



GET READY FOR SPRING...

Arbor Week is a national campaign initiated to celebrate South Africa's trees and to raise awareness about their importance. The theme for Arbor Week 2016 is "Forests and Water". It is celebrated in South Africa from 1-7 September annually. This year ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij will be donating fruit trees to the Stellenbosch Night Shelter.



Did you know...

The ARC has a newly established **Employee Transformation Committee!** For more information on member representatives, please visit pg 4 of the newsletter...



Mandela Day 2016



Wine evaluation training

Comments / Suggestions

Forward to:

DERUSHA CRANK
Public Relations

CrankD@arc.agric.za

(021) 809 3100

News



WOMEN'S DAY 2016

ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij hosted its annual Women's Day event for female employees on 12 August 2016. As an acknowledgment of the

significant role that women in the field of agricultural play, the Agricultural Research Council invited female employees to a high tea. Ladies were encouraged to dress to the nines and enjoy some insightful conversation with fellow colleagues over a cup of coffee and tea time treats.

The celebrations started with a presentation by ICAS (ARC's newly appointed employee health & wellbeing service provider) which focused on issues affecting women at home and in the workplace. The ladies were also treated to sample Annique health and beauty products and were taught to crochet. The prize for best table setting went to *CROP DEVELOPMENT* and the prize for best dressed was awarded to *HAPPINESS MASIMINI* (pictured on the cover of this newsletter). It was definitely a well-deserved morning break enjoyed by all. The ARC once again wishes to thank all these wonderful women for their continued efforts to help ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector in South Africa. For more pictures, visit the share drive I:\Functions & Events\2016 - Women's Day



MANDELA DAY 2016

Employees of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in Stellenbosch participated in Mandela Day 2016 by donating toiletries to the Stellenbosch Night Shelter in Cloetesville. The shelter makes provision for 30 men and 10 women by providing them with a warm place to sleep, two meals a day, use of ablution facilities and access to social services. It is entirely dependent on donations from the community to cover its running costs. We are extremely grateful to our ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij employees for opening their hearts and participating in the Nelson Mandela International Day initiative. Pictured here are some of the occupants at the Night Shelter looking very happy and grateful for the generous donations.



REMEMBER TO BUY YOUR STICKERS FOR CASUAL DAY ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

Great footballs of fire, what to wear for Casual Day? Paint your face in the colour of your team, get out your bats, racquets, balls and wacky hats. Pump up the volume, feel the need for speed, keep the score, get your game on and head for the winning post. Keep the flag flying to show your commitment to improving the world for persons with disabilities. GET YOUR R10 STICKER AND SHOW YOU CARE IN YOUR SPORTS WEAR!

Contact Glenda Beyers at Nietvoorbij or Beverley Daniels at Infruitec.





SASEV CONFERENCE 2016

The research group of Dr Francois Halleen, ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij, in collaboration with Dr Lizel Mostert from the Plant Pathology Department at Stellenbosch University presented 4 lectures and 8 posters at the 38th SASEV / Winetech Conference in Somerset West from 23-25 August 2016. MSc student Madeleine Sieberhagen won the award for Best Student Presentation, and PhD student Annabella Baloyi the award for Best Student Poster Presentation.

Pictured here are from left to right: Mr Ihan du Plessis (MSc student), Ms Palesa Lesuthu (ARC Infruitec Nietvoorbij, MTech student), Dr Chris Spies (Postdoc), Ms Madeleine Sieberhagen (MSc), Dr Lizel Mostert (Stellenbosch University), Ms Providence Moyo (PhD), Mr Shaun Langenhoven (MSc), Ms Annabella Baloyi (PhD), Mr Wynand van Jaarsveld (MSc) and Dr Francois Halleen (ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij).

warm hearts WINTER CAMPAIGN

The annual “warm hearts winter campaign” was introduced after the success of ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij’s Mandela Day project last year. The aptly themed corporate social responsibility campaign shows that employees of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) are caring and compassionate.

Employees open their hearts (and wallets) and donate warm clothes and non-perishable goods in support of Pastor Anthony Otto’s soup kitchen at the Community Hall on the Nietvoorbij Farm. Pastor Anthony of the Salt & Light Mission Ministry, took over the community hall in 2015 with members of the Nietvoorbij community assisting with cleaning the front premises of the building, cutting of grass and painting. The building is used for Sunday services, weekly prayer meetings and the feeding scheme (soup kitchen), which feeds a great portion of the community every week.



