



What's happening at Marie Grey and Associates?

Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2007

Print this newsletter 

If a quadriplegic can summit Kilimanjaro, a youth developer can run the entire length of the Great Wall of China, a blind man can break a land speed record, a journalist can walk from Durban to the Victoria Falls, a man with a goal can climb all Seven Summits, a businessman can make the longest microlight expedition in the world, and a school teacher can be the first black female mountaineer in the world, can you imagine what impact their learned lessons can have on your conference or special event?

*Meet our Adventurers who have come face to face with
- and conquered -*

THE *near* IMPOSSIBLE!



Name: Braam Malherbe

Achievement: First person to run the entire length of the Great Wall of China - at more than 5,000 kms this constituted a mini-marathon every day for 94 days

Message: "To subject my body and mind to such extremes is a personal challenge to help me understand how easily I have underestimated my potential. It's also a statement to others, to help them understand their own potential and make a significant contribution to themselves and, in turn, their home, Mother Earth."

Topics: Perseverance • Commitment • Leadership • Change • Strategy • Vision • Positive Attitude • Communication • Teamwork • Ecology / The Planet

On the 15th of December 2006, along with his running partner, David Grier, **Braam Malherbe** became the first person to run the entire length of the Great Wall of China. His run broke several endurance records - 94 days of running a full marathon per day - in addition to being a world first! Braam's epic journey across the Gobi Desert, into the mountains of north China, and down to the Yellow Sea, was also a vehicle for raising money for Operation Smile.

Braam is also a gifted workshop facilitator. His core business before the Great Wall achievement - and what he's now involved with - is getting people out of their comfort zones and into situations that elicit new insights and inspiration. The Natural Transformation Company takes groups of people out into the bush over weekends or longer. Braam puts together meaningful and exciting workshops for any event - he gets delegates out of the building and into the most transformative workshop they've ever attended!

Braam and David have been named the 2007 "Out There" Magazine's '**Adventurers of the Year**', beating out other legendary international adventurers such as Mike Horn for the title. Braam was featured in this month's issue of Go Magazine and Odyssey magazine, as well as business magazine Maverick. He appeared on Top Billing in mid April, and is scheduled for Carte Blanche in late-May.

As well as an endurance athlete, environmentalist and humanitarian (specifically youth development), Braam is an energetic and accomplished speaker - with a story not to be missed!

Name: Deshun Deysel

Achievement: The first black female Moutaineer in the world, member of two expeditions to Everest, gifted business woman

Message: "The key is to remain focused on the goal when things become chaotic but to be flexible at the same time. And then, if the result is disappointing, to use the experiences and lessons learnt to strengthen your resolve for the next challenge. The world's greatest leaders do this naturally. There is never any guarantee that you'll make it to the top but the experience you gain in the attempt cannot be bought."

Topics: Teamwork • Commitment • Cooperation • Perseverance • Learning From Failure • Overcoming tough times • Self-motivation



Deshun Deysel is best known to the South Africa public as the first Black female high altitude mountaineer in the world. She was a member of two South African expeditions to Mount Everest – the first South African expedition in 1996 and the Discovery Everest expedition in 2003.

After returning from her first Everest expedition Deshun joined the "I Can" Foundation - running youth development workshops and women specific programmes for two years. Deshun spent six years with The Pacific Institute SA as a process facilitator and accreditor, as well as a highly sought after conference speaker. With her diverse experience in self – image, psychology, business performance management, corporate social responsibility and conference facilitation, she co-founded SINIRGI International with her UK Partner – Vandana Cowley, previously director of the European Union Development Programme.

For her contributions as a role model and her achievements in general, Deshun has received some prestigious awards, including the Four Outstanding Young South Africans Award (FOYSA), the Diva Africa award and was inducted as one of the friends and ambassadors for the Laureus Sports for Good Foundation in 2004.



Name: Hein Wagner

Achievements: Finished Hong Kong Marathon in 2007; Finished New York City Marathon in 2006; took part in the Standard Chartered Bank Ironman event in Korea, completed 180km on a tandem bicycle; February 2006 became the first blind person in the world to cycle solo over a distance of thirty-nine kilometres; and many more

Message: "I know it's a risk, but I always say, the greater the risk, the greater the reward!"

Topics: Perseverance • Positive Attitude • Living with Passion • Reaching Your Full Potential • Self-motivation • Strategy

It has been said that people born blind grow and mature with an intellect absolutely void of the pre-conceptions or judgments of those with sight. Their minds become formidable think tanks... platforms from which they develop razor sharp insights into life's everyday problems and challenges.

Hein Wagner is such a man – a man who lists more personal achievements than many!

- During March this year he finished the Hong Kong Marathon known to be one of the toughest marathons in the world
- In November 2006 Hein completed the New York City Marathon
- During August 2006 he took part in the Standard Chartered Bank Ironman event in Korea, completing 180km on a tandem bicycle, under extreme conditions
- In March 2006 he skydived for the first time from a height of ten thousand feet
- During February 2006 Hein became the first blind person in the world to cycle solo over a distance of thirty-nine kilometres
- He has broken the World Blind Land Speed Record in September 2005 and set the new record at 243 km/h
- He completed the Cape to Rio Yacht Race during 1993
- He has climbed the 10 highest mountains in the Western Cape

Name: Patricia Glyn

Achievement: Walked from Durban to the Victoria Falls in the footsteps of her ancestor Sir Richard George Glyn's historic 1863 journey; spent 59 days and nights at base camp, Everest

Message: "My journey, and my presentation, constitute a very personal wake-up call to the value of conserving our continent's natural resources. It also describes the rewards of seeking the furthest horizons, facing fear and celebrating being an African."

