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August 2023

Southern African Institute of Forestry



Delivering a professional service to forestry

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From the President's Desk Women's Day and Month

First of all, I would like to thank many of our members for their wonderful response and support following the article in the July edition of the SAIF Newsletter. It is truly appreciated and proof that we have many loyal members who still value the SAIF. I unfortunately cannot cover all the response in in this Newsletter. Please also refer to the wonderful article written by Rob Thompsom and his vote of confidence in the SAIF which appears later on in this edition of the SAIF newsletter.

I would like to thank Rob, Georg von dem Bussche, Warren Heathman, Dr. Tienie van Vuuren in particular for their feedback and insight. The wise words and words of encouragement are accepted with gratitude. As Georg rightly remarked, this phenomenon of dwindling membership is not unique to the SAIF but also to other associations , organisations and the church. His advice from his personal life displaying his attitude, is "to do what is right". Warren said the following : "Now may be the time to ask for a vote as to the way forward: the youth take the lead, or dissolve the SAIF as people like you and the rest of the 50+ year old generation cannot be here forever. The decision is for the youth to make."Dr. Tienie van Vuuren said the following : "It will be a loss and sad to see the end of the Institute.Many dedicated forestry people have supported the Institute over decades and the officials have spent many hours in the service of the Institute. This is highly appreciated. Times have, however, changed drastically and as an old retired member I hope that the younger generation will find a way to keep the Institute alive. The bottom line is adapt or die."



A FLY WITH A TASTE FOR SOMETHING SWEET NOT SMELLY | Photographer: Jolanda Roux | Branch: KZN

SAIF Calendar : August 2023 : A Fly with a taste for something sweet not smelly : Photographer, Jolanda Roux
KZN Branch



This month (August) South Africa celebrated Women's day and Womens 's month. It is an opportune time to celebrate and show our gratitude to all the women who have made a big difference to our lives . We are grateful for all the grandmothers, mums and other older and wise women out there and we have reason to celebrate the wonderful contribution which women make to our everyday lives. Thank you to all the women who made such a big difference to the SAIF and our wonderful industry over the years and still do with their contribution and special way that they have acted in what has largely been regarded as a man's world.

One such remarkable woman who is so close to our heart and has served the SAIF with distinction for more than three decades, is our dear National Secretary Corine Viljoen. For decades she has been in more than one way been the face of the SAIF. She served the Institute with dedication and loyalty for many years . Corine "survived" several presidents of the SAIF over the past 32 years and has always been the solid rock who ensured continuity and guided the SAIF through stormy waters.

Sadly , it is time to say goodbye to Corine who will retire from her position as national Secretary at the end of August 2023. It is impossible to really thank her for what she has done and achieved over the past 3 decades



This is the smile and friendly face which we have sadly seen very seldom over the past few years since Covid-19 which also changed the way we meet and interact. Corine will be sorely missed by all of us at the SAIF.

Corine recently shared some of her memories from the early days of the SAIF when her dad the late Henk van der Sijde and other giants of the industry like Dok Diek, as he is affectionately known , started and laid the foundation of the SAIF on which we build today. We honour Corine and all women who made such a difference to our Institute and our industry over the years. We would like to wish her all the best for the future.

Apart from being Women's month, August also marks the end of winter and the transition to Spring .When I look in my garden, I see the beautiful blooming orange Clivias which tell us Spring is almost here !

Not only in nature but also in our human lives, we experience seasons. We are reminded of the song titled : "Turn ! Turn ! Turn!" composed by and made famous by an American Rock Band the Byrds in the mid Sixties . The first part of the lyrics are as follows:

*To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

*A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep*

*To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

This also shows remarkable similarity to the words in the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 in the Bible.

In the spirit of this song as well as the normal change of seasons in nature, we as the Institute should also approach the future . Although it is uncertain and even scary, we can do so in faith and with an expectation. As a dear old colleague reminded us many years ago, that we should always look at whose shoulders we stand on and remember that our predecessors also faced numerous challenges and obstacles but thanks to their dedication and perseverance they made it and so can we.



The SAIF will live on!

by Rob Thompson

Our President, no... not the fellow citizen one, but rather the SAIF one, explained in the last newsletter, that support for the SAIF was waning.

This got me thinking as to the reasons why the Institute should exist at all? What role does it play and does it still have relevance? A knee jerk reaction to these questions may be along the lines of "Nah, time marches on and the SAIF has no real relevant role to play anymore!" That is most probably the mindset that is in fact causing the current member attrition, but does the logic being applied hold real substance?

