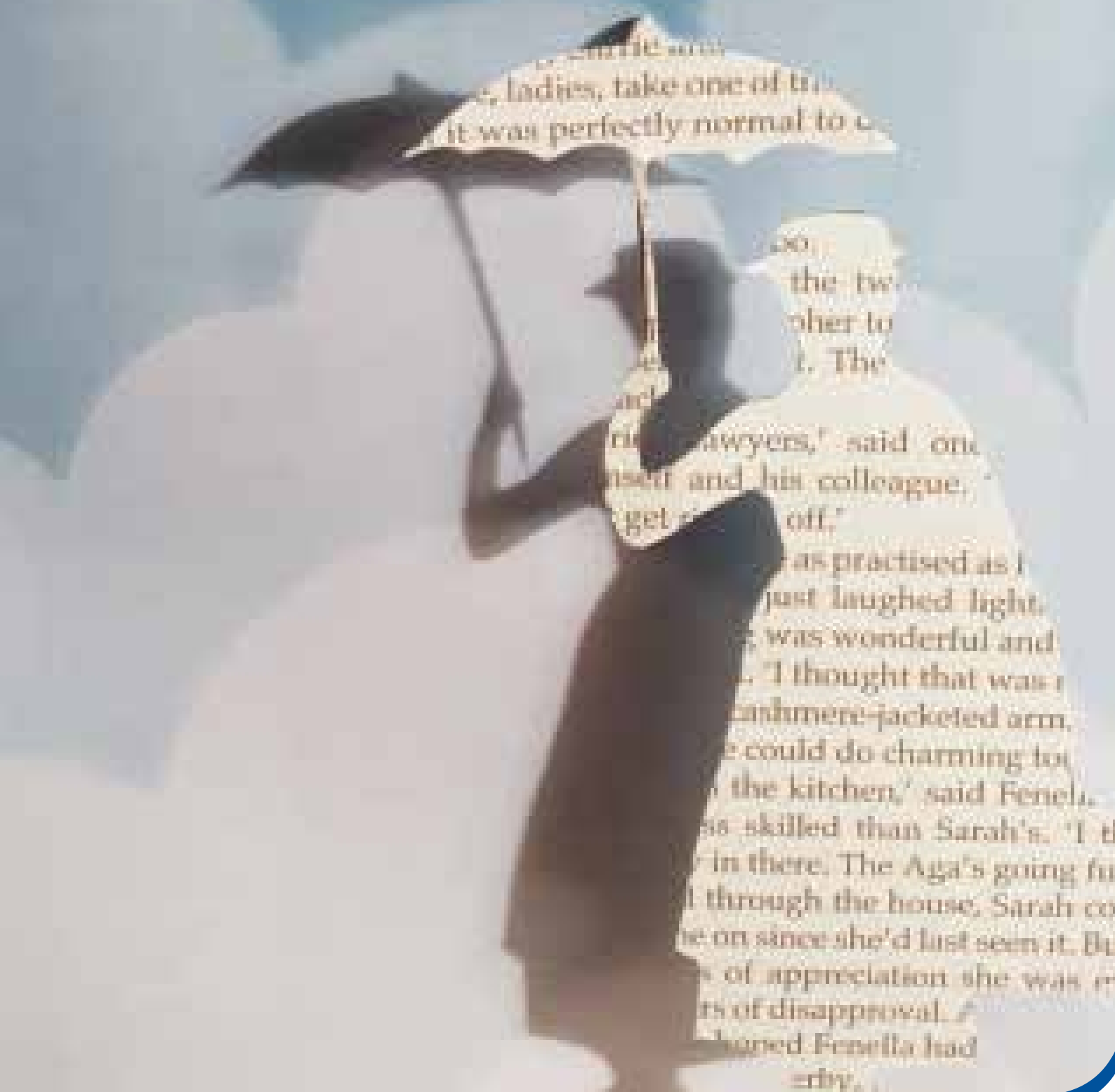


# Cape Librarian

May/June 2014 | Volume 58 | No. 3

Kaapse Bibliotekaris



Western Cape  
Government

Cultural Affairs and Sport

BETTER TOGETHER.



Cover: This year's cover is a representation of book characters. This month the loveable Mary Poppins dances on the cover.  
Vanjaar se voorblad is 'n voorstelling van boekkarakters. Hierdie maand dans die geliefde Mary Poppins op die voorblad.

# contents

## FEATURES | ARTIKELS

THE CLOSE CONNECTION - Archives in the basement of the parliament	16
---	----

Dr Gustav Hendrich

## RUBRIEKE | COLUMNS

### Boekwêreld | Book World

Through salt and spray . . . it's books with a view!	21
--	----

Dante Scriba

As 'n boek sy stofjas aantrek om te werk	24
--	----

Dr Francois Verster

The domestic cat: man's beloved feline companion	28
--	----

Erich Buchhaus

<b>Book Reviews   Boekresensies</b>	34
-------------------------------------	----

Saamgestel deur Boekkeurders / Compiled by Book Selectors

<b>Accessions   Aanwinste</b>	40
-------------------------------	----

Saamgestel deur / Compiled by Johanna de Beer

### Library Route | Die Biblioteekroete

Explore False Bay region	42
--------------------------	----

Compiled by Sophia Rickett

### Audiovisual | Oudiovisueel

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela	53
---------------------------	----

Compiled by Cherezaan Basadien

### THE WORK ROOM | DIE WERKKAMER

Searching the OPAC: SLIMS Public Catalogue vs Desktop Quick Search	56
--	----

Compiled by Marilyn McIntosh

### SPOTLIGHT ON SN | KOLLIG OP SN

It's tea time! I like coffee, I like tea. . . <i>part 2</i>	59
---	----

Dalena le Roux

## NUUS | NEWS

between the lines / tussen die lyne	2
people / mense	4
libraries / biblioteke	6
books and authors / skrywers en boeke	11
literary awards / literêre toekennings	12
miscellany / allerlei	12
40 years . . .	15



‘As this year marks the 20th anniversary of our first democratically elected inclusive government, the theme for this year’s National Archives Week was *Democracy, accountability and transparency*. People have the right to know their past and the complex changes and processes that occurred during the decades that made the path towards democracy possible. By opening the doors of the archives, people have been afforded the opportunity to discover the truth and delve into family matters by consulting records.’ Read more about the wonderful services rendered by the Archives Service of the Western Cape outlined by Dr Gustav Hendrich on page 16.

We also feature a selected list of DVD titles on the icon of democracy in our country, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and in the accompanying article on page 53, DVD selector, Cherezaan Basadien, shares her thoughts on Madiba with our readers.

Another book festival has come and gone by - the annual Wordfees in Stellenbosch. As always it was a hive of excitement and thought-provoking presentations. One that grabbed our correspondent, Dr Francois Verster’s attention, was the discussion on the very interesting topic of book covers and the importance thereof. Read on page 24 how colour, contrast, design and choice of font can ‘sell’ a book.

Life is full of surprises and changes and we have

decided that this being an auspicious year in the history of our country, perhaps we should surprise our readers with a complete make-over of the magazine – slap bang in the middle of the year. Enjoy the new fresh look – and as always, we would like to believe that our articles will continue to inspire you.

‘Vanjaar is die 20ste herdenking van ons eerste demokratiesverkose, inklusiewe regering en die tema vir die jaarlikse Nasionale Argiefweek was *Demokrasie, toerekenbaarheid en deursigtigheid*. Mense is daarop geregtig om te weet oor hul verlede asook die ingewikkelde veranderings en ontwikkelings wat gedurende die dekades plaasgevind het om die pad na demokrasie moontlik te maak. Deur die deure van die argief oop te gooi het mense, deur die rekords na te slaan, die geleentheid om die waarheid uit te vind asook om in familieaangeleenthede te delf’. Lees meer oor die wonderlike diens wat deur die Argiefdienste van die Wes-Kaap gelewer word, soos uiteengesit op bladsy 16 deur Dr Gustav Hendrich.

Ons publiseer ‘n geselekteerde lys van DVD titels met die ikoon van demokrasie in ons land as die hoofkarakter van bespreking, naamlik Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Op bladsy 53 deel ons videokeurder, Cherezaan Basadien, haar gedagtes oor Madiba met ons lesers.

En steeds is daar boekfeeste – hierdie keer die jaarlikse Wordfees wat in Stellenbosch aangebied word. Soos altyd het dit gegons van aktiwiteite en indringende besprekings en een wat vanjaar ons korrespondent by die fees, Dr Francois Verster se aandag getrek het, was die belangrike rol van boekomslae. Lees op bladsy 24 hoe kleur, kontras, ontwerp en lettertipe ‘n boek kan ‘verkoop’.

Die lewe is vol verrassings en veranderings en ons het besluit synde ons vanjaar iets het om te vier, dat ons dalk sommer in die middel van die jaar ons lesers moet verras met ‘n algehele nuwe voorkoms. Geniet die vars aanslag – en soos altyd – glo ons graag dat ons artikels lesers steeds sal inspireer.

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#### Editorial policy

The Cape Librarian is the house journal of the Western Cape Library Service and is published bi-monthly. Articles in the field of library and information science, library administration, news items, reviews and accession lists are included. The editorial staff reserve the right to edit, shorten, or rewrite any copy should it be deemed necessary. We cannot guarantee that unsolicited copy supplied will be printed. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Library Service. Copy for a particular issue must reach the editor two months in advance. Articles, letters and news items should be submitted directly to the editor.

#### Redaksionele beleid

Die Kaapse Biblioteekaris is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens en verskyn twee-maandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstlyste asook praktiese artikels. Die redaksie behou hom die reg voor om, indien nodig, bydraes te redigeer, te verkort of te herskryf. Die publikasie van artikels wat nie in opdrag geskryf is nie, kan egter nie gewaarborg word nie. Die menings van medewerkers is nie noodwendig dié van die Biblioteekdiens nie. Alle kopie vir ‘n bepaalde uitgawe moet die redaksie twee maande vooruit bereik. Artikels, briewe en nuusberigte kan direk aan die redakteur gestuur word.

# Amit Anu II

## Amit Anu, 'Keeper of the tablets' in the royal library in Ur in Babylonia, about 2000 BCE by Pieter Hugo



Who is this Amit Anu? In a previous *Between the Lines* I played a little game, ending off with the name Amit Anu hanging in the air, so to speak. Of course you took the subtle hint and Googled it, and now you know that our dear Amit was the very first librarian known by

name. He was the 'Keeper of the tablets' in the royal library in Ur in Babylonia, about 2000 BCE.

No, my archivist friend was quick to correct me, he was the first archivist, not the first librarian. Four thousand years ago he spent his days between thousands of baskets full of clay tablets. Those clay tablets were actually documents, not books.

That is correct, I said, but then Amit Anu was not an archivist either, he was the manager of the government's filing system. Those clay tablets contained current documents of the day. The king, the minister of finance and the minister of international affairs would regularly have asked for information regarding the price of wheat, the current agreement with the neighbours, or what exactly the law says about the king's housing benefits.

Let us compromise and agree that those early collections of writings of thousands of years ago were actually the great granddaddies of libraries, archives and filing systems.

In Roman and Greek times 'family libraries' were quite popular. These collections contained, amongst other things, genealogical accounts

and cooking recipes. Today archives are most popular for genealogical research, and recipe books are frequently borrowed from public libraries. People are so predictable!

Even the burning down of libraries to make a political statement (such an unfortunate feature of public protest nowadays), is not new. Julius Caesar burnt down the Library of Alexandria in ancient Egypt, destroying with it the biggest collection of encoded human memory at the time. Why? The library just happened to be at the same place where he was fighting a little war. Wars are such brutal means of making political statements.

This brings us to the pros and cons of writing technology. Amit and his later colleagues in Assyria, like Ashurbanipal, had libraries full of clay tablets. Those tablets were nearly indestructible and survived thousands of years of earthquakes, fires, floods and wars. The same goes for the Egyptian hieroglyphs on stone. The downside for both is that they were time-consuming to write, not user friendly to read and took up vast amounts of storage space.

Great advances in readability were made with the invention of writing on papyrus and vellum, rolled up for easy storage. Although many of those book scrolls survived thousands of years, the great Library of Alexandria bonfire showed that they could also easily be destroyed.

Then we had paper, hugely increasing the amount of information in one volume, because it could be bound into books. The Gutenberg press gave us multicopies of the same book, which led to a knowledge explosion in Europe. Books were much more user-friendly than papyrus or vellum book rolls, but not as durable, especially not since the invention of mass-produced paper. The problem is that the acid used in the manufacturing process slowly eats up the paper. That means all books published since the mid-nineteenth century will eventually be lost.

No problem, you say, we digitise everything nowadays. With e-publishing we don't even have to print a book on paper anymore. It is true, with the advent of computers and, especially with the Internet, the world has more information available, new and old,

than ever before. It does not even take up any 'real' storage space and it is available at the press of a button, no matter where you are.

There is one small problem, though. Two, actually.

The first, and biggest, problem with e-information is the fact that you need specialised equipment to read it. All previous information records could be read as is, directly from the page/stone/clay tablet. Now we need all kinds of fancy electronic gadgets to access information. Those gadgets need electricity and all the intricate IT support system networks in the world, including satellites in space, to keep on working.

The second problem is that fast-changing technology makes information that was e-saved a decade or two ago already near-impossible to retrieve. Think of the floppy discs of 20 years ago. How many computers with floppy disc readers still exist?

So, you say, what's the problem? That's the way the world hums nowadays. Remember Julius Caesar? The world leader who burnt down the Library of Alexandria? Just imagine a modern-day Caesar wannabee dishing up a modern-day

catastrophe. What if a leader-gone-wrong decides to ensure his everlasting legacy by pressing a certain red button?

The last hundred years, give or take a few decades, is known as the age of rapidly increasing information, available to more people than ever before in human history. If anyone survives an atomic war, or, less dramatic, but not less probable, the end of the world's fossil fuel supply, they would live in a world without electricity. That means, of course, no computers, no Internet and no cell phones. That is: no digital information.

The only written information that would survive eventually will be Amit Anu's clay tablets and a few street names cast in concrete sidewalks. Our age of information overload will be known as the black hole in the history of mankind, with no information at all surviving.

Maybe I should start engraving my poems on clay tablets!

---

*Pieter Hugo is the deputy director, Municipal Support Services at the Western Cape Library Service.*





people | mense



**Minister Mbombo meets and greets staff members**

◀ Newly appointed Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport of the Western Cape Government, Nomafrench Mbombo, during one of her 'Meet and greet' visits to the Archives and Records Service, Library Service and the Cape Medical Museum in Greenpoint. Here she is with (rtl) Mr Brent Walters (HOD) and Mrs Nomaza Dingayo, perusing an Annual Review, one of the many publications produced by the Promotion and Publications section of the Service.

**Welcome to new appointees**

***Asanda Mcelu***

After Asanda obtained his National Diploma in Office Management and Technology at CPUT, he completed his in-service training in the Human Resource section at the Western Cape College of Nursing Administration. After the in-service training, he was afforded the opportunity to work as a library assistant in the library at the College of Nursing where he gained invaluable experience in shelf reading, book maintenance and issuing of library items using ALEPH 500. Asanda was on

contract at the Western Cape Library Service from November 2012 to December 2013.

***Glaudias Mekuto***

Glaudias Lamyeti Mekuto's association with Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport started in 1998 when he volunteered to assist the department with different activities that was organised in various communities across the Western Cape. By 2000 he got involved in a school sport programme called, Sport Stepping Stone, that was initiated by DCAS and focused on sport development in nodal areas such as Manenberg,

Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain. It was later nationalised and became known as the School Sport Mass Participation programme that was extended to the broader communities across the province. Mr Mekuto remained on contract within the sport component of the department until 2010 when he joined the Library Service.

***Alvin Mabank***

Alvin Dexter Mabank hails from Telkom SA where he worked as an exchange operator, handling telephonic queries and providing information to customers. In 2007 he moved to BIG Distributors



***Asanda Mcelu***



***Glaudias Mekuto***



***Alvin Mabank***

**Alton Lindoor**



and assumed the position as floor assistant which required driving duties and distribution of goods. Alvin joined the Library Service as a contract worker for Conditional Grants in 2008. He was permanently appointed as general worker within the Preparation Section on 1 February 2014.

**Alton Lindoor**

Alton Lindoor, the newly appointed driver in Beaufort West, was born and bred in George. He attended George High school and matriculated in 2004. Soon after he started in the aviation industry as a baggage driver for six years.

In 2013 he joined a freight forwarding company. Some of his interests are reading non-fiction books, camping and sport.

---

*Welcome to our new staff members who all joined the service this year. ED*

**National librarian retires**

Friends and colleagues said goodbye to Mr John Tsebe, national librarian of the National Library of South Africa, in February this year. Mr Tsebe retired after a decade of commitment and service to the NLSA. His contributions include the establishment of the new NLSA building at the Pretoria campus, the implementation of free Internet access to the public, the digitisation of the NLSA collection and other collections and the establishment of the de-acidisation plant, which

**John Tsebe**



is the only one in Africa. Mr Tsebe also headed various successful projects through Conditional Grant funding for provincial public libraries in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture.

---

*Ethney Waters, Publication and Promotions*

**New CEO for National Library**

The Board of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) has appointed Professor Rocky MD Ralebipi-Simela as the national librarian and CEO of the National Library of South Africa with effect from 1 May 2014.

Prof Ralebipi-Simela holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburg and a PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Minnesota in the USA.

Her career activities include 23 years in the Higher Education sector in South Africa and the USA, and 10 years in the American corporate sector as an information management specialist. She has served the higher education sector in many capacities as campus librarian and Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of St Catherine in the USA; Professor of Information Studies at the then University of the North; Executive Dean: Faculty of Humanities, Management Sciences and Law at

**Professor Rocky MD Ralebipi-Simela**



the University of Venda; Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic at the Central University of Technology (CUT) in Bloemfontein and more recently the regional director of the Limpopo region of the University of South Africa (UNISA).

She has published books, book chapters and journal articles in the library and information science field, and is recognised nationally and internationally for her leadership role in the profession.

