



LOOKING FLY, BOYS: Kids and adults can enjoy drone racing at the Cape Argus SportShow from March 24-26.

PICTURE: GOOSEBUMP PRODUCTIONS

Come enjoy drone-racing experience

Theolin Tembo

THE Cape Argus SportShow is back, and it promises to be a weekend of fun for all. From March 24-26, Sandringham Farm in Stellenbosch will host the three-day sporting showcase that includes live performances, sporting celebs, clinics, exhibitors and games.

Simon Robinson, chief executive of Drone Racing Africa, is eager to show those who attend the event all about drone racing.

"Drone racing is where we will have pilots who fly a drone, first person view (FPV) – they fly as if they are in the cockpit. It's not when they are flying line of sight, but using a virtual-reality headset,"



Robinson said.

"For the SportShow we will have 20 pilots who will be flying drones that can reach up to 160km/h."

He said they had been vetting applicants for selection. They would compete in three rounds, testing a variety of skills.

"FPV circuit racing will have four pilots racing. Then there will be a free-style round where, for two minutes, pilots will be flying to music, and the last round is a speed round to see which drones are

the fastest," Robinson said.

"They will all be competing for prizes worth R20 000."

Robinson said drone racing would provide the best entertainment of the event, as well as provide opportunities for the public to experience it.

"Micro-drones, which are mini-drones that fit into the palm of your hand, allow people to fly indoors. The public will be able to come down and see how our pilots fly them, while also getting a chance to learn from the pilots," he said.

"We've never had an opportunity like this to create our own event, and the only sad thing is that we can only have 20 pilots. Hopefully we will set a precedent, but it will definitely be a must-attend event for all."

Building on proud legacy in the arts

A 10-year journey of purpose for the Cape Cultural Collective

Mansoor Jaffer

THE Cape Cultural Collective celebrates its 10th anniversary this year as a strong force for creative endeavour and social change.

Its journey started rather casually in the second half of 2007, when a few musicians and poets, with vague notions of developing a progressive cultural space, met on the occasional Monday evening for some impromptu performances at a noisy Irish pub in the city.

The musicians were former anti-apartheid activists, and the young poets were from a project initiated by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR).

In 2008, we migrated to the District Six Museum, and this is where CCC began to take shape, hosting a series of exciting monthly cultural programmes with music, poetry, dance and drama. Early successes included a growing relationship with the museum, the birth of the CCC resident band JAHM, and the bringing together of a group who came to be known as the "CCC poets".

An unusual feature of the CCC phenomenon is that it began and developed without any funding. Partnerships and networks became the bedrock of the organisation. The process was driven by a

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core team who shared common ideals. We developed a focus for the CCC as a non-racial, non-sexist intergenerational cultural movement promoting social activism and reflecting on history and memory.

We set out to:

- Promote and develop cultural performance and learning spaces.
- Develop a creative space to share ideas and grapple with identity.
- Develop an environment that is critical and supportive of debate.
- Support community projects.
- Promote social and cultural activism, and different art and creative forms.

We fired into higher gear in 2009 when the Eastern Acoustics sound company came on board as a partner, offering to generously provide professional services at no cost. The monthly theme-based programmes became more and more popular.

In 2010, the CCC co-ordinated four hugely successful community concerts to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UWC. About 600 performers entertained some 2 500 people.

In 2011, our programmes steamed ahead, and we produced a poetry anthol-



ALL THE RIGHT NOTES: Ernestine Deane belts it out at the 10th anniversary launch, backed by musicians Valmont Layne, Gary Powell and Razak Johnson.



UPLIFTED: The community gathered at the celebration to enjoy festivities.

ogy in September of that year, involving nine of our poets. The contributors write both as individuals and as part of a collective with shared values, presenting a range of discourses on aspects of our social life. We printed and sold 300 copies of the anthology, called *At Truth's Edge*.

In 2012, we moved to Ibuyambo Music and Art Centre, but sadly the venue burnt down in May of that year. In June 2012,

CCC initiated a choir project that entails choristers singing various traditional songs in three languages. The Rosa Choir was born. The choir started 2014 with a bang as it took to various stages for big performances. It also collaborated with InChoir, a visiting choir from England, and Die Soetstemme from Franschoek. The attraction of children to the choir gave rise to the Junior Rosa Choir.

The 10th anniversary celebrations

started last week, with a launch at the District Six Homecoming Centre that was attended by more than 100 people, and where the CCC launched its website and unveiled a 10th anniversary logo.

