

HOGSBACK ABUZZ WITH THE UPCOMING COUNTRY XMAS IN JULY FESTIVAL

Issued on 11 July 2007 – for immediate release

The 7th Annual Hogsback Country Xmas in July which will be held on 20 – 22 July 2007 promises to be a time of family fun in the country with many activities to suit all tastes. This event is proving ever more popular, and attracting more visitors each year. It's a time to relax, bond and be spoilt in Hogsback's olde worlde winter wonderland.

Festival proceedings start at 17h30 on Friday, 20 July, at the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) with a bonfire, the singing of carols by candlelight and switching on of the Christmas lights by the Executive Mayor of Amathole District Municipality, Cllr Sakhumzi Somyo. This will be followed by "A dance in the barn" at the Hogsback Inn.

This year the community have adopted the "Seeds of Hope" campaign and have requested all visitors to bring along a packet of vegetable seeds as these will be distributed to various local food gardening projects after the festival. All contributions can be dropped off at the Visitor Information Centre in the centre of town in Hogsback.

On Saturday, 21 July, visitors can catch an oxwagon ride to various sites on the Nguni oxen of the University of Fort Hare, visit the arts and crafts market at Nina's and the Laughing Feathers, or warm the cockles of their heart by partaking in port and sherry tasting whilst looking at an art exhibition, or making time for some quiet meditation at the Labyrinth. Alternatively they can enjoy a Viennese coffee morning at the Hogsback Inn and Nina's. For the more energetic, there is a choice of a charity fun run or walk along the many beautiful trails in Hogsback or they can play in the Nkonkobe festive soccer tournament in Alice. Be adventurous, explore the outdoors and participate in the Geo Cache treasure hunt (using GIS instruments) in 4x4s – make sure you're at the VIC by 10h00 to register. If outdoor cookery demonstrations tickle your fancy, there will be a potjiekos demonstration by celebrated journalist-cum-chef-at-large, Deon van der Merwe. In the evening enjoy gala dinners at all eateries in Hogsback, and end the day by toasting your toes near a log fire. Be sure to bring your winter woolies to keep warm as the mountain air will be crisp and cold.

On Sunday, 22 July, an outdoor church service will be held at Nina's at 10h00; and bikers from various clubs will be participating in a breakfast charity run from East London and enjoying their breakfast at the Swallow Tail Estate. Visitors can choose to watch a thatching demonstration at Nina's at 11h00 or the SAPD dog show at the Kings Lodge at 10h30. Try your hand at archery at Nina's and enjoy another demonstration by potjiekos maestro, Deon van der Merwe at 11h00. The Ha! Man will also be performing at High on the Hogs at 14h00. Also on the cards

is a lunch for the Gogos which will take place in Alice at 12h30. All the eateries will be splashing out for Sunday lunch.

On 23 – 24 July, Saprotex and the Department of Social Development are sponsoring a two day workshop for local crafters on knitting and wool felting techniques. This event will be held at the Hobbiton on Hogsback.

Hogsback - Close enough to come for the day or stay for the weekend!

For enquiries please contact the following:

Accommodation : Elsa on 045 962 1026

Craft stalls : Carol on 045 962 1016

Event : Annette on 082 433 1538

Ends.

Issued by:
Gail Pullen
Communications & Media Relations Manager
Amathole District Municipality
P O Box 320
East London
5200
Tel: (043) 701 4127
Fax: (043) 742 1831
Cell: 082 334 3480
Email: gailp@amatoledm.co.za