what your borehole can deliver is to have a recognised yield test done by a professional. This is usually carried out when the borehole is drilled, especially if the borehole water is being used in a mine dewatering project, a large-scale farming irrigation scheme, or to supply drinking water to a town, for example.

Source: "Is my borehole running dry?", Borehole Water Journal Online, <http://bit.ly/2pSuWTP> by John Tonkin, Editor of the Borehole Water Journal Online, a publication of the BWA ([bwa.co.za](http://bwa.co.za)), [editor@bwa.co.za](mailto:editor@bwa.co.za).



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# BEEKEEPING

From page 18  
some eucalyptus trees do not flower at all.

Where there is insufficient forage to sustain these hives, the strong hives will rob out the weak hives and where there are too many strong hives some will abscond, in both cases resulting in empty hives. And work for the beekeeper to replace these swarms, for the sooner these swarms are replaced the sooner honey will be obtained, and the sooner the wolf is kept away from the door!

❑ Avoid congestion of the brood chambers. There are two situations of congestion, one is by bees, house bees and field worker bees and the other is by honey overstocking.

In the case of bees, house bees continually occupy the brood rearing area and during the day the field bees travel up the insides of the hive

## Failure to perform various spring-cleaning tasks in and around the hive will encourage the bees to develop a swarming instinct and desert the hive

walls to the honey chamber above the brood nest. There is a continual movement and a disturbance and circulation of air. At the entrance the bees will control the airflow during the day and night on warm summer nights.

At night the field bees need a place to rest and they do so in the super and above the super frames, where space has been provided by a space in the lid construction, or just an empty super on the top above the honey storing area of the first super.

Should one notice a cluster of bees on the outside front of the hive at night, it is a sure sign of congestion, but unfortunately by that time the swarming impulse has been realised and the bees will swarm off.

In the case of overstocked

honey, on a permanent site on the Highveld there are often two honey flows, one September to November and the second from Mid-January to end of April, or the first frost in frosty areas.

The beekeeper would have removed the November crop but would leave the April crop for the winter.

As the brood rearing reduces and the brood nest recedes with the onset of winter, the bees draw honey from the super and pack this honey in the emptying cells of the reducing brood nest. This honey acts as an insulation for the nest from the cold for the small brood nest.

❑ Springtime swarming. Sudden warm Spring weather in August and September sets the queen in laying mode and the bees now remove honey

from the immediate cells around the small winter brood nest to create space for the queen to lay eggs.

The beekeeper needs now to help to provide this additional rapid demand of egg laying space and this operation is called "Spring Cleaning." In the brood chamber, he removes one outside frame from each side of the brood nest. He creates a space in the center of the remaining brood area and inserts the two new frames of foundation wax.

Failure to perform this management operation sets up a swarming impulse in the swarm and the swarm will swarm off.

❑ Failure to remove previous season's honey. Should the beekeeper not have removed any honey for the entire season, the hive becomes choc-a-bloc with honey and the bees will most definitely

Continued on page 21



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# BEEKEEPING

From page 20

abscond. Therefore always crop off the honey at least once per annum.

❑ Cropping off too much honey. Beware of the fault of removing too much honey at one cropping time. Often at the November robbing time there can be two fully capped supers of honey on a strong swarm and not much honey in the outer frames of the brood chamber. The time lapse before the mid January flow starts is too long and the swarm dies of starvation or simply absconds, leaving dead and undeveloped brood behind. Leave the one full super and add a second super below this super and the brood chamber.

❑ Management of super chambers. The super is the honey storage area where honey is stored for the beekeeper. Never remove honey from the brood when honey is in short supply to the consumer. Let the consumer go hungry, your bees are at stake.

In the early Spring as the weather warms the honey flow commences and the bees need space to shift that brood compacted honey and to store the sudden new incoming nectar, therefore provide them with one super chamber. Add the second super when the real warm summer weather sets in and the frequent cold spells are a thing of the past.

❑ Onset of cold winter weather. At the end of the honey flow crop off the honey at the onset of colder nights. Reduce the hive down to a brood chamber only and make sure that there are at least four full brood frames of honey in the brood chamber. In the case of strong swarms one needs to leave the super that should contain at least six frames of honey.

❑ Working through the apiary. In the case where an apiary of 20 hives or so are in

a fenced area of 15m diameter, always work from the furthest hive from the exit, towards the gate. Do not start at the nearest hive and have to pass that hive to reach the further hives from the exit. You will have disturbed that hive and the bees will create an angry atmosphere and arouse the other swarms before you come to work on them. Word soon gets around that someone is about the apiary and the bees could declare war on the intruder.

❑ Keep clean. Do not leave pieces of honeycomb lying about in the grass around the hives. This sets up a robbing situation among the hives and the strong hives will attack the weaker hives and rob them out. Always work as clean as absolutely possible.

❑ Loving tender care for your bees. One must be mindful that bees are livestock of a most extraordinary nature in that they work to their own schedule to produce honey and provide a pollination service for the survival of mankind free of charge.

The beekeeper fills the chain of events by providing them with suitable accommodation and space for them to fulfill their tasks.

Therefore the care of these creatures, when they are harnessed by the beekeeper in beehives is his responsibility to nature and to provide them at all times with tender loving care.

Article by Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association and author of *Tales of an African Beekeeper*. Call 011 362-2904

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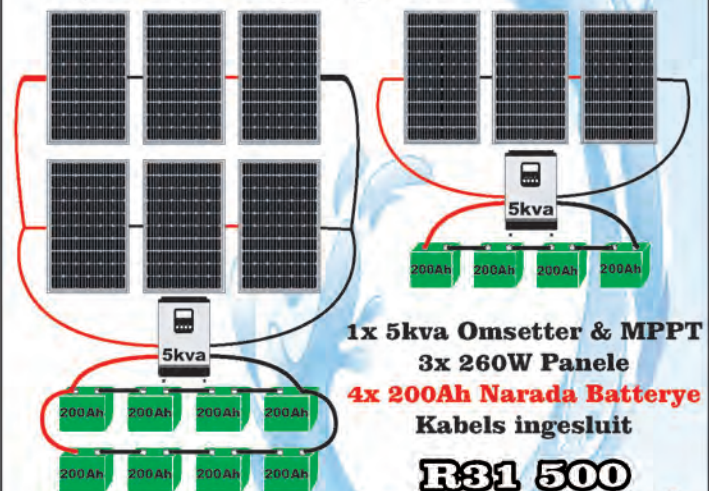
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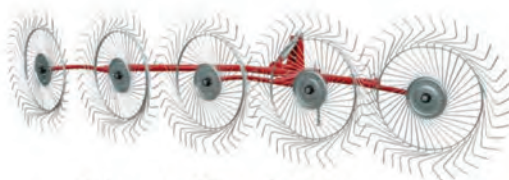


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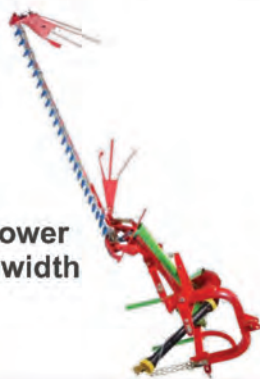
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# Aloes: Tough-looking, but tender

Aloes are becoming increasingly popular as garden plants, 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.

