

CONNECT



ISSUE 20 • AUG/SEPT 2020

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PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

How to take ...
the perfect water shot

BEST E-BIKE TO BUY

Advice on what's become
SA's best-selling bike

NEW LOOK MORE POWER

Meet the bolder,
tougher Toyota Hilux



TOYOTA

LEAD THE WAY

100 327321B/FCB JHB/E



The new C-HR exemplifies innovation. Powered by a 1.2-litre turbo petrol engine, this urban crossover with diamond-like styling combines the practical agility of a hatch with the unapologetic power of a full-size SUV. Connected and cutting edge, car and phone become one with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. What are you waiting for? The connected journey awaits you.

MODEL LINE-UP: 1.2T | 1.2T Plus | 1.2T Plus CVT | 1.2T Luxury CVT

BOOK A TEST DRIVE TODAY AT WWW.TOYOTA.CO.ZA

Toyota SA @ToyotaSA

THE NEW
C-HR

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NEW DIRECTIONS

Toyota Manager: Corporate PR **Mzo Witbooi** on the importance of embracing the future.

By now we have all been impacted by COVID-19 in one way or the other. But it's nothing like those social media challenges that go viral when we want to influence change on an issue that affects us all. When COVID-19 went viral, the lives of people across the world, countries, nations, communities and families were turned upside-down in a negative way. Sadly, it is not over.

Some of us have been impacted more than others by the pandemic, and have been deprived of more than just our freedom of movement – which is no less important, of course. Millions of people have lost their jobs as well as their businesses; thousands have lost their lives while others are grappling with both the social and emotional ramifications associated with the virus. But the desire to live, and to live to the fullest, has to be cultivated in our communities if we'd want to come out of the current situation less scathed.

We all need to take care of ourselves and those around us by practising good hygiene, observing COVID-19 protocol at all times, and being conduits of good energy to those infected. This has to be adopted as a way of life rather than something we do begrudgingly. While there is still so much we don't know about the virus from a medical point of view, the one thing almost every authority agrees on is that wearing a mask plays a huge role in mitigating the spread of coronavirus.

On a positive note, COVID-19 has also accelerated the adoption of many futuristic scenarios – including work from home (WFH) as well as the rise of e-commerce. While we are still a long way from wholly embracing the future – due to limited infrastructure (especially

on our continent) among other things – we should be encouraged by the strides already taken.

Toyota South Africa Motors couldn't be left behind, and we have had to focus delivering an e-commerce solution which has started with a faster turnaround on our online leads. We implemented, "Buy Now" in support of this across our Website and our My Toyota application. Our website performance has been enhanced to include a virtual assistant. We have also changed our UX, in particular how we publish notifications on the website to ensure our consumers are updated on any new information.

Toyota recognises the need to cater for many different types of customer journeys. It is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach. We will always cater for the face-to-face on-site preference, but will expand this to include more digital tools to ensure we are able to deliver convenience, value and speed. This means digital and e-commerce will be a key focus area within the business going forward. There is no doubt that the way some customers buy and own cars will change. The digitisation of this process will be key to maintaining our relevance in the market.

Please check out the *Toyota Connect* article 'Welcome to The Future' on page 22: it is a lovely guide to the "new normal". On the motor-ing front, we are revealing two important models in our product line-up: Toyota Hilux and Lexus IS. The mid-generational refresh in both models is striking and we therefore hope they will appeal to a wider audience of Toyota and Lexus customers.

Once again, we hope you enjoy **Toyota Connect / Life by Lexus** magazine...

Take care.



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TOYOTA

LEAD THE WAY

10032573JB/FCBJHB/E/REV2

THE NEW COROLLA RANGE HAS IT ALL

ALL-NEW COROLLA

- POWERFUL 2.0 ENGINE
- TOYOTA SAFETY SENSE

COROLLA HATCH

- 1.2 TURBOCHARGED ENGINE
- MULTI-LINK REAR SUSPENSION

NEW COROLLA QUEST

- REVERSE CAMERA
- SMART ENTRY & PUSH START

Welcome to a new era of Corolla. Where you'll find state-of-the-art technology, world-class luxury and safety features, dynamic styling as well as decades of quality, all under one name. Corolla. Has it all.

BOOK A TEST DRIVE TODAY AT TOYOTA.CO.ZA

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COROLLA

THE SEASON IS SET
TO CONCLUDE IN OCTOBER
WITH AN EXCITING
GRANDE FINALE.

WRC 9
THE OFFICIAL GAME





NEWS

RALLY, RALLY EXCITING NEWS!

With most global motorsports sidelined due to the coronavirus pandemic, **THE e-SPORTS WRC** presented by TOYOTA GAZOO Racing is the best way to get your rally fix right now.

Currently in its fifth season, eSports WRC continues to attract more competitors to test their mettle against players around the world. TOYOTA GAZOO Racing is the presenting sponsor and the 11-round season is set to conclude in October with an exciting Grande Finale where the winner will be presented with an all-new Toyota GR Yaris.

“We’re pleased to partner with eSports WRC to bring the excitement of rallying to more fans around the world,” says Andrea Carlucci, Toyota Motor Europe’s Director of Product and Marketing Management. “As one of the pillars of TOYOTA GAZOO Racing, e-motorsports is key for us to make motorsport and sports cars more accessible to more people and to foster a new generation of car lovers everywhere. With the growing interest in eSports, and our increasing sports car offering, we’re looking forward to working closely with our partners to bring our brand value and exciting products closer to consumers and fans.”

If you are unable to join the competition straight away, don’t stress. The agreement between TOYOTA GAZOO Racing and eSports WRC spans over the current WRC 8 and the upcoming WRC 9 games, meaning you can always get some practice in and try next year.

About eSports WRC

This online rally competition is based on the WRC 8 computer game and pitches drivers from around the world against one another. Now in its fifth season, eSports WRC has picked up considerable momentum due to the rise in popularity of virtual racing over the recent months. Players race along the same routes as the actual FIA World Rally Championship, with many of the online events scheduled to coincide with the real-life rally stages (before they were postponed).

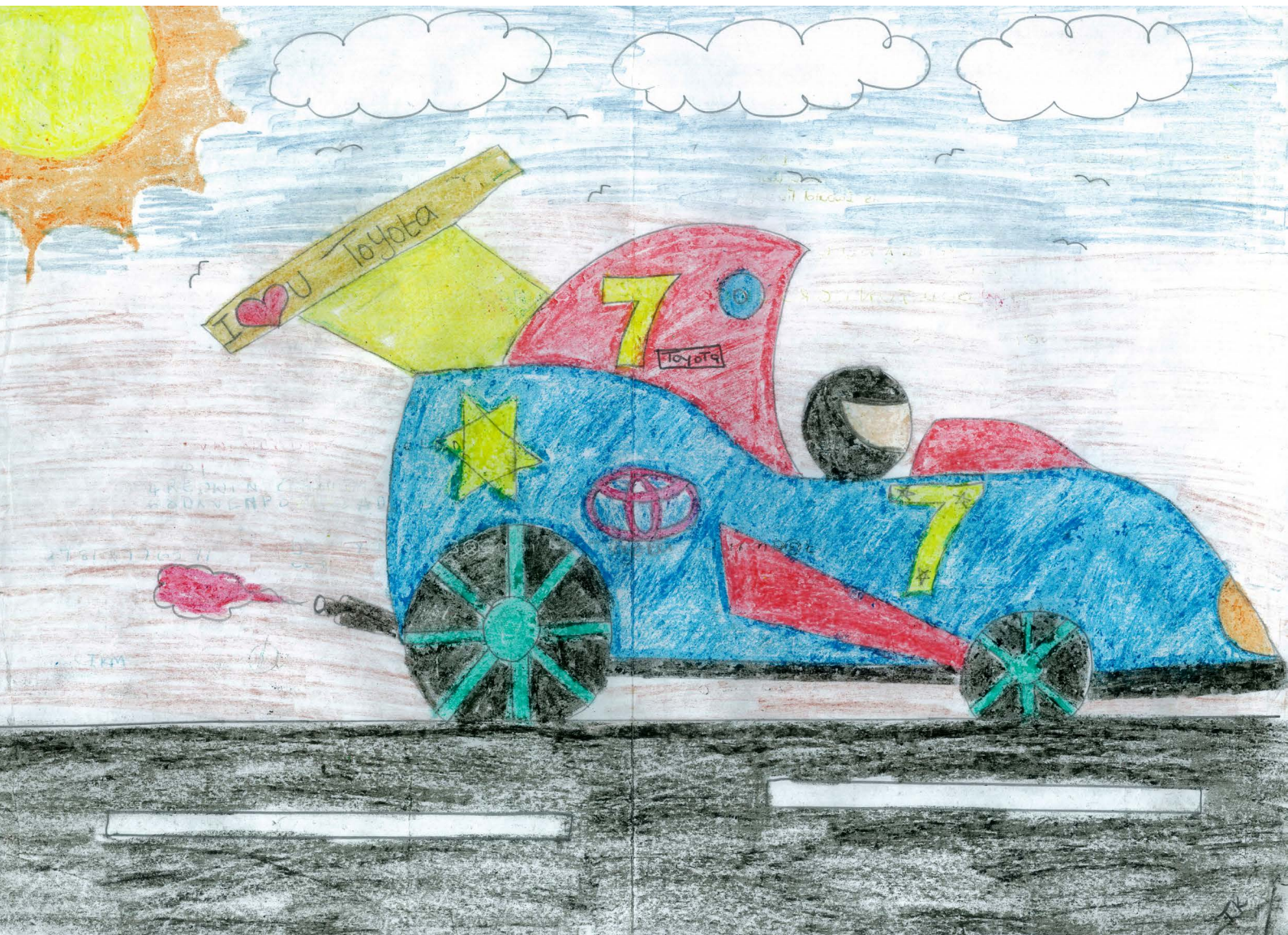
Anyone with a copy of the WRC 8 game is eligible to enter on either PlayStation, Xbox, or PC. To get started, there is no need for fancy gaming set-ups, multiple screens or authentic controls. All you really need to participate is just a good resolution screen, a decent internet connection and a controller.

[Wrc.com](https://www.wrc.com)

WINNING IMAGINATIONS

Toyota South Africa Motors (TSAM) announces winners of **THE 2020 TOYOTA DREAM CAR COMPETITION**

The popular annual Toyota Dream Car Competition is aimed at encouraging children to visualise and sketch mobility solutions of the future.



Under 8 – 11 winner

Khwezi Mhlawuli, from Durban: "I would like to see young kids playing with the car I drew and in toy stores and I would be very happy to see my car driven by me one day as I would like to be a racer."

NEWS



Sahasra Kalakonda

Category 8 - 11 winner

Sahasra Kalakonda, from Midrand: "My Super Solar Car runs only on solar panels to reduce air pollution. The whole body is made of solar panels. It can transform like a giant ship sail that can generate power for home. In drive mode it can transform to open more solar panels for extra power."

**Category 12 - 15 winner**

Zaakirah Alli, from Mount Edgecombe: "Sad faces and teary eyes as they look on. This breaks my heart! Therefore, my car is for people with physical disabilities. It can be entirely controlled by your mind or a lever. Wheels in, rocket mode activated and reach for the stars!"