She served and continues to serve on many national and international councils, committees and boards, including the National Council on Library and Information Services (NCLIS) as chairperson; National Heritage Council (NHC) as deputy chairperson; National Skills Authority (NSA) where she represents Higher Education South Africa (HESA); Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC); American Library Association and the Medical Library Association.

She is a Fulbright Scholar, a Hubert Humphrey Policy Fellow, a Minnesota Lawyers for Human Rights Award recipient, the CSIR Advanced Leadership Award of Outstanding Merit holder and American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow.

The most prestigious title she holds is that of grandmother to Mbali and Mpumi.

---

*Andrew Malotle, Executive Head: Corporate and International Relations, National Library of South Africa*

### Never too young . . .

Staff at **Kommetjie Library** were very impressed to see Bella visit their library with her books in a small shopping trolley. This is what one would call true dedication.

*Venessa Strachan, Kommetjie Library,  
Library and Information Services*



### Fish Hoek . . . 60 years of history

The image of a repository of books where people reverently flitter between the shelves and whisper is no longer an accurate picture of a library. If you want to see a library that reflects these changes, then visit **Fish Hoek Library** which celebrated its 60th anniversary in May.

'We want to see the library become a community space where everybody feels welcome,' said head of Fish Hoek Library, Janusz Skarzynski.

'Although books remain our core function, it is not just books - there are other things adding to the whole service. It's a place where people meet people, and we provide advertising services for local businesses, a market, literary teas, school visits.'

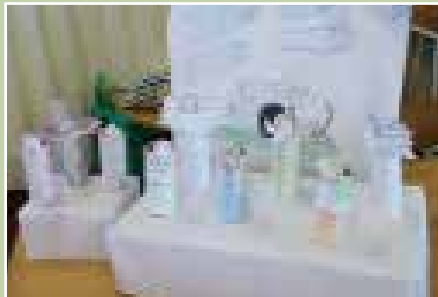
The library's bank of computers - unthought of when libraries first began - is a well-used part of the library, not only for information, but for users trying to build businesses or connecting with family overseas.

'The community needs a human, social space where they can be safe and meet for other social interactions as well as getting their stories,' said Lyn Steyn, head librarian until her retirement at the end of November 2012 and now chairperson of the Friends of Fish Hoek Library.

Mentioning a library in the United States which has no books at all, just computers, Ms Steyn commented: 'Libraries have changed from being guardians of printed material to mediators of the information world.'

'It doesn't please all of us, but as long as people are reading. It's

### Hawston Library Easter display



### School holiday @ Wellington Readers

Wellington Library hosted a few interesting activities for the children during the school holidays and the fire brigade and traffic department visited the library. Children had fun playing with homemade clay and did word searches.



*Above and right:  
Children participating in the clay play  
and word search adventure.*





▲ Seen here are authors Mike Nicol, Savannah Lotz and Diane Awerbuck during Fish Hoek's 60th celebrations

critical we ensure the younger generation has something they want to read – and they read it. If they don't understand that you can get information and pleasure from reading, then there's no incentive to read.'

In its own way, Fish Hoek Library has seen changes as far-reaching as the non-book American Library.

It began in one room in the Fish Hoek town council's engineers' department building in Beach Road.

Ethelmay Gillard was appointed after being interviewed by the Fish Hoek mayor and town clerk. Her job would be to preside over the room – crammed with 1,000 books supplied by the Provincial Library Service – for an hour in the evening.

According to former curator of the Fish Hoek museum, Joy Coburn, the opening day on 1 April 1954 was chaotic with the queue stretching round the block as people waited to be registered. The room was so small that only six people at a time

could fit in.

The late Ms Gillard became a prominent figure in Fish Hoek, so much so that at least one small child was known to refer to her as 'Mrs God'.

She was to run the library for 36 years – introducing the first story hour as well as adult education.

'Our story hour, held outside when the weather was good, ended at noon, just when a goods train passed by and the engine driver would always wave at the children.

'Many fishermen also joined the children for story hour,' Ms Gillard told local historian John Clifford, who included her reminiscences in his book **Fish Hoek Fossichillgs** (title not in stock).

Ms Gillard oversaw the move to a bigger library in Beach Road in 1958 as well as the move in 1988 to its present location at the civic centre.

Ms Steyn was the next head librarian and it was at that time –

from 1992 – that the library became computerised, doing away with the system of cards and the cardboard pockets that were issued to library users.

'It was a difficult and exciting time. It meant we could handle a larger volume of loans,' said Ms Steyn. Before that they used to line up at the check-out counter, 'scrabbling in the tray for cards'.

When Ms Steyn was seconded as library manager, Sue Alexander took over from 2001 to 2006. This time saw a struggle to keep the library open as there was no budget to pay librarians.

'One of the things Susan and I were passionate about was serving the customer. It meant we never closed the library for silly reasons. It was very tough for Susan because staff dwindled and we had to depend on unqualified and contract staff. Susan maintained that the moment you lost hours, you lost your community and never regained it. 'We decided to keep the library open no matter what, even if it was just me and Susan.' So Ms Alexander began the – now annual – *Library Alive* fundraising effort which paid for library staff. Now, however, the local authorities have allocated enough money to the library to enable it to be adequately staffed.

It was during Ms Alexander's tenure that SmartCape was installed – the free library Internet service – and the Masiphumelele Library, which was run as an offshoot of Fish Hoek Library, became an independent library in its new, privately-funded, premises, with Ms Alexander the head librarian.

---

*Our sincere congratulations. Your wonderful reputation of service delivery is known far and wide. ED*

---

*False Bay Echo*

### Minister's surprise visits

Dr Ivan Meyer, in his capacity as minister for Cultural Affairs and Sport, holds libraries dear to his heart. During the last few months he visited quite a few libraries.



▲ **CJ Langenhoven Library** (ltr) Sheri Jumaat, Karin Titus, Dr Ivan Meyer, Zim Harris. Seated: Isabella Hendriks



▲ **Calitzdorp Library** Sanet Anthony and Dr Ivan Meyer



▼ **Tulbagh Library** (ltr) Jamain Paulse, Dr Ivan Meyer, Diana Kock, Thami Faku



▲ **Witzenville Library** in Tulbagh (ltr) Aletta Martin, Dr Ivan Meyer, Johanna Kock, Geraldine Adams



▲ **Robertson Library** (ltr) Jonathan Lakey, Boniswa Plaatjies, Christa Joubert, Dr Ivan Meyer, Kurina Nothling

### Celebrating books and reading

World Book Day was designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading in over 100 countries around the world. **Valhalla Park Library** aims to make a social impact through the promotion of books and reading for personal enrichment and enjoyment of our communities.

An annual competition, a City of Cape Town Library and Information Services initiative, started at Valhalla Park Library 11 years ago and involves schools, community organisations and other government departments.

Ward Councillor Michael Britz, a guest speaker at this year's reading competition, emphasised the importance of parents reading to their kids from a young age and also that the competition builds learners' confidence in reading,

writing and public speaking. Izak de Vries from Lapa Publishers, explained and demonstrated to learners the art of storytelling and reading techniques.

The target group is grade 7 learners from Valhallapark, Kalksteentfontein, Montana, Parkvale and Montevideo primary schools. They have to read a passage from a book and are tested on spelling, comprehension, speed and presentation. The winners at the Valhalla Park Library challenge Round 1 in the Afrikaans language category were Ricarlon Pietersen from Parkvale Primary School and in the English language category Ilke Stuurman from

Montevideo Primary School.

There are three rounds to this competition, the library challenge; the district challenge, and the inter-district final in which all the winners from various areas across Cape Town compete.



▲ (Ltr): Thandiwe Mtshengu, senior librarian; winner of the Afrikaans language category, Ricarlon Pietersen from Parkvale Primary; ward councillor Michael Britz, and the winner of the English language category, Ilke Stuurman of Montevideo Primary School



## Outreach and library awareness

A library awareness project, aimed at Xhosa students, was started at **D’Almeida Library** after it was realised that only a few Xhosa learners made use of the library. The principal of T Ndanda Primary School (the only Xhosa primary school in the area) was approached with a plan of action.

The aim of the project was to promote library awareness to all the pupils in their ‘mother tongue’ isiXhosa, and was started in March this year with the following objectives:

- library awareness and book education
- to promote the availability of Xhosa books in the library
- to increase the circulation of Xhosa books
- to present it in their ‘mother tongue’ isiXhosa
- to present story hour aimed at foundation phase.

The topics covered were:

- the importance of reading
- book education
- rules of the library
- the different kinds of books and material available in the library
- how to become a member
- how to use reference books
- the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

The total number of learners reached was 525, ranging from grade R to Grade 7.

The excellent cooperation from the principal, teachers and learners from T Ndanda Primary School ensured that our two-month project could be successfully run by Noluntu Mbandezi and her colleagues. During this period there was a definite increase in circulation of Xhosa Juvenile Fiction books as well as membership. In-house library use also increased in the



afternoons. A huge thank you to the driver of T Ndanda, who safely transported the children. We are proud to be part of this winning team who consistently strive to up their game and reach out to the community. Vince Lombardi says: ‘The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or loose, we have applied

the best of ourselves to the task at hand.’ As Madiba once said: ‘If you speak to a person in a language he understands it goes to the mind, but if you speak in his language it goes to the heart.’

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*Compiled by Leilani Mondo, Librarian*

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*This sounds like a wonderful project!*  
ED

## Biblioteek se bemerkingspoging

'n Besoek is gebring aan Xhosasprekende ma's en kinders om Velddrif en Noordhoek biblioteke te bemark.

*Ronél Kritzinger, Bibliotekaris,  
Velddrif Biblioteek*



## Bishop Tutu at Central

Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a recent visit to Central Library in Cape Town for the launch of his new children's book, **Let there be light**. The crowd, comprising almost as many adults as children, were bowled over by the cleric's presence and magnetic charm. One little one was enticed enough to announce

to the Bishop himself, in a hushed moment, 'I think you're adorable'. This was met with delighted cries from the audience who seemed to agree wholeheartedly. It was an hour of pure enchantment, as Bishop Tutu attempted to read to the little ones, who were more intent on having a discussion with him than listening to him reading!



## False Bay tour

False Bay regional staff on tour in May this year. Here they visited Brackenfell Library during a CPL-return library tour.



## R6.2m library for Knysna

A new R6.2million public library was officially opened in Knysna on 23 April 2014.

The Knysna Public Library, a project of the provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport together with the national Department of Arts and Culture and the Knysna Municipality, is a three-story building equipped with a lift to facilitate easy access for the aged and the disabled.

'This was indeed R6.2m well spent', MEC for Cultural Affairs and Sport, Ivan Meyer said.

*Cape Times*



### Maya Angelou oorlede

Maya Angelou (86), wat ten spyte van armoede, segregasie en moeilike kinderjare 'n groot invloed op die verhoog, in rolprente en die gedrukte media gehad het, is in die ouderdom van 86 oorlede.

Haar dood is bevestig in 'n verklaring wat deur die Wake Forest-universiteit in Winston-Salem, Noord-Carolina, uitgereik is.

Sy was sedert 1982 'n professor in Amerikaanse studies aan dié universiteit.

Angelou was een van die eerste swart Amerikaanse vroue wat sukses as 'n skrywer behaal het en het in bykans elke artistieke medium gefloreer.

Waar sy as 'n jong enkelouer in 'n ontkleekklub gewerk het om 'n lewte te maak, het sy later die gewildste presidensiële inhuldigingsgedig in die geskiedenis geskryf en voorgedra.

Angelou was bevriend met Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela en dr Martin Luther King jr en het wêreldwyd op verhoë opgetree.

Sy was in die 1950's en 1960's 'n aktrise, sangeres en danseres voordat sy in 1970 'n deurbraak gemaak het as skrywer met **I know why the caged bird sings**,



die eerste deel van verskeie outobiografiese werke wat deur dekades gepubliseer is.

In 1993 het sy *On the pulse of the morning* gedurende president Bill Clinton se inhuldigingsereemonie voorgedra en die verbeelding aangegryp.

Dié gedig het toe 'n topverkoper geword.

Angelou was 'n mentor vir Oprah Winfrey en het gereeld op haar vriendin se TV-program opgetree.

Sy was verskeie tale magtig en

het gedigte, boeke met advies, kookboeke en stories vir kinders gepubliseer. Sy het musiek gekomponeer, draaiboeke en toneelstukke geskryf, is benoem vir 'n Emmy-toekening vir haar spel in **Roots**. Sy het nooit haar passie vir dans verloor nie – die kunsvorm wat sy as die naaste aan poësie beskou het.

Angelou het in 2013 'n erenasionale boektoekening ontvang vir haar bydrae tot die literêre gemeenskap.

### Skepper van Adrian Mole oorlede



Sue Townsend, die skrywer wat veral bekend was vir die bekende

karakter, die selfbehepte Adrian Mole, is in die ouderdom van 68 jaar dood. Townsend het in 1982 roem verwerf met **The secret diary of Adrian Mole aged 13**. Meer as 20 miljoen eksemplare daarvan is wêreldwyd verkoop.

Haar laaste roman, **The woman who went to bed for a year**, is in 2012 gepubliseer. Net in Brittanje is meer as 5,000,000 eksemplare verkoop.

Die Burger

## literêre toekennings | literary awards

### Local nominees on 2014 IBBY Honour list. . .

Every two years, the IBBY Honour List catalogue is published in English and includes over one hundred recently published books from IBBY member countries. These books are considered to be outstanding for the quality of writing, illustration and translation. Important considerations in selecting the honour list titles are that the books represent the best in children's literature from each country, and that the books are recommended as suitable for publication throughout the world. In this way, it supports IBBY's objective of encouraging international understanding through children's literature.

Over 2,000 copies of the 2014 IBBY Honour List catalogue will be distributed worldwide after the presentation of the selection at

the 34th IBBY World Congress in Mexico City from 10-13 September 2014.

The South African nominees for the 2014 IBBY Honor list are:

- **Dreaming of light** (Tafelberg) by Jayne Bauling
- **Leeus met letsels** (H&R) by Fanie Viljoen
- **The herd boy** (Jacana) by Niki Daly.

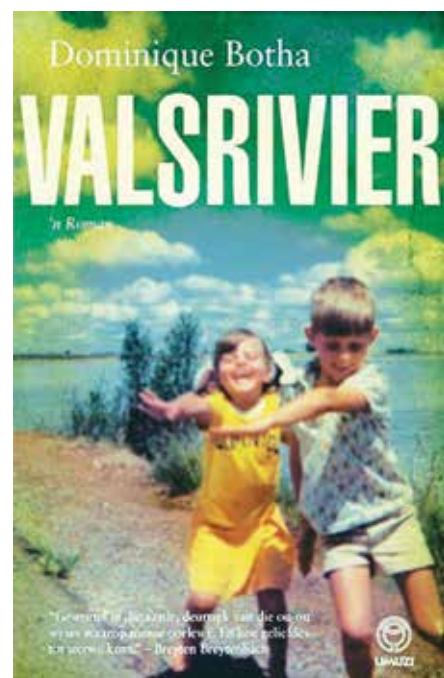
We hope to see some of our members in Mexico!!!

IBBY SA

### Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir wetenskap en lees

Herzogprys vir Poësie: **Kaar** deur Marlene van Niekerk  
Eugene Maraisprys: **Valsrivier** deur Dominique Botha  
SA Akademieprys: **Sprakeloos** deur Daniel Hugo

Louis Hiemstraprys vir nie fiksie: **Boerekrygers** deur Albert Blake.



## allerlei | miscellany

### 2014 World Book Day celebrations

The 2014 World Book Day National celebration was held in Kuruman by the Centre for the Book and assisted and supported by staff from the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, Northern Cape. The theme this year was: *Be smart – read books!*

On 22 April, a vibrant brass band, assisted by campaigners from the book industry, traditional leaders, politicians and some members from the Department of Correctional Services led the procession that started at Kathu High School and ended at the Correctional Services

in Kuruman with a Door-to-door Reading Campaign. Several schools were visited en route.

Children were delighted to have their day brightened up by the lively campaigners and by the presence of Thato Molamu who plays the character of Nicolas Nomvethé in *Generations*, and who motivated pupils and explained the importance of reading.

Day 2 was held at Loopeng Sports Grounds where poetry, music and dance were at the order of the day. Amongst attendees were staff from the Northern Cape Education Department, librarians, mayors, and DJ Soul

and DJ Guru. An inspiring keynote address by the Speaker of the Legislature in Northern Cape, Mr Kenny Mmoiemang, was delivered. The Director of Library Services, Department of Arts and Culture also delivered a speech.



Sonwabile Kanzi

## The librarians' choice top 20 South African books, 1994-2014

The Library and Information Association of South African (LIASA) has adopted the theme, *Celebrating libraries in 20 years of democracy* for its activities in 2014, which includes *The librarians choice: top 20 South African books, 1994-2014*. In celebrating this theme, librarians across South Africa were invited to identify the Top 20 books published during these 20 years that:

- were written by a South African author in one of our official languages
- were published for the first time between 1994 and 2014
- reflect South African life by South Africans
- focus on issues of democracy or contribute to the consolidation of our democracy
- examine who we are and where we are heading as a nation.

The nominations were open to all genres of literature from fiction to non-fiction, adult and children's books. The invitation to identify the Librarian's Choice went out late last year and by mid-January 253 books were nominated by librarians

across South Africa.

