

Southern African Institute of Forestry



Delivering a professional service to forestry

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Contents:

1. Editorial (p.1)
2. From the President's Desk : " August : Women's Month" (p. 2)
3. Women in Forestry : Prof. Mary Scholes (p.4)
4. Celebrating African Women in the Forestry Sector : Ms Keneilwe Mabena (p.4)
5. Tribute :Michael "Mike" John Prevost (p.5)
6. "Change is real" by Rob Thompson (p. 6)
7. IFSA Forestry Career in Africa book launched by: Morné Booij-Liewes (p.8)
8. Stellenbosch University: Department of Forest and Wood Science : SU-FOR First Thursdays (p.8)
9. Counting The Cost of the recent unrest (p.9)
10. National Arbour Month : September 2021 (p.10)
11. SAIF Awards Ceremony (p.11)
12. SAIF Photo Competition (p.12)
13. SAIF Contacts / June Birthdays (p.13)

Editorial

Most of us experienced a tough and challenging winter in 2021 with yet again an increase in the number of COVID-19 infections recorded and the Forestry Industry did not escape the might of the pandemic with at least three well-known and prominent persons serving the industry over many years succumbing to the virus. We were all shocked by the passing away of Dr. Jaap Steenkamp a long-standing member of the SAIF who served the industry on many fronts. Piet van Zyl, CEO of York Timbers as well as Benno Krieg formerly from SAFCOL / KLF and well-know in Forest Engineering circles all passed away in July 2021.

Sadly July was also the month in which Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng Provinces were shaken by extreme riots and looting which shocked most South Africans. The Forest and Forest Products Industry also suffered severely as a result of the unrest, looting and damage. More of this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

One cannot be blamed for asking "what next...?".

As a result of delays in July and other challenges, it was decided to combine the August and September 2021 Newsletters into one bumper edition. We hope to return with our monthly newsletter in October.

Meanwhile, we also have a lot to be thankful for and celebrated Women's month and Women's Day in South Africa and in September we will also celebrate National Arbour / Tree Planting Month.

Please don't forget to send your entries for the Annual Calendar Photo Competition by 30 September 2021.



SAIF Calendar Aug 2021 : Photographer: Mike Hunter | Branch: KwaZulu-Natal | Description: Comrie Splendour



From the President's Desk **August : Women's Month**

Every year, in August, our country marks Women's Month, where we pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women.

This year marks 65 years since the watershed 1956 women's march to the Union Buildings. The year 2021 also marks the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, which created a platform for greater gender equality.

I think that all of us will agree that the woman / women in our lives deserve some recognition and in the form of a month / day dedicated to them. Although International Women's Day was celebrated on the 8th of March 2021, we in South Africa once again celebrated National Women's Day on Monday the 9th of August 2021 which in itself gave many the opportunity to take a short break before tackling the remaining just under five months of 2021.

Most of us have very fond memories of our childhood days and our caring and loving mother and her valuable contribution to our education and upbringing. Spare a thought for the many single mothers out there who work tirelessly to feed and foster their children. Kudos to all of them !

We need not look much further than what one of the most intelligent and wise men who ever walked this earth said about them thousands of years ago.

Solomon said the following of women/ wives : *An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. (Prov. 31: 10-15 ESV)* We think of those mothers who do home-schooling (i.e the teacher) of their children and still fulfil all the other responsibilities of a housewife and mother and even a working mum.

Those of us who witnessed that, will agree that it takes a special person to do that. Most of us men, simply don't have the patience and passion for that.

And for those of us who still believe that a woman's place is in the kitchen and just bringing up kids: *She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. (Prov.31: 15-19 ESV).* Many women have also proved themselves in business and society and reached the highest level and became CEO's and General Managers of big companies. We do have to admit that there is still a fair amount of prejudice about and discrimination against women.

She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. (Prov.31: 20) Certainly a well-known example of this trait would be Mother Teresa . This tiny Albanian-Indian woman received much respect from all over the globe for her selfless work as a Catholic Nun and saint working amongst the poor, sick and needy. She founded the Missionaries of Charity that had 4500 nuns and was active in 133 countries and who reached out to people dying from HIV/AIDS , leprosy and tuberculosis. I cannot help but wonder how she would have responded to the current COVID-19 pandemic and all the restrictions and regulations placed on mankind ...

