



www.grahamstownflowerfestival.co.za

info@grahamstownflowerfestival.co.za

GRAHAMSTOWN FLOWER FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

Interesting speakers lined up for flower festival

With the 2011 Grahamstown Flower Festival a little over three months away, the organising committee has announced the speakers for the various talks which form a popular and integral part of the two-day event.

The Makana Botanical Gardens at the foot of Gunfire Hill, home of the 1820 Settlers Monument, is the ideal setting for the flower festival which will be held this year over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30.

Also on the jam-packed festival programme this year is the hugely-popular flower and plant competition, musical entertainment, a myriad commercial garden stalls selling and displaying everything of interest to gardeners, plus various garden-related demonstrations and workshops. Refreshment stalls will cater for the hungry and thirsty.

This year's speakers are renowned horticulturist David Davidson and garden magazine editor Tanya Visser.

The design team comprising David Davidson and Raymond Hudson have won numerous gold awards at the Royal Horticultural Society's annual Chelsea Flower Show with their Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens exhibit.

Davidson will give two talks during the festival, one on each day.

Entitled "The Chelsea Experience – South Africa Blooms Abroad", the Saturday talk from 2pm will cover the country's participation at the Chelsea Flower Show spanning 36 years, with memorable highlights and anecdotes.

The Sunday talk, at the same time, is titled "Floral Festivals in the Far East" and will include a look at the African garden at the Royal Flora Expo held in Thailand to celebrate the 80th birthday and 60th year of King Bumibol's reign.

Davidson will also talk of his visits to two fantasy gardens created at the Singapore Garden Festivals in 2008 and 2010, a visit to Vietnam, as well as the Gardening World Cup in Nagasaki, Japan.

Tanya Visser, who is a much sought-after speaker on matters gardening, is the editor of *The Gardener* magazine and presenter of a television gardening series.

She was scheduled to speak at last year's flower festival, but the serious illness of a close family member saw her withdrawing at the last minute.

Now Visser is all-the-more enthusiastic about her visit to the festival in October, She will talk on the Saturday morning (9.30am to 11am) on new trends in gardening, eco-gardening and getting the most out of one's garden.

In the meantime, with spring just a few weeks away, flower festival organisers have advised gardeners and property owners to begin giving serious thought to entering the festival's garden competition and planning their participation in what promises to be another exciting flower festival.

ENDS/