

The Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010: The Edinburgh of Africa

Article and photos supplied by Mrs Regine Lord.



In barely two weeks' time, the imposing stone walls of the venerable 330-year-old [Castle of Good Hope](#) in central Cape Town will be reverberating to the rhythmic thumping of drums, the wailing of bagpipes and the echoing boom of live gunfire, as the oldest military headquarters in the country hosts the sixth [Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010](#).

One of the not-to-be-missed highlights of the Cape Town calendar, the Tattoo has proved so popular among locals and visitors that it has now become an annual event, from its humble beginnings in 2003. The sell-out success of the last years has even persuaded organisers to extend the Tattoo by a day: This year, the nightly performances will take place from Wednesday 3 November to Saturday 6 November 2010.

Photo 1: Welcome to the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010, organised by the Defence Reserves of the Western Cape

The main theme of this year's tattoo is 'Come Home to Africa', with the sub-theme being 'A Tribute to the Unsung Heroes'. This is an acknowledgement of all the men and women of the military support services, who provide combat support.

The familiar and much-loved stalwarts of the more than 2-hour-long programme are participating this year too, such as the SA Army Bands of Cape Town and Kroonstad, and the



Photo 2: Moeniba Roberts and the staff from Het Bakhuis serve glasses of sherry to the invited guests from the military and the press



Photo 3: Lt Col Johan Conradie, Chairman of the Committee, and Maj Charles de Cruz, Producer of the CT Mil Tattoo discuss the program

Pipes and Drums of Cape Field Artillery and of 1 Medical Battalion Group. In addition, spectators will also be entertained by the Rwanda Army Band, the Drum Majorettes from Curro Private School with their twirling batons, and the SAPS Mounted Unit with their powerful steeds.

Let us not forget the Castle Guard Halberdiers who perform the Key Ceremony at the beginning of the show, when the massive gates to the Castle are locked.

Or the wonderful chaps in period costume who fire their muskets and 2 lb cannons from the ornamental Kat balcony with such devastating effect!

As in previous years, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture will be performed, as it *should* be – to the accompaniment of live gunfire from the Cape Field Artillery's ceremonial 25-pounder guns!

This year, however, there will be an additional event: a breath-taking mock attack on the Castle to illustrate the role of the medical support!

Brace yourselves to be swept away by marvellous music, dazzling costumes, and thrilling displays of military power!



Photo 4: MWO Roger Boltman (Director of the CT Mil Tattoo), Capt (SAN) Trunell Morom, Lt Col Bryan Sterne (Vice Chairman of the Tattoo Committee) and Lt Col Kees de Haan (Commanding Officer CFA)



Photo 5: Maj Dalene Coetzee (Media/Marketing Officer of the CT Mil Tattoo) Col W. Van der Linde and Col S. Zeeman

The main show starts at 20h00, but the Castle will open its gates to the public at 18h00 every evening. Safe parking will be available on the Grand Parade in front of the Castle. Refreshments will be on sale at the De Goewerneur Restaurant.

This year, for the first time, spectators who arrive early will also be treated to some exciting pre-show performances of youth groups, such as the Sea Cadets and the drill squad from the Western Province School Marching Drill and Exhibition Association.



Photo 6: Capt John Manning, the announcer at the Tattoo in conversation with Mr Matt and Karin Theunissen



Photo 7: Lt Col Conradie speaking with Mr Manie Bester of Radio Tygerberg

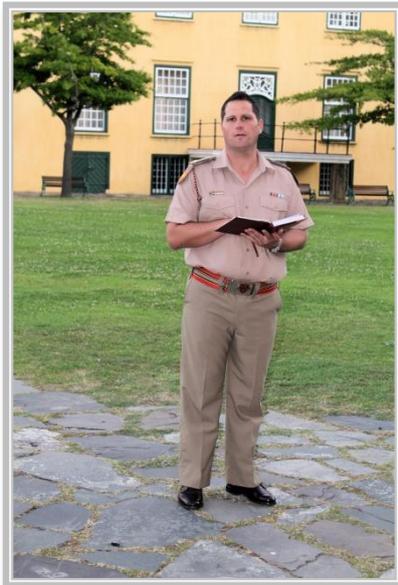


Photo 8: Maj J.P. Wessels, responsible for VIP management and guest relations for the CT Military Tattoo, welcomes the guests

In June and July this year, the [Defence Reserves](#) showcased their involvement with skills development among the youth in Cape Town, by putting together an exciting programme involving five talented youth groups who performed at the Castle during the 2010 FIFA World Cup: the Portlands High School Field Marching Band, the Eerste River Youth Brigade, the Malibu Drum Majorettes, the South African Sea Cadets and the Limited Edition Drum Corps.

