

Umhlanga pier open for season

KEN MCHUNU

THE striking new Umhlanga pier was officially opened early this week – just in time for the holiday season.

Work on the pier began in mid-2006 but was delayed by the March storms.

Randeer Kasserchun, Deputy Head of the City's Coastal, Stormwater and Catchment department, said bad weather had made working on the pier difficult and dangerous. Nevertheless, the construction team had continued undaunted.

The pier, which has a super-structure which resembles a whale's rib bones, has been designed to complement the planned upgrade of the Umhlanga promenade. It will serve as a recreational facility giving views of the coastline previously only available from the sea.

A leading architect was commissioned to ensure the structure was aesthetically pleasing and a prominent young eThekweni artist has produced mosaics to add the finishing touch to the

structure's marine theme.

Apart from the whalebone theme, which received favourable public comment even before construction began, the pier will have hi-tech diode lighting. This will illuminate the deck and the underside of the structure at night.

Power-saving

Kasserchun said: "These lights are used extensively in Europe on new installations and are one of the first installations of its kind in Africa."

They are also power-saving and long-lasting.

"Power consumption is a major concern nowadays and the diode lights are more efficient than conventional outdoor lighting. The total power consumption is no more than that of a domestic kettle and the entire system could be run from a single household plug socket," he said.

So, the pier looks good and should be pleasant place to promenade, but its real pur-



PEERLESS: The new Umhlanga pier has won popular and critical acclaim

Picture: KEN MCHUNU

pose is a good deal more down to earth.

"The pier's main aim is to effectively discharge stormwater. It will help maintain the Umhlanga beach's Blue Flag status by reducing the unsightly pools of stagnant water that sometimes forms on an otherwise pristine beach," said Kasserchun.

Much of the stormwater from a large area of upper Umhlanga is at present discharged on to the beach at the ski-boat launching site, at Granny's Pool, which is also a

popular bathing area.

Apart from being a less than desirable discharge point, the existing system had capacity problems because of the growth of Umhlanga and a new rerouted stormwater culvert of greater capacity has been constructed at the same time as the pier.

While the Granny's Pool outlet cannot be completely eliminated, the quality of the beach in this area should be significantly improved.

The pier is a continuation of the new culvert and extends

about 80m across the beach to a deep-water channel to ensure maximum dispersal of stormwater into the sea.

Earlier this year the pier team received the branch award for technical excellence from the South African Institute for Civil Engineers.

Kasserchun said the award was in recognition of an outstanding civil engineering project which best portrays the art and science of civil engineering in terms of technical excellence.

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Monkey business at gardens

SAMANTHA MOODLEY

BOTANIC Gardens has loads in store for young and old this festive season and monkey business takes centre stage with the children's theatrical production *The Adventures of Jabulani*.

The play runs at the newly-completed amphitheatre until 22 December. It follows the adventures of monkey Jabulani Jo as he makes his way through the jungle trying to figure out where he fits in. He learns many valuable lessons and meets exciting characters along the way, and joins in lots of sing-alongs too. Performances take place from Monday to Saturday at 11am and tickets cost R35.

Call 073 503 8397 for more information.

For adults, the Mr Price Music at the Lake Carols by Candlelight event may be more appealing.

It takes place on 17 December and the concert features the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, Melanie Lowe and the Durban Symphonic Choir.

The concert takes place at 6pm and tickets are R60 for adults, R40 for seniors and children aged 13 to 18, and R20 for children aged 6 to 12.

Call 031 309 1170 for more information.

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DURBAN DIARY:

Your guide to entertainment in the city

MUSIC

Michael Buble – Live
ICC Arena
16 December
Call: 083 915 8000

Celine Dion – Live
Absa Stadium
20 February 2008
Call: 0861 121 333

Elton John – Live
Absa Stadium
16 January
Call: 031 579 4600

Live entertainment by Murphy (Music Unlimited)
The Deck at Badgers
Davenport Square
Every Friday
Call: 082 259 3743
New Light International
Every Saturday
Call: 082 259 3743

Live Jazz
Centre for Jazz
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Every Wednesday
Call: 031 260 3385

Jazz on the Deck
BAT Centre
Every Sunday
Call: 031 332 0451

Roly Struckmeyer & Friends
Rouge
Every Friday
Call: 031 561 5346

Dolphins and Carols by starlight
uShaka Marine World
Until 15 December
Call: 031 328 8000

Mr Price Music At the Lake
Durban Botanic Gardens
17 December
Call: 031 202 5819

Maskanda music
City Hall steps
Every Wednesday at 1pm
Call: 031 312 1236.

Indumezulu Yomdanso 2007
Cato Crest Community Hall
15 December
Call: 083 544 1939
Wiggins Community Centre
16 December
Call: 083 544 1939

DANCE, THEATRE AND COMEDY

Africa Umoja – The Spirit of Togetherness
iZulu Theatre, Sibaya
Until 13 January
Call: 031 580 5555

Disco Fever
Dockyard Theatre
Until 31 December
Call: 031 201 9147

The Adventures of Jabulani Jo
Botanic Gardens
Until 22 December
Call: 031 202 5819

The King and Queen
Heritage Theatre
Until 31 December
Tel: 031 765 4197

Guy's and Dolls
Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre
Until 6 January
Tickets: R80 to R110 and R250 for New Year's Eve party

Celtic Rock
Barnyard Theatre
Until 6 January
Call: 031 566 3045

De Compleat Hstry of Dbn
Catalina Theatre
Until 30 December
Call: 031 305 6889

A Woman's Bum is Like the Moon
KwaSuka Theatre
Until 23 December
Call: 031 305 6889

Aladdin
Playhouse Drama Theatre
Until 30 December
Call: 031 369 9555

OTHERS

Joyous Celebrations
Dolphin Stadium
uShaka Marine World
23 – 24 December
Call: 031 328 8000
KwaMashu Film Festival
Ekhaya Multi Arts Centre
Until 16 December
Call: 031 504 6970

Richard Ellis' Drum Circle
Bat Centre
Call: 083 412 9746

Live Poets' Society
Point Yacht Club
Tuesdays, at 6pm
Call: 031 266 4762

Singles Nights
Krakatoa, Sibaya
19 and 26 December
Ticket: R60.00
Call: 031 580 5555



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Nikkiann Murray's *Iced Cream* oil on canvas is part of the fifth yearly Affordable Art Show now on at the artSPACE Durban gallery

White Weekend Party
Krakatoa, Sibaya
15, 22 & 29 December
Ticket: R60.00
Call: 031 580 5555

5FM Summer Celebrations
uShaka Marine World
26-29 December
Call: 031 328 8000

Umgeni Steam Train
Departure Kloof
15, 16 December
Call: 031 303 3003

VISUAL ART

Art Amongst the Roses
Heritage Market
Every Sunday
Call: 031 765 7606

Art exhibitions for charity
The Village Green, Umhlanga
Every Sunday
Call: 031 337 0208

Solo Exhibition
By Anton Benzon
Crouse Art Gallery KZN

Call: 031 312 2315

Fifth Annual Affordable Art Show
Durban artSPACE
Until 24 December
Call: 031 312 0793

☐ Compiled by Premilla Hariganesh. To have your event included in the Durban Diary, e-mail hariganeshp@durban.gov.za or fax 031 306 4603.