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SSK

wenakker

NUUSBRIEF • NEWSLETTER

"Maar soek die koninkryk van God, en al hierdie dinge sal vir julle bygevoeg word." Lukas 12:31

DIE VERMAAKS: ROSENHOF BOERDERY

Agter v.l.n.r: Oom Johannes en tannie Christine.
Voor v.l.n.r: Jacobus, Juls, JC, Lika en Maizie.

Oom Johannes en tannie Christine Vermaak van Rosenhof Boerdery in die Tsitsikamma-distrik het nie net twee goed opgevoede kinders grootgemaak nie, maar hulle het ook verseker dat die boerderykennis en kundigheid wat deur hul voorouers aan hulle oorgedra is, deur hul dogter en seun, Maizie en Jacobus, voortgesit word. Dié twee, wat reeds van jongs af saam met hul ouers die plaas help bestuur het, se hande staan vir niks verkeerd nie. Hoewel tradisionele boerderywyse vir die familie baie belangrik bly, het die sibbe die besigheid die afgelope paar jaar, met die gebruik van tegnologie, na 'n volgende vlak geneem.

Rosenhof is geleë naby Oesterbaai, suid-wes van Humansdorp. Hierdie is suiwelboerdery-gebied, met Jersey- en Holsteinkuddes, asook Angus-vleisbeeste wat onderskeidelik melk en vleis van uitstekende gehalte lewer. Hoewel oom Johannes en tannie Christine nie meer voltyds betrokke is by die boerdery nie, is dit vir hulle bevredigend om te sien hoe die span van twee, elk met hul eie persoonlikhede, saamwerk om die voortbestaan van 'n familiebesigheid verder uit te bou.

Met 'n onlangse besoek aan die Vermaak-familie ontmoet ek die hele familie. Dit is op uitnodiging van Maizie, wat in 2025 as SSK-direkteurslid verkies is, dat ek die geleentheid kry om meer oor hul boerdery, waardes en passie vir landbou uit te vind. Die Vermaak-familie boer reeds sedert 1880 op dié plaas, en Maizie en Jacobus is die vyfde generasie wat die leisels oorgeneem het. Om die daaglikse verantwoordelikhede op 'n produktiewe wyse uit te voer, is Jacobus verantwoordelik vir weidings, gewasse en personeel, terwyl Maizie toesien oor die versorging van vee en die finansies. Beide deel egter die verantwoordelikheid wanneer dit by die bestuur van die melkery kom.

Al vloei melk soos bloed deur hulle are, was daar voorheen ook met vrugte, vleisbeeste en skape geboer. Die fokus het oor die jare verskuif en vandag konsentreer hulle hoofsaaklik op melkproduksie, met 'n kudde van 1150 melkkoeie. Addisioneel vorm 550 Angus-kruis-vleisbeeste en 200 Meatmaster-skape ook deel van die boerderybedrywighede.

Daar word met rasegte Jerseys en Holsteins geteel, omrede daar voorheen gevind is dat 'n kruisteel-program van hierdie twee rasse nie die gewenste resultate opgelewer het nie. Die gemiddelde melkproduksie per koei per dag is 20 liter en verlede jaar het Rosenhof Boerdery 7 miljoen liter melk aan Woodlands Dairy, die grootste melkverwerker in die streek, gelewer. Jacobus verduidelik dat huurgrond ook vir die aanplant en verbouing van hawer en korog in die winter, en mielies, sorghum en teff in die somer, gebruik word. Hy voeg by dat weidingbestuur en goeie besproeiing, twee van die belangrikste aspekte is wanneer dit by die boerdery kom. Weidingsgewasse soos diploïede meerjarige, tetraploïede hibriede en raaigras-feskuhibriede werk die beste onder besproeiing en op droëland met dié dat dit ook met onkruidbeheer help.

'n Belangrike toevoeging tot die boerdery het in 2004 gekom toe daar besluit is om met die proses te begin om hul plaasdam tot 'n grootte van 540 000 m³ te vergroot. In Mei 2012 was die dam voltooi nadat die goedkeuringsproses sewe jaar lank geduur het en daar in Oktober 2011 met die konstruksie begin is. Die beplanning om weiding onder besproeiing te verbou is in 2012 voorgesit met spilpunte wat opgesit is. 'n Sonkrag-stelsel is in 2024 by die melkstal geïnstalleer, wat volhoubare kragtoevoer verseker, spesifiek in tye wanneer kragonderbrekings of beurtkrag plaasvind. Die konsolidasie van die ander kragpunte op die plaas is ook in proses, om sodoende slegs een perseel met panele en batterye te hê en volle voordeel uit die opwekking van sonkrag te benut.