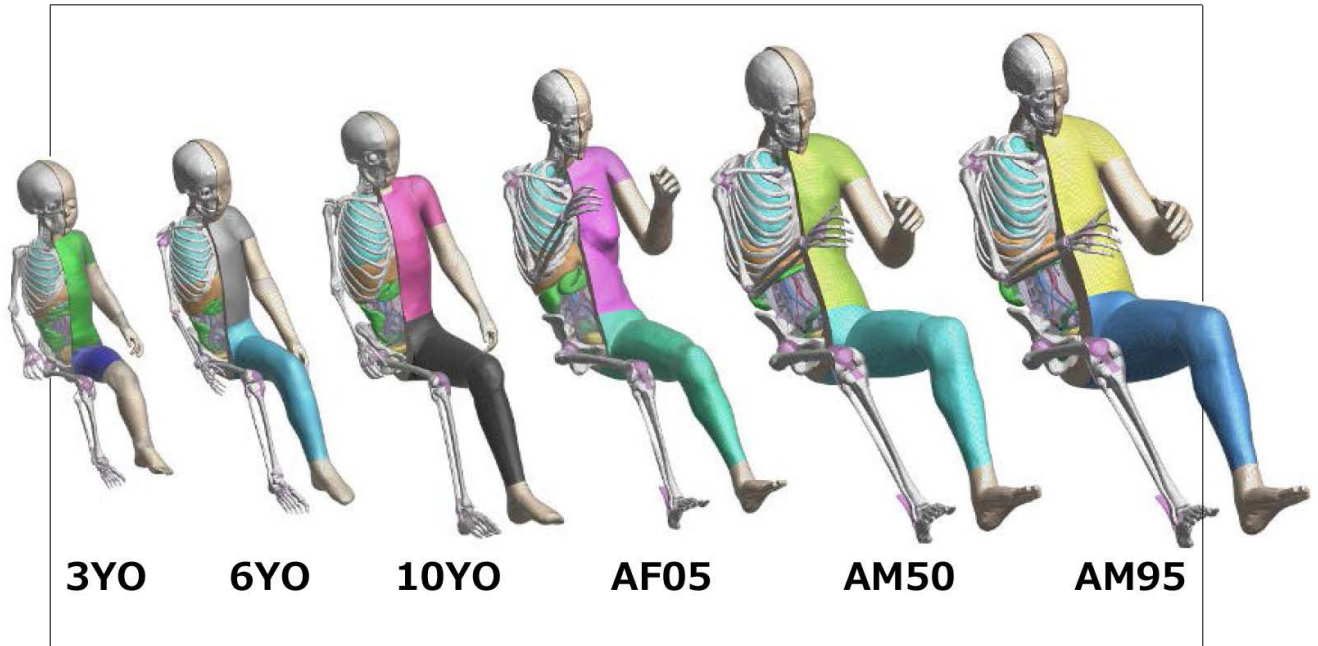
Prizes for each age category in the national competition were as follows:

- 1st Place: PS4 to the value of R7 000 and R8 000 cash
- 2nd Place: PS4 to the value of R7 000
- 3rd Place: Xbox One to the value of R5 000
- 4th Place: Tablet to the value of R3 000
- 5th Place: Makro Voucher to the value of R2 000

NEWS

SAFETY **FOR ALL**

TOYOTA'S VIRTUAL HUMAN BODY MODEL software program is expected to enhance vehicle safety.



THUMS is a virtual human body model software program for computer analysis of human body injuries caused in vehicle collisions.

Designed to aid vehicle safety technologies' research and development, THUMS was the world's first virtual human body model software when it launched in 2000, enabling simulation and analysis of injuries caused in vehicle collisions. Since then it has continually evolved to add a range of models with different genders, ages and physiques that include skeletal structures, brains, internal organs and muscles.

Compared to the physical crash dummies commonly used in vehicle collision tests, THUMS is able to analyse collision-related injuries in more detail, because it precisely models the shapes and durability of human bodies. Conducting simulations on computers also enables repeated analysis of a range of different collision patterns, while it can dramatically reduce development lead times and costs associated with collision testing.

Making THUMS freely available is expected not only to enable a greater number of people to use it in

COMPARED TO THE PHYSICAL CRASH DUMMIES COMMONLY USED IN VEHICLE COLLISION TESTS, THUMS IS ABLE TO ANALYSE COLLISION-RELATED INJURIES IN MORE DETAIL.

their vehicle safety research, but to also improve the usability of the software, as users make improvements to the model themselves and share the results with others.

As Seigo Kuzumaki, Fellow at Advanced R&D and Engineering Company, explains, "We decided to make the software freely available to have more people use it, to further enhance vehicle safety across the entire automotive industry, and to help reduce traffic injuries and fatalities to create a safer society. We look forward to seeing it applied broadly in development sites and others, envisioning a mobility society with automated vehicles and other technologies, moving forward."



DYNAMIC DATA

By sharing an innovative new open dataset called **DRIVESEG**, researchers at MIT and Toyota are working to advance research in autonomous driving systems.

To date, self-driving data made available to the research community has consisted of static, single images that can be used to identify and track common objects found in and around the road, such as bicycles, pedestrians and traffic lights. By contrast, DriveSeg contains more precise, pixel-level representations of these road objects, but through the lens of a continuous video driving scene. This type of full scene segmentation is particularly helpful for identifying more amorphous objects – such as road construction and vegetation – that do not always have defined, uniform shapes.

Video-based driving scene perception provides a flow of data that more closely resembles dynamic, real-world driving situations. It also allows researchers to explore data patterns as they play out over time, which could lead to advances in machine learning, scene understanding and behavioural prediction. DriveSeg is available for free and can be used by researchers and the academic community for non-commercial purposes in South Africa.

HOMEGROWN

GARDEN PARTY

Embrace **THE BEAUTY OF NATURE** by inviting greenery into your home.



OUT OF THE BOX

Wildcat's plant stands are a smart alternative to cut flowers and office pot plants. These custom-designed, hand-manufactured planters are made by artisans in Johannesburg and display a weekly curation of lush indoor plants from the Wildcat greenhouse. If you love plants, but you're not into the maintenance involved, these trendy attention-grabbers are yours to rent and enjoy.

wildcatplants.co.za



LIVING SCULPTURES

The Tuber range of planters is a collaboration between Indigenus and designer Haldane Martin, crafted from African iroko – a hard timber used for boats, flooring and outdoor furniture. The planters will weather all conditions, drawing their strength from individual cut pieces of wood bolted together with stainless-steel pins. The hand-assembled 'vessels' sit as if rooted in the ground and work especially well in groups of three or more. Glass-reinforced concrete versions have also been introduced.

indigenus.co.za



STACK 'EM UP

This graceful arching stand gives you the freedom to suspend hanging plants from the top hook, while the smooth bottom disc is ideal for table pots. The Atrium's Leonardo stand is handcrafted by South African artisans from mild steel and powder-coated in matte black for a flawless finish. This compact plant stand is all about clean lines and highlights greenery without overpowering it.

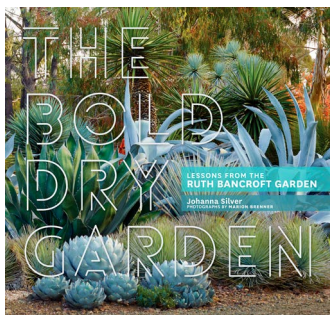
atriumplants.co.za



HANGING OUT

The WAZ Outdoor Hanging Gardens Collection comprises giant kokedama of 50-85kg and 50cm-75cm in diameter that almost magically hover in the air. They make a spectacular botanical masterpiece to liven up a patio, atrium, walkway or any outdoor area. Each unique Hanging Garden is a living artwork – constructed using intricate stitching to form a lush tapestry of moss, soil and the crowning glory: a combination of 14+ expertly selected plants in a functional, aesthetically delightful design. Sold through decorators, designers and architects.

wazoutdoor.com



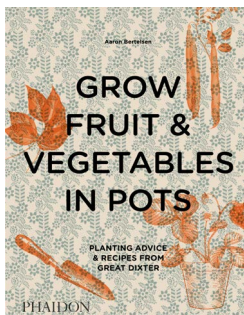
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1. THE BOLD DRY GARDEN: LESSONS FROM THE RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN By Johanna Silver, Timber Press, R739

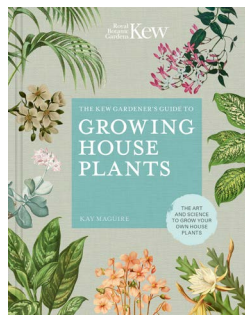
Evocatively photographed by Marion Brenner, this book showcases the California garden created by Ruth Bancroft (1908-2017). After deciding to focus on succulents in the 1970s, she ended up with more than 2 000 species of cacti, succulent shrubs and trees – proof positive that you don't need water to create something genuinely gorgeous in a garden.

2. GROW FRUIT & VEGETABLES IN POTS: PLANTING ADVICE & RECIPES FROM GREAT DIXTER By Aaron Bertelsen, Phaidon, R670

Focused on the expert advice of renowned Great Dixter gardener and cook Aaron Bertelsen, this beautifully designed volume provides clear, practical advice for successfully growing your own fresh produce in containers. Includes 50 recipes that showcase the resulting ingredients.



2.



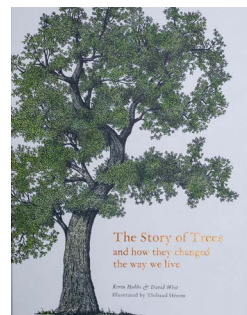
3.

3. THE KEW GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING HOUSE PLANTS By Kay Maguire, White Lion Publishing, R269

There are loads of guides to growing indoor plants available right now, but this one – published under the aegis of one of the world's top botanical gardens – stands out from the pack. Combining delicate botanical illustrations with 12 enjoyable practical projects, it's both informative and inspiring.

4. THE STORY OF TREES AND HOW THEY CHANGED THE WAY WE LIVE By Kevin Hobbs and David West, Laurence King, R670

Maintaining, as its foreword writer suggests, 'a delicate balance between fact-finding and story-telling', this exquisitely illustrated book presents 100 species of trees from around the world. A great gift for gardeners, it's also a volume to present to anyone fascinated by trees in general. We'd just like to request that they include the baobab in any revised editions...



4.

HOMEGROWN

SUPER-EASY CAULI-CHEESE PIE



THE UPPER

When it comes to the ultimate all-in-one meal, nothing beats a savoury pie. Whether it's cauli-cheese encased in puff pastry or an impressive beef Wellington for Sunday lunch, **ABIGAIL DONNELLY** offers inspiration.



LAMB CURRY PIE

CRUST

HOMEGROWN

SUPER-EASY CAULI-CHEESE PIE

Serves 6

Preparation: 15 minutes

Cooking: 40 minutes

milk 3 cups
onion ½
cloves 3
ground nutmeg 1 t
bay leaf 1
butter 60 g
flour 60 g
Gruyère 200 g, finely grated
English mustard 2 t
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
cauliflower 1 head, broken into small chunks
extra virgin olive oil 1 T
Woolworths all-butter puff pastry 250 g, thawed and cut into strips
free-range egg 1, beaten

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Heat the milk, onion, cloves, nutmeg and bay leaf in a saucepan over a medium heat, then simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to infuse for 10 minutes, then strain the milk and discard the onion, cloves and bay leaf.
2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat, then add the flour and cook, whisking for 2 minutes.
3. Gradually add the infused milk, stirring to prevent lumps from forming. Cook for a further 5 minutes, stirring, until thickened.
4. Remove the white sauce from the heat and add the cheese and mustard. Fold through until the cheese has melted, then season to taste.
5. Sauté the cauliflower in the olive oil over a medium to high heat for 5 minutes, or until golden brown. Add the cauliflower to the cheese mixture, then pour into a baking dish.
6. Twist the puff pastry strips, then place over the pie filling, securing the edges with some beaten egg.
7. Brush the top of the pastry with egg, then bake for 20–25 minutes, or until golden.

