

LEVUBU STUDY GROUP TOUR TO NATAL

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During October 2011, a group of Levubu Avocado Study Group members embarked on a week long tour to Natal. Kitted out with branded Amarok bakkies, kindly sponsored by VW Thompsons Motors in Louis Trichardt, the group started their trip with a relaxing weekend in Ballito. The first informative day, involved a trip to Illovo in Scottburgh, where they learnt about sugarcane farming and how the nematocide Cropguard is produced from sugarcane trash. The next day saw the group travel to Richmond, where they visited Baynesfield Estate and agricultural museum, followed by a trip through Waterford farm's avocado orchards and Richmond packhouse. After a jovial evening spent at Baynesfield Estate, the group set off for Wartburg, where they visited Werner Seele's farm. There, they had a look at the excellent crop that had set and learnt about alternative avocado pruning methods. Once finished in Wartburg, the group headed off to the Midlands Meander where they overnighted at a trout-fishing farm. The next day they visited various sites along the meander, where amongst other things they learnt about brewing beer and making cheese. Afterwards they began the long trip back up north. The return journey was broken by a visit to the Nigelchem factory, where the farmers were intrigued to learn about the manufacturing process of the Coprox range of copper fungicides.

For their generous sponsorship of the vehicles, VW Thompson's Motors were awarded the study group's 2012 trophy of recognition for contribution made from outside the study group, while the trophy for contribution by a study group member was awarded to Boelie van Rensburg for his role in arranging the tour and sponsorships. The study group would also like to acknowledge and thank Athol Currie, Werner Seele and Andrew Sheard and the other sponsors: Univeg/Katope, Amondel Pakkers, PSG/Santam, Illovo/Cropguard, Plaaskem and Coprox/Nigelchem, for helping to make the tour a resounding success.