Dit is wanneer Maizie oor die melkstal praat wat in 2012 gebou is, dat jy die opgewondenheid in haar stem hoor. Sy bied aan om dit vir my te gaan wys. Sy verduidelik dat die effektiwiteit van die melkproses verbeter en toegeneem het toe hulle oorgeskakel het van twee punte met oorswaaimelkmasjiene in een gedeelte van die plaas na 'n 64-punt draaitafel in die middel van die plaas. "Koeie staan korter in die kraal en loop ook korter afstande na die weidings. Tegnologie soos melkmeters help om siek koeie vinniger te identifiseer. Die koeie gaan ook met elke melking oor 'n skaal en deur 'n BCS kamera. Voer word elke dag aangepas volgens produksie, kondisie, dae in melk en dragtigheid om sodoende die beste produksie uit elke koei te kry."

Wanneer dit by die versorging en grootmaak van diere kom, kan jy vir Maizie min leer en beteken haar diere vir haar die wêreld. "Die uitbraak van Bek-en-Klouseer in Junie 2024 was 'n moeilike tydperk vir ons. Met die hulp van 'n betroubare werkerskorps, wonderlike bure, vriende en oorgenoeg genade, het ons daardeur gekom en is ons vol moed vir die toekoms. In tye soos dit besef mens die waarde van 'n hegte gemeenskap," vertel sy.

Terug by die plaashuis, het tannie Christine alreeds die ketel aangesit en 'n bord met koeksisters staan reg vir geniet. Terwyl Maizie vinnig die vertrek verlaat vra oom Johannes of dié twee hulle gedra het? Hy vertel laggend dat, nes broers en susters maar kan, Maizie en Jacobus ook soms koppe stamp. "Jacobus is 'n *tomorrow person* en met Maizie moet alles nou gedoen word. Een ding is verseker, hulle bestuur die besigheid beter as wat ek gedoen het." Goeie leierskapeienskappe is ook in beide ouers sigbaar. Vanaf 2001-2018 het oom Johannes op Die Koöperasie se Direksie gedien, met 'n termyn as Voorsitter wat vanaf 2007-2018 gestrek het. Tannie Christine het vir jare die boeke van die besigheid met 'n ferm hand bestuur, en dus is dit g'n wonder dat beide hul kinders gevestig bly in die waardes van harde werk en respek. Maizie is gaande oor Namibië en wanneer sy haarself nie met 'n lekker wegbreek bederf nie, is dit Lika en JC, Jacobus se twee kinders, wat haar besig hou.

Maak nie saak hoeveel keer jy deur die Tsitsikamma-distrik ry nie, dit bly besonders mooi. Vandag het ek nie net 'n melkplaas besoek nie, maar ek was bevoorreg om 'n pragtige gesin uit die kontrei te ontmoet.

- Astrid Fisher
Bemarking en Kommunikasie Spesialis

JAN BRITZ

Risk Advisor: SSK Insurance

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

I grew up in Kroonstad in the Free State, where I learned the true meaning of hard work, humility and perseverance. My mother raised four boys on her own, and despite limited financial resources, faith, discipline and determination were an integral part of our lives. After completing school, I simultaneously completed my SAICA articles and studies at an auditing firm in Bethlehem.

It was also in Bethlehem that I met my beautiful wife, Eloise. We are blessed with two children: Adriaan, who will soon turn two years old, and our daughter, Leane, who was born in December. My family is my anchor and my greatest motivation to do better every day.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY?

We are a family that enjoys the outdoors. We love to camp and to spend quality time together especially at the beach. These moments help us to relax and maintain a healthy balance between work and family life. I also enjoy playing the occasional round of golf – it is a way for me to clear my mind while also staying socially engaged.

SUM UP YOUR CAREER UNTIL NOW

I began my career at an auditing firm which primarily focused on agriculture. This start provided me with a strong platform in finance, auditing and risk management as well as a good understanding of the agricultural sector. Thereafter, I moved jobs and for approximately three years I worked in the banking sector as a financial manager. I soon realised that it wasn't for me and that I missed the agriculture environment. I found my way back into the agricultural sector when I joined GWK in Douglas – first as a credit manager and later as a risk

Jan with his wife, Eloise, and son, Adriaan.

manager. My passion and love for the Eastern Cape, especially the coast, led me to Die Koöperasie where I was appointed Manager: Internal Audit and Risk. Today I am grateful for my new role as Risk Advisor at SSK. I enjoy it to be out of the office and in the field where I work with our members.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT?