"Never underestimate frost!" warns Gretchen Grenville of Grow Wild nursery. "Many people think that indigenous plants are automatically hardy to frost and drought and are

low maintenance." In reality, the best we can hope for is that the plants are frost resistant, unless we are going to protect them against harsh Gauteng winters. And considering many aloes flower in autumn and winter it would be a pity if we had to wrap them up in frost cloth.

In her booklet Indigenous Hardy Highveld Plants, Grenville suggests the following aloes.

*Aloe arborescens* [krantz aloe,

kransaalwyn, ikalene (Xhosa), inkalane or umhlabana (Zulu)] has the third widest distribution of any aloe in the country. It has large beautiful

flowers, attractive foliage, a decorative form and it is easy to grow. It is an evergreen shrub, which grows to 2m x 2m. It is fast growing in sun, shade or semi-shade and the orange flowers are very welcome in winter. In many parts of South Africa *Aloe arborescens* is planted around kraals enclosing domestic stock, as a living fence or thorny barrier. It is widely used medicinally, the leaf sap being particularly sought after for burns.

*Aloe greatheadii* var *Davyana* [spotted aloe; Transvaal-aalwyn, grasaalwyn; kgopane (Tswana)] is not a very striking plant until it flowers ~ and then it is spectacular. It is a plant that will cheer up any highveld garden in winter. In the veld it often forms extensive stands in overgrazed areas and mass

plantings are beautiful. It provides good bee fodder, too.

Trials have shown that this species can be used successfully as a soil binder in disturbed areas such as mine dumps. The bitter sap in the leaves is used medicinally for the treatment of wounds,

Continued on page 27



Aloe arborescens, or krantz aloe



Aloe greatheadii var Davyana

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It sounds obvious, but keep trimmer blades sharp. If cut branch tips appear ragged or light in colour, or if blades snag on the hedge, the blades are probably blunt and tearing rather than slicing the branches. Take your trimmer to your STIHL dealer for professional sharpening.

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A blade that is not clean is not efficient. As a hedge is trimmed, sap builds up on the blades, setting hard like glue. Use an approved cleaner to keep blades in top condition.

### Keep it in order.

Cut the vertical sides of a hedge first, using an upward and downward sweeping motion and moving forwards along the hedge as you work. When trimming the top of a hedge, angle the blades at around 10° to the horizontal.

For more tips on correctly trimming hedges visit [www.stihl.co.za/the-correct-way-to-trim-hedges.aspx](http://www.stihl.co.za/the-correct-way-to-trim-hedges.aspx)

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## IN THE WILD



Aloe marlothii

From page 23

sores and burns.

Aloe marlothii [mountain aloe; bergalwyn; inhlabu or

umhlaba (Zulu)] makes the top five flowering winter aloes list. This large, evergreen aloe is usually single stemmed. It is frost resistant, drought resistant and is happy in the full sun or semi shade. The orange flowers have a distinctive horizontal/slanted shape.

Children suck the sweet nectar from the flowers, which attract birds and butterflies. The leaves, roots and sap are all used medicinally. This is an architectural plant that will be a focal point in a garden.

Aloe verecunda [Modest Aloe] is commonly found along rocky ridges and rocky slopes on the Witwatersrand and Magaliesberg. With its striking orange-red flowers and grasslike leaves, it is an attractive deciduous grassland aloe. The flowers produce nectar which attracts nectar-feeding sunbirds, which in turn act as pollinators for the

plant.

Aloe zebrina [zebra leaf aloe, spotted aloe] is listed in the top five autumn flowering aloe. Aloe zebrina is a small, variable, compact succulent. Succulents are plants that are able to store water in their stems, leaves or roots, and so enable the plant to survive in arid conditions and in times of drought or water deficiency.

The habitat of Aloe zebrina is normally dry thickets and may include marshy meadows on river banks. It suckers freely and therefore forms dense groups. Blooms are mainly found from February to May, but also June to August. The roots are used as yellow dye to colour baskets.

Aloes are interesting from another point of view: wherever different Aloe species flower together in the wild one is likely to find natural hybrids.

Hybridisation happens when



Aloe verecunda

a bird or an insect accidentally deposits pollen from one species on the flower(s) of

Continued on page 28



Aloe zebrina



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## IN THE GARDEN—

# Nappy-filler as a growing medium

A newly-developed growing method using a waterproof, yet absorbing film made from the same stuff that fills babies' nappies to make them absorbent) will, it is claimed, make it possible to grow crops of superior vigour and taste "virtually anywhere", according to the Japanese developer. Dubbed Imec, the innovation developed by Mebiol's Dr Yuichi Mori, uses waterproof sheets to separate the crops being cultivated from the ground underneath. Mebiol is a Tokyo-based technology company.

Outlining the basics of what it says is a 'simple system' Mebiol states. "The special features of the new technology are to be found in the film, which is made of hydrogel, a hydrophilic polymer gel used in disposable diapers and other products. The film's design incorporates nano-sized (one millionth of a millimetre) pores, which absorb water and nutrients but block germs and viruses. This means only small amounts of agricultural chemicals are needed, ensuring the crops are safe to eat."

"As the film holds the water, it also makes the plants work harder to get it by increasing

osmotic pressure. The plants thus create more amino acids and sugar, and so they taste better and have higher nutritional value."

Ali Adnan, senior adviser at Mebiol, says 150 farms around Japan have introduced the technology, with "more than ten already deployed in China".

He adds that "future projects within the next year are expected to be installed in Germany, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with several other countries in the pipeline for approval".

Imec is already being used to grow tomatoes.

More than half of the farmers in Japan come from a non-farming background and, according to Adnan, "they say that the system is easy to use and enables them to produce high-quality produce".

With its 'easy-to-use' aspect, Imec may prove a boon to small-scale and even urban farmers in South Africa, and Adnan says that, "farmers in South Africa can access our technology. We will first need to export the simple system and film from Japan."

For more information: [www.mebiol.co.jp/en](http://www.mebiol.co.jp/en)

## ALOES—

From page 27

as a result of this so-called cross-pollination hold the genetic key to plants that are different from both the parent plants. The resulting seedling(s) grow up to be hybrids showing a combination of characteristics of the parent plants. Normally the pollen 'donor' is called the father, and the seed bearing parent the mother plant.

Many of the aloes available in

nurseries are hybrids.

