

HORTGRONEWS

VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 59 | 31 MAY 2021

CONTENTS

- Elke Crouch new Postharvest Research Chair
- Grow your people...grow your business
- Alexander Gibson Wes-Kaap Jong Boer van die Jaar
- Weathering the weather
- 2021 Kernvrugseisoen in kort
- Ownership the ultimate transformation
- Faith in difficult times
- Fresh Quarterly Issue 13 June 2021
- CFG uitstaande oudit
- NAMC Board appointments
- Hortgro Orchard Programme
- Symposium webinar series, sponsored by Standard Bank: 1-3 June 2021
- Apps, publications, YouTube
- From the Executive Director's desk



ELKE CROUCH NEW POSTHARVEST RESEARCH CHAIR

Apple doctor, postharvest detective, internal browning expert, researcher...Dr Elke Crouch is known by many names. Now, she is also the new Postharvest Physiology Research Chair in Deciduous Fruit at Stellenbosch University. Lees 'n persverklaring in Afrikaans [hier](#). And a profile on Elke [here](#).

Pictured: Linde du Toit, Hugh Campbell, Elke Crouch, Wiehann Steyn, Nicholas Dicey, and Karen Theron at the launch of the Postharvest Research Chair.



GROW YOUR PEOPLE...GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Limited schooling? No problem, says Chris Jurisch, an eagerness to learn is what is important. With labour costs 50% or more of total production costs per hectare, Chris developed an agri worker orchard training course to also develop critical thinking skills. The result is not only increased orchard knowledge but also improved productivity, motivation, pride, and team spirit. Read more [here](#).

Pictured: Frikkie Jacobs (far left) from Queen Ann, Bo Radyn with his team of orchardists.

ALEXANDER GIBSON WES-KAAP JONG BOER VAN DIE JAAR

Geluk aan Alexander Gibson van Ceres wat die Wes-Kaap Santam Jong Boer van die Jaar aangewys is.

Kyk na 'n kort onderhoud met Alexander [hier](#). And listen to a



podcast interview [here](#).



WEATHERING THE WEATHER

The Langkloof is one of the best deciduous fruit farming areas in South Africa. It is also one of the areas with the most diverse, agri-attacking weather patterns you can find. At any given time you can have a farm and its two neighbours having a medley of hail, drought, and a bumper crop simultaneously. **Gerrit**

Rautenbach reports [here](#).



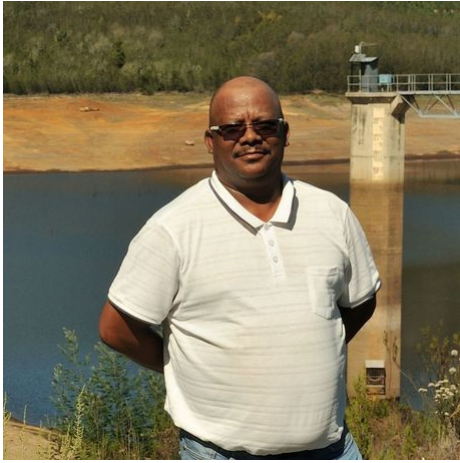
2021 KERNVRUGSEISOEN IN KORT

Met die laaste appels wat tans gepluk word, is dit 'n goeie tyd om bestekopame van die kernvrugseisoen te maak. **Anna Mouton** het gaan kersopsteek by die bedryfseksperits. Lees meer [hier](#).

OWNERSHIP THE ULTIMATE TRANSFORMATION

The success story of the Haarlem community started many years ago because of water. Nico du Preez tells of the long ownership battle for Anhalt farm. Read it [here](#).

Pictured here: Nico du Preez at the Haarlem Dam.

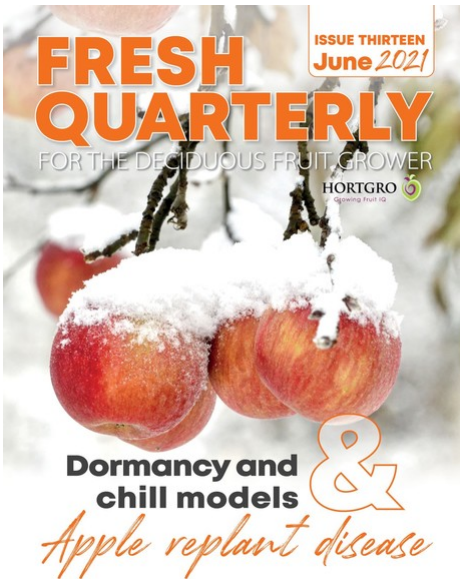


FAITH IN DIFFICULT TIMES



The last years have been challenging for one and all. For Andre Cloete, an apple and pear grower, near Greyton in the Western Cape's Overberg region, it has been especially hard. Read Andre's inspirational story [here](#).

