

# Kyalami

ESTATES



**Christmas  
Time Again**

**The Critically  
Endangered  
Coelacanth**

**Caring for  
your Trees**

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### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## ARE YOU A TREE HUGGER?

In this issue we feature an article about caring for your trees. Interestingly, it's actually a two-way street when it comes to nurturing and caring for trees because scientists claim that trees are beneficial to us in a whole lot of different ways other than putting oxygen back into the atmosphere. They say that trees are good for our mental health and can help to improve our concentration levels. Trees are apparently able to absorb negative energy and it's reported that in Japan, companies recommend that their employees should regularly engage in 'forest bathing' to improve their sense of well-being. Walking through a forest could even reduce one's blood pressure, as well as one's stress levels and any feelings of depression.

Tree hugging is said to be an excellent way to soothe the body – provided you choose the right tree, not one with thorns that will stab you or one that gives off a poisonous white sap. Choosing a 'kind and healthy' tree to hug will, in most instances, increase the levels of the hormone oxytocin, which promotes feelings of calmness and emotional stability. And while you're at it, the freshest air that you'll be breathing will be under that tree.

So, during the Festive Season, while you have some time on your hands, get yourself outdoors and go hug a tree.

Best wishes,  
**Bev Hermanson**  
EDITOR

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*What is on your  
Festive Season  
wish list this year?*

If selling your property features on your list, then now is the perfect time for your home to be seen by buyers starting their house hunting for the New Year.

Please contact us for advice on marketing your property throughout the Festive Season.

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# FESTIVE SEASON FUN

## CHRISTMAS MARKETS

• **CEDAR SQUARE CHRISTMAS MARKET, FOURWAYS** – 9 Dec 2018 from 09:00 - 15:00  
You'll find a variety of beautiful crafts, fashion and accessories to choose from at stalls located in the spacious Cedar Square centre. Kid friendly restaurants line the market and make it a fun and happy day out with the whole family!

• **BRYANSTON ORGANIC MARKET, MICHAEL MOUNT SCHOOL, BRYANSTON**  
The usual organic markets are run every Saturday and every Thursday from 09:00 - 15:00.

For the Festive Season, there will also be the **BRYANSTON ORGANIC CHRISTMAS MOONLIGHT MARKET** that will run every Tuesday from 17:00 – 21:00 until 18 December 2018.

At the Bryanston Moonlight Markets, a Children's Theatre takes centre stage from 17:00 – 19:00 each evening, featuring Jesting Juggler, Cappy's Magic Show, Carols by Candlelight and a Bedtime Story Puppet Show to captivate and enchant the children. An array of hand-crafted Christmas gifts, decorations and food will be on offer, with delicious snacks, meals and desserts to enjoy under the stars.

Entrance is R20 per adult and free for children under 12.

## • FOURWAYS FARMERS MARKET, FOURWAYS

Located on the original Fourways Farmstead opposite Montecasino, the Fourways Farmers Market is open every Friday afternoon/evening from 15:30 - 22:30 and Sundays from 9:00 - 16:00. You can sit under the trees or in the Maypole Ribbon Marquee area, amidst the beautiful plants in their garden or have a picnic on the lawns whilst listening to the best local music. Sip a craft beer, enjoy the different types of cuisine on offer and relax while the kids have a ball engaging in a variety of kiddies' activities.

• **IRENE VILLAGE MARKET**  
The Irene Village Market at the Big Red Barn



(7 Nelson road, Olifantsfontein) brings together a wonderful collection of artists and food stalls while offering excellent family entertainment. Situated on the beautiful grounds of the Sunlawns Estate that overlooks the Kaal river, the market is famous for its South African handmade arts and crafts. The market is normally open every 1st and last Saturday of the month. For December, a Christmas market will be held every Saturday of the month.

## MONTECASINO'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Montecasino's annual Christmas Village will once again transform the Outdoor Piazza into a magical European-style Christmas market from 12 - 17 December 2018. Experience the magic of Christmas shopping under twinkling fairy lights whilst the kids enjoy movies on the Big Screen. You can enjoy an ice-cold craft beer, or unwind at their trendy gin bar, cool down with a champagne popsicle, and tempt your taste buds with a delicious gourmet burger!

**Times: Wednesdays – Fridays: 14h00 – 21h00; Saturdays & Sundays: 12h00 - 21h00; Mondays: 12h00 -19h00**  
**Tickets: Entry fee is R10 (All proceeds will be donated to the 947 Christmas Wish List) Kids under 12 years and Pensioners get free entry.** [K](#)



## SHOWS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TEATRO AT MONTECASINO: JOBURG BALLET'S CINDERELLA

Strauss's champagne-infused melodies provide the perfect musical setting for this rags-to-riches tale. SA's leading ballet stars will be setting the stage alight as this classic tale unfolds, dazzling audiences with the magic of a glittering ball and true romance. Shows will be staged every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 14 December - 23 December 2018.







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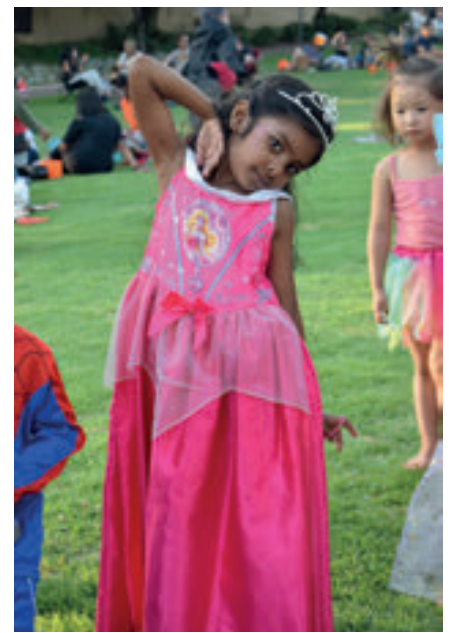