In South Africa most aloes are also protected, with very few exceptions, by environmental legislation in all nine provinces. It is thus illegal to remove plants from their natural habitat without the necessary collecting and transport permits issued by a provincial or other nature conservation authority, and consent from the land owner.



## How to make good use of scrub

If you have lots of spare prunings and excess wood from tree trimming activities, and are tired of bending down to tend and harvest vegetables and plants, try Hugelkultur, a type of no-dig raised beds with a difference. Hugelkulture hold moisture, build fertility, maximise surface volume and are great spaces for growing fruit, vegetables and herbs. Hugelkultur, pronounced Hoo-gul-culture, means hill culture or hill mound. Instead of putting branches, leaves and grass clippings on to your compost heap build a hugel bed. Simply mound logs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, straw, cardboard, newsprint, manure, compost or whatever other biomass you have available, top with soil and plant your vegetable

### In praise of Hugelkultur

seedlings in the resultant mound.

The advantages of a hugel bed are many, including:

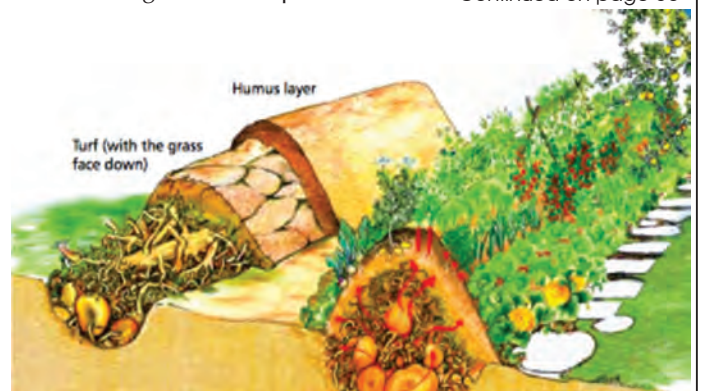
- ❑ The gradual decay of wood in the depths of the bed is a consistent source of long-term nutrients for the plants. A large bed might give out a constant supply of nutrients for 20 years (or even longer if you use only hardwoods). The composting wood also generates heat which should extend the growing season.
- ❑ Soil aeration increases as those branches and logs break down... meaning the bed will be no till, long term.
- ❑ The logs and branches act like a sponge. Rainwater is stored and then released during drier times. Actually

you may never need to water your hugel bed again after the first year (except during long term droughts).

❑ Hugel beds sequester carbon into the soil. To build a hugel bed on previous sod lawn cut out the sod, digging a 30cm deep trench and filling the trench with logs and branches. Then cover the logs with the upside

down turf. On top of the turf add grass clippings, seaweed, compost, aged manure, straw, green leaves, mulch, etc. Add a layer of soil and proceed with more clippings, compost, manure etc. This constitutes sheet mulching (also called lasagne gardening) and is like composting in place. And here's a refinement to the sheet mulching layers. Nitrogen-rich material

Continued on page 30



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## IN THE GARDEN

### Making compost tea

Compost tea is an effective, low-strength, natural fertiliser for vegetables, seedlings and garden plants, and it can suppress fungal plant diseases. The tea-brewing process extracts, and in some cases

grows and multiplies nutrients and beneficial bacteria and fungi from compost and suspends them in water in a form that makes them quickly available to plants.

Feeding the plants the proper

Continued on page 31

## HUGELKULTUR



An established hugelkultur bed

From page 29

or green leaves put right on the hugelkultur wood would help jump start the composting process. This could also include seaweed, straw, dead leaves, leaf mould, etc. Continue with the layers till the hugel bed is at the desired height and width, then plant your seedlings. The first year of break down means the wood (and fungi) steal a lot of the nitrogen out of the surrounding environment, so add nitrogen during the first year, or plant crops that add nitrogen to the soil (such as legumes) or species with minimal nitrogen requirements, unless there is plenty of organic material on top of the wood to start with. After the wood absorbs nitrogen to its fill, the wood will start to break down and start to give nitrogen back in the process. In the end you will be left with a beautiful bed of nutrient rich soil.

Tree types that work well in hugelkultur are hardwoods that break down slowly and therefore your hugel bed will last longer, hold water for more years and add nutrients for more years. But softwoods are acceptable as well. A

softwood bed will just disintegrate quicker. Mixing woods with softwoods and branches on top, to give off nutrients first, and hardwoods on bottom, sounds like a plan if you have access to multiple types of wood. Yet the newly decomposing softwoods at top will eat up a lot of nitrogen at first, so compensate for that. Alien woods that work best are alders, apple, aspen, birch, cottonwood, maple, oak, poplar, and willow (make sure it is dead or it will sprout).

Tree types that work okay are black cherry (use only rotted), camphor wood (well aged), cedar/juniper/yew (anti-microbial/anti-fungal, so use only at very bottom or unless already well aged. Cedar should be broken down before new plant roots reach it), eucalyptus (slightly anti-microbial), orange (exceptionally resistant to decay), pine/fir/spruce (tannins and sap), and red mulberry (exceptionally resistant to decay).

Tree types to avoid include black locust (will not decompose), and black walnut (juglone toxin).



From page 30

amounts and learning how to produce compost tea is important for adding organic materials to the soil. The three main elements, nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium or potash, (N, P, and K) are used up in large quantities in vegetable gardens.

Due to the effects of close planting, the major elements may be in short supply, so it is often necessary to give the growing vegetables a fertiliser boost. Compost tea is pure organic liquid fertiliser that has been "watered down" so as not to burn the plants. As compost tea contains all the water-soluble nutrients from your compost, this means that the richer your compost is, the more nutritious your tea will be. The nutrients will naturally be more diluted than in straight compost.

Probably the greatest

advantage of using compost tea lies in the fact that the micro-organisms that live in your compost ~ beneficial fungi, bacteria, nematodes and protozoa ~ will multiply in a compost tea. Micro-organisms are what keep soils alive. A small particle of soil can contain thousands of different species of microbes. They break down organic matter, recycle nutrients, maintain soil structure, promote plant growth and control pests.

When you apply the high numbers of microbes typically found in compost tea, it will help the local plants and ecosystem literally from the ground up.

Another advantage is that there's increasing evidence that plant diseases can be suppressed by treating plants with compost teas. This is most likely due to the enhanced microbial populations. They support plant

health and stronger plants are less disease-prone. Also, the beneficial microorganisms can out-compete and inhibit the harmful species both above and below ground. When you are contemplating your winter vegetable garden remember that nitrogen in the soil is difficult for the plants to take up if the soil temperature is below 100° C, so it will be worth your time to use liquid fertilisers to provide a boost until the soil warms up. Water-soluble homemade fertilisers are short-acting but should be applied no more than every two weeks, usually as a thorough soaking. The most important ingredient is, of course, high-quality



Fertilizing with diluted compost tea.

compost. Compost made from diverse, healthy organic matter will give you the best compost tea. Well-aged compost is also preferable because the older it is, the more microorganisms it will have. It should have been decomposing for at least a few months.

