

## CONTENTS

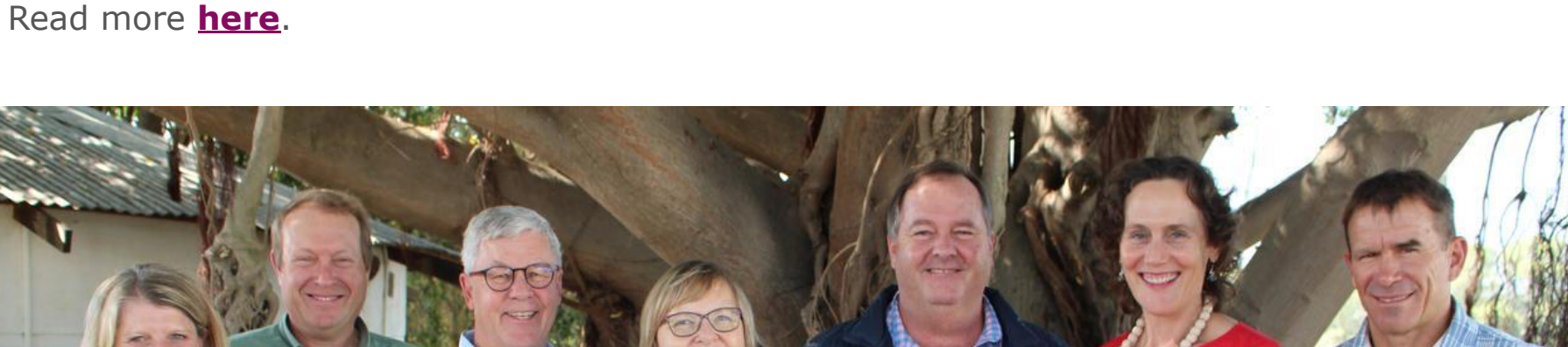
- Deciduous fruit industry launches new foundation
- Tissue Culture Facility Information Day
- Hortgro welcomes new Resource Management and Sustainability Manager
- Provincial Service Excellence Awards Ceremony
- Market and Trade
  - Market development campaigns
  - Prokon fruit quality report
- NEW: Cultivar Matrix for pome, stone, and dried tree fruit
- Buffering against instability - Agbiz workshop report
- Pollination: New tariff guideline
- New Roots Volume 5
- WATCH: Hortgro Legacy Foundation
- Hortgro Technical Symposium registrations open
- From the Executive Director's desk
- Upcoming events
- Publications and video library



Caption: Anton Rabe (Trustee), Nicholas Dorey (Trustee), Prof William Gumede (Patron) and Angelo Petersen (Chairperson of the Hortgro Legacy Foundation)

### Deciduous fruit industry launches new foundation

The future of the South African deciduous fruit industry has just become brighter with the launch of the **Hortgro Legacy Foundation** (HLF) this month. The HLF endeavours to unlock alternative income streams to augment traditional funding with donor and related contributions to ensure a sustainable future for the pome and stone fruit industries. Read more about the launch and how you can get involved [here](#).



### Tissue Culture Facility Information Day

TCF's main purpose is to ensure clean high-quality rootstocks, and uniform plant material, and to make it readily available to the industry at a cost-effective price. The recent information day served as a reminder of the value of clean plant material and its accessibility to producers. Read more [here](#).

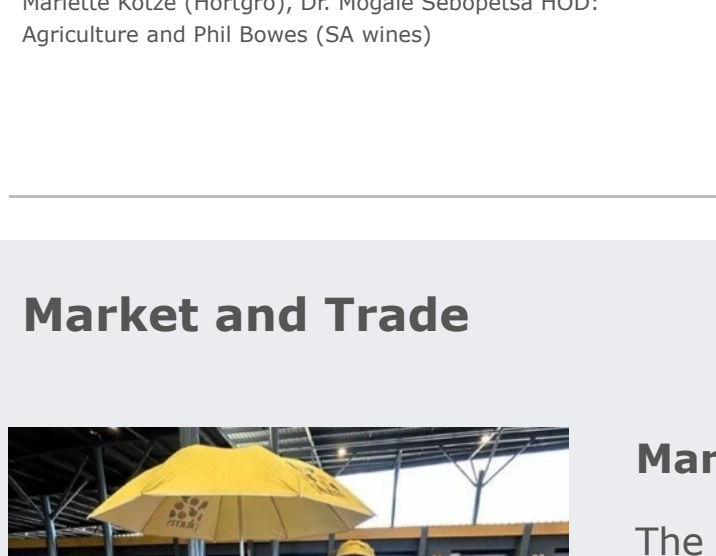


Charmaine Stander, Dr Nigel Cook, Hugh Campbell, Rachel Krul, Frederick Vogt, Prof Luel Moollet and Kootje Wijnen