My greatest career achievement so far has been the contribution we, as an Internal Audit and Risk Management team, made to ensure and to protect the sustainability and future of Die Koöperasie and its people. It was extremely meaningful to be part of a team which not only identified problems but also assisted in providing solutions to secure sustainability.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AND SSK IN 5 YEARS?

In the next five years I see myself as 'n reliable and acknowledged advisor when it comes to short-term insurance and risk management. I want SSK to be the first stop of contact for members when it comes to expert and practical advice, solutions as well as long-term client relationships. My focus is to grow together with SSK, contribute to the success of the business and to assist in establishing a culture of proactive risk management alongside exceptional client services and satisfaction.

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

The best advice I've received would be "It's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction." These words taught me to stay anchored in my principles, even if it isn't always the easiest path. It also reminds me to always choose and place integrity above ease and to make decisions which are correct for the long term rather than those which are aimed at short-term popularity.

REËNVAL IN STREKE

STREEK	FEB 2026	MAART 2026	APRIL 2026
Aberdeen	109	50	48
Albertinia	62	20	57
Ashton	92	4	49
Avontuur	51	57	46
Cookhouse	145	37	41
George	106	40	50
Heidelberg	50	16	72
Herold	45	88	154
Humansdorp	79	44	64
Joubertina	52	33	51
Karringmelks	59	38	68
Kirkwood	55	15	41
Knysna	52	39	107
Krakeel	177	41	56
Krombeksrivier	56	13	70
Misgund	97	57	54
Mosselbaai	108	25	71
Oos-London	79	44	64
Patensie	93	46	39
Protem	149	2	52
Plettenbergbaai	69	96	76
Riversdal	95	14	68
Swellendam	69	8	57
Uniondale	57	20	31

Geliewe daarop te let dat metings by SSK silo's, waar van toepassing, gedoen is.

NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION REGIONAL INDABA

The Chris Hani Wool Growers' Association, a member of the National Wool Growers' Association, hosted its 7th Regional Indaba on the 23rd of April 2026 at the Zadungeni Shearing Shed in Zadungeni, Ngcobo. Umtiza, proudly SSK, has been supporting this event for years and this year the Umtiza team turned out in full force and colour. The purpose of the event was to follow up on the resolutions discussed at the previous congress, to inform farmers about developments in the wool industry and to bring together producers, suppliers, and key agricultural role players within the sector.

In partnership with the Chris Hani District Municipality, the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and the National Wool Growers' Association, the event proved to be well attended and a great success. It was a platform where expert advice was shared, an opportunity to provide support and where animal health and nutrition were discussed.

SSK VERSEKERING IS WAARDEVOL

Een van die belangrikste aspekte van enige boerdery of besigheid, en waarvoor min mense hulle deeglik voorberei, of wat dikwels nie as 'n prioriteit beskou word nie, is versekering. Dit is juis wanneer verlies jou tref dat 'n mens die noodsaaklikheid daarvan ten volle besef. Vir SSK-lid Keith Moodie was dit onlangs weer 'n duidelike bewys van hoe belangrik korttermynversekering is. In Januarie 2026 is Keith en sy vrou, Michelle, deur brandskade geraak toe 'n veldbrand groot verwoesting op hul plaas veroorsaak het.

Grootvadersbosch Farm in die Heidelberg-distrik, was maar net een van verskeie plase in die omgewing wat deur brandskade geraak is. Keith, die vyfde generasie op die plaas, is 'n afgetrede melkboer. Hy en Michelle bestuur steeds die gastehuis op die plaas, terwyl die bewerkbare grond deur die bure gehuur word.

As lede van die Grootvadersbosch Conservancy geniet hulle dit om aktief betrokke te wees by natuurbewaring. Die Grootvadersbosch Conservancy is in 1992 gestig as die eerste van sy soort in die Wes-Kaap. Die primêre doel van hierdie inisiatief was om die verspreiding van swartbasbome in die gebied te bekamp. Vandag fokus die instansie ook op ander bewaringsinisiatiewe soos riviergesondheid, die bewaring van die rooivinvis en effektiewe brandbestuur.

Grootvadersbosch Farm is gevolglik deur CapeNature as 'n natuurreservaat verklaar, met die doel om renosterveld te bewaar. Met sowat 5% van die oorspronklike renosterveld in die Suid-Kaap wat nog bestaan, speel vuurgedrewe ekologie 'n belangrike rol in die voortbestaan van hierdie unieke fynbos soort. Die feit dat die vuur wat in Januarie deur die gebied gewoed het onbeheer was, het gelei tot grootskaalse verwoesting van fynbos sowel as infrastruktuur soos heinings en geboue. Dit was egter vir Keith bevredigend hoe SSK Versekering hom gehelp het met sy eis en die diens wat hy ontvang het.