The particles in your compost should be small and well broken down. This will

Continued on page 33

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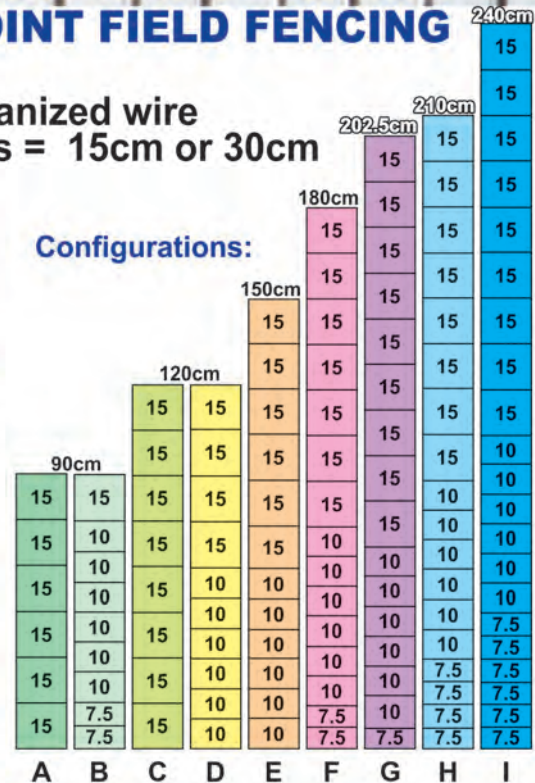
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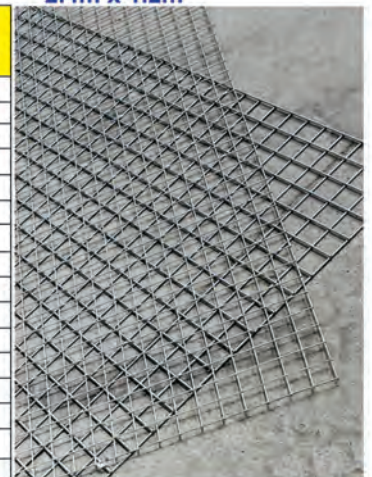
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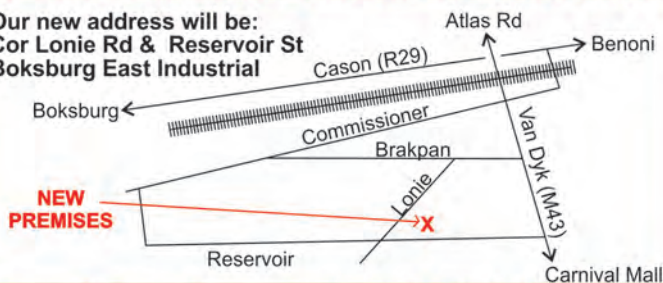
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# An unwelcome snuggle-partner

One day a pig farmer and a paramedic were enjoying a cup of tea and a snack during a quiet moment at the Donkerhoek Veterinary

Consulting rooms, next to Alzu Feeds near Rayton. Suddenly the pig farmer said softly "keep very still. There is a snake". The paramedic thought he

was joking, but the pig farmer moved quickly through to the back of the practice to get a broom. As the paramedic glanced down, the snake moved rapidly into view,

making a strange grumbling sound as it slid over the dark red concrete floor. "EEK" said the paramedic and leaped on to the chair as the

Continued on page 35

# IN THE GARDEN

From page 31

make the nutrients and micro-organisms more easily available to be released into the water.

If you have a worm box, worm castings also make excellent compost tea.

If you're using tap water that contains chlorine, let it sit overnight for the chlorine to dissipate.

Put two shovelfuls of compost into a coarsely woven sack, old pillow case, or old pair of pantyhose, tie the top shut, and place the bag in the bottom of a bucket or barrel. Dilute by adding five parts water to one part compost. Let it "brew" for seven to ten days. Dilute the resulting "tea" with water until it is light brown or the colour of weak black tea and use.

Keep in mind that E coli can be present in the raw ingredients of a compost pile, so do not apply compost tea to any vegetable within three weeks of its planned harvest date.

Compost tea can be applied to any plants, either in the ground or in containers. Use it freely on your vegetables, flowering plants, trees, shrubs or lawn.

You can use compost tea as a drench by simply watering your plants with it or the tea can also be applied as a foliar spray. Foliar feeding with compost tea is shown to boost a plant's immediate uptake of nutrients. You might need to sieve the tea more carefully if you are using a spray, to prevent it from clogging the spray nozzle.

Adding a couple drops of mild dishwashing liquid or proprietary wetting agent will help the tea adhere to leaves. The spent compost material

can be used as mulch or can be put back on your compost heap for further decomposition.

If you have any tea left over,

consider putting it on your compost pile. This can help accelerate the microbial activity of your compost pile.



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# SNAKES

From page 33

pig farmer reappeared, brandishing the broom. Whack! The broom descended rapidly. One blow in the middle of the snake's back and a second on its head, and it lay still.

The pig farmer picked it up gingerly by the tip of its tail and dumped it into a waste paper bin. Shortly thereafter the veterinarian of the practice arrived at the back door, to be met by the paramedic who said excitedly "Guess what? A puff adder came visiting. But it's dead!" "Where?" asked the vet? "It came in the front door." "No", said the vet patiently. "Where is it now?"

The paramedic fetched the bin and the vet picked up the snake by its tail and carried it to the consulting room. The snake coiled its body. Although its head was partially crushed, it was still bleeding.



Night adder

"It's not dead; and it's not a puff adder" said the vet. "It's a night adder".

The snake was carefully set down on the steel examination table at the practice, and an injection of Euthapent gently terminated the life of the luckless reptile.

The night adder can be mistaken for an egg eater, as it has the same irregular dark patches along its pale brown

body.

However, it is thicker and shorter with a triangular head, small eye, muscular cheeks and a distinctive V shaped mark behind its head. It is a small (30-50 cm long) fairly aggressive snake, that strikes rapidly and makes a strange low growling sound if it is disturbed. The bite is not usually fatal in humans, although it causes severe

pain and swelling and the patient may need to be hospitalised for two to three days.

It is not unusual for a night adder to go indoors at this time of year. Often it seeks shelter from the cold in stables, and cuddles up to a sleeping horse. When the horse wakes up in the morning, it disturbs the snake and is bitten, usually above the hock on the inside of a hind leg, although it can also be on a front leg.

The venom is both neurotoxic and haemotoxic and the antivenom commercially available for treating snake-bite does not work.

The owner first notices that the horse is very lame as it is let out of the stables. If the leg is palpated gently, the area of the bite is very painful to the touch and slightly swollen.