The top 20 titles (1994-2014) chosen:

- **Long walk to freedom** by Nelson Mandela, published by Macdonald Purnell, 1994
- **Country of my skull** by Antjie Krog, published by Random House, 1998
- **I have life: Alison's story** by Marianne Thamm, published by Penguin, 1998
- **Disgrace** by J M Coetzee, published by Vintage, 1999
- **Jamela's dress** by Niki Daly, published by Tafelberg, 1999
- **Heart of Redness** by Zakes Mda, published by OUP, 2002
- **Madonna of Excelsior** by Zakes Mda, published by OUP, 2002
- **Confessions of a gambler** by Rayda Jacobs, published by Kwela Books, 2003
- **Dis ek, Anna** by Elbie Lotter, published by Tafelberg, 2004
- **Agaat** by Marlene van Niekerk, published by Tafelberg, 2004
- **Shirley, goodness and mercy** by Chris van Wyk, published by Picador Africa, 2004
- **Spud** by John van de Ruit, published by Penguin, 2005
- **Thabo Mbeki: the dream**

**deferred** by Mark Gevisser, published by Jonathan Ball Publishers, 2007

- **Anderkant Pontenilo** by Irma Joubert, published by Tafelberg, 2008
- **13 ure** by Deon Meyer, published by Human & Rousseau, 2008
- **Elephant whisperer** by Lawrence Anthony, published by Sidgwick & Jackson, 2009
- **Thula Thula** by Annelie Botes, published by Tafelberg, 2009
- **My father, my monster** by McIntosh Polela, published by Jacana, 2011
- **8 Days in September** by Frank Chikane, published by Picador Africa, 2013
- **Endings & beginnings: a story of healing** by Redi Thlabi, published by Jacana, 2013

We believe that this is an important list as librarians are responsible for selecting books for their libraries and recommending 'interesting reads' to their users. The Librarian's Choice should be available to all when they 'check in' at their libraries! The official launch of the Top 20 titles was made at the national launch event of South African Library Week in March.

### 48 Hours in a kennel with books

Booklovers do strange things. Recently the Animal Welfare Society of Stellenbosch (AWSS) 'imprisoned' two die-hard, animal-loving volunteers, Ashley Marais and Lisa-Marie Luxton (our book lover) in a holding kennel in a dog shelter for a gruelling 48 hours.

Ashley and Lisa Marie did a 24-hour shift each with lockdown starting at 16h00 on Friday, 4 April 2014, at AWSS in Devon Valley Road, Stellenbosch. Ashley kicked off the event off by being chained to the gate of the empty cage. Lisa Marie tagged him

out at 16h00 on Saturday, to commence her 24 hours in the cage.

As the funding barometer rose, the caged volunteers received items on their wish list to make their stay more comfortable. Their wish list items were fulfilled by funds received in R1000 increments. Lisa-Marie, a regular patron of the Muizenberg Library, asked Nicolette Kaindu, the chief librarian to pick out some novels to keep her company during her 24 hour stint. The title that Lisa says got her through the long, scary stint in the cage and which she completed by the time the cage was unlocked was

**For the time being** by Ruth Ozeki. Ashley chose more practical things such as being unchained, receiving a chair, being granted access to a cell phone (to tweet and provide Facebook updates throughout their confinement), a blow-up mattress, refreshments, food and a visit from a shelter dog.

R32,000 was raised during this event that included an Open Day.

Other titles Lisa took in to the shelter were:

- **Philida** by André Brink
- **The ward** by SL Grey
- **The nemesis list** by RJ Frith.

*Lola Cox, Fundraiser, Animal Welfare Society of Stellenbosch*

## It's winter and it's food time

I had the most wonderful surprise on Mother's Day this year when my stepdaughter decided to spoil her 'other' mother with a most innovative card – a 'recipe book' – with a selection of authors and the recipes they liked. What an amazing gift as cooking is my favourite pastime.

I am sure that I am not wrong in my assumption that many of our readers are also avid cooks and so I have decided to share my 'card' with our readers which was prefaced with:

'What food got JD Salinger out of the house? What is tomato-soup cake favoured by Sylvia Plath? As the Hemingway cookbook shows, writers are not only hungry for life – they are hungry – period!'

I will be featuring a selection of authors and the food they love from my 'card' during the course of the year. As time goes on, I also would like to publish favourite recipes of South African authors so those of you who have a personal connection to a South African author, please feel free to entice their favourite recipe from them to add to this collection.

### **Tomato soup cake by Sylvia Plath**

'How I love to cook!' Sylvia Plath wrote in her journals, and going by the meticulous recipe records she kept, she hardly ever stopped. Baking was Plath's speciality and she regularly made cakes while writing: lemon-pudding cake, apple cake, devil's food cake, banana cake. But one of the most unusual was tomato-soup cake, a mixture of savoury and sweet that was one of Plath's signature dishes.

#### **Recipe**

2 cups sifted cake flour  
1 tbsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp ground cloves  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg  
1 cup seedless raisins  
1/2 cup butter  
1 cup sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 can (about 11 fluid ounces) condensed tomato soup  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts, optional

Preheat the oven to 375F (190C/ gas mark 5). Grease and flour two eight-inch cake pans.

Sift the flour, baking powder, baking soda and spices together. In a separate bowl, toss the raisins with about a quarter cup of the flour mixture and set aside.

Cream together the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl until light, then beat in the whole eggs until thoroughly mixed.

To the creamed sugar/butter mixture, add the flour alternately with the soup by thirds. Fold in the raisins and the walnuts, if using.

Divide the mixture evenly between the two cake pans and then bake for about 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the cake comes out clean once removed.

Leave to cool in the pans for five minutes, then transfer to a cake rack to cool thoroughly. Frost with cream cheese frosting (below).

#### **Cream cheese frosting**

1lb cream cheese, at room temperature  
1/2 cup butter, at room temperature  
2 tsp vanilla  
1 pinch salt  
5 cups confectioner's sugar

Combine the cream cheese and butter in a mixing bowl, and beat together until creamy and uniform. Add the vanilla and the salt, and then gradually add the confectioner's sugar, beating until smooth.

*A selected list of titles by Sylvia Plath in stock.*

**Ariel.**- Faber, 1972.

**The bell jar.**- Faber, 1999.

**Collected children's stories.**- Faber, 2001.

**Collected poems.**- Faber, 1982.

**The colossus.**- Faber, 1972.

**Crossing the water.**- Faber, 1971.

**Johnny Panic and the bible of dreams, and other prose writings.**- Faber, 1979.

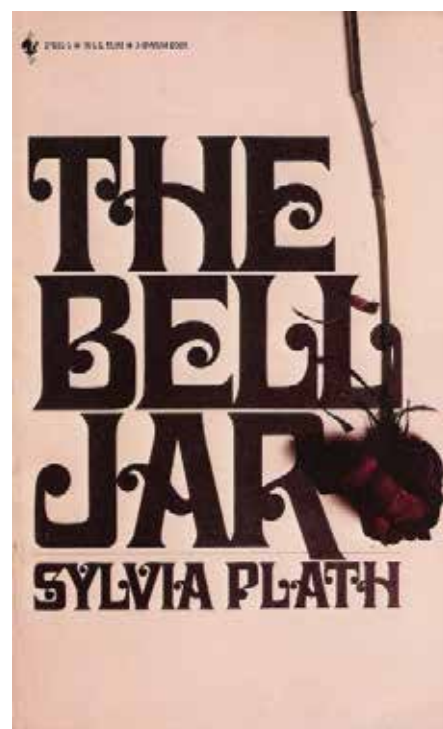
**The journals of Sylvia Plath, 1950-1962: transcribed from the original manuscripts at Smith College.**- Faber, 2000.

**Letters home: correspondence, 1950-63.**- Faber, 1976.

**The poet speaks. Vol. 5.**- Argo, [19--].

**Sylvia Plath: poems.**- Faber, 2004.

**Winter trees.**- Faber, 1975.



Grizéll Azar-Luxton



## 40 jaar gelede . . . stefan wehmeyer, adjunkdirekteur: streke

- Susan Steynberg voer 'n indiepte onderhoud met ID Du Plessis. Die beroemde digter was ook 'n kenner van Kaapse Moslemkultuur. Hy sê: 'Nou nog as jy hier in Adderleystraat stap mag jy tref dat daar gebede gesê word vir iemand wat afgesterf het – gewoonlik word daar op die 7de, 40ste en 100ste dag in die afgestorwene se huis gebede gesê. Die weduwee bly die volle honderd dae in die huis – sy mag nie uitgaan nie. Gaste word na die seremonie genooi waar die priester in Arabies voorlees; wierook word gebrand – 'n hele Oosterse toneel – en dan skielik breek dit af – dis verby en hulle bedien tee, soetkoekies en konfyt en praat Maleis-Afrikaans: jy's terug in die Kaap.' (*Hy was so beminnd onder die Kaapse Moslems dat by sy eie begrafnis in 1981, sy oorskot deur lede van die Moslemgemeenskap met Waalstraat langs afgedra is na die Grootte Kerk.*)
- Margy Van Deventer quotes from an article, *Public libraries at the Cape*, dated 1907. 'In small country towns the librarian is usually a lady, and the duties in her office are light and afford her much leisure for the pursuit of her own occupations, such as needlework and letter-writing. Her friends, too, often call in to see her and exchange a little gossip in whispers should there be anybody else in the reading room. It is a pleasant and much sought-after post, and one which certainly doesn't entail overwork.'

- Brian Paterson decided to get opinions on unflattering stereotypical portrayings of the librarian, which could either be described as 'a frail, twittering, birdlike female' or a 'large, overpowering female with a stentorian voice and the disposition of an angry bull'. His findings showed that the *female-who-stamps-books* theme was flogged to death. '... but a few interesting points did emerge: librarians are dull. They may be charming and even a little eccentric, but basically dull.' He encouraged librarians to 'become just a little bit more daring, just a little more outspoken, just a

little less conformist and make ourselves pacesetters in society, rather than the last bastion of stodgy antediluvian ways of thought.' However, his findings also showed that librarians were regarded as being very helpful.

- Studente van die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat besoek die Biblioteekdiens en stel veral belang in die NCR-leesapparaat met sy verstelbare lense wat microfiche kan lees.
- *Near and far / Wyd en syd* Simonstown Library affiliates to the Provincial Library Service. Before 1974 they had a subscription library with a membership of 250.

**How busy was your library? Circulation statistics for 1973 as printed in the Cape Librarian.**

1	Wynberg	494 039
2	Bellville	428 145
3	Central Library	341 168
4	Sea Point	334 236
5	Rondebosch	319 070
6	Goodwood	285 586
7	Claremont	249 130
8	Fishhoek	243 039
9	Parow	237 954
10	Somerset West	230 507



# The close connection Archives in the basement of the Parliament

**Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth** by Dr Gustav Hendrich

President Abraham Lincoln stated in his famous Gettysburg Address during the American Civil War, that the meaning of democracy is that 'government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth'. His words had a lasting impact on all future governments that sought to uphold a democratic form of governance. At the heart

of a democracy would be a parliament representing the needs and concerns of daily life. It would inevitably be an instrument of the utmost importance by providing a platform for comprehensive political discussion. It would, above all, be the fundamental institution for the passing of bills and the promulgation of laws. Its implementation would have widespread consequences and affect virtually all aspects of our lives.

As this year marks the 20th anniversary of our first democratically elected inclusive government, it is appropriate to celebrate this historic turning point in South Africa's history by acknowledging the important role of parliament. During the annual National Archives Week held from 5 to 9 May 2014 it was therefore one of the objectives to instill pride and appreciation amongst the public by presenting the theme of *Democracy, accountability and transparency*.

South Africa is officially regarded as a parliamentary democracy, in which all citizens of voting age have the right to elect political representatives to parliament to act on their behalf. As regards the Archives Service, the public has the right to access primary archival records and engage in academic or genealogical research. These records are held in safekeeping to protect our rights and heritage. People have the right to know their past and the complex changes and processes that occurred during the decades that made the path towards democracy possible. By opening the doors of the archives, people have been afforded the opportunity to discover the truth and delve into family matters by consulting records.

The Western Cape Archives and Records Service (WCARS) in Roeland Street is in possession of remarkable primary sources concerning parliament and its development. Fortunately for the archivist, these records have remained mostly intact, and can be used



*Construction work on Houses of Parliament in Cape Town*

to present a trustworthy description of the historical evolution of parliament.

On 30 June 1854, 160 years ago, Cape Town became the seat of parliament. It is therefore significant to take cognisance of its intricate origins. Although there had been representative governments during the Dutch East India Company rule, such as the *Landdrost* and *Heemraden*, or Town Councils, there was no single place for collective political debate or legislation in existence. After the Second British Occupation of the Cape in 1806, a period of almost 40 years elapsed before a fully-fledged parliamentary institution evolved. By mid-1850 the Cape was a rapidly developing colony under the rule of the British Empire. It was considered of strategically vital importance to maintain the shipping routes and trade between Great Britain and her colonial possessions in the East. According to Senator Richard Murray, the Cape also gradually became the 'seat of wealth and intelligence' of the colony<sup>1</sup>.

The underlying reasons for prompting ideas for the formation of a parliament were driven by internal and external causes. The demographic composition of the Cape, comprising European settlers, indigenous people and slaves, was a source of confrontation. The rivalry between the English minority and Dutch majority which was as a result of anglicising policies, the abolition of slavery in 1833 and the resentment towards the Great Trek of 1838 into the interior, created strained relations. Apart from the economic progress, there was also an inclination towards greater freedom of expression and self-representation on the political landscape. One of the Settler leaders, Thomas Pringle, and the newspaper proprietor, John Fairbairn, established newspapers and thereby stimulated political consciousness<sup>2</sup>. Although there had been a small council, it proved unsuccessful and unable to resolve the grievances of ordinary

citizens. In 1849 the idea was mooted of transforming the Cape into a convict station. Anger erupted into violent protest. The Anti-Convict Association was formed and with the crisis becoming unbearable, the governor was forced to abandon this idea.

Externally, the intensifying wars, especially the War of the Axe of 1846 on the Eastern Frontier, became ever

People have the right to know their past and the complex changes and processes that occurred during the decades that made the path towards democracy possible. By opening the doors of the archives people have the opportunity to discover the truth and delve into family matters by consulting records



*Houses of Parliament, Cape Town*

more costly and burdensome for British authorities. The war and internal discontent were significant factors for pressurising the government to establish a parliament where problems could be resolved. In 1853 a Constitutional Ordinance was granted that paved the way for the creation of a parliament<sup>3</sup>. The parliamentary system of the Legislative Council (or Upper House) and the House of Assembly (or Lower House) was to be located in the Old Cape House (or Tuinhuis) in the Company Gardens and the Supreme Court Buildings respectively<sup>4</sup>. It was to resemble Westminster in London and act as a showpiece of British colonisation, pomp and ceremony. Correspondence records from Lieutenant Governor Charles Darling in Government House described the first opening ceremony of the first session of parliament in remarkable detail: '... that public functionaries of every Department and degree were invited to be present and each member of the Legislature received a certain number of tickets of admission for distribution amongst his family and

friends. Including the members of the Legislative Council there were at least 600 persons present on the occasion. The proceedings were regarded by the numerous spectators literally with breathtaking interest - the scene was undoubtedly one of a very striking and unusual character and I may confidently assure Your Grace that nothing was wanting to present an example of solemnity and decorum for future similar proceedings'<sup>5</sup>. After the Castle's cannons signalled the formal arrival of the Lieutenant Governor at noon, and he had ascended the throne before renowned members of the two Houses, the army and navy, the first parliamentary session was heralded in.

Parliament undoubtedly had a colonialist appearance and were reputed by some politicians, declaring it the most orderly in the entire British Empire. Preparation for the construction of a modern parliament building began in earnest, though it would only be completed at tremendous cost and expense in 1886. Statistical records on the planning, specifications and expenses



for the proposed building are astonishing. The decision-making of the architectural styles between Gothic and Classic also comes to the fore in the records. Eventually the Gothic style which was prevalent in the foreign and war offices in London, Manchester and other parts of the British Empire, was recommended due to its universal appeal. It was accepted for the Cape on the grounds of its 'adaptability to any climate, situation or material, and combined with economy has the great advantage over the "classical style" of architecture'<sup>6</sup>. The architect, Charles Freeman, who was commissioned by the Public Works Department to draw up the plans, suggested a domed edifice with pavilions on the roof of the building. As a result of miscalculation of the building's foundations the idea of

adding the enormous dome was rejected. The plans were adjusted by Henry Greaves and approved. Other detailed information such as the internal designs and alterations, and even the tracings of the iron railings, shed light on the scale and enormity of constructing the most prestigious building in Cape Town<sup>7</sup>.

Underneath the glamorous building structure with its golden lanterns and elegant Gallery Hall, a basement floor was also to be constructed. Unknown to most citizens is that the basement was used for the storing of records. Despite scant knowledge of the almost forgotten safekeeping of these valuable governmental records underneath the parliament building, the close connection between the Archives and Parliament remains an undeniable fact. For all practical purposes the close proximity of the stack rooms with messengers conveying the records, proved to be highly beneficial for parliamentarians wishing to prepare their speeches or conducting referencing work. Foldout-maps from the map collection of the WCARS clearly illustrates the floor plan of the basement, shelving space and measurements, and the supply of electric light from an engine room, in the most minute detail.

With regard to early recordkeeping, there was urgency on the part of the first Keeper of the Colonial Archives, HCV Leibbrandt, to request the government to allow for the provision of proper storage facilities. In an official report of 1881 he mentioned that 'it is my objective to make the record office [at the Supreme Court] a credit to the colony', but also disconcertingly stated that 'every day's delay adds to the danger of losing more valuable documents which already is a very serious fact and must become even more so, if the matter be left in its present condition'<sup>8</sup>. After the new parliament buildings were opened, he succeeded in obtaining the basement for recordkeeping purposes in 1886. Notwithstanding the newly attained building, the lack of storage space and improper conditions remained a problem. Structural problems such as leaking water pipes, insufficient lighting (lanterns were used between the dark shelves) and dampness resulting in the danger of mildew on documents, persisted. The increasing demand for more accommodation for records was a cause of concern for Leibbrandt and his successor, Dr Colin Graham Botha, who determinedly advocated the need for better facilities.