Well, let's start with trying to define what the Institute actually is.

To me it is a platform upon which to share ideas, share views, recognize achievements, share knowledge, have fun, disseminate reviewed scientific findings, create identity, gather together and preserve historical records, all of a forestry nature. It provides opportunity for practitioners to develop and associate with and create an identity in a very weird world. Accordingly, I think that all of these elements still have relevance and will continue to have relevance far deeper into the future.

Why?

Well in an age dominated by social media, instant gratification, artificial intelligence, influencers et al, we are all inherently losing our identity both professionally and individually. We are all unknowingly falling into a low-level quagmire of commonality and uniformity. "How can you say that?" I hear readers ask indignantly. Well, if those readers can really prove to me that they have never binged on YouTube or Instagram or spent hours sharing insipid WhatsApp or Facebook messages, then I may be more inclined to listen closely to their opinion.

We are losing our inclination to engage with people one on one. We find it easier to Sup? Gr8 2 C u, than actually shake someone's hand at a prearranged physical meeting.

It's easier now to LOL than to share a joke directly. Webinars and podcasts are far easier for us to slice and dice and listen to in snippets as time allows, rather than attending a live seminar or field day.

"But the Institute fees are expensive!" I hear someone shout. Not as expensive as your combined Spotify, Netflix and Showmax subscriptions I would argue.

I think by now you would have grasped my argument, but this still does not address the fact that member attrition is occurring.

Let's explore that further. Active members of any organization are active members because they want to be. They have chosen to be members and want to be associated to that organization. They are the ones that give the organization its identity and reason for existence. Active members are not waiting for someone else to do something. They are contributing willingly. No one is forcing them to be a member and perhaps this starting block from which we should address the way forward?

Let's accept my argument for now that the Institute provides an alternative and real platform for forestry practitioners to engage, as opposed to a faceless cyber option. We must accept that this will not be attractive to many BUT there will definitely be people who do associate with the platform and would want to remain members, or become members, come what may. These are the people (no matter the size of the grouping) who must pick up the reigns, continue to contribute and give the Institute its personality.

What do they say about swallows? Two swallows already start to constitute a flock. A small core of members already constitutes an Institute. It's up to active members to keep the spark alive and the organization energized.

Those members that want to remain should actively commit to taking one step at a time, no matter how small, towards steering the SAIF through these turbulent times. It may mean that we embrace new technologies, new philosophies and develop new outputs, but as long as these stem from those who continue to WANT to associate, we will remain on the right path. I know of many people who enjoy these articles. Hopefully, you all remain committed to the platform that brings them to you.

Perhaps you have other innovative ideas regarding contributions you can make or potential and practical Institute offerings? Well, now is really the time to share with Council.

Please don't wait for things to happen. We have enough of that going on at political level. Jump in and contribute whatever you may have to offer. Our Institute is worth it. Our profession is worthy of having a platform. Let's keep that platform intact, together!



Forestry South Africa have released
TIP-MAG Issue Seven



To read this interesting magazine, please go the following website address :

<https://www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za/tip-mag/>

Saying Goodbye / Hamba Gashle

I had the privilege of being the secretary of SAIF for almost 32 years, but it is time to hand over the reins to the younger generation and to move on to the next phase of life with more freedom and time for family, travelling and even sometimes doing nothing.



And what a privilege it has been!! Meeting and working with wonderful members/foresters throughout all these years. Some of you I have known for more than the 32 years because I grew up on the DR de WET plantation near Sabie, others I have met over the years. I can honestly say that I am honoured to be part of this bigger forestry family.

I also had the opportunity to work with so many people who served on the SAIF Council. I admire these people for spending so many hours on SAIF matters in their free time.

I want to thank everyone for all the opportunities that they have given me and for the trust they have placed in me. Thank you so much!

Packing up was not easy and brought back many memories. In some files were the familiar handwritings of Henk van der Sijde (my dad), Vossie Jordaan, Keith Dally, Dokdiek van der Zel (my mentor), Willem Olivier, Peter Keyworth, Patrick Kime and many more.

All the meetings were face-to-face meetings, and I travelled many kilometres to attend Council or AGM meetings. With emails and Zoom/Teams meetings it is not so personal anymore.