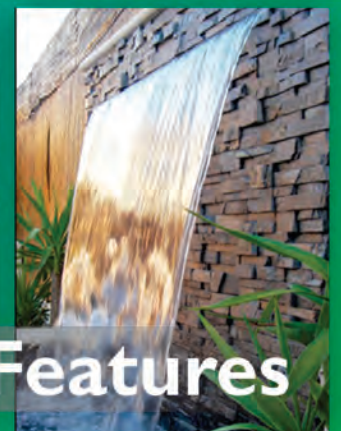
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Continued on page 37

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## Mesh: Galvanised After Welding Sold in 30m rolls or p/m

Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
6.4mm x 6.4mm	0.7mm	✓	✓	-----
9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1.0mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.0mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	3.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓



## Mesh: Galvanised Before Welding Sold in 30m rolls or p/m

Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	3.0mm	-----	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	3.0mm	-----	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.0mm	-----	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓

## Hexagonal Mesh (Oogies draad) 50m rolls/p/m

Hole Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
13mm hole	0.7mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm hole	0.9mm	✓	✓	✓
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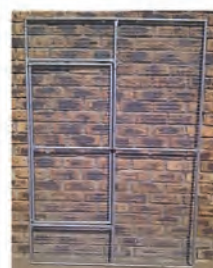
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## A cruel, unnecessary ~ and illegal ~ practice

**W**e humans don't have the copyright on body language: dogs use their tails for communication. A tail that is

wagging quickly indicates a happy, friendly dog, whilst a tail that is being wagged stiffly, slowly and deliberately indicates a warning that a dog

is feeling threatened or unhappy, and that he may bite or attack. All of which calls into question the archaic,

barbaric, and illegal but continuing practice of tail docking.

Further research suggests that

Continued on page 39

## SNAKES

From page 35

reveal two tiny blood spots about 1 ½ cm apart. By the afternoon the entire leg is usually swollen down to the coronet. The heart rate of the horse is elevated above 40 per minute, but its temperature is normal. A few blood spots (petechiae) can sometimes be seen in the mucous membranes of the mouth and conjunctiva. By the third day, if untreated, two small hairless patches can be seen at the site of the bite and serum starts to ooze through the skin of the swollen leg. Later, the skin can slough off and the horse may become

permanently lame. Although the venom itself is not fatal, secondary complications like gangrene can kill the horse. If you see the bite wound early, you can poultice it with Epsom salts (two tablespoons put on to a flat piece of cotton wool, which is then folded and soaked in hot water and applied to the bite wound for about 15 minutes). Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and antibiotics should be injected by a veterinarian and the horse needs to be walked as much as possible, as soon as possible, to distribute the venom away from the bite and reduce swelling.

Treatment with NSAIDs should continue for at least three days. It is a good idea to put a stable bandage on to the affected leg to prevent swelling and the horse should be walked at least twice a day for a week. It should also not be kept stabled but put out in a camp during the day to exercise. If the skin has sloughed, more antibiotics are needed and the wound can be washed daily with an Epsom salt or table salt

solution (a teaspoon per cup of boiled, warm water) and bandaged, after covering the wound area with paraffin gauze. Recovery can take up to six weeks and the leg can remain permanently swollen, although the horse is no longer lame.

Information by Dr Cheryl McCrindle, Donkerhoek Veterinary Consulting Rooms & Vetshop. Tel 072 974-4914

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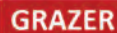
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From page 37

when dogs feel stress, they tend to wag their tails to the left as a reflection of what's happening in the brain. Activation of the left-brain causes the tail to wag to the right; activation of the right-brain produces a wag to the left.

The research shows that dogs wag to the right side when they encounter something pleasant. When they see something threatening, for example, a strange dog exhibiting dominant behaviours, they wag more to the left side. These results suggest that dogs notice another dog's tail wagging and use the information to decide whether the dog with the wagging tail is friend or foe. The researchers concluded that dogs aren't intentionally sending signals with their tails, but rather the tail wagging is a consequence of the inner workings of the canine brain. Tail-wagging behaviour results



Not a happy chappie ... docked-tail puppy

from the way in which different emotional signals activate different parts of a dog's brain.

Without a tail, a dog cannot communicate his emotions or intentions, making it more difficult for people and other dogs to know how a dog is likely to react in a certain situation, and may even lead to an increase in dog fights. Tails also assist with agility and balance.

Tail docking is the amputation of a dog's tail at varying

lengths to suit the recommendations of a breed standard. Docking involves the amputation of the puppy's tail with a scalpel. Sometimes rubber bands are used, although this method has never been used by veterinarians. The cut goes through the skin, cartilage and bone. This procedure is usually performed without any anaesthetic, or with a local anaesthetic, at three to five days of age. A small number of dogs are born naturally

without a tail.

Tail docking, even if performed with local anaesthesia, causes pain and stress to young puppies. Recent research in pain management indicates clearly that puppies, even at a few days of age, have a fully developed nervous system and a well-developed sense of pain. Sometimes, tail docking results in serious complications such as bleeding, infection and even the death of the puppy.

Tail docking does not provide any benefit to puppies. Traditionally, some breeders considered a docked tail necessary to fulfil the working functions of the dog. Today many working breeds are kept as house pets and only a small percentage are used for field work, which is a recreational activity for people and not an essential function. If dogs of breeds

Continued on page 41

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From page 39

that are customarily docked are left with intact tails, they are not more likely to get tail injuries than dogs of other breeds.

If a procedure that causes pain has no immediate or future benefit for the animal and may lead to complications, surely it is unnecessary and should not be performed?

Tail docking is a procedure that is carried out because people believe that that is how that dog should "look", so it merely satisfies a breed standard or a human notion of what that type of dog should look like.

Some owners say that a dog with a long tail causes problems by knocking down ornaments in the house – well, try rearranging your décor! Or don't keep such a big dog.

The SA Veterinary Council does not condone the routine

## Since the removal of the tail of a dog or puppy results in permanent loss of (ie, damage to) a body part, the procedure of removing a healthy tail is considered a form of maiming.

tail docking of puppies for cosmetic purposes by veterinarians. Any veterinarian who docks a tail, "unless for justifiable medical reasons", will be liable for prosecution under the Animal Protection Act (APA) No 71 of 1962. Veterinarians found guilty under this act will automatically be investigated for unprofessional conduct by the SAVC under the Veterinary & Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982.

Lay people are also liable to prosecution under the APA if maiming can be proved. This falls under the ambit of welfare organisations.

The NSPCA is opposed to the

unnecessary mutilation of animals for cosmetic, sporting, entertainment or convenience purposes - including but not limited to tail-docking, ear-cropping, de-barking, de-clawing and myotomy (cutting of muscle). The NSPCA takes the identical standpoint relating to the various surgical mutilations of other species. It has long been the opinion of the NSPCA that tail docking (as well as any other form of mutilation) is a contravention of the Animals Protection Act Clause 2(1)a, which states:

"Any person who overloads, overdrives, overrides, ill-treats,

neglects, infuriates, tortures or maims or cruelly beats, kicks, goads or terrifies any animal.... shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and any other law, be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine...." Since the removal of the tail of a dog or puppy results in permanent loss of (ie, damage to) a body part, the procedure of removing a healthy tail is considered a form of maiming.