After the unification of South Africa in 1910, the basement became known as the Cape Archives Office and contained approximately 25,000 manuscript volumes of official documents. Botha was determined to improve the overall conditions of the archives. He tirelessly compiled inventories for manuscripts,



*Interior of the office of the clerk  
Houses of Parliament*



*Government Avenue*



*Reading Room. Houses of Parliament*

alphabetical indexes and card catalogues to enhance the functionality of the Archives Service and made the government attentive to the necessity of providing support for archives. As an archivist familiar with international recordkeeping methods, he dispatched a memorandum on the guidelines for an ideal archives repository. Botha mentioned in particular that the 'security of the archives lies in the building in which they are housed'<sup>9</sup>. Additional factors such as immunity from fire and damp, plenty of light and air, adaptability to enlargement and the methods of storing, using and controlling the archives were also of critical importance.

The constant plea to a seemingly reluctant government continued throughout the 1920s. However, in 1929 a faulty water drainpipe burst, which caused a large number of documents to be damaged. It was reported that 'many pages written in ink have become discoloured'<sup>10</sup>. Immediate restoration commenced to prevent their disintegration and mildew forming on the damp pages. Coupled with a fire alarm warning in a nearby office, these incidents brought the matter of better, more secure storage facilities under government attention. It was finally decided to purchase the University Building (the present-day Centre of the Book) in Queen Victoria Street in 1934. The imposing building, known as the Cape Archives Depot (later known as the Cape Town Archives Repository), would be in use until 1989 when, again due to lack of accommodation, the archives needed to be transferred. The premises of the former Roeland Street Prison were selected for the construction of a purpose-built ultramodern archives repository in which the records are presently stored.

The path towards thorough recordkeeping practices

and accommodation had been a challenge. Great efforts were nevertheless made to bring about a professional archives service in the Western Cape. As we celebrate National Archives Week with the customary tours through the stack rooms and workshops in bookbinding and genealogy, it is important to reflect on the historic link between the Archives and the parliamentary institution. As archivists we accept the responsibility for not merely managing and protecting records, but also of illustrating the past and, in this case, the history of our parliament as a fundamental instrument of our democratic government.

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# Through salt and spray . . . it's books with a view!

## So much history in Table Mountain's shadow

by Dante Scriba

Although it was not the best day for driving, we nevertheless decided that it will be a nice drive out from the Northern suburbs. A Northeaster was blowing, promising rain, and my thoughts were at nearby Newlands where the Proteas were under the cosh from the touring Australians. As such then, the scenery is a welcome distraction.

So much history in Table Mountain's shadow . . . here where mankind has dwelled for thousands of years, according to historians, archaeologists and the like. Did the mountain look much different when early humanoids, like those who inhabit Marie Heese's **Vuurklip** (Human & Rousseau, 2013) looked up at the towering cliffs? Probably not.

The building we are visiting has not changed much since it was built during the early 1930s, but then again, in this awesome setting a mere 84 years is like the blink of an eye or the flick of a page.

As we turn into Main Road and start looking out for Kalk Bay Books, clouds are drifting over, but there is the perpetual holiday spirit I always experience when coming round the mountain, so to speak. One can believe that this atmosphere can get stale, should one live here permanently. This is one of the first questions I ask the current owner, Audrey Harvey, as she welcomes us into the shop. 'Yes', she replies, 'it is rather a brilliant view.' She seems not to have grown tired of it, but she adds: 'There is a price to pay, though, the salty air makes the pages curl.' At least paper can't corrode, I think, remembering the damage to my car when I was teaching at Point High in Mossel Bay. Indeed, there is always a price to pay for any privilege, and this must be nature's way of making us appreciate it.

Acting as photographer, my partner Maggie browses the shelves before I ask Audrey's permission to take a few pictures. A steady flow of customers meanders

about the island-like stands with books between counter and walled shelves like a pedantic mountain stream, and Audrey has to tend to them intermittently. Maggie snaps a couple of pictures in the shop - of me talking to Audrey, out the door, the view outside. The customers demand attention, we retreat again and I think that, while the movement of the customers may look like a mountain stream, I resemble the ebb and flow of the tide: moving in, trying to get a word in, and drawing back again.

And so it goes on until we decide to rather step out to the restaurant at the back of the shop and have breakfast - it is only ten o'clock in the morning. I buy a booklet titled **Kalk Bay: an historical walk** and give the printouts of what I could find on the Internet to Audrey to check what is still relevant and what has to be updated. According to Audrey quite a lot is outdated.

The ambience of the restaurant is all we expected it to be - although it is not part of the bookshop and deli any more, it all seems to consist of one structural complex. People strolling around; leisure is the universal law of the day and place. An idyllic idleness encompasses this small enclave which sits tight under the mountain like a little toe sticking from a colossal rough-hewed sandal.

We order our meal and I scan the booklet. On page 18 it says: 'Die Klipkantientjie [was] designed by renowned architect John Parker in 1913.'

Apparently this building was part of an extension to the Old Masonic Hotel; in fact the saloon and public bar consist of several rooms, and after the hotel was demolished in 1916, the remaining structures became known as 'The Annex' to the Kalk Bay Hotel, later renamed the Majestic Hotel. The external façade remained basically unchanged since 1913, and happily so, because it is a distinct and beautiful part of Kalk

Bay.

According to the bookshop's web page, Kalk Bay Books offers a hand-selected range of fiction and non-fiction books and it 'swears by books as the answer to the world's problems'. No argument from me – the repertoire seems to be well balanced, with a good spread of humour, travel books, genre novels and poetry, while for those who prefer curling up with a soul-enriching work of art there are a host of big names, like Nadine Gordimer, Salman Rushdie, JM Coetzee and Umberto Eco. In clear view from the counter is a small, but well-represented Afrikaans section (Marlene van Niekerk, Etienne van Heerden, André P Brink, Irma Joubert, et cetera), with translations of some of them (**30 nights in Amsterdam, Aagaat**, and more) on the flanking shelves.

Audrey tells me that the first book in the shop was **Agaat**, and I have to admit that impresses me. As does the neatness and sense of spaciousness of the shop – certainly a first for me: usually bookshops are cluttered and cramped for space, which is why I have always believed a bookshop to be the worst place ever to host a book launch. Yes, the backdrop of books, books, books does seem to be idyllic, but eish, the claustrophobia! However, nothing of that here – Kalk Bay Books is remarkably uncluttered. From the counter one can see and smell the sea, and it seems as if this spaciousness has permeated the shop as does the salt-laden air.

Audrey agrees that the pretty picture that is Kalk Bay has its drawbacks – at least it has one that almost ended the existence of the book shop: the constant drone of jackhammers and heavy vehicles had already led to the demise of some businesses around there. This cacophonous commotion has been going on for about five years – roadworks, so necessary, but also extremely disrupting to the flow of visitors. Audrey

says many of her clientele hails from Cape Town and environs, as well as tourists from abroad. All bookshop owners admit to lean heavily on regulars, but no one can survive on this steady and much-appreciated trickle alone. Kalk Bay Books is, of course, well situated – on a corner in the main road, and the restaurant also draws patrons, while the attractive interior, friendly service and excellent books offer a menu not to be sneezed at.

The web site of Kalk Bay Books states that the founding owner of the shop, Ann McDonald, better known as a former editor of *FairLady* magazine, 'made her dream of opening a bookshop a reality in November 2006'. The ceiling-high wooden shelves and interior were designed by Ray Kilian, a local designer. The web site also mentions that, when Audrey Harvey bought the shop from Ann, she resolved to keep up the strong







*Kalk Bay Books*

foundation which was laid; to ensure that the range and quality of the books stocked at Kalk Bay Books would not change.

The web site goes on to describe this shop as the

the repertoire seems to be well balanced, with a good spread of humour, travel books, genre novels and poetry, while for those who prefer curling up with a soul-enriching work of art there are a host of big names

bookshop with the best view in the world. Perhaps a bit of an exaggeration – how would one know for sure? Still, the locals are blessed and one can only hope that they appreciate this extraordinary milieu where they can recline on a leather sofa to consider the books on offer. This is the type of ambience – the web site describes the interior as ‘an old-fashioned home-library experience’ – coupled with specialised

service that bookshops like this can provide. The expertise and enthusiasm of the shop assistants may be just a tad better than one would find at franchise-shops where I at times have been astonished at the indifference and ignorance of attendants. I mean, how can anyone working in Cape Town not know who Dan Sleigh is? But, no names, no pack drill. This may have been an exception, but one can be assured that the staff members of independent bookshops are generally bibliophiles themselves. At Kalk Bay Books every book on the shelves comes with a recommendation – being avid readers, Audrey and her colleagues understand what their customers require.

I present Audrey with a copy of **CL** (to show her the articles about bookshops already published) and she is suitably impressed – not with my articles, but with the overall quality of the magazine. ‘Where can I get new issues?’ she wants to know. I smirk: ‘Ask the editor. She lives only a couple of blocks away.’

On the way back we have to negotiate our way through clusters of cyclists, their scant and gaudy attire in stark contrast with the Harley gang rumbling up to the bookshop wrapped in dark, heavy leathers. We watch them disappearing into the shop and Maggie quips: ‘Bikers are not what they used to be, eh?’ I shake my head in mock regret. ‘Indeed, civilisation creeps up to us all – no biker can live on diesel and Jack (Daniels) alone.’

*www.kalkbaybooks.co.za*, email address: *books@kalkbaybooks.co.za*; street address: 124 Main Road (about 30 minutes from the centre of Cape Town).



# As 'n boek sy **stofjas aantrek** om te **werk**

**Wat die oog eerste sien . . . 'n gesprek oor boekomslae** deur Dr Francois Verster

**V**anjaar was al die 15de Stellenbosch Woordfees en steeds styg bywoningsgetalle, terwyl dit skynbaar nie so goed gaan by talle van ons ander groot feeste nie. Nogtans was ek verbaas om te hoor hoeveel méér feesgangers by vanjaar se Woordfees was – daar was ook nogal minder drentelaars in die strate as voorheen, wat seker daarop dui dat feesgangers meer ingelig en doelgerig optree. Mense weet meer wat om te verwag en wat hulle wil hê. In retrospek het ek die gevoel gehad dat vergaderplekke voller was – en dis ook wat in koerantverslae gerapporteer is.

Maar juis omdat 'n mens weet die vroeë feesganger vul die sitplek, het ek vroeg reeds my kaartjies via *Computicket* gekoop en, gewapen met kaartjies, kamera en skryfblok my deel gaan doen om aan die lesers wat nie daar kon wees nie, verslag te doen.

Van die ses items wat ek bygewoon het was daar een wat werklik uitgestaan het: *Wat die oog eerste sien*, die gesprek oor boekomslae wat op 10 Maart in die NB Boeketent deur Madri Victor gefasiliteer is. By haar was drie persone wat hulle insig op die gebied met die gretige gehoor wou deel: Mike Cruywagen, 'n omslagontwerper, Stefan Meyer, die bestuurder van Exclusive Books op Stellenbosch en Theo Kemp, oud-uitgewer, feesfasiliteerder, museumkurator en skrywer (van **Skool**, sy enigste sover), het inderdaad verskillende aspekte van omslagontwerp belig.

Eerstens, wat Mike gesê het, want dis hy wat omslae ontwerp: hy deel alles in drie dele, wat nooit ewe veel mag wees nie, naamlik, titel, skrywersnaam en visuele elemente – die genre speel 'n rol, soos gedigte het meer abstrakte visuele effekte, en misdaadboeke is meer donker, sê hy. Subtiel is beter as 'in your face'.

Kleur speel 'n rol en kontras is belangrik. Rooi is gewild saam met grys by Afrikaanse boeke, of rooibruin. Mike sê die skrywers kry soms kans om 'n



*Feestelik getooi was Erfurthuis oorkant die straat van die Boeketent, die krukas van die lettere se ander punt tydens die 2014 Woordfees*





voorstel te maak, maar dan gaan hulle ander spul aan, hy maak so vyf weergawes en die bemarkingspan kies een. Jy maak slegs die lettertipe van die skrywersnaam groter as die boektitel wanneer die skrywer beroemd is, anders ervaar die leser dit as pretensieus.

Winkelbestuurder Stefan sê dat hulle graag nuwe skrywers in die mark wil help, want boekwinkels kan ook nie aanhou om dieselfde skrywers se werke uit te stal nie. Daarom word nuwe boeke nader aan die ingang uitgepak. Sommige boeke word meer prominent vertoon, maar dié met die opmerklikste buiteblaaie sal tóg meer aandag geniet.

Theo het meer oor sy eie boek gepraat as voorbeeld – die omslae wat nié gekies is nie is gewys, ensovoorts. Almal het saamgestem dat uitgewers die hekwagters vir goeie kwaliteit is – wagters wat al meer agter die hek ingeskuif word sedert die sosiale media (veral seker Facebook) elke Jan en San se selfbehepte strooi oor die kuberruim verstrooi.

Eenkant het etlike voorbeelde van konsepboekomslae op 'n groot skerm verskyn sodat die gehoor die soms baie subtiele verskille kan waarneem. Hoekom is omslae dan so belangrik, wou Madri weet. Mike antwoord, 'Want wat jou oog sien, wil jy koop', en Theo reken dat 'omslae belangriker word omdat daar al hoe meer titels opdaag'. Veral vir debuutskrywers moet die omslag sê waaroor die boek gaan, terwyl lesers meestal weet wat om van gevestigde skrywers te verwag.

Soms, soos in die geval van Deon Meyer, word opeenvolgende boeke met soortgelyke omslagontwerpe uitgegee om 'n gevoel van eenheid of kontinuïteit te skep – 'n mens vermoed dit wakker die lesers se versamelaarsinstinkte verder aan. Reekse het ook dikwels soortgelyke omslagontwerpe, sodat die leser die assosiasie makliker kan maak.

So, nuwe skrywers moet nog hulle oevres skep en kort 'n hupstootjie, maar gesoute skrywers moet momentum behou. Om suksesvol te wees, beteken om aan te hou om te presteer – en die wedywing neem nie af nie.

Maar wat behels die proses van boekomslagontwerp? Mike sê uitgewers stuur beskrywings van die inhoud – soos, byvoorbeeld, wat op die flaptteks verskyn. Die ontwerper besluit hoe groot die titel en outeursnaam moet wees, eers op 'n swart-en-wit agtergrond, hoewel tipografie nie die belangrikste is nie. Dog, dit moet werk; dit moet sterk en duidelik oorkom. Die laaste derde van die ontwerp is die visuele elemente: prente of enige ander grafika – ook abstrak (en evokatief), soos meestal by poësiebundels verkies word. Soms koop hy foto's en *photoshop* hulle dan na smaak en behoefte.

Dan ontwerp hy drie tot sewe weergawes waaruit die uitgewers kan kies. Ná die eerste voorlegging, waaraan gewoonlik 'n halfdosyn bemarking- en verkoopsmense deelneem, keer hy terug na die tekenbord. Mode speel ook 'n rol. So is rooi, bruin en grys tans plaaslik gewild. Terselfdertyd is kommersiële (genre-) skrywers se voorblaaie minder subtiel as dié van literêre skrywers. Ook word sekere kleure (soos geel) min gebruik. **Die swerfjare van Poppie Nongena** (Elsa Joubert, 1978) was 'n uitsondering op dié reël. Speurverhale, wat tans baie gewild is in Suid-Afrika, se omslae is gewoonlik donkerder as die gemiddelde.

Mike reken dat die ontwerper moet poog om grense te verskuif – die gebruik van onkonvensionele ontwerp vir spesifieke genres kan bydra tot die werwing van lesers wat nie gewoonlik dié tipe boek lees nie.

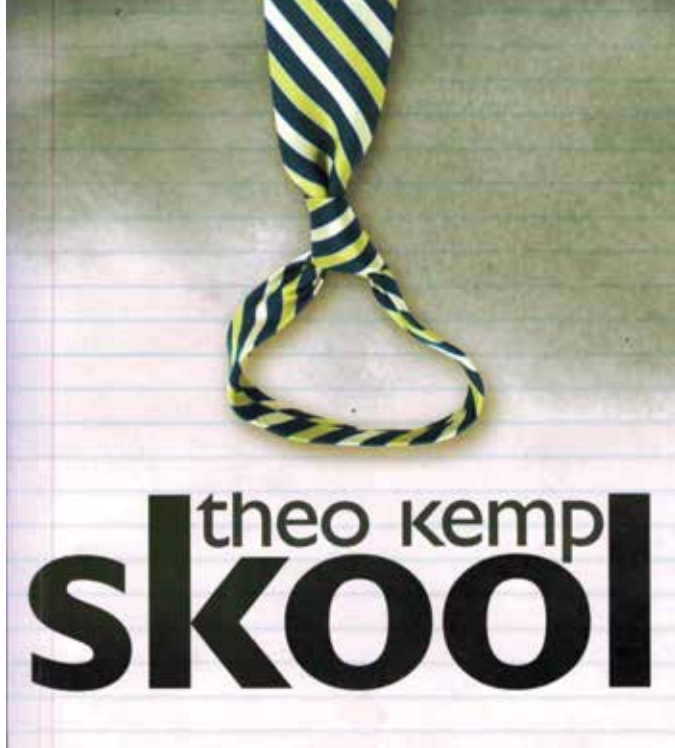
En, vra Madri, het die skrywer enige insae in die omslagontwerp? Theo sê hy het van 'n ander variant van sy boek **Skool** se omslag gehou – 'n leë stoel,

terwyl 'n prent van 'n skoolklas wat soos 'n galgtou lyk, uiteindelik gekies is. Maar hy besef dat die galg konseptueel werk, want daar moet 'n parallel tussen boekomslag en inhoud wees: die omslag dra die boek se boodskap eerste oor. Dit, kortliks, is die doel van die omslag, benewens om versiering te kan wees.

die ontwerper moet poog om grense te verskuif – die gebruik van onkonvensionele ontwerp vir spesifieke genres kan bydra tot die werwing van lesers wat nie gewoonlik dié tipe boek lees nie

Oorlede Hennie Aucamp was gesteld daarop dat sy boeke mooi omslae moet hê en hy het dikwels voorstelle na die uitgewers gestuur, selfs nog voor die manuskrip by hulle aangekom het – aldus die uitgewer Martjie Bosman. Sy het al gesê sy vermoed dat die omslae as inspirasie gedien het vir Aucamp se werk.

