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[HOME](#)[CONTENTS](#)[COMPETITIONS](#)[BOOK SITE](#)[GALLERY](#)[ADVERTISING](#)[SUBSCRIPTIONS](#)[ARTICLE GUIDELINES](#)[DISTRIBUTION](#)[ACCOMMODATION](#)[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)[TOGOTO WEEKEND](#)[CONTACT US](#)

Book Review

African Basketry –

GRASSROOTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

Authors: Anthony B Cunningham & M Elizabeth Terry

Publisher: Fernwood Press

ISBN: 978-1-874950-77-6

Retail Price: R 325 [incl VAT]

Review by Anita Henning



African Basketry – grassroots from Southern Africa, is an encyclopedia of information on t basketry, presented in a popular style. It is evident that the authors have a vast knowledge generous use of high quality photographs and detailed illustrations makes it a pleasurable journey. The content is well structured; a strong introduction and background encourages the anticipation not written for the academic, although it is a reliable source of reference, but rather for the novice the authors have masterly put together a readable book.

African Basketry – grassroots from Southern Africa fits many categories; a photo portfolio on pa traditions and cultures of the African people, a useful guide to the avid collector of basket construction of baskets, the art of basketry, a field guide on the materials used, an insight in people and to some extent, the subtle use of African proverbs conveys a sense of poetry.

Karoo Veld Ecology and Management

**Editors: Karen J Esler, Sue J Milton,
W Richard J Dean**

Publisher: Briza Publications

ISBN 1 875093 52 4

Price: R169.95

www.briza.co.za

Reviewed by Anita Henning



'Land is managed to yield profit – but this should be no more than the interest on the natural c forms part of the land management philosophy prescribed in this incredibly well-researched ar anyone interested in farming or gardening in the Karoo area, this book is invaluable because research and converted encyclopedic information and scientific jargon into a format that answers simplest and most accessible manner. Karoo Veld contains information ranging from the avera soil fertility in specific areas, to South African legislation on the environment and invasive alien v summarized, complete with comprehensive photography and diagrams. For the retiring couple l territory or the nature lover without a guide - Karoo Veld will prove to be a most faithful and enlight



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The Malay Camp - Kimberley

By Louis Mallett

ISBN : 97809584983-8-8

Publisher: The Sol Plaatjie Educational Trust

Price: R150.00

www.museumsonc.co.za

Review by Rose Lund



The sub-title for this book is, 'Forceful removal imposed by the Apartheid Regime', which says it started as a diggers' settlement in the earliest days of the diamond rush. Populated by a hetero all corners of South Africa and beyond, it mushroomed into the sprawling, vibrant hub of the new

This is Malay Camp's history, from its birth to its final destruction in the 1960s by the white settlement developed from basic tents and lean-tos to a conglomeration of hovels jostling again. This diversity of homes was a fair reflection of the people who lived in them, affluent and d. Situated on prime urban land, the authorities used every means to evict the home owners a Kimberley City.

The book has a glossy full colour cover and is presented in folio format, giving the impression of reading book. Printing is in large type on good quality paper. It is fairly liberally illustrated in black photos, town-planning maps and rather charming, naive sketches. Written in an informal, narrative glimpse into the colourful lives of this fascinating hodge-podge of people, but an overwhelming every facet imaginable.

The Malay Camp story has been written from personal experience and underlying the occasional humorous cameos, the stream of anguish and bitterness runs deeply and powerfully. In the epilogue 'There were too many broken hearts and too much shedding of tears. Forgive – perhaps – but ne

Atlas of National Parks and Reserves of South Africa

Publisher: MapStudio

ISBN: 1-86809-842-7

Price: R250.00

www.mapstudio.co.za

Review by Anita Henning



It's all about orientation. This book however, is not about maps only – it is a comprehensive guide to parks and reserves in South Africa, a guide to keep the active nature lover holidaying for a very long time. It has an infinite source of information. The Atlas is colour-coded according to provinces, provides a list on the main features of each specific park or reserve including a short but adequate report, a helpful, detailed map on the immediate surroundings. Also provided is a clear indication of the situation in each relevant province. Ample use of pictures adds to the appeal. The most important feature of the production is the production of ample maps and to conclude, at the back of the book there are even more maps of the regions and maps of the whole of South Africa. Once again – it's all about orientation.

The Maloti Drakensberg

Experience

Publisher: Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project

ISBN: 978-0-620-38148-2

Price: R145

www.maloti.org or www.jivemedia.co.za

Reviewed by Anita Henning



This is a comprehensive guide to the ultimate Maloti Drakensberg experience, showcase for the Transfrontier Conservation and Development project, whose main objective is the conservation of significant biodiversity and cultural heritage of the region.

The layout is colourful, portraying the diversity of ecotourism and tourism in general in the Maloti region. Boxes on every page provide useful information on what to do, where to go, etc, enabling reader to plan their itinerary when visiting an area. Especially useful are the recommendations on accommodation and related outlets. Detailed maps simplify initial route-planning and the liberal use of colourful photographs encourages the reader to explore further.