There is a file with the photos of all the Presidents since 1968 (Mr H.B. Stephens) up to 2009 (Tammy Swain). We all hoped to have our own SAIF Office with a full-time Executive Officer, and where these photos could hang on a "wall of fame". I sincerely hope that this will still materialize soon.

To the current Board, especially to Braam du Preez & Wayne Jones - many thanks for all the hours you have spent on SAIF matters. It was an honour to work with you. Best of luck to you and the Council!

To every member a big thank you for your loyal support and kindness. Best wishes and may the future be blessed for you and your loved ones.

Kindest regards, Corine

Sponsor of the Month : August 2023



Ezigro sells over ninety-five million seedlings a year and are strategically placed to ensure we offer efficient, quality services to our South African customers, as well as clients in Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Our sites are situated in White River, Amsterdam and Panbult in Mpumalanga, George in the Western Cape, ideally situated to service both the Western and Eastern Cape region, and Swaziland.

All our nurseries adhere to industry best practices, and we hold several voluntary certifications, ensuring the highest standard of product to our customers. Our nurseries undergo annual audits and are certified by the Seedling Growers Association of South Africa (SGASA), The South African Avocado Association (SAAGA). In addition, we are members of the NCT Forestry Clonal Association, and the South African Macadamia Growers Association (SAMAC).

Ezigro is well diversified and grow plants for the Agriculture (citrus, avocados, macadamias) , forestry and cut flower / ornamental industries.

Forestry

Through Ezigro's partnership with The NCT co-operative and ICFR, it is able to offer the latest improved genetic material available to the South African forestry industry. There is ongoing clonal development in eucalyptus and wattle species bred for improved yield and pest and disease tolerance.

Ezigro also manage pine hybrid material in-house where we offer P.Patula x Pine Tecumanii and Pine Elliottii x Pine Caribaeahrough our partnership with The NCT co-operative and ICFR, Ezigro is able to offer the latest improved genetic material available to the South African forestry industry. There is ongoing clonal development in eucalyptus and wattle species bred for improved yield and pest and disease tolerance.

Our commercial forestry nurseries are situated throughout South Africa and Swaziland and hold SGASA accreditations. This accreditation confirms that our seedlings and clones meet the highest quality standards produced in line with industry best practices.

The forestry management team has experience with large-scale commercial projects, and we produce in excess of 450000 forestry seedlings each year.

In addition, as members of the HCC, the Hybrid Clonal Consortium Npo, we run trials on new clones with our inhouse geneticist. There are exciting developments taking place with both our pine and gum hybrids in order to improve the quality and variety available to the forestry industry.

Please contact our forestry team for advice on your specific needs.



<https://ezigro.co.za/about/>



Upcoming Events



FOCUS ON FORESTRY 2023

The theme of the conference is:
**The Value of Forestry
in a Greening Economy**

07 to 09 November

Karkloof Country Club

(Near Howick in the KZN Midlands, South Africa)

**Keynote speaker:
Dr Ole Sand**

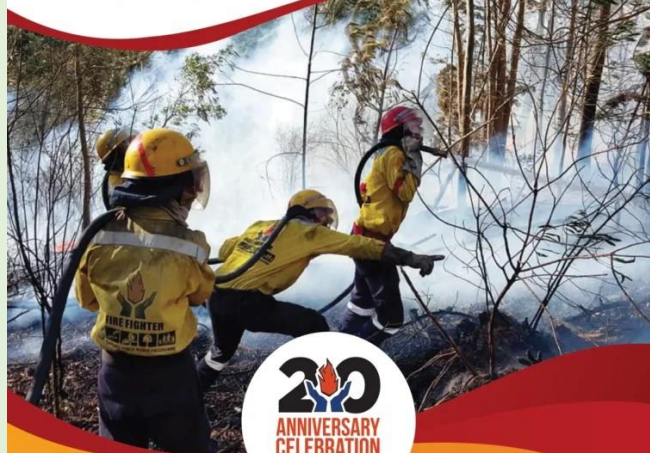
(Managing Partner – CAP – Criterion African Partners)

For inquiries about the conference contact:
focus@cmgroup.io

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FORESTRY SOUTH AFRICA



20
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
2003 - 2023

WORKING ON FIRE 20th Anniversary Fire Symposium

8-10 Nov
2023

Skukuza Conference Centre in
Kruger National Park



Official Media Partner **FIRE & RESCUE
INTERNATIONAL**

SA Forestry
ONLINE



FSA and Women's Month

FORESTRY IN FOCUS

SPECIAL EDITION

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MONTH WITH



THOUGHT LEADERS

In celebration of Women's Month, Forestry South Africa (FSA) asked the Forestry Sector's most influential women to write thought leadership articles on their specific field, area of expertise or experience in the Sector. The result, a special edition of our Forestry in Focus magazine that is packed full of exceptional advice given by inspiring role models.