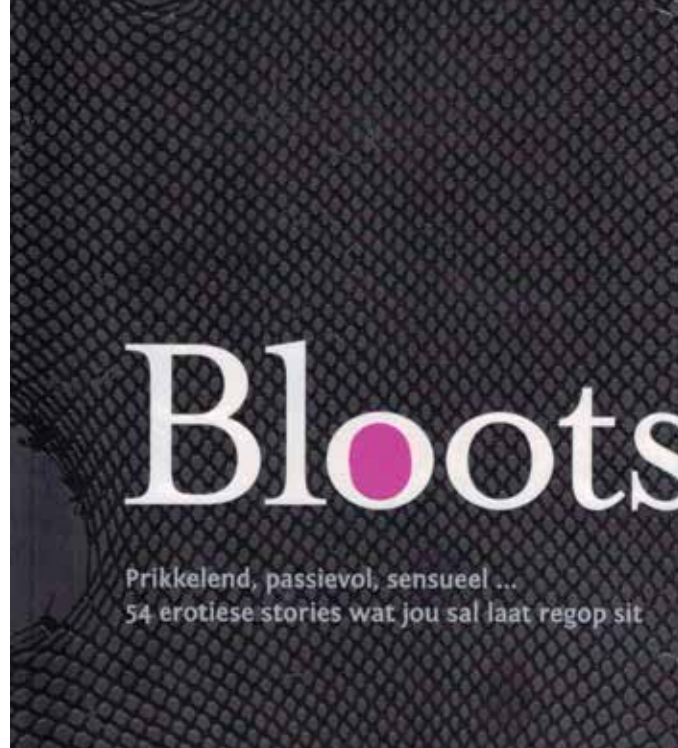
Indien wel, het die skrywer dan die omslag gekies om 'n boodskap te versprei, of het hy 'n teks geskryf om 'n visuele beeld te verduidelik? Aucamp is helaas oorlede en ons sal nooit weet nie, maar dis nie ongewoon dat skrywers teks in hulle skilderye inkorporeer om



dié soos 'n strokiesteks te laat saampraat nie, of om, byvoorbeeld, 'n gedig oor 'n skildery te skryf, wat saam uitgestal word. Hoe dit ook al sy, volgens Bosman was dit ononderhandelbaar vir Aucamp: 'sy boeke moes mooi wees.'

Mike sê dat skrywers soms reg aan die begin van die ontwerpproses insette lewer. Hy wat gesoute ontwerper is, kan gou sien of sulke voorstelle sal werk – meestal nie, want skrywers het immers nie die ondervinding nie, of is nie op hoogte van tendense in die bedryf nie. En in die skemerdonker van die groot Boeketent knik ek instemmend – min mense is so visueel geletterd as wat hulle glo hulle is. 'n Mens kan nie sommer net 'n prent gebruik omdat jy daarvan hou nie; soos Theo sê: dit moet iets te make hê met die boek se inhoud. Wat leke ook nie besef nie, is dat die titel, byvoorbeeld, nie teen sekere agtergronde werk nie, of bloot onsigbaar raak. Diegene wat self publiseer en wel 'n aanleg vir ontwerp mag hê, kan duisende keuses van die Internet aftrek. Skrywers kan ook met 'n vryskut-ontwerper saamwerk om 'n ontwerp saam te stel en aan die uitgewer voorlê – ek het dit so gedoen vir my roman **\*Deur na Nebula Nege** en ek dink dit werk heel goed. Sommige omslae werk natuurlik ook beter as 'n afbeelding op die Internet as wat dit dalk op 'n boekrak sal vertoon, so ontwerpers moet deesdae ook hierop bedag wees. As 'n boek dus ook as e-boek beskikbaar is, mag die e-boekomslag anders lyk as die papieruitgawe.

In *Rapport Weekliks* (30 Maart 2014) lees ek dat die produksie-ontwerper (van films), Johnny Breedt, verby 'n boekwinkel gestap het waar Chris Karsten se roman **Abel se ontwaking** naby die deur uitgestal was. Hy sê die omslag en titel het sy oog gevang en hy het dadelik die boek gekoop. Hy het NB-Uitgewers genader om Karsten se kontakbesonderhede in Kanada te bekom



en het toe die filmregte vir die boek gekoop. Dit is 'n sprekende voorbeeld van hoe sterk die impak van 'n goeie omslag kan wees.

In die geval van kinderboeke speel die menings van ouers ook 'n rol. Mike sê hy het al klagtes ontvang oor, byvoorbeeld, die verskyning van 'n draak op die voorblad. Dit herinner my aan die pragtige omslag van **Die nuwe kinderverseboek** (2009). Dit sou jammer wees as daardie skatlike drakie nie daarop was nie! Nietemin, of drake, dinosourusse of ballerinas jou voorkeur is al dan nie, die uiteindelijke trefreël is visuele trefkrag.

Die Woordfees van 2014 het ook verder verskeie treffers opgelewer, te veel om hier te bespreek. Dalk nog hieroor by 'n ander geleentheid. Oor die Woordfees raak 'n mens nooit uitgepraat nie.

*\*Titel nie in voorraad*

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*Dr Francois Verster is 'n argivaris en 'n skrywer.*





# The domestic cat man's beloved feline companion

**People have been fascinated by cats ever since they were first domesticated in Ancient Egypt** by Erich Buchhaus

*'The domestic cat (Felis catus or Felis silvestris catus) is a small, usually furry, domesticated, and carnivorous mammal. It is often called the housecat when kept as an indoor pet, or simply the cat when there is no need to distinguish it from other felids and felines. Cats are often valued by humans for companionship and their ability to hunt vermin and household pests. Cats are similar in anatomy to the other felids, with strong, flexible bodies, quick reflexes, sharp retractable claws, and teeth adapted to killing small prey. Cat senses fit a crepuscular and predatory ecological niche. Cats can hear sounds too faint or too high in frequency for human ears, such as those made by mice and other small animals. They can see in near darkness. Like most other mammals, cats have poorer colour vision and a better sense of smell than humans. Despite being solitary hunters, cats are a social species, and cat communication includes the use of a variety of vocalisations (mewing, purring, trilling, hissing, growling and grunting) as well as cat pheromones, and types of cat-specific body language.'* (wikipedia.org)

People have been fascinated by cats ever since they were first domesticated in Ancient Egypt and first found living in a harmonious relationship with man from as early as 3000 BCE. A genetic study in 2007 concluded that domestic cats are descended from African wildcats (*Felis silvestris lybica*). It is believed that African Wild Cats first started approaching Egyptian grain stores along the banks of the Nile, attracted by the resident mice and rats. By culling the rodents, cats endeared themselves to people. When cats and people became used to each other's presence and recognised the mutual benefits of their co-existence, the next step towards proper domestication was not too difficult to make. Cats are remarkably good at taking advantage of changed living conditions and soon extended their

activities from the neighbourhood of the granaries and silos closer to houses. There, their ability to kill rats, mice and even snakes stood them in good stead. Cats were also able to offer new and different characteristics from the traditional pets such as dogs, baboons and monkeys, and gradually won over the hearts of the Egyptians to be accepted in their houses. For cats, the household represented an additional source of food and comfort and, in return, they surrendered some degree of their genetic make-up, mainly by modifying their diet and by selective breeding. In this way the cat eventually became a domesticated animal. In the ancient village of Deir el-Medina, near Luxor, tombs dating from 1600 BCE contain pictures of domestic scenes that include cats sitting beneath their owners' chairs. However, bones of cats do turn up in

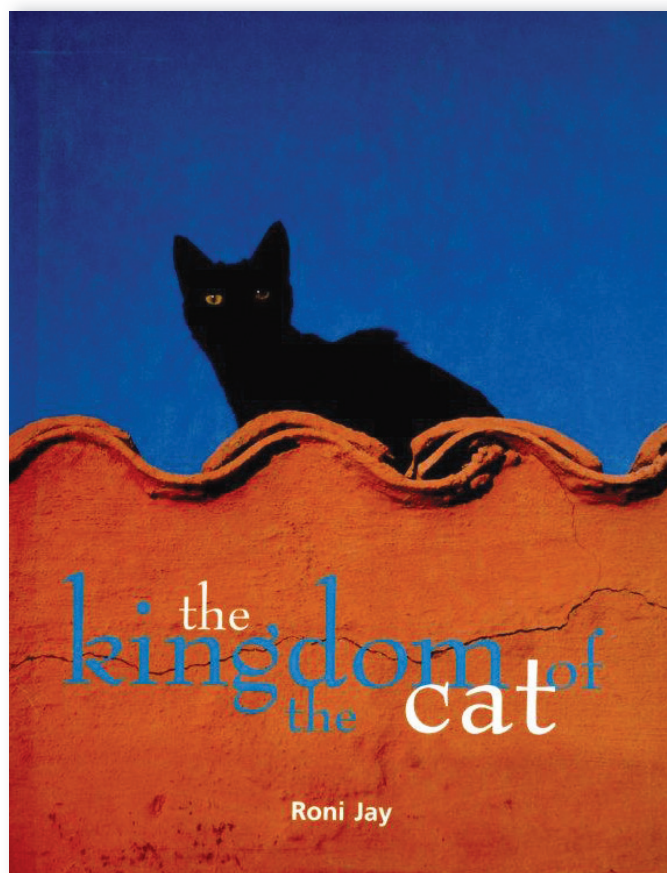
In modern society pet animals are one of the many factors that make up what we call quality of life. During the past twenty years numerous studies have confirmed the psychological and medical benefits of pet ownership

archaeological digs at sites much older than this, but it is usually impossible to tell whether they belong to a pet or to a wildcat that had been killed for its pelt or for food. The usefulness of the cat for humans was of a different type than that of other domesticated animals, and their co-existence was governed by different rules. Some domesticated animals represented a convenient source of food, skin, or wool which could be exploited. Others such as dogs, monkeys and baboons were kept for companionship and amusement. These animals, however, had been forced into a one-sided relationship and had no liberty to opt out. The qualities for which the cat was initially appreciated required it to have considerable freedom to come and go as it pleased and to be, to some extent, a free agent. The cat is basically a farmer's animal, while the dog, much more appreciated for its obedience, is the animal of the wandering hunter. This helps to understand why the domesticated cat appeared in Egypt relatively late. The dog had been in contact with man for several thousand years before the cat, and certainly well before the appearance of permanent farming settlements.

By the time the domestic cat had made its first appearance in Ancient Egyptian artwork, it had already become an important religious object. Ancient Egyptian law protected the animal and kept sacred cats in their temples. The cat was worshipped in Egypt for more than two thousand years. At first it was considered sacred only to the goddess Isis, but later became sacred to the great cat goddess Bastet. In the temple of Bastet many thousands of cats were mummified and laid in tombs. This is nicely covered in Jaromir Malek's 2006 title **The cat in ancient Egypt**.

Once cats were allowed out of Egypt, they were spread rapidly through the world by seafaring Phoenicians and later by the Romans to various parts

of the world. In Europe they remained greatly valued until the Middle Ages, when they came to be associated with witchcraft and sorcery. In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII denounced the cat and all who housed it, resulting in the death of many people (mostly women) and cats. It would only be as the result of the Black Plague that cats, needed to kill the plague-carrying rodents, would be left in relative peace.



Cats were, however, luckier in the East than in the West, as they were seen as a symbol of fertility, just as they had been in Egypt. They were never demonised as they were by Christians and were revered in many places, not only in Buddhist temples. It appears that Buddhist monks adopted cats to guard their temples very soon after the cat's introduction to the East, and it is reported that they took cats to Japan in the sixth century CE. In general cats have also fared well in Egypt up to the modern period as both Copts and Muslims treat them kindly. Islamic religion too displays considerable tolerance towards them and it is said that the Prophet Muhammad cut off a sleeve of his coat rather than disturb a cat which had fallen asleep on it. Now cats are the most popular pets in the world, and are found in almost every place where humans live. It would seem that the cat is destined to become not just the most familiar domestic animal for many town-dwellers, but also one of the few animals of any kind with which they will have close contact. This is mainly due to increasing urbanisation that has made the cat the preferred pet in many countries.

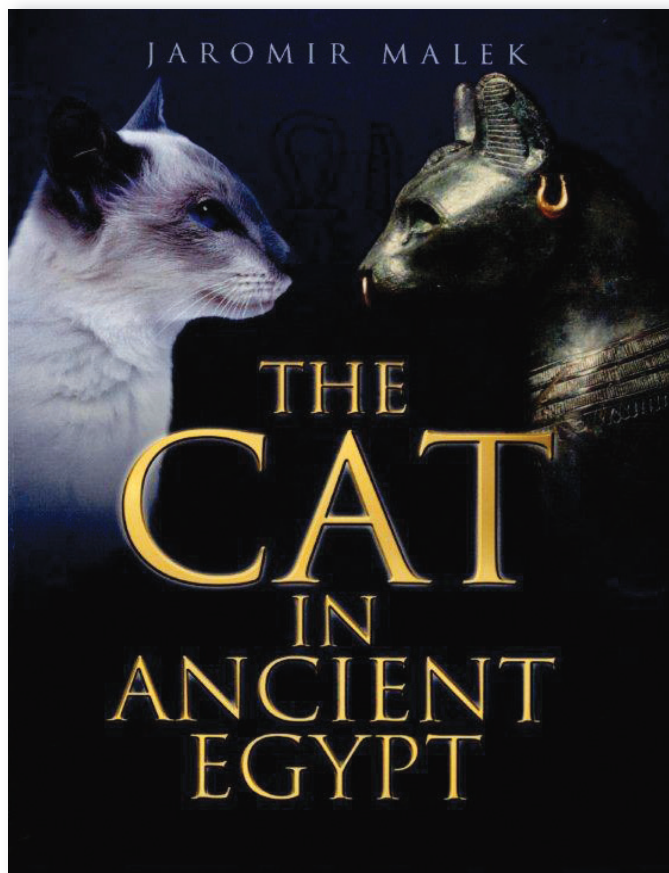
In modern society pet animals are one of the many factors that make up what we call quality of life. During the past twenty years numerous studies have confirmed the psychological and medical benefits of pet ownership. Companionship is regarded by most cat owners as the most important feature of cat

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ownership. It has been proved that a cat will help you relax and that a person in a state of tension is sure to reveal a slowing of the heart rate and a drop in blood pressure when in contact with their pet. Owning a cat has been proved an important stress-management practice for people with high stress levels in their work. They also provide owners with psychological protection to overcome irrational fears such as the fear of the dark or anxiety at being left alone. Cats are also of therapeutic value to owners with regard to lowering of blood pressure, being emotionally stronger, less aggressive and more supportive of others. There are many benefits for elderly people who often fail to feed themselves properly. It would seem that feeding a cat stimulates the elderly to eat too. The presence of a cat in a family household allows children to overcome anxiety and develop better social skills.

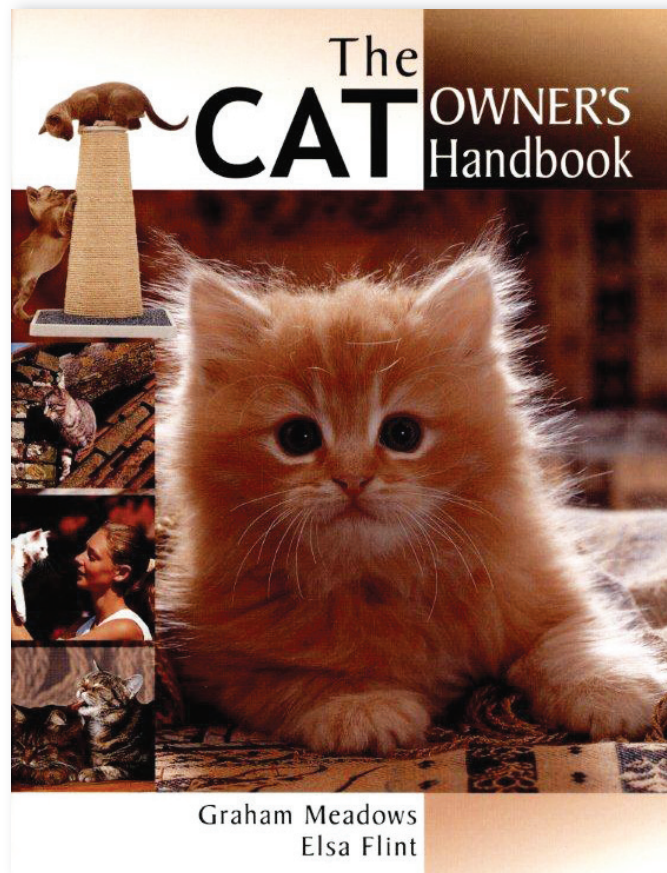
Various books have appeared in recent years that highlight the special gifts gained from cats. Expanded from an essay in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, **Making the rounds with Oscar** by David Dosa, is a beautifully written, heart-warming memoir that centres on Oscar, a seemingly ordinary house cat with the ability to sense when patients at a New England nursing home are within hours of dying. Most of the patients under geriatrician Dosa's care are in the final stages of Alzheimer's disease, and depictions of Oscar's interactions with them take us into the difficult world faced by their families, friends, and caregivers. The author discovers how, Oscar's mere presence reassures frightened or grieving family. Ultimately, the good doctor realises that it doesn't matter where Oscar's gift comes from: it's the comfort he brings that's important. In **Dewey: the small-town library cat who touched the world** by Vicki Myron we read about an abandoned kitten who transformed a small library, saved a classic American town, and eventually became famous around the world. This highly readable book offers not only a memoir of the cat but of the author, her changing community and the therapeutic value experienced by the community. **Homer's odyssey** by Gwen Cooper relates the story of a special-needs cat that has impaired eye-sight. This lovely human-feline memoir follows in the footsteps of Vicky Myron's **Dewey [...]** and will appeal to all pet lovers. It tells two stories, one about the energetic and engaging Homer, and one about the author's search for a satisfying career and partner. The book recounts a series of life lessons that Homer taught the people who lived with him. What is most touching is how his courageous spirit teaches Cooper and readers that there are no limits to love or ability. In **A street cat named Bob: how one man and**





**his cat found hope on the streets**, the author James Bowen relates a feel-good story that chronicles how he as a 33-year-old busker and one-time homeless heroin-addict turned his life around with the help of his cat. This is a story of healing, redemption, and, perhaps most important, the transformative powers of friendship. Finally in **Chicken soup for the soul: what I learned from the cat: 101 stories about life, love, and lessons** by Jack Canfield and others, cat lovers share their stories about life, love and lessons learnt from their furry companions.