According to the Kennel Union of South Africa (Kusa), none of their breed standards say that a dog's tail must be cropped, but they rather say "tail customarily docked" or "tail traditionally docked". Dog owners may show their dogs with or without cropped tails.

Smallholders are encouraged not to buy puppies without tails and to insist that the breeder from whom they buy their dogs does not dock tails.

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Op R559 tussen  
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### Alpacas For Sale

Magicalpaca's Farm  
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A selection of pedigree Alpacas at competitive prices



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sales@alfachicks.co.za  
www.alfachicks.co.za



# 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**  
Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Cullinan. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180  
horses@diamondxrancho.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.**

**2017**

**June**

3: Aloe Expo opening at Gariep Plants, 309 Cliffendale Road, Faerie Glen, Pretoria. 09.00 – 15.00. Ph 012 991-2988  
3: Chelsea Lane Home for Seniors Morning Market, 13 James Road, Fairleads, Benoni. A variety of stalls, a tea garden, live music & entertainment for the kids. Entrance Fee of R30 includes a bacon & egg roll. Plenty of free parking & security. Call Wendy or Bridget 072 696-8367  
3: Mampoeffees at Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum, old Pretoria/Bronkhorstspuit road, Rayton. Food stalls, a flea market, demonstrations and house tours, pap en kaaiings, oswagon rides. Gates open 08h00 for the public and close around 17h00 .  
3: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za  
4: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-

8003  
05 World Environment Day  
6-8: Conservation agriculture three-day course. Foundations for Farming, Gateway to Africa, Beulah Park. Call Neill Jackson 082 407 6774  
6-9: SA Green Industries Council training in the identification and management of invasive alien species, Johannesburg. Four modules of one day each. Cost per module R912. Contact Hazel or Kay at Tel 011 723-9000 or download the forms at www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/936-sagic-invasive-species-training.  
6-9: Introductory Course in Pig Production (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273  
9: Full moon  
11: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003  
13 – 15: Sustainability Week Conference & Exhibition, CSIR Convention Centre, Hatfield, Pretoria. To book go to http://sustainabilityweek.co.za.  
15-17: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Landgoed near Rayton. Afrikaans-focused alternative living exhibition with food, entertainment etc in association with Solidarity. To exhibit call 087 231-1644 or email info@kragdag.co.za. Online bookings at www.kragdag.co.za  
16: Youth Day  
17 Aloe Open Day: Sunbird Aloes Nursery,

336 Vine Ave, Ferndale, Randburg, 09h00 to 16h00. Call 082 824 6604  
20-23: Introduction Course to Beef Cattle Management (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273  
21: Solstice  
24: New moon  
26-29: Cattle knowledge and feeding. Course in Krugersdorp. Call 078 546-7985

**July**

1: Snake Awareness First Aid For Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling, Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge, Gauteng. Email Ashley - admin@aficansnakebiteinstitute.com  
1: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za  
2: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003

## Free Classified Ads

### MISCELLANEOUS

Finnbuilder, large pillar type (not used). R3 500, Hartbeespoort. Contact 082 771-6460

Two drum pumps (suitable for 210 litre drum), good condition. R1 000 onco. Contact 082 771-6460 Hartbeespoort

Finnbuilders for sale. Straight, corner curve x 2, R8 000 the lot. whatsapp/sms

072 997-8472 Jhb. Tel 063 493-0129

Parkhome for sale. 3 bedroom, one bathroom. R140 000 onco. Tel 082 682-2107

### PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET

Bashewa: 50 ha farm for sale or rent. Big 4 bedroom house, 2 bathrooms. Can be subdivided to 11 plots of 4,2 Ha. 19 km from Solomom Mahlangu Dr and 3 km from Garsfontein Rd. Selling price R6,5 million and rent R15 000 pm. Must have good credit record. Tel 011 312-3393

Lanseria: Cottage available for rent, stunning home, 2 bed, 1 bath, lounge, patio and big garden. Pets allowed. whatsapp/sms 072 997-8472

Lanseria: 2 bedroom cottage on farm in Rhenosterspruit. 1,5 bathrooms, pet friendly. R3 300 + deposit + electricity. Contact 076 393-4468

Springs/Sundra: Pensioners want to sell small farm, 18 Ha. 2 big houses, plus 1 wood house still to be finished inside. 2 boreholes. 2 room flat can be used as office or sewing room. 5 horse stables. Lots of outside buildings. Big dam. About 0,5Ha planted with garlic (3 cultivars.) All houses and buildings with electric fencing. Lots of potential. On the border of Springs and Sundra. 18 km from Springs, 18 km from Delmas. Phone Harry 082 936-4907 or email olivierjoey59@gmail.com

Akasia, Pretoria: 8,6 Ha property for sale. On main road, close to shopping centres and hospital. 2 houses. Ideal for developers. R15 million. Tel 083 454-8440

Heidelberg Gauteng: 113 ha farm, 10km from Heidelberg on the Balfour road. Two farm houses, each with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. One large enclosed steel shed. One workers house with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. 43 000 litre per hour borehole with high quality water (suitable for bottling). Eskom electricity. Contact Marlize 082 306-9720.

Walkerville, Apple Orchards. Spacious

cottage to let. Bedroom with walk-in closet, lounge, front room with open-plan kitchen, bathroom with shower. Big verandah with braai area, shadenet parking and own entrance. Suit single person or retired couple. No dogs or children. R3 800 inclusive of water and electricity (reasonable usage), one month deposit required. Mail: rg46@mweb.co.za. or phone 074 161-9611.

### VEHICLES & SPARES

Econo trailer, single axle, 14 inch wheels, new tyres with spare, 3m x1,8m with 300mm box, 700mm high rails, rear gate, brakes with hitch, licenced, good condition. R18 500 onco. Contact 082 771-6460.

**Yellow Maize**

**Whole Mealies**  
40kg ~ R120

**Crushed Mealies**  
40kg ~ R140

**Heather 083 313 6510**  
**011 416 3306**

**Bekostigbare implemente geskik vir die klein boer**

**SKRAPER**  
Lem is VERSTELBAAR  
R2 000  
• 1.5m wyd  
• Geskik vir klein trekkers

**BOSSIEKAPPER**  
Kante is VERSTELBAAR  
R6 000  
• 1.2m wyd  
• Sonder PTO  
• 1.5m ook beskikbaar

**STERKARM**  
Pas op driepunt (Cat 1)  
R1 600  
• 2.5m lank  
• Slasher uitgesluit  
• Tel swaar items op

**072 153 8776**

Pryse sluit BTW in  
Aflowering in Gauteng kan gereel word

**Fruit Trees**  
Olive, peach, nectarine, plum, almond, apricot, walnut, prune, pomegranate, pecan nut, apple, cherry pear, fig, quince, mulberry, lemon and grape vines.

