

Don't Frack With Our Karoo

Booktown Richmond's 5th Anniversary

BookBedonnerd IV October 27-29, 2011.

BOOKTOWN RICHMOND SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

THE TITANIC WAS BUILT BY PROFESSIONALS, NOAH'S ARK BY AMATEURS...

BOOKTOWN RICHMOND – THE LAST OF THE AMATEURS!!!

Good Good Morning Karoosters....

It's coming down to the business end of our 5th anniversary as South Africa's national booktown. And let me take this opportunity to take a trip down memory lane before the temperamental writers start giving me sleepless nights!!!

This is really a thank you to all those who have made the forgotten town of Richmond the most talked about dorp in all of the Karoo. Just the other day, I had a student ask me how I coined the name BoekBedonnerd. I told her I had heard Chris Chameleon talk of being Jonker- Bedonnerd. But my memory is as poor as my cheque account. I forgot it was Engemi Ferreira who gave me the idea in her inimitable style. She used it in those early e- mails to me, and I knew there and then - this was the name I wanted for the festival. True, it has divided people more than the inclusion of John Smit in the Springbok World Cup squad, but boy, it has worked a charm for us. So aan Engemi, wil ek baie dankie se. En hierdie is 'n persoonlike uitnodiging na Richmond. Want ek vergeet nie die mense wat by my gestaan het in daardie eensame jare!!!

I also think back to Wium van Zyl, who opened the floodgates to Richmond. Once he had coaxed John Kannemeyer and Braam de Vries along, the rest, as they say, is history. And Denis Beckett -

probably the only person to have been with us for every festival. A great ambassador! Thank you, all of you.

Projects like this also need publicity. Willem de Vries was the first journalist, along with Chris Marais & Julie du Toit, who put us on the map in the Afrikaans and English press respectively. Willem is also the first literary editor of an Afrikaans newspaper to invite me to write for Die Burger. I sometimes feel embarrassed at how 'green' I was in the early days. When Willem interviewed me, I was going on about Wium, John and Braam, not realising that Braam de Vries was Willem's Dad. Luckily, I said all good things. But he must have thought I was 'brown-nosing, when in fact, that is who I was then! A boy from the Kingdom of the Zulu who had to find his way in the Karoo.

Etienne van Heerden has also been very good to us. I always say - you can't fault Etienne for enthusiasm. At the Schreiner Festival, he was one of the few people who attended every talk, no matter how small or big the reputation of the writer. Etienne, through LITNET, has ensured we reached the ears of the intended audience.



The Witness, the newspaper in my hometown has also been very kind to us, having supported the booktown when others were sceptical. Their placement of Denis Beckett's article on the booktown went a long way to increasing the popularity of our Booktown Richmond in KZN.



And then there is one Ben Williams, head honcho of *booksa*. He first called our booktown a bookdorpetjie!!! But he has been a pillar of strength over the years. So to Ben - all the best with the Open Book Festival in a few days time.

Then, off course, there are the writers. Where would we be without you? Ye of small bank balances but infinite generosity of spirit. Thank you! Because of all of you, we can today boast that the Karoo is indeed the literary heartland of SA. Since we began, we've seen the start of the Schreiner Festival in Cradock and the Athol Fugard Festival in Nieu- Bethesda and the J.M.Coetzee Festival in Richmond as well. Throw in the KKNK into the mix and few will quibble with us.



... and BoekBedonnerd is not just about books eh!!

And lastly, to the Minister of Finance of Booktown Richmond, Peter Baker. I work with many others on literary festivals, and they are great people, Nikki Tilley and Lisa Antrobus Ker. But it has been a joy to work with Peter Baker. For a man who is old enough to be my father, he has that playful youthfulness about him that endears him to all and sundry. Just the other day I was asking if we had a projector where one could stick in a memory stick without the need for a laptop.....can't repeat what he actually said but I laughed for days. So to Peter - and indeed the thousands who will make their way to Booktown Richmond, I say: let's enjoy this one! As an after party to the Boks bringing home the World Cup!!!

Attached is the programme. Please print a copy just in case as they tend to be in short supply. Last year we were a little stressed out in the scheduling department....the old amateur thing coming to the fore...we'll be better this year.

This year we are pleased to be able to have some of the presentations at the beautiful Modern Art Projects Gallery which is down the road from Booktown Richmond HQ, opposite the village square and the Town Hall. It will offer a lovely change and an opportunity to stretch the old legs. In addition we are very chuffed that Richmond Filums will be once again presented by the William Humphries Museum and by Gail & David Robbins also at MAP. I have attached their line-up for your perusal.

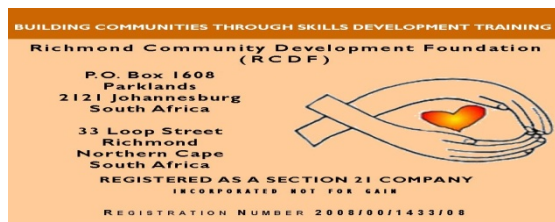
It is all well and dandy that we have this wonderful little dorp in the middle of the vast Karoo and that a few times a year we are inundated with literary people; readers and writers and even a few wannabees, but in between times the reality of the Karoo at its harshest once again sets in and life isn't all that great. Employment or the lack of it is at the heart of the problem. Granted that during the festivals there are a few people who pick up some temporary work but nothing permanent. We are a Booktown so we believe we must create real work in this little industry. The Book Restoration Services of the National Library will once again be holding a book restoration workshop on the Thursday and Friday also at MAP and we are very happy to say that they are almost fully booked. The Aim: to set up a couple young entrepreneurs in Richmond in a Book preservation and restoration business. If anyone has any book binding material from weights, to workbenches, please contact us.

