

Three great stories: why organic farming matters, escaping from a war zone and how to seize opportunity

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# insight



News and Views from the School

### Welcome to Issue 36

As an international organisation, one of the School's greatest assets is the diverse people all round the world. Read here three more great stories of individual exploration, escape and development.



Last chance to sign up to continue to get insight issues after 25th May. Due to new regulations coming into force in the EU/UK,

we are obliged to start a whole new list for insight.

Just click the red button below and enter your name and email. (If you've already done this, you don't need to do it again!)

All good wishes, [Christine Lambie, Editor](#)

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## How Organic Wins

Raymond Auerbach, Western Cape

**Raymond, senior student in the School, is professor of soil science and plant production at Nelson Mandela University. At his home in the town of George he harvests rainwater, uses solar energy and produces organic food. The Cape currently faces a water shortage crisis. Why is soil so important?**

At age 16, I joined the Soil Association of South Africa, and started my first organic vegetable garden at home, to my mother's delight (and surprise)! I dropped out of high school to join. . . [read more](#)



**The refugee crisis has caught the media's attention in recent years. What happens to a refugee? Emina Ramic, a senior student in Perth, fled with her children from the war in Bosnia. What happened to her?**

## Escaping a War

Emina Ramic, Perth, Australia

The noise of gun-fire and exploding bombs was getting closer as the days went by. The roads were controlled by different militia groups, making it too dangerous to deliver supplies into the village. The TV news stopped reporting anything from . . . [read more](#)

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**Mohammad was born in Pakistan. He came to the UK in 1965, aged 16, as a factory worker. Always quick to take opportunities, he now runs a 29-room care home for the elderly.**

## Windows of Opportunity

Mohammad Shafique, Ayr, Scotland

My older brother and my uncle were in the UK already, working in Huddersfield. They arranged a voucher for me to come over as a factory worker, so I started working in a textile factory. [read more](#)



## School Community - Your Top Tips

**1. Women philosophers:** students sometimes ask why there are so many male philosophers who are studied. Peter Adamson, famous for his History of Philosophy podcasts, has made 10 videos about women thinkers in antiquity. Important. Go to [Womenthinkers](#)

**2. Value Capture:** Watch this lecture by Andrew Purves (senior student in London) on how collecting land rent has been a spectacular success in Hong Kong. Persuasive, compelling. Go to [Purves.lecture](#)

**3. Shane Mulhall:** readers may remember Shane Mulhall who passed away a couple of years ago. An inspiring and entertaining lecturer, he gave lectures over many years. 40 of the recordings are now available on the Dublin School's website at [SMLectures](#)

**4. Australia:** just a regular day in Australia! Watch the video.

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-8I293qKrQ>



## Reader Feedback

**As always, thanks for reading!**

*I always read your newsletters and love hearing about what's going on at the school. I did practical philosophy 1,2 & 3 with you a few years ago; it remains one of my best decisions to join the School at the time that I did!*



*I'm writing today to send you a TEDx talk that I have just done; a lot has happened since I was at the school and no doubt being there has helped me feel brave enough within myself to start some of the ventures that I have since.*

*Looking forward to hearing from you soon - although in the mountains I have no internet connection so my reply will be delayed! With love,*

**London/India**

Video Link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Esd7\\_afR0h4&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Esd7_afR0h4&app=desktop)

*Thank you so very much for the latest 'Insight', No 35, and for persevering. I always enjoy reading them and send to a few friends. I find it remarkable how one's emotions can go from misery to extreme gratitude after a shake-up, even not as extreme as that one (the*

plane crash) was. Gratitude to those who care around us, gratitude to God (whatever one means by that)! Lying under a plane tree on a stretcher, looking up into it on a mild sunny day, I remember. Nothing exciting, only Malaria. With love, **London**

**Lily is the black labrador who lives with Donald Lambie, the leader of the School, and his wife, the editor. Lily became a popular contributor to this newsletter, with her own canine insights.**

## Letter from Lily



I enjoy a good chew now and again, but it kinda matters where that happens. Ideally, outside in the garden. But if it's raining, it has to be the best room in the house, in a cosy, well-lit spot on the beautiful Afghan rug. It's just not the same on the dreary brown IKEA mat in the kitchen. My People think I'm a bit of a snob; I call it being situationally aware. Isn't it exactly like drinking fine wine from a crystal glass?

Actually one of My People bought a table recently at IKEA. Those flat-packs can be tricky though. Did she screw the legs in right? Or was it those super-clear instructions? Why did it turn out furry? Surely something missing?

So here's my final thought, which is worth remembering if someone's giving you grief:

***To err is human.***

***To forgive is canine.***

*Why not be more dog-ish today and spread a little kindness.*



*IKEA dog - did I lose a few screws?*

Licks and love from Lily xx

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