LAMB CURRY PIE

Serves 4

Preparation: 30 minutes

Cooking: 1 hour 40 minutes

free-range lamb knuckles or cubes 2 kg
flour 6 T
ghee 6 T
large onion 1, finely chopped
garlic 6 cloves, crushed
whole chillies 2
fresh turmeric 1 x 5 cm piece, grated



SHOWSTOPPER BEEF WELLINGTON

fresh ginger 1 x 10 cm piece, grated
curry leaves 12
Woolworths curry powder 4 T
tomato paste 2 T
Woolworths organic beef stock 1 cup
butter beans 1 x 400 g can, drained
fresh coriander 30 g, chopped
pastry 750 g
free-range egg 1, beaten
water 1 T
Woolworths jalapeño atchar, for serving
bananas, sliced, for serving
plain yoghurt, for serving

Instructions

1. Dust the lamb with flour. Heat half the ghee in a heavy-based pan over a high heat. Brown the lamb in batches, then set aside. Add the remaining ghee to the pan and gently fry the onion until soft.
2. Add the garlic, chillies, turmeric, ginger, curry leaves and curry powder. Cook over a gentle heat for 2 minutes.

3. Add the tomato paste, stock and meat. Cover tightly with baking paper and a lid. Simmer for 1 hour, checking occasionally to make sure the meat doesn't stick. Add the butter beans halfway through cooking time.
4. Allow to cool, then stir through the coriander. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Spoon the curry into a pie dish. Cover with rolled-out pastry, trim any excess and use to decorate the pie. Beat the egg with the water and brush lightly onto the pastry.
5. Bake for 40 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with the atchar and bananas mixed with the yoghurt.

SHOWSTOPPER BEEF WELLINGTON

Serves 4

Preparation: 40 minutes, plus 1½ hours' chilling time

Cooking: 30 minutes

beef fillet 400 g
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
olive oil 2 T
brown mushrooms 250 g, finely chopped
thyme 1 sprig, leaves only
Woolworths all-butter puff pastry
250 g, thawed
flour, for dusting
Woolworths prosciutto crudo 70 g
Woolworths onion marmalade 2 T
free-range egg 1, beaten
cold water 2 T
hot English mustard, for serving

Instructions

1. Tightly wrap the beef fillet in clingwrap and chill for 1 hour. Remove from the fridge and allow to come to room temperature.
2. Remove the clingwrap and season the meat. Heat 1 T olive oil in a cast-iron pan over a high heat until smoking hot, then quickly sear the meat on all sides. Allow to cool completely.
3. Fry the mushrooms and thyme in the remaining oil for 10 minutes, or until any liquid has completely evaporated. Season to taste and allow to cool.
4. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Place the pastry on a lightly floured surface, then roll out into a rectangle large enough to encase the beef fillet.
5. Place a layer of prosciutto in the middle of the pastry, overlapping the slices slightly, then spread the onion marmalade over the prosciutto. Leave a border of pastry around the edges.
6. Spread a layer of cooled mushrooms over the marmalade, then place the cold fillet on top of the mushrooms.
7. Mix the egg and water and lightly brush the edges of the pastry, then wrap the pastry around the fillet and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper, making sure that the seal is on the bottom of the parcel.
8. Trim the excess pastry and use the offcuts to decorate the top of the pie, securing with more beaten egg-and-water mixture.
9. Chill the pie for 30 minutes, then brush all over with the egg and water and bake for 15–20 minutes, until golden brown and puffed.
10. Remove from the oven and rest for 10 minutes

before carving. Serve with mustard.

THE ULTIMATE CHICKEN-AND-CORN POT PIES

Serves 6

Preparation: 15 minutes

Cooking: 40 minutes

butter 3 T
olive oil 2 T
leeks 3, washed and finely chopped
thyme 6 sprigs
garlic 4 cloves, crushed
creamed corn 1 x 415 g can
roisserie chicken 1, shredded
Woolworths puff pastry
2 x 500 g boxes, thawed
free-range egg 1, beaten

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Grease a large 6-hole muffin pan. Heat the butter and oil in a pan.
2. Add the leeks, thyme and garlic and cook over a gentle heat for 5 minutes, or until the leeks are soft.
3. Add the creamed corn and chicken and mix. Cool.
4. Using a large glass or cookie cutter, cut out rounds of pastry large enough to fit the muffin pan. Fill to the top with the mixture.
5. Cut out more pastry rounds and place on top of the filling. Seal the edges using a fork, or pinch closed.

THE ULTIMATE CHICKEN-AND-CORN POT PIES



HOMEGROWN

7 LOCAL WINES YOU SHOULD BE DRINKING

Alcohol is currently off the table at all restaurants, but leading sommelier **JOSEPH DHAFANA** shares his top seven wines for oenophiles to enjoy at home.

After tasting wine for the first time in 2010, Zimbabwe-born Joseph Dhafana went to impressive lengths to expand his wine knowledge. He studied at the Cape Wine Academy in Stellenbosch, obtained the global Wine & Spirit Education Trust Level 3 Award in Wine, qualified as a wine judge through

Michael Fridjhon's Wine Judging Academy and became certified with both the South African Sommeliers Association and the Court of Master Sommeliers. In 2014 he became Head Sommelier at La Colombe in Constantia, Cape Town.

"We have more than 3 000 wine producers in the Western Cape. I'd like to encourage supporting local as much as possible, as we all know the industry has really been crippled by COVID-19," he says. "I see no reason to embrace foreign wines at the moment, since we need to support these guys." Dhafana suggests you add these seven labels to your cellar. "The best wine is the one you have a second glass of, and enjoy with a meal," he says.



1. DE TOREN FUSION V

If you really enjoy Bordeaux blends, I'd go with De Toren Fusion V – any vintage. It's a blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, petit verdot and a bit of malbec. It's such a rich, full, elegant wine, and one of the ultra-premium Bordeaux-style blends we have in the country for those who enjoy a bolder wine. Again, it's really good with red meats.

2. MOSI 'TINASHE' CHENIN BLANC

This chenin blanc from the Swartland was made by a Zimbabwean refugee-turned-winemaker. I'm talking about me! It shows character and variety and expresses the terroir, what Swartland soils give, because I believe wine is made in the vineyard. It's got all those quince, apricot, mineral elements, and less oak. Minimum interventions, and also wild yeast. You can pair it with poultry and seafood dishes, or even salad.

3. SIMELIA MERLOT

I haven't been able to enjoy most of the merlots made in South Africa, purely because they get harvested quite early. They're quite tart, and give this green sensation on the palate of unripe berries. But Wellington has a warmer climate, so merlot can reach optimum ripeness while it's still got acidity, which keeps it together. Simelia has great body. You can have it with lamb shank and sirloin.

4. MULLINEUX SYRAH

This is a blend of six to eight different parcels from the

Swartland – I like the winemaking technique, with minimum intervention and wild yeast. The wine is medium to full, with peppery notes. Elegant, I'd say, and good enough to complement red meat dishes.

5. SILVERTHORN THE GREEN MAN

The Green Man is a 100% chardonnay, quite yeasty with a bread-brioche character and zesty acidity. It's quite creamy on the palate. Excellent! It can match some of the Champagnes that we get from France. You can enjoy it as an aperitif, or after your meal as a palate cleanser before coffee. It's also great with crab.

6. EENZAAMHEID VIN BLANC

This is a Paarl blend with chenin blanc, clarette blanchet and a couple of other varieties. It's quite light and crispy, with brilliant acidity. For those sunny winter days, you need a wine like this to enjoy, as it's light and elegant. In fact, you can even have it with soups. The acidity also works very well with rice sauces.

7. ART OF CREATION CHARDONNAY

For those who enjoy chardonnays, this is from the Hemel and Aarde Valley. For me, it's a chardonnay that shows a bit of character – tropical fruits, with more of that acidity that cuts through any rich white sauce. It can work very well with creamed mussels or poultry dishes. It's a bit heavy price-wise, but such a lovely chardonnay.

HOMEGROWN

"WE NEED TO SUPPORT
LOCAL WINE PRODUCERS AS
MUCH AS POSSIBLE."

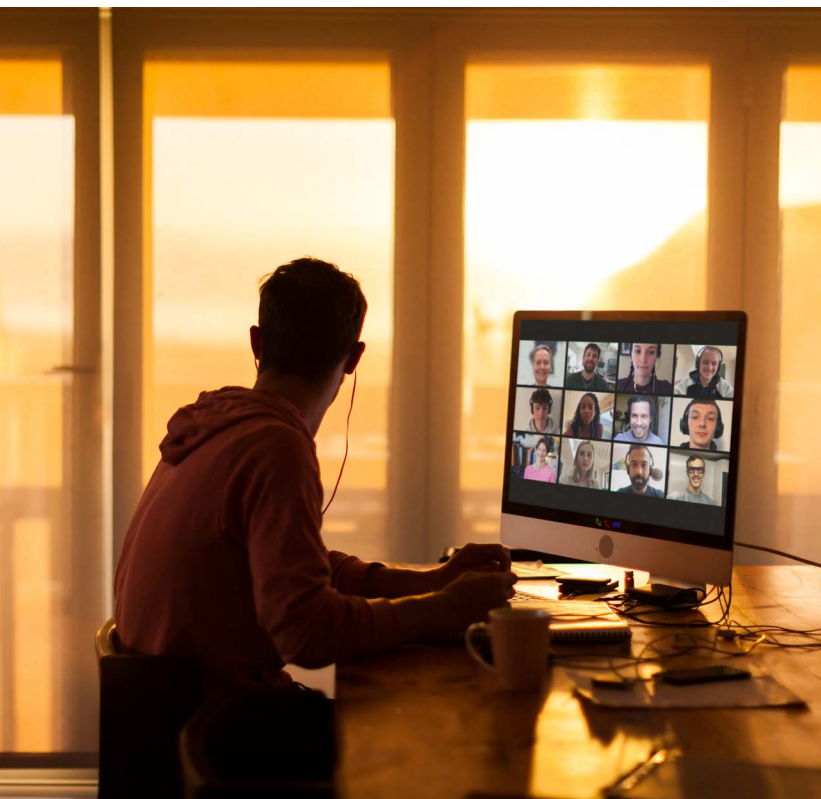


"THE BEST WINE IS THE ONE
YOU HAVE A SECOND GLASS OF,
AND ENJOY WITH A MEAL."

THE NEW WORLD

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

As face-masked, locked-down, and physically distanced as we currently are, the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated some necessary and **BENEFICIAL CHANGES.**



Technologies and trends that were quietly bubbling under have now bubbled over, bringing new ways of working, of connecting and of living. We were on our way there already. The pandemic has just hurried us along.