# Halloween 2018



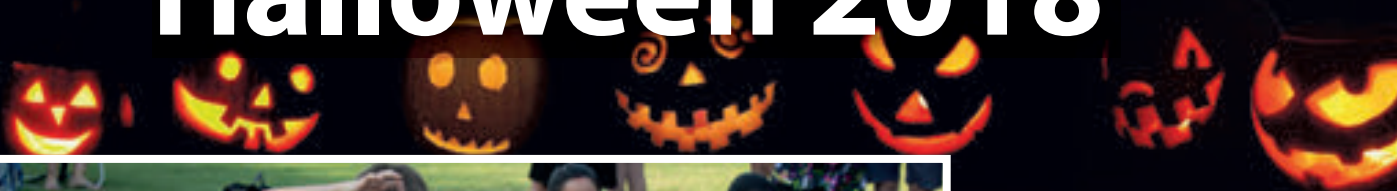


# Halloween 2018



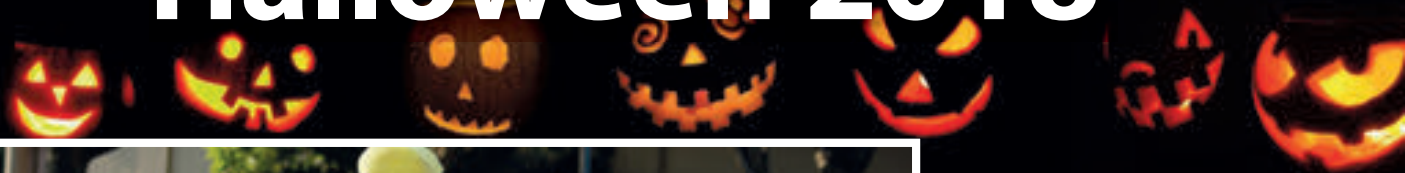


# Halloween 2018





# Halloween 2018





# CARING FOR YOUR TREES THIS SUMMER



the summer to check for pests and diseases. Most insects are not harmful to trees but some can be devastating to the health of a tree. Inspecting your trees regularly will ensure that you catch any potential infestations early, and will prevent the loss of these precious, oxygen producing trees.

## STORM DAMAGE

Summer rain storms can cause damage to trees and property, and it is important to assess the health and strength of your trees after every heavy storm. You may need to consult a tree care specialist to assess the safety of large trees. You could also brace and/or secure weak limbs with cables, if it is not necessary to completely remove the limb. [K](#)

**C**aring for your trees during the summer months is just as important as during any other season. Here are a few tips and techniques you can use to take care of your trees during the long, hot summer!

## MULCHING

The best time for mulching trees would be spring time, but you will also be able to successfully mulch your trees in summer and still reap many of the benefits. Mulch keeps your soil temperatures cool by helping to conserve the moisture in the soil, and suppresses the growth of weeds. Keep in mind that you shouldn't mulch against the trunk of the tree as this can cause the trunk to rot over time. Rather make a donut shaped mulch layer around your trees.

## IRRIGATION

South African summers can get quite hot, so it may be necessary for you to water your trees regularly, especially if the tree is young or newly planted. Trees need, on average, one inch of water per week, and it is much more effective to water a tree well, less frequently, as you need to make sure that the water penetrates deeper into the ground to reach the deep roots of the trees.

## FERTILISER

Just like humans, trees need nutrients to support leaf and shoot growth, and to fend off diseases and pests. Trees growing in urban areas or high stress areas will need more fertiliser than trees growing in natural areas.

## PRUNING

Pruning trees is as much an art as it is a science – this is why you should try to leave it up to the professionals. You should try to limit your pruning to the dormant season, but sometimes it is necessary to prune your trees in summer. You should remove any branches or leaves that are diseased, damaged or dead. Flowering trees should only be pruned in the early summer, after they have finished blooming.

## TREE PEST INSPECTIONS

You should always keep an eye on your trees and examine them frequently throughout



Article courtesy of Brands Tree Felling



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# RANGE ROVER VELAR

BY ALAN ROSENMEYER

In the late 1970s Land Rover stunned the world by producing the first ever luxury 4x4 vehicle capable of proper off-roading. Over the last few years, the range has expanded to include 4 separate models extending from the baby Evoque up to the big daddy Range Rover that offers super luxury, and power but still with go-anywhere ability.

A few months ago, the Velar was launched. Placed second up the range

in size, this is not exactly a small vehicle (proving how big the Range Rover has become). Its looks are unmistakably Range Rover though, with excellent proportions and acres of space inside for 5 passengers.

Starting with the interior, the Velar debuts the new technology dubbed the InControl infotainment system and Touch Pro Duo. Essentially, this provides the vehicle with the familiar Jaguar/Land Rover touchscreen infotainment system and below that there is another similar sized screen which controls all the drive modes including the famous Terrain Response system.


The test model was the range-topping version powered by a 3L V6 petrol engine with supercharger. Outputs of 280kW and 450Nm could almost be described as over the top, but there are various 2L and 3L petrol and diesel options available. With this engine you almost have sports car power and acceleration added to the mix. Perhaps the only penalty of all this fun is the fuel economy figure that I achieved over the test period - 12L/100km.

On the road in traffic, you are in a high, commanding position and the standard 8 speed automatic transmission makes traffic feel almost pleasant. Open road cruising is simply sheer relaxation with the biggest concern being ensuring that you stay within the speed limits.

Travelling in the Velar is certainly proof of the absolute power and luxury that this vehicle has been designed to achieve. Although underpinned by all the Land Rover technology that makes it extremely capable off-road, the sad fact is that 99% of them will never leave tar roads, at the most, venturing perhaps on to a bit of sand.

However, there is still the comfort of knowing the capability of your vehicle even if you never use it. I can equate this to insisting on having ABS braking but hoping that you NEVER end up in a situation where you actually need it.

The Velar can transport 5 passengers and the luggage space is 312L with 1096L if you simply press a button to drop the rear seats.