Some female names and personalities however stir up mixed emotions if mentioned but I will not venture further into this dangerous territory.

Closer to home and more specifically with respect to the Institute, we are very privileged to have two hard-working women in our team who lead by example namely Corine Viljoen our National Secretary who has been faithfully serving our Institute since 1991 ie. For 30 years (3 decades) ! She saw several Presidents and Council members come and go over the years.

What would the Institute have done without her?





Corine Viljoen , the SAIF's own Iron Lady

Tammy Swain was the first lady to become president of the SAIF , breaking ground in what used to be up to that date very much a "Man's world" . Hannel Ham was the second lady president of the Institute and I have no doubt that there will be more in future.

Hannél Ham is really coming into her own as Editor of **Southern Forests** in taking the Southern Forests Journal to a new level and can be very proud of what she has achieved to date after taking over from Andrew Morris. (read more about her achievements in the July 2021 Newsletter).

These ladies really make us proud and are such assets to the Institute as well as to the whole of the Industry . We honour them for their dedication !

August 2021 was also 2020 Summer Olympics month and who saved the day for South Africa in Tokio other than two stand-out women competitors ? Tatjana Schoenmaker won two medals , one gold and one silver in swimming as well as Bianca Buitendag Silver in which was the first ever Women's Surfing event at the Olympics ! Several of our male competitors did well but not one got further than 4th place in their respective events .

Hats off to our women competitors who did us proud and avoided a total embarrassment for the country !



A very emotional Tatjana Schoenmaker after winning gold and setting a new world record in the 200m breast-stroke at the 2020 Olympics

We would like to thank all our ladies who make a difference in our lives, many not receiving rewards and recognition for their sacrifices , hard work, faith and determination. We honour you and trust that you did enjoy a special day and month .



Sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother_Teresa
- <https://www.gov.za/WomensMonth2021>
- <https://www.news24.com/sport/othersport/olympics2020/curtain-comes-down-on-sas-tokyo-olympic-campaign-and-worst-medal-haul-since-2008-20210808>



Women in Forestry

Mary Scholes



**Professor, University of Witwatersrand
Research**

I have 25-years of forestry research experience, starting with Sappi and now with various forestry stakeholders including government, NGO and FSA. My work focuses on the sustainability of plantations, optimising growth of trees while minimising ecological harm. It is aligned with the International Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In particular, I look at Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorus and how these elements impact sustainability, as trees do not grow without them. I therefore, look at them across the system as a whole, using system analysis to measure as many components as you can, from soil levels to the levels found within the wood. An important aspect of the work I do is to look at the impact of Climate Change and the impact this will have on forestry moving forwards.

“Over the years I have trained researchers and students of all levels, from post-graduates working towards their PhDs and Masters to undergraduates and high school learners. I believe anyone can be involved in forestry work. You do not need to be “super smart” and certainly, your gender does not matter, what you need is passion and drive.”

“Science is not a man’s world, any women can become a successful forester and scientist. What’s more, you will be making a very important contribution to the economy, global sustainability and how the industry adapts to Climate Change.

<https://www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za/2021/02/10/mary-scholes/>

Celebrating African Women in the Forestry Sector : Ms Keneilwe Mabena - Forestry Oversight Specialist

Qualifications: BTech Forestry and BA Hon Development Studies

Keneilwe Mabena works at the Department of Public Enterprises, with more than twenty years’ experience in both private and public sectors of the forestry industry.



Her career started with Mondi Forests in the Natal Midlands, as the company’s first black female Silviculture forester. She was then transferred to Sabie area as Silviculture and Harvesting forester. Mondi was then sold to Global Forests Products, she worked as a manager and custodian of one of the largest plantations for the company – Rhenosterhoek plantation. When she left the company to join the public sector at the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, she was appointed as Assistant Director – Operational audits on leased entities. Her love for forestry is not just limited to operations, she served in the Forestry Sector Charter Council and the National Advisory Council as the only female professional forester. This inspired her to a vision where in 2018, a vision was born. She founded the Association for Women in Forestry Africa (WiFA). WiFA, was launched successfully in December 2020 with attendance from 10 African countries.

