

Skimmelberg Leads Global Rise of Buchu: South Africa's 'Miracle Herb' Goes Mainstream

Organic Pioneer Blends Heritage, Science and Sustainability in Premium Functional Herb Offering

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Health-minded consumers are scouring the globe for authentic plant remedies, and one Cape Floral Kingdom treasure is stepping forward: Buchu (Agathosma betulina). Long prized in traditional medicine, this aromatic shrub is now attracting peer-reviewed interest for its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory,



A matured Buchu bush in it's flowering stage.

diuretic and antioxidant activity. Heritage grower and processor <u>Skimmelberg</u> is introducing the versatile herb to clients on five continents, blending generations of agricultural insight with modern science to ensure dependable quality.

"Buchu is woven into our cultural history and into the biodiversity of these mountains. We have built a transparent, vertically integrated supply chain so that people everywhere can enjoy this extraordinary plant," – Jan Hendrik Slabbert, Production Manager

Skimmelberg's story began more than a century ago in the rugged Cederberg range, where early farmers gathered wild Buchu by hand. Over time those practices evolved into structured, certified-organic agriculture that shields wild populations and delivers uniform potency. Every hectare is audited under various accreditations such as CERES & Global G.A.P. standards that satisfy both EU and USDA criteria, while companion crop Rooibos enriches soil life and broadens farm biodiversity. Communities have long relied on Buchu infusions to ease bladder discomfort, joint pain and skin irritation. Recent investigations by Stellenbosch University provide measurable evidence linking the herb's flavonoids to improved urinary-tract health, metabolic balance and prostate function. Its mint-and-black-currant aroma stems from essential oils whose antimicrobial traits protect the plant and potentially the people who consume it. This harmony of folk knowledge and laboratory data positions Buchu as an evidence-driven choice for forward-

looking brands.

Skimmelberg supplies Buchu in a spectrum of formats: whole or cut leaf for herbal teas, standardized extracts for nutraceuticals, steam-distilled essential oils for the flavour and fragrance industries, and cosmetics, as well as private-label finished products ready for retail. An integrated processing hub in Clanwilliam maintains chain-of-custody documentation from seedling to shipment. Bulk buyers as well as boutique labels receive BRCGS-compliant products whether they request short runs, bespoke blends or private label productions.

Environmental guardianship guides every decision. Regenerative techniques such as intercropping, mulch management and biological pest control enrich soil and conserve scarce water in the fragile fynbos biome. Solar energy powers a growing share of operations, and byproduct biomass returns to fields as nutrient-rich compost. These measures shrink carbon intensity and support partners committed to science-based climate goals. Skimmelberg showcases Buchu at international exhibitions including BioFach, where its refreshing flavour consistently attracts category managers. Early adopters include beverage companies creating functional sparkling waters, sports-nutrition brands crafting joint-care capsules and clean-beauty houses replacing synthetic fragrances. As demand for transparent, plant-based ingredients accelerates, Buchu's distinctive taste and validated benefits give product developers a genuine competitive edge.

"We see ourselves as solution providers, whether a client needs technical specifications for a ready-to-drink beverage or stability data for an essential-oil serum, our team collaborates from concept to commercial launch. Our dedicated laboratory conducts routine analysis of composition, purity and quality of the oils, equipping developers with the documentation they need for global regulatory approval." – Maria Slabbert, Managing Director.

Industry analysts expect worldwide appetite for plant-based ingredients to expand at double-digit rates over the next five years. Skimmelberg supports that trajectory by creating local jobs, funding environmental education in nearby schools and partnering with CapeNature on fynbos conservation. With a robust agronomic foundation, rigorous science and deep community ties backed by Skimmelberg's SIZA social & environmetal accredition, the company is prepared to scale responsibly while safeguarding the ecosystems that sustain Buchu. Brands seeking bespoke supply agreements, joint research projects or co-branded product lines are invited to engage with Skimmelberg's sales team.

Skimmelberg is a third-generation, family-owned agribusiness dedicated to the cultivation, processing and export of certified-organic Buchu and Rooibos. Operating from Clanwilliam in South Africa's Western Cape, the company manages the full value chain under one roof, combining time-honoured farming expertise with modern analytics. Skimmelberg supplies raw materials and finished goods to customers across Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific and Africa.

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