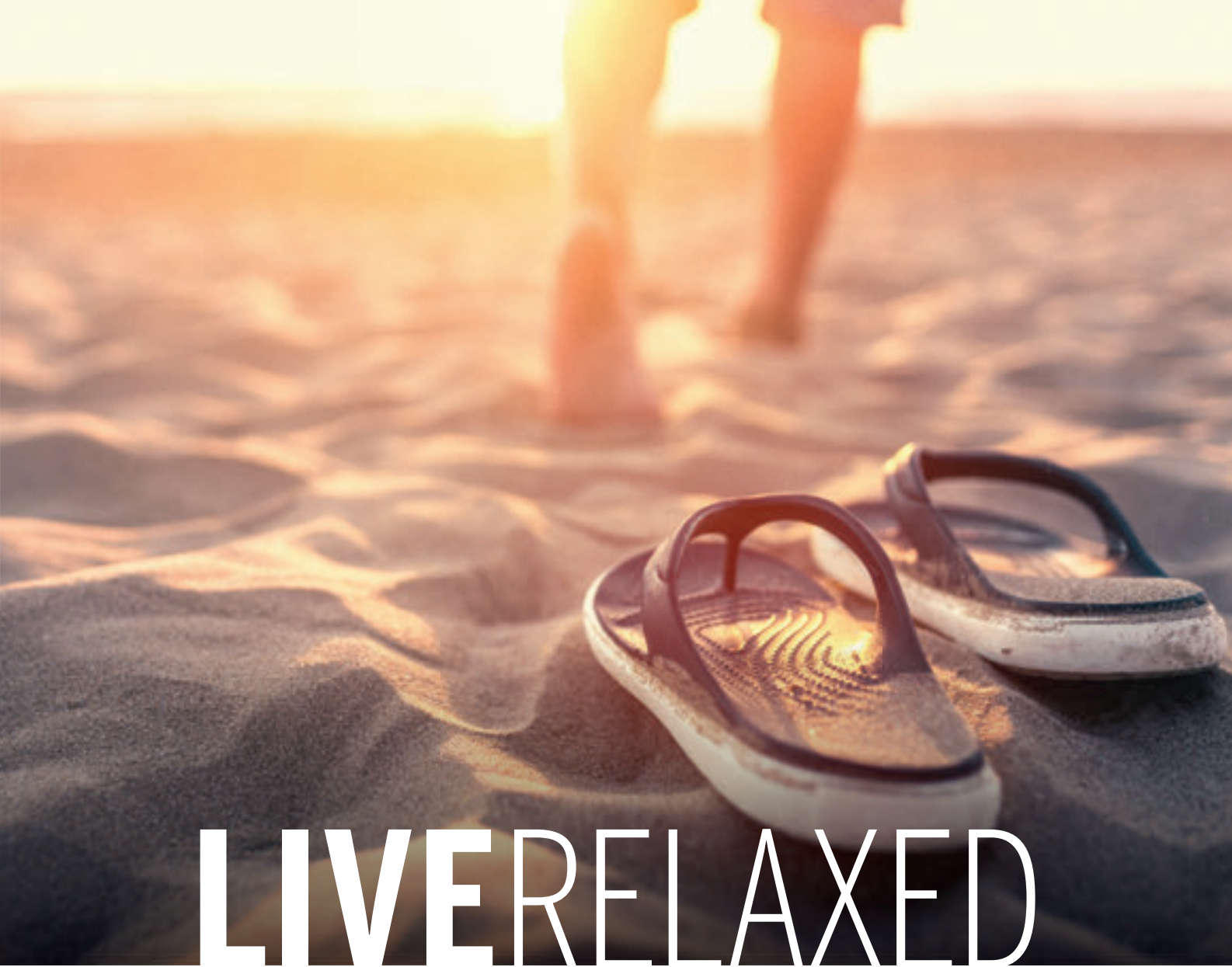
A standard 5 year/100 000km maintenance plan is included, with the price range starting at just under R1 million. The P380HSE as tested retails at R1,375 million. 



Watch our full video review of the Range Rover Velar on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qW5Q3uq3EA>







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Lew Geffen

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# THE ART OF CREATING 'DZIRE'

BY ALAN ROSENMEYER

Launched only a few months ago as the partner to the all-new version of the Suzuki Swift, the new Dzire is seen as a stand-alone version.

In the current environment, the budget entry segment of the automotive market

gains more relevance daily. More and more manufacturers have realised the importance of having a player to satisfy this segment of the buying public.

Suzuki has built a well-deserved reputation in this segment by offering models that may be priced in the budget segment but offer exceptional value for money regarding looks, handling and features. This segment is dominated by hatchbacks but some manufacturers have realised the importance of offering a sedan option as well.

The Suzuki Dzire is powered by the familiar 1.2L 4 cylinder engine that was used in the previous version - this tried and trusted engine offers 61kW and 113Nm of torque. While these figures may seem modest, the new car is underpinned by a new lightweight platform resulting in the car weighing in at under 900kg .... about 95kg less than the previous version. This obviously assists in providing a very perky performance from this 'little' car.


An advantage of the sedan over the hatchback sibling is the increase in boot space, although you obviously lose the versatility of being able to drop the rear seats for load carrying. Nevertheless, many buyers prefer the extra security of a boot as opposed to your valuables simply being located under a removable flap that can also be accessed from inside the car. Where the hatch offers 224L of boot space, this increases massively to 378L in the Dzire.

Our test vehicle was the upper spec GL version with two airbags, ABS braking, sound system with Bluetooth and electric windows all round. For the more budget-conscious, there is a GA version which offers the same mechanical package but loses most of the luxury items as listed above.

We tested the 5 speed manual version but there is also the option of what Suzuki terms an automated manual transmission or AMT. The gearshifts are slick and easy with the clutch being nice and light, making this ideal for a town runaround.

During the test period we also took a country trip and while the car maintained freeway speeds with ease, there were a few occasions when the front felt a little light - nothing serious but it does require a bit of extra concentration from the driver. The only other criticism that I can find is the lack of a modern touchscreen infotainment system instead of the very out-dated unit that was fitted.

A feature of the entire Suzuki range has always been the outstanding fuel economy. A full week of driving resulted in a figure of 5,2L/ 100km. I consider this an exceptional result.

With a 2 year/30 000km service plan included, the Suzuki Dzire GL is priced at R177 900. I think it definitely deserves consideration in its market segment. 





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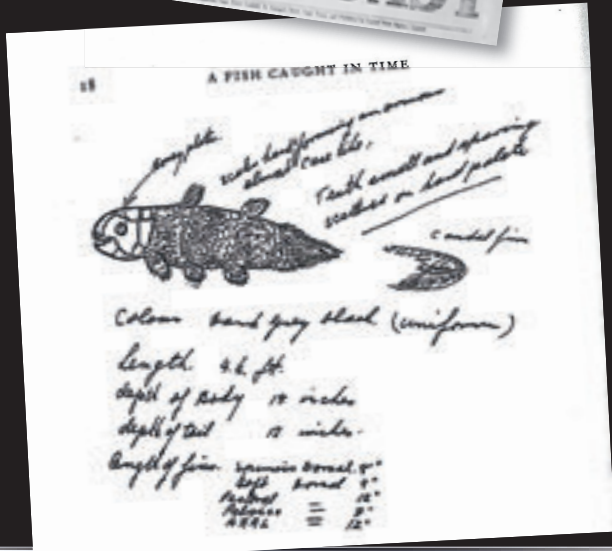
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# THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS FISH



Below: Marjorie Courtney-Latimer, director of the East London Museum, the harbour and a preserved coelacanth.

Above: The sketch that Marjorie Courtney-Latimer sent to Professor JLB Smith.



“Somebody’s just discovered a live dinosaur!” Those were, I always believed, the first words of Professor JLB Smith as he rose from sitting at the breakfast table shortly after Christmas in 1938. He was staring at a letter in his hand and for some moments stood in stunned silence. It was a letter from an East London woman.

In a few weeks’ time, on January 3, it will be exactly 80 years since that letter arrived at the professor’s holiday home in Knysna – that was the day the story of the world’s most famous fish began.

The woman, Marjorie Courtney-Latimer, director of the East London Museum, had written to Smith about a large newly-caught fish she had just retrieved from the city’s fish market. It was her amateurish sketch that riveted his attention.

Smith was puzzled at first but then, from the deep recesses of his memory, he remembered seeing pictures of coelacanth fossils found around the globe over the years, all dated between 420 million and 65 million years. Sixty five million years ago . . . that was when a meteor smacked into the earth causing sun-blocking debris to circle the planet for years, extinguishing the dinosaurs and uncountable numbers of other creatures.

