



## BGCI 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDUCATION IN BOTANIC GARDENS

Durban, South Africa - 1st - 5th November 2009 · [www.ebg2009.org.za](http://www.ebg2009.org.za)

# October Congress newsletter

With just a few days to go until BGCI's Education Congress gets underway in Durban, you are no doubt busy with final arrangements. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Durban and the Congress where more than 100 delegates will be attending from botanic gardens around the globe. In preparation for your trip, please note the following news items.

### What to pack in your bag

We would encourage you to add the following to your suitcase:

- A favourite environmental poem or two
- A musical instrument (preferably made from an indigenous plant)
- Sun hat and sun barrier cream
- Recyclable water bottle
- Mosquito repellent
- Comfortable informal clothing for the Wednesday Workshop and smart casual clothing or traditional dress for the gala dinner.
- Umbrella . it can be rainy in Durban during the summer months!

### Congress programme

The final programme is now on the website ([www.ebg2009.org.za/prog.html](http://www.ebg2009.org.za/prog.html)). Please also take a look at the **important information** on the website ([www.ebg2009.org.za/important.html](http://www.ebg2009.org.za/important.html)) relating to your stay in Durban during November.

### Important!

If you have registered for the Congress but have not yet paid, please contact Nicky Dixon at Conference Call [conference@confcall.co.za](mailto:conference@confcall.co.za) to finalise your registration. **Please provide Nicky with details of your accommodation if you are not staying at the official hotels.**

### Registration on Sunday

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 1 November at the Durban Botanic Gardens for registration. Coaches will be departing the official hotels from 3pm sharp. However, you will need to arrange a taxi from your B&B to the Gardens should you not be staying at an official hotel.

Please check with your B&B about distance and traveling time to the congress venues at the ICC and Durban Botanic Gardens (Sunday registration and Wednesday Workshop). The physical address for the Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors Complex is:  
7A Sydenham Road, opposite Greyville Racecourse.



**From 12 noon:** Durban Botanic Garden guides will be available for an introductory tour of the Africa's oldest surviving botanic gardens. If you are interested in a tour of the Gardens, please e-mail Jennifer at [dbginfo@durban.gov.za](mailto:dbginfo@durban.gov.za) . One of the tours will be in French for our francophone colleagues.

**15:00 - 17:00:** A shuttle service will be running between the official hotels and the Gardens. If you are not staying at one of the official hotels, you will need to arrange your own transport for your own account. Please use the above Visitors Complex address if calling a local taxi.

**16:00 - 18:00:** Registration at the Gardens Visitors Complex Hall followed by a guided tour of the gardens.

**18:00 - 19:30** Cocktail Function and Welcome Reception

Transportation will be provided back to official hotels after the Reception. Alternatively taxis can be arranged from the Visitors Complex

### **Videos showcasing your Garden**

Please inform us urgently if you are bringing a video to be screened in the morning between 8:00 and 8:30am on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday as we need to schedule them with our AV person. Please e-mail your video to Nicky at Conference Call before you depart.

### **Pre & post congress tours**

For any queries regarding pre and post congress tours, please contact Monica Allanson from PT Travel [monica@ptravel.co.za](mailto:monica@ptravel.co.za).

**Electricity:** A round-pin adapter is necessary for electrical appliances. In Pretoria 250 volts AC, elsewhere 220/230 volts AC, 50 cycles.

### **Telephones**

In South Africa anyone purchasing a SIM card has to provide identification and an address. It is suggested that delegates arrange an international roaming setup on their mobile phones before leaving their country. Alternatively delegates can make use of hotel phones. A Worldcall card is available from the local Post Office and Telkom branches.

**Transportation from Airport:** The conference venue and official hotels are approximately 15 km away from Durban International Airport. Airport transfers will be for your own account and are payable directly to the transport contractor on arrival. An airport welcome desk will be situated in the domestic arrivals luggage collection area (where you collect your luggage). You should report to this desk on arrival at the airport for assistance with transfers to your hotel.

## **Happenings during the Congress**

### **Land art**

Sheila Astil and her team from the Durban Floral Art Society will be building a range of engaging land art pieces in the Durban Botanic Gardens especially for our Congress. In some cases delegates will be encouraged to interact with and help create some of the art in the Gardens. The land art will be positioned near the various interpretative tea stations that will be located between workshop venues in the Gardens during the Wednesday Workshop. Durban Floral Art Society website [www.durbanfloralart.co.za](http://www.durbanfloralart.co.za)

### **Music programme**

### **Durban Girls College**

Durban Girls College kick start our programme with the South African national anthem. Caring is at the heart of Durban Girls College . a school founded in 1877 and rooted in traditional values . with the focus this year being on caring for the environment and caring for each other. DGC's outreach programme began in the townships in the 1940s with the founding of two nursery schools, and has flourished ever since. An integral part of the school's outreach programme is music, which is used extensively to both uplift and entertain.



### **Woza Moya Singers**

The singers from the Woza Moya HIV/AIDS Community Centre in Ixopo outside Durban will treat us to the soulful sounds of traditional singing in our local language isiZulu. Woza Moya runs a range of community support programmes in the Ixopo area for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Each delegate will receive a bag handcrafted by Woza Moya.

**Tuesday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

**ICC, 18.15-19.45**

### **The Age of Stupid**

Join us for a viewing of this sparky, documentary film which is a passionate and urgent call for us to avert the devastating consequences of climate change. The Age of Stupid features Oscar-nominated actor Pete Postlethwaite who looks back from 2055 to find out why it was that people in 2009 did nothing to stop the eco-catastrophe that was staring them in the face.



**Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors Complex, 19.30**

### **Adventures in orchids**

Simon Pugh-Jones, Zoe Barnes and Zoe Parfit and Dr Lauren Gardiner from The Writhlington School Orchid Project will be giving a talk at the meeting of the local Umhaltazana Orchid Society at the Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors Complex. Entitled 'Adventures in orchids', the talk will include a summary of the project with a special focus on their travel and work in the Sikkim Himalayas. Books and a small number of our seedlings will be on sale.