

go!

Platteland

AUTUMN 2018

The slow life is the good life

Call of the Kalahari

Kathu • Kuruman • Hotazel

Where in the world is Tonteldoos?

(Not even the government knows)

Geluksburg

The town time forgot

Starting a community garden

Plan around the pitfall

WE CHAT TO...

- A 101-year-old vegetable gardener
- A rocker who became a farmer in Prieska
- The Free State's gin-making brothers

PHOTO ESSAY

Under the spell of ruins

Seed for posterity

Plant • Harvest • Share • Swap • Save

Make your own seed box



R60 (VAT INCL)
NAMIBIA N\$62,50

GROW & COOK SPINACH

How to make the most of your crop

Gezubuso Projects

Pietermaritzburg, KZN

Home-ground advantage

Gezubuso Projects (*gezubuso* means “wash your face”) is a non-government, non-profit organisation established in January 2004 with the primary aim to work in the rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal and teach the community about HIV and Aids. They soon realised that the locals have other needs too, so a foster-care programme and the Masinzenzele Vegetable Garden Programme was established.

They initially tried to fund three large community gardens in the area but found that the grown-ups in these communities were not prepared to take responsibility for the day-to-day work required to make a success of such large community gardens.

Eat Homegrown project manager Michael Duma says the organisation has now shifted its focus to back-yard gardens.

“We now identify families that are really poor and give them everything they need to start a garden. We plant six different veggies and teach them how to look after them.

We help them to build a compost heap and lend them tools.” The project, which has been running for only nine months, has already provided 28 families with a 40m² garden each.

“This year we’re going to work with local schoolchildren to develop a 1ha garden on our property.” Michael is hoping that giving the students a profit share will incentivise them to work hard in the garden.



Nomusa Zondi (far left) and neighbours show off their harvests in the rural community of KwaMpumuza near Pietermaritzburg. The Eat Homegrown project has been a great success – despite problems sourcing fertiliser, the logistical challenges of transporting tools from one site to the next, and having to keep livestock away from the gardens.