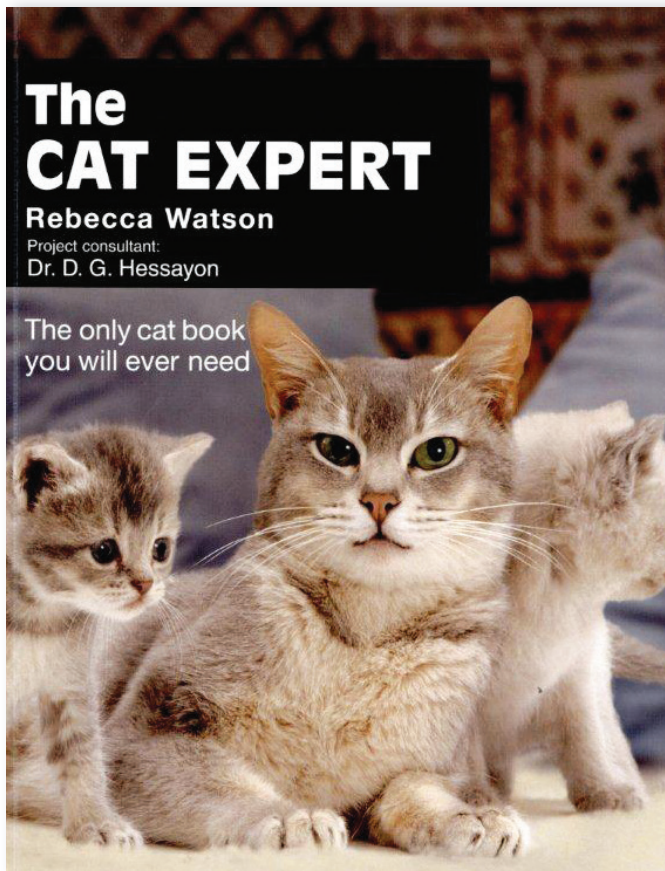
Caring for your cat requires more than providing food or a litter box. As aloof as they might seem at times, cats require our companionship. To do that, you need to spend time with your cat, focus on its needs and learn to understand it. A useful book on cat behaviour is **How to say it to your cat** by Janine Adams. Another book worth consulting is **Catspeak: how to communicate with cats by learning their secret language** where the author, animal behaviourist and trainer, Bash Dibra, explains how to understand feline body language, facial expressions, vocal signals and other instinctive behaviours. In **The cat whisperer: the secret of how to talk to your cat**, the author Claire



Bessant, a leading British veterinary journalist and cat expert, shares her advice and experience with cat owners as she describes how to bond with pet felines by entering their world through their senses. Another useful and rare book covering a subject seldom examined is **The stray cat handbook** by Tamara Kreuz, which serves as a guide for those people who find themselves in a position of caring for feral or stray cats, giving useful information. Here the reader is guided step-by-step through a process of humane management of feral cats from trapping and sterilising to setting up feeding stations and daily cat routines.

To keep fit and well, your cat needs regular health care. Some of it will be provided by you, and some by your local veterinary clinic. Some useful books covering this aspect have been bought such as **The cat owner's question and answer book** by Bradley Viner which answers 300 commonly asked questions about cat care in an accessible format. Another useful book is John Simon's **What your cat is trying to tell you** which provides a symptom-by-symptom guide to 150 of the most common health problems in cats for the pet owner. There is even a local title by Pamela Oberem called **Cats and dogs: a guide to animal diseases in**





**South Africa** that covers the diseases, parasites and poisonings which occur in these animals, with the emphasis on how to prevent these conditions. In **Natural nutrition for cats: the path to purr-fect health** the author Kymthy R Schultze exposes the pitfalls of the pet food industry and shares her extensive knowledge of proper nutrition so your cat can live a long, healthy, and happy life. This book is a must-read for all cat lovers! Another useful title is **Crazy about cats** by Diane Ward which provides recipes for a variety of cat treats and meals, and instructions for making cat beds, toys, a scratching post, and miscellaneous other feline-related items. The projects and recipes would appeal to cat lovers and this sort of material would not be easy to find elsewhere.

To conclude I wish to make use of a quote found in one of the sources consulted: 'Cats are resilient animals, and should continue to share the human environment for as far into the future as we can see. The more biologists find out about them, the more complex and mysterious they seem to become. For my part, trying to understand why they do the things they do has been, and will continue to be, and endless source of fascination.' (**The true nature of the cat** by John

Bradshaw, Boxtree, 1993, p.222.)

In the bibliography below I have also included a few fiction titles for juniors.

### Selected booklist

#### *General non-fiction*

- Bradshaw, John. **The true nature of the cat.**- Boxtree, 1993.
- Budiansky, Stephen. **The character of cats: the origins, intelligence, behaviour and stratagems of Felis silvestris catus.**- Phoenix, 2003.
- Holland, Barbara. **Secrets of cat lore.**- Harper, 2010.
- Jay, Roni. **The kingdom of the cat.**- Apple, c2000.
- Maggitti, Phil. **A cat of your own.**- Bok Bks., c1993.
- Malek, Jaromir. **The cat in ancient Egypt.**- British Museum, 2006.
- Meadows, Graham and Flint, Elsa. **The cat owner's handbook.**- New Holland, 2001.
- A passion for cats.**- David & Charles, 1987.
- Stephens, Gloria. **Legacy of the cat.**- Chronicle Bks., 1990.
- Thomas, Elizabeth Marshall. **The tribe of the tiger: cats and their culture.**- Orion, 1995.

#### *Care and health*

- Adams, Janine. **How to say it to your cat.**- Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Bessant, Claire. **The cat whisperer: the secret of how to talk to your cat.**- John Blake, 2004.
- Dibra, Bash. **Catspeak: how to communicate with cats by learning their secret language.**- New American Library, 2003.
- Hessayon, Rebecca. **The cat expert.**- Expert Bks., 2010.
- Johnson-Bennett, Pam. **Cat vs. cat: keeping peace when you have more than one cat.**- Penguin, 2004.
- Kreuz, Tamara. **The stray cat handbook.**- Howell, c1999.
- McHugh, Andrea. **How to have a happy cat.**- Hamlyn, 2007.
- Messonnier, Shawn. **The natural vet's guide to preventing and treating arthritis in dogs and cats.**- New World Library, 2011.
- Nestle, Marion. **Feed your pet right: the authoritative guide to feeding your dog and cat.**- Free P., 2010.
- Oberem, Pamela. **Cats and dogs: a guide to animal diseases in South Africa.**- Briza, 2008.
- Schultze, Kymthy R. **Natural nutrition for cats: the path to purr-fect health.**- Hay House, 2008.
- Simon, John M. **What your cat is trying to tell you.**- St. Martin's Griffin, 1998.
- Turner, Trevor. **Veterinary advice for cat owners: a complete home reference guide.**- The Pet Book Pub. Co., 2010.

Viner, Bradley. **The cat owner's question & answer book.**- Blandford, 1999.  
 Ward, Diane. **Crazy about cats.**- Struik, 2005.  
 Watson, Rebecca. **The cat expert.**- Expert Bks., 2010.  
 Wessels, Yolanda. **Katte: 'n handleiding vir verantwoordelike kateienaars in Suid-Afrika.**- Naledi, 2013.

#### *Popular readable non-fiction*

Bowen, James. **A street cat named Bob: how one man and his cat found hope on the streets.**- Hodder, 2012.  
 Chicken soup for the soul. **What I learned from the cat: 101 stories about life, love and lessons.**- Chicken Soup for the Soul, c.2009.  
 Cooper, Gwen. **Homer's odyssey.**- Bantam, 2010.  
 Dosa, David. **Making the rounds with Oscar.**- Headline Review, 2010.  
 Gethers, Peter. **A cat called Norton: the true story of an extraordinary cat and his imperfect human.**- Ebury, 2009.  
 Myron, Vicki. **Dewey: the small-town library cat who touched the world.**- Hodder, 2008.  
 Piercy, Madge. **Sleeping with cats: a memoir.**- Perennial, 2003.  
 Sharp, Crystal. **If the cat fits . . . : stories of a vet's wife.**- Penguin, 2001.  
 Wren, Christopher. **The cat who covered the world: the adventures of Henriette and her foreign correspondent.**- Orion, 2002.

#### *Adult fiction*

Duane, Diane. **The book of night with moon.**- New English Library, 1997.  
 Duane, Diane. **On Her Majesty's wizardly service.**- New English Library, 1998.  
 King, Gabriel. **The knot garden.**- Century, 2000.  
 King, Gabriel. **Nonesuch.**- Century, 2001.  
 King, Gabriel. **The wild road.**- Arrow, 1997.  
 Michie, David. **The Dalai Lama's cat.**- Hay House, 2013.  
 Sfar, Joann. **The rabbi's cat.**- Pantheon, 2005.  
 Williams, Tad. **Tailchaser's song.**- Century, 1991.

#### *Junior fiction*

Bentley, Sue. **A summer spell.**- Puffin, 2006.  
 Bruel, Nick. **Bad Kitty vs Uncle Murray.**- Puffin, 2011.  
 Burnford, Sheila. **The incredible journey.**- Hodder, 1995.  
 Daniels, Lucy. **Kittens in chaos.**- Hodder, 2013.  
 Fienberg, Anna. **Figaro and Rumba and the Crocodile Café.**- Allen, 2012.  
 Gallico, Paul. **Thomasina.**- HarperCollins, 2011.  
 Giff, Patricia. **Kidnap at the Catfish Café.**- Puffin, 2000.  
 Haig, Matt. **To be a cat.**- Corgi, 2013.

Haynes, Natalie. **The great escape.**- Simon, 2007.  
 Hunter, Erin. **Into the wild.**- Collins, 2003.  
 Jeffries, Sheila. **Solomon's tale.**- Avon, 2013.  
 McKain, Kelly. **The haunted house kittens.**- Stripes, 2012.  
 Pitcher, Caroline. **Cloud cat.**- Egmont, 2005.  
 Rix, Megan. **The great escape.**- Puffin, 2012.  
 Webb, Holly. **The kitten nobody wanted.**- Stripes, 2011.  
 Williams, Ursula. **Gobbolino the witch's cat.**- Kingfisher, 2005.

#### *Junior picture books*

Alborough, Jez. **Nat the cat's sunny smile.**- Red Fox, 2013.  
 Baxter, Nicola. **A book of five-minute kitten tales: a treasury of over 35 bedtime stories.**- Armadillo Bks., 2012.  
 Bentley, Peter. **The cat, the mouse and the runaway train.**- Hachette, 2013.  
 Camp, Lindsay. **Yig and Yogg, the happy cats.**- Walker Bks., 2013.  
 Corbett, Susannah. **One cool cat.**- Egmont, 2012.  
 Dodd, Lynley. **Slinky Malinki - early bird.**- Puffin, 2013.  
 Fernandes, Eugenie. **Kitten's spring.**- Kids Can P., 2012.  
 Gravett, Emily. **Matilda's cat.**- Macmillan, 2012.  
**Hello Kitty - flip-flap book.**- Ladybird, 2012.  
 Lindbergh, Reeve. **Homer the library cat.**- Walker Bks., 2012.  
 McLaughlin, Tom. **The diabolical Mr Tiddles.**- Simon, 2012.  
 Scotton, Rob. **Splat the cat storybook collection.**- Harper, 2013.  
 Scotton, Rob. **Secret agent Splat!**- HarperCollins Children's Bks., 2012.  
 Smallman, Steve. **If the wind changes.**- QED, 2011.  
 Trukhan, Ekaterina. **Me and my cat.**- Macmillan, 2012.  
 Vischer, Frans. **Fuddles.**- Simon, 2012.  
 Voake, Charlotte. **Ginger and the mystery visitor.**- Walker Bks., 2013.

*Note: All titles in stock. For more delightful reading on cats please refer to the article, Cats in Literature, that appeared in the September/October 2010 issue of the Cape Librarian, page 12*



# book reviews

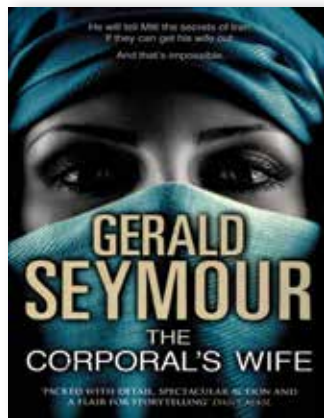
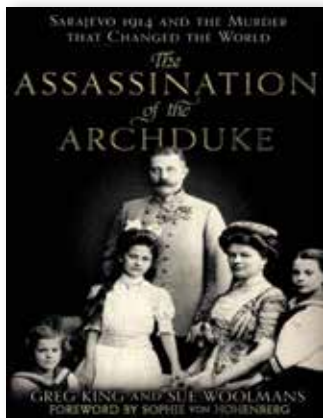
## ADULT NON-FICTION

### VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

**KING, Greg and WOOLMANS, Sue**

**The assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the murder that changed the world.**- Macmillan, 2013.

Readers familiar with Greg King through his excellent books on the Romanovs will be pleased to see him move into a new area of early 20th century history that is rarely explored. This is the 100th anniversary of the fatal shots that not only ended the life of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, but precipitated the First World War. The book fills in the details of what happened on that momentous day and puts human faces to the political and historical figures who were involved. Not many people are familiar with Franz Ferdinand, his family and his love story. In this extremely readable history book, authors Greg King and Sue Woolmans look at a love affair which was resisted and resented by many. They tell the story of the often misunderstood heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who wed his beloved Sophie against massive resistance, and give the human background to a political story. Their marriage was morganatic, which meant any children they had would be barred from the succession. The book is a thoroughly enjoyable read that, through diaries, official papers, press and first-person accounts ably gives the reader an insight into the life of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. King and Woolmans humanise the Archduke and his wife and in so doing bring a truly unique perspective to their woeful demise and the repercussions suffered by their descendants long after their deaths. Most historical accounts focus primarily on the assassination itself and its consequences, but this one gives equal weight to the personal tragedy, and thus becomes a gripping human drama. EB



**NASHAWATY, Chris**

**Crab monsters, teenage cavemen, and candy stripe nurses - Roger Corman: king of the B movie.**- Abrams, 2013.

This is a fascinating overview of filmmaker Roger Corman, a man ahead of his time, taking a look at his amazing career from the 1950s to the present, and covering a good number of his most famous classic films. Known as the King of the B movies, he produced mostly horror, science fiction, biker and girls-in-prison movies, usually made on a limited budget and in record time. Corman, known for his thriftiness and inventiveness, is often regarded as a living legend, and many of the personal interviews in the book reflect his talent and the influence he had over the people he worked with. He also served as a kind of unofficial film school, encouraging and promoting many people who are now Hollywood names such as Jack Nicholson, Bruce Dern, Martin Scorsese and others. Thoroughly illustrated with beautifully reproduced film posters, this is effectively an oral history of the Corman factory as told by the people involved. It is wonderfully written and researched, and provides a slice of movie history that movie boffins will find both entertaining and informative. This is available on loan from Central Collection (SN). EB

**SEYMOUR-JONES, Carole**

**She landed by moonlight.**- Hodder, 2013.

'Women were often used by the British government as agents because it was assumed they could blend easily into the population. They were dropped, alone, behind enemy lines during World War II, knowing that discovery meant torture and death.

'Pearl Witherington, then a 29-year-old secretary and agent of the Special Operations Executive, spoke fluent French and had dual reasons for taking on the assignment: she wanted to heal her beloved France and also to find the man who was to become her husband - a French soldier on the run from the Nazis.

'Pearl was more than just a courageous agent. She organised an entire resistance movement and became a legendary guerrilla leader.

