

Booktown Richmond

Presents Bookedonnerd III

"The Coolie Odyssey"

Celebrating 150 years of Indian settlement in South Africa

October 21, 22, & 23, 2010

Richmond Films

October 20, 21, 22, & 23, 2010

See www.richmondnc.co.za



"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

BOOK TOWN RICHMOND JULY 2010 NEWSLETTER

Howzit Karoosters?

Wow, what a rollercoaster ride has July not been? By all accounts, the World Cup was a massive success. Initially, I was grateful that Peter Baker was on safari in Africa over most of this period, as I could sit back and enjoy the soccer, without an urgent request to write yet another letter!!!

But after a week or two, mild depression began to set in. Every time I checked my e-mail inbox - nothing. And it was then that I began to appreciate the drive of the man. It takes moments like these for you to sometimes appreciate people. As they say, absence makes the heart grow fonder.

However, I was not entirely idle during this time. I also spent a delightful weekend in Cradock where I launched the inaugural Olive Schreiner Festival. Please surf the net for Etienne van Heerden's wonderful report on the festival which appeared on LITNET.

But after the highs of July, I hit rock bottom when I experienced an event that has sadly become a part of our social fabric - a burglary at my home. Tragically, my most precious possession was stolen - my laptop! And with it, numerous short stories and aspects of a novel I had been working on. Even worse, almost the entire photographic record of Booktown Richmond has all

but disappeared. Thankfully though, we were not at home, and they did not kill my beloved dogs.

On the Literary Front

The big news though for this newsletter is that I will be joining the Coolie Odyssey - as an author!!! Long before I had even dreamt up the idea of a Booktown, my all consuming passion had been to publish a book on Churches of SA. Since 2000, I have been searching for God through the viewfinder of my camera, in the remotest parts of the country. Then came the Booktown phenomenon, and I had to put that dream on hold. But after news of the Booktown began to spread like wild fire through the Karoo, a total stranger, a certain Philippe Menache, e-mailed me out of the blue and asked if he could meet me in Durban, saying that he had to meet the person whose idea had put Richmond on the map. And so last year, we met, and whilst chatting, Philippe mentioned that he had visited all the places I had visited, and like me, had photographs of nearly all of these towns. I then asked him if he didn't perhaps have photo's of the churches in these towns, and would you believe it, he had just as many as I had, if not more!!! Over the next year, we set about dusting off all our negatives, and by April this year, we knew we had something great. And all of this because of Booktown Richmond!!! I couldn't have scripted it better than this.

But my joy has been short lived. The burglary saw to that. Because with the theft of my laptop, I have lost virtually all my research on my churches, and a good few photos as well. But I am not a person that is easily deterred, and I have already set about reconstructing my half of the book. So come rain or shine, Darryl David and Philippe Menache will be in Booktown Richmond to launch *101 Country Churches of SA*. And may I say, the sheer breadth of this book is going to make this book one of the highlights of the festival.

Sadly, David & Taffy Shearing have had to pull out, due to ill health. We wish Taffy a speedy recovery, and have already pencilled them in for 2011.

<p>And hot off the Press, the big news on the literary front is that Imraan Coovadia will be heading to Richmond with undoubtedly the most acclaimed book for 2010. Coovadia's novel <i>High Low In-between</i> has just been awarded the Sunday Times Award for Fiction for 2010. This is hot on the heels of his University of Johannesburg Literary Prize for the same novel. This was third time lucky for Imraan, after having twice before being shortlisted for the Sunday Times Literary Prize. According to Sunday Times Literary</p>
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Editor Tymon Smith, who will also be in Richmond: 'The novel impressed the panel in its elegance and commitment to the exploration of middle-class Durban Indian communities and their struggles for identity and place, in an all too quickly shifting democratic era.'

Congratulations, Imraan from all of us at Book Town Richmond. We have decided to give you the honour of kicking off proceedings at this year's *Coolie Odyssey*

Editor's note: this is the sort of acclaim we can all aspire to and we are very excited that Imraan will be amongst our esteemed list of speakers.

Other than that, all is on track for the festival. Our new headquarters is looking stunning, and will provide a wonderful venue for this year's event. The BTR HQ is slap in the middle of downtown Richmond so a mere chip and putt from anything and everything happening in the dorp.



BTRHQ

I am attaching our early proposed programme and whilst not cast in stone, it will give all visitors an idea of the breadth and scope of this year's Festival. As you can see we are so jam packed with speakers and off Loop Street events, like Richmond Films and the book restoration course that we are going to hit the road running the 100 meter dash, so don't be late!

Can we ask all participants to confirm that their slot/s are fine at this stage in the planning?

To summarize once again, the speakers for this year's festival are:

1. **Ronnie Govender**
2. **Rajendra Chetty**
3. **Eben Venter**
4. **Rian Malan**
5. **Tymon Smith**
6. **Imraan Coovadia**

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| 7. Ahmed Kathrada | 22. Rosemary Rudd |
| 8. Denis Beckett | 23. Gerald Hoberman |
| 9. Johnathan Jansen | 24. Angela Read Lloyd |
| 10. Loftus Marais | 25. Chris Marais & Julie
du Toit |
| 11. Ingrid Winterbach | 26. Maureen Isaacson |
| 12. Kirby van de Merwe | 27. Darrel Conolly |
| 13. Wynand Coetzer | 28. Donal McCracken |
| 14. Len Raymond | 29. Ike's Bookshop |
| 15. Diana Ferrus | 30. Judge Chris
Nicholson |
| 16. Stephan Welz | 31. Darryl Earl David |
| 17. Geoff Klass | 32. Alf Kumalo |
| 18. Sabata Mokae | 33. Pieter Scholtz |
| 19. Roger and Pat de la
Harpe | 34. Fred Stenson |
| 20. Marianne Palmer | |
| 21. David & Gail Robbins | |

And before I forget please don't forget the off Loop Street Happenings:

- Book Restoration Programme put on by the Preservation Services Department of the National Library.

This year the course will be a fully comprehensive series of lectures and workshops which we are hoping will lead to the establishment of a small Book Restoration and Preservation business enterprise. After all Africids Official Booktown must have someone to fix some of our broken books.

Please contact and reserve a place with:

Douwe Drijfhout, Jenny Raatz or Johann Maree.
Preservation Services
National Library of South Africa

P O Box 496
Cape Town
8000
Tel + 27 21 487-5642
Fax +27 21 423-3359
Douwe Drijfhout : Douwe.Drijfhout@nlsa.ac.za
Website www.nlsa.ac.za

- Richmond Filums at the Town Hall hosted by Gail and David Robbins will be showing four 26 minute films that will give a visual experience of Indian culture for the *Coolie Odyssey*:

Fire walking in South Africa

Kavadi, the piercing ceremony

The Return

The Vow

- We are thrilled to announce that Supersterre stunner Justine Josias will be performing in Richmond during our Book Fair so watch this space for details.

Oh yes to all those who think that the Karoo is all sunny skies and hot summers' days I include a few snaps from resident photographic artist Michael Drysdale of Richmond after the last snow storm. But don't worry...no blizzards predicted in October.



Michael Drysdale 2010



Michael Drysdale 2010



Michael Drysdale 2010



Michael Drysdale 2010

We look forward to seeing you all in Richmond!

Cheers,

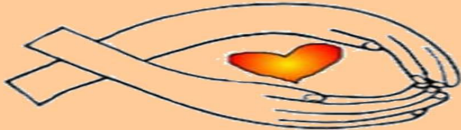
Darryl & Peter

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