Pictured here: Andre Cloete...keeping the faith.



FRESH QUARTERLY #13 JUNE 2021

Winter dormancy; Know you chill models; Predicting bud-break.

Benefits of soil health; Apple replant disease; Fundamentals of fumigation.

And much much more. Download your free copy [here](#).

NAMC BOARD APPOINTMENTS

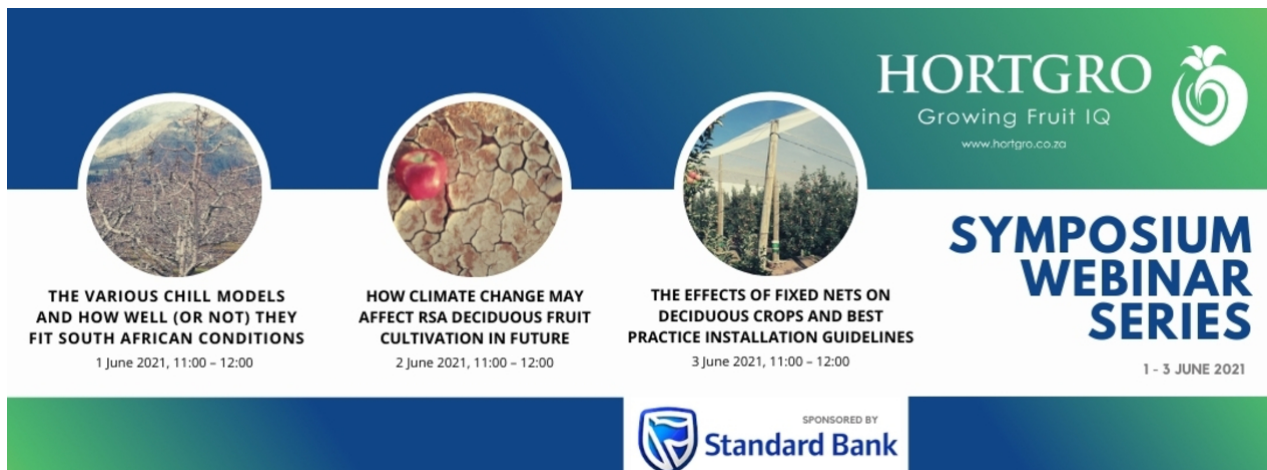
Hortgro Director, **Angelo Petersen**, is the new Chairman of the NAMC Board. Petersen joined the Hortgro family in 2020. And another Hortgro colleague was also appointed to the NAMC Board, **Dr Thembi Xaba**, CEO of the Deciduous Fruit Development Chamber. We congratulate them and wish them well for the task ahead.

CERES FRUIT GROWERS UITSTAANDE ETIESE OUDIT

Volgens SIZA het een van die voorste pakhuse in die Wes-Kaap, CFG, onlangs 'n skoon etiese oudit behaal. **Retha Louw**, SIZA uitvoerende hoof, het gesê CFG het geen ouditbevindinge teen hulle gekry nie. "Hulle beste praktyke is werklik uitstekend. Dit is n fantastiese uitslag vir n pakhuis." Hortgro wens CFG met die uitmuntende prestasie geluk.

HORTGRO ORCHARDS PROGRAMME

The 2nd phase of the Orchard of the Future, i.e. the Hortgro Orchards Programme, is about to commence. For more information on the programme, its five main focus areas, and how to submit a potential orchard, please view the [information document](#) or visit the [Hortgro Orchards web page](#).



The banner features three circular images: a tree in a field, a close-up of a red apple, and a fixed net structure. The Hortgro logo and 'Growing Fruit IQ' are in the top right. The text 'SYMPOSIUM WEBINAR SERIES' is prominently displayed on the right. Below the images are three event titles and dates. The Standard Bank logo is at the bottom right.