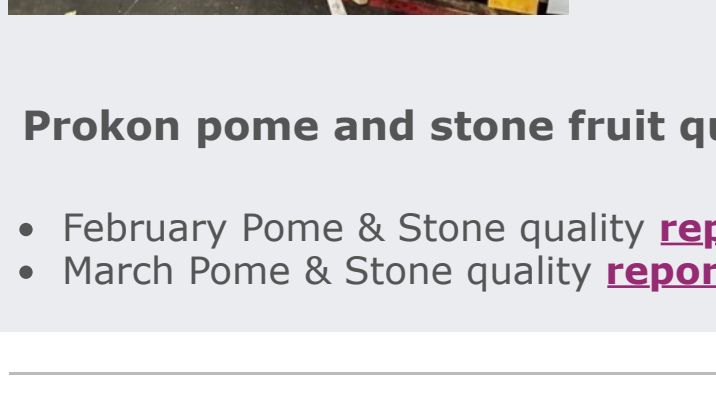
### New Resource Management and Sustainability Manager

On 1 April 2024, Hortgro welcomed another passionate member to its team, to fill the role of Resource Management and Sustainability Manager. Nitasha Bajinath-Pillay is an environmental specialist who has served in the Western Cape and the national environmental departments over the past 20 years. Read more [here](#).



### Provincial Service Excellence Awards Ceremony

Hortgro's Group Operations Manager, Mariette Kotze, attended the Provincial Service Excellence Awards Ceremony. At the Service Excellence Awards, Premier Alan Winde gives recognition to the various Departments for certain achievements. The commodity approach which is a public-private partnership between The Western Cape Department of Agriculture and commodities was awarded silver as the best collaborative programme/project.



### Market development campaigns expanding

The market development campaigns spread expansively during the 2023/2024 stone fruit season, with campaigns running in six regions globally namely, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, India, Middle East and locally within South Africa. Read more [here](#).

### Prokon pome and stone fruit quality pointer

- February Pome & Stone quality [report](#)
- March Pome & Stone quality [report](#)

### Cultivar Matrix for Pome Fruit, Stone Fruit, and Dried Fruit

A cultivar matrix has been developed for each fruit type detailing the desired cultivar profile to meet current and future market and production requirements. Available on Hortgro Science's website under [guidelines](#).

### Agbiz Workshop Report: Buffering Against Instability

Agbiz, in partnership with Kwanalu, organised a workshop aimed at equipping members of the farming community with strategies to cope with instability and unrest, drawing from the experiences of the July 2021 unrest in KZN. The workshop sought to facilitate learning from past challenges and foster collaboration to build resilient communities capable of addressing and preventing future upheavals. Read more [here](#).

### New Pollination Tariff Guideline

The Western Cape Bee Industry Association (WCBA) has announced a new guideline tariff for the essential pollination services provided by honeybees in the province. *Effective immediately*. More information [here](#).