WiFA in collaboration with key stakeholders will be hosting a webinar in October 2021. More details will be shared with stakeholders and on www.a4wifa.org.za.

Contact details: info@wifa.org.za

Tribute

Michael "Mike" John Prevost

22.11.1944 – 24.07.2021

Mike was born in Cape Town and attended Bishops Junior and Kingswood College in Grahamstown from Standard 5. His parents Peggoty and John, moved to the then Salisbury, Rhodesia to expand the insurance business into Rhodesia, Northern and Southern Nyasaland.

The university town of Stellenbosch lured Mike to complete his BSc Forestry degree. He took a year off and renovated houses in Newlands and returned to varsity and completed his masters in 1969. On holidays, Mike would join a good family friend, Johnny Hutton-Squire at their family farm in Elgin. It was on one of these trips, when the boys went around to Lorraine farm to swim, that Mike met Gillian "Gay" Tilney.

Mike and Gay were married in the Applethwaite Farm church on 2 October 1970. They moved back to Rhodesia, initially settling in the then Salisbury (now Harare, Zimbabwe). Initially, Mike was a member of the forest research team of Rhodesian Forest Commission in Salisbury. In 1977, he moved to Umtali (now Mutare) where he joined Border Timbers (Anglo American Corp. Forest Interests) as a Forest Manager controlling all company forest interests in the Eastern borderland. Later the post was upgraded to Forest Adviser when the post included sawmilling interests as well.

Mike had three children: John (Cape Town), Adrian (Brisbane, Australia) and Mark (Cape Town). In the early eighties, the family moved from Zimbabwe to settle on Lorraine Farm, Elgin, after the death of Gay's mother. Mike joined Elgin Timbers and later became the MD of the company, building a legacy of timber homes across the Southern Cape and up the west coast.

At the turn of the century Mike took up farming full-time. Mike and Gay had always had a key interest in

nature and the "silent" springs led to them transforming Lorraine Farm into an organic operation.

Mike was one of a handful of deciduous farmers that pioneered the organic route. It was not easy. One of the spin offs was apple cider vinegar operation that Mark continues to drive under the Elgin Organics brand. Gay passed away in 2014 after a long battle with cancer and with no apparent farmers in the family, the farm was sold. Mike remained on the farm for 5 years and then moved to retire in Somerset West. During this period he met and married Martie Lancellas where he developed a strong faith in the Lord.

Mike loved travelling both within South Africa with family and friends, across Africa and abroad to Europe and Australia. Mike had a passion for all things botanical and would freely share his knowledge. He continued to maintain Gay's joy for Elgin open gardens after her death.

In 2017, Mike and Peter Keyworth organized a 50th Forestry reunion in Hermanus.



From left to right: Hugh Lourens, Dave Boden, Detlef Frahm Arp, Gerrit van Wyk (Prof Dr), Diek van der Zel (Dr), Paul Marwick, Neville Perry, Mike Prevost, Peter Keyworth

Our condolences to the Prevost family on the loss of their husband, father and grandfather.

Thank you to John and Tammy Prevost for supplying this wonderful tribute to perhaps one of our lesser known but very faithful SAIF members for the past forty years.



Change is real

By Rob Thompson

There is a rather paradoxical saying that I have subscribed to for years. It's worded along the following lines: - "The more things change, the more things stay as they are!"

If memory serves, I have even themed an article or two previously around this adage supporting the sentiment expressed therein.

Of late however, I must confess to having become a sceptic and currently lean towards the view that things have indeed changed radically beyond that which we always thought normal and straightforward. Allow me to share a few of the signals that I have received recently and have pondered over, leading me to alter my thought trajectory.

I recently underwent a follow up eye examination by a specialist ophthalmologist. After having gone through the ritual of screening, sanitizing, and waiting in isolation in a small waiting room, the surgeon made his appearance, strode forward, hand outstretched in welcome and ... I suddenly realized that I had almost forgotten how to conduct a handshake. The good doctor saw my bewildered attempt at physical greeting and hastily said "Don't worry...we can sanitise!" We shook hands, and then passed between us a bottle of sanitizer so as to kill all nasties that may have been transferred during the brief contact.

