HORTGRONEWS

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Fruitarianism - myth, mirth, or magic?

Fruitarians believe in living off fruit exclusively. What is the definition here of "fruit"? And how well can one live off one food group only? Read more here.

Pears and the Stories they Share

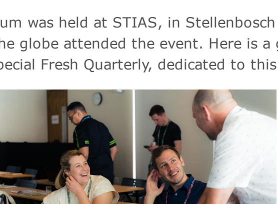
Buks Nel and Henk Griessel, have completed their third book, dedicated to pears. ***People, Pears and the Stories they Share*** was officially launched at the XIV International Pear Symposium, at STIAS, Stellenbosch on 23 January 2023.

This book is not a scientific tome but rather a collection of personal histories; it is richly illustrated by Ros Nel – Buks' wife. Hortgro helped to sponsor the printing of the book. Here are Henk, Buks, Ros and Anton Rabe, Hortgro's Executive Director in one of the oldest pear orchards that is still in production, found at Elsenburg. #BuksThePearTreeWhisperer

To order your copy contact Brian Berkman: brianb@tru-cape.co.za

XIV International Pear Symposium

The XIV International Pear Symposium was held at STIAS, in Stellenbosch from 22-26 January 2023. About 100 pear enthusiasts from around the globe attended the event. Here is a group of South Africans who were there. Read all about pears in our special Fresh Quarterly, dedicated to this delicious pome fruit.



Hortgro Media day

Hortgro held a media day at Bernheim, outside Paarl, on 20 January 2023. The aim of the day was to inform the media about all the different Hortgro programmes, industry challenges and successes. More information here.

Hortgro Phytosanitary Laboratory *Phyla* opening

The Hortgro phytosanitary laboratory, PHYLA, officially launched on 27 January 2023. PHYLA represents an integrated approach as it is an insectary combined with horticulture. Read more here.

Transformation: Mission Doornkloof

Plan A at Doornkloof started in 2008 when a group of beneficiaries from Rietvlei Boerdery came together. The mission was to establish Doornkloof as a BEE transformation stone fruit farm, however, it did not workout. This is where four farming musketeers and Plan B come in. Read more here.

Hortgro refocusing economic development

Although Hortgro and the DFDC's paths have separated, Hortgro Pome and Hortgro Stone remain committed to transformation. Read more here.

Agents of change

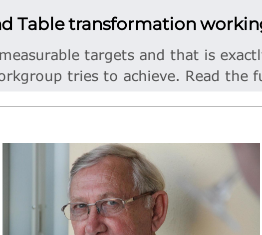
The South African agricultural industry needs to understand the value of social audits, if it wants to continue to compete internationally. Read more here.

Industry set for an average pome fruit export crop in 2023

The 2023 harvest is in full swing, and growers are anticipating an export crop that is slightly lower than the previous season. Read more here.

Fruit Industry Value Chain Round Table transformation working group annual review

Sustainable transformation requires measurable targets and that is exactly what the Fruit Industry Value Chain Round Table transformation workgroup tries to achieve. Read the full annual review here.



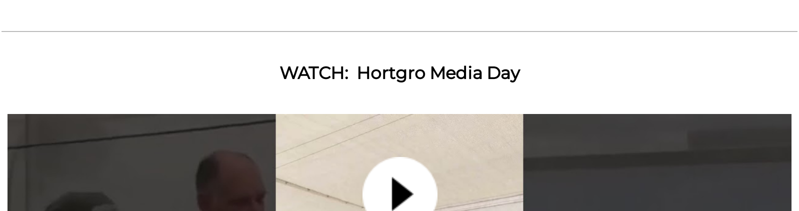
Bedryf verloor dr. André de Klerk

Een van Suid Afrika se bekendste vrugte- en wingerdplae-navorsers, Dr André de Klerk, is op Donderdag 12 Januarie 2023 op 81-jarige ouderdom oorlede. Hortgro salueer sy bydrae tot ons bedryf. Lees meer hier.

Agbiz continues to engage with government and Eskom on load-shedding challenges

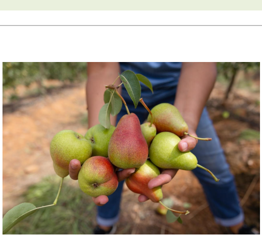
The severe load-shedding has increased food security risks in South Africa, and financial pressures on farmers, agribusinesses and the value chain role players. Agbiz conducted a survey this past week across all the sectors and the results are currently being analysed by a joint team of experts. Read here.

