

## Toy expert Nikki Bush's top five toy picks

Extreme Air Board. Go Go Gelato. Bed Bugs Game. Stack and Tumble Elephant. Play Dough Magical Oven



# News Play time

Sunday Times



Zoe Grove learns to solve a Rubik's Cube with her father Leon Grove. Picture: Jackie Clausen



Wooden toys last a long time and can be rented easily. Picture: 123rf.com/junneui

## A cheaper option for Christmas toys that won't take up space

By SUTHENTIRA GOVENDER

● Santa will "lease" toys this Christmas as more parents rent rather than buy. Renting, swapping or handing down toys have become cheaper options and reduce clutter.

Cape Town mother Juana Parathyras has a bag of rented toys under the tree. She rented wooden toys, a book and one or two items with lights and music for her 15-month-old son, Jack.

"My husband and I don't like clutter and we just don't believe in accumulating masses of toys for our little one. That said, I do believe that kids need toys to keep them stimulated."

The rental route for Christmas has offered Parathyras the "perfect solution ... because our little one has a wide variety of toys to play with, he won't get bored with them and we don't end up with boxes of unused toys that we spent a lot of money on".

She is not opposed to buying a favoured toy but renting has saved her between R500 and R1,000.

"I won't be wrapping the toys, but will pop the bag under the tree with a special note from Santa saying he is lending a few of his favourite toys to Jack over Christmas," she said.

Parenting and toy expert Nikki Bush has seen this trend emerging in recent years.

"There is definitely a place for renting, swapping and hand-me-downs in SA these days, especially for people living in smaller homes and apartments. They don't have storage capacity.

"That's the beauty of the classic toys, like the wooden toys, stacking plastic toys and shape-sorters. That's what the toy rental people are probably sitting with. They are not the type that will break and have moving parts.

"The classics are the toys that you can hand on to people, via rentals, swapping and handing down. Money is scarce as we need to be creative."

### The classics are the toys that you can hand on to people

The Smart Toy Club, which specialises in toy rentals, has had "a 20% growth in sales year on year" compared with last Christmas.

"There is more awareness in SA now that toy rental is an alternative to buying new toys and that the play-learn-return ethos just makes sense in parents' minds," said Toy Club's Lynvee Pieterse.

Pieterse has also received requests for vouchers from families visiting from the UK and Australia.

"We have a family arriving from Australia, whom we are getting toys ready for and we have a granny that signed up for her two grandsons arriving from the UK.

"We all know how crazy it is to pack toys on top of your luggage allowance."

# Nostalgia gives retro toy revival a festive bounce

## Parents take kids back to the future

By NIVASHNI NAIR

● Living out the plot of a Christmas movie, Durban mother Rozann Naicker has been on the hunt for one of this year's highly sought-after toys: the Tamagotchi.

No, you didn't read that wrong – and this story is not a re-print from the mid-1990s. The Tamagotchi is back, along with a host of other retro toys.

During her search for the '90s pocket pet for her nine-year-old daughter, Naicker, 33, bought herself an old-school handheld game because it took her back to her arcade-game playing days at the local tuck shop.

Eighties and '90s kids are rejoicing as toy retailers are catering to nostalgia by going back in time to bring this year's must-haves – the Tamagotchi, classic TV games, the Rubik's Cube, Slinkys and even a remake of PlayStation 1.

Globally, retro toys have been described as this year's biggest Christmas joy as parents relive their childhood through their children.

Naicker wants her daughter, Cyannah, to experience the same excitement and responsibility she had when she owned a Tamagotchi.

"I grew up in the era when Tamagotchis were an instant hit. I loved it and I want my daughter to share the same joy of owning

one," she said.

Game's marketing manager, Elisabeth Ric Hansen, told the Sunday Times that retro toys appealed to parents because they engendered a nostalgic feeling in an age in which technology was dominant.

"These products are hybrid in nature and can be considered a toy with technological features, which appeals to kids today, as well as to their parents. These products come in at an affordable price point – so consumers get bang for their bucks."

While other children will receive the latest game consoles and new tech toys, 13-year-old Elijah Maharaj is set to find a Walkman under the Christmas tree.

"He actually came across his dad's collection of old cassettes and was fascinated by it, so we explained how it works. He immediately asked if he could get a cassette player," said his mother, Sudhira Maharaj.

Maharaj recently bought Elijah a mini arcade machine.

"The minute I saw the mini arcade machine, memories of my childhood came flooding back. Some of the favourites were *Road Fighter*, *Circus Circus* and *Mario Brothers*. My husband's all-time favourite still is *Snow Bros*."

