

## Makita turns 40 in South Africa

As we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of MAKITA in South Africa, it is perhaps a 'powerful' time to reflect a bit on its history in this country.



The range carried by Rutherford started with four tools. The 100mm Belt Sander,

228mm Circular Saw, 76mm Planer and 12mm Hammer Drill. In those days one could buy a 76mm Planer, complete with metal carrying case, cap and sharpening stone, for R75 and still get a 5% discount. But exchange rates and currency values were so different in those days (a brand new three bed roomed house cost R50,000 with carpets and light fittings thrown in) and of course other power tools were much cheaper by comparison. In those days Rutherford stocked Black and Decker, Porter Cable, Skil and Rockwell power tools picking the prime tools from each to present

to the market. Rutherford was and still is "The home of quality tools."

Those were also the days when the Rand Easter Show, then situated close to Wits University, was the showcase and launch pad for new products and Rutherford had a permanent stand close to the tower of light.

Each tool was stripped and displayed in parts list format to show the machine's internal workings. The quality of MAKITA products was demonstrated, not only in shows, but also in major outlets throughout the country. The name caught on with advertising showing the correct pronunciation Ma-kee-ta as its headers. That quality has stayed with the name and it is interesting to note that some of the tools in that early range are still available today with little or no modifications other than those required to comply with noise and interference regulations.

MAKITA was originally distributed throughout Southern Africa by Rutherford, E.W. Tarry and Marshall Industrials. Within a few years Marshall's had closed shop and Rutherford and Tarry, who had both been approached by Hitachi because of the success of MAKITA, decided to split up with E.W.Tarry taking Hitachi and Rutherford claiming MAKITA.



When a TV advert showed a MAKITA Drill operating a hoist in which a man was raised up and down the side of a Johannesburg building (in those days an advertising claim had to be proved with a practical demonstration) the slogan "The Power Tool That'll Never Let You Down" was born and has stuck with MAKITA ever since. MAKITA Quality - "It's What's Inside That Counts", is another slogan which is used extensively.

It's as true today as it was back then – the quality of MAKITA tools is unquestioned, not only in South Africa, but throughout the world. MAKITA quality, reliability and pricing attracts the users and instills confidence in its distributors and resellers. However, if you've ever owned, or sold, a MAKITA tool you'll know that.

## LXT Impact Wrenches

**Hard work  
made easy**



We recently visited George Nieuwoudt, owner of his own business, called Hi-Tech Marine, who together with his business partner, Kevin Smith, run a highly successful operation. They specialize in custom rigging, engine rebuilds, gearbox rebuilds, engine service, fuel injection service and troubleshooting. They invited us to their premises in Cresta, Gauteng, where they wanted to share with us just how the Makita Lithium-Ion Impact Wrenches have made their work days so much easier.



BTW450ZK

BTW251ZK

George and Kevin are the only 2 CDI

Electronics certified EFI Specialists in Africa. This qualification was issued by CDI Electronics School in the USA, running in conjunction with AMTECH (American Marine Technicians Association) of which both the owners are members. George has been in the marine industry for over 20 years. He worked for Rutherford Marine's technical department where he trained hundreds of technicians and SAPS members on engine maintenance and repairs. His current business also undertakes complete boat refurbishing projects. He is very proud of the fact that this year they have rigged new boats for three of South Africa's top ten deep sea anglers. These are men who require the best tools to get the job done right. At Hi-Tech Marine the LXT models are used mostly on boat rigging, engine rebuilds and services. George is



very impressed with Makita's BTW251ZK

Lithium-Ion Cordless Impact Wrench. He says that he is surprised that such a lightweight and compact body can deliver a massive **230NM** of tightening torque. This amount of torque is greater than the tightening torque setting for the wheel nuts on a 3500kg truck, which helps him immensely when rigging motors onto boats. What used to take a large amount of his time during the day, is now completed quite quickly with this tool, which also has an ergonomically designed handle with rubberised handgrip for comfort. The handle design, coupled with the light Li-ion battery makes this a very well balanced service tool. The operation trigger is easy to reach, as is the forward / reverse control.