Plans for 2017, include:

- Cultural programmes in March, April, May, June, August and November, and a major fund-raiser in July.
- A showcase event at Artscape relating the CCC journey through music, poetry and dance, towards the end of the year.
- A public event in a park with arts, culture and food in October.
- The consolidation of the Rosa adult and junior choirs.
- An Arts and Culture summit at a time and place to be determined.
- The launch of the Manenberg Cultural Collective, a partner of the CCC.
- A tenth anniversary exhibition.
- The roll-out of a skills development programme.
- The expansion of cultural tourism initiatives.

We call on artists, community groups and volunteers to join the CCC journey as participants and contributors. For more information, contact Elizabeth Schutter on elizabeth.schutter@gmail.com or visit <http://capeculturalcollective.org.za/>

● **Mansoor Jaffer is the chairperson of the Cape Cultural Collective**

Trolley men are recyclers, turning garbage into a little cash

IT'S cold and dawn is breaking, but for the legions of "trolley men" another gruelling day of grimy, back-breaking labour has begun. In fact, some of the trolley men have been awake for several hours, sifting through the garbage cans which line the streets in preparation for emptying by municipal garbage collectors.

Rummaging through the discarded waste, the men, in dirty and torn clothing, load their trolleys. Once full, the unofficial army of garbage recyclers pull their makeshift carts along the streets, competing with vehicles for up to 15km daily, to a recycling centre where they earn a minimum wage as they struggle to eke out a living in a country of high unemployment.

"John" and a friend, neither of whom will give their real names, nor will they allow their pictures to be taken as they've been arrested before and have their "camp" regularly destroyed by the police, talk about their lives and their work.

John and his friend have set up camp near a spruit which they use to bathe and wash their clothes. They urinate and defecate nearby. The smell is bad, garbage is strewn everywhere in the piles, still to be sorted for recycling, and insects, including blow flies, hover above us.

There's a pause in the storms that have been rocking Joburg. Clothing is hung over the lower bars of an electricity pylon as the sun attempts to break through. John's

Mel Frykberg

bed is a pile of filthy blankets. He and his colleagues sleep in the open after the police raided last week, destroying the simple shelters constructed from the grass and reeds which line the spruit.

The raids are weekly, with residential security teams joining the police. Some residents oppose these actions, saying it is inhumane, while others support the raids saying the encampments damage the environment and are an eye-sore. Regardless, as soon as the camps are torn down, the men return and rebuild.

"We're safer sleeping here in the open than walking in the middle of the nearby city of Randburg on the weekend," says John. He says he is unmarried and has no children, and has a black eye from the previous night when he was drunk and "socialising" in Randburg.

He admits to drinking fairly regularly but denies he is an alcoholic: "I drink on the weekends because my life is hard and I like to forget about my problems on the weekend."

He claims to be 38 and an asylum seeker from Malawi, but life on the streets has made him look far older. "I was arrested and jailed for 10 months several years ago after I *klapped* another guy hard," John explains.



GARBAGE: Trolley men live in derelict conditions and as soon as they are discovered they have to move on.

PICTURE: ANA

Despite the abject hardship, there is another side to this story. A story of human courage, the will to survive, and an employment opportunity provided to people who would otherwise starve – or turn to crime. "I earn about R1 600 a month if I take

several trolley-loads of garbage to be recycled each week. I collect plastic, metal, and paper."

Robin Fisher, CEO of Split Rock recycling company in Strijdom Park in Randburg, where John and his friends take their

laden trolleys, says his recycling business provides permanent employment for 30 men, and additional employment for about 150 trolley men.

"These guys would otherwise have no income and could turn to crime to survive. They are actually very hard-working and honest. In my many years in the business, there have never been any break-ins or stealing at the recycling centre, or in the surrounding area," Fisher says.

A woman whose property borders John's encampment supports Fisher's assertion that the men are basically good souls. She says there have never been any problems from the men who sometimes come to her house requesting water.

The men get paid R1.50 a kilogram of steel, R1.30 a kilogram of boxes, R2.30 a kilogram of white paper which is much in demand, and R1.70 to R4 a kilogram of plastic, with milk bottles fetching the higher amount.

"The men are also doing a service to the environment because recycling has not been fully implemented in South Africa," says Fisher. "Municipal garbage collectors, and even Pikitup, don't sort garbage according to what can be recycled and what needs to be disposed of."

As we are about to leave the informal camp, John's friend, who has been silent, asks if we could help him get any job, to help make ends meet. – ANA