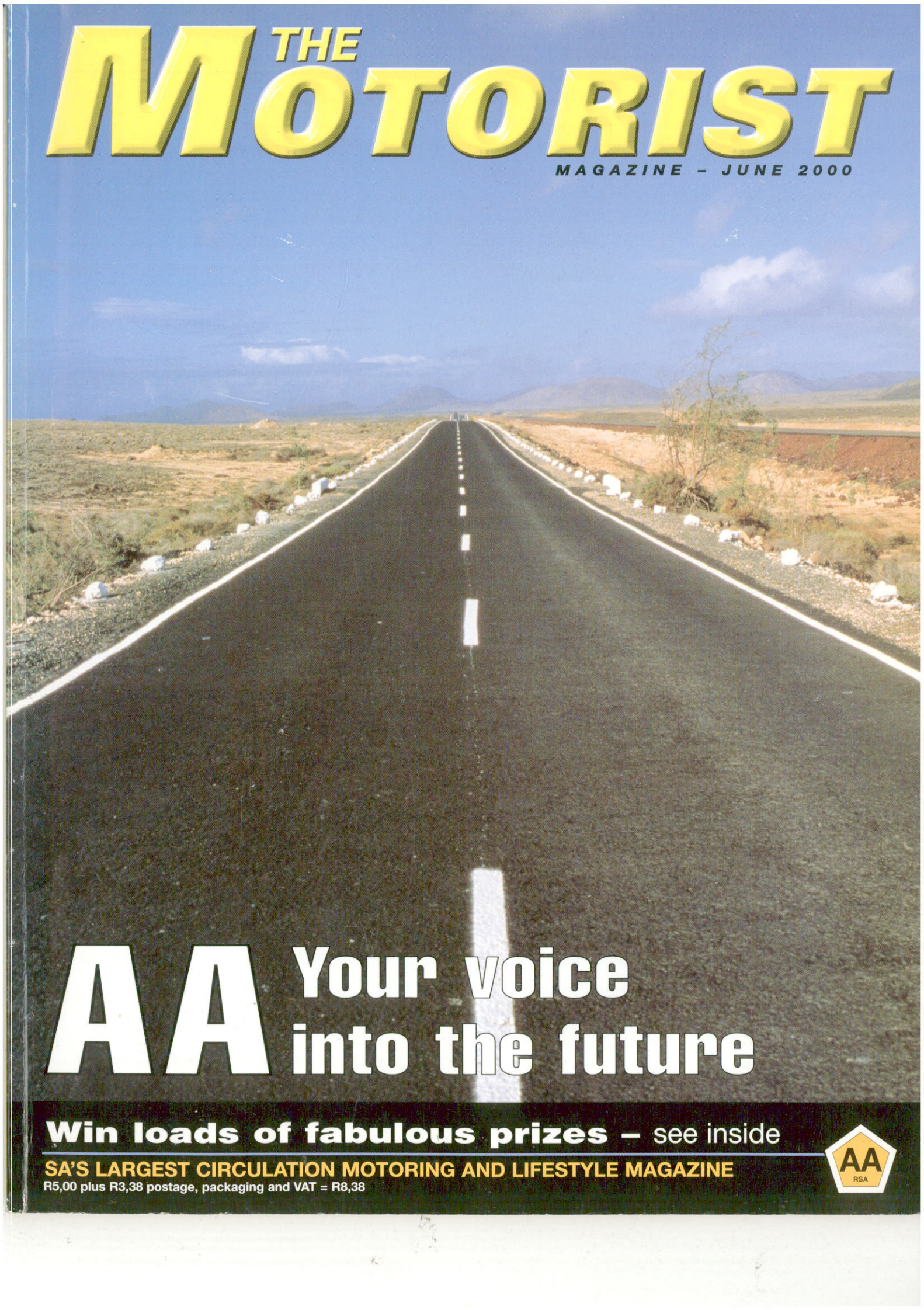


THE **MOTORIST**

MAGAZINE - JUNE 2000



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DUPONT CAR COVER COMPETITION

SE Pretorius, Danhof; N Freaan, Amanzimtoti; JP van Burick, Strubenvale; ME Botha, Germiston; PH Devereux, Benoni

LEOPARD ROCK COMPETITION

R Prior, Edenvale

CRAFTSMAN TOOLS COMPETITION

LHW Walker, Welkom

MOTORCROSS CROSSWORD COMPETITION NO 12

A Wepener, Riebeeckstad

SNAP COMPETITION

- First prize: Siemens Gigaset 2010 base station plus two 2000c mobile handsets and two 2000L chargers
 S Levetan, Cape Town
- Second prize: Siemens Gigaset 2010 base station plus a 2000c mobile handset and a 2000L charger
 DW Herholdt
- Third prize: Siemens Gigaset 2010 base station
 M Cox, Summer Greens

