

Statement by Drakenstein Municipality Executive Mayor: **Conrad Poole**

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## **Plant a tree to create a lasting legacy**

Arbour Day is an event that is celebrated across the world at various times of the year. In South Africa we celebrate this day on 1 September, also known as Spring Day, and it forms part of Arbour Week. Drakenstein takes pride in its lush green environment. As the municipality, we work hard to maintain this environment and to expand it wherever possible. Our beautiful trees are part of the heritage of this municipality and lends much distinction and character to our towns.

On 1 September 2016, Drakenstein Municipality planted trees at the Newton Sports grounds. Just Trees has been an amazing partner to Drakenstein over the years, donating trees to make sure we plant as many as possible. They donated 300 trees to us, to be planted across the municipal area. Lending a helping hand, were learners from 30 schools in the area. Every school group had the opportunity to plant a tree on the sports grounds.

Trees do not only beautify our area, but also helps to reduce our carbon footprint. Trees are the lungs of our planet, and we need to keep nurturing them and planting as many as we can. Industrialisation has led to an increase in carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, changing the world climate. Every year we set new records for the warmest year/day, devastating the environment and greatly affecting our agriculture and production of food. Residents of Drakenstein are reminded that we are still in the grips of a severe drought, despite the recent rainfall.

Residents are encouraged to plant trees this September in honour of Arbour Day, as well as Heritage Month. The trees of year are the common wild fig and the rare bead-bead bean tree or the common bush. Trees are a wonderful way to create a legacy that will live for generations to come if they are properly cared for. Residents are

reminded that trees on private property are their responsibility, while trees in public spaces are cared for by the Municipality.



Schools and other institutions can contact the Municipality to help them get trees to plant. They can contact Stef Venter, 021 807 7739 for more information. Please, plant a tree, it is for the benefit of all our futures.

STATEMENT BY: DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE MAYOR – **Conrad Poole**

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