

Call for support as whale festival plans kick off

SPONSORS are asked to come on board in preparation of the second Welcoming of the Whales Festival, which has been scheduled for Saturday, 30 June.

Host, Sodurba Tourism urges local business and community members to help them make the festival as amazing as it was last year.

"This year promises to be bigger and better but we need support, sponsors and the community to come on board with this festival which will take place at Brighton Beach. Last year was our first-ever festival which was held at Anstey's Beach. We had over 1,000 visitors. Members of the community enjoyed many activities from rocky shore walks to educational talks and give-aways, not to mention the sight of our whales breaching right in front of our event. We were lucky to host numerous international guests from the World Cetacean Alliance as their conference was held in Durban at this time," said Sodurba chairman, Helga du Preez.

Last year's festival gained great interest and visitors were taken down to the old whaling station, where they had a personal show-around by Peter Fraude and his wife about where they had met. They shared their stories and history about the site.

"Since this we have been working on making the old whaling station a heritage site and eco-tourism hub point, where we can share our history with the world, take tourists and guests down to this point and offer them tours to and from our ocean, educating and sharing this with all around the world," said Peter.

"You might be wondering why all the fuss, but did you know that from June to November every year, we are privileged to have such beautiful humpback whales come up our coastline. They come up from the Antarctic to the warm Mozambique waters to mate and breed. Pregnant whales return to the Antarctic for the 12-month gestation period and return next year to give birth. Those giving

birth will travel back slowly, waiting for the calf to put on blubber," added du Preez. A calf drinks up to 400 litres a day and they need to build up their blubber to survive the icy waters of the Antarctic. The southern right whale is only occasionally seen in KZN waters, with a 60 ton mother and calf spotted last year. While whales across the southern ocean move north to warmer waters at this time of year - whether to Africa, Australia or America - for breeding purposes, the annual sardine run also brings a huge pod of whales in tow.

Sodurba needs sponsorships for the following items: Goodie bags for the whaling station tour; water, snacks, T-shirt, sunscreen and first, second and third prizes for the photo competition; a gift voucher for the MC; cheese and wine evening, tables and chairs/picnic tables for the beer garden marquee; marketing material such as street pole banners, flags and prizes for raffles. Call Sodurba on 031-467-0404 or email info@sodurba.co.za.

Whale festival set to entice crowds

SODURBA Tourism Association's 'Welcoming of the Whales' festival is fast approaching and it aims to be bigger than last year.

Saturday, 30 June will mark the day of festivities when a number of activities will be available for those who attend the festival at Brighton Beach.

Fun will be had for people of all ages from whale spotting, markets, children's activities, beach walks and so much more.

Admission is free to the public.

For more information about the event or how to get involved contact Melissa Lee on 076-404-7800.