HORTGRO
Growing Fruit IQ
www.hortgro.co.za

**SYMPOSIUM
WEBINAR
SERIES**
1 - 3 JUNE 2021

THE VARIOUS CHILL MODELS AND HOW WELL (OR NOT) THEY FIT SOUTH AFRICAN CONDITIONS
1 June 2021, 11:00 – 12:00

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE MAY AFFECT RSA DECIDUOUS FRUIT CULTIVATION IN FUTURE
2 June 2021, 11:00 – 12:00

THE EFFECTS OF FIXED NETS ON DECIDUOUS CROPS AND BEST PRACTICE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES
3 June 2021, 11:00 – 12:00

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E-MAIL THEA VAN ZYL (thea@hortgro.co.za) for more information.

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app.

[Stone fruit app](#).

E-mail thomas@hortgro.co.za for more information.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke: June 2021](#)

Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 13](#)

Transformation Times: [April Issue](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Grondpaaie en C19 analogie

In June 2019, I wrote about "Grondpaaie en die Woestyn" giving my take on the different types of dirt roads one encounters, and the analogy with the realities of life both on a physical and psychological level.

Ek reken daar is 3 tipes grondpaaie – net soos in ons lewens: Die wat lekker geskraap is en beter as 'n teerpad ry; die's wat heeltemal moertoe is en basies oorgebou moet word; en dan 'n wye spektrum tussen-in van OK'erig tot redelik swak, maar darem nog nie moertoe nie.

That was quite sometime before we started to hit the Covid-19 *grondpad* – a further analogy I shared with the Hortgro staff mid-2020 on the C19 road in Namibia. The C19 runs from east to west from Mariental to Sesriem, where it links up with the C14 towards Walvis Bay and on to Swakopmund.

Diè pad, reg deur die Namib, is vir my tipies van alles waarna ons hunker – meestal goeie tot sleggerige paaie maar rybaar om die stilte en *ambiance* van so baie plekke in ons lewens en fisies in ons buurlande, te beleef. Waar tradisionele wintervakansie wegbreke vir baie van ons 'n instelling is en wat vanjaar weereens nie gaan realiseer nie. Ekself gaan darem bietjie binnelands rondry en gaan beslis aspris kortpaaie of ompaaie probeer, om darem bietjie grondpad te beleef.

Back to C19 - mostly a dirt road. The first 100 km's or so between Mariental and Maltahöhe is a good tarred road. Thereafter it progressively gets worse with some very bad stretches between Betta and Sesriem. The last section, a bit better into Solitaire where it links with the C14 which has equally bad patches through the Kuiseb Pass. Then down to the coastal plain and the Atlantic to Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

Dit is vir my die perfekte analogie vir die Covid-pandemie. 'n Roete wat ons beide fisies en psigies tap en toets. Aanvanklik, die eerste stuk (op teer) wat uitdagend, nuut en stresvol was, maar grootliks OK met nakoming en dissipline op alle vlakke. As bedryf grootliks met 'n vol tenk petrol (volgemaak op die rug van 'n goeie "Mariental" winter) en spoed rondom 100km/uur met so hier en daar 'n bultjie en 'n windjie van voor.

We accepted and mostly dealt with the various phases of lockdown and hardships of staying at home, home schooling and dry cellars (at times) stoically, basically accepting our fate meekly and mildly as a lamb to the slaughterhouse.

Toe raak dinge bietjie rowwer, met al die uitdagings (slegte grondpad) met hier en daar 'n klompie "pot holes" en begin vrede maak met die feit dat C19 vir baie lank met ons gaan wees. Nou op pad na 'n derde golf en 'n inentingsprogram wat maar net nie op dreef wil kom nie, raak ons ongeduldig en gatvol vir volgehoue gebrekkige dienslewering en kaders wat hulself steeds skokkend verryk ten koste van die breër gemeenskap wat hulle veronderstel is om te dien.

Now we're not so meek and mild anymore, but we have to stay diligent and disciplined. Let's trust and work together to make driving the real C19 a reality in 2022.

Until next time – Vasbyt and stay safe.
Anton

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations - Anon

Going one more round, when you don't think you can, that's what makes all the difference. - Sylvester Stallone



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