NU METRO MOVIE COMPETITION

M Reichert, Halfway House; GD Tainton, Kenton-on-Sea; SK Kearney, Isando; M Singh, Durban; A Holloway, Pinetown; G Strydom, Florida Park; HJ Felbon, Durban; G Chambers, Fontainebleau; HFC Venter, Trichardt; C Pienaar, Northcliff; L du Plessis, Pretoria; R Mithal, Lenasia; DC Abramowitz; A Duke, Amanzimtoti; H Byleveldt, Sinoville; MSK Khan, Laudium; HM Davdowitz, Yeoville; M Tilch, Johannesburg; GB Garson, Hilton; N Burger, Wierdapark; Mrs Waters, Somerset West

OLIVETTI INKJET PRINTER COMPETITION

A Kleinhous, Margate

FUNNIEST CAPTION COMPETITION

Mrs Waters, Somerset West

Festival festivities

Heady jazz rifts, the aroma of calamari shwarmas wafting through the air, the sweet aftertaste of home-made mulberry wine, mesmerising dance themes, gripping theatrical scenes and dazzling arrays of items and art to touch and buy – all come together with a carnival air at the gathering of collective communities across the country...

By Mercedes Westbrook

SINCE before cities put down their concrete roots, distant and isolated communities across wild landscapes used to gather annually to celebrate as a collective community for a number of reasons. Whether it was the celebration of the solstice moon, or the season of spring, here handicrafts would be displayed, admired and traded for, skills of courage and strength would be challenged and tested and children would learn the ways of other people and another life in week long festivities and rituals.

Modern day festivals haven't changed that much ... whether by car or bus, people are called to gather at a specific meeting place to see, watch, admire and enjoy skills of theatre, music, performance and art, each focus depending on the location of the area or the offering of the environment. Still today they are periods of celebration and a sense of community.

South Africa's line-up

South Africa has a particularly rich menu of festivals spread across the land which celebrate highlights such as the harvesting of the vineyards, the rich abundance of the seas, the talents of a competent and diverse performing arts, our cultural heritage and our agricultural and farming successes.

The oldest and most established festival in South Africa is undoubtedly the Standard Bank National Arts Festival held in Grahamstown, a quaint university town nestling in a agricultural farming region of the Eastern Cape. Since its initiation in 1974 it has showcased upcoming talent of both South African performers and artistes as well as inviting the talents of international cultural troupes to share their artistry with the audiences. From dance,

cabaret, fine arts and craft to the full menu of musical genres both the main festival where recognised artists form a rich programme to the fringe theatre where wannabees and first time hopefuls provide ad hoc shows that promise them future recognition... or don't, there is much to see. Over the full nine days pubs, restaurants, schools, universities and church venues play host to craft markets, educational workshops, band performances and film screenings. At the centre of the town, under the church clock, crowds mingle to ride a camel, buy a dreamcatcher, enjoy an aromatherapy massage or view the truly bizarre... a live, torso-less head! At the PX

Village more than 300 stalls dazzle with an array of goods, from pure wool sweaters to hand-made wooden toys, and custom-made jewellery, while the Cool Runnings bar tent vibrates to the drum beat and flicker of flames. Campers and hikers mingle with professors and foreign tourists while accommodation remains at premium through the event.

The Klein Karoo National Arts Festival is perhaps the second largest happening on the South African cultural calendar – a celebration of visual and performing arts. Held during late March, early April in Oudtshoorn, this charming little town set among the mountains has become a tourism



attraction in itself. Spanning a week of festivities, this is for the most part an Afrikaans festival offering delights of dance, cabaret, visual arts and drama, attended by an estimated 100 000 art lovers. Aside from the cultural productions, the festival boasts arts and crafts markets with a food, wine and tourism festival taking place alongside it. (Telephone (044) 272 7771 or www.karoo fees.com).

A few hours drive North, along the beautiful Eastern Cape coastline, the Knysna Oyster Festival (1-9 July), commences with a glut of tangy, sea fresh oysters, and sporting challenges in and around this harbour town. Primarily a sporting and leisure festival, superfit competitors come to take part in the biggest event of its kind in South Africa, the down-hill mountain bike race, a rugged journey through the hills and

dales of pristine countryside. Accompanying events include inflatable boat races, cross country and road running, surfing, soccer, hockey and a rugby clinic for under 21s while the leisure seekers take pleasure in the highlight of the event, the Oyster eating and cooking competition. For accommodation or a programme of events contact (044) 382 5510.

If oysters aren't reason enough to visit Knysna then what about the Nederburg Knysna Arts Experience (22 September to 1 October) – a creative community arts celebration offering art exhibitions, painting, sculpture, ceramics, wood art and crafts. Living Arts Workshop demonstrations cover almost every medium and discipline to a fixed timetable, together with a performance arts street theatre programme offering buskers, classical music, cabaret, jazz or African rhythms. The Ballroom Dance competition is the highlight of the festival, alongside other captivating offerings such as a film festival, storytelling and floral art displays. To find out how to feast your senses, telephone (044) 382 0875 or 082 571 2462.