Naturally, it was assumed coelacanth died in ‘The Great Extinction’. Smith’s often quoted remark about the dinosaur was in fact not uttered, according to a definitive book by Professor Mike Bruton on the notoriously taciturn and often difficult ‘JLB’ and his more outgoing family – and his celebrated fish.

Smith was a professor of chemistry at the time but was also a widely respected and knowledgeable amateur ichthyologist (fish expert). I never met JLB but knew Mary, his widow who, by the time I met her, was director of the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology at Rhodes University, and I worked on projects with their son, William, the country’s most popular science teacher. Mother and son were compulsive and brilliant teachers as is their biographer, Bruton himself – an articulate scientist with many and varied interests.

I thought I knew a bit about the Smiths but as I became absorbed in Bruton’s 344 page book on their private lives – with all its warts, I realised how little I knew about the effect of this spell-binding episode of science history and the impact on their lives.

Smith, in some ways, was inexplicably slow in getting to East London to actually see the fish for himself, yet, that January, he immediately wrote to Courtney-Latimer saying he strongly suspected she had on her hands a creature that would shake the scientific world. “Zoologically sensational,” he called it.

Smith said it was imperative that she preserved the fish’s organs but the museum director had had nowhere to preserve them and had already thrown them away for they were putrid. It was heroic enough that she, alone, got the human-sized fish (58,6kg) from the harbour to her museum and preserved it.

That day was December 22 1937. Her letter took 12 days to reach JLB. Bruton, with unlimited access to the Smith’s papers, recalled her description of the moment she saw the fish: “I picked away at the layer of slime to reveal the most beautiful fish I had ever seen. It was a pale mauvy blue, with faint flecks of whitish spots; it had an iridescent silver-blue-green sheen all over. It was covered in hard scales, and it had four limb-like fins and a strange puppy-dog tail.”

Its colouring soon disappeared.

Smith wrote to her saying, “I cannot help but mourn that the soft parts of the fish were not preserved even had they been almost putrid. I am sorry to say that I think their loss represents one of the greatest tragedies of zoology.”

Even so, Smith himself, took another 44 days to get up to East London. Admittedly, it was 580km away and on rough roads and the professor had a pile of Rhodes University exam papers to mark. Although he was frankly also scared of making an ass of himself. As Bruton says, he realised the find was “utterly fantastic and highly unlikely”. Smith told Courtney-Latimer, “. . . my mind still refuses to grasp this tremendous impossibility.”

It proved indeed to be a sensation and rocketed JLB and his wife, Mary, into a new life. Smith became, in the public’s eye, the world’s most famous ichthyologist. The fish, which quickly became a crown jewel of evolutionary science, had been caught off the East London coast and now the search was on for another specimen.

JLB felt the French Comores in the Indian Ocean was the likely home range and, by way of posters, offered a substantial reward for a specimen. World War 2 came and went. So did the 1940s.



Above: Grahamstown NRF. Below: Second coelacanth NRF



It was 14 years, again around Christmas, that a second coelacanth was caught off the French Comores. JLB feared the French would claim it or that it would decompose in the mid-summer heat. But nobody was prepared to fly him out and bring the fish home.

As a last resort he appealed to the Prime Minister, DF Malan. Everybody knew Malan believed evolution contradicted the bible and yet, Malan, who apparently had JLB’s hefty tome, *The Sea Fishes of Southern Africa*, at his bedside, was impressed on hearing JLB himself on the phone – and also impressed by JLB’s pleas that national prestige was at stake.

He assigned an Airforce Dakota and maximum crew to take JLB and bring the fish home. JLB, known to be rather humourless, when he knelt down to examine the huge fish and was able to declare it a new genus of coelacanth, wept. He planned to name it *Malania anjouanae* (for Malan) for he thought it was a different genus but it was later discovered it was a smaller, damaged version of the original which was named after Courtney-Latimer - *Latimeria chalumnae*. The specific name refers to the Chalumna River mouth near East London where the first one had been trawled.

The coelacanth is now listed, internationally, as “critically endangered” – just one degree above the final category: “extinct”.

Extinct! How bitterly ironic that would be. 





# Top 10

## TRAVEL DEALS

**1. Four-star Mozambique offer from Thompsons Holidays.** Rates from R11 748 per person sharing. Offer includes return flights departing from Johannesburg to Maputo, approximate taxes, return transfers and three nights' accommodation at the four-star Machangulo Beach Lodge with breakfast, lunch and dinner, all snacks and selected juices daily. Valid from 14 January – 31 July 2019. *For more information visit [www.thompsons.co.za](http://www.thompsons.co.za); email: [travel@thompsons.co.za](mailto:travel@thompsons.co.za) or contact them on 011 770 7583.*

**2. Traditional Cambodia Tour from Azure Travel.** Rates from R15 187 per person sharing. Offer includes transfers, eight nights' accommodation with breakfast daily, one dinner and more. Visit Siem Reap, Battambang, Phnom Penh and other attractions. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid until 31 March 2019. *For more information visit [www.azuretravel.co.za](http://www.azuretravel.co.za); email: [info@azuretravel.co.za](mailto:info@azuretravel.co.za) or contact them on 011 678 1146.*

**3. Postcards of California offer from Travel Vision.** Rates from R36 532 per person sharing. Offer includes return flights departing from Johannesburg, approximate taxes, ten nights' accommodation and ten days car rental with unlimited mileage. Visit Los Angeles, Malibu, Santa Barbara, Monterey, Carmel and more. Valid between 1 November 2018 and 31 March 2019. *For more information visit [www.travelvision.co.za](http://www.travelvision.co.za); email: [reservations@travelvision.co.za](mailto:reservations@travelvision.co.za) or contact them on 011 408 8000.*

**4. Vic Falls pay for 2 and stay for 3 offer from**

**Flame of Africa.** Rates from R3 395 per person sharing. Offer includes airport transfers, three nights' accommodation at the Vic Falls Rainbow Hotel with breakfast daily and dinner for one night. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid until 30 December 2018 and between 3 January – 18 April 2019. *For more information visit [www.flameofafrica.com](http://www.flameofafrica.com); email: [foaweb@flameofafrica.com](mailto:foaweb@flameofafrica.com) or contact them on 031 762 2424.*

**5. A festive Family Fun offer from Nibela Lodge in Kwazulu-Natal.** Rates from R2 560 per room per night for two adults sharing. Offer includes one nights' accommodation with breakfast and dinner, guided morning walk and one night drive with stargazing. Valid between 14 December 2018 – 15 January 2019. *For more information visit [www.nibelalake lodge.co.za](http://www.nibelalake lodge.co.za); email: [nibela.admin@dreamsresort.co.za](mailto:nibela.admin@dreamsresort.co.za) or contact them on 035 562 9005.*