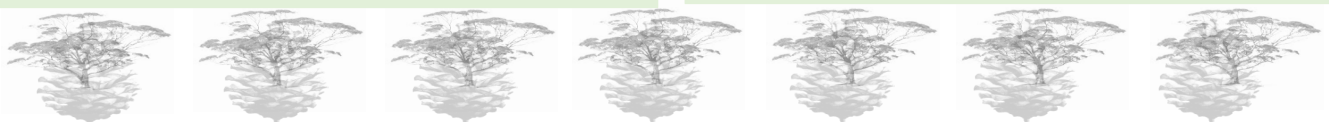
My doctor told me that he longed for a return to pre-pandemic days as he still cannot get used to fist bumps and elbow-waltzes. He is more tactile by nature. My sense of normality was further blown out of the window when I asked the Doc how things were going with him. "Fantastic" he relied, in a very everyday manner, "We have been really blessed. The riots ended four blocks away so our surgery and equipment didn't get trashed", a rather understated reference to the multi-million Rands worth of optical surgical machinery that the eye hospital must contain. "For heaven's sake", I thought, "this is the 21st century and here we have a specialist eye surgeon casually mentioning his near miss with an insurrection in passing, just as one would discuss a recent thunderstorm".

When I asked as to how his practice was doing, he explained that he is down to a quarter of his normal patient throughput. People are Covid wary (and now have security issues as well) and are seemingly ignoring their regular health checks and interventions. To me this represents significant change!

Remember the good old days when the SAIF used to hold Branch talks on all manner of topics? FSC versus PEFC certification, Biodiversity assemblages across various terrain types, Bees and the services they render, Mechanical vs. manual plantation operations, reports from overseas travels and many, many more topical themes relevant to the forestry practitioner. As an aside, it is really great to see the ongoing monthly presentations on Forestry topics via Teams. We should grow this even further as this type of more informal information sharing holds huge value.

My organization followed suit and implemented quarterly talks on topics relevant to staff, initially in person and later via Teams. The theme of the most recent presentation that we watched, suddenly hammered home to me the extent of the change that we have all been unwittingly, and in most cases, unknowingly, exposed to. It was a discussion by a leading clinical psychologist on mental health, anxiety management, and how to deal with post-traumatic stress (aka post looting stress). Flashbacks to my early days in forestry brought back recollections of "normal" presentations such as those about fire break preparation, conducting disciplinary hearings properly, methods to determine accurate stand volume from cruising data and the ever-exciting staff assessment process ... and now we are addressing very real mental health issues. How times have changed!

Working with a timber marketing organization, we obviously have to deal with clients across the globe. Pre-2020, our marketing team spent literally weeks every year travelling, primarily to the East, in order to participate in very formal and tradition-bound price and volume negotiations. These proceedings were often protracted affairs, requiring multiple trips in some cases before conclusion.



It was not only about the negotiation. It was more about relationship and trust building and respecting each other's culture. I enquired from the marketing guys the other day as to when a return to marketing travel was likely. "Nah" came the response, "Have a look at this". My colleague showed me a series of WhatsApp messages on his cell phone all pertaining to various recent deals signed and sealed on the App. Global circumstances have seemingly done away with the tradition of structured formal negotiation and replaced it with simple text messaging. Try and tell me that this is not real change!

Corridor chatter has also revealed to me the extent of permanent change that we have endured. Yes, there are fewer office personnel physically attending most workplaces nowadays, but those that do, have one thing in common...they love interaction with fellow staff members given their isolated and lonely experiences with work-from-home during hard lockdown. For as long as I have worked in an office, corridor chatter or tearoom debate was always copiously interlaced with a good deal of good old "skinner", a close to the mark joke every now and again, someone getting pranked or shared news of matters social or work.

Who has noticed the considerably reduced topic playlist during a corridor trawl in times pandemic? If you haven't yet...listen out for yourself and tell me if I'm wrong!