Topics: Facing Your Fears • Overcoming Challenges • Commitment • Perseverance



Patricia Glyn is a well-known South African broadcaster, having worked in radio and television for 15 years before moving out of studio in 2003 to concentrate on adventure journalism and professional speaking. She has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro twice, attempted Mount Aconcagua (the highest peak in the southern hemisphere), walked 500 kilometres from the lowest to the highest points of Zimbabwe and canoed sections of some of Africa's big rivers. In 2003 she spent three months on an expedition to Mount Everest, reporting on the Discovery team's attempt to stand on top of the world. Her irreverent diary about life at Base Camp was later published as a popular book called "Off Peak."

In 2005 Patricia shadowed the remarkable expedition of her ancestor Sir Richard George Glyn in 1863, walking a remarkable 2 200 kilometres accompanied only by her little African dog. On foot she set off from Durban, following her forebears' route along the 19th century wagon trails that once snaked along the great rivers of the sub-continent, and reached the Victoria Falls on exactly the same day as her ancestors had, 142 years before her.



Name: Ricky de Agrela

Achievement: Set a world record in November 2004 by flying his microlight across five continents and over 63,000 kilometers (39,000 miles) – the longest microlight expedition in the world

Message: "All things are possible. All destinations achievable. The journey may not be what we expect it to be, but it will be our journey."

Topics: Overcoming Tough Times • Improved Performance • Passion • Living Your Dream • Persistence

New to the speaking circuit, **Ricky de Agrela** set a world record in November 2004 by flying his microlight across five continents and over 63,000 kilometers (39,000 miles) – the longest microlight expedition in the world. Ricky's story is one of extreme highs and achievements and heart breaking lows - a journey that presented disappointment, and tragedy, but ultimately triumph and success.

Ricky's presentation features dramatic photographs which give the audience a unique insight into the dynamics of the flight and the incredibly beautiful perspective we had of the world. Although the expedition was a unique experience, it encompasses many of ordinary life's highs and lows, leaving the audience with thought provoking memories. The message one is left with is of courage, determination, and the importance of a positive mind in the face of adversity.

Name: Bernard Goosen

Achievement: First wheelchair-bound person to summit Everest

Message: "The most important saying that I have ever come across is, "Life is ten percent what happens to you, and ninety percent what you do about it" and hopefully through sharing my experiences, hardships as well as triumphs to schools, companies and other organisations I can prove that all circumstances can be overcome with a positive attitude."

Topics: Self Motivation • Setting Goals • Persistence • Right Attitude



Bernard Goosen was born with cerebral palsy, which affects the motor part of the brain. He is classified as a quadriplegic as all four of his limbs are affected. "Bern", as he is affectionately known to his many friends, chose not to live the life his doctors said he would, to be stuck with, but broke out of his severely restrictive disability and continues to reach staggering heights. Quite literally; Bern is the 1st wheelchair-bound quadriplegic to have reached the highest point in Africa: Kilimanjaro - pushing himself all the way!

He is a man who will not be stopped by obstacles and adversity, and he is constantly setting himself new goals and challenges. He breaks boundaries every day, and when you listen to him as takes you through his amazing journeys, you too will be inspired to change your outlook on life and set new boundaries for yourself.



Name: Alex Harris

Achievement: Mountaineer and expedition leader, summited Everest, first South African to climb on all seven continents

Message: "Each and every one of us will one day come face to face with our own personal Everest. It might not be 8850m of towering ice and snow, but one thing we can be certain of, is that it will tax us like never before. It will test our very being, and question everything we have ever known. How we react will ultimately determine our future."

Topics: Leadership • Teamwork • Learning From Failure • Strategy

Alex Harris is an experienced climber and mountaineer and in January 1999, became the first South African to climb on all seven continents. He has led eleven expeditions and been a member of another four.

Successful ascents include Mount Lenin (7134m) in Uzbekistan, three ascents of Aconcagua (6960m) in Argentina, three ascents of Kilimanjaro (5895m), as well as Mount Rainier (4395m) in the States and three ascents of Mount Kenya (5199m). He has also climbed in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Siberian Altai, the Soviet Caucasus and the Himalayas. Alex led the South African expedition to the North side of Mount Everest in 1996, and twice reached a height of 7300m. He also guided two of Adventure Dynamic's expeditions up Aconcagua. Alex led the first South African Expedition to climb Antarctica's highest mountain, Mount Vinson...

Call us today - "We know what we are talking about!"

Read more on all of our speakers at <http://www.mariegreyspeakers.com>

Marie Grey & Associates

**Providing Top Speakers for Conferences,
Seminars & Special Events**

Postnet Suite 133, Private Bag X2600 Houghton 2041

Tel: +27 11 447 9485 • Fax: +27 11 447 8920

Email: mgrey@global.co.za