**6. Explore Asia with Top Deck.** Rates from R41 900 per person. Offer includes internal flights, eleven nights' accommodation with breakfast daily and five lunches and dinners. Visit Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, Hong Kong and more. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Set departure date 7 April – 18 April 2019. *For more information visit [www.topdeck.travel/destinations/africa](http://www.topdeck.travel/destinations/africa) or contact them on 0800 982 308.*

**7. Mystical Egypt offer from Tripistery B2B Travel.** Rates from R6 500 per person sharing. Offer includes all transfers, four nights' accommodation in Cairo with breakfast and three nights' accommodation on a cruise on a full-

board basis. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid from 15 January – 30 September 2019, excluding 15 – 30 April 2019. *For more information visit [www.tripistery.com](http://www.tripistery.com); email: [info@tripistery.com](mailto:info@tripistery.com) or contact them on 031 817 1900.*

**8. Venice Carnival with United Europe.** Rates from R13 750 per person sharing. Offer includes Port fees, four nights' accommodation aboard Croisi Europe Ms Michelangelo, all meals and onboard activities. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Set dates 27 February – 3 March 2019 and 3 – 7 March 2019. *For more information visit [www.unitedeurope.co.za](http://www.unitedeurope.co.za); email: [info@unitdeurope.co.za](mailto:info@unitdeurope.co.za) or contact them on 011 462 0962.*

**9. Ramanaya Trail Tour, Sri Lanka offer from Jetstar Tours.** Rates from R17 506 per person sharing. Offer includes transfers, seven nights' accommodation with breakfast daily in a four-star hotel. Visit Nuwara Eliya, Bandarawela, Negombo and Colombo. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid from 15 January – 28 February 2019. *For more information visit [www.jetstar.co.za](http://www.jetstar.co.za); email: [info@jetstar.co.za](mailto:info@jetstar.co.za) or contact them on 087 285 5391.*

**10. Mauritius beach special from Ezeego1 Travel & Tours.** Rates from R7 837 per person sharing. Offer includes airport transfers, six nights' accommodation at the Laguna Beach Hotel & Spa with breakfast daily. Visit North Island, South Island and Ile Aux Cerf Island. Offer excludes flights and taxes. Valid until 4 January 2019. *For more information visit [www.ezeego1.co.in](http://www.ezeego1.co.in); email: [agents.registration@ezeego1.com](mailto:agents.registration@ezeego1.com).*



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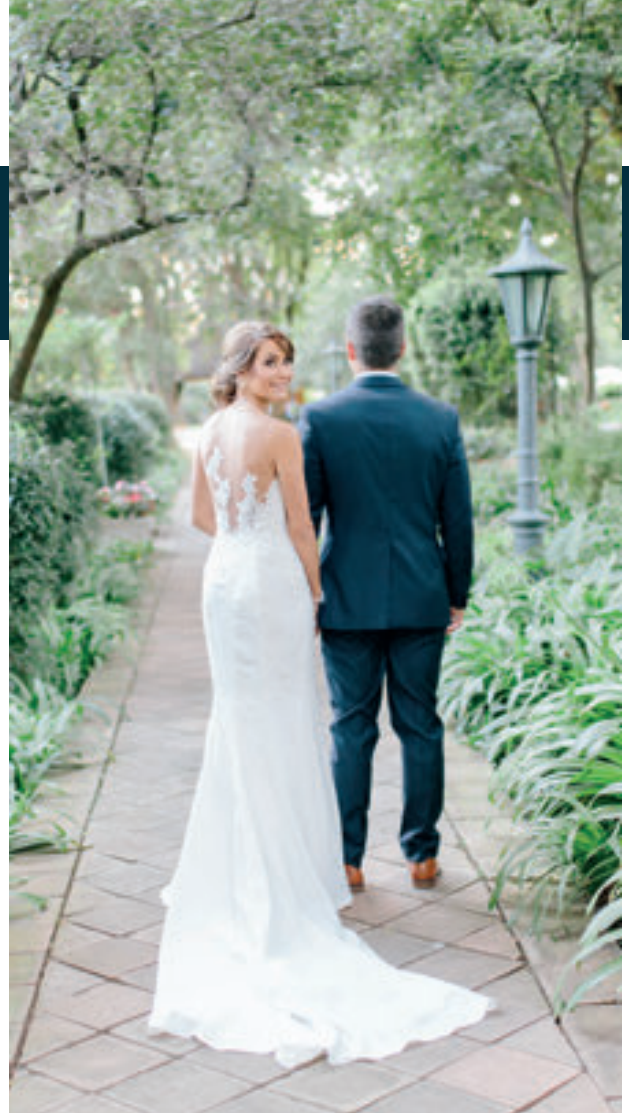
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For more info on the Bridal Expo please visit [www.bridalexpo.co.za](http://www.bridalexpo.co.za) 





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# TOP EQUESTRIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SA



**A**t Beaulieu Preparatory School (BPS), equestrian horse riding is supported and recognised as a school sport. The school has embraced its horse-riding community since its inception in 1996 and each year fields a large team of riders and vaulters (gymnastics on horseback).

This year was no exception and the school's dedicated riding team consisted of 35 students competing across a variety of equestrian disciplines that included show-jumping, dressage, equitation, showing, western riding, stadium eventing and vaulting.

BPS riders and vaulters accumulated points by competing in the four regional South African National Equestrian Schools Association (SANESA) core league qualifying shows held from February to June, against a total of 52 other competing Johannesburg Primary schools. 2018 proved to be another super successful year and Beaulieu Preparatory retained the winning trophy in Category A for the top points scored in the Johannesburg region. In fact, BPS remains undefeated in this regional league since the league's inception. The school accumulated over 50 000 points whilst their nearest rival ended with less than half that, at 20 000. In addition, BPS senior rider, Sienna Blaauw, won the Johannesburg Senior Victrix Ludorum trophy, whilst her sister, Jenna Blaauw won the Junior Victrix Ludorum for the most points scored over the four shows.

A total of 15 Beaulieu Prep children were then selected to ride in the SANESA Gauteng Finals show. This was held in the last week of July and 145 schools from across the entire Gauteng province (Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, West and Sedibeng) competed in order to select a Gauteng team. Any child achieving a top 12 result secured a position in either an A, B or C Gauteng team. From the 15 Core League Beaulieu riders, 12 were selected to represent Gauteng at SA Nationals in early October. A further 4 Level 0 riders (lead-rein/off-lead junior riders) and 4 vaulters were also selected for their separate disciplines at Nationals. On the individual front, Sienna Blaauw was once again the Victrix Ludorum, securing the highest number of points against more than 340 Gauteng riders. Jenna Blaauw was placed 10th overall in the province.