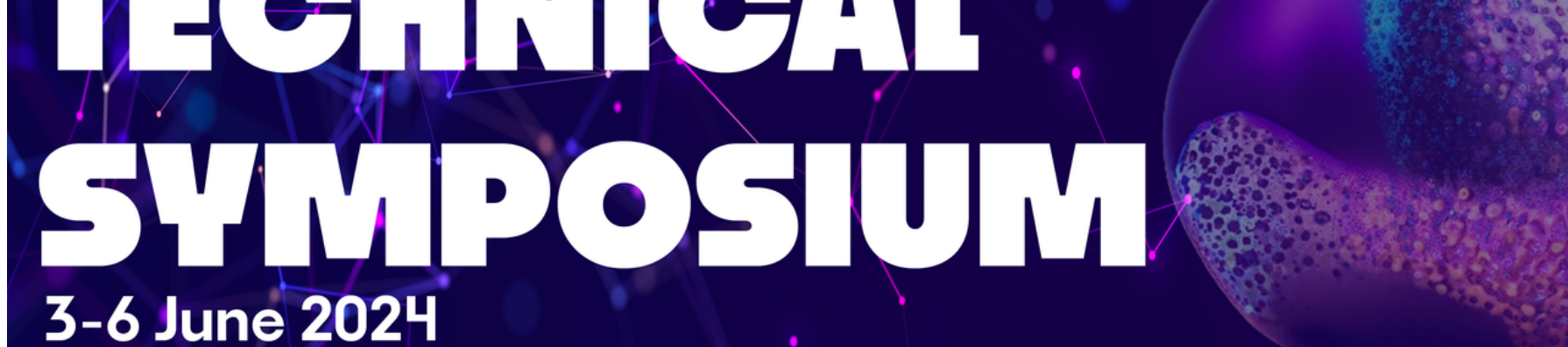
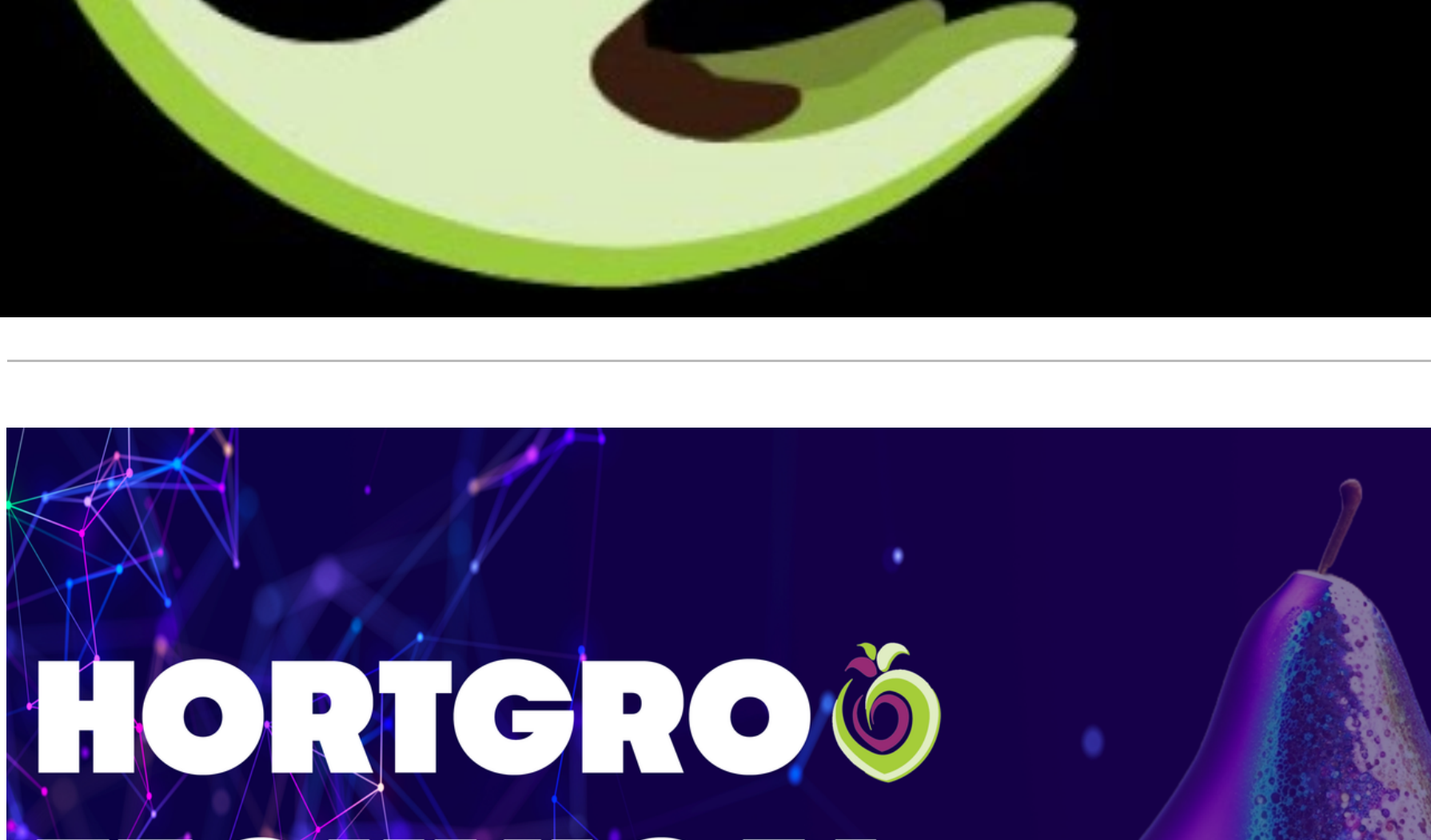


