



Sedge Slow Fest: how YOU can get involved

Preparations for the annual Sedgefield Slow Festival are speeding up – and the line-up this year looks delectable.

“We love the new events every year – for me, the delight of 2013 was the amazing Out of the Bin Fashion Show- originally planned to be held in Smutsville. Due to a double booking of the community hall, it had to be moved to the Village Green at the last minute.”

“And that is how this gem of an event, conceived in the township of Smutsville, was seen by and delighted a wider audience. This year it has been upgraded to one of the main attractions and is scheduled to take place on the Village Green on Saturday 19th April at 14:00,” says festival organiser Amanda Dixon. “Coordinator of the show, Elsie Perbati, did an amazing job – it was well organised and choreographed and the outfits designed and made by the children were magnificent.”

The Out of the Bin Fashion show is open to all children; they can use anything that is recyclable- plastic, cans, bottles, bottle tops etc to create an outfit- the more out-of-the-box the out-of-the-bin outfits are, the better.

“The best thing here is that it costs the children virtually nothing and it can be entered *en masse* by all the local schools, however resource-strapped they are. We really hope to see pupils from Karatara Primary, Redlands Primary, Ruigtevlei Primary and Rondevlei Primary taking part this year.” Dixon’s eyes light up at this thought. “These communities are part of Sedgefield, we want them to celebrate with us and find a platform for the learners to be exposed to the larger world around them. What better way than by being creative; and what better place than with a national and even international audience noticing?”

The committee has offered free stalls to the schools to fundraise and for charities to create awareness of their project.

Bookings for food- and craft stalls at the Village Green have opened; a 3 m x 3 m space costs R190 per day and 5% of sales; with one parking space per stall. Dixon says bookings are coming in fast, local crafters should book as soon as possible with Karen Donovan at 072 586 1086.

A brand new concept this year is the Slow Fest Committee’s Award to Outstanding Community Members. “We want to honour and thank those individuals who are quietly making a difference in their corner of the Sedgefield-area, people using their own resources to help uplift or help the people around them,” Dixon says. The committee is not targeting large service organisations with budgets, but are looking for ‘ordinary community folk’, who not only talk about community upliftment, but who go out and do something. All nominations are welcome; e-mail a short motivation and the contact details of yourself and your nominee to girl.friday.go@gmail.com or fax to 086 549 5141 before 18 April. The award ceremony will take place at 3pm on the Village Green after the Easter Street parade on Sunday 20th April.

Amanda has appealed to businesses around the Garden Route to become involved. “We put this festival together with loads of enthusiasm, volunteer our time and do so on virtually no budget. We need cash sponsorships – anything from R50 to R50 000 is welcome. We need power supplied to the Village Green in the form of generators, a mobile sound system we could borrow for a flashmob (shhh don’t tell anyone), a stretch tent for cover on the Village Green, shade cloth for ground cover and hay bales for seating. We need prizes in all shapes and sizes – from pens to caps and T-shirts, prize vouchers, sweets, small toys and Easter eggs, this is a good chance to empty out your shelves and donate slow stock or discontinued products to a good cause. Please help us grow this amazing festival: we need all the help we can get.”

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