The book covers all aspects of tourism, be it adventure/fun, travel or ecotourism. This is an invaluable resource.

Lazy Days

By Phillipa Cheifitz

Photography: Craig Fraser

Publisher: Quivertree Publications

ISBN-13:978-0-620-35836-1

ISBN-10:0-620-35836-X

Price: R248.52

www.quivertree.co.za

Reviewed by Anita Henning



Lazy Days is a gloriously erudite and wonderfully distracting culinary journey through the West Coast of South Africa. Mouthwatering photography by Craig Fraser, the scenes of the West Coast, its people and life along the coast are quite vivid.

As the author meanders through the little villages, stopping to meet the locals, to stock up on produce from the area, she offers the West Coast to the traveller in a pleasant, sparkling and entertaining way. The general layout and superb choice of colours are commendable. What better colours to use than the blues and whites of the sea, than light blues and whites enhanced by splendid photography?

The overall feel and appearance is that of simplicity and style as reflected in the recipes. Simple from casseroles to puddings and naturally, sea food, prepared by someone obviously fond of cooking and time to indulge.

The casual notes throughout the book are useful, generous and personal. The recipes are simple and the ingredients easily obtainable, yet the dishes seem delicious.

Lazy Days goes beyond cooking; it is also a travelogue of the West Coast and a portfolio of fine art photography.

Namaqualand - A Succulent Desert

By Richard Cowling & Shirley Pierce

Photography: Colin Paterson-Jones
Publishers: Fernwood Press
ISBN no. 1874950415
Price: R195
www.fernwoodpress.co.za
Reviewed by Rose Lund



A veritable feast for the eyes and the banquet begins with the sun-bright glossy jacket. The book's ideal palette for the gorgeously opulent photographs that flow from page to page. Crisp typefaces and quality matt gloss paper provide sensual and aesthetic reading pleasure.

This is much more than a photographic journey, however. The scientific, yet still captivating information on every aspect, historical, geological and botanical, of the wonderful and virtually Namaqualand. Starting from its Precambrian birth, the reader is taken through every evolutionary and footnotes are the perfect accompaniment and there is an extensive glossary, as well as s reading. Certainly the book primarily show-cases the beauty and diversity of its floral treasure including Mankind, are inextricably linked and are embraced here both photographically and text. Professor Cowling is Director of IPC, Cape Town University and Dr Pierce was awarded best Ph.

This is a reference book to savour for a long, long time and the ideal traveling companion for escape.

Activity Atlas Southern Africa

Publisher: Map Studio
ISBN: 9781868097586
Price: R199.95
www.mapstudio.co.za
Reviewed by Anita Henning



An all-inclusive activity atlas on Southern Africa has been long due and since the adventurer pre-descriptive information, this book meets these requirements. It is well organized and colour-coded. Each section provides a detailed map of the area and summary of the most important activity options for the traveller – in the air, on the road, in or on the water and on land. Colour pictures and in addition to the activity report, the reader is presented with valuable information on the history of each area. There are useful recommendations such as the best time to do/visit, as well as tables of statistics on comparative features world wide. The ample, detailed maps are an important attribute that the book is a very comprehensive guide on its topic, it has an attractive appearance and a coffee table.

Mud Chic

Photography: Craig Fraser
Publishers: Quiver Tree
Format: Hardcover coffee-table quality
ISBN: 0-620-35392-9



Despite the similarity in format and cover font, Mud Chic is not a copy of Shack Chic. This is a : its own unique ambience.

Mud Chic pays homage to the life and culture of the rural amaXhosa. Pastoral scenes unfold with the warm earthy colours of mud and clay embrace the reader page after page. Printed on high large font, the superb illustrations are interspersed with homely quotes by Nelson Mandela, him as by the simple folk who occupy these rustic homesteads.

Encapsulated eternally in photographic images, an appreciation for the rich qualities of a rudimentary and disappearing age pervades the book. Whether bought as a companion or for its singular uniqueness, this book will never cease to delight the eye and the spirit.

Shack chic

Photographer: Craig Fraser

Publishers: Quiver Tree

Format: Hardcover coffee-table quality

ISBN: 0-620-28803-5



Rich, riotous colour pulsates from the pages; astonishing images of homes created with abanc what others consider garbage. These are the shack homes of an exploding indigent population, to the affluent skirts of our South African cities.

In the midst of depredation, we discover an amazing celebration of life and creativity. Fro "Ohhh", the reader is mesmerised.

In addition to the brilliant photographs, the book includes thought provoking comments. The p sections to illustrate elements of interior design such as colour, texture, light etc.

Ironically, shack chic is currently influencing new styles and trends in interior design being market suburban homes.

This is a book to excite and inspire the world-weary soul and conveys the truism that whi "stuff", love and an indomitable spirit create a home.

Subscribe to ToGOTO and you will automatically be entered in the d beautiful book. Books on promotion: African Basketry, Karoo Vel National Parks and Reserves or South Africa. Offer ends 29 Febr

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