South Africa's Forestry Sector has grown from a seed, or sapling, planted over a century ago and for most of those decades it has been dominated by men. However, over the last 20 years, women have come to the forefront and become an integral aspect of every possible career and position within the Sector – from machine operators to C-suite executives, small business enterprise owners to researchers and technicians. Today, there is not a role, responsibility or job prospect that women cannot fill.

<https://www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za/forestry-in-focus/>

Reporting and accounting carbon in Forestry – what is this all about and what is required?

By David Everard

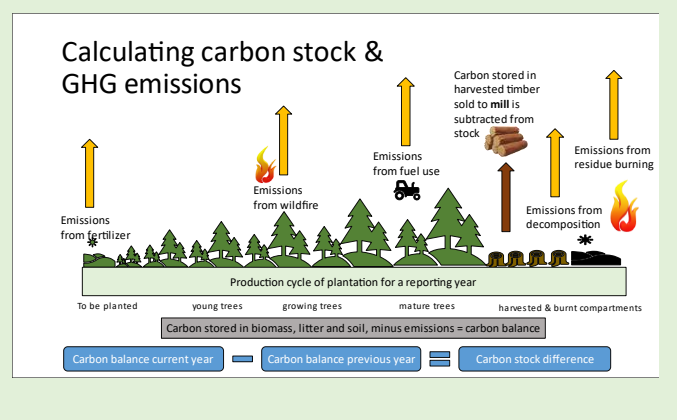
As I sit here, writing this article at the end of July 2023, large parts of the northern hemisphere are sweltering under record high temperatures, and are experiencing massive bush fires, floods and other climate driven events. There is no doubt that climate change is causing more frequent extreme events. The key question however is, what can we do about this as individuals and as the forestry sector in South Africa. As individuals it is all about reducing our individual use of energy and consumption of resources, but impacts will only be felt if we work as a collective.

The importance of working collectively has long been recognized with the United Nations calling for countries to commit to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions via the various annual Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. In 2016 at COP21 in Paris, South Africa formally signed the Paris Agreement and in 2021 released its latest national climate commitments under this agreement. South Africa is one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions in relative terms and is the most carbon intensive economy in the G20 with a carbon intensity of 599 tCO₂/\$m GDP, more than double the global average of 286 tCO₂/\$m GDP. As recently as 2019 this intensity in South Africa was still increasing meaning urgent and radical action is required if South Africa is to get anywhere near its Paris Agreement commitments. I make no comment about the role of loadshedding in all of this! It is however, essential to measure and report on progress towards meeting targets and commitments.

Forests and plantations are recognized for their capacity to sequester and store carbon. Harvested wood products (HWP) store carbon during the service life of the wood products, substitute building materials which have a higher fossil fuel emissions footprint and have the potential to produce bioenergy which is a renewable fuel. They can and therefore must play an important role in the mitigation of GHG emissions and transitioning South Africa to a low carbon economy.

Recognising this, on 3 April 2017 Government gazetted the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Regulations, which require all plantation owners with 100ha or more of planted trees, to register and report annual GHG emissions on the web-based South African Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting System (SAGERS). They also gazetted the methodology for calculating carbon stocks and GHG emissions (Government Gazette, 4 December 2020 No. 43962 Methodological Guidelines for Quantification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Carbon Sequestration in the Forestry Industry and Government Gazette, 7 October 2022 No. 47257 Methodological Guidelines for Quantification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions). A Measurement Recording and Verification (MRV) tool that sets out the methodology, formulae, and conversion factors to be used for calculating farm carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions from activities associated with forestry and HWPs is included in these guidelines. Notwithstanding the MRV tool, measuring, calculating, and reporting carbon stocks and GHG emissions is daunting and complicated. In the rest of this article, I attempt to explain, in simple terms, the components that contribute to carbon stocks and GHG emissions on plantations and unpack the elements required for reporting. I make no attempt to deal with the complex equations, indices and methodology required to make the required calculations. That is material for a different time and place.

