

# Muizenberg Literary Heritage Festival and Antique Maps Roadshow



MUIZENBERG HISTORICAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

20, 21, 27 & 28 September

Rhodes Cottage, Muizenberg

**Join us for four fascinating talks, a travel writing workshop, a talk on Sir Herbert Baker's connection to Muizenberg and a screening of a documentary on his South African period, have your historic map evaluated, and browse and purchase collectable books and books by Muizenberg authors.**

**For more information mail us on [info@muizenbergheritage.com](mailto:info@muizenbergheritage.com)**

## Saturday 20 September

09h00 to 10h00

### **Nature, History & Belonging**

Serai Dowling weaves ecological insight with the layered histories of apartheid, colonialism and democracy in her exploration of the tidal pools of the Western Cape.



Serai is a writer, photographer, mediator, researcher, and director with a deep affinity for water. She has been swimming in tidal pools, rivers and wild coastal spaces for over 26 years through rain, wind and sunshine. She published *A Guide to the Tidal Pools of the Western Cape* in 2023, and will soon publish *A Guide to Wild Swimming in the Western Cape*.

10h30 to 11h30

### **Muizenberg in Literature**

How have writers viewed Muizenberg over time? Finuala Dowling discusses the surprises and delights hidden in four literary excerpts from four centuries.



Finuala was born in Cape Town, a city she has recorded in both her fiction and her poetry. She has taught English at the University of South Africa and the University of Cape Town, but now works as a freelance writer and creative writing teacher.

The landscape of the Southern Peninsula continues to inform and inspire her work.

12h30 to 13h30

### **Sea Mountain, Fire City**

Mike Nicol talks about how Muizenberg influenced his choice of magic realism for *The Powers That Be* and the three other novels in that genre, and how it came to dominate his second crime series.



Master of the South African Thriller genre, Mike Nicol lived in Muizenberg between 1983 and 2000. During that time its sea, beaches, cormorants, and wild winds seeped into his poetry and prose.

Muizenberg also gave him two books of non-fiction: *The Waiting Country* and *Sea Mountain, Fire City*, which became his farewell to the village.

14h00 to 15h00

### **The Oom**

Miles Masterson speaks about surfing legend John Whitmore's role in bringing Hawaiian Aloha and California beach culture to African shores, and his impact on a generation of surfers at Muizenberg.



Miles Masterson has spent a lifetime in the surf industry and corporate communications. He has worked in print and digital media for more than 30 years, chiefly as an editor and journalist, but also as a publisher, photographer, content marketer, author and most recently as Communications Manager for an environmental NPO, Protect the West Coast.

## **Sunday 21 September & Sunday 28 September**

15h00 to 17h30

### **Voyage of Discovery: A Two Day Travel Writing Workshop facilitated by Dawn Garisch**

A journey has many forms, from sailing across an ocean to walking down the street. Join Dawn Garisch to explore the experience of absorbing and recording the small details of a saunter around the historic village and seaside resort of Muizenberg. Whether you have lived in Muizenberg all your life or are a visitor, bring the wonder of the new to your appreciation of the familiar.



Dawn is a medical doctor and an award-winning author and poet. She has had seven novels, two collections of poetry, a non-fiction work, a short story collection and a memoir published. *Breaking Milk* was short-listed for the CNA Sunday Times award in South Africa in 2021, and her short story collection *What Remains* won the NIHSS and the Nadine Gordimer SALA awards in 2024 in that category. Dawn has had four plays produced, and a short film, *Cry Me a Baby*, produced for television.

Dawn is a founder member of the Life Righting Collective [www.liferighting.com](http://www.liferighting.com) and writes travel pieces for *The Cape Times* and *The Argus*.

## Saturday 27 September

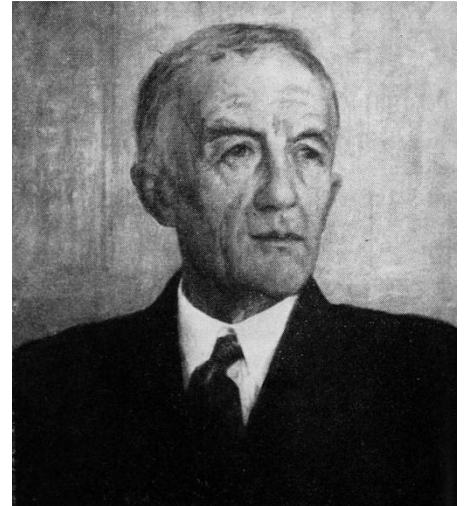
Talk: 10h00 to 11h00

Documentary: 11h00 to 12h30

### Sir Herbert Baker's Muizenberg

*"I had discovered in my rides the exhilarating air on the sandhills and the shore, where the south-east trade wind concentrates round the Muizenberg headland." Baker, Architecture and Personalities.*

Baker would design and build nine dwellings in Muizenberg, and would choose its windswept dunes as the site for his own holiday home, Sandhills. Brett McDougall explores Baker's connections with Muizenberg in an illustrated talk. This will be followed by a free screening of a documentary on Baker's South African period.



## Saturday 27 September & Sunday 28 September

### Antique Map and Collectable Book Sale

Dr Roger Stewart has curated a fascinating collection of books to browse and to buy, and will be speaking on antique maps of Southern Africa. Bring your historic map to him to be evaluated.

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