**Shade Trees**  
Vrugtebome  
Olyf, perske, kaal perskes, pruim, amandel, appelkoos, okkerneut, pruimedant, granaat, druiwe, pekanneut, appel, kersie, peer, vy, kweper, moerbe en suurlemoen.

**Skadubome**  
Vereeniging  
Douw 084 506 5125

**Dikgogo Fela**  
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**We slaughter for the Smallholder**

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**Open to the PUBLIC!**

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**083 401 3002**



# DIARY



3-7: Cattle pregnancy testing and calf rearing, five-day course, Krugersdorp. Call 078 546-7985

4-5: Dairy Processing Course: Yoghurt and Maas Manufacturing (2 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

9: Full moon

6-9: SA Green Industries Council training in the identification and management of invasive alien species, Pretoria. Four modules of one day each. Cost per module R912. Contact Hazel or Kay at Tel 011 723-9000 or download the forms at [www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/936-sagic-invasive-species-training](http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/936-sagic-invasive-species-training).

9: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003

18-21: Dairy Processing Course: Cheese Manufacturing (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

3: New moon

24-26: Sheep and goats course, Krugersdorp. Call 078 546-7985

28 - 30: Aloe Weekend at Witkoppen Wildflower Nursery, 363 Valley Rd, North Riding. 8:00 - 17:00. Ph 011 516-0262

29: Experience Chelsea 2017 at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join Kirstenbosch-SA Chelsea designer David Davidson & Efeko for an informative morning on David's experiences at the Chelsea Flower Show in London. 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R80 pp & includes the talk & slide show presentation, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

29: Snake Awareness First Aid For Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling, Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge, Gauteng. Email Ashley - [admin@aficansnakebiteinstitute.com](mailto:admin@aficansnakebiteinstitute.com)

30: Advanced Snake Handling, Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge, Gauteng. Email Ashley - [admin@aficansnakebiteinstitute.com](mailto:admin@aficansnakebiteinstitute.com)

## August

3: National Women's Day

5: Mother & Child Fun Day with a Flower Arranging Course at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join Colleen McGillivray and Interflora for a fun-filled morning where we will show you how to make a beautiful flower arrangement, the perfect workshop for mother & child. 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R130 per child & includes the workshop, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

5: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or [info@craftsinthepark.co.za](mailto:info@craftsinthepark.co.za)

6: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003

7: Full moon

9: East Rand Dairy Day, Belnori Boutique Cheesery, Nest Park, Bapsfontein. 09:30 for 10:00. Wide range of speakers as well as exhibitions and stalls. Food on sale. Booking essential. Email Rina Belcher on [belnori220@gmail.com](mailto:belnori220@gmail.com)

9: Makeover with Hannon Bothma, the Glam Guru, at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Rediscover your own beauty potential and look at yourself in the mirror again with a fresh new perspective. 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R200 pp & includes the demonstration, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

12: Cooking Demo with Johan 'Panda' du Preez from Starke Ayres at Garden World, Muldersdrift. A fun filled, informative morning with gardening and cooking professional Panda. He will teach you how to sow summer vegetable seeds with flair, and how to whip up a delicious meal with his own brand of joie de vivre! 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R150 pp & includes the talk / demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden

World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

13: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003

15-18: Introduction Course to Beef Cattle Management (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

19: 50 Shades of Green with Denny van Wee & Leonie Coulson at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Denny van Wee (export manager from Pokon, Netherlands) will tell you more about Pokon Plant Foods & how they will help your plants grow, with Leonie telling you more about the interesting 50 Shades of Green Plants. : 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R100 pp & includes the talk, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

21: New moon

21-25: Introductory Course in Poultry Production (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

26: Growing Edible Flowers in your Spring Garden at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join Sandy Roberts for her talk on growing edible flowers in your spring garden with recipes & delicious samples to taste. The Margaret Roberts books, Herb Journal & new 'Indigenous Plants' book that she co-wrote with Sandy will be on sale. 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R100 pp & includes the talk / demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

26: In Tune with Nature at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join MayFord Seeds for a delightful spring afternoon laced with good gardening advice from gardening editor Tanya Visser, paired with heavenly music & song brought to you by SA's most well-known conductor, Richard Cock. 13h00 for 13h30. Cost: R100 pp & includes the event, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

End August, dates to be confirmed: Second Purebred Dexter Spring Show at the Willem

Prinsloo Agricultural Museum, Rayton district. For details contact Kobus van der Linder 082 783-9605

## September

2: Half-day elementary course in Beekeeping, Highveld Honey Farm, 186 Uys Rd, Rynfield AH, Benoni. 0900 hrs - 1230. R300 includes refreshments. To book call Peter Clark 011 362-2904

2: Paint your own Unique Wall Clock at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Trudie Ayres from Mulberry Lane will show you how to paint your own unique Wall Clock using Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. 09h00 for 09h30. Cost: R350 pp & includes the workshop and everything that you will need to create your Wall Clock - including the clock movement & hands (clock diameter 35 cm), refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit [www.gardenworld.co.za](http://www.gardenworld.co.za)

2: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or [info@craftsinthepark.co.za](mailto:info@craftsinthepark.co.za)

3: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003

5-7: Artificial Insemination of Cattle Course (3 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

6: Full moon

10: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003

11-15: Introductory Course to Small Stock Management (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

18-22: Aquaculture Management Course (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za,

## Beekeeping course for beginners

A one day elementary course on beekeeping for those intending to keep bees and for newcomers. The course covers the full spectrum of beekeeping. Cost R300 includes refreshments.



At Highveld Honey Farm, 186 Uys Road, Rynfield AH, Benoni. Commencing 9.00am to 12.30pm, Saturday 2 September 2017. Folk intending to come please phone the course convener Peter Clark 011 362 2904

## LIVESTOCK SALES

**Auctions: Bronkhorstspuit - 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](http://www.vleissentraal.co.za)





# DIARY

tel 012 672-7273  
20: New moon  
22: Equinox  
24: Heritage Day  
25: Heritage Day spillover holiday

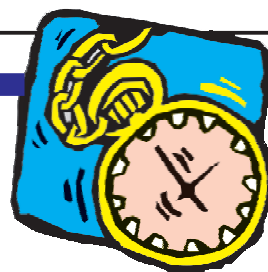
## October

1: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003  
5: Full moon  
7: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music.

Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za  
8: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003  
9-13: Meat Processing Course (4 days), ARD Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273  
16-20: Introductory Course in Poultry Production (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273  
19: New moon

## November

4: Full moon  
4: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za  
7-10: Introductory Course in Pig Production (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273  
18: New moon



22-23: Introductory Course to Veld/Rangeland Management (2 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273



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...after treatment



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info@aquaplastech.co.za

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imported product

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## R210

for 12 editions



# 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](mailto:editor@gautengsmallholder.com)

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
<b>Thursday</b>					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston.	Konrad or Glenda 011 706-3671 or <a href="mailto:glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
<b>Friday</b>					
1st Friday	The Shed Night Market	18:00 to 22:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
<b>Saturday</b>					
Every Saturday	Tuinhekkie Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	cor Lazar Ave & Merwe Road Bootha Plots, Randfontein	Amanda Hefer 073 565-8905	Handmade products, numerous food stalls, flowers live entertainment most Saturdays, farmyard for the kids
Every Saturday	Verster Park Tuin Mark	09:00 - 15:00	Plot 21, Lang St, Verster Park Bronkhorstspuit	Maggie van Rheede 061 887-4149	Hand crafted goods, art, naturally-grown produce Community market to promote local business
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 - 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cor Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 <a href="mailto:wholefoodmarket@gmail.com">wholefoodmarket@gmail.com</a>	Variety of organic & homemade foods
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 <a href="mailto:blingsa@lantic.net">blingsa@lantic.net</a>	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap and boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 <a href="mailto:glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636. <a href="http://www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za">www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za</a>	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 <a href="mailto:info@wfm.co.za">info@wfm.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 to 15:00	Walkerville Showgrounds on the R82	Noorunisha 074 141-8485 <a href="mailto:market@walkervillesa.co.za">market@walkervillesa.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft ber.. Kid's play area and pet friendly
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Milch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market
1st Saturday	Jozi Real Food VEGAN Market	09:00 to 15:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 <a href="mailto:whitespace@mweb.co.za">whitespace@mweb.co.za</a>	Arts & crafts, live music, vegan cuisine, organic vegetables & coffee
1st Saturday	The Green Market	09:00 to 12:00	Pretoria Botanical Gardens 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria	Melissa 083 562-5249	Products ranging from solar equipment to organic food
1st Saturday	Victus Christi Arts & Crafts Market	08:00 to 14:00	24b Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni (north side of Bunny Park)	Schalk 082 561-9409 <a href="mailto:info@victuschristi.org.za">info@victuschristi.org.za</a>	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 to 14:00	cnr van der Walt and Dirk van der Hoff Brakpan	Marius 011 744-2322 082 904-8852	Over 50 stalls. Food, arts, crafts, etc.
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 to 14:00	Corner Main Street and High Street Modderfontein (behind 33 High Street)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 <a href="mailto:wardek@iafrica.com">wardek@iafrica.com</a>	Over 50 stalls. Fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food and more.
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 to 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940-0201 <a href="mailto:realfood4realpeople@gmail.com">realfood4realpeople@gmail.com</a>	Local fresh produce direct to the public
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 to 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	<a href="mailto:adelekoffiepit@gmail.com">adelekoffiepit@gmail.com</a> 083 445-1608	Homemade crafts & food stalls bakery & coffee shop and entertainment
<b>Sunday</b>					
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 <a href="http://www.ffmarket.co.za">www.ffmarket.co.za</a>	Get your groceries...In the garden!
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 <a href="mailto:info@serendipitycafe.co.za">info@serendipitycafe.co.za</a> <a href="http://www.serendipitycafe.co.za">www.serendipitycafe.co.za</a>	Community market to promote local business

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# Family memories

Distance, it is said, lends enchantment to the view. I was reminded of this recently when we hosted a long-overdue family reunion sparked by the visit to South Africa of a cousin now permanently resident in London, where she has been for the past 30 years.

At short notice we summoned up as many cousins as we could, all the uncles and aunts being now no longer with us (and it must be said that even among us cousins there are those whose time upon this earth has come to an end).

From Pretoria came one, from Boksburg came others, even from Welkom came yet others and those that couldn't come all had pretty cast-iron reasons why.

And apart from the absence of the now-late aunts and uncles and the fact that we cousins are now all well into our 60s, it was just like the family gatherings we had decades ago.

And, my oh my, we were a family of gatherers. Just about every Christmas I can remember from my childhood there was a family affair at one or other aunt's house. And, ours being a Pretoria family, other occasions were celebrated in the Fountains Valley, where family members who had moved away could bring their caravans for the weekend and where we kids made memories of our own riding on the miniature train that ran around the grounds on Sundays.

As a young adult I was never much of a family person and when I moved away from Pretoria after my school years I naively supposed that these gatherings continued.

It seems that, however, they didn't. The last one was held at Fountains in the 80s to say farewell to one of the cousins who was moving to the South Coast (where, tragically, he, his wife and one of their kids died in a New Year's Eve car crash not long after they moved).

Thereafter, I was told at our recent reunion, the cousins only really saw each other at the periodic funerals of aunts and uncles. We're quite good as a family about attending each others' funerals, which gives me the hope that my own send-off will be attended by more than just my wife and my creditors. It's often said that "you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family" and that is very true. But there's something very special about gathering with people that one has known all one's life. For even if we don't share political views (which we don't) or religious beliefs (which we also don't), we share a common history of many shared experiences.

But the interesting thing about those shared experiences is that

when we discussed them at the recent reunion each one of us harboured a different memory of the same event.

Take my Aunt Meg's famed potato salad, for example (I've written about it before in this column). So memorable was her salad that when I married my wife I insisted (probably a bit insensitively), that Aunt Meg's potato salad should be the recipe used in our household and not her own mother's. And then I had to impart the recipe, which I had to do from guesswork and memory because nowhere was it ever written down (I don't think).

Of course, as kids we cousins had all eaten, and enjoyed, her magnificent potato salad, which was a firm favourite at all the reunions for as long as we can all remember. It contained (and here's where things get tricky), some of us recalled, potato, mayonnaise, mashed up hard boiled egg and crispy bits of bacon. But here's the thing: did it also contain chopped onion? Was there cream added to the mayonnaise? Indeed, did Aunt Meg make her own mayonnaise (we decided that was unlikely) or did she merely add Crosse & Blackwells? And what about added salt and pepper? And did she sprinkle chopped parsley on top before serving? Or was there more mashed up egg atop?

Just about each one of us, all of whom had eaten her salad dozens of times, had a different view. One said there was onion, another said there was parsley, another thought there was cream added.

And the saddest part of the whole discussion is that we'll never know for sure because Aunt Meg has taken her recipe to her grave, and her daughter and her eldest son are, likewise, no longer with us.

And of her two remaining children, one lives in Cullinan and was unable to attend our gathering and the other lives in Knysna. And as they're both boys it's unlikely they will have paid much attention when their mother was fine-tuning the ingredients of her fabled salad.



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