"SSK Versekering het tot ons hulp gekom. Mic Gildenhuys en sy span, Amoritha en Claire, was uitstekend ten opsigte van hoe hulle ons eis hanteer het. Daar was geen probleme nie en die diens wat ek ontvang het, was uiters professioneel. Alles was vinnig uitsorteer en doeltreffend bestuur. Ek is verskriklik dankbaar vir die hulp en ondersteuning wat ek vanaf SSK Versekering ontvang het."

Keith Moodie

SSK VERSEKERING PRESTEER

'n Trotse oomblik vir SSK Versekering wat tydens die jaarlikse Old Mutual Insure Broker Awards, in die Outsourced Business Solutions kategorie, met die silwertoekenning weggestap het. SSK Versekering het ook 'n silwertoekenning by die onlangse Boland-streek Santam Exchange Roadshow ontvang. Hierdie toekenning dien as erkenning van uitsonderlike prestasie in die 2025 finansiële jaar in die Worcester-streek.

V.l.n.r: Richard Beukes (Wes-Kaapse Streeksbestuurder: Old Mutual Insure), Mic Gildenhuys (Bestuurder: SSK Versekering) en David Pedra (Uitvoerende Hoof van Gekontrakteerde Besigheids-oplossings: Old Mutual Insure)

V.l.n.r: Mic Gildenhuys (Bestuurder: SSK Versekering), Carola Koekemoer (Risiko Adviseur: SSK Versekering Swellendam), Retha Schreuder (Santam Streeksbestuurder: Boland), Abrie Jooste (Risiko Adviseur: SSK Versekering Swellendam) en David Wolfaardt (Risiko Adviseur: SSK Versekering Heidelberg)

SSK LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION

UMTIZA FARMERS' CORP

40 YEARS: Jan Slingers
35 YEARS: Gavin Pieterse, Wilna Botha
30 YEARS: Rudy Nel
25 YEARS: Litecia Swartbooi
20 YEARS: Alwyn Burger, Henry Isaacs, Dirk Solomons, Andy van Tonder, Willie de Kock, Karen Nel & Jeswayne Leonard
15 YEARS: Johannes Hartnick, Tommie Skietekat, Johan Pieterse, Sharon van Vught, Dephne du Plessis, Loyiso Xovudaka, Di-On van Zyl, Jonathan Felix & Mzwekhaya Tom
10 YEARS: Johan Hurter, Icy Philander, Yvette Swart, André Williams, Garswin Williams, Johan Myburgh, Maseli Jantjies, Gert de Vos, Sibusiso Khakana, Ulrich Pienaar, Zoleka Nkone & Zolani Tancy

Henry Gale, Senior Manager: Grain and Kobus Fourie, Silo Operations Manager, congratulate Jan Slingers on 40 years of dedicated service.

Werner Kruger, Chief Operating Officer: Commercial and André van Wyk, Branch Manager: Agriland Swellendam, congratulate Gavin Pieterse, Store Marketer, on 35 years of dedicated service.

Francois Möller, Operations Manager: Retail, congratulates Wilna Botha, Senior Admin Officer, on 35 years of dedicated service.

Werner Kruger, Chief Operating Officer: Commercial and Ryno van der Merwe, Branch Manager: Agriland Heidelberg, congratulate Rudy Nel, Head: Store and Site, on 30 years of dedicated service.

Phillip Rosslee, Branch Manager: Agriland Kareedouw, congratulates Litecia Swartbooi, Admin Clerk, on 25 years of dedicated service.

Villiers van Veen, Chief Financial Officer, congratulates Alwyn Burger, Senior Manager: Human Resources, on 20 years of dedicated service.

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BATHURST AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The Bathurst Agricultural Show, held annually in the small town of Bathurst, is one of South Africa's oldest and most cherished rural traditions. The Lower Albany Agricultural Society formed on 12 April 1848, with the first show being held on 6 March 1850, where livestock and wheat were the main attractions and competition was heated. Originally founded by British settlers in the area, the link between the founders of the show and the 1820 Settlers persists to this day. The show reflects the deep agricultural roots of the region and has grown into a vibrant celebration of farming life, community spirit and local heritage.