The effectiveness of plantations and HWP to mitigate GHG emissions depends on the growth rate of the plantations (how much carbon they sequester) and the amounts of GHG emissions associated with establishment, management, harvesting, transport and downstream processing of wood products. This is best illustrated by the following annotated diagram:



The first step is to calculate the total carbon stock on the plantation. This is made up of the carbon in the utilisable timber (standing stock/tons), the rest of the trees (roots branches and leaves), the litter layer including harvest residues and the soil stored carbon. (The green bits in the diagram). The complexity in these calculations relate to what data is used with the choice being tier 1 data (average international data), tier 2 data (average national data) or tier 3 data (actual measured data from the plantation) and the conversions from volume to mass, the estimation of moisture content and carbon content of the elements. If this not complicated enough, it is required that this calculation should reflect the stocks as on the 31st December every year.

The second step is to calculate the carbon stored in the timber that was harvested and sold in the calendar year (the brown bits). This carbon is reported but is excluded from the total carbon stock on the plantation.

The third step is to calculate the emissions (the yellow bits) from any fires that may have occurred on the plantation during the year of reporting. For wildfires that burnt standing trees, the size of these trees and the severity of the fire are taken into account and the non-carbon emissions are reported. The loss of carbon is accounted for by this being lost and not included in the total carbon stocks on the plantation. For fires that were planned to burn harvest residues, the total emissions are calculated and reported, again using either tier 1, 2, or 3 data to estimate the amount of harvest residue that was burnt.

To complicate things even more, the emissions from decomposing harvest residue must be calculated and reported which will vary greatly between unburnt, cool burnt, moderately hot burnt and hot burnt harvested compartments. Again the choice is to use tier 1, 2 or 3 data.

Step 5 is to calculate the emissions released by fertiliser if it was used during the year on any of the tree crops. These emissions vary depending on the type and volumes of fertiliser used and can be accurately calculated if the plantation keeps accurate records (tier 3) or estimates can be made (tier 2).

The only other source of emissions that require reporting are the emissions from fuel used to undertake all of the forestry activities for the year.

Again these can be accurately calculated if records are kept or can be estimated from average fuel use per activity in South Africa (tier 2 data).

The total carbon stock on the plantation, minus the emissions make up the carbon balance for the reporting year. One can only determine if the plantation is carbon positive, neutral or negative by comparing the current carbon balance with the carbon balance of the previous reporting period. A plantation only sequesters carbon by growing more wood that the wood it loses through fire and harvesting and it is therefore expected that some years a plantation will be positive (years of good rainfall or years of recovery from losses) other years they will be largely neutral (plantations in rotation that harvest consistent volumes year on year and have consistent planting and silvicultural regimes) and some years (drought years or years they experience large fires or outbreaks of pests or diseases etc.) they will be negative.

Complicated and daunting, yes, but thankfully, SAFAS and PAMSA in association with DFFE have developed a simple tool and protocol to follow to calculate and report these carbon stocks and GHG emissions. Contact SAFAS or PAMSA should you require more information or would like assistance with your legal obligation to measure and report your emissions.

To get more insight into the Carbon Issue and Forestry, please attend the SAIF AGM on the 31st of August 2023. See details below.



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY

Dear SAIF Member,

You are hereby invited to the 55th SAIF National Annual General Meeting.

Date: Thursday 31 August 2023
Time: 14h00 – 16h30
RSVP: saif@mweb.co.za before/on 28 August 2023

Our guest speaker is Dr David Everard.
Theme: FORESTRY'S ROLE IN THE CARBON ISSUE



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SUSTAINABLE AFRICAN FOREST ASSURANCE SCHEME

Boekbesorgers (Book undertakers)

Laat ek julle voorstel aan 'n egpaar wat hulself deesdae slimhou en hulself Boekbesorgers noem.

Hulle het ongeveer 30 jaar gelede begin by Moreletapark gemeente in Pretoria om op versoek van ds. Dirkie van der Spuy 'n besending van 7 ton verkeerd gedrukte (afgekeurde) handboeke van 'n Staatsdepartement in die geheim te herwin. Herwin= skei wit papier van ander kleure; skei omslae (plasties, karton, sagte papier); sorg dat geen gom of garing herwin word nie, en vervoer en verkoop dit ten bate van die gemeente.

