



## KAROO WRITERS FESTIVAL 2026

# PROGRAMME

**Thursday 18 June**

**Olive Schreiner House | Amazwi**

**09:00 - 13:00** Youth Programme. Ikhamanga Hall at Olive Schreiner House.

**Victoria Manor Hotel**

**18:00** Festival Special Dinner

**19:00** AVBOB Showcase with music by ACCESS Music

*featuring*

**Stephen Symons**, 2026 Olive Schreiner Prize Winner for Poetry for *The Algebra of Insignificance*

**Clinton V du Plessis**, AVBOB Afrikaans Poetry Winner, reading from his latest poetry collection, *Maar steeds sal daar miskien*

**Friday 19 June**

**Olive Schreiner House | Amazwi**

**09:30** Zongezile Matshoba reads from his AVBOB Award Winning isiXhosa Poems.

**10:00** Jeannie Wallace McKeown reads from her poetry collection *Ornithology*.

**10:30** Deborah Seddon reads from her poetry collection *Magnitude*.

**11:00** Jeremy Fogg and Paul Walters | 'Cronwright's autobiography of his wife, Olive'

**12:00** Nxuba Creatives Council

Rolene Simons | Poetry and the experience of filming a short movie, *Unconscious*.

Qhalo Soul | isiXhosa Poetry piece

Zilo | Afrikaans spoken word performance

Mr Matoto, Department of Education | isiXhosa Poetry piece

**Victoria Manor Hotel**

**13:30** Festival Special Lunch

# KWF 2026 PROGRAMME

Friday 19 June

Victoria Manor Hotel

## AVBOB Educators Programme

**08:30 - 10:30** Stephen Symons | 'Why poetry matters ... especially in the classroom.'

**10:45 - 12:00** Tammy Southby of 'Sunshine Simplicities' | 'Facebook is a powerful tool for your classroom.'

**12:00 - 13:30** Jessica Powers | 'Relevant writing: The why and the how of writing for a young adult audience.'

**13:30** Victoria Manor Festival Special Lunch

**14:00** Open Mic Session for Eduators and Learners.

**15:00** Chris Marais and Julienne du Toit | Memoir Writing Workshop.  
How to ... capture your family's story to let it live on.

Olive Schreiner House | Amazwi

**15:00 - 16:00** 'Sneak Peak' | New exhibitions at the Olive Schreiner House Museum.

Victoria Manor Hotel

**17:00** Literary Walking Tour of Lower Cradock. Meet in the hotel foyer.

**18:00** Victoria Manor Festival Special Dinner

**19:00** David Muller performing a one man show | Jan Glazewski's memoir, *Blood and Silver*.

**20:30** Kuier, Open Mic, and ACCESS Music.



# KWF 2026 PROGRAMME

**Saturday 20 June**

**Victoria Manor Hotel**

## AVBOB Educators Programme

**09:00** Cradock locals | Jimmy Simons, Luyolo Stengile and Freda Froehlich share stories from their memoirs.

**09:30** Izak de Vries talks to:

Dorothy de Kok | Winner of the Writers of the Future contest for her short story 'Thickly'.

Jessica Powers | Author and owner of Catalyst Press, and the founder of #ReadingAfrica

**10:00** Stephen Symons | Winner of the 2026 Olive Schreiner Prize for Poetry.  
'The highs and lows of my writing journey.'

**10:30** Basil Mills | Illustrating memoirs and books.

**11:30** Izak de Vries talks to Jan Glazewski about his memoir *Blood and Silver*.

**12:00** Izak de Vries celebrates the magic of small towns, with Tammy Southby from 'Sunshine Simplicities,' Melvin Iverson as *Die Swerwer* and Bridget Harrison from *Rhodes Stoeptsit Fees*.

## 13:00 Festival Special Lunch

**15:00** Chris Marais and Julienne du Toit | 'How to ... produce your own book.'

**18:00** Chris Marais and Julienne du Toit | Magical Karoo slide show and launch of *Klein Karoo Magic*.

## 19:00 Festival Special Dinner

with Tony Jackman and the launch of *Retro Karoo Food*.

**21:00** Kuier and Open Mic.

## Things to do in Nxuba / Cradock

Enhance your time in Nxuba by exploring the rich literary and cultural heritage of the city. Visit Cradock Arts Hub, join the guided Walking Tour of Lower Cradock, visit the Writers' Room at the Fish River Museum, go to the fascinating Graveyard, visit the Cradock Four Garden of Remembrance, or explore the ancient San rock art in Mountain Zebra National Park.

## Enquiries

**Victoria Manor Hotel** | 048 881 1650 | [reservations@tuishuise.co.za](mailto:reservations@tuishuise.co.za)  
[www.facebook.com/karoorwritersfestival](https://www.facebook.com/karoorwritersfestival)

**Amazwi** | [www.amazwi.museum](http://www.amazwi.museum) | [info@amazwi.museum](mailto:info@amazwi.museum) | 046 622 7042

**PLEASE NOTE** | Programme information is subject to change without prior notice.

# Karoo Writers Festival 2026

## FESTIVAL RATES & SPECIAL OFFERS

### Thursday 18 June

Festival Special Dinner | R150pp.

### Friday 19 June

#### Package deals

1. Day pass and lunch | R200pp.
2. Full day, lunch and dinner | R450pp.
3. Full day, lunch, dinner and theatre | R550pp.
4. Full day, lunch, dinner, theatre and Memoir Workshop | R750pp.

#### Individual events

1. Memoir writing workshop only | R200pp. Minimum 8 participants.
2. Victoria Manor Festival Special Lunch | R100 pp.
3. Victoria Manor Festival Special Dinner | R250pp.
4. David Muller | R100pp.

Educators kindly sponsored by the AVBOB Poetry Project.

### Saturday 20 June

#### Package deals

1. Day pass and lunch | R200pp.
2. Day pass, lunch and dinner | R500pp.
3. Day pass, lunch, dinner and Publishing Workshop | R700pp.

#### Individual events

1. Victoria Manor Festival Special Lunch | R100pp.
2. 'Produce your own book' workshop | R200pp. Minimum 8 participants.
3. *Retro Karoo Food* book launch and dinner | R300pp.

### Enquiries and bookings

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[www.facebook.com/karoorwritersfestival](https://www.facebook.com/karoorwritersfestival)