### New Roots Volume 5

The latest volume of New Roots is out now!  
This edition focuses on the importance of working together, sharing insights and learning from one another to bring about greater transformation.  
Read more [here](#).

### WATCH: Hortgro Legacy Foundation

Learn more about Hortgro Legacy Foundation and what motivates us to do good.



Hortgro Technical Symposium 2024 registrations are open! Find the programme and more information [here](#). Don't miss out. Register to secure your seat.

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

#### Things we agree on

I just realised that by the time the Newsletter is issued again (end May) the 2024 elections will be done and dusted. All the speculation as to if, and what if, and who will or will not work together, would be answered in the first two weeks of June.

I am not going to lie awake the next month wracking my brain as to who, what, how, when and with what, or worry about which idiot has uttered whatever idiocy or irrational promise or launch of yet another pie in the sky manifesto. Let's just be on the alert for fake news and related nonsense on social media. There will be lots of NOISE!

I am convinced that the silent majority in the middle of the political spectrum have enough shared ideals, needs and things we agree on. Surely, we all want jobs, decent housing, safety and security, good education and health services, roads, rail, ports, electricity and water – in short working and cost-effective infrastructure and public utilities and services.

And more that we can agree on, rather than focusing on what we disagree on. ChatGPT states: "Such shared ideals can be a powerful force in bringing people together and driving positive change".

*Indeed*

So WHY then do we always tend to focus on the things we disagree on or drive us apart? Probably human nature, but I am quite sure that WE, the collective US, also share a deep skepticism of politicians in general.

And aren't there a couple of real idiots amongst the lot!

Let's then identify and support those that have demonstrated at least some integrity, ethics, competence and ability to serve and make a difference. And let's kick out those that have equally "competently" demonstrated their inability not to be trusted, that blatantly lie, are corrupt opportunists that don't give a fig for what will happen in the next five years other than feathering their own nests at the expense of our country and our communities.

Let's stand up and be counted. **Vote and let your vote count.**

Until next time, Anton.

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something beautiful."* – **Mother Theresa**  
*"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."* – **Ethiopian Proverb**  
*"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."* – **Martin Luther King Jr**

AND A FEW MORE QUOTES ON POLITICIANS – SORRY I'M ON A ROLL!  
*"In politics, stupidity is not a handicap."* – **Napoleon Bonaparte**  
*"The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly', meaning 'many', and the word 'ticks' meaning 'blood sucking parasites'."* – **Larry Hardiman**  
*"The difference between a politician and a statesman is that politicians think about the next election while the statesman thinks about the next generation."* – **James Freeman Clarke**

### → INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

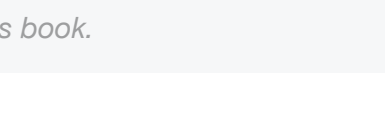
[Stone fruit postharvest app](#).  
E-mail [info@hortgro.co.za](mailto:info@hortgro.co.za) for more information.

### → HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)  
Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 24 Preharvest and Postharvest](#)  
Hortgro Stone: [May Timely Hints/ Mei Tydigje Wenke](#)  
Fresh Notes: [212 PAG Feedback & 213 FEMA programme](#)  
Fruit South Africa: [Transformation Summary](#)  
New Roots: [Volume 5 | May 2024](#)  
Hortgro News: [All previous issues](#)

### → HORTGRO YOUTUBE

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinsligting [hier](#).  
PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)



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