Dit het spoedig ontwikkel dat 3 persone, behalwe hulself, daaglikse werk gegee is, en dat gemeentelêde herwinbare materiaal vir ons by 'n Staalhouer ("Container") afgelewer het. Ons het 'n verhouding opgebou met 'n herwinningsfirma Wasteplan, wat dit kom haal en betaal het.

Met ons verhuising na Die Strand in 2011 het ons daardie firma hier ook aangetref, en gereel dat die gemeente se Staalhokkie (vir koerante vir ons gemeenteseun-sendeling Graham Bain se finansiële steun) uitbrei na 'n herwinningsprojek van talle jare waar honderde tonne materiaal weekliks gelewer is. Vanaf Desember 2013 tot Desember 2021 is 175 391 kg herwinningsmateriaal deur die lidmate gelewer. Inkomste hieruit het steeds na Graham Bain gegaan. Ongelukkig het die Stad Kaapstad in hul wysheid Wasteplan in Januarie 2022 vervang as hul herwinningsagent alhier.

Dokdië van der Zel en sy vrou Marthie het intussen die Vrydagplaasmark se boekstalletjie beman, en het boeke en tydskrifte begin insamel daarvoor asook vir Badisa Strand se jaarlikse NGO boekverkoop in die Somerset-Wes Winkelsentrum. Intussen het Helderberg gemeente ook van ons te hore gekom en het bakkievragte boeke en tydskrifte kom aflaai vir ons hantering.

Covid-19 het verskyn en het nuut dink aangemoedig sodat ons by Badisa Strand 'n boekkamer ingerig het vir verkope daar en vir herwinning om op te maak vir verdwene borge. Ander gemeentes, soos Suiderstrand, skenk ook ongereeld boeke, tydskrifte en koerante.

'n (Begravnis)ondernemer is nie juis 'n beroep wat jy op skool sal kies nie, of waaruit 'n egpaar wins kan maak vir barmhartigheids-doeleindes nie, maar die konsep om boeke wat individue of organisasies nie meer wil he nie te besorg aan hulle wat dit nog wil he, en om dit so te herwin dat 'n NGO baat daarby vind kan net van ons Hemelse Vader afkom.

(Article received from Corine Viljoen)

Requests received by SAIF

E-mail message from Winston Kamfer, Forester from SAFCOL: I manage to get the attached cover from Richard Greene, but unfortunately Richard is retiring now and the guys at the Forestry Department has not been able to assist me. I have asked internally at Safcol, but unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful.

We have a few locations on the plantation where the *humulis* occurs and I'm interested in more background regarding the cycads. If you don't have the exact edition, it will still be okay, because I would appreciate any information regarding the cycad



If any of our members still have this edition of the Bosbounuus / Forestry News, please send a good scanned copy to the secretary or president.

The Council of the SAIF would also like to thank Prof. Coert Geldenhuys for his professional advice to a member of the public who requested information and advice on protected tree species from the SAIF.

These are just a few examples of the difference which dedicated members of the SAIF make when called upon. We honour our older members who still make a valuable contribution to society.

SAIF Contact Details

Position	Name	Email
President	Braam du Preez	president@saif.org.za
Vice-president	Vacant	
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Mpumalanga	Vacant	admin@saif.org.za
Southern Cape	Dr. Tatenda Mapeto	southern-cape@saif.org.za
Western Cape	Prof. Bruce Talbot	western-cape@saif.org.za
DFFE representative	Vacant	

Happy Birthday to all our members who celebrate(d) their birthdays in August



BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 2023			
04-Aug	GOUS GERHARD	15-Aug	BARNARD WILHELM
05-Aug	SCHROEDER EDDIE	19-Aug	ERASMUS NICO
07-Aug	HEATHMAN WARREN	19-Aug	VAN DER ZEL DIEK
07-Aug	ALLPASS MANDY	19-Aug	MPHAHLELE MMOLEDI
08-Aug	VAN EIJK MARTIN	26-Aug	PRIGGE DIETER
09-Aug	IMMELMAN ANDIE	28-Aug	LEISEGANG KEN
09-Aug	BEZUIDENHOUT RUTH	28-Aug	BLAKEWAY FLIC
12-Aug	CROUS JACOB	29-Aug	NEWTON TERRY
12-Aug	MATTISON CLIVE	31-Aug	HUGHES JOHN
14-Aug	ESTERHUYSE NEELS	31-Aug	DU PLESSIS STEFAN
14-Aug	SINUKA LELETHU		