During the recent mid-term school holidays, a group of youngsters from various schools in the Western Cape were selected and trained by the SA Army Band Cape Town; these have combined forces to make up the drill squad from the Western Province School Marching Drill and Exhibition Association, which will be entertaining Tattoo audiences before the main performance begins at 20h00.

On Tuesday, 19 October 2010, the much-anticipated media launch for the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010 was held at the Castle of Good Hope. The journalists, reporters and photographers from various media (print, radio, television) were treated to a series of live performances. First, the brave men and women of the SAPS Mounted Unit charged around the arena on their tempestuous and mighty steeds.



Photo 9: Mounted Unit of the South African Police Services under command of Lt Col Hendrik Steyn

Thereafter, the SA Army Band Cape Town gave a magnificent and polished display of their musical and marching skills, once again showing why they are such crowd-pleasing favourites.



Photo 10: The excellent SA Army Band Cape Town arrive under Drum Major WO2 André van Schalkwyk



Photo 11: What a stunning backdrop of Devil's Peak, Table Mountain and the centuries-old Castle!

Then the photographers and journalists were taken up close and personal to the muskets and the 2lb cannon. It was explained – and then demonstrated to spectacular effect – how the different muskets, including the so-called '[Brown Bess](#)', the [Blunderbuss](#) and the [Caplock rifle](#), are loaded and fired.

That 2lb pound cannon may look rather small and insignificant close-up, but it packs a truly mighty punch! The thunderous report of the live gunfire thus created considerable excitement, as the echoes of the explosion reverberated around the front courtyard amidst clouds of cordite.



Photo 13: Mr Alan Miller of the Black Powder Association fires the Blunderbuss



Photo 12: Mr Jurg Zimmerman of the Cannon Association of South Africa fires the 2lb cannon, clearly demonstrating that this cannon should not be underestimated!

Thereafter, it was the turn of the [Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums](#) in their red tartan kilts and brown army jackets to join forces with the SA Army Band Cape Town, as they marched into the arena. They ended the evening's show with a soul-stirring and truly goose-bumps inducing performance of 'Highland Cathedral'.

The show was followed by a media briefing in the Het Bakhuis Officers' Mess, with Lt Col Johan Conradie giving a short presentation on the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010 and the performers that will be part of the event.



Photo 14: WO2 Steve Leibbrandt and WO2 André van Schalkwyk leading CFA Pipes and Drums and the SA Army Band Cape Town



Photo 15: Lt Col Conradie giving a short presentation to the media about the CT Mil Tattoo 2010



Photo 16: View of the beautiful Dolphin Pool with its striking night-time illumination



Photo 17: Lt Col Eddie Nijeboer, WO1 Stephen Jordaan and Capt (SAN) Trunell Morom of DRPOWC, and Lt Col Marnene Smit who is in charge of disaster management for the Tattoo

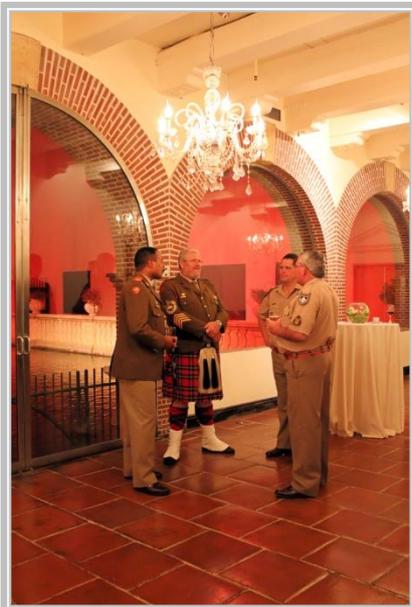


Photo 18: Maj Martin Chandler (Director of Music for the CT Mil Tattoo 2010), S/Sgt Andrew Imrie, Maj J.P. Wessels and the Regimental Sergeant Major of Regiment Oranjerivier MWO Karel Minnie

This was followed by refreshments in the tastefully decorated Dolphin Room overlooking the Dolphin Pool, which was lit up almost eerily in red.

This was the perfect opportunity to socialise and engage in some networking.

Since bookings opened at [Computicket](#) last week, more than 700 tickets have already been sold, which is clearly testimony of the popularity of this event!



Photo 19: Lt Col Kees de Haan of Cape Field Artillery with CWO Japie Cupido, the WO SA Army Reserves South

So, call up your friends, email your colleagues, make your travel plans, and **book your seats!**

Whatever you do, don't miss the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010!