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Don't Frack With Our Karoo™

Booktown Richmond's 6th Anniversary

BookBedonnerd V October 25,26, 27, 2012

**2ND ANNUAL J.M. COETZEE & NOBEL LAUREATES FESTIVAL
MAY 25, 26, 2012.**

May 5, 2012.

Good afternoon Karoosters,

Since our last newsletter, we've been busy sculpting the contours of the second JM Coetzee Festival to rival the curves of Minki van der Westhuizen. Soon after our last newsletter both Denis Beckett and Geoff Klass wrote to complain we had forgotten the Medical Laureates. In fact we had not forgotten them....we only didn't remember them! There is a subtle difference you see, mainly a reflection of age.

So at least we know people read our newsletters, I thought! I wrote back and asked: what do you plan to do about it? Geoff Klass was up to the challenge. He is an expert on SA Medical History, in fact the only B Phil. post graduate in Medical History from Wits. I wasted no time in enlisting

him to broaden the scope of the programme. We are all looking forward to his talk on the Scientific SA Nobel Laureates.

The good thing about organising so many literary festivals is that I meet so many writers. And while not many are Coetzee disciples, the bug soon bites as soon as they pick up a JM Coetzee novel

The first convert was John Cameron Dow, author of the history of SA's most famous road race, The Comrades Marathon. John was a student with John Coetzee at school, and if I were John Coetzee I would be very worried at the title of his namesakes talk: "JM Coetzee: Glimpses of his Childhood". Luckily we have a projector so we can hopefully expect lots of class photos and examples of the early John Coetzee's writing career

Next up was Judge Chris Nicholson. Once a month we eat out at Durban's best bunny chow restaurant, Gounden's Curry Den. Whenever I jump into his car all you hear is opera thumping like the Indian boys cars at Blue Lagoon. Luckily the windows are tinted! So I mentioned to Chris the operatic intertexts in *Disgrace*. The rest is as they say; history. He virtually invited himself!!! But it adds a beautiful dimension to our festival because Chris will give a talk on JM Coetzee and Opera.

For years I had been on the trail of Elza Miles, one of the most respected artists and art historians in SA, especially given our aim of crafting Richmond into SA's first Mural Town. No one could ever help me. But all praise to the internet! I was snooping on this audaciously talented artist Hennie Boshoff from Prince Albert when I saw glowing commentary from an ELZA. I thought to myself; how many Elza's can there be? Thanks to Hennie, Elza Miles will be making her way to Richmond to pay tribute to that great son of the Karoo, Jan Schoeman aka Outa Lappies aka The Van Gogh of the Karoo! This is not a talk to be missed!!!

Not to be forgotten are the academics like Marius Crous, Andries Oliphant, Helize van Vuuren and Marianne de Jongh. I always believe writers like JM Coetzee need 'interpreters' before they can be fully appreciated. So be sure not to miss these talks

HOT OF THE PRESS ! Antony Osler, author of *Stoep Zen*, has finally awakened from his meditative state and will be joining us in Richmond ! This is truly a beautifully presented book - poetic text and artistic

photos contemplating life from the stoep of a Karoo farm just outside Colesberg.

And don't forget, artist Mike Norris, who painted our first mural 'Moeggeploeg' will be back for the festival to paint another TWO murals. Mike is now clearly suffering from that most infectious of diseases called Karoo-itis!!! By the time BoekBedonnerd is over Picture - Book Town Richmond will well and truly have been established. Delight us Mike!!!

Below is the first draft of our programme. Typical of the Karoo, changes can occur on the turn of a dime!

If you call yourself a bibliophile you won't want to miss this festival.

See you in Richmond...

DD

SEE PROGRAMME FOLLOWING ...PLEASE PRINT A COPY

Friday, May 25th

- 09:00 - 10:00 - Kevin Harris, *Documentary Beyers Naude*
- 10:00 - 10:30 - John Cameron Dow, *Glimpses of his Childhood.*
- 10:30 - 11:00 - Ilse Zietsman, *Pablo Neruda*

11:00 - 11:30 TEA BREAK

- 11:30 - 12:00 - Geoff Klass, *The Forgotten Laureates: SA's Medical Laureates*
- 12:00 - 12:30 - Marianne de Jongh, *Coetzee, Dostoyevski, St Petersburg: Geographical and other shifts*

12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

- 14:00 - 14:30 - Marius Crous, *JM Coetzee's Expedition to the Baobab Tree*
- 14:30 - 15:00 - Darryl David, *Jewish Memories of Mandela*
- 15:00 - 15:30 - Deborah Steinmair, *Marike Se Laaste Dans*
- 15:30 - 16:00 - Antony Osler, *Stoep Zen*
- 16:00 - 16:30 - Engela Duvenhage, *The Serendipity of SA's first Mural Town*
- 16:30 - 17:00 - Lucy Graham, *Writing Doom: End Times in the life and times of Michael K.*

Saturday, May 26th

- 09:00 - 10:00 - Johnathan Deale, *Timeless Karoo*
- 10:00 - 10:30 - Helize van Vuuren, *Translator & Muse Coetzee's waiting for Barbarians & Stockenström's Journey to the Baobab Tree*
- 10:30 - 11:00 - Anton Harber, *Nadine Gordimer: Warrior for Freedom Lecture*

11:00 - 11:30 TEA BREAK

- 11:30 - 12:00 - Maureen Isaacson, *No Time Like The Present*
- 12:00 - 12:30 - Andries Oliphant, *The Reception of Nadine Gordimer in South Africa*

12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

- 14:00 - 15:00 - Kevin Harris, *Documentary on Desmond Tutu*
- 15:00 - 15:30 - Allister Sparks, *Tutu: The Authorized Biography*
- 15:30 - 16:00 - Elza Miles, *Jan Schoeman (Outa Lappies): a Tribute*
- 16:00 - 16:30 - Chris Nicholson, *JM Coetzee and Opera*