An LED job light is trained from the body onto the socket drive

which makes it easier to use in a dark workplace. George is also extremely impressed with the BTW450ZK, the "Big Brother" of the BTW251ZK. He says that it is a monster which delivers a massive **440NM** of torque. George loves both models, has many other Makita tools and says that he won't be seen dead with any other power tool.

**Operating with a proper Makita impact socket, both wrenches are also ideal for use in tyre service centres, for steel erectors and motorway barrier installations.**



## New Products **LXT**

### BPB180Z Cordless Band Saw

With the capacity of the corded models, this saw is more portable than ever in a 18V Lithium-Ion package. No more contending with cords when working on scissor lifts or ladders. The lightweight, compact design with ergonomic shape for even pressure and easy control results in less operator fatigue. Makita built 4-pole motor delivers 50 percent faster cutting with a 6-setting variable speed dial at 84-162m/min. The speed preset dial allows you to adjust the blade to suit the workpiece material or desired finish. An adjustable foot protects material and provides positive support for accurate cuts. Two built-in L.E.D. lights with afterglow illuminate the line of cut. Includes built-in protective rubber bumpers.



BPB180Z



BFS450ZK

**ARRIVING SOON!**

### BFS450ZK Cordless Drywall Screwdriver

One of the most friendly new features of the BFS450ZK is that it "quietly" delivers a whopping 4,000r/min with Makita's new durable silent clutch design. The cordless screwdriver packs 18V Lithium-Ion battery technology, so it has plenty of power for drywall and framing applications. This is a best-in-class solution for remodeling, patchwork and more. The BFS450ZK has a Makita built 4-pole motor to handle drywall and framing applications, with 4,000r/min in a compact and lightweight design. The new silent clutch design in forward mode uses extra durable materials to decrease driver noise. It also has a rugged aluminium dust-proof depth adjustment cone which removes easily for bit changes, and the extra-fine depth adjustment ring that has 60 detent positions. Other handy features include an LED light to illuminate the work surface and an ergonomic shape that fits in the hand like a glove with even pressure and easy control.

## Competition



# MAKE A BIRDFEEDER AND WIN



# The Home HANDYMAN

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**Prizes:**

*Voucher*

**R5000**

*Craftsmanship*

*Voucher*

**R5000**

*Innovation*

#### 1st Prize:

Each category winner will receive a R5000 voucher for Maktec and / or Makita Power Tools.

#### 2nd and 3rd Prize:

In each category will get a Maktec MT920 Finishing Sander.



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All entrants will receive a Maktec measuring tape



#### Competition Rules:

- Closing date for the competition is February 28, 2009.
- The birdfeeder must be made between Nov 1, 2008 and Feb 28, 2009
- All entry forms can be obtained from The Home Handyman magazine.

Please contact The Home Handyman for further info on  
Tel: 011 723-9000 Fax: 011 453-3488 Email:homehandyman@wordlink.co.za

# Makita Racing Boat Sinks But Recovers To Win

The Makita sponsored boat sank in the Hartbeespoort Dam on the 24th of September 2008 after an unfortunate accident which caused four people to be thrown from the boat. Ernest Tope, the pilot of the craft, his wife and two children were out on the water in the afternoon at around 4pm running in the brand new and recently fitted Mercury 300HP Optimax ProXS motor. They were on the water for no longer than 45 minutes when the boat started to hop terribly as a result of waves on the dam, caused mostly by other boats. Ernest took his



foot off the accelerator, but with the wild movements of the boat, his foot went back down onto the pedal, causing the nose to dive down into the water, resulting in the boat lifting in the air and throwing the family out into the dam. Ernest and his wife came up from underneath the water first, and immediately started searching for their children, aged seven and three. Both came up shortly afterwards because luckily they were wearing their lifejackets. No serious injuries occurred. Ernest tried to hang onto the boat, waving for help, but because the stern sank first, there was little he could do and down it went.



