



**PRESS RELEASE – APRIL 2011**

**Festival garden competition is launched  
STAFF REPORTER**

THE 2011 Grahamstown Flower Festival may be six months away, but planning has already commenced in earnest, and the popular 'Gardens of Grahamstown' competition saw its official launch last week.

At the launch, festival organising committee chairperson Sharon Richner said the garden competition was but one feature of a multi-faceted event – other attractions are a flower and plant competition, children's section, commercial garden stalls, guest speakers, workshops and musical entertainment.

This year's flower festival will add colour and excitement to the Makana Botanical Gardens below the Monument over the weekend of October 29 and 30.

Being sponsored by Pam Golding Properties, the 'Gardens of Grahamstown' competition comprises four categories – small gardens (under 500 square metres), medium gardens (500 to 1000 square metres), large gardens (over 1000 square metres) and township gardens.

Richner said prospective entrants would be doing their usual winter gardening chores such as pruning and cutting back, plus a minor change to their gardens here and there, and maybe an additional shrub or two.

She suggested gardeners take a break from their chores and collect an entry form, something that is bound to inspire local gardeners even further.

Entry forms are obtainable from Makana Tourism on Church Square, Sunnyside Garden Centre in Cromwell Street, and Spekboom Nursery in New Street.

This year's judges are Jo Skae, Warren Lange and Jo Clinton.

Jo Skae has extensive experience in garden landscaping, and for 12 years ran her own company that offered a variety of services pertaining to gardening.

Holding a degree in landscape architecture, Warren Lange has run his own companies and does regular gardening inserts on the television programme *Top Billing*.

Based in Johannesburg, Jo Clinton runs her own landscape design business and has a wide knowledge of landscape and garden design styles.

At last week's launch, Richner said the committee had decided on new opening times for public viewing over the festival period – 9am to 2pm on the Saturday, and 10am to 2pm on the Sunday.

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