

IN BRIEF



ASHLEIGH DE VILLIERS

The gift that keeps on giving

If you've ever agonised over the perfect gift to give somebody, agonise no more! Cape Town-based NGO Greenpop is offering a clever sponsorship initiative where you can purchase and dedicate a tree to your loved ones as a living tribute.

Follow the link below and select a certificate on their website that suits your needs. There's one for every occasion, be it a birthday or as a thank you gesture. Follow the prompts to personalise your certificate and select where you'd like your tree to be planted. There are currently two options: Platbos Forest Reserve inland from Gansbaai in the Western Cape, or Sons of Thunder, a cooperative farm in Livingstone, Zambia. Afterwards, you'll be guided to a payment portal.

Once the sum of R120 has been transferred, your certificate, along with the GPS co-ordinates of the tree you sponsored will be sent to your inbox, leaving you free to print it and have it framed or laminated for the person you'd like to give it to.

If they're far away, forward them the certificate electronically to let them know that somewhere in southern Africa, a tree is growing just for them.

Sponsor a tree: donation.greenpop.org/trees

– Kyra Tarr

For more information on Greenpop's urban greening and reforestation projects, visit greenpop.org or e-mail info@greenpop.org



ADRIAN SHIELDS

Plant a little love

Looking for a greeting card with a conscience? Growing Paper, based in Malmesbury, has a new range of "plantable" cards called Sustainable Seasons, illustrated by Anja Stoeckigt from Paper Tales (papertales.co.za).

Each card is made from 100% recycled paper and embedded with seeds for fruit, herbs or veggies – everything from daisies and poppies, to basil, carrots and tomatoes.

Part of the proceeds will be donated to the WWF sustainable agriculture initiative.

I want to buy a card! Browse the online store at growingpaper.co.za

How much? From R108 for a pack of five cards.

Contact: orders@growingpaper.co.za

– Kyra Tarr

Follow Growing Paper on Facebook and Instagram [@growingpaperza](https://growingpaperza)

BY THE NUMBERS



Around the world in three ways!

1,7

The approximate number of times the South African population (about 58,8 million) could surround the earth if everyone stood shoulder to shoulder. The circumference of the earth at the equator is 40 075 km, and our sum assumes that the average human shoulder width is 41 cm.

2255

This is the total distance of the N2 in kilometres, from Cape Town to Ermelo. If you drove there and back nine times, you'd have travelled around the earth once.

163 533

This is the estimated collective length in kilometres of all South Africa's major rivers and tributaries. Placed end to end, they'd encircle the earth four times!

Sources: statssa.gov.za; nra.co.za; healthline.com

PIT STOP



The Boer & Butcher, Stellenbosch

A backyard braai with my family requires a few essentials: hot coals, good weather and curried sosaties from The Boer & Butcher. When we're feeling adventurous, we even dabble in some peach boerewors.

Founder Edu Hanekom opened the first branch in Durbanville in 2013. "I turned a 60 m² hair salon into a butchery with no experience as a retailer," he says. "My initial focus was on covering my rent, and I had only two staff members working for me. They have stayed on and work for me to this day."

In the early days, all the meat came from the family farm in Darling. Today, there are branches in Stellenbosch, Durbanville and Boston in Bellville, with suppliers from all over South Africa.

As you drive past Stellenbosch Square on the R44 just outside town, the distinctive black bull horns on the side of The Boer & Butcher will catch your eye. Turn off for a peek inside and you may find yourself standing in a queue, especially over the weekends just before lunchtime. Here, buying meat is serious business!

There are so many options in the fridges: my family favourite peach boerewors (R99/kg) and curried sosaties (R150/kg), plus aged rump (R145/kg), curried lamb chops (R150/kg), juicy burger patties (R110/kg) and giant farm chickens (R70/kg). If you're feeling daring, try sheep tails (R43 per packet) or sheep tongue (R70 per packet). For more affordable prices, order a bulk meat hamper.

Before you leave, stop at the biltong counter and buy a bag (or two, or three) for R44 per packet.

The shelves are also packed with other stuff like their own range of spices (R39) and sauces (R38), olive oil (R80), frozen meals (R120 for butter chicken) and Boer & Butcher merchandise. At the time of writing, the Bistro section was still closed in accordance with national lockdown regulations. When it reopens, we can recommend the Boer & Butcher beef burger (R90).

The Boer & Butcher's fourth branch opens later this year in Paarl. "We definitely want to create jobs for more people and eventually establish ourselves as a national trader," says Edu.

More info: boerandbutcher.co.za

– Marcelle van Niekerk