- So have you had your jab yet?
- Are you going to have a jab?
- Why aren't you having a jab?
- Where are you going for your jab?
- Should I have a jab?
- Which jab?
- Someone took the sanitizer out of my office!

The change to office speak is real!

I was departing the office the other day when I noticed two colleagues hunched over a lap-top screen deep in discussion.

"This one is more expensive but far more efficient"

"Ja, but have a look at the accessories on this one and the power output".

"True, but does it have the range and will it make an

impression?"

"I reckon, but you might have to change the valve."

"Ah ha", I thought as I moved into gatecrash, "At last a discussion about real forestry machines, maybe harvesters or a mechanical planter?"

As I peered at the screen, I saw images of various pepper ball pistols used for self-defense.

"Ja, I don't have a firearm but one of these would be handy if I have to stand beat on the road again" explained my colleague. Again, visions of my career flashed through my mind, and I could not recall ever before discussing pepper ball markers with colleagues. Changed times indeed!

(Don't judge me though, I already own a powerful marker and have great fun in manufacturing ammo for it in my man-cave. It's a great man-toy and as my long-suffering wife has come to understand, one can never have enough air powered weaponry... one thing in my life that has not changed!)

So all this talk of permanent change. Is it something to be concerned about? Is the content of this article designed to highlight a resignation towards the inevitable?

Far from it. In my opinion, change has arrived. It is what it is, and we need to get to know this new change, how it manifests and come to terms with it, just as one would a new colleague.

It's a little more than just sanitizing and wearing a mask. It's all about observing, learning and adapting and there is only one person who can do this...you! You do however have to accept the necessity of this adaption to make it happen. Good luck!

Thank you to Forestry South Africa for their Continued Support to the SAIF



IFSA Forestry Career in Africa book launched

By: Morné Booij-Liewes

The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and the joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forestry Education launched their book "Building a successful forestry career in Africa: Inspirational stories and opportunities" during an online event on 12 August. This book is a project spearheaded by young people for young people and profiles 23 success stories of African forestry professionals. Speaking at the launch, Prof. Mike Wingfield, Immediate Past President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) said that it was a joy to read the inspirational stories of young African forestry professionals profiled in this book. Mike also wrote the Foreword for the book that was conceived in 2019 and during his tenure as IUFRO President. The point was made that forestry is not an immediate choice for employment or a career path for many young Africans. This book aims to change that view by offering practical advice on where to study forestry on the continent and providing advice on opportunities for networking, tips on applying for scholarships and other practical suggestions.

As the first African IUFRO President, Mike had undertaken to promote the interests of forestry and forestry education on the continent during his five-year term. He thanked IFSA and the Task Force for providing impetus and material that helped him to succeed in this goal. He noted that the book is a product of the IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education established in 2015 during his Presidential term and is led by IUFRO Board member Prof. Sandra Rodriguez. It provides deep insights into the value of mentorship and the importance of choosing powerful role models to support the goals of students and forestry professionals. While the book has a significant African focus, its relevance extends far more broadly, and it will be one of the most important resources to future forestry students and educators in this field.

In his presentation during the book launch, Dr Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director of IUFRO, encouraged students to harness the networking opportunities offered by IUFRO membership, involvement in IUFRO Working Parties and other associated opportunities illustrated in the book.

The book can be downloaded from here: <https://www.iufro.org/publications/other-publications/article/2021/07/17/building-a-successful-forestry-career-in-africa/>

Stellenbosch University: Department of Forest and Wood Science **SU-FOR First Thursdays –**

"Modelling the effect of stand density management and environmental variables on Pinus patula wood properties" – by Dr. Justin Erasmus

Available on Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/gnUATHCTro8Modelling>

Other recent Topics :

<https://youtu.be/KbEUwXNijFI> - Concept and application of Depth-to-Water maps in forestry - [Marian Schönauer – University of Göttingen] (03/06/2021)

<https://youtu.be/uhnPoPehJIO> - SU FOR First Thursdays The POPI Act and the Benefits of a Common National Harvesting Data Portal [Rasmus Astrup - NIBIO] (6/5/2021)

