



*Media Alert*

**Date: 03 April 2019**

**Retired Colonel fulfils birthday wish at ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij**

**Stellenbosch:** At the ripened age of 75, Colonel Jurgens Basson's love for nature and plants brought him to ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij in Stellenbosch to fulfil his birthday wish of gaining some first-hand knowledge on how to bud and graft successfully.

During his many years of service, Colonel Basson (retired SAPS Station Commander: Radio Communication - Western Cape), travelled far and wide but would always stop to admire interesting trees along the way. His love for nature and plants started at a very young age, with various attempts at propagating plants such as mango, granadilla, peach, nectarine, citrus and avocado, but he was not always successful.

Mr Taaibos Human, a pear breeder at the Agricultural Research Council in Stellenbosch, took some time out to showcase various budding and grafting techniques. Budding and grafting are horticultural techniques used to join parts from two or more plants for clonal propagation. Budding is the placing of a single bud of one plant onto another plant while grafting is the insertion of a stem/shoot of the scion plant onto a rootstock.

Mr Basson really enjoyed the informative session and says, "I believe that everyone should have an orchard in their backyard." We wish him many happy years of gardening ahead.

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***Issued by:***

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***Notes to the Editors***

**About the Agricultural Research Council**

The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation and advisory services, food processing technology services as well as various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: [www.arc.agric.za](http://www.arc.agric.za)

**PICTURES**

**PICTURE: Colonel Jurgens Basson (retired)**



**PICTURE: Mr Taaibos Human**



**PICTURE: Grafting technique**