The riding year culminated with all the disciplines




*Beaulieu Prep Chef d'Equipe, Mrs Michelle Blaauw, accepts the Winning trophy for SA Nationals Top Primary School from SANESA President, Mrs Lyna May. Michelle is accompanied by vaulters Shannon Turner and Jenna Blaauw, and senior rider, Sienna Blaauw.*

competing at Nationals in the week of 1 - 7 October at Kyalami Equestrian Park. This show boasts the largest number of entries and horses in a single event in South Africa, with riders from around the country competing for top SA school rider positions. Once again, Beaulieu Preparatory equestrians excelled and defended their title as the Top National Equestrian Primary School in South Africa, scoring a total of 3 588 points with the nearest rival at 2 568. BPS riders and vaulters came away with a total of 10 first places, 7 second places, 3 third places and a further 13 placed positions. Individually, Sienna Blaauw was tied for 7th place in South Africa for the most points scored at Nationals for Primary Schools.

Away from the awards and accolades, BPS riders conducted themselves professionally and thoughtfully and they wore the red emblazoned saddle numnahs with pride. The team is also part of a 'give-back' initiative whereby riding clothes are collected and passed on to the Shumbashaba Riding Centre, based near Diepsloot, and to the Soweto Equestrian centre.

Apart from their trusting and faithful steeds, the team would not achieve these fantastic results without the support from their school, their coaches, parents and grooms. BPS Headmistress, Mrs Noële Hillen, in particular, continued to show her unwavering support for all things equestrian. Her attendance at almost every show is truly appreciated by all the children.

Congratulations go to Mrs Michelle Blaauw, the school's Chef d'Equipe and to all Beaulieu Preparatory 



*Sienna Blaauw – Johannesburg Senior Victrix Ludorum.  
Jenna Blaauw – Johannesburg Junior Victrix Ludorum*



*Beaulieu Prep wins the Top Johannesburg Equestrian Primary School award*

Photos: Denford Studios



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# ARE YOU MEMORABLE FOR THE RIGHT REASONS?

## Your image vs your reputation. Which is more important?

**B**usinesses spend a lot of time creating and working on their brand: their logo, their value proposition, their offerings to various stakeholders, their differentiators, their social media presence and voice, which is the 'personality' of the business. In essence, businesses create the image and experience that they want to be known for.

Just like businesses, as an individual managing your career like a business, you have the ability to create your brand... and should be doing so because it gives you a greater level of control over how you want to be 'seen' and what you want to be known for.

But what we WANT to be known for is not always the same as what we ARE known for. There is a distinct difference between brand and reputation. Brand is something you can create and control.

Reputation is something that is based on the opinions and beliefs that people in general have about someone or something. So while the image or brand of your personal 'business' may remain within your control, your reputation is in the eye of the beholder.

Your reputation can be made, and your reputation can be damaged – sometimes by your own actions and behaviour. But it can also be informed by gossip and rumour, by misunderstandings

and misinterpretation, and by the personal and individual experience of one or two people who have the ability to influence the opinions of others. So if a reputation can be as fickle as what others think of you, should you care? I would say yes. And I will tell you why I say this in a few anecdotes.

### **How you make people feel is sometimes more important than your technical brilliance.**

A while back I worked with someone who is a technically gifted person: he has amazing knowledge and experience, could problem solve with the best of them, but very few people wanted to work with him. I saw people resign from a project if he was on it. I saw his name come up in discussions around team composition, and a less technically qualified person being chosen for the team. Why? Because he was unpleasant to work with. He was miserable, cynical, destructive in his comments, wanted everything to be done his way and rarely found the ability to say anything complementary to his colleagues.

He developed a reputation for being unpleasant to work with, to the extent that even people who were new in the organisation and had never worked with him knew that he was someone to avoid if at all possible.

That's reputation in action!

BY BRIONY LIBER





However, **being trusted and respected is sometimes more important than being liked.** I worked with someone for a while who was an absolute delight to be around. She was funny, she was thoughtful and generous, she always brought shortbread and cappuccinos to our meetings, she always put up her hand to help out, and you could guarantee that if someone was going to stay at work after hours to help out, it would be her.


Sounds like someone who would be a pleasure to work with, someone who would have a reputation for being dependable and trustworthy right?

Not so much! She had no appreciation of the need for timeous communication. We were in the car, on the way to a meeting with a client when she decided the time was right to tell me that the client might be very unhappy with us and was planning to have another consultant in the meeting to take over from us. That meeting was one of the most uncomfortable experiences of my life.

But that wasn't why I didn't trust her. The reason I didn't trust her was that after that incident and a thorough debriefing on what information was critical for priority communication, she didn't learn from the experience and, on at least a few other occasions after that, only communicated critical information when we were already in a crisis. I couldn't trust her to anticipate and plan. And when I was asked if I would recommend her to work on a project with international colleagues, I declined to do so.

That's reputation in action!

### So in the business of being you, think about these questions...

1. How big is the gap between the brand you are aiming to create and your reputation (opinions and beliefs that others have of you)?
2. What responsibility do you have for the extent of that gap and what is outside of your control?
3. What actions can you take to bring closer alignment between your brand and reputation? 

To connect with Briony Liber, email: [briony@brionyliber.com](mailto:briony@brionyliber.com), or visit her website: [www.brionyliber.com](http://www.brionyliber.com).

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# THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN... WELL... ANYTHING ELSE

In a world that is largely governed by technology, it is no surprise that education is at the mercy of the electronic device. But is technology in the classroom really making our children smarter?

In many schools, textbooks are no longer available in hardcopy and most learning material is now accessible in a digital format. Whilst this sounds globally favourable and creates the image of students' preference for technology, it does not necessarily translate into better learning outcomes.

Many parents are sold on the educational punt of 'preparation for the future' (which is simply a marketing ploy) whereas the basis of education still relies on the creation of conducive learning environments that encourage interaction with learning material.

The onslaught of technology into schools has been explosive. However, many schools are not prepared for the demands of technology and try to implement programmes and structures that extend beyond the realm of what is necessary or relevant to real teaching; and some schools misinterpret the function of technology in the classroom and tend to over-capitalise on its ability and expectation.

The investment in classroom technology sometimes surpasses the traditional purpose of education: to teach. Many teachers idealise the use of technology in their classrooms as a means to an end, and praise the iconic device for its supposed ability to boost the learning experience. This leads to complacency and the very possible demise of the presence of a human teacher. The debate is, if learning digitally is so prolific, why are we not creating more intelligent students?

There is undoubtedly a place for technology in the classroom, but total reliance on it is not advisable. Education seems obligated to maintain the advance of technology, but fails to advance itself. How can we expect our world-wise students to tackle an 'old' curriculum using new technological principles if we fail to teach them how to use these devices favourably? We live in a society that has advanced phenomenally but education has stood somewhat still. Essentially, many of us are teaching old principles to new-age students.