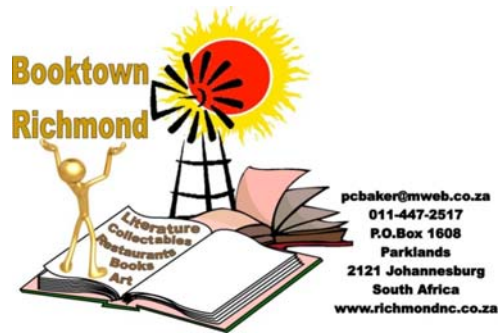
Caravan and Camping Accommodation:

In an attempt to increase the number of people which Richmond can accommodate over the Booktown Richmond BoekBedonnerd IV on October 27-29th inclusive, we are pleased that the Grys Paleis or Country Club will be taking bookings from campers and caravan travellers. They offer use of the large indoor ablution facilities, braai areas, water and power points and plenty of shaded camping spots all for R100 per vehicle per night.

Please contact Joshua Naude at 084-200-2375 for more information and reservations.

His coordinates are: -31.416166,23.94196





BoekBedonnerd IV Programme

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER

9:00 - 9.30	OFFICIAL OPENING : DARRYL DAVID - FROM BOOKTOWN TO PICTURE - BOOK TOWN	BTRHQ
9.30 - 10. 00	YVONNE DU TOIT DOCUMENTARY - TRETCHIKOFF : THE PEOPLE'S PAINTER	BTRHQ
10.00 - 10.45	DEON MEYER	BTRHQ
10.45 - 11.15	TEA	
11.15- 12.00	OBIE OBERHOLZER - DIESEL & DUST	MAP
12.00 - 12.30	IVAN VLADISLAVIC - DOUBLE NEGATIVE	MAP
12.30 - 1.00	DAVID ROBBINS - KEITH ALEXANDER : THE ARTIST IN RETROSPECT	MAP
1.00- 2.00	LUNCH	
2.00 - 2.30	SANDILE NGIDI - SOUTH AFRICA'S POET LAUREATES	BTRHQ
2.30 - 3.00	JAN HOEVERS - VAN KERK EN DORP	BTRHQ
3.00 - 3.30	IAN VAN STRAATEN - KAROO NIGHTS	BTRHQ
3.30 - 4.00	PAUW STEYL OP DIE POSTKAR DEUR HOUTTENIQUALAND EN DIE LANGKLOOF	BTRHQ
4.00 - 4.30	JOANNE RUSHBY - A LITERARY PILGRIMAGE TO TIMBUKTU	BTRHQ

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

9.00 - 10.00	MONGANE WALLY SEROTE - REVELATIONS...AND REFLECTIONS ON A LIFE OF STRUGGLE	BTRHQ
10.00 - 10.30	KOBUS MOOLMAN - LIFE AND AFTER - A POETRY READING	BTRHQ
10.30 - 11.00	PETROVNA METELERKAMP - INGRID JONKER	BTRHQ
11.00 - 11.30	TEA	
11.30 - 12.00	GORDON FROUD - LEONARD COHEN	BTRHQ
12.00 - 12.30	ALBERT TROSKIE - THE PIPE ORGAN HERITAGE OF SA	BTRHQ

12.30 - 1.00	JANN BADER - THE AFRICAN BONSAI	BTRHQ
1.00- 2.00	LUNCH	
2.00 - 2.30	LINA SPIES - DIE DAGBOEK VAN ANNE FRANK	BTRHQ
2.30 - 3.00	MARIE HEESE - THE DOUBLE CROWN	BTRHQ
3.00 - 3.30	MICHAEL DE JONGH - THE KARRETJIE PEOPLE	BTRHQ
3.30 - 4.30	ALBIE SACHS - ARE THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE BORN	BTRHQ

SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER

9.00 - 10.00	ANTJIE KROG - A SELECTION OF READINGS/ DISCUSSIONS FROM HER OEUVRE	BTRHQ
10.00 - 10.30	LOUISE VILJOEN - ONS ONGEHOORDE SOORT - BESKOUINGS OOR DIE WERK VAN	BTRHQ
ANTJIE KROG		
10.30 - 11.00	WILLEMEN BRUMMER - TUSSEN FEIT EN FIKSIE	
BTRHQ		
11.00 - 11.30	TEA	
11.30- 12.15	ROGER BALLEEN - DORPS	MAP
12.15- 13.00	IVAN VLADISLAVIC - THE COLD STORAGE CLUB / OBLIQUE	MAP
1.00 - 2.00	LUNCH	
2.00 - 2.30	MARIE JORRITSMA - SONIC SPACES OF THE KAROO	BTRHQ
2.30 - 3.00	ANGIE BUTLER -THE QUEST FOR FRANK WILD	BTRHQ
3.00 - 3.30	NICHOLSON - WAGNER & HITLER	BTRHQ
3.30 - 4.00	DANA SNYMAN- DRIE REISIGERS AAN DIE WOORD	BTRHQ

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His coordinates are: -31.416166,23.94196 and 082-557-0227