

# CREATIVE COPPER NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2016.

Dear All,

As the year races to a close we have been blessed with 220 mm of soft and gentle rain. Rumour has it that the Kruger National Park also received good rains which will go a long way to restore the depleted grazing. The weather has been mild to cool with rain and some heat in between. Perfect swimming weather and the grass, trees and flowers are all rejoicing.

As we look back on 2016 with all its challenges, I think the local Elections had a dampening effect on our sales for at least 4 months. Trump in the USA also slowed sales, as the man in the street watched the Political / Businessman making fools out of his opponent to win votes which he achieved to the surprise and shock of many.

BLACK FRIDAY swept through South African stores bigger and better than ever before! We seem to follow the US and for some stores like our Game, Makro & Checkers, were all printing money. We are not sure how much stock was simply stolen with all the crowds experienced? I just hope there is some spend left for poor little old us?

The 2016 Employees Design Competition was the very best ever with the most creativity and a record entrants. Judging was tough and there were more winners than ever before. Sadly next year we must stick to our budget. We do see many orders coming in for the new designs which we can only thank you for.

Doug Lee our silver man retired as you know and Duncan became a very suitable and capable replacement. He not only does a good plating, job but is also a keen designer as you can see by the new catalogue. Presently he is trying to do some flower designs for the Chelsea Flower show for Creative Dezigns in the UK.

We had to change our social media host and will now focus on Amje, as she takes charge of our Face Book page with 7000 likes. We wish her well with the experienced assistance of Inge.

The Staff has been very reproductive and 4 new born babies arrived during the year. 3 to male employees and a little girl to the only women polisher we have who had her 4 months of maternity leave.

The SA situation remains dismal with a very weak government and even weaker leadership. We have just escaped JUNK status by Fitch - who highlights political risk as a major stumbling, blocking our growing economy. The thought of a further down grade would lead to capital flight, rand depreciation, high inflation and more expensive public sector debt.

Without wasting time the powers that be, announced a minimum wage for discussion. We currently are above this threshold but the point is that with 27 Million people unemployed, how will small businesses cope? It will without doubt add to unemployment which is a time bomb waiting to explode?! Your thoughts would be most welcome.

Going forward we would need all the support you can muster and make sure, we appreciate your loyalty for now nearly 3 decades. We believe in a living wage, 15 days paid leave a year and a 13th cheque. On the latter point, we feel that our loyal skilled workers must be rewarded after a full year at work. This action has led to well motivated, loyal and productive staff. My opinion!

We have 7 employees with a full attendance certificate this year!

We have made fabulous friends all over the World and many great friends have made special visits to us in the land of the rising sun! We have again been blessed with:

From the UK - Steph and John, but living in Luanda.

From Stuttgart Germany - T.Bachofer.

With blessings for a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and may 2017 bring you all the best of health and happiness.

Kind regards,

MICHAEL