

COOL SCIENCE

Back in 1996, Scifest Africa was born in Grahamstown. It was also the year of Google, the MP3 and Flash. IBM's Deep Blue beat chess Grandmaster Gary Kasparov, and the Pathfinder set off for Mars. And then things got even better

Nokia releases its 8110 – the banana phone used in *The Matrix*.



It is agreed that humans are responsible for climate change; the Kyoto Protocol comes a year later.

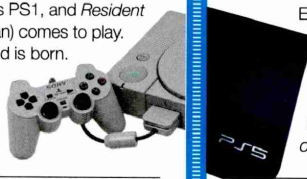
Japan is where it's at: Nintendo releases the N64. Yes, hallo Super Mario.



Construction begins on the International Space Station and *Twister* is the first feature film released on DVD – in March. *Triumph of the Nerds* is released in June.

The Chemical Brothers have a number one with *Setting Sun* in 1996, the same year the Spice Girls release their first single, *Wannabe*.

PlayStation releases its PS1, and *Resident Evil* (*Bio Hazard* in Japan) comes to play. A legend is born.



Agriculture goes electronic, and GPS makes ploughing a whole lot easier; 1996 is also the last time the name Ford is seen on a tractor.



At the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, with 5G, its Digital Cockpit and Telematics Control Unit, Samsung brings vehicle-to-everything communications; it's the future of autonomous driving.

Nature is still under attack. Learn more about sustainable living choices at the **South African Eco Film Festival**. 22-30 March; The Labia, Cape Town; saecofilmfestival.com

The **Funderland Festival and Kidz Expo** has dinosaurs, gaming, sports, magicians, dancers and musicians. It starts in Cape Town, but moves to Jo'burg, Durban and Sun City. 28 March-7 April; GrandWest, Cape Town; funderland.co.za

The nerds keep winning. Forget the décor, pass on the fun fair, and visit the **Into The Future Expo** at the Rand Show. 30 March-8 April; Nasrec, Jo'burg; randshow.co.za

Performing at the **Cape Town Electronic Music Festival** 2018 is Deetron, with a three-turntable setup. There is a satellite event in Durban on 6 April, and in Jo'burg on 7 April. 6-8 April; Cape Town; ctemf.com

Expect *Resident Evil 2 Remake* this year, and maybe PS5. Bring your PC, headphones and mattresses; it's the **GAC Cyber Lan-Party No.45**. 6-7 April; Theo Marais Park, Cape Town; facebook.com/GamersAnonymousClan

Today, we're talking driverless tractors and intelligent 'see and spray' systems. Go old skool at the **Vintage Tractor Fair** in Cloccolan, Free State. 2-3 March, +27 (0)51 943 0021

FACT OF THE MATTER

Scifest Africa's theme is **Innovation 4.0**, referring to the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**. Think **artificial intelligence, 3D printing, nanotechnology, digital, quantum computing and unlimited possibilities**. Take a virtual tour of **Nasa's robotics lab** and listen to **Prof Petri Sami** from the **South African Astronomical Observatory**, among others. **7-13 March**; Grahamstown; scifest.org.za



SCENE SETTER

March is races month – it's too late to enter most of the events, but choose these spots to enjoy the vibe

Chappies An eye on the views from Chapman's Peak on the Cape Town Cycle Tour takes the focus off the Suikerbossie challenge – for the cyclists at least. 11 March; Grand Parade, Cape Town; capetowncycletour.com

PE coastline Take your place along Marine Drive in the IronMan African Championship – enjoy it while you can, champs; next up is the marathon. 15 April; Kings Beach, Nelson Mandela Bay; eu.ironman.com/triathlon/events/emea/ironman/south-africa

Big skies Think scenic (challenging) routes and a hearty recovery breakfast after the Sugarbush Challenge; 10 March; Sugarbush Café, Sugarbush Farm, Leopards Hill Road, Lusaka; facebook.com/events/1282110718577830

Arc de Triomphe Through Harties, under the arch and along the dam wall, the Old Mutual Orn Die Dam Marathon draws thousands of runners and spectators. 17 March; Hartbeespoort Resort, Hartbeespoort; omdiendamultra.co.za

Howick Falls After working up a sweat running, swimming or canoeing, and cycling at the Aquelle Cordwales Mudman, take your team sightseeing. 18 March; Orient Park, Midmar; roag.co.za