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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Workshops will interest many at flower festival**

The tree-lined avenues and pathways of the Makana Botanical Gardens at the foot of Gunfire Hill in Grahamstown will be abuzz with activity next month when local residents and visitors take in all that is on offer at the 2011 Grahamstown Flower Festival.

The two-day festival takes over the gardens, affectionately known as “The Bots”, on the weekend of October 29 and 30.

Festival chairman Sharon Richner said this year’s event promises to be a huge attraction for gardening enthusiasts, offering a flower and plant competition, commercial garden stalls, workshops, demonstrations, musical entertainment and a garden competition.

Richner was upbeat about the workshops that have been arranged by the organising committee. “The stimulating hands-on workshops will provide exciting opportunities for learning about a variety of horticultural and environmental topics, enabling participants to develop new skills.”

Don Green, who has been studying and working with medicinal plants for more than 20 years, will present a workshop on indigenous medicinal plants and basic phytotherapy treatments.

The one-hour presentation will see participants introduced to the medicinal properties and applications of mainly Eastern Cape medicinal plants.

“Traditional healing methods and modern research discoveries will also be discussed,” added Richner.

Warren Lange will have fun with plants in a workshop aimed at children between the ages of seven and 15 years, and they will learn basic horticultural concepts and receive a basic introduction to plant growing. Participants will each be given a pot, some soil and a plant to take home with them.

Elmarie Retief, secretary of the Albany Horticultural Society, one of the societies involved in the organisation of the festival, will present *Say it with Pizzazz*, a basic yet creative workshop for all those non-arty and non-crafty people out there.

Participants will learn ways of using flowers and recyclable items for adding that special touch of pizzazz to gifts, flower arrangements and interior décor.

Another workshop is *Bug Busters – preventing insects from becoming bugs*, and participants will explore historical methods of keeping food and gardens bug-free before the advent of insecticides to eradicate insects.

The workshop will be presented by Rob O-Donoghue, associate professor in the environmental education and sustainability unit at Rhodes.

For further festival information visit website  
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