

Changing of guard in KZN

After five years of excellent service as Subtrop's Extensionist / Area Co-ordinator in KwaZulu-Natal, Andrew Sheard has left Subtrop to take up a position with Mayo Macs as their technical advisor. Andrew's experience, in-depth knowledge, work ethic and amiable character made him an asset to Subtrop which we are sad to lose. However, he is not totally lost to the industry and will, no doubt, still make valuable contributions to the macadamia industry on various technical issues.

Andrew's position will be filled by Tracey Campbell as from 11 November 2013. Tracey was born and bred in Pietermaritzburg and has a PhD in Horticulture from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She is currently a lecturer at Van Hall Larstein University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. Her training at UKZN, experience in teaching and managing

various university programmes should hold her in good stead in her position with Subtrop.

Tracey's *modus operandi* will be different to Andrew's, due to changing circumstances, particularly within the macadamia industry in KZN, which is relatively "young" with many growers still "learning the ropes" and requiring a fair amount of technical assistance. Fortunately, the two main macadamia processors in KZN now have technical advisors in service which are able to assist their growers with specific on-farm advice.

Consequently, the role of Subtrop's Extensionist / Area Co-ordinator in KZN will be different. Instead of focussing on individual farm visits, Tracey will work with grower committees for the various crops, packhouses and processors to identify area-wide problems that can be addressed on a project basis which will enable growers to improve yield and quality. There will still be a strong emphasis on study groups as a means to providing growers with relevant technical information. She will also be available telephonically or via e-mail to answer queries. And, yes, you will see her out on farms, as she has a passion for hands on horticulture and will need to know what is happening on the ground. **ST**



Johan Benade

New financial and admin manager

Johan Benade joined Subtrop on 1 August to fill the vacant financial and administrative manager's position.

He holds a BCom (Mil Accounting) degree and is a member of the South African Institute of Professional Accountants. Johan started his accounting career in the SA Air Force, but is familiar with agriculture having been involved in a family farming operation.

Prior to joining Subtrop, he worked as an accountant at a large farming enterprise. Johan is 39 years old, married and has an 18 month old son. **ST**



Andrew Sheard



Tracey Campbell

STUDY GROUPS: SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2013

MONTH	AVOCADO	MACADAMIA	MANGO	LITCHI
October	1: Levubu SG + Research	8: Letaba SG	29: Emerging farmers SG	9: Letaba SG
	1: Letaba SG	15: Mpumalanga SG		24: Mpumalanga SG
	8: Emerging farmers SG	17: Levubu SG		
November	5: Levubu SG + Research	20: KZN North Coast SG	None	19: Emerging farmers SG
	5: Letaba SG	21: KZN South Coast SG		
	13: KZN SG			
	21: Mpumalanga SG			
December	None	None	None	None