Two boats picked up the family, one of the boats took care of the injured, while the other took down the GPS coordinates of the sunken Makita boat. The search started the next day and with the help of divers and fish finders, covered the dam for a period of three days, without success. It was only on the fourth day, in the afternoon, that they found the boat from the readings of a fish finder, showing it sitting nose up close to where the accident occurred. It was approximately nine meters under the water. A diver attached a tube to the nose of the boat; this tube was inflated which caused the boat to slowly find its way to the top of Hartbeespoort Dam. The damage to the boat was around R60 000.



The Rutherford Marine technicians started working on the motor early the next day, and through great teamwork, got it up and running. The Makita boat is racing in the Formula 2 Class, which runs under the South African Pleasure Boat Racing Association, for the 2008/09 season. This class is for modified outboards. Other classes include F1, for V8 inboards and twin outboards, F3 for 225HP Standard, F4 for 200HP Standard and F5 for 130HP Standard. The races are normally run in three heats of approximately 25 kilometres per heat (8-9 laps). Race points from the three heats are calculated to determine final race positions.

Ernest and his co-pilot Lappies Labaugshagne, won the Formula 3 Class for the 2007/08 season and they are confident on repeating the same result in the higher racing class this season. The Makita boat made its comeback in time for the race following the accident, in the Formula 2 Class on the Klerksdorp Dam on the 19th of October 2008. As with Makita's slogan, "The power tool that will never let you down", the boat never let anyone down by taking the class victory on the day.

Please visit [www.sahardbottom.co.za](http://www.sahardbottom.co.za) for more information.



## Wadeville Mica

### A Shop Within a Shop



Wadeville Mica, Gauteng, implemented the Makita Shop concept at their premises in October 2006. 'A shop within a shop' is what it is well known as, is basically a Makita display with a difference. Power tool stands surrounded by an industrial feel created by scaffolding type towers representing a heavy duty / robust construction area, a place where Makita tools would thrive. The whole area dedicated to Makita including 'take a test drive' stations where customers can try the tool out for themselves.

Stands with user friendly and comprehensive tool information are available, these include features and benefits, safety advice, hints and tips. Alan and Mark of Wadeville Mica would like to invite you to come and check it out for yourself. More Makita Shops around the country will be featured in the next few editions of the MakTimesSA.



## Ask the Expert

### Question of the Month

Congratulations to Barry Mey who sent in the best question for the month and as a result, won for himself a Makita Hamper.

#### Question:

What is the recommended manner in which power tools should be cleaned after use?

#### Answer:

We don't recommend using a compressor as the air pressure may be too high, as a result you run the risk of damaging the wiring on the armature and field coil and also pushing the dust into the bearings.

We suggest using a standard blower like the Makita UB1100 / UB1101 or the Maktec MT400 which has the appropriate small reduction nozzle, ideal for tight places.

This will help keep bearings and brushes clear of any debris and help ensure a long life. Other helpful hints, in the case of belt sanders, are expensive abrasive sanding belts which need not be tossed out every time one becomes clogged with wood dust. In most cases, the abrasive surface can be cleaned and reused many times. You can purchase a belt-cleaning stick which resembles a giant pencil eraser. But there is a less expensive solution: Take an old crepe-sole shoe and use its rubbery tread to clean the clogged sanding belt. Clamp the sander upside down to a workbench. Turn it on and very lightly press the crepe sole against the running belt. Slowly move the shoe from side to side to clean the entire abrasive surface. Caution: Be sure to remove discard the shoelace so it doesn't get caught in the running sander.

## Editors Notes

**The Home Handyman "Make a Birdfeeder Competition"** is an excellent opportunity to display your skills in 'craftsmanship' and 'innovation'. There will be a R5000 prize for both the before-mentioned categories with the judging following criteria such as excellence in craftsmanship, degree of difficulty, joinery and overall finish. Get a copy of The Home Handyman magazine for further information. Rutherford would like to welcome Errol Martin to the Makita Team. He has been a sales representative for over eight years selling a wide variety of products such as stainless steel, valves and industrial supplies. He has taken over from Grant Fergusson and he will be on call for the Lowveld area.

Best Regards

Makita SA Marketing Department

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