

## Profile of the week

# Pat: farmer, winemaker, conservationist

7 December 1941, Pearl Harbour. Anyone born on this infamous day was bound to have an interesting life! And it was on this day that young Pat Busch opened his eyes for the first time in Frankfurt in war-torn Germany.

He duly attended high school and then the Textile College to qualify as a clothing technician. After his apprenticeship the lure of Africa could no longer be resisted and Pat arrived in South Africa on 28 December 1964.

"I travelled on the Pendennis Castle and picked up 13 kg," laughs Pat. "And I had to teach the English waiters that I wanted whiskey in the morning and not toast and tea!"

Pat settled in Cape Town and worked for Truworths and later Foschini's as a senior buyer for sportswear. And it was around this time that he paid his first visit to the Breede River Valley.

He immediately fell in love with the Klaasvoogds

area and especially with the farm Bergplaas which then belonged to Mr Johannes Conradie.

"I liked the farmers and did a quick course in Afrikaans so that I could have an idea of what was going on," says Pat. But it would be a while before he could settle down in the Valley.

A business opportunity in Singapore came up and was too good to refuse.

Pat and his wife Karin spent the next two years away and on their return in 1985 finally moved to Bergplaas.

"I love the area," says Pat. "The valleys, the mountain and the sky. And there are proteas that only grow in the Klaasvoogds area."

The farm extends over some 1 800 hectares and goes right to the top of the Langeberge. And it is here that the Pat Busch Private Nature Reserve was established a few years ago.

But, Pat is also a winefarmer and last weekend savoured that exciting moment when his first wines ever were bottled.



Mr Pat Busch proudly holds a bottle of his 2002 Pinotage. His first wines were bottled last weekend.

The wines will be sold under the Rusticus label. "The first sentence in Latin I ever learnt was 'rusticus arat', meaning 'the farmer ploughs'. I always wanted to make a wine with that name."

Pat feels that the Breede River Valley has a great future.

"We have fantastic people, a wonderful place to live and the best winemakers in the country. What more do you want?"