UP COMING EVENTS

Mega Week in Bredasdorp: 14-17 September
 Fruit Industry Gala Evening at the NH Lord Charles Hotel: 16 September
 SAPO Nursery Information Day in Wellington: 22 September
 Employee Heritage Day event: 23 September
 Agri Expo Livestock at Sandringham: 13—15 October
 RUFORUM 5th Biennial Conference at Century City: 17-21 October

ARC INFRUITEC-NIETVOORBII GROWING YOUNG MINDS

Zhenath Cookson, a Grade 11 learner at Zandvliet High School, visited ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij to complete a life orientation task of observing people working in a field of their choice. As Zhenath has a passion for science, she decided to visit our microbiology lab. She chose the ARC because her aunt interned here before (in microbiology as well). During that time, she visited and found it very interesting.



She says her 2-day job shadowing experience was “awesome” and that she learnt many new and fascinating things. One of her highlights was observing DNA extractions from wine yeasts and she looked forward to learning more about DNA fingerprinting. Zhenath shadowed **JODY DE WET**, a student doing Work Integrated Learning as part of his Bio-Technology degree at CPUT as well as **ROBYN-LEE LOUW**, a UWC BSc: Medical Bioscience graduate. Robyn-Lee applied for an internship through the NRF and was successfully placed at the ARC for one year. Both Jody and Robyn-Lee are supervised by Justin Hoff.



INSTITUTE TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE

This committee was established to deal with issues relating to employee equity, gender, race, age, persons with disabilities and any other issues relating to the health & well-being of ARC employees. The main function is to oversee and drive the skills development and employment equity plan of the ARC.

Committee members at ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij are: Rodney Hart; Bongani Ndimba; Jakobus Basjan; Abraham Vermeulen; Annisa De Vos; Reckson Mulidzi; SK Qotyiwe; Philisiwe Shange; Yolanda Petersen and Vernon Adams.



ROOIBOS MICROBE POT TRIAL

Dr Bester and the honeybush team assisted Dr Hannes Gamper from Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH Zurich) from Switzerland and his doctoral student Josep Ramoneda from Spain as well as Dr Jaco le Roux of the Botany and Zoology department of Stellenbosch University with the establishment of their rooibos microbe pot trial. The germination of the seeds was more than 90% and the few pots without seedlings were re-sown. Dr Bester's team are maintaining the trial on behalf of Dr Gamper. A maintenance fee of R55 000 was paid to the ARC. The trial will be running till April 2017.



From left: Mr Josep Ramoneda (ETH), Dr Hannes Gamper (ETH), Dr Jaco le Roux (SU), Dr Cecilia Bester (ARC INF-NVB)

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2016

National Science Week (NSW), an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is a countrywide celebration of science, involving various stakeholders and/or role players conducting science-based activities. The event took place from 8 – 13 August under the theme “Science for Sustainable Development and Improved Quality of Life”. It is an annual event aimed at celebrating the role that science, mathematics, engineering and technology play in everyday life, and encourages more young people to follow careers in these fields.

ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij participated at the Expo held at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) on 5-6 August 2016. About 140 schools from all over the Western Cape as well as high profile dignitaries visited the stand to learn more about our research and development. Scholars were fascinated with the sterile fly display which attracted a lot of attention over the two days. The National Minister of Science and Technology (Naledi Pandor) and Premier of Western Cape (Helen Zille) were very proud of the work ARC is doing, especially our low chill apples. Ms Zille even mention it in her speech to the learners during the launch event.



WINE EVALUATION TRAINING

An essential part of our wine research projects is the evaluation of the wine produced in our Research Cellar. Therefore, the Experimental Wine Evaluation Committee decided to conduct wine evaluation training to create an awareness of wine appreciation amongst our personnel, with a long term aim to increase the number of personnel that can participate in the annual experimental wine evaluations.

Each session started with wine aroma training followed by the wine evaluation. Wines, ranging from a crisp white Sauvignon Blanc to a South African favourite, the classic Pinotage were scored on colour, nose, taste and general quality. They even threw in a few fault wines to wreak havoc with our taste buds. All in all, the sessions were very informative and a lot of fun.



ICAS (Independent Counselling and Advisory Services)

If you didn't attend the ICAS presentation, we encourage you to visit the website (www.icas.co.za). ICAS is the newly appointed Employee Health & Wellbeing Service Provider of the ARC. They can assist with a host of personal or work related issues that may affect you or members of your immediate family. The service is FREE and ANONYMOUS! Call them on the dedicated 24/7 helpline for ARC employees - **0800222278** - which is totally free from a landline!