

# Climate Changers

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**Editorial enquiries**

The Editor | e-mail: Quest-Editor@assaf.org.za

**Advertising enquiries**

Barbara Spence | Avenue Advertising  
 PO Box 71308, Bryanston 2021  
 Tel: (011) 463 7940 | Cell: 082 881 3454  
 e-mail: barbara@avenue.co.za

**Subscription enquiries and back issues**

Magick Maphanga | Tel: (012) 3496645  
 e-mail: Magick@assaf.org.za

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BEST SELFIE EVER? SpaceX astronaut and Inspiration4 Mission Pilot Dr Sian Proctor is "bathed in Earthlight" while in orbit.  
 Photo: Supplied by Dr Sian Proctor

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As a journalist, one of my favourite TV series is *The Newsroom* (2012). One of its more memorable scenes (s03e03) involves news anchor Will Macavoy interviewing a distraught climate scientist who is so disillusioned by global warming that, when pressed if he isn't worried his alarmist, apocalyptic predictions (based on evidence) will get him in trouble with his superiors, he simply states, "Who cares?". That was my view for a time as well. The data coming from the various COP events and articles on climate modelling and expected impacts became so dire that I began to ignore them. It just became too depressing.

Over the last few years, my views have slowly changed. Nothing specific happened, but I find myself these days believing that human ingenuity will prevail. After all, humanity has faced incredible odds at many times in history and somehow have found a way. Think of Apollo 13, for instance. Those astronauts should not have survived and yet, through sheer determination and innovation, they did – turning what looked like an inevitable disaster into one of Nasa's finest hours.

So, it was a breath of fresh air to see this video by Big Think a few months back, explaining that, yes, Climate Change will likely have some scary impacts in the decades to come, but there are solutions, it is *not* hopeless, and we can prevail. That is what we are focusing on in this issue: On humanity working with nature to become *climate changers*, this time for the better.

It was also so inspiring to hear from our contributors about the amazing work that South African scientists are doing to help understand Earth's climate systems. From unravelling the global ocean Zinc cycle, to mapping Algoa Bay, to learning about the role and impact of the awesome Agulhas current. And it was a huge honour to speak with SpaceX astronaut Dr Sian Proctor, especially since she herself is such a hopeful, inspiring personality who is also convinced that humanity can and will prevail, by working smartly, by working with nature, and by doing it together.

I hope this edition gives you hope for the future and inspires you to become part of the solution in whatever small ways you can. Let's be *climate changers*.

Warm regards,



**Fanie (RS) van Rooyen (Editor)**