

Festival serves up the goodies

Tens of thousands set to flock to Knysna

ORIGINALLY started in 1983 by local businessmen and Knysna Tourism to stimulate the winter trade in and around the town, the Pick 'n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival has grown in leaps and bounds, attracting more than 40 000 people to the area over the festival period.

Now, 21 years later, the festival has become a 10-day celebration of sport, good food and leisure activities, held in a small town which has twice been voted "South Africa's Favourite Town".

The festival creates funds for sustainable local community projects, and also substantially adds turnover to the town's businesses in the quietest time of the year.

The SA Navy will once again have a grand presence in the coastal town and visitors will have the opportunity to board one of three minesweepers anchored at Thesen Islands.

The Pick 'n Pay Rotary Cycle Tour, another highlight, has developed into a two-day festival of cycling, with the Mountain Bike Events taking place today and the road bike events tomorrow.

The road event has also become part of the seeding series for the Cape Argus/Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour and has increased its entry fourfold as a result.

Tomorrow is also the Children's Tour which has proved to be popular with cyclists under the age of 11.

The marathon and half marathon take place on July 10.

Once again, runners who are lucky enough to obtain an entry, will experience the unique thrill of an early morning start in Knysna's magnificent forest, warmed by cheery bonfires and comforted with steaming hot coffee.

Other favourites not to miss are the famous oyster cooking and eating competitions, the choice food affair at the Waterfront Knysna Quays, golf and bowls tournaments, angling competitions and adventure races ... or just chill out with a glass of the famous local beer and a plate of fresh oysters while you listen to the wonderful sounds of the SA Navy Band.

For more information visit the Knysna Tourism website at www.visitknysna.com



Eat to win: oyster lovers Rina de Wet and Marlene Michaels during the oyster eating competition.