'I began this book with diligence but found I was unable to put it down.' (*Cape Times*)

**TSHONGOLO, Xolisa**

**Amagqabantshintshi oncwadi lwemveli.**- X. Tshongolo, 2013.

Kuninzi okuqulathwe kolu ncwadi, umbhali ukhankanya izinto ezifana nokusetyenziswa kwengoma luluntu,

iindidi zengoma nokombelwa kwazo, futhi achaze banzi apho zithathwa khona iingoma. Esinye isihloko asikhankanyayo umbhali ziintsomi, apho achaza banzi ngomsebenzi wentsomi athi ' . . . lintsomi ibisaya kuba yindlela yokuqokelela nokuqoqosha abantwana ukutshona kwelanga ukuze bangadingi into yokwenza de bakhukhuliswe yimikhuba yobunyama.' Zikwakhona nezihloko ezichaza amaqhina, izaci namaqhalo, intlonipho, ukubizwa kosapho, unyaka neenyanga namaxesha ngesiXhosa, amampunge ngenkolo yamaXhosa, ulwaluko, ukuthomba, isithembu, amaXhosa neenkomo zawo. Olu ncwadi luqulathe ubuncwane besiXhosa kwaye lungalulutho nakubabhali abasakhasayo. Umbhali usebenzise isakhone sakhe sokukwazi ukubhala nolwazi lwakhe ngemvela phi yenkolo nenkcubeko yomzi kaNtu. NNG

## ADULT FICTION

### VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

**SEYMOUR, Gerald**

**The corporal's wife.**- Hodder, 2013.

'As Western powers rattle sabres with Iran over its nuclear programme and support of certain regional regimes, we may see more and more spy thrillers set in the lands of Persia. Gerald Seymour returns with his masterful ability to juggle multiple narrative lines, all of which, tense individually, move towards a thrilling common centre point of collision. Here an MI6 sting in a Dubai brothel has landed the agency a low-level Iranian subject who turns out to be the driver for one of the regime's top military figures. Surely he would have knowledge of movements, installations, strategies, from within the theocratic sanctum? Indeed he does, but he will only reveal these details if MI6 can bring his wife out from Teheran to join him. Hardened secret forces refuse the job as far too dangerous, hence a rag-tag team of phlegmatic Brit mercenaries, along with an innocent-abroad Persian language student dragged from a London building site are sent in on a mission - with everything to lose. The wife they are seeking turns out to be anything but easy prey, and a series of edge-of-seat pursuits across the unfamiliar terrain of western Iran follows in true Seymour style.' (*Melbourne Review*)

**TARTTELIN, Abigail**

**Golden boy.**- Weidenfeld, 2013.

'Sixteen-year-old Max is a golden boy. The son of wealthy parents . . . he is the drop-dead handsome

captain of the soccer team, an outstanding student, and one of the most popular boys in his class. He seemingly has it all. But he also has a closely guarded secret that only his family knows. He is intersex (the new clinical term for hermaphrodite). He is literally half male and half female. Max is comfortable with his circumstance, though, until something unthinkable happens, and his and his family's lives begin to unravel; for the first time, Max begins to regard himself as freakish . . . Told from six different viewpoints - those of Max, both of his parents, his younger brother, his girlfriend, and his doctor - the novel is a dramatic, thoroughgoing investigation of the complexities of sexuality and gender. Never overly clinical, this is not a case study, but rather, at its heart, a warmly human coming-of-age story, thanks to the fact that Max is such an appealing character. And so his desperate search for identity is gripping, emotionally engaging, and genuinely unforgettable, as, indeed, is this accomplished . . . novel.' (*Booklist*)

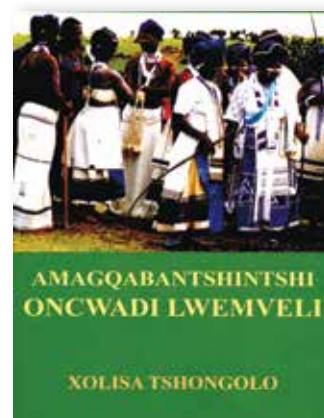
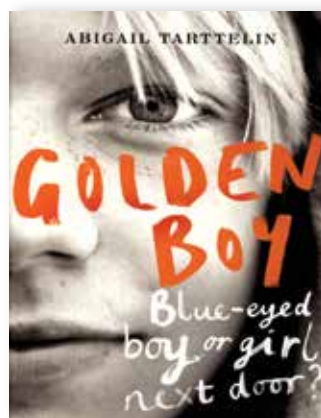
## YOUNG ADULT FICTION

### JONG VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

**BLACKMAN, Malorie**

**Noble conflict.**- Doubleday, 2013.

'Blackman, the new Children's Laureate and the first black writer appointed to the post, has again produced the sort of novel that has previously gained her a large young adult readership. Set in a dystopian future, **Noble conflict** starts with 18-year-old Kaspar triumphantly joining the Guardians, an elite military force charged with hunting down the few insurgents left who still oppose the ruling one-party Alliance. Some violent engagements follow, with Blackman chillingly reproducing the type of mindless locker-room bravado



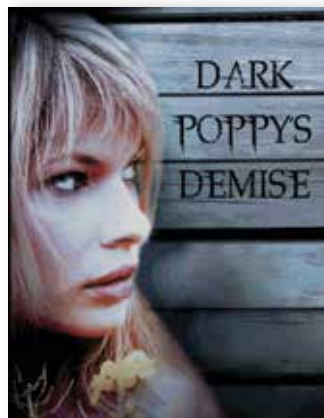
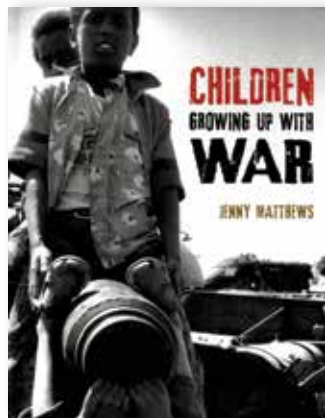


following a successful hit in which, as WikiLeaks showed, some US pilots engaged during the Iraq war. But Kaspar gradually realises that things are not what they seem after discovering the sickening institutional torture inflicted on so-called terrorists, another nod towards contemporary history. What follows is an exciting race towards an ending where the chief villain, having assured Kaspar he is about to be murdered, obligingly takes time off to explain what he and his cohorts have really been up to. By now Kaspar has been working with Mac, an attractive teenage girl gifted at cyber-searching. Drawing on her own experience as a former computer programmer, Blackman cleverly makes some of Mac's complex manoeuvres seem logically simple . . . 'Expertly plotted and well-paced, **Noble conflict** also touches on telepathy and the ability to turn memory into reality. At times almost too brutal for its own good, this is effective rather than inspired writing . . . But the Children's Laureate was not created for great literature or illustration alone. The incumbent must also promote reading among children and teenagers, and here Blackman will be in her element . . . She is also loved and respected by the many young readers whom she has so richly entertained and instructed in the past.' (*The Independent*, reprinted in *The Argus*)

#### PARTRIDGE, SA

**Dark Poppy's demise.**- Human, 2011.

**Dark Poppy's demise**, this South African author's third novel, won the 2012 MER Prize for Best Youth Novel. Her debut, **The goblet club**, won the same prize in 2008. Relationships play a central role in **Dark Poppy's demise** - family relationships, friendship, and romantic relationships. Her protagonist is Jenna, a teenager who lives with her father and younger brother in the city and attends high school in the suburbs. The 'Dark Poppy' of the title is her online name. She has had a crush on a classmate for a few years. When he starts



a relationship with someone else, she is very upset, but soon forgets about it when a really good-looking older boy befriends her on Facebook. This boy, Robert, says he got interested after seeing some of her photography online. We learn later that he has sinister intentions - but, long before that, the reader is already suspicious of him. His character is just a bit 'off'. Her friends, and even her 13-year-old brother, can see it, but Jenna can't. Actually, that is a problem with this novel - Jenna's gullibility. It's not just her gullibility. I think Partridge hasn't really developed the character of Jenna enough. When we meet her in the beginning, she's a bit obsessed and something of a drama queen, but bolshie at the same time. Her actions later don't seem to fit. Partridge hasn't really made her completely credible, and it's hard to carry on liking and rooting for an extremely self-absorbed, inconsiderate, and sometimes nasty character if she doesn't seem real. I felt that Jenna's character is a weakness in this story. Which is a pity, but the story itself is very readable and the subject (Internet 'friends') topical, even if the treatment is a bit superficial. The Cape Town setting adds to a local reader's enjoyment. Many of the supporting characters are interesting; I particularly liked her young brother, and would like to meet him in another novel. **SCG**

#### PETRUCHA, Stefan

**Ripper.**- Speak, 2013.

'Left at an orphanage as an infant, Carver Young has no knowledge of his family history. As the orphanage plans to move, all children over the age of eight must find homes. Carver, obsessed with mysteries and detective stories, is fortunate enough to become the apprentice of Mr Hawking, a master detective who works for a secret agency. At the same time, new murder cases are popping up around New York City, eerily similar to those of Jack the Ripper. Carver and his friends must uncover the truth about his family which may have more to do with Jack the Ripper than he could ever imagine. Set in London in the late 1800s, this is a rollicking story full of cannot-put-it down twists and turns. While evidence from the very beginning points to Jack the Ripper being Carver's father, the shocking ending will leave every amateur sleuth stunned. While history is heavily fictionalised in the novel, it is extremely entertaining and thought-provoking. Petrucha even offers notes on key historical elements and how they diverge from real events in the back of the book. Carver Young is an inspiring character, full of determination and gumption. His bravery and actions have the reader cheering him on every step of the way. The whole novel is an innovative

approach to historical events and finally gives a name and a face to one of the most notorious murderers of all time. Teens and adults alike will find this a fascinating and exciting story.' (*Voice of Youth Advocates*)

## JUVENILE NON-FICTION

### JEUG VAKLEKTUUR

**MATTHEWS, Jenny**

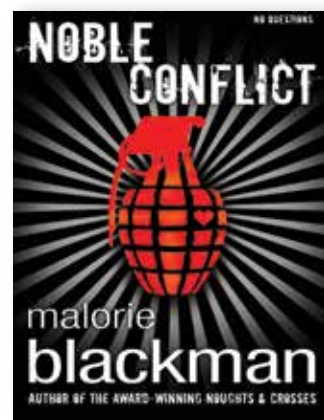
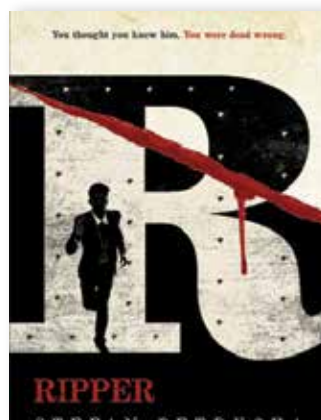
**Children growing up with war.**- F. Watts, 2014.

*Photojournalist Jenny Matthews writes about her latest book:*

'War is ugly, confusing, frightening and traumatising. Parents want to protect children from the news and too much reality, but conflict is also the bedrock of history and culture, and hard to avoid. For 30 years I've had the privilege of working in some of the most difficult war-torn areas of the world - Afghanistan, the Congo, Iraq, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and the Balkans among other places. When Franklin Watts commissioned me to put together a book on children and war, it was a great opportunity to go through my archives and choose work that I felt showed the reality of being a child growing up with war. I didn't want to dwell on death and misery, and the book has no breaking news-type pictures. A photo of a destroyed building in Gaza has girls in uniform walking to school in the foreground. There is a rather hard-hitting picture of two sisters who had their hands chopped off by rebels in Sierra Leone, but in the caption I have added the information that Mariatu is now a UNICEF Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (I was overjoyed to come across her autobiography in Hackney Library and find out what had happened to her). Above all I wanted to show the effects of war on education, health and family life. It is important for me that children have names, that they are seen as real people, and I hope young readers will be able to empathise and ask the question, "What would I do?" I wanted to make the book as topical as possible, so used my advance to go to Jordan to meet refugee children from Syria there and find out which precious objects they were able to flee with. There was only room to use one of the series of photos I made on that theme - Hassan with his trainers - but I hope images like that can provoke a discussion on the effects of war on daily life. Much of the refugee experience is like camping but without the return home to electrical gadgets, hot running water, washing machines - all the things young people take for granted.

'Growing up with conflict also involves a lot more

than bombing and gunfights, and I've tried to include some of the ramifications of a society at war. For many children in Afghanistan it's meant early marriage, with thousands of young girls being sold for their bride price, to rescue their family from dire poverty. In Uganda ex-child soldiers belong to a Peace Club, and part of their recovery and rehabilitation is re-enacting what happened to their community when they were brutally abducted and forced to kill. We have included my photos of one of their performances which I feel deals with both the issue of child soldiers and the aftermath of war. As the book is also about being a photographer, it is very much a personal take on what's happened to me and some of the children I've met in the course of my work. The war photographer is very often glamourised, and covering conflict is seen as an exciting adrenalin rush, whereas the reality is often quite tedious and dangerous. There is a lot of hanging around, getting the right papers to go somewhere unpleasant and then not finding what you want, or the light is wrong, or people don't want to be photographed, or it's just too scary to work. I've tried not to encourage a whole new generation of wannabe war photographers but to show that covering conflict is a lot more than clicking the bang-bang. There is a whole host of humanitarian issues that need to be publicised and can be photographed without young photographers endangering themselves or their subjects. I was really pleased that we also included the work of some school students from Kabul. I taught them on a two-week workshop organised by Photovoice, a UK charity that promotes participatory photography, and they then produced an exhibition on the rights of the child. The final picture in the book is by 12-year-old Maryam. It is the silhouette of a boy with raised open arms with her caption: *'This photo shows that people are now free after a lot of war. Now we can learn and play and have fun.'* **SCG**



## JUVENILE FICTION

### JEUGLEKTUUR

#### COLLINGRIDGE, Richard

**When it snows.**- Fickling, 2013.

'Snow doesn't just transform the landscape, it can also open a window into majestic, imaginative territory – just like reading a special book. Following footsteps in the snow-covered ground, a boy marches into a world of snow-capped mountains where children ride on the backs of wolves and polar bears, continuing on to the "place where the snowmen live" and through a "gloomy forest" where he meets the "Queen of the Poles", fairies, and elves. Newcomer Collingridge's paintings are sumptuous and absorbing, creating a genuine sense of magic. And, as the final scene makes clear, it's a kind of magic that any reader can access: "And I can go there every day . . . because my favourite book takes me there".' (*Publisher's Weekly*)

#### MAGONA, Sindiwe

**Isilo esoyisa iNgonyama.**- David Philip, 2014.

Le yintsomi yakudala kodwa indlela umbhali aphinda ayibalise ngayo yenza ibengathi umfundi uyifunda ukokuqala. Umfundi uthi ayihleke kwakwiphepha lokuqala uqonde likhona iqhinga ezazihleli kulo izilwanyana ngoNgonyama, uhleke ngakumbi xa uphinda ujonga kwiqweqwe lencwadi ngaphandle, ubona uMpukwana odelekileyo emi phezu kwentloko kaNgonyama eziva ubungangamsha bokoyisa esona silwanyana soyikekayo ehlathini.

Ithi ke le ntsomi izilwanyana zonke zehlathi elithile zabiza intlanganiso ngaphandle koNgonyama. Engabizwa nje uNgonyama kungokuba izilo ezi zazizobhunga ngaye kuba zazonele kukunqwamza nguye futhi enekratshi. Phofu uNgonyama kwelakhe icala wayengazilibali ngobungangamshe bakhe kuba

kaloku izilo zathi zilungiselela ithekokazi lokumbeka njengekumkani yezilo zehlathi ezibona ke ebekwa isithsaba. Avela ngokuvela amacebo okuzama ukunqanda esi simo sikaNgonyama de izilo zagqiba ekubeni zimphe ithuba uMpukwana abonakalise eli cebo athi lingasebenza kuNgonyama nangona iminkqwazi yayingaqini nje. Okunene ke uMpukwana wahamba wayohlangana naye uNgonyama phofu naye akazange akholelwe ukuba izilo zonke zingahlala zihlale zithumelise umyalezo ngebakubakwana elinguMpukwana. Zibone ke nawe mfundi izilo zingayivali imilomo yazo xa lisebenzile icebo likaMpukwana, nanko naye uMpukwana torhwana eziva ubukhulu ekugqibeleni.

Imifanekiso kaNicole Blomkamp emnyama namhlophe yenza umfundi abenomfanekiso ngqondweni webali. NNG

#### MAGONA, Sindiwe

**UBuhle, iThol' elimabala-bala.**- David Philip, 2014.

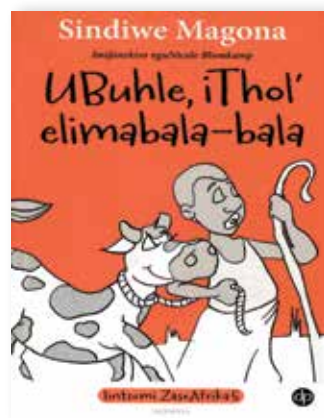
ULusapho waye eyinkwenkwana eyayingumalusi wenkomo zikayise kwaye ehlakaniphile. Ngaminazana ithile esedlelweni esalusa waqaphele ukuba kukho inkonyane engaqhelekanga kumhlambi awalusayo. Uzamile ukuzibala iinkomo zikayise ezibiza ngamagama ukuqinisekisa ukuba akaphazami. Kwathi kanti ngenene kukho ithole elingeneleleyo. Wayeqala uLusapho ukubona ithole elihle ngoluhlobo elide lanemibala yonke kwaye lalondlekile.

Lifikile lona ixesha lokuba iinkomo ziguqulwe ziyokulala ekhaya nalo ke eli thole litsha lalizakuhamba nezi nkoma, suka laxhathisa alavuma ukuhamba. Ibe ngulo phantsi phezulu ke de uLusapho wacinga ukusuke alihlabelele eli thole, khwasululu ithole lahamba. Akakhange abe nangxaki ke uyise kaLusapho naye ucebise ukuba baligcine de kufike umnikazi walo. Kuthe ngaminazana ithile besedlelweni kwafika ndoda ithile yalibanga eli thole. Akakwazanga ke uLusapho ukujijisana nale ndoda ngeli thole kuba kaloku kwacaca le ndoda yayihamba namanye amadoda amaninzi. Azamile ukuliqhuba eli thole sele likhulile ke phofu, suka alavuma ukuhamba. Yinkomo etheni le ethi ukuze ihambe fanele iculelwe? Zifundele mlesi kolu ncwadi lulungiselelwe abafundi abasakhulayo. Imifanekiso kaNicole Blomkamp emnyama namhlophe yenza umfundi abenomfanekiso ngqondweni webali. NNG

#### MAGONA, Sindiwe

**Umfazi osenyangeni.**- David Philip, 2014.

Kwakudaladala kwilali yaseGwadane abantu bakhona babehlalisenene kamnandi yonke into isenziwa ngokomgaqo omiselweyo. Wonke ubani ekuhlaleni



ebelazi ixesha lokulima futhi besazi nekufanelwe kulinywe ngeloxesha, ixesha lokuvuna lisaziwa, kuvukwa xesha liphi, imitshotsho yolutsha ibanjwa nini nakanjani. Nkqu nezilwanyana ezi zaziya imithetho yelali yaye ziyihlonele. Itsho intsomi yombhali.

