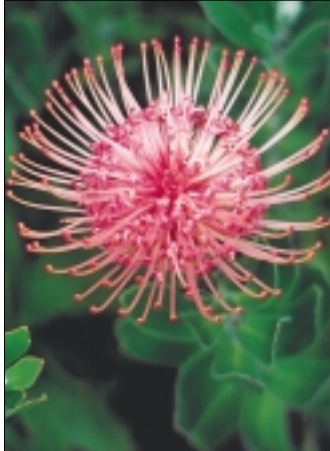


Village Life

STANFORD IN THE CAPE OVERBERG

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It's festival time again!

Local businesses, the Stanford Tourism Bureau and residents have been working together to make this year's Stanford Blom & Blits festival by far the biggest and liveliest in the five years of its existence. More people will be actively involved, and many more visitors are expected.

Events will range from cultural through historical to just plain fun. And the organisers are confident that there will be enough to eat and drink for everybody!

The festival kicks off on Friday, 7 November and will run through Saturday until Sunday, 9 November.

The official opening by the Mayor, cnr Willie Smuts, at 19:30 on Friday will also see the street lights being switched on for the summer holiday season. Stanford will for the first time see its own minstrel troupe, the Stanford Klopse, perform during a street parade through the village. The troop has been assembling their outfits and preparing in great secrecy, as is the custom amongst Cape klopse. They will again take to the streets Saturday morning.

The marathon will not be held this year, because an experienced organiser could not be found. The opinion was also expressed that arranging such an event required too much input, considering the relatively small number of people who participated. It may be revived in years to come, perhaps in another form.

New events have, however, been added to the programme, and others are bigger than before. The Welsh pony show, organised by Maureen Wolters, will be adjudicated by judges from Johannesburg, and may become



Map and
festival
programme
inside

a fixture on the national calendar. The show and competitions for purebred and other classes will include events for children and for buggies. A totally new item will be a time trial for buggies through the village.

Another new event is a sponsored tournament for men's and women's soccer teams from the area to be held on the field in Stanford South.

Musical offerings range from religious performances in the Okkie Smuts hall and Xhosa singers and dancers in the conference centre at Stanford House, to Willie Dempers' Western Flames dance band playing next to

Spar, and French songs and can-can dancers Saturday night at the Stanford Inn.

Flowers will be on display in the Anglican Church and the Dutch Reformed Church Hall. The latter will also house a Stanford historical display and a demonstration of traditional whip making by Oom Koos Jordaan, one of the few people who still practices this craft, and book signing by local author SJ du Toit. An interdenominational church service will be held Sunday morning.

An exhibition of works by local artists opens at The Inn Friday evening, while children's art will be on display at Okkie Smuts School and children's flower art in the Anglican Church Hall. Children will also be entertained and given art classes at Okkie Smuts.

The restaurants have been asked to offer special menus around the Blom & Blits theme, and many businesses along Queen Victoria Street and the immediate vicinity will have "stoep stalls" offering refreshments. There will also be numerous vendors with fare items to fill an empty tummy.

During Saturday Lambert Badenhorst, the reigning national witblits champion (see story on p4), will be on hand for tastings of his product at Oom Steyn's Wine Shop. Wine, cheese and Birkenhead beer may also be tasted – and will no doubt be consumed! – during the festival. ■

The naming of the festival

BY MARIANA ESTERHUIZEN

Some five years ago on a cold July night, the Stanford tourism committee met at Galashiels Lodge. Once the official business was behind us, a few members gathered around the fire with glass in hand, something sweet to warm the innards. We wanted Stanford to have a festival and we needed a hook on which to hang our hat – an identity.

As the whole Overberg was about to burst into Spring flower, *blom* came to mind easily. But what else? Then Martinus Bester said, after a good swig from his glass, "Blits". Hermie Lategan's face lit up. We turned it over in our minds. Blom en Blits... Blom en Blits. How easily it rolled off the tongue!

Then piped up the voice of reason from Bea Whittaker: "Do you guys know that the Stanford district is one of the areas with the most licensed distillers in the Western Cape?" That clinched it!

Blom represented *fynbos*, the natural floral riches of the area; *waterblomme-tjies*, a watercress that is the basis of a traditional dish; and even the beautiful women of the area. *Witblits*, spirits distilled from grapes, was of course an integral part of old Overberg life. It also represented the speed of an athlete competing in a marathon. Perfect! We had our name. The Stanford Blom & Blits festival was born. Long may it live! ■



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