The show was originally designed as a platform for farmers to showcase their livestock, crops, and agricultural skills. In its early years, it played a crucial role in sharing knowledge and improving farming practices, particularly in a frontier environment where innovation and resilience were essential. Over time, the event evolved beyond its strict agricultural focus to include crafts, home industries and entertainment - making it a highlight on the Eastern Cape's social calendar.

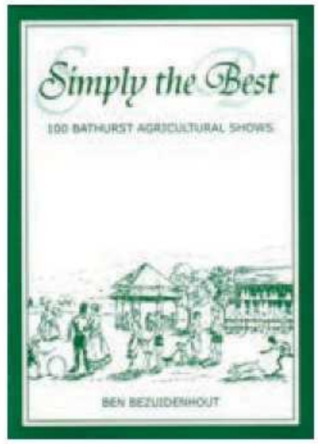
One of the most fascinating aspects of the Bathurst Agricultural Show is its continuity. Despite challenges such as economic shifts, droughts, wars and Covid, the show has endured for more than 170 years. This longevity makes it one of the oldest continuously running agricultural shows in the country - a testament to the dedication of the local community.

Colin Purdon was a happy man, all three daughters were entered in the baby show. The eldest daughter won a prize and the twins won a prize in their section too. The man was so chuffed about the whole event he was seen marching in the Grand Parade behind the animal section with a large red sash round his shoulders and the words "Champion Bull of the Show!" Abstract from the book Simply The Best: 100 Bathurst Agricultural Shows by Ben Bezuidenhout

Livestock has always been at the heart of the show. Cattle, sheep, goats and poultry competitions remain central attractions, showcasing the quality and diversity of local farming. However, the show is also known for its equestrian events, including show jumping, dressage and other disciplines, which draw participants from across the region. Another interesting feature is the blending of traditional and modern elements. Alongside classic exhibits like baking, preserves, and handicrafts, visitors can enjoy live music, food stalls, and family-friendly activities. The showgrounds themselves have become a cultural landmark, hosting not only the annual event but also other community gatherings throughout the year.

Mention must be made of the Bathurst Agricultural Museum which, in its display of machinery from nearly 200 years ago to more modern implements showcases, the tenacity and doggedness of purpose of the Eastern Cape Farmers.

Today, the Bathurst Agricultural Show remains more than just an exhibition - it is a living piece of history. It brings together generations of farmers, artisans and visitors, preserving traditions while adapting to contemporary times. In doing so, it continues to celebrate the enduring importance of agriculture in South Africa's cultural and economic landscape.



https://thebas.co.za/
Anne White - President: Bathurst Agricultural Society

Community members and farmers gathered in 1904 to enjoy the festivities of the Bathurst Agricultural Show.

PUIK PRESTASIE PIET

Piet saam met Morné Oliver, Babylonstoren se tuinier, by die 1221 kg pampoen.
Foto: Babylonstoren

Vanjaar het Piet Lotz weer groot opslae gemaak toe hy by die Groot Pampoenfees in Heidelberg nie net sy persoonlike rekord verbeter het nie, maar ook 'n nuwe Suid-Afrikaanse rekord vir die swaarste pampoen, opgestel het. Die reusagtige pampoen wat vanjaar ingeweeg is, het 'n allemintige 1 221 kg geweeg. Dit is tans die swaarste pampoen nóg in Suid-Afrika en in die Suidelike Halfrond. Die huidige wêreldrekord staan op 1 278,8 kg, opgestel deur die Paton-broers in die Verenigde Koninkryk in 2025.

Babylonstoren, die gewilde en historiese toeristebestemming net buite Franschhoek, het Piet genooi om die pampoen op die landgoed ten toon te stel. Besoekers het dit as wonderbaarlik en amusant ervaar, met talle wat hul gelukwense met Piet op sosiale media gedeel het.

MEI 2026 NATUURRAMP

Ten spyte van waarskuwings deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Weerdiens net voor 7 Mei, is die Wes-Kaap, Oos-Kaap en ander dele van die land deur swaar reën en stormsterk winde getref. Die nagevolge van hierdie weertoestande het tot oorstromings en windskade in baie dele van SSK se bedieningsgebied gelei.

Uniondale - Bron: Oudtshoorn Courant

Robertson - Bron: Martin Venn

Joubertina - Bron: Christi Strydom

Keurboomsrivier - Bron: Onbekend

George - Bron: George Herold

De Vlugt - Bron: Adri van Rooyen

Gamtoosriviervallei- Bron: Kouga Munisipaliteit

Gamtoosriviervallei - Bron: Kouga Munisipaliteit

Swellendam - Bron: Gerda Uren

Swellendam - Bron: Chris Heyneman

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