

Don't Frack With Our Karoo

Booktown Richmond's 8th Anniversary

Bookbedonnerd VII

October 23, 24, 25, 2014

A Richmond Community Development Foundation Project

On the literary side of things I can't wait to welcome Jonty Driver back to SA. Now here's a name from yesteryear. Jonty personifies all that makes BookBedonnerd special. A few months back he approached Ivan Vladislavic at an overseas conference and told him he would love to speak at Booktown Richmond. Out of all the literary festivals in the country, he chose us. What a privilege it will be to host a writer of his stature!

Another book I am looking forward to hearing more about is Dominique Botha's *Valsrivier*. This is a book that has won many an award and has had literary critics waxing lyrical since its release.

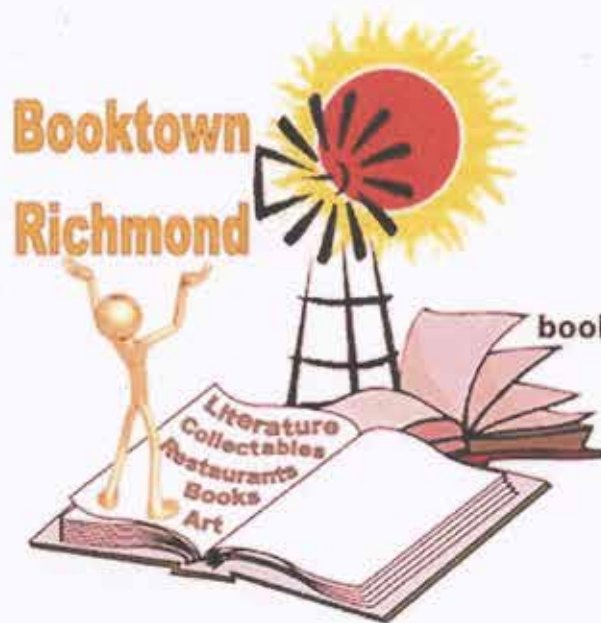
One of Booktown Richmond's old friends Clinton V du Plessis returns to Richmond with a new anthology *Woorde Roes in Die Water*. From the time Etienne van Heerden introduced me to Clinton at the Schreiner Festival, I have been 'Bedonnerd' about his poetry. One of the great voices in Afrikaans poetry!

Another book I can't wait to hear more about is Dennis Walters' *Old Bridges of the Eastern Cape*. Ever since I saw *Bridges of Madison County* I have often wondered when a South African would document the beautiful. Good on you Dennis; a great, great book.

Not only do we have Vets telling their stories but we have a late addition to the programme; the result of a veterinary encounter (a fox terrier with a cut tongue....), in the person of art dealer Warren Siebrits who will be speaking of Karoo born and renowned artist, Walter Battiss.

But what makes BoekBedonnerd such a special festival is the sheer depth of topics. We are all eternally grateful to all of the many writers at this festival and the general public support which we have, which makes Booktown Richmond so exceptional. There is something special and quite unique in every author's book being presented at BookBedonnerd VII. It is going to be a memorable literary and fun weekend and we are all very excited to welcome you to the dorp.

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