Technology is most definitely here to stay but the concept of 'too much, too soon' is unfortunately a reality within many educational institutions. More so, teachers are often on the back foot when it comes to the expectations of school management and policy makers. Teachers are expected to simply implement digital learning in response to an outdated curriculum. More so, teachers cannot teach effectively if they, themselves, are not given the tools to function in a digital classroom. Often, the



onus is on the teacher to explore digital learning and create meaningful inclusion of electronic material. It would seem that the invasion of technology into the classroom has not quite mastered the art of actualisation.

The art of teaching students HOW to learn is influenced by the tools we give them. If we give them a pen, they will write; if we give them a keyboard, they will type. Does it matter what tools we give them in order to learn, or can we safely say that they will be able to learn, no matter the equipment?

Much research is underway in exploring the differences between reading print and digital media, and it would be wrong to assume that students will automatically receive improved education by digital reading simply because we believe it to be so.

Learning is a spontaneous activity and generally happens without conscious thought. We learn through a variety of mediums and experiences and often pay little attention to the new knowledge we are acquiring. Studying, however, is an active process and requires conscious thought. It demands more engagement with the learning matter and deeper comprehension.

The ability to comprehend study material is influenced by the medium: the environmental reason for going paperless is noble but the demise of the printed word endangers our students' ability to meaningfully engage with information.

Because studying is an active process, it requires physical manipulation of information. Reading is passive and if students are simply reading digitally, they are not necessarily retaining information.

Students learn better when they have access to tangible sources and are able to interact with the study material using their own hands. This is true for the classroom experience as well as the preparation for tests and exams.

When students type their notes in class, they tend to type verbatim, shutting off the brain's desire to listen for meaning. Learning then becomes passive because

the student loses attention. An essential component of note taking requires summarising, paraphrasing and concept mapping. Typing is simply copying. Creating one's own study notes through palpable interaction with the material assists in encoding the information, which improves the ability to process and retain new knowledge. When students study using printed books, they are able to page back and forth, make notes in the margin, colour-code and implement various other active processes.

This in turn, leads to the creation of unique and original study notes which make sense to the brain in which they were created. In order to learn optimally, one has to 'own' the information and, therefore, make it one's own: writing longhand allows the student to better conceptualise, understand and apply information. Long term storage is thus achieved and students are able to retrieve information more readily.

Typed notes are often verbatim and far more extensive than longhand, demanding more reading time in order to wade through the 'notes'. Effective studying requires students to break information down into smaller, more workable chunks so that increased meaning and understanding is achieved. According to a research study by Mueller and Oppenheimer at the University of California (2016), it was found that longhand notes involved superior processing, storage and encoding functions.

It seems there are still advantages to doing things the old fashioned way, and until the human brain rewires itself to think and learn more digitally - and education revamps itself to address the digital status quo - the use of the printed word and personal penmanship is most certainly not on the wane. In response to the vast amount of research being undertaken across the globe on the use of digital media, e-books and electronic learning in education, many new technologies are being developed to support digital learning, but until we are able to foster the same learning potential from a device as from our hand, viva the pen! 



# STEINHOFF: INSIDE SA'S BIGGEST CORPORATE CRASH



BY JAMES-BRENT STYAN

On 5 December 2017 the Steinhoff group was worth R193 billion. Twenty four hours later, more than R117 billion of this fortune was wiped out. The Steinhoff Empire, which took 50 years to build into an international business giant, had crumbled overnight. Markus Jooste, Steinhoff's flashy CEO, resigned and has since been fleeing an avalanche of scandals and accusations: luxury homes for a blonde mistress, allegations of fraud, racing horses and unparalleled extravagance, a lavish, black Jaguar. . . What exactly happened here? Who knew what? What is Steinhoff, who is Markus Jooste and what does it all have to do with the so called Stellenbosch mafia? Where does business tycoon, Christo Wiese, Shoprite and Pepkor fit in and where is the pensioners' money?

*Steinhoff: Inside SA's biggest corporate crash* is a gripping financial thriller that will be told as a cautionary tale or salacious scandal in both boardrooms and living rooms for decades to come. The author, James-Brent Styan, qualified as an accountant in 2003 and did his articles at an auditing firm before becoming a financial journalist. He has written for *Finweek*, *Forbes Africa*, *Sake24*, *Fin24*, *Beeld* and *Die Burger* and currently works as a communications practitioner. *Steinhoff* is his third book. His other books are *Heartbreaker: Christiaan Barnard and the first heart transplant* and *Blackout - The Eskom Crisis*.

Here's an extract from the currently No.1 Bestselling book in South Africa:


Viceroy Research is a small, anonymous

investment firm consisting of three men, who describe themselves as 'protectors of shareholders'. Viceroy became world-famous overnight with the release of a damning report that revealed various irregularities in Steinhoff's financial statements. The Viceroy report was issued on Wednesday 6 December, the same day Steinhoff confirmed it was investigating accounting irregularities. The 37-page report on Steinhoff spread fast. That week, the Steinhoff share price dropped like a ton of bricks. From R50,25 on Monday 4 December, the closing price fell to R45,65 (Tuesday), R17,61 (Wednesday), R10,00 (Thursday) and hit R6,00 on Friday.

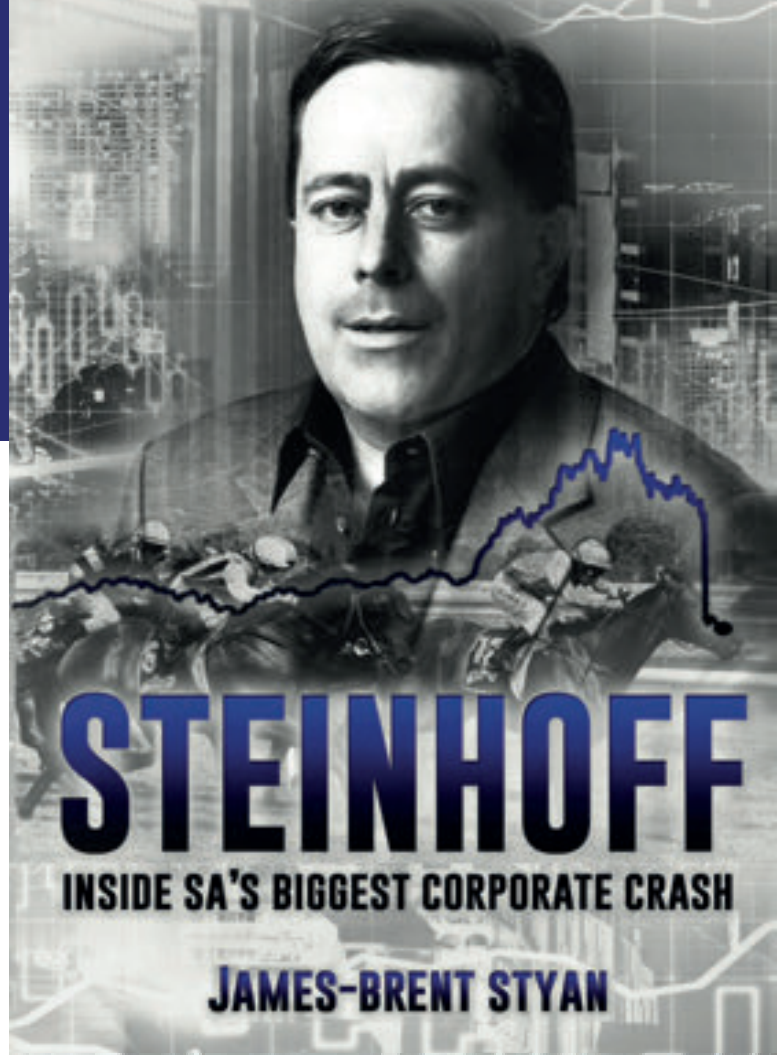
Viceroy initially remained anonymous while the storm raged. In response to inquiries, the group told the Bloomberg news service: "We believe the research should do the talking." Viceroy described its work as 'investigative research' and said they use simple instruments such as Gmail and WordPress for their site because Viceroy is not "a marketing machine. We are a small team of professionals." They acknowledged that their focus was to research companies where 'signs of accounting irregularities and possible fraud are found'.

