



**21 ICONS SOUTH AFRICA –
A JOURNEY TO DEMOCRACY ★★★★★**

By Adrian Steirn and Harriet Pratten,
Quivertree **R552***

Out of all our heroes, how do you choose 21 people who've truly made a difference? The contributors to this beautiful book cast their nets far and wide for unique pictures and stories.

You'd expect to see FW de Klerk, but not barefoot in a suit or crossed-legged in the veld; Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu yes, but not alone on a stage dressed in a tutu. The book also includes Madiba in his last posed picture and the late Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer on a huge pile of books.

Among the famous you'll also find the story of Karel Benadie, or Pokie as he's affectionately known because he was born on a day in 1963 when the snow - sometimes called *kapok* in Afrikaans - was lying thick on the outskirts of Beaufort West. Pokie is a master-tracker who trains young people in this almost forgotten art because, he says, "We need good trackers in South Africa to protect our wildlife and nature." He followed about 15 black rhinos after they were returned to the Karoo National Park. The data he collected from tracking them was so valuable it was included in the scientific journal *Pachyderm*.

21 Icons is expensive but as a collector's item would be the perfect addition to local coffee tables. For me, its greatest value would be as an export product to give foreigners an idea of the calibre of the people who give life to this boisterous country. - ELNA VAN DER MERWE