Delight of tastes

With an abundance of vineyards, where acres of grapes lie ripening in the sun in the cool mountain air, the Cape holds reign over a number of festivals celebrating the sensuous art of eating and drinking. The Swartland Food and Wine Festival, held on the first weekend in June offers an informal atmosphere of outdoor stalls and accompanying flea markets with authentic farm cooking from droewors to pannekoek vetkoek, doughnuts, breads and jams, seafood, mussels, prawns and calamari, mellowed brandies and home-made liqueurs.

The Cape Times Waterfront Wine Festival (29 September to 1 October) which takes place at the V&A Waterfront is a connoisseurs delight providing an opportunity to taste some of the Cape's finest

Opposite page: The Standard Bank National Arts Festival in Grahamstown offers visitors the chance to see upcoming and renowned performers in local and international productions.

Left: Knysna welcomes spring each year by hosting the Nederburg Knysna Arts Festival, a celebration of art in every form from painting and crafts to music and dance.



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wines within one showcase. Last year's event saw 83 estates and wineries participating with more than 300 wines for tasting, with various imported wines also on offer. (Telephone (021) 426 4260). With that, having titillated the tastebuds, wine-lovers can then eagerly anticipate the Stellenbosch Food and Wine Festival (25-28 October) which comes hot on its heels, and combines a sommeliers needs with those of the gourmet. Hosted in the local town hall of Stellenbosch it offers a great way to experience their country hospitality. (Telephone (021) 886 4867).

Also offering some respite from city life, the Spier Festival (starts November till March) offers prestigious cultural entertainment via concerts, musicals and dramatic productions, all taking place in their outdoor amphitheatre, and continuing through the festive season well into the new year – and all for a good cause, the Spier Arts Trust is a non-profit independent cultural arm set up to help ensure the future of the performing arts in South Africa.

Below: The Grahamstown festival even offers the opportunity to see exotic camels.

Bottom: People have always loved to gather together to celebrate visual and performing arts – dance is a popular festival activity.



Depending on corporate and public sponsorship, it manages to host prestigious acts such as last year's menu, which included Rolf Harris, the life and music of Louis Armstrong, the Buster Keaton film festival with filmscore performed live by Nataniel, and arias, duets, ensembles and operas such as *La Bohème* by Puccini and Rossini's comic masterpiece *The Barber of Seville*. Leave your car and traffic hassles at home and catch a leisurely train trip to this 300-year old wine farm near Stellenbosch with a picnic basket tucked under your arm... (Telephone (021) 462 0415 or 809 1100)

Festival of feasts

Offering international flavours from across the continents, the Cape Gourmet Festival combines European techniques, with Japanese influences, and South East Asian flavours. Promising to be a weekend of taste, discovery and entertainment, its boutique-style marquees host international chefs, the pick of Cape Town's restaurants and evocative flavours, fragrances and colours – literally the foods and cultures of the world on a plate, together with day and night family entertainment. The following weekend, and sure to interest the international press is the Tastic Table of Unity – set on the world's biggest table where 700 diners break bread on the slopes of Table Mountain.

But don't loosen your belts just yet... the Good Food and Wine Show (25-28 May) sponsored by Carlton Food Network, sees celebrities and chefs mingling amongst colourful exhibitions at Good Hope Centre. Its favourite event, that of Sunday with Strauss held at Kirstenbosch Gardens (28th May) where visitors are invited to enjoy unique gastronomic brunch baskets, accompanied to the wind-borne melodies of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra and well-known jazz artist, Jimmy Dludlue. (Telephone (021) 794 3367). Not quite a festival, the Kirstenbosch Gardens offers not only a visual extravaganza of flora but elegant summer concerts which take place on Sunday evenings from December until March. Visit their website on www.nbi.ac.za

A new festival on the Cape agenda is the Cape Town One City Festival held in September which celebrates the cities



Knysna is also renowned for its annual Oyster Festival, a delight of culinary tastes and action adventure.

cultural diversity through visual arts, music, dance and drama - take a look what they have to offer on their web site www.onecity.co.za

A whale of a time

Hermanus is the heart of the Cape Whale Route and offers some of the best shore based whale watching in the world, in fact people from all over the world come to see our whales birthing and breaching here celebrated during the peak of this season is the Hermanus Whale Festival (22 September to 1 October) the ninth this year combining all the activities of a theatre, music, drama and arts festival. About 30 stage productions, a Children's Festival and sporting events complete the programme. (Telephone (028) 314 1835

or visit www.hermanus.co.za/festival)

Forget your rose-tinted glasses at home, and view Spring's spectacular varieties of wild flowers in Darling, Robertson and Hopefield. Darling's 2000 Wildflower Show (14-17 September) depicts the different veld types and floral diversity of the area, together with a display of artistic arrangements that highlight the splendour of South Africa's more well-known flowers. The Duckett Nurseries' Orchid Show is held on the same dates and times in Darling. (Telephone (022) 492 3361). During the season, there are private Wildflower Reserves in the area opened to the public, on the farms of Contreberg, Waylands and oude Post. Also open to the public will be the new Municipal Reserves in Darling and the well-known Tienie

Cars in the park

The annual Cars in the Park event, hosted by the Pretoria Old Motor Club in Silverton, will take place on August 6 this year at the Pioneer Museum in Silverton, Pretoria. Some 2000 vintage and classic cars, motor cycles and other milestones of our transport history will take you back in time 100 years. Highlights include restoration projects and exhibits of new car dealers as well as motor related exhibits. Food and entertainment will also be available although you are welcome to bring picnic. For information, contact Andre Richardt on (012) 654 3824 or 083 616 0310.



Versfeld Reserves on the road to Yzerfontein. Here visitors are welcome to drive or walk through the flowers and enjoy what nature has to offer on any warm sunny day!

The blossom of the cherry tree is just as good a reason to have a festival too, check out the Cherry Blossom Festival held in the beauty of Haenertsburg's surrounds in September (Telephone (015) 276 4472)

About 110 km east of Cape Town on the N2 lies the town of Caledon. The town owes its situation to the presence of hot water springs, and is well known as a rich agricultural region producing barley, wheat and wool. It is here that the Caledon Wild Flower Show, the biggest wild flower show in South Africa takes place, with more than 600 fynbos species on display.

Don't despair if not everyone in the family is a flower-lover... the area also offers opportunities to visit farms and historic houses, delicious meals, 4x4 routes, walking trails and bird viewing – in fact South Africa's national bird, the Blue Crane can chance to be seen in the Caledon area (Telephone (028) 212 1511 or (028) 212 2904).

You don't have to be tanned or a surfer to enjoy the Vodacom International Beach Games festival being held on Durban North Beach (7-16 July). This event is the original Gunston 500 International surfing

competition but with a whole lot more on offer. Fashion shows, five music concerts, and flea markets all happen around sporting events such as the RCI Night Surfing, World Waterski Series, SA and International Beach Volleyball Champs, and International Beach Soccer. This is an ideal time to slip on a pair of shorts and beach thongs and watch all the beautiful people go by...! (Telephone (021) 481 7700)

And in the city of gold, come alive with Arts Alive International Festival Gauteng (1-24 September). Focussing on music, dance, theatre and poetry, Alive 2000 will be the 9th annual festival and will take place in the Newtown Cultural Precinct Johannesburg, Zoo Lake (first Sunday of September) Soweto and Alexandra. Creating a new vision for the arts, culture and our rich heritage, innovative acts will promote both South African arts, and attract regional, national and international participation through exchange events, embassies and international cultural organisations. There will be a good balance between paid and free events which makes the festival accessible to the wider community with both mainstream and community-based theatre, contemporary and traditional dance and music ranging from jazz to African Mbaqanga music. So join the fun and meet your community! ☺

Other shows, fairs and festivals in your area:

March: Beer and Bread Festival, Caledon	(028) 2121511
April/May: Dundee Show, Dundee	(034) 212 2121 (x262)
May/June: Gonubie Festival, East London	(043) 740 2252
15 May – 3 June: National Creative Arts Youth Festival, Natal	(031) 209 2060
1-3 June: Food and Wind Festival Malmesbury	(022) 482 2996
1-30 June: Freedom Festival, Ladysmith,	(0361) 22992/082 4908717
June: Tygerberg Millennium Festival, Tygerberg	(021) 975 6095
July: Sunshine Festival, Warmbaths	(014) 736 3694
Avocado Festival, Tzaneen	(015) 516 305 3039
7-16 July: Ocean Action Durban	(031) 332 0110
Biltong Festival, Dundee	(034) 212 2121 x262
Bushveld Festival, Ellisras	(014) 763 2131
Game Festival, Hoedspruit	(015) 795 5141
Louis Trichardt Show	(015) 516 0040
30 July: Orchestra 2000, Durban	(031) 202 6174
Mercury Wine Week, Durban	(031) 308 2556
August: Drama Festival Fraserburg	(02072)12
Kaleidoscope Childrens Art Festival, Rustenberg,	(014) 597 0904
September: Magoebaskloof Spring Fair, Haenertsburg	(015) 276 4472
Brits Show, Brits	(014) 597 0904

For exhibitions in your area throughout the year contact Exhibition Association of South Africa (EXSA) on (011) 494 9193 or access their website on exsa@exsa.co.za