After the publication of the Viceroy

report, Steinhoff's share price continued to fall and the rating agency Moody's downgraded Steinhoff's credit rating to junk status. But the Steinhoff collapse was not limited to South Africa. The financial shockwave was felt around the globe. In America, four of the largest American investment banks, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup and Goldman Sachs, announced they jointly had more than \$1 billion of loans linked to Steinhoff. The embattled group owed a total of \$22 billion to international banks.

When it comes to accountability and decision-making, a big question mark hangs over the actions of the investment and financial community in South Africa. The industry consists of highly qualified and specialised people who are paid generously to look after other people's money and pensions. How did so many of them completely miss the Steinhoff signs? The golden thread that runs through many of the explanations is the fact that Steinhoff's books were so complex to analyse. Perhaps it would have helped if asset managers took heed of the counsel of Warren Buffett, the "Sage of Omaha" and surely the world's most famous investor. One of Buffett's rules for investing: never invest in something you don't understand. 

"A CHILLING INSIGHT INTO THE RISE AND DEMISE OF ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INVESTMENT DARLINGS."  
- RYK VAN NIEKERK, EDITOR OF MONEYWEB





# RESTAURANT COMPETITION FOR DECEMBER

**DON'T FORGET TO ENTER OUR MONTHLY RESTAURANT COMPETITION.**

**Here is the question for this issue:**

**Q: Which fish did Marjorie Courtney-Latimer discover at the East London fish market in 1938?**

Please include 'Kyalami Estates Restaurant Competition' in the Subject line and send your answer along with your full name, your cell number and your stand number to: [info@eiapublishing.co.za](mailto:info@eiapublishing.co.za). The winner will be notified by email.

The restaurants featured in this competition have been carefully chosen and, even if you aren't a winner, we hope that you'll enjoy visiting them whenever you are looking for a memorable culinary experience!

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Well done to the winner of our last competition! Congratulations to: **Michael Felton** who receives a R500 meal voucher from one of our participating restaurants.

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• Vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash. • Portions of the monetary value of the voucher cannot be refunded as "change". • Bookings need to be made in advance with the restaurant detailed on the voucher. • Service charges/gratuities are not included, regardless of any balance left over after the meal. • Vouchers will be numbered. Please provide your voucher number when you make your reservation. • The competition is open to readers over the age of 18. • Indemnity: The publishers, Kyalami Estates and other associated parties are not responsible for the fulfilment of the service from the restaurant once the prize has been awarded.





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# OH NO, CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

BY JAMES CLARKE

I enjoy Christmas. I enjoy all the childish things we do. And I enjoy having children around. Christmas and children go together like *Germ* and *iston*, or *Rama* and *phosa*.

On Christmas Day one of my family dresses up as Father Christmas and, inevitably, in trying to make an impressive entry, a perilous situation arises.

One year my brother-in-law, Boris (who gets quite carried away), distracted all the small children by shouting that he'd glimpsed reindeers in a distant cloud. Stampede.

Meanwhile one of his sons, dressed as Father Christmas, sneaked up on to the roof from where he rang a bell. Two dozen children spun around and were agog. Especially when it came to getting him off the roof.

We were all agog.

At one point we were going to call the fire brigade.

But the daftest thing we do every year is pull Christmas crackers. I say this because over the last 40 years nothing exciting has ever fallen from a cracker.

The Christmas crackers of my childhood contained all sorts of exciting things. We would shake them and peer down their narrow throats all Christmas morning wondering what exciting things they held. We were never disappointed: - Oh joy - a whistle with a genuine dried pea inside!

A great thing for enlivening a sleepy Christmas afternoon. Or you could get a flat tin thing which, when placed on the tongue and blown through, would imitate bird calls. It had the added thrill of being able to choke a person to death.

Luckier kids would find a tin frog in theirs which would click loudly just like a real frog. You could click and click for hours until some

adult struck out with a backhander or accidentally trod on it.

These things were well made in my day and guaranteed to last the rest of Christmas Day. They don't make them like that anymore. They're not even dangerous. What's more, I've noticed that if the cracker's contents fall under the table children don't bother to pick them up.

And the paper hats.

Now, in my childhood the paper hats, as I recall, were robust things you could wear outside in a gale. Today they make them from recycled Kleenex and as one perspires in the midsummer's sun, so one's forehead becomes dyed purple or yellow and only surgery can remove it.

And there are the jokes that every cracker contains. In my childhood the jokes were hilarious...

Question: Why did the chicken cross the road?  
Answer: To get to the other side.

We would howl with mirth and pound the table and beg each other to stop reading them out. (Maybe it was the way we told them. Maybe it was the brandy sauce.)

These days they don't have jokes any more. They have little slips of paper with what one could call 'educational' information.


"DID YOU KNOW? In Ancient Greece a woman's age was counted from the day of her marriage."

I read this out to my assembled family and friends. Their knives and forks froze in mid-air, they stopped chewing their turkey and they all looked at one another and said no, they hadn't known that.

"DID YOU KNOW? Snow fell on London on Christmas Day only seven times during the 20th century." Everybody said, "No".

"DID YOU KNOW? American Red Indians used to name their children after the first thing the mother saw after the birth of her baby. Hence, such strange names as Running Water and Sitting Bull."

"What would they have named the little kid," asked Boris, who can be very basic, "if the bull was having a dump?"

It was at this stage that the conversation lost all dignity and the children were removed by their mothers. 



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