Online retailer Takealot.com has recorded a huge demand for retro gaming this festive season.

"The Nintendo Classic Mini Console

boasting retro games like *Super Mario Bros* and *Donkey Kong*, was released earlier this year and has flown off our virtual shelves. PlayStation 1 is also releasing a remake of the PlayStation 1 just in time for Christmas and gamers can't get enough, with pre-orders streaming in," Takealot.com chief marketing officer Julie-Anne Walsh said.

Takealot.com does not believe that retro toys ever went away.

"Every year our best-selling toys are the more traditional, long-established brands like Lego and Barbie, which have been firm favourites for generations. The products might differ year on year but the brand remains the same.

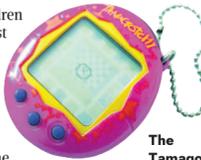
"We also see year-round demand for old-school superhero products like Spiderman, The Incredible Hulk and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," Walsh said.

Other old favourites include swingball, and board games such as Monopoly and Cluedo.

"Parents are buying toys for their children that have sentimental value for them too. These toys are also just really good, clean fun. It's a win-win," Walsh said.

Natasha Govender of Puzzle Unlimited, a toy stall that has been operating in Durban's Stables Lifestyle Market for 27 years, said many of her customers want to relive their childhood memories with their own kids.

She has sold more than 100 pocket pets in the last two months. "The majority were sold to adults."



The Tamagotchi



## Open Letter To South Africa From Chairman Of KPMG South Africa, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu

### My fellow South Africans,

As the year draws to a close, I wanted to share some reflections on what has been a very difficult period for KPMG.

When I joined the firm in March, I was under no illusion as to the challenge we faced. KPMG had made a number of serious mistakes and lost the trust of the public and clients. We had lost sight of our responsibility to serve the broader public interest, and not only our own commercial interests and those of our clients.

I wanted to help make this right, out of a sense of duty to my profession and to my country.

I believe strongly that South Africa is best served by having a healthy, vibrant and ethical audit industry that supports a flourishing business community. And I am convinced that a renewed KPMG South Africa can play an important role in that.

The renewal of the firm required that we understood what had gone wrong in the work we did for the Guptas, SARS and VBS. How did it happen that partners of the firm violated their Code of Professional Conduct and breached the ethical and quality control standards of the firm?

What happened at VBS was shameful, not least for the considerable distress caused to customers of the bank. And soon we will hear the report of Advocate Ntsebeza, who led SAICA's independent inquiry into the work performed by KPMG in connection with the Gupta family and the work done on the SARS report. His judgements will surely be unsparring.

So it is appropriate to repeat to fellow South Africans our apology for work that caused real hurt and damage to South African institutions and our fellow South Africans. We failed by our own standards and we let the country down.

I realise that regaining public trust will not happen quickly. Understandably, people will want to judge KPMG not just by its words, but also by its deeds.

And here, I believe, we have an encouraging story to tell. Some of you will have seen recent developments:

- In connection with VBS, the reporting of former partner Mr Siphon Malaba to the Hawks;
- The appointment of a new chief executive, Mr Ignatius Sehoole, to continue the work of

rebuilding KPMG and restoring public trust;

- Our commitment to appear before the Zondo Commission into State Capture;
- Agreement with civil society organisations to disburse the R47m of fees earned from Gupta entities; and
- The departure from the firm, or disciplining, of colleagues whose work was found unsatisfactory.

All of these developments speak to a significantly changed firm.

They also follow a period of significant introspection which had already seen the firm make numerous changes to who we work with, how we manage the firm, how we conduct ourselves and how we work.

Central to these changes is a commitment to greatly enhance our integrity and quality controls, as well as sanctions for failure to meet the requisite firm and professional standards. And all of this underpinned by independent Board oversight of the critical functions of Risk management and Audit quality.

KPMG has nothing to hide. We have co-operated as required with all official and regulatory inquiries, and will continue to do so. We know we made mistakes and we will accept responsibility, as appropriate, for our misdeeds.

In return, I would like to make an appeal to South Africa-business, government and the public:—

An appeal for your recognition, that KPMG South Africa is today a very different business to what it was 18 months ago.

An appeal for your patience, as we continue to do more to demonstrate how we've changed.

And an appeal for your permission, for KPMG South Africa, and the thousands of South Africans who work for it, to continue to play a positive role in the business community and the life of the nation.

Thank you,

**Wiseman Nkuhlu**  
Executive Chairman, KPMG South Africa

For more information on changes at KPMG, please go to <https://home.kpmg.com/za/en/home/campaigns/2018/07/baseline-report-20181.html>