

BESSIE HEAD: CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

PROGRAMME

FOR THE CONFERENCE AT CALS, UKZN, 12TH JULY 2007

- 8h00 Tea and Registration at Centre for African Literary Studies
Exhibition of Photographs: "Bessie Head: People and Places"
- 8h45 Move to Leeb du Toit Auditorium for conference proceedings

Bessie Head's Life

- 9h00 *Prof Mbulelo Mzamane* (Director, CALS)
Formal Welcome and Memories of Bessie Head
- 9h30 *Patrick van Rensburg* (founder, Swaneng School, Serowe) in
conversation with *Gillian Stead-Eilersen* (Bessie Head's
biographer)
- 10h45 Tea at Leeb du Toit Auditorium

Bessie Head's Writing

- 11h00 *Cheryl-Ann Michael*, "Childhood and Reading in the Writings of
Bessie Head and Doris Lessing"
- Modhumita Roy*, "Everyone Had a Place in My World: Bessie
Head's Utopia in *When Rain Clouds Gather*"
- Gillian Stead-Eilersen*, "Miss Marpling Round Southern Africa: The
Confessions of an Amateur Researcher"
- 12h30 Into Town
- 13h00 **Opening of the Bessie Head Library** at the ex-Natal Society
Library, followed by lunch at the Tatham Art Gallery,
Pietermaritzburg
- 15h00 Back to Campus

Bessie Head's Writing, cont.

- 15h30 *Sisi Maqagi*, "Epistolary Transgressions: A Study of Selected
Letters of Bessie Head"
- Linda-Susan Beard*, "The Magic of Bessie Head's Epistolary Art"
- 17h15 Move to CALS for Book Launch
- 17h30 Launch of Gillian Stead Eilersen's republished biography, *Bessie
Head: Thunder Behind Her Ears*, Wits University Press, 2007.