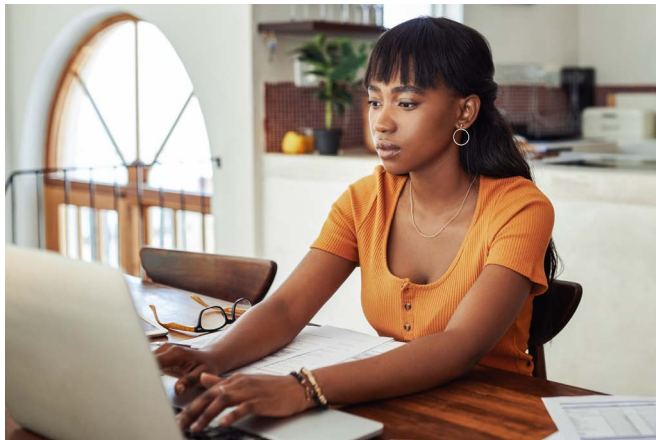
VIDEOCONFERENCING SCIENTIST, SIR DAVID KING

A year ago, Zoom was a low-profile app battling for market share against Skype, Facetime and whatever Microsoft was doing. Today Zoom is a verb, and videoconferencing is how we do business. Zoom's active users jumped from 10 million to more than 200 million between January and April 2020, as apps like Google Meet, Houseparty and Microsoft Teams became the best – and only – way to stay in touch with friends, family, colleagues and clients.

Videoconferencing was always going to be how we connected in the future, but COVID-19 travel restrictions brought that future screaming into the present. Britain's former chief scientist, Sir David King, put it best. "I'm communicating with people around the world much more efficiently than I have ever before," he told a recent video webinar, "because I'm not running around by plane. This is a very different world. I'm hoping we will learn a lesson from it."

#WFH CEO JES STALEY

Pre-COVID, if you'd asked to work from home your boss might have assumed you wanted to stay in bed on a Netflix binge. Now that we've all had a taste of what it's really like, working from home has emerged as a viable, productive and (just ask the landlords) cheaper way to run a business. Twitter, Google and Facebook have all confirmed that staff will #WFH permanently from now on. Even Barclays Bank is buying into the idea: As its CEO Jes Staley said in April, "There will be a long-term adjustment in how we think about our location strategy. The notion of putting 7 000 people in a building may be a thing of the past."

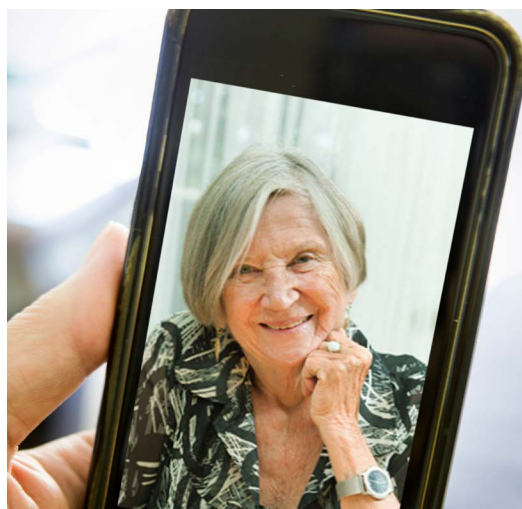


THE NEW WORLD

SOCIAL MEDIA'S NEW OLD GENERATION **WORLD WIDE WORX FOUNDER** **ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK**

"What's caught me most by surprise during the COVID-19 pandemic is the extent to which retired people have woken up to the digital world, and the extent to which they've realised that communicating via videoconferencing technologies is not so threatening after all," says tech expert and World Wide Worx founder Arthur Goldstuck.

Older folks were already moving onto social media pre-COVID, with the Pew Research Centre in the United States reporting last September that both Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) and the Silent Generation (born pre-1945) had increased their Facebook use by double digits since 2015. But South Africa's nationwide lockdown meant that WhatsApp and Zoom video calls were the only way the older generation could see their children and grandchildren, with the inevitable result being increased adoption of video chats across all generations.



WHO'S THE BOSS? **AFRICAN YOUTH SURVEY 2020**

South Africa's economy was already wheezing before the Coronapocalypse. Then came the virus, the lockdown, the recession and the inevitable spike in unemployment (30.1% in the first quarter of 2020, according to Stats SA). Young people aged 15 to 34 make up 63.3% of the total number of unemployed South Africans. So who's going to hire them? The answer is themselves. Whether by choice or by force, Gen Z are likely to be self-employed – and they're already preparing for that reality. The African Youth Survey 2020, released recently by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, found that young Africans are self-starters who aren't expecting Boomers or middle-management Millennials to employ them. In fact, 76% of young Africans want to start their own business in the next five years, and over 60% already have an idea for what that business will do.

THE NEW WORLD

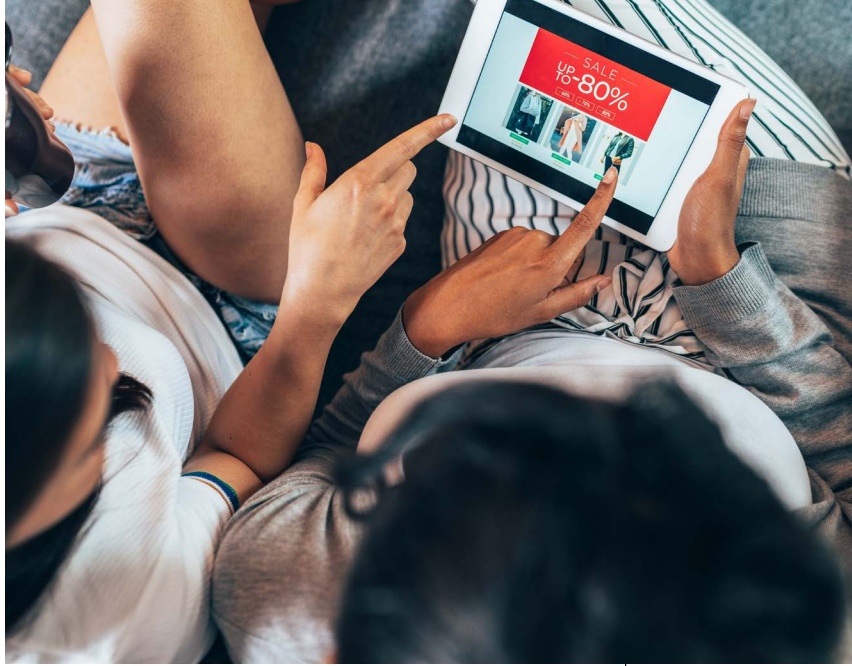
E-COMMERCE

CEO CHARLIE STEWART

The big winner in the COVID-19 crisis (if anybody really wins during a deadly pandemic) was e-commerce, as locked-down buyers – and sellers – moved online to buy everything from clothes to meals to groceries. “It’s definitely accelerated the trend towards e-commerce,” says Charlie Stewart, CEO of digital marketing agency Rogerwilco. Stewart points to the agency’s new *South Africa Digital Customer Experience Report*, in which one local payment portal saw new merchant acquisition increase by 400% during March and April 2020.

“Those new merchants were predominantly in the SME space,” Stewart says, “people who might have had a pizza shop, for example, but weren’t doing deliveries or didn’t have some form of online sales mechanism. So yes, we’re seeing a movement towards e-commerce as a secondary (if not primary) source of business for organisations across the country. That’s echoed in the greater levels of engagement that consumers are showing.”

Indeed, large numbers of consumers made online purchases for the first time during the crisis, with 61% of respondents citing social distancing as the reason for going online.



DIGITAL CAR SALES

CEO GEORGE MIENIE

In early July AutoTrader CEO George Mienie wrote in a blog post: “A few years back, the average consumer visited five physical dealerships before buying a car. That came down to two on average pre-COVID-19 and the lockdown. I suspect this number will tend to be one or even less.” It’s a provocative statement, but one that’s backed up by global trends. Car dealerships have made a handbrake turn to e-commerce... and they’re there to stay.

“For digital, this whole disruptive period with corona is an inflection point from which there’s no turning back,” Mike Jackson, CEO of the United States’ leading car retailer, AutoNation, told investors during a recent earnings call.

“I think the bar has now been raised for any company that wants to perform in this marketplace. You need first-class digital capability. You need a safe environment for your customers and a safe environment for your associates. That is the holy grail going forward.”

Multiple test drives and dealership visits aren’t so easy in an age of social distancing. As the reality of post-COVID life takes hold, don’t be surprised if your next car purchase – like most other purchases – is driven digitally.

E-LEARNING

CEO PAUL HANLY

There's a similar trend in online learning. Between folks who were looking for something to do during lockdown, freshly unemployed jobseekers aiming to upskill, and schoolchildren who were hastily migrated to Google Classrooms, e-learning saw a massive spike during the lockdown.

Sure, it existed before the pandemic. But it very quickly got bigger and much, much better. As Paul Hanly, CEO of South African e-learning company New Leaf Technologies, explains: "It's no longer a log-in-and-read type of offering. Now there are group activities, virtual-instructor-led training and peer-to-peer collaboration."



FAKE NEWS SA GOVERNMENT

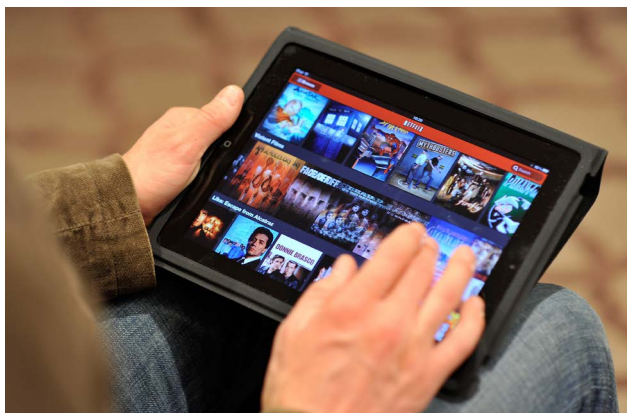
The problem with citizen journalism is that citizens do it. Your partner swears blind that we're moving back to Stage 4, because they saw it on Facebook (only they didn't read the actual article). Your mom shares a shocking video of last night's Cape Town storm that someone shared on a WhatsApp group (too bad the clip was from five years ago).

COVID-19, mercifully, brought a long-overdue kickback against fake news, with the South African government warning that "Anyone that creates or spreads fake news about the COVID-19 is liable for prosecution." The future will, inevitably, be littered with lies and propaganda. But at least citizen journalists will (hopefully) stop to verify their sources before they share whatever they've read online.



CARBON-FREE CITIES OPERATIONS DIRECTOR FRANCOIS DU PLESSIS

As nations locked down, nature started to breathe again. New Delhi's skies and Venice's canals turned blue again, while pollution levels in deserted cities dropped drastically. "The nationwide lockdown has resulted in many industries having to shut shop, which has lessened impact on the environment, with visible reductions in air pollution," says Francois du Plessis, Operations Director ICT at EDS Systems. "This has given us a glimpse of the lower carbon future that we're working towards, yet these relief measures are only temporary. Businesses need to get a handle on tracking, quantifying and reducing their emissions sooner rather than later." That 'sooner' may be when South Africa's Carbon Tax kicks in later this year. It may also be when the whole world shifts its energies from combatting COVID-19 to finally tackling climate change.



STREAMING ENTERTAINMENT

Alexa's global website rankings provide a handy snapshot of where a country's connected population is focusing its energies. In mid-July, South Africa's seven most popular sites included YouTube, Netflix and DSTV. Not bad, given that Google (.com and .co.za) ranked first and third. Streaming entertainment went through the roof during the lockdown, as housebound cool cats and kittens had nothing better to do than binge-watch *Tiger King* (which attracted 64 million worldwide viewers in April alone). In fact, Netflix more than doubled its expected number of new subscribers between February and April 2020, adding 15.77 million new paid subscribers globally. Streaming is, quite simply, how we get our entertainment now.