<https://youtu.be/l3DtCOhbG3M> - Journey into using harvesting machine data in forestry [Dannyboy Seboa – Mondi] (1/4/2021)

<https://youtu.be/0KfeDS8geuQUnlocking> - The potential of harvester OBC data in the South African forestry value chain [Marius Terblanche – SU/Sappi] (4/3/2021)



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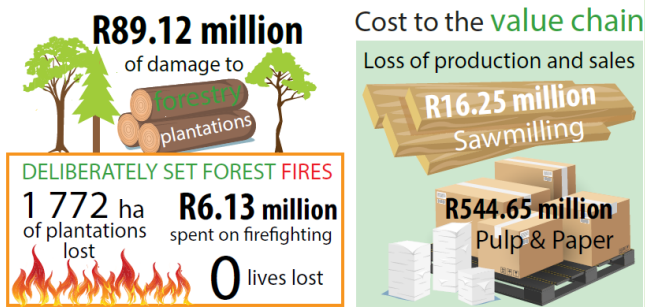


AgriWetenskap
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AgriSciences



Counting The Cost of the recent unrest

The cost of civil unrest to
THE FORESTRY SECTOR R656.14 million



FORESTRY SOUTH AFRICA™



STIHL pledges support for subsidiary in South Africa

Safety of staff is the company's top priority as STIHL pledges to rebuild buildings damaged by looters during the recent unrest in South Africa, retain staff and support dealers ...

“For us as a family-owned company, the protection and safety of our employees is our top priority” says Dr Nikolas Stihl, Chairman of the STIHL Advisory Board and Supervisory Board. “We are shocked and appalled by the images coming out of South Africa. Parts of the country have been affected by severe rioting, violence and looting. The region in and around Durban has also been affected – as has our South African subsidiary ANDREAS STIHL Ltd. in Pietermaritzburg. We are pleased that all of the employees and their families are unharmed.”

The STIHL SA warehouse in Pietermaritzburg has been completely destroyed and its office building severely damaged as a result of the unrest and looting. STIHL headquarters in Germany has set up a crisis team to organise measures for the protection and well-being of the subsidiary's roughly 40 employees in cooperation with Hayden Hutton, the Managing Director of STIHL South Africa.



The Stihl Warehouse in Pietermaritzburg after rioters & looters destroyed it in July 2021

Commitment to South Africa reaffirmed: STIHL guarantees jobs and supports dealers

“Our subsidiary in South Africa will continue to exist going forward. No employees will lose their jobs due to this unusual situation. On the contrary, we will rebuild STIHL South Africa. To do so, we need the expertise and dedication of our staff. We will make sure that our customers can continue to buy and use STIHL products in the future,” said Dr Stihl.

The STIHL subsidiary in South Africa supplies local dealers with products. The company has also pledged to help dealers. Right now, it is working on ways to supply dealers with its products in the short to medium term. Containers are being shipped to the country, with plans in place to also send equipment to South Africa by air.

The STIHL Group develops, manufactures, and distributes outdoor power equipment for forestry, agriculture, landscaping and construction sectors.

The SAIF Would like to honour STIHL for their commitment to the Forestry Industry in South Africa and confirming their loyalty to the SAIF by confirming that despite the major damage suffered by the company during the senseless destruction of their office and warehouse, that they will once again sponsor the prizes for the 2022 Calendar Competition.

Taken from SA Forestry Online 29 July 2021



National Arbour Month : September 2021

Tree of the Year : *Vachellia karroo* (Hayne) Banfi & Glasso



This tree is well-known in most parts of South Africa and formerly as *Acacia Karroo* until the change of the SA Thorn trees to the Genus *Vachellia*. It is one of SA's most beautiful and useful trees. It is integrally part of our country's history having been used for everything from raft-making to sewing needles and fencing for the houses of the royal Zulu women. The thorns were even used by early naturalists to pin the insects they collected! It is very widespread throughout southern Africa and there are different forms in some places, which can be confusing.

Description

Vachellia karroo has a rounded crown, branching fairly low down on the trunk. It is variable in shape and size, reaching a maximum of about 12m where there is good water. The bark is red on young branches, darkening and becoming rough with age. Sometimes an attractive reddish colour can be seen in the deep bark fissures. The leaves are finely textured and dark green.

