

# HORTGRO NEWS

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## RICHARD HURNDALL'S LEGACY

Richard Hurndall Hortgro's Post-harvest Manager is retiring (but hopefully not disappearing) at the end of December after dedicating 35 years to the deciduous fruit industry. He recently received the Hortgro Chairman's Award. Read more about Richard [here](#).



## STATE-OF-THE-ART CA RESEARCH FACILITY LAUNCHED

Hortgro Pome recently invested R2.5m in a new controlled atmosphere research facility at Stellenbosch University. The launch was held earlier this month during the annual Hortgro Pome CA Meeting. The facility will help solve post-harvest problems

within the deciduous fruit industry. Post-harvest research is critical to the future success of new apple cultivars. Read more [here](#).

*Pictured here at the opening: Elke Crouch (Principal Researcher on CA Research Department of Horticulture, SU), Karen Theron (Department of Horticulture, SU), Nic Dicey (Hortgro Pome Chairperson), Richard Hurndall (Hortgro) — at Stellenbosch University.*



## PIETER GRAAFF NAMED FARMER OF THE YEAR

He is the biggest apple producer in South Africa and Tru-Cape Chairman, but since the onset of his career, Pieter Graaff has made the conscious decision to rather be "a small fish in a big ocean, as opposed to being "a big fish in a small pond".

Read more [here](#).

*Pictured here at the ceremony are Pieter and Yolande Graaff with FarmBiz Editor Hugo Lochner.*



## THE STORY BEHIND HORTFIN

The South African deciduous fruit industry, the Jobs Fund, and Land Bank recently launched a blended finance scheme for people/entities who want to enter or expand their businesses in the fruit and wine industries. Hortfin would not have been possible without the out-of-the-

box thinking and "can do" attitude of several role-players. Read the story behind Hortfin [here](#).

*Pictured here is Dumisani Ndebele receiving his young trees.*



## INTERPOMA 2018

The international show of the apple. Hortgro's Carmé Naudé was there. She reports on a session by varietal expert Walter Guerra. Read it [here](#).



## WILDFIRE SEASON - ARE YOU PREPARED?

Runaway veld fires move through landscapes – destroying property, natural habitat and sometimes even lives. Read more [here](#).

Download our emergency poster [here](#).



## POME & STONE CARBON FOOTPRINT BENCHMARK REPORTS

View a graphic representation of the pome and stone fruit carbon footprint.

What are the trends and hotspots and how does your crop compare to other fruit types? Download [here](#).



## HORTGRO SCIENCE RESEARCH THANK YOU BREAKFAST

Solving industry problems through research is one of Hortgro's key mandates. All the hard work that was done by the brainy bunch over the past year was recently celebrated at the annual Researcher Thank You Breakfast in Stellenbosch.

*Pictured here are the researchers who received prizes for their projects. From left: Piet Stassen, Lizel Mostert, Vernon Steyn with Hortgro Science Chair, Stephen Rabe.*



## HORTGRO SCIENCE ANNUAL REPORT OUT NOW

The primary objective of Hortgro Science remains to keep South African pome and stone fruit growers internationally competitive and economically sustainable. Our focus is to generate new knowledge, technologies or practices that are required to mitigate, avoid or overcome threats and risks and to exploit opportunities. Download the annual report [here](#).

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### IN THE PRESS

- [UK Market Development Campaign launched for the eleventh year](#)
  - [International Seedless Grape Conference](#)
  - [SAPO Agro Selections Agreement](#) (from Fresh Plaza)
  - [Nuwe stem op RSG Landbou](#)
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### → UPCOMING EVENTS

**3-7 June 2019:** Hortgro Science Technical Symposium

**2 August 2019:** Agri's Got Talent

**13 September 2019:** Fruit Industry Gala Evening

### → HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke December 2018](#)

[Fresh Quarterly Issue Three, December 2018](#)

### → HORTGRO YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Find all videos of the recently held [Hortgro Research Showcase](#) (and more) on our YouTube channel [here](#). It gives an overview of all the research projects by students and researchers. Don't miss out.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *The Cycle of Life*

Yet another year nearly behind us. An eventful, challenging one it was too. With

production and marketing challenges, political upheaval and continued policy uncertainties, rural and urban safety, and unrest, and communities putting their foot down given severe socio-economic issues regarding thugs, gangsters, and drug lords, and lack of services over a wide front nationally. State capture and a below par and inconsistent Springbok team remain part of the daily narrative.

Having spent most of the past four weeks on my back after a big back operation, one tends to have time on your hands (mind) to reflect on many issues. Sort of an opportunity – more of a reality check really - to contemplate the *cycle of life* with the highs and lows of our existence. Life and death type issues. Where the little things become important with a brief moment of less pain or discomfort being a huge blessing. Just to get out of bed and being able to take a few steps becomes a triumph. Where the next time will be a few steps further or a slightly longer time before getting back into bed.

The year 2018 had everything related to the *cycle of life*. Not only our members having to fight daily for survival, but as a Hortgro family we experienced sadness with the passing of friends and family, whilst also experiencing the pinnacle of joy with new life - with new babies being born, and new beginnings. The *cycle of life* indeed.

So, as we enter the last few weeks before Christmas, my wish is that the highs of 2018, will be the lows of 2019. May you all enjoy and experience the blessings of the festive period with family and friends. And appreciate the small things in life.

### Anton Rabe

*"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."* – Mae West

*"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on."* – Robert Frost



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