

Great South African Inventions

Mike Bruton has written a 96-page book entitled 'Great South African Inventions', published by Cambridge University Press in their new 'Library of Indigenous Knowledge' series. The book arose from the research that Mike did for the exhibition of the same name mounted by the MTN Sciencentre during the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of South Africa's democracy.

The Foreword to the book has been written by the Minister of Science and Technology, the Honorable Naledi Pandor. Every science centre should have a copy of this book in its library. Mike also offers an illustrated talk on the topic of the book for delivery in your science centre.

The book covers indigenous knowledge systems and inventions in the fields of radio, radar, medicine, industry, energy, space and computer technology, home and garden, education, farming, environmental management, and sport and leisure.

It is brilliantly illustrated in full colour and is targeted at the youth and young adults. In addition to easy-to-read text and colourful illustrations, there are many 'Did you know?' and 'A Task to do' boxes, and a comprehensive glossary.

So, if you want to learn more about the earliest mathematical artifact, buchu brandy, bitter ghaap, Umvubo pap, the tellurometer, Wadley's Loop, Amaradio, the CATscanner, Cryoprobe, wind-up medical equipment, Pratley Wham (which dries so fast that it had to be taken off the market), the dolos, PBMR, the GSM Dart, Sheffel Bogie, Plofadder, negawatts, PoolCop, iQilika mead, Afri-Can guitar, Cybertracker or Qolf, and the inventors behind the inventions, then Mike's book is the answer.

By the way, 'Great South African Inventions' is a great topic for an exhibition, of interest to all ages, male and female, and of particular interest to teachers. You could either borrow or rent the exhibition from the MTN Sciencentre, or make your own. Inventors are often happy to donate or loan their inventions for display, so it doesn't cost too much to put the exhibition together, and to convince your visitors that we are a smart bunch of people down here in the *gramadoelas* of Africa!

The book can be bought at large Exclusive Books, from Clarke's Bookshop in Long Street, Cape Town, or ordered directly from the publisher (Cambridge University Press).