THE NEW WORLD

PLAYING SAFE DURING COVID-19

TOYOTA DEALERSHIPS across the country offer a safe environment – whether you're shopping for new and pre-owned vehicles or taking your car in for a service.



Toyota staff adhere to strict Covid-19 protocols at dealerships nationwide.

After more than two months of hard lockdown, Toyota South Africa Motors (TSAM) welcomed customers and other road users back on the byways and highways. To thank non-essential services motorists for having heeded the government's call to stay home, we launched the #ToyotaUnlocked campaign (watch the video [here](#)).

The commercial conveys a message of hope that the unlocking of business comes with the unlocking of dealership doors. The secondary message from TSAM is that all Toyota dealerships across the country offer a safe environment – whether you're shopping for new and pre-owned vehicles or taking your car in for a service.

As Glenn Crompton, the Vice President of TSAM Marketing and Lexus Sales, says, "Our message of safety to our customers has gone beyond reminding everyone to drive with caution and great care. We now urge everyone to practise social distancing and hygiene – although the latter has always been a hallmark of Toyota, Lexus and Hino dealerships for years. With the government having relaxed its lockdown regulations, we call upon everyone to remember that this kind of freedom – in times of

COVID-19 – comes with great responsibility to protect yourself and those around you."

To ensure your continued protection against possible COVID-19 infections at its facilities, TSAM follows operating procedures and comprehensive precautionary measures that adhere to the Department of Health's directives. These include strict hand sanitisation, regular temperature checks, physical distancing and the wearing of masks at all times. Paying in hard cash is discouraged, EFTs, cheque/credit card Tap & Go and Apps such as Snapscan and Zapper are preferred and credit card machines are sanitised regularly. TSAM continues to review developments in dealerships in all regions and will take additional necessary steps based on any eventualities that may arise.

As Leon Theron, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at TSAM, says, "Our role, as a corporate citizen and as a responsible organisation, is to continue affording support to the government directives in dealing with the pandemic while doing all we can to keep businesses afloat. We are confident that the Toyota brand, with its sound business principles and values, will weather the COVID-19 storm with great cautious determination and dexterity."

THE NEW WORLD

OUR MESSAGE OF SAFETY TO OUR
CUSTOMERS HAS GONE BEYOND
REMINING EVERYONE TO DRIVE
WITH CAUTION AND GREAT CARE.



Doran Jaffe, dealer principal of Toyota Culemborg

THE NEW WORLD



THE NEW WORLD

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TSAM follows precautionary measures that adhere to the Department of Health's directives. These include strict hand sanitisation, regular temperature checks, physical distancing and the wearing of masks at all times.



IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RISK-ADJUSTED STRATEGY, TSAM IS IN THE PROCESS OF GRADUALLY RESUMING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY, WHILE TAKING A CAREFUL AND CONSIDERED APPROACH TO ENSURE THE RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN IS REDUCED.

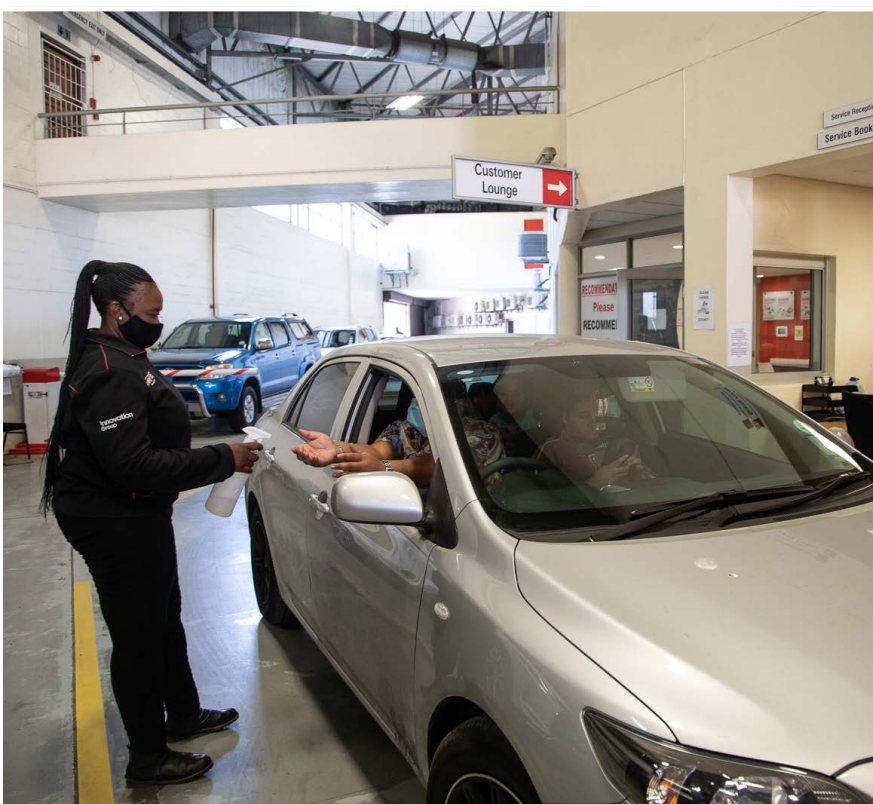


LOOKING BACK

During April in Alert Level 5, Toyota supplied more than 2 600 parts pieces to the local dealer network with the express aim of supporting the mobility of all essential workers.

In May, Toyota supplied more than 1.1 million parts pieces to its dealers in order to support essential vehicles operating under Alert Level 4. A further 163 000 parts pieces were exported into African countries between 18 and 31 May. According to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), although the 12 932 new vehicles sold in May 2020 still reflect a substantial decline of 27 496 units (68%) compared to 40 428 units sold in May last year, this was a noteworthy improvement from the April 2020 performance when only 574 units were shifted. TSAM accounted for 1 848 new vehicle sales in May while a further 1 418 pre-owned units were sold through Toyota Automark.

At 31 876, domestic sales for June are down by a substantial 30.7% compared to the same month last year when a total of 45 953 vehicles were sold. NAAMSA says out of the total domestic sales for June, an estimated 29 100 units or 91.3% represented dealer sales, 4.6% sales to government, 3.7% to industry corporate fleets, while an estimated 0.4% represented sales to the vehicle rental industry.



WAITING FOR YOU



NEW LOOK



WAITING FOR YOU

A bolder, tougher-looking **TOYOTA HILUX** has made its global debut along with significant improvements to performance, fuel economy, ride comfort, towing and equipment levels.

MORE POWER

WAITING FOR YOU



MORE POWER

Arriving in South African showrooms later this year, the updated Hilux offers beefier output from its biggest-selling 2.8-litre turbo-diesel engine thanks to multiple new components and enhanced cooling.

Maximum power has been increased to 150kW – that's a sizey 15.3% – while peak torque on automatic models has been ramped up to 500Nm – an 11.1% improvement. Fuel consumption also improves by up to 11.1% while tuned accelerator response delivers greater driver control.

The upgraded Hilux range retains a 2.4-litre turbo-diesel and a 2.7-litre four-cylinder petrol engine along with three transmissions, 4x2 and 4x4 drive, as well as three body styles.

IMPROVED DRIVING DYNAMICS

For the new Hilux, the engineers' target was to keep legendary off-road capabilities while improving on-road comfort. Designed to endure extreme off-road conditions, Hilux is one of the few still true to its body-on-frame architecture which can withstand twisting forces better and more durably.

The comfort and driveability of the new Hilux has been enhanced through improvements to the suspension and power steering systems. The suspension benefits from front and rear shock absorber tuning, improved leaf spring design and new bushing to combine a smoother ride with reduced impact on steps and holes.



MAXIMUM POWER HAS BEEN INCREASED TO 150KW – THAT'S A SIZEY 15.3% – WHILE PEAK TORQUE ON AUTOMATIC MODELS HAS BEEN RAMPED UP TO 500NM – AN 11.1% IMPROVEMENT.

NEW STYLING

The face of the new Hilux has been completely redesigned with a new bold and powerful three-dimensional grille and front bumper treatment, which significantly increases the bakkie's road presence and strong stature, whilst reinforcing its tough, robust, go-anywhere credentials of South Africa's best-selling vehicle.

This striking new exterior styling is further enhanced by newly designed headlights that are streamlined for a "meaner" look and light clusters include LEDs on high grades.

INTERIOR

Inside, all models have been upgraded to an 8-inch display screen with enhanced voice recognition, as

well as mechanical buttons and dials for enhanced operability under all driving conditions. The enhanced multimedia system features faster software and screen response, and incorporates both Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ for smartphone integration.

An extensive equipment list including smart entry and push-button start, Google Maps smartphone integration, automatic airconditioning, along with front and rear parking sensors, will also be available.

Since its launch in 1968, the legendary quality, durability and reliability of Hilux have made it the world's favourite pick-up. More than 18 million have been sold globally, including more than one million in South Africa.



**INSIDE, ALL MODELS HAVE BEEN UPGRADED TO AN 8-INCH DISPLAY SCREEN
WITH ENHANCED VOICE RECOGNITION.**





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2	5	6

1. A comfortable, spacious interior remains a Hilux doublecab hallmark. 2. An 8-inch touchscreen is compatible with Apple CarPlay®. 3. The suspension has been enhanced for greater comfort. 4. New, smaller headlights provide a more purposeful look. 5. Park Sensor is available on higher spec models. 6. LED Light Guiding Taillights make it stand out at night.

A NEW BOLD AND POWERFUL THREE-DIMENSIONAL GRILLE AND FRONT BUMPER TREATMENT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE BAKKIE'S ROAD PRESENCE.



WAITING FOR YOU

BOLDER ... & EVEN BETTER

Following on the heels of its pick-up sibling there's also a significant upgrade to the ever-popular seven-seater **FORTUNER SUV** on the way.



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES UNDER THE SKIN SEE NEW AND REVISED ENGINE COMPONENTS WITH NOTICEABLE POWER AND EFFICIENCY GAINS.

Also arriving here later in 2020, the Fortuner's bold exterior styling gets refreshed with a more premium look, reflecting the vehicle's dual role as a comfortable urban transporter and a rugged off-road explorer. And along with elevating its visual appeal are multiple improvements to engine, driving and towing performance.

There's a new surround for the larger black grille, restyled bumpers with a "skid-plate design" under-run, more prominent foglamp bezels, and slimmer headlamps upgraded to LEDs. Inside, your infotainment expectations are met with a larger 8-inch display screen (was 7") that supports Apple CarPlay^{®1} and Android Auto^{™2} smart-phone integration and advanced features including enhanced voice activation.

Significant changes under the skin see new and revised engine components resulting in noticeable

gains to output with sizeable cuts to fuel consumption. Again, mirroring the Hilux, there's an even more robust 2.8-litre turbo-diesel engine, enabling maximum power to rise to 150kW and torque to peak at 500Nm.