WATCH: Hortgro Media Day



FruitFly Africa's new updated website

FruitFly Africa has a new online face. View FFA's new and up-to-date website here.



The Culdevco Chronicle | February Edition

In the Culdevco Chronicle, February edition the focus is on red blush pears and how it helped farmers and producers across South Africa to financially succeed. Read the newsletter here.

More information to follow.

Energy Crisis Webinar

SAVE THE DATE

On 14 February 2023, Hortgro will be hosting a webinar with various experts discussing the energy crisis; short-term and long-term solutions.

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Stone fruit postharvest app.

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

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics

Hortgro Stone: February Timely Hints/Februarie Tydige Wenke

Fresh Notes: MRL Notification - Version 3 - All Deciduous

Fruit South Africa Transformation Summary

Transformation Times: September 2022 Issue

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting hier.

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in AFRIKAANS, XHOSA en ENGELS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Sonpanele en batterye laai en storm-straps vir die jaar

Terwyl ons voortstoei met beurtkrag, is dit goed om oor die spreekwoordelike laai van ons interne battery te besin. Voor ek daar kom is dit egter belangrik dat Hortgro-lede gemoedsrus het met die wete dat ons alles in ons vermoë doen om binne georganiseerde landbou saam te werk, oplossings te soek en die implikasies van wat nou werklik ’n krisis geword het, onder die regte mense se aandag te bring.

Geeneen van die planne wat nou op die tafel is, is nuut nie. Inteendeel ons stoei al daarmee vir etlike jare. Daar is nie *quick fixes* of *silver bullets* nie. Oplossings vat tyd. Weereens meer self doen en eie krag opwek. Ons sal na onsself moet omsien.

Die fisiese en spreekwoordelike inkap en uittrek van tentpenne oor die vakansie was egter ’n voorreg en seëning. Hopelik is baie van ons meer gereed en gerat vir die jaar se uitdagings wat nie minder of minder uitdagend gaan wees nie.

Ekself was heeltemal *off-grid* en moes met die hulp van sonpanele batterye laai vir die koel goedjies en ys maak, en ook self-voorsienend wees met die aanry van water by my afgeleë kampplek. Glad nie vir Eskom of die Munisipaal gemis nie – Inteendeel.

Egter bietjie van ’n *reality check* met die terugkom in die beskawing. Mag ons persoonlike en kollektiewe “penne”, batterye en storm-*straps* vanjaar se uitdagings en stormwinde trotseer. Ons sal maar die *jumper cables* moet naby hou as die batterye ontlaai en kerskrag nie langer lig op die onderwerp kan gooi nie. Of die *snatch ropes* wanneer ons iewers vasgeval het en 'n plukkie nodig het. En, soos al by ‛n vorige geleentheid genoem het – ons sal moet aanhou planne maak en daai planne mag nie opraak nie!

Vir diegene wat al my deeltjie van die Weskus (Namakwa-Park en veral Kwass se Baai – my *Nkandla) beleef het: a) Die robkolonie by Swartfontein is besig om kommerwekkend te ontplof – dit gaan blywende skade aan die vis- en kreefbronne veroorsaak as daar nie spoedig iets aan gedoen word nie; maar b) die Swarttobies (*African Oyster Catcher*) bevolking lyk of hulle beslis meer word. Wat is mooier as 'n vlug (swerm?) van 10 Tobies – nog nooit voorheen gesien nie. Onverwags, verrassend en raar.

En selfs meer bevredigend op ’n persoonlike vlak omdat ’n klein groepie van ons oor baie jare, lank voor die area ’n park geword het, die Tobies se broeiplekke en strande beskerm het.

’n Simbool van oorlewing, en ’n volhoubare en blink toekoms teen alle verwagtinge in? Wys jou, dit kan gedoen word!

Tot volgende keer.
Anton

Almal van ons moet ’n Nkandla hê. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma

*Nkandla beteken: *To be tired and a place to rest* soos Shaka die plek vernoem het.
My Nkandla noem ek sommer *NKwassla*! Wanneer ry ons weer?

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