The flowers appear in early summer in a mass of yellow pompons. Many insects visit and pollinate these flowers. The seed pods are flat and crescent shaped, sometimes with constrictions between the seeds. They are green when young becoming brown and dry. The pods split open allowing the seeds to fall to the ground. The thorns are paired, greyish to white and are long and straight. On mature trees, the thorns may be quite short. Thorns on African vachellias and sengalias are important for identification, they are divided into 5 main groups according to the size, shape and position of the thorns.

Distribution and habitat

Vachellia karroo may be found from the Western Cape through to Zambia and Angola.

In tropical Africa it is replaced by *Acacia seyal*, which has probably also been renamed.

It is found in a variety of habitats from low lying areas to highveld, although not usually found in mist belt and montane areas. It is an indicator of sweet veld which is prized for the good grazing and fertile soils. If an area is overgrazed the sweet thorn becomes invasive.

Uses

The sweet thorn gets its common name from the gum which is exuded from wounds in the bark. This pleasant tasting gum is eaten by people and animals, including the Lesser Bushbaby which feeds exclusively on insects and gum from trees, particularly vachellia and sengalia trees. It also had commercial value in the past when the gum was exported as "Cape Gum" for making confectionary. This is apparently similar to gum arabic which is used as a water soluble glue.

It is a particularly good fodder tree, stock and game feed on the leaves, flowers and pods. The bark contains tannin which is used to tan leather to a reddish colour. The sweet thorn has many medicinal uses ranging from wound poultices to eye treatments and cold remedies. The bark, leaves and gum are usually used. It is also used to treat cattle which have tulip poisoning (*Homeria /Moraea* spp) - bulbous plants which are poisonous to stock.

Growing Vachellia karroo

The sweet thorn makes a beautiful garden specimen. The bright yellow flowers look very striking against the dark green foliage. The rough, dark brown bark is also most attractive. The flowers are sweetly scented and are renowned for attracting insects which are essential to any bird garden. It may be grown from seed which should be soaked in hot water and left overnight. You will see if this has been effective as the seed will swell up. Sow the following morning. Seedling trays with seedling mix can be used, or the seeds could be sown directly into black bags. Cover lightly with sand and do not allow to dry out. Germination usually takes 3 - 12 days.

Source: <http://pza.sanbi.org/vachellia-karroo>



SAIF Awards Ceremony



Caitlin receiving her award



Privilege receiving his award.



G Smith with his Merit Award

SAIF PHOTO COMPETITION 2021

The popular SAIF photo competition will again be taking place in 2021. The top 13

photos will be used to compile the 2022 SAIF calendar.

Stihl has kindly confirmed sponsorship of the photographic competition prizes.

1st Prize: GTA 26 Handheld Pruner

2nd Prize: HSA 26 Pruning Shears

3rd Prize: SE 62 Vacuum Cleaner

The rules of the competition are as follows:

- ✓ Entry is only for paid-up SAIF members.
- ✓ Photos must be a minimum of 500kB and preferably greater than 1 Mb
- ✓ A maximum of three photos may be submitted per SAIF member, of which only one can be in the top three positions. The other photos may still be selected for the calendar.
- ✓ If more than one photo is submitted, each photo must be different (not variations of the same subject).
- ✓ Any forestry related photo can be entered. The photo must have some evidence of forestry (natural or plantation) in it.
- ✓ The photo must be taken in Southern Africa. Previously entered photos may not be used and photos may not be older than 3 years.
- ✓ During judging, very low pixel resolution photos will not be selected if they cannot be used for the calendar.
- ✓ The SAIF reserves the right to use the photographs in their marketing material and on the SAIF website and other social media platforms.

Judging is at a national level. Each branch will select a forestry related person that has good photographic skills. These five people will each select their top 13 Photos.

The closing date for the competition is 30 September 2021.

SAIF Contact Details

Position	Name	Email
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WISHING YOU EVERYTHING OF THE BEST FOR THE YEAR AHEAD!
WE TRUST THAT YOU DO/ DID ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY !