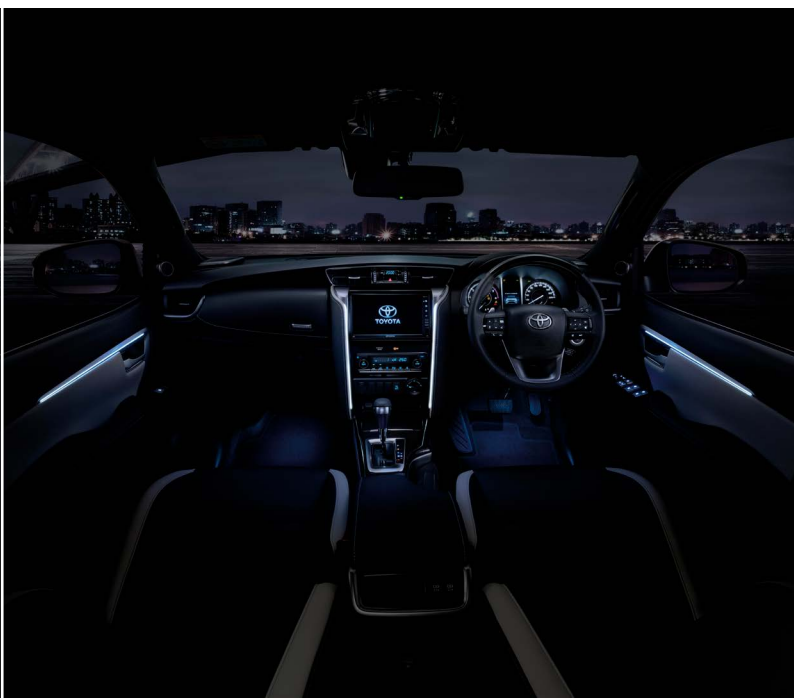
While delivering impressive gains of 20kW and 50Nm, additional measures including improved cooling have enabled fuel consumption to be reduced across the board, particularly in city driving where the improvement is more than 17%.

All Fortuner models are equipped with ABS, TRC, VSC, BAS, EBD and Hill Start Assist (HAC). The four-wheel drive models additionally feature Toyota's A-TRAC off-road traction control logic and Downhill Assist Control (DAC), to make navigating obstacles a breeze. On-the-fly selectable 2WD/ 4WD/ 4WD Lo modes further add to overlanding convenience.

Based on its rugged Toyota Hilux stablemate, the Fortuner remains South Africa's top-selling SUV.



ALL FORTUNER MODELS ARE EQUIPPED WITH ABS, TRC, VSC, BAS, EBD AND HILL START ASSIST.



EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

RED DUNE ROUTE

Amber dunes under a
dove-egg sky, the deep rumble of
black-maned lions at dawn, meerkats
scudding across scrubland plains,
gnarled acacia thorns standing guard in
a heat mirage ... you're guaranteed
outdoor drama along
the Northern Cape's remote
RED DUNE ROUTE.





CAMPING WILD ON ONE OF
THE NORTHERN CAPE'S
REMOTE DESERT PANS DURING OUR
BEYOND AUKOEREBIS EXPEDITION.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY



The Northern Cape is vast but you've only properly arrived once you've crossed the 'Groot Rivier' (or the Orange, if you like). This fertile watershed is colloquially referred to as the 'Green Kalahari', but your journey will navigate northwards to where the arid surrounds will eventually morph into full-blown desert.

This is the Kgalagadi – or the 'Place of Big Thirst' in the San language – and according to the locals, you can never forget this amazing space once you've felt the blood-orange sands under your bare feet.

You eventually reach two other rivers coursing through this parched land – the Auob and Nossob – but you wouldn't necessarily know it, as few people have ever seen these flow even once in a lifetime. These dry riverbeds wind through the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, and visitors to this cross-border conservation area follow their

courses as they search for the desert-adapted animals roaming this sparse land. But there are ways to get even further off the beaten track, even here within the heart of the moer-and-gone Kalahari.

From the main gate, follow the corrugated Auob River road halfway to Mata-Mata Camp. You will most probably encounter large herds of springbuck and gemsbok – and maybe a cheetah or two if you're lucky – en route to the Kamqua picnic site.

This is where the chance to test your off-road driving skills finally kicks into gear. A sandy dual track meanders westwards from the picnic area and onwards to where the secluded !Xaus Lodge awaits. Get ready for a roller-coaster ride of note, with 90 transverse dunes to be conquered as you cruise ever closer to the Namibian border.

This community-tourism establishment is owned in part by the Mier and ǀKhomani San people, and it truly is a place of transcendental



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1. The #Khomani San people of !Xaus create crafts under a gnarled camelthorn tree.
2. The shimmer of the sand road along the Red Dune Route.
3. A honey badger hunts amid the dunes near !Xaus Lodge.
4. Relaxing around the campfire on a sub-zero desert night.

beauty. Remote, minimalist and sustainable, it encapsulates contemporary tourism ideals, and you're guaranteed absolute headspace here on the edge of a heart-shaped pan in the middle of nowhere.

A visit to !Xaus is all about engaging with the great outdoors, though, even though this is as extreme an environment as you'll get anywhere on the planet. Dervish dust devils, soaring goshawks and resident barn owls punctuate the bass rumble of night-time lions roaring on the dunes right outside your chalet.

You may not always see them, but they're undeniably there, on the very periphery of your consciousness. And when you wake in the morning, their tracks around camp are proof that they're no figment of your imagination.

The presence of apex predators does not mean you can't venture into this captivating desert ecosystem. Every day at sunrise, visitors join one

of the #Khomani San guides to go and 'read the Kalahari newspaper'. Once on the dunes, they patiently recreate the activity of the previous night from the multitude of tracks in the red sand.

The slither of side-winding horned adders; the wispy brush strokes of a spring hare's tail; tell-tale 'buck-spoor' depressions hiding trap-door spiders' lairs; and of course, hand-sized prints of the 'King of the Kalahari'. It's impossible to put into words the feeling of walking amid these dunes, all the while immersing yourself within a place where space and time becomes nearly impossible to quantify.

Unfortunately, Earth continues to revolve around the sun regardless, compelling you to surrender to the fact that it will ultimately rise on your final desert day. And then you will say your goodbyes and navigate the sidewinder dune track returning you to your reality, and the real world.

But you will never forget your time at !Xaus ...

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

GET READY FOR A ROLLER-COASTER RIDE OF NOTE, WITH 90 TRANSVERSE DUNES

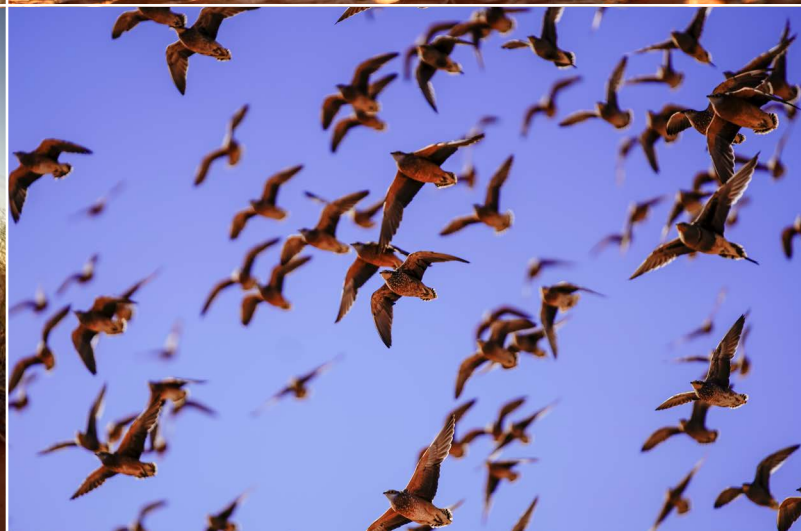


EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

TO BE CONQUERED AS YOU CRUISE EVER CLOSER TO THE NAMIBIAN BORDER. ■

THE K GALAGADI RED DUNE ROUTE BOASTS
SOME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP CAMPSITES,
SPREAD ACROSS NATIONAL PARKS,
NATURE RESERVES AND PRIVATE FARMS.







GO DO THIS ... AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE RED DUNE ROUTE:

Here are a few additional off-road routes for those heading into the Kgalagadi region:

NOSSOB 4X4 ECO TRAIL

This rugged trail traverses the dunes between Twee Rivieren and Nossob, and is a totally self-sufficient bush experience over three nights and four days. You must supply all your own food, water, firewood, braai grid, tents and camping equipment. Campsites are basic, and it's possible to extend your trip onto the remote Gemsbok Wilderness Trail in the Botswana section of the Transfrontier Park.

sanparks.co.za

TRANS BOEGOE RED DUNE TRAILS 4X4

This private farm – situated 50km from Groblershoop – offers four trails totalling 113km, with the full distance taking from six to nine hours to complete. Unwind after your day of driving with a swim in the farm dam or around the braai. Grading ranges from 2 through to a 5 and a high-clearance vehicle is required.

safariNOW.com/destinations

!XERRY WILDERNESS TRAIL

Embark on a two-day, two-night self-catering overnight trail where participants enjoy early morning and late afternoon walks in the company of armed guides. Walks start from rustic base camp and guests must bring along their own equipment and food. Due to summer heat, the trail is closed from 1 November to 31 March.

sanparks.co.za

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1. A guided dune walk with the #Khomani San.
2. Meerkats standing guard outside their burrow.
3. Little bee-eaters are just one of the many amazing bird species at !Xaus. 4. Our #Khomani guides sharing their desert knowledge.
5. Superlative star-gazing is guaranteed at !Xaus.
6. The Beyond Aukoerebis Expedition kids revel in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. 7. Still the best way to navigate the Red Dune Route.
8. Namaqua doves whirl across the sky in the Kgalagadi Desert. 9. A #Khomani crafter shows off his ostrich eggshell necklace. 10. !Xaus Lodge sits on the edge of a heart-shaped pan.

GETTING THERE

Navigate the private dune road from Kamqua picnic site, on the Auob River road in the Kgalagadi National Park. Only booked guests are allowed on this track and you will need a 4x4 (!Xaus can also arrange a transfer). No day visitors are allowed, unfortunately.

sanparks.co.za

ACCESS 4x4 only, and for lodge guests

CELL RECEPTION No (basic Wifi at lodge)

GPS COORDINATES

S 26.022388 / E 20.404894

WEBSITE xauslodge.co.za

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

THE RISE AND RISE OF THE E-BIKE

Mountain bikers – both new and experienced – have cast aside their doubts and embraced the altitude assistance of **ELECTRONIC MOUNTAIN BIKES**.

With all major brands in on the e-action, there's a bike for everyone.



Giant Trance E+ 2 Pro

Over the years, technological advancements in mountain biking have usually been lauded universally – disc brakes, 29-inch tyres and, more recently, the dropper post – have all been welcome additions to the world of mountain biking.

The same can't be said of the entrance of electronic mountain bikes (eMTBs) into the mountain bike fold. Dust-caked riders, brought up on tales of rugged downhill daring-do and breathless boasts about all-conquering climbers, immediately eyed the eMTB with suspicion.

People on e-bikes weren't 'real riders' while conversations on the merits of e-bikes turned towards 'what's the point if you're not pedalling?' Rather suddenly though, the perceptions have changed.

eMTBs are now one of the fastest-selling categories of bicycle in the world, including in South Africa.

One local arm of an international brand says they can barely keep up with demand, while all of the brands featured here spoke of doing excellent business in the eMTB category.

The technology, frames, battery life and capability of e-bikes have all improved rapidly in just a few years – but mountain bike enthusiasts have also wised up to the benefits of a little e-ssistance.

Older riders can recapture the ride sessions of their youth, partners of committed mountain bikers can now join in the fun without having to do the kiddies' loop at trail parks, and full-throttle enduro riders can go up and down, up and down, and up again for one last fix.

Major events in South Africa are getting in on the act too, with the likes of the Cape Town Cycle Tour, Joberg2c and Berg & Bush all opening their arms to e-bike entrants. In short, the e-bike scene is plugged in and powering up.

CALCULATE YOUR RANGE

The range of an e-bike all depends on the battery, type of rider, type of terrain and way that you ride your e-bike.

Here is a useful calculator that takes many permutations into consideration. It is specifically for bikes fitted with Bosch batteries, but it will give you an idea of range before you get in the saddle.

bosch-ebike.com/en/service/range-assistant/



GIANT

Model: Trance E+ 2 Pro

RRP: R86 165

Giant is well known for producing quality bikes at relatively affordable prices and this has carried over into its electronic mountain bike range too. For a great overall eMTB that gives you more time on the trails, the Trance E+ 2 Pro is a great option. The suspension is super smooth, while downhill handling is robust and reliable.

Battery: 500Wh

Suspension: 140mm rear, 150mm front

Built for: dependable ride performance

giant-bicycles.com/za

THE BIKES

This is a selection of MTB e-bikes currently or soon to be available in South Africa. Most of the brands featured offer a range of eMTBs, as well as commuter bikes, road bikes and gravel bikes. All of the bikes listed below are available now, with the Avalanche MTe hitting shelves in August this year.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

TREK

Model: Rail 9.8

RRP: R129 999

The Rail 9.8 is a long-travel carbon electric mountain bike that gets you to the fun stuff faster. It features an upgraded fork, drivetrain and dropper for exceptional performance on single-track trails. This eMTB feels and rides just like Trek's rowdiest trail bikes, and is built with the same trail-specific tech used to great effect on Trek's traditional mountain bikes.

Battery: 625Wh

Suspension: 150mm rear, 160mm front

Built for: charging downhill, then heading straight back up again

trekbikes.com/za/en_ZA/

SPECIALIZED

Model: S-Works Turbo Levo SL

RRP: R210 000

"An e-bike lets you ride farther and faster, and because of this, e-bike riders still get an excellent workout – they just have more fun doing it," says Specialized South Africa's Kylie Hanekom. The Turbo Levo SL (the SL stands for Super Light) is the perfect blend of lightweight trail handling and pedal assist, giving riders the feeling of riding a normal bicycle, just with superhero legs. At just over 17kg, the Turbo Levo SL is the lightest eMTB in its class.

Battery: 320Wh, which is why the bike is called Super Light. Also comes with Specialized SL1-160 external 160Wh battery

Suspension: 150mm rear, 160mm front

Built for: fun days on the mountain

specialized.com/za/en

SANTA CRUZ

Model: Heckler CC S Build 27.5"

RRP: R144 999.99

Santa Cruz created this bike to give serious trail riders the chance to smash out more rides in the day. Superstar Greg Minnaar, South Africa's downhill world champ, can be seen doing some impressive acrobatics with a Heckler on his Instagram page, while Scottish rider Danny MacAskill took his Heckler to an isolated island to ride up and down ruined buildings, show-casing the power and potential of the bike.

Battery: 504Wh

Suspension: 150mm rear, 160mm front

Built for: serious trail riding

santacruz bicycles.com/en-ZA

CANNONDALE

Model: Habit Neo 1 – Black Pearl

RRP: R149 999

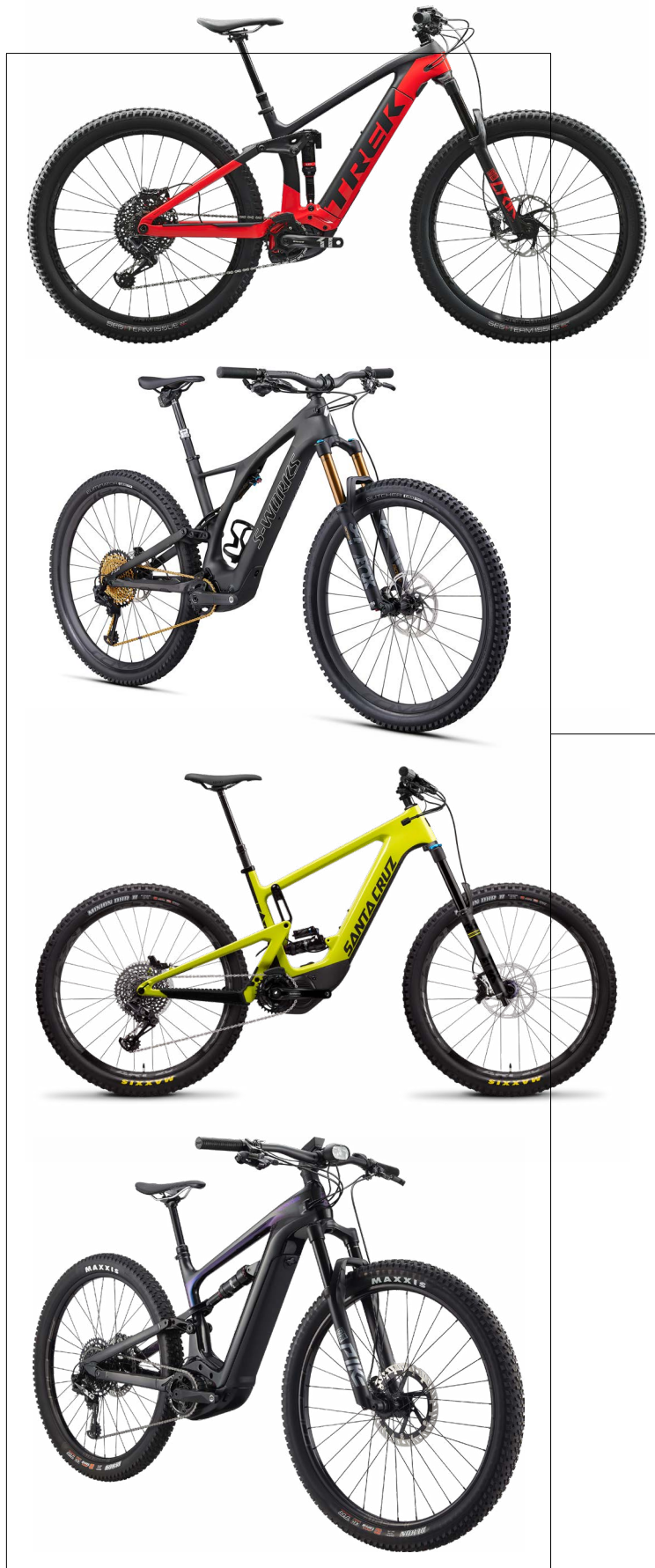
Unlike some Cannondale bikes, which are purely for the racing snakes, this is a bike that encourages fun and playfulness on the trails. The head angle is slack, the stays are short and the seat angle is steep. The drive unit and battery sit low and central in the frame – all to help the rider wring more flow from every inch of trail.

Battery: 625Wh

Suspension: 130mm rear, 140mm front

Built for: traction, efficiency, handling

cannondale.co.za





CARING FOR YOUR EMTB

In essence, there's little difference between caring for your eMTB and a normal mountain bike, says Justin Tuck, renowned bike mechanic and co-owner at the Gear Change bike store.

"An eMTB behaves very much like a mountain bike. A mountain bike has a voice and when it wants attention it'll talk to you – through squeaks and creaks, or suspension that doesn't feel quite right."

Tuck adds that eMTBs speak with the same 'voice'.

"The motors are very robust and are pretty much sealed off. They'll need software upgrades, but that's usually done during a service. Like a regular mountain bike, you simply need to service your eMTB at regular intervals – and this of course all depends on the type or rider, the type of riding and the terrain you're riding. A benefit of the eMTB is that it logs your kilometres, so you can tell when you need to bring your bike in."

SCOTT

Model: Strike eRide 920

RRP: R84 999.99

"This is our most popular eMTB by far," says Joggie Prinsloo of Scott South Africa. "I think with eMTBs we're seeing a whole new segment develop – it's a way for partners of serious riders to get involved, a chance for older riders to go further and, the most important aspect, it lets people just have fun on the bike." The Strike eRide 920 is a comfortable eMTB that's equally at home on the trails, on tour, on cross-country rides or used as an off-road commuter (with some trails thrown in for fun).

Battery: 625Wh

Suspension: 140mm rear, 140mm front

Built for: touring and trail riding; a great all-rounder
scott-sports.com/za/en/



BH

Model: Atom X Carbon ER970 Lynx 6 Pro

RRP: R109 900

The Spanish brand BH (Beistegui Hermanos – the three brothers who started the company in 1909) has been making inroads into the South African MTB scene over the past few years; and now it's come to the party with its eMTB range. The Atom X Carbon ER970 Lynx 6 Pro is the latest offering, a trail-bashing bike that provides maximum performance with a lightweight carbon frame. Trail aficionados would rightly call this bike a 'weapon' – rather fitting for a company that started out as a weapons manufacturer.

Battery: 720Wh

Suspension: 160mm rear, 160mm front

Built for: blasting trails

bhsouthafrica.co.za



EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY



ACE THAT **SHOT**

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Upgrade your photographic
skills with input from a seasoned pro.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

ACING AQUA ACTION IN THE FALSE BAY SWELL

THE IMAGE: **THE 'ESKIMO ROLL'** is one of the first manoeuvres to perfect in a white-water kayak.

THE TECHNIQUE

Underwater photography takes you into Planet Earth's last remaining 'great wilderness'. We've mapped a mere 19% of the world's vast oceans and have explored only minuscule parts of this Big Blue playground.

Visually, water shots can be stunning, but you do need to invest in the right gear. Equipment-wise, you have a number of options, depending on how seriously you take your photography. Here are two brilliant and affordable ways to get good water shots:

Many seasoned aqua adventurers trust their GoPro action camera to capture their moments of glory, and these indestructible little point-of-view (POV) hero devices deliver superb image quality and high-definition video at well under R10 000. You can even go for 360° visuals by investing in the dual-lens GoPro MAX.

Another affordable – and utterly kickass – imaging device is the new Olympus Tough. This R7 000 compact camera is shock-proof and waterproof up to 15m, and comes packaged with both a 5x zoom as well as microscopic macro lens. This means you can shoot up to 30x enlargements of marine critters while playing in the rock pools.

Last comes your choice of camera housings: 'soft' housings are basically sturdy plastic bags and will never last in rugged conditions. This is why serious professionals go for bomb-proof dive housings constructed specifically for scuba use. These tend to be ungainly, but their large ports make it easier to capture that defined line separating water and sky.

GETTING THE SHOT

Number one is to get yourself a wetsuit! Spending an hour or two in the Atlantic Ocean is a sure way to get hypothermia if you're not wrapped in rubber. Next is to make sure your camera model is capable of performing the move you want to portray. I pre-set focusing distance on the lens, set it to manual and used a fixed aperture to ensure my depth of field was ample for sharpness in key imaging areas.

TECH SPECS

EQUIPMENT

CAMERA Sony Alpha a99 SLT

LENS Zeiss 24mm

SHUTTER SPEED 1/2 500th sec

APERTURE f5.6

TECHNIQUE Shot with a rigid Ikelite housing

POST PRODUCTION

Final post-production done in Adobe Lightroom.

sony.co.za | jacquesmarais.co.za

Gravity Adventures offer coasteering, kayaking and white-water adventures throughout South Africa. Check them out at gravity.co.za

PROFILE

TEN MINUTES WITH OUPA MOHOJÉ

Toyota Cheetahs rugby player **OUPA MOHOJÉ** suffered a bad injury that almost saw him forced to give up the game he loves so much. But now he's recovered – and had his contract renewed. Eugene Yiga spoke to him to find out more.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO RUGBY?

My earliest memory of playing rugby is when I was nine years old. I saw a couple of kids playing and went and joined them. Turns out they were playing rugby.

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO TURN THIS INTO YOUR CAREER?

It was in 2012 when I was in Pretoria for the Sevens and Coach Michael Horak told me that I was going to be captain of the Shimlas. From then on, I started taking it much more seriously. One thing led to another and the following year I played in my Currie Cup debut.

IF YOU DIDN'T BECOME A RUGBY PLAYER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE DOING TODAY?

I've always been into sport so if I hadn't become a rugby player I would have probably become a high jumper. The highest I've jumped is 2.05m.

WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND WHEN YOU FIRST GOT INJURED?

I was worried about the recovery process at the time. I didn't know how long it would take but I predicated that it would be nine months and so I prepared myself for nine months. But it turned out it was longer. A lot was going through my mind, including the possibility of retirement. It was a tough time.

WHAT DID THE RECOVERY PROCESS INVOLVE?

The injury was to my right anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and my lateral meniscus so the recovery process consisted of rehabilitation every day, gym every day, and conditioning every day. This was coupled with eating well too and a lot of PRs [public relations appearances that the players do for the Toyota Cheetahs]. It was a long time not being on the field with the boys but at least I'm back now.

WHAT KEPT YOU POSITIVE DESPITE THE DIFFICULTY?

I spent a lot of time with my family, especially my brother. They kept me positive. I also kept the hope of playing again one day. That's what kept me going.

WHAT LESSONS CAN YOU TAKE FROM THIS?

This experience has taught me that if you do the right things today, the future is already taken care of. That's what I'm still learning: to take things a day at a time.

HOW DO YOU STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR HEALTH AND OTHER GOALS FOR LIFE?

I try to work as hard as I can on the field, eat as well as I can, and also pray a lot. I have conversations with God and that helps me quite a bit.

HOW DO YOU STAY IN SUCH GREAT PHYSICAL SHAPE?

I'm not in such great physical shape! [Laughs] But I run every day and do the best I can on the field and in the gym. Andre [Smith, the strength and conditioning coach for the Toyota Cheetahs] is keeping us busy on the field and that's helping. At the time of my injury I was 118kg and today I'm 111kg. So there's progress.

WHAT'S THE NUMBER ONE FITNESS TIP YOU CAN SHARE WITH OUR READERS?

Don't be afraid of failure. People always want to do less because they're afraid of failure. But if you go as hard as you can and then fail as part of the process, you'll do better tomorrow. For example, if you're scared to lift 100kg, it's going to be difficult for you to progress.

WHAT ARE YOUR BIG GOALS FOR THE REST OF 2020 AND BEYOND?

It's been a while since I've expressed myself on the field so it's definitely my goal to get some game time and start playing.



PROFILE

THIS EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT IF YOU DO THE RIGHT THINGS TODAY, THE FUTURE IS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF.



OUR DNA

TOYOTA IS NOT FOR LIKE, IT'S FOR LIFE!

In the little town of Steelpoort in Limpopo, there's an old bakkie that's more popular than Megan Markle. Owned by **LESELA MABELANE**, this Toyota Stallion known in the community as "OYO".

In July this year, a white Toyota Stallion became an overnight social media sensation when Pal Mabelane posted some images of his parents' vehicle on Twitter – Pal asked for retweets so Toyota South Africa would service the old mule free of charge as a belated birthday gift for his dad.

SA website Wheels.co.za amplified the message and quickly Toyota picked up on the post... this story touched them and if Pal could get 500 retweets, it would be a deal. Instead, the post got over 2 500 retweets in just two days, shooting the Stallion to fame.

Pal and his parents Lesela and Baelekae Mabelane, are from Limpopo. Although Lesela can't remember what he paid for the Stallion in 1998, he bought it at Supra Toyota in Middelburg, Mpumalanga.

Pal, who is a service provider in the mining industry, says his dad bought the vehicle because there was a water supply problem in the area, and his father wanted a bakkie to use to fetch water. "However,

"I KNOW THAT I CAN ALWAYS RELY ON MY STALLION NO MATTER WHAT CONDITION THE ROAD MAY BE IN, TO GET ME TO MY DESTINATION."

the biggest motivator was because my mother works at a rural school in the area and the road, until four years ago, was a gravel road. He knew a Toyota bakkie would handle it because they are known to be reliable and resilient. As he and my uncle (his twin brother) like to say: 'Toyota is not for like, it's for life!'" he says.

"If anything, my dad is exceptionally strict with adherence to the regular vehicle service schedule. None of his cars ever miss a service, and that is precisely what he did for the Stallion: regular services", says Pal.

As far as the bakkie's nickname goes, Pal explains that the "Toyota" badge-name at the back of the bakkie had worn until only the "OYO" letters were left. Everyone in the area calls the bakkie "OYO".

Lasela might be its rightful owner, but it's Baelekae who is the queen in town with OYO. She has been teaching for 32 years, and still enjoys her job as a primary school teacher at Ngwanatheko Public School where she is due to retire in the next two years.

Baelekae used to drive 20km daily in the bakkie and says it was her trusty steed: "Driving the Stallion has been a very great pleasure. Until three years ago, I have been driving on a dead, dusty road, and when it rained, it would get extremely muddy and in a terrible condition. There's a river that we had to cross, and when it rained a lot, we would not be able to go to work, but with my Stallion, I would drive across saying in my heart: 'C'mon pere! (steed) C'mon!'"

She says what she likes most about the bakkie is its reliability, "I know that I can always rely on my Stallion to get me to my destination, no matter what condition the road may be in."

There are three things, she says, that are lasting memories for her when it comes to the Stallion, "People in my village recognise me because of the Stallion, whenever they see the car passing by they immediately think that I am the one driving, no matter what day of the week it might be. When we bought the Corolla I alternated between the two cars every other week; the villagers would tell me: 'You are bunking school, the whole week you didn't go to school' because they had not seen the Stallion that week. And, because the road was so terrible, many cars drove at the speed of 20km/h because the owners did not want to damage them. I, on the other hand, would drive past all of them with ease. This led to many people singing their praises about 'OYO'. One teacher even commented, telling others how tough the Stallion is because they would watch it climb up the steep road imitating a caterpillar."

The Stallion is very much part of the Mabelane family, and it has now become their errand boy. Pal says, "Whoever needs it to carry a heavy load in the family gets to use it, and whenever my mother is overcome by a bit of nostalgia, she still drives it to school."

OUR DNA



“WHOEVER NEEDS IT TO CARRY A HEAVY LOAD IN THE FAMILY GETS TO USE IT, AND WHENEVER MY MOTHER IS OVERCOME BY A BIT OF NOSTALGIA, SHE STILL DRIVES IT TO SCHOOL.”

Baleleka now drives a 2010 Corolla Professional to school which the Mabelanes have now owned for 12 years. Pal says his father's first “luxury” vehicle was a 1993 Corolla 16 Valve Sport: “My uncle still has his 1997 Conquest 180i Sport, and my cousin has a 1995 Corolla 180i Sprinter which still runs as if he bought it yesterday. It's the bakkie though, that holds a special place in their family's heart, “All the children in the family learnt how to drive with this bakkie. Toyota is simple, reliable, and their vehicles are just resilient.”

The Stallion has recently been resprayed, the body has been fixed up and it got some new rims... and, as promised, has just had its special service at Lydenburg Toyota.

OUR DNA

BIRDS IN THE BUSH

Toyota has long standing relationship with **BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA**, most recently providing them with a Toyota Hilux 4x4 DoubleCab.

BirdLife South Africa is the only non-profit conservation organisation in South Africa solely dedicated to the preservation of South Africa's birds and their natural habitats. In order to protect the roughly 870 regularly occurring bird species found within the country's borders, BirdLife conservationists travel the vast and diverse landscapes of South Africa, from the rugged Karoo to the dusty savannas. Toyota South Africa has a long-standing relationship with the organisation and provides it with vehicles when necessary.

Dr Melissa Howes-Whitcross, an ecologist by training and the previous Raptor & Large Terrestrial Bird Project Manager at BirdLife South Africa, recently took ownership of the BirdLife South Africa's Toyota Hilux 4x4 Double Cab and is loving every minute of her new wheels. Howes-Whitcross has taken on the responsibility of managing the new Landscape Conservation Programme and says the vehicle is proving invaluable when it comes to coordinating her team of seven full-time conservationists spread across South Africa.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE BIRDLIFE TEAM DROVE THE BEEFY BAKKIE TO THE EASTERN FREE STATE TO FIT TRACKING DEVICES ONTO TWO YOUNG SECRETARY BIRDS.

Earlier this year, the team drove the beefy bakkie to the grasslands of the eastern Free State to fit tracking devices onto two young secretary birds. This work forms part of BirdLife South Africa's secretary bird conservation project that aims to understand the fine-scale movement patterns, survival rates and habitat usage of these wide-ranging birds.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists secretary birds as vulnerable – the large, charismatic creatures are threatened by habitat loss, degradation and alteration for human-related developments, as well as by collisions with fences and power infrastructure. In fact, a 70% reduction in secretary birds over the past three decades in South Africa has left conservationists extremely concerned for the long-term survival of these apex predators. By

THE LARGE, CHARISMATIC CREATURES ARE THREATENED BY HABITAT LOSS, DEGRADATION AND ALTERATION FOR HUMAN-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

following the tracked movements of individuals, BirdLife South Africa is better able to understand their habitat requirements and can advise landowners across the grasslands about better management of their natural habitats to support secretary birds and grassland birds in general.

Discover more about this conservation project [here](#) and [here](#)

SAVING THE SECRETARY BIRD

The BirdLife SA secretary bird tracking project started in 2011 and 10 juvenile birds were fitted with lightweight solar-powered GPS-GSM telemetry devices between 2012 and 2014. More than 45 900 location points were collected and these ground-breaking findings improved the understanding of the movements, dispersal and survival of juvenile secretary birds. According to the organisation, 'Southern Africa's secretary bird population is in trouble and urgent steps need to be taken to ensure these regal birds who stride across the African grasslands do not become another statistic of lost biodiversity in the ever-increasing global crisis.'

BEST BAKKIE

Dale Wright, former National IBA Coordinator for BirdLife South Africa's Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Programme, spent many hours on the back roads of the Karoo in the BirdLife South Africa Toyota Hilux 4x4 Double Cab. [<LINK TO ARTICLE WHERE WE PROFILE DALE – IT WAS FOUR ISSUES AGO>](#). BirdLife South Africa looks forward to travelling many more kilometres with Toyota South Africa to save South Africa's birds and their habitats.



1 3
2
4 5

1. The Toyota Hilux allows access to the nest tree in KwaZulu-Natal.
2. One last check before returning the bird to its nest.
3. Travelling across the pristine grasslands of Ingula Nature Reserve.
4. The tailgate of the Hilux is the perfect place to work on fitting the tracking devices.
5. A young secretary bird is fitted with a tracking device.