

West Coast celebrations

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Celebrations to acknowledge and honour women were part of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's effort to commemorate Women's Day on the West Coast. The programme was launched on 6 August 2004 in the Dial Rock Hall in Saldanha Bay and lasted until the ninth. Invited guests represented the six municipalities of Saldanha, Swartland, District Municipal Area, Cederberg, Matzikama and the Bergervier Municipality.

Speakers included MEC of Cultural Affairs, Sport and Recreation, Western Cape, Minister Chris Stali; Chief Director,



Saldanha Bay, with Women's Day as the theme. Other cultural and sport activities were held in Paternoster and Kliprand, such as singing and dancing; netball and soccer clinics; skincare workshops and craft sessions.

On Monday, 9 August 2004, Women's Day was celebrated in Velddrift where people were bussed in from the six municipalities to join in the celebrations. The MEC, Minister Chris Stali, was the main speaker at the event. Other speakers included the popular author, Diana Ferrus; well-known television personalities, such as Solly Philander, Anthony Wilson (from *Generations*), Pieter van der Westhuizen and the singer, Dawnay. Various cultural performances and indigenous games were part of the celebrations.



Department of Cultural Affairs, Hanneljie du Preez; and the mayor of Saldanha Ms J Stoffels. Local author, Esta Steyn, read a poem *Moederskleed* from her book, **Die grafte jubel**, and a performance by local Sotho dancers and a guitar performance by a disabled person from Bitterfontein were part of the celebrations.

Live cultural exhibitions were held by local artists. A display was also done by the Western Cape Provincial Library Service who paid tribute to both female and male authors of the West Coast as well as authors that wrote books on the West Coast. This

included authors such as Esta Steyn (Saldanha Bay); E Kotze (West Coast); Anoeschka von Meck (Paternoster); Jeanne Goosen; Wendy Hartmann with her *Donsie en Lieflap* children's books; the poet, Florence Filton, who was also the Master of Ceremonies; Pieter-Dirk Uys (Darling); Jaybee Roux (Velddrift); and Pieter Pieterse who wrote a number of cookbooks about the West Coast.

On Saturday, 7 August 2004, a mural coordinated by Anita van der Merwe from Cultural Services was painted by local artist, Clinton Mitchell and children of

Top: Neville Adonis with renowned author Esta Steyn, enjoying a snippet from one of her books

Above left: Local talent was responsible for the creation of this large Bhuki

Above right: Neville Adonis (Blaauwberg region), Norman Pietersen (Tygerberg region), Western Cape MEC of Cultural Affairs, Sport and Recreation Minister Chris Stali and Laurinda Newman (Saldanha region)