

The New Richmond Reader

Issue 82

November 2025

Our Literary News from the Heart
of the Karoo



November 2025

Richmond

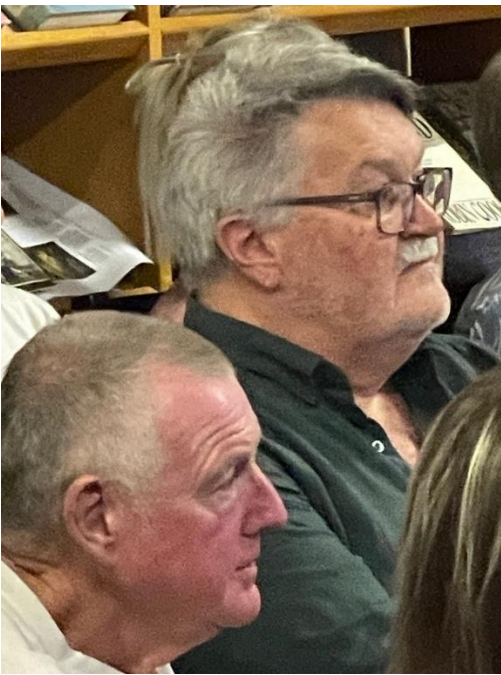
Northern Cape

Dearest Karoosters,

What a totally BoekBedonnerd weekend. The weather was spectacular and the crowds just the right size.....not too jam packed to be uncomfortable and too hot or too cold, but just right. We usually contemplate a good opening audience to be 30 to 45 souls and we were almost double that all fashionably ensconced and seated on our newly sponsored Woodbenders chairs. What a treat.



It was great to see many of our very old Richmond friends....not that they are old but that they are very young but old regulars to the Karoo event. We had a couple random passers through the dorp who happened to notice a little bit of a buzz going on and when they learned of this 18th annual literary and social event they decided to stay for a day or two. We welcome them the hope to see them again.







Richmond is coming of age after almost two decades of staging the grandest literary event in the entire greater Karoo. I don't think that we have yet quite reached the critical mass, a full time resident Doctor...a pharmacy.....a functional town council...a rate payers association.....a few more social clubs and projects....those sort of things that make a town almost independent of other towns. But even those bigger platteland towns like de Aar and Graaff Reinet still rely on Bloemfontein, PE, Joburg and Cape Town for the finer things which make life OK. Museums, libraries, theatre, live entertainment and the rest of it. It is a work in progress. But where else can you dine under the most beautiful of star lit nights with a fire slowly grilling a few karoo lamb choppies from the butcher just around the corner and a glass of wine from just over there in the Cape most beautiful.



Having just driven from Hout Bay to Richmond along the N1 from the areas still parched brown in the endless heat of the day, to those vast expanses of karoo scrub land which were getting progressively greener the further norther we drove. From Richmond to Joey it was amazing to see just how much the landscape had greened up since we first drove down to Richmond towards the end of October. Without going over board it was almost as green as the green green grass of home in Canada! The Karoo is mesmerizing as it closes in on you and then distances itself, as the hills and flattops move off towards the horizons.

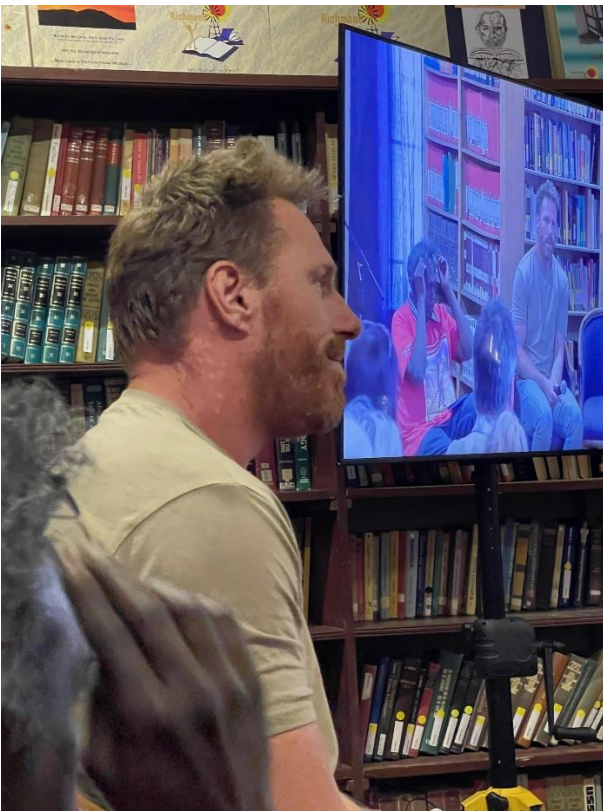
Between Darryl and Angie BookBedonnerd put on a sublime couple days of fantastic speaker after speaker. I would not be the first to admit that on occasion we have had some duds at the podium and put many a good man into a lovely slumber but this year definitely kept us all very much awake the in awe of some really super talks and presentations. I will leave it to DD to pass his regular blow by blow commentary of the daily roster of presenters.







Sent from my iPhone



What a story









Regular Pozzie...



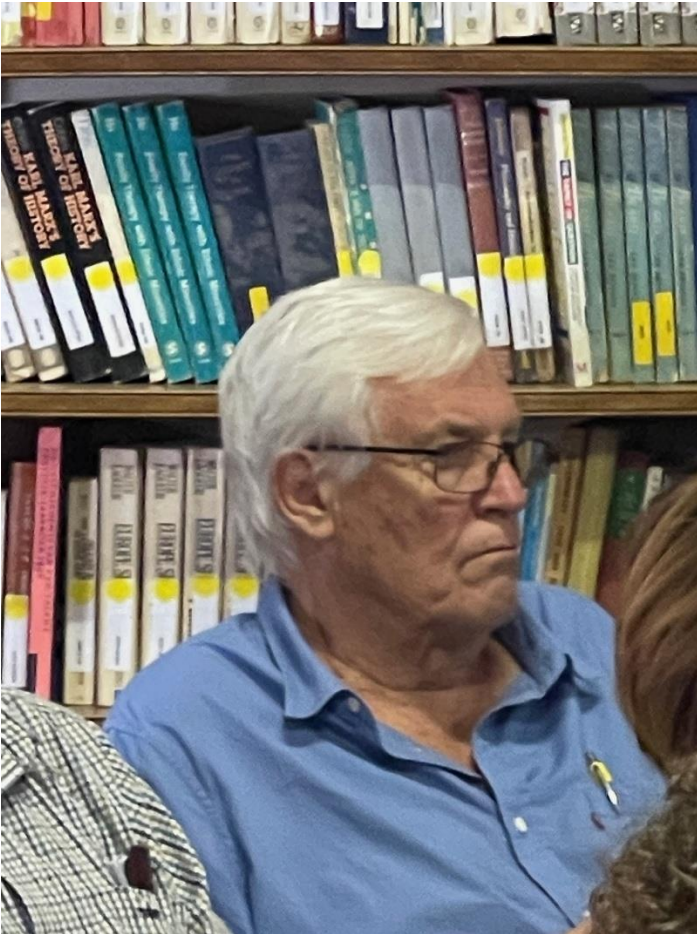
.....My Dad.....





Look familiar?





Sent from my iPhone

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