Kwa imisebenzi yasemakhaya kumzi ngamnye yay-ilawulwa yilemithetho yelali kangangoba nabafazi belali bababeyithobela lemithetho kwimizi yabo. Omnye ke walemithetho obandakanya bafazi yayiyinto yokokuba kwakungamkelekanga ukutheza ngeCawa. Mfazazana uthile ke ogama lingunoNkanishe wawun-yevelela lomthetho wathabatha iminxeba yakhe wava endleni eya ehlathini, nako elandelwa zintsana zakhe ezimbini nenja ngokunjalo. Uzamile uninazala ukumnqala uNonkanishe suka walilandela igama lakhe akafuna ukumamela. Usizana lexhegwazana lahlala lalinda linoloyiko womsindo ozayo. Zange abuye uNonkanishe, zifundele ke mlesi uve okwenzekayo. Imifanekiso kaNicole Blomkamp emnyama namhlophe yenza umfundi abenomfanekiso ngqondweni webali. NNG

MAGONA, Sindiwe

**UHlohlesakhe nendlezane yelitye.-** David Philip, 2014.

Le yenye yeentsomi zakudala zaseAfrika ehambisa ithi, kwaye kukho indoda egama lalinguHohlesakhe eyayihlala kwilali ethile nenkosikazi yayo entle egama linguNobuhle kwakunye nabantwana bayo abathathu, uNontombi, uSipho negqibelo uNomhle owayekwabizwa ngokuba nguNomatse. Eli phelo ke belahlukile kwabanye abantwana kwalisavela kunina, wavela phambi kwexesha, eqavile kunabanye abantwana futhi ekrelekrele nanjengoko kuvakala apha ebalini.

UHlohlesakhe uthe esahlelisene kamnandi nosapho lwakhe suka kwafika imbalela eyathi yabenza nzima ubomi babantu kulo lali. Kwanqaba kutya de abantu bazincamela ezingcanjini ukuze baphile. Kuleli xesha ke uHlohlosakhe waphuma iphulo wayokuzingela ehlathini. Uthe ke esabhadula njalo apho wahlangana nengonyama waze ngokuzikhusela wakhwela phezu kwelityekazi. Kuthe kanti uzincedile kuba kulapho walila ekhalimela indlala eyaye imphethe de wabona kuliqika oninoni. Watya watya apho walibala nolosapho lwakhe. Mbone ke umfo omkhulu xa efika emzini wakhe isisu sibomvu engasafuni kwanto esiwa phantsi komlomo. Uhle waqaphela uNomatse lento kayise wagqiba kwelokuba amlandele xa esiya kuzingela, umothuko owawufumanayo kwabangathi akasafiki kunina. Zifundele ke mlesi uve okwalandelayo.

Le ntsomi inomyalezo ewushiyayo kumfundi futhi olu ncwadi lungasetyenziswa xa ubani efuna amabali

okufundela abantwana kuba liyawudlwengula umxhelo womphulaphuli okanye umfundi. Isakhono sombhali siyavakala futhi usebenzise ulwimi olufikelelekayo engakhange awulahle ummango webali. Imifanekiso kaNicole Blomkamp emnyama namhlophe yenza umfundi abenomfanekiso ngqondweni webali. NNG

MAGONA, Sindiwe

**UNokulunga nembiza yakhe eyimfihlo.-** David Philip, 2014.

UNokulunga wathi xa esenda waxhotyiswa ngunina ngezinto zonke nanjengantombi zonke. Zange ke unina amyale kube kuphelile waye wamnika nembiza awathi aze ayisebenzise xa kukho ingxaki kuphela. Uthandiwe ke uNokulunga ngumyeni wakhe uZinto de walizwa ngentombi abayathiya igama lokuba nguZintle. Ithe yakuthi dlundlu intombi unina wabelana nayo ngelihlebo lembiza awalinikwa naye ngunina.

Kuthe emva kweminyaka betshatile uNokulunga nomyeni wakhe suka umyeni wanqwenela ukuthabatha omnye umfazi. Bavumelana ke uZinto nenkosikazi wazekwa umfazi wesibini. Ngaminazana ithile kwabakho isisusa elalini kodwa ke ngengxa yokuba umfazi lo wesibini ebesafika kwacaca ukuba akangekwazi ukuya kweli theko. Uye wacelwa ke nguNokulunga ukuba abaphekele umqa ngeli xa bengekho hleze babuye befile yindlala. Okunene ke wenze njalo. Nanko uZintle ukhupha la mbiza yemfihlo kanina, wapheka ngayo umakoti omtsha. Uthe esaqueza apha endilini suka yathetha imbiza yafuna ukuphothulwa. Uyiphothule ke umtshakazi esoyika enjalo ekuthe Kanye xa egqiba ukuyizamisa washiyeka engaziva mndi wayophumla kwigumbi lakhe lokulala. Uthe akungena umyeni kwelo gumbi lonkosikazi wesibini wasothula esofelweyo xa efika ebanda. Ingaba yayintoni unobangela wokubhubha konfazi wokuqala kuba uZinto wathi naxa ephinda ethatha owesithathu kwehla kwaso. Nangona ilibali lakudala umbhali usebenzisa imo zangoku xa ephinda elibalisa. Imifanekiso kaNicole Blomkamp emnyama namhlophe yenza umfundi abenomfanekiso ngqondweni webali. NNG

*Note: At the time of going to press some of these titles were still on order.*

EB Erich Buchhaus

SCG Sabrina Gosling

NNG Nomonde Ngqoba





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*Johanna de Beer is the assistant director, Selection, of the Western Cape Library Service.*

# False Bay Region

## False Bay region includes the geographical areas of Oostenberg and Helderberg Municipalities

by Sophia Rickett

This region includes the geographical areas of the Oostenberg Municipality and the Helderberg Municipality. (The region was previously known as Atlantis Region, later as Blue Downs, and libraries were again later subdivided into other regions.) The region serves fifteen libraries and one library depot. The City of Cape Town placed the libraries under the control of two library managers in District 5 (comprising of six libraries) and District 6 (comprising of nine libraries) respectively.

### SOMERSET WEST LIBRARY

This library, which opened its doors to the public in 1958, has the highest circulation in the Helderberg basin. It also has the highest circulation of English fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children in the False Bay Region. It serves a diverse community. Block loans of foreign fiction from countries such as Germany and Italy, are requested for library users from SN. The library, which has been upgraded several times, is centrally located in Somerset West. Various organisations rendering a service to the community, such as corporate organisations, social and religious groupings, NGOs and colleges such as Damelin, make use of the hall. Many cultural activities for example, arts exhibitions and craft markets

are held here regularly. The Friends have been providing a support network for the library for twenty-six years. They focus especially on fundraising, mainly by means of book sales. Outreach work in the community centres around the work of community organisations such as the literacy school SHARE, which has been providing a service for twenty-five years already and is currently training 135 adults. This school does pioneering work in the Helderberg basin in the field of basic education. The library also provides a service to five old-age homes, which includes the provision of block loans to residents who are not able to visit the library. As an information centre, the library provides SmartCape, information and study facilities to students from tertiary institutions, learners and other library users. The library has a well-equipped Africa room which is used for research purposes. Library orientation takes place annually, and a service is provided to approximately 113 educational institutions in the Helderberg basin, including crèches. Weekly story hours are held in a child-friendly children's section. Some of the challenges that the library faces are the low scholastic levels of many learners and the language barriers that the staff are confronted with. There is also not sufficient

seating to accommodate all the learners who use the library. The biggest achievement of this library is that it brings together people from different levels and different organisations.

Staff: one principal librarian; six librarians; three assistant librarians (full-time); six assistant librarians (part-time); three library aids.

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Circulation: 502,388  
Membership: 29,142  
Stock: 68,437

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### STRAND LIBRARY

Strand Library, which opened its doors on 29 August 1974, is housed in a modern, highly functional building which is centrally located. A spacious entrance hall, where regular exhibitions of art works are held, separates the library from the kitchen, workrooms and hall. A bright, airy atmosphere is created in the library with large windows from floor to ceiling. This library has the second highest circulation in the Helderberg basin. It initially served a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking community, but this tendency is changing, as the composition of its library users is becoming increasingly diverse. The library is known for its excellent, extended service to seven old-age homes in the vicinity. As soon as the library opens its doors in the morning the





*An eager beaver at Kuilsriver Library*

residents of these centres flock to the library, and every day the staff are extremely busy from the moment the library opens its doors. Book loans are issued to residents who are not able to visit the library, and large-print books in Afrikaans and English are highly in demand at these centres. Library outreach programmes include library marketing, for example, by means of a Facebook page which advertises new library acquisitions as well as the library activities being planned. Photographs of people who have attended functions held by the library also appear on the page, and through these activities sound relationships are built with library users. SmartCape and information and study facilities are provided to nine schools and twenty-five pre-school institutions, including crèches. The in-house use of the library is high, as learners from neighbouring areas also do their research at the library and many photostat copies are made from the pamphlet file that is kept.

Library orientation and visits to schools and crèches take place regularly. Story hours are presented in a child-friendly children's section and imaginative holiday programmes occupy children during the school holidays. The library hall is used for social upliftment programmes, workshops, craft

markets, monthly book discussions, book sales by the Friends as well as community meetings. The library enters learners for the ATKV's Best Afrikaans Children's Book of the Year reading competition, and the learners take part in the annual LIS reading competition for Grade 7 learners. A challenge which the library faces is the rising number of students from diverse communities using the library. There is a growing need for information among high school and primary school learners who solely depend on libraries for information.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; one children's librarian; four assistant librarians (full time); two assistant librarians (part time); two library aids.

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Circulation: 319,898  
 Membership: 8,859  
 Stock: 47,397

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**PD PAULSE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

This library, located in Sarepta, Kuils River, was named after a school principal and community leader from Sarepta, Paul David Paulse. He had a love for books and was chairperson of a committee that recommended that the municipality establish a full-fledged library in Sarepta. On 12 September 1957 the Sarepta Public Library, which was initially housed in a rectory, opened

its doors. In 1963 the library was renamed the PD Paulse Memorial Library. The new standard library building was officially opened on 8 May 1978.

This library initially served an Afrikaans-speaking community, but at present it serves a more diverse community. Young people especially, read more English fiction than before. The staff are friendly and helpful. The library has a very neat appearance. The staff used to wipe the plastic cover of each book that was returned by readers before the book was filed!

The library provides a service to learners from ten schools and eight crèches. The SmartCape and information and study facilities of this library are used extensively by learners as well as the general public. Many learners from nearby schools visit the library for information, and many photostat copies are made for school projects. The in-house use of this library is high. Staff conduct library awareness programmes at schools and crèches in order to market the library. Story hours are presented to children, and during school holidays interesting holiday programmes are offered. The library hall is often used for community meetings, workshops and upliftment programmes. The challenges the library faces are unemployment, poverty, substance



*Brackenfell Library*

*Back row (ltr): Thami Maseti, assistant librarian; Marida Mostert, assistant librarian; Trudi du Plessis, librarian; Amanda de Beer, librarian; Vuyo Tatana-Somlata, librarian; Roné Reesberg, Librarian; Ni-Shaat Warrin, assistant librarian and Joe Janda, library aid.  
Front row (ltr): Phumza Mbinda, librarian; Elsa Lötter, assistant librarian and Sunell Lötter, principal librarian*



*Eerste River Library*

*(Ltr): Lamla Skudla, senior librarian; Astrid Solomons, assistant librarian; Themba Gxanase, librarian; Janine Opperman, library aid; Rene Jashim, librarian; Liesl Malgas, assistant librarian; Mervin Opperman, assistant librarian and Magdalene Goshai, assistant librarian*



*Eikendal Library*

*(Ltr) Gerda Kruger, assistant librarian (part-time); Brenda Lufele, assistant librarian (part-time); Sandra Shamrock, assistant librarian; Sisanda Mtyi, librarian; Veniwe Robo, senior librarian and Dumisani Dayimani, library aid*



*Gordons Bay*

*Gretel Marais, senior librarian; Linda Bruwer, assistant librarian; Alice Alexander, library aid and Mae Kusens, assistant librarian*

abuse and teenage pregnancies.

A book club for women was established and book discussions take place regularly. A readers' club for teenagers is envisaged. As a result of marketing drives the circulation of isiXhosa books is gradually increasing.

Staff: one senior librarian; three library assistants; one library aid.

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Circulation: 53,254  
Membership: 3,969  
Stock: 20,819

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### MACASSAR LIBRARY

Macassar Library is located in the geographical area of Zandvliet. The library opened its doors on 2 September 1982 with four staff members. Macassar Library serves a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking community. The slogan of the library is: *Uplift and educate our community!* By providing SmartCape and information and study facilities to students and the community, the library indeed carries out its mission. The library keeps in touch with the heart of Macassar, and the involvement of the librarian in community projects deserves a special mention. Literacy classes that were initially offered by the librarian were very successful and attracted wide publicity. Through this effort municipal workers could for the first time read the information on their payslips, which increased their self-esteem.

The librarian involves officials of the town, even the councillor, when community projects are launched, and through this the library is marketed quite well. The (200) Candles of Hope event, hosted in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch (US), which funded the event, was held in commemoration of nine people who died in a fire in Macassar. One of the guest speakers at the event was Prof Russel Botman, rector (deceased) and vice chancellor of the US. The library staff, the police and primary school learners from Macassar

provided sixty-seven minutes of service on Madiba Day, which took the form of an outreach activity at the Zandvliet Old Age Home. During the Christmas holidays, a Christmas party is always held for a hundred less-privileged children in Macassar. The library provides a service to six schools and thirty crèches. Story hours are regularly held in the library and school visits are carried out. On 2 September 2012 the library celebrated its 30th birthday with a thanksgiving service led by a reverend who used to study at the library while he was still a learner. The library has already been upgraded twice. During the last upgrade the hall was changed into a section for adults and provision was made for an area where learners can do their homework. Challenges which the library faces are the high unemployment rate, poverty, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies. The many library outreach initiatives deserve to be mentioned.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; two assistant librarians; one assistant librarian (part-time); one library aid.

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Circulation: 58,407  
Membership: 4,100  
Stock: 25,454

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### HECTOR PETERSEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Hector Petersen Memorial Library was named after the late Hector Petersen, the first casualty of the 1976 uprisings in Soweto. The library is centrally located in Lwandle in Helderberg and is right next to the municipal buildings. The historical events of 1976 are depicted on the walls of the nearby museum. The library opened its doors in November 1997. It mainly serves two isiXhosa-speaking communities, Lwandle and Nomzamu. The library is actively involved in the community with its outreach activities to, among others, Nceduluntu Old Age Home and the Yabonga Children's

Centre. Library staff attend parent meetings at schools, thus marketing the library. The in-house use of the library is high. Research for school projects is done on a large scale and the photostat machine is often used. The SmartCape and information and study facilities are frequently used by learners and adult members of the community.

The library provides a service to nine schools and fifty-five crèches. Storytelling takes place regularly when pre-school children visit the library. The hall was initially used as a crèche, but is currently used for workshops, book discussions, community meetings and youth empowerment programmes. School visits are conducted, but the teachers do not provide the necessary co-operation. There are widespread unemployment, poverty, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies in the community, therefore the library also plays an educational role. The library is too small to accommodate the number of library users and also needs multiple copies of study guides to be able to provide for the needs of all the learners. At present learners turn to libraries in other areas. The extended open hours have led to an increase in membership and circulation.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; two assistant librarians; two part-time librarians (one permanent, one contract); one library aid.

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Circulation: 32,718  
Membership: 4,479  
Stock: 17,526

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### SIR LOWRY'S PASS LIBRARY

The youngest library in this region is located in Sir Lowry's Pass village in District 6.

The library remained closed for several months, after the book bus had delivered the first stock, as no staff had yet been appointed. Under the leadership of the principal, Mr MacDonald, the community convened a meeting with the Library Service during which it was





*Hector Peterson Library*

*(Ltr) Esethu Ndesi, assistant librarian; Patricia Mekuto, assistant librarian; Marcia Nkomje, assistant librarian; Mzukisi Njambatwa, senior librarian; Asanda Ndaliso, librarian; Nokubonga Sapepa, library aid and Siyabonga Mtshotshisa, assistant librarian*



*Kraaifontein Library*

*(Ltr) Nelia van Zyl, chief librarian; Annette Jordan, assistant librarian; Suraya Hassiem, part-time librarian; Noluthando Ndindibala, library aid; Janet le Roux, assistant librarian en Nobomi Duze, librarian*



*Kuilsriver Library*

*(Ltr): Valencia Verhoog, assistant librarian; Jane Horne, librarian; Carol-Ann Johnson, assistant librarian; Valeska Daniels, library aid; Mario le Fleur, assistant librarian; Elzette Myburgh, senior librarian; Marindie Maddison, librarian en Yvette Perry, assistant librarian*



*Macassar Library*

*(Ltr): Adelaide Hendricks, assistant librarian; Perriann Roziers, assistant librarian; Glen Etson, senior librarian; Jerome Cupido, librarian and Niklaas Adams, library aid*



requested that the library be opened so that the learners could use the library. It was decided that a staff member of Somerset West Library would temporarily be in charge, and the library consequently opened its doors on 12 January 2004. It is an Afrikaans-speaking community, but the town also has a large number of isiXhosa-speaking library users.

The stock of this library is comprehensive enough to cater for the needs of its diverse community. Providing a service to the elderly is an important outreach activity. Videos and DVDs are shown when senior clubs visit the library, or sometimes the library staff do book readings on request. During these visits senior club members are provided with refreshments. The library staff collect books that are outstanding from the homes of library users. With the help of SHARE the library offers a literacy programme for adults. Workshops are also offered to teach unemployed women the skill of creating products that can be sold for an income. The library provides a service to one primary school and nine crèches. Story hours for crèches are held in the library. In cases where a crèche is not able to visit the library, the children's librarian presents a story hour at the specific crèche. Many unemployed people use the Internet facilities to search for jobs, as unemployment and poverty are rife in the town.

The library offers interesting programmes for learners during the school holidays. The primary schools are literally in the library's backyard, which is an advantage, as the good co-operation between teachers and the librarian are to the learners' advantage. The reading programme of the library has improved many learners' reading abilities. The library has an excellent collection of junior non-fiction titles which is used extensively for projects. Many photostat copies are made and the in-house use of the library is quite high. Problems in the community, such as unemployment, poverty, the high drop-out rate

among learners, drug addiction and overpopulation present challenges for the library staff. Some of the library's successes are the award received from the ward for a literacy project as well as its considerable increase in circulation.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; two assistant librarians; one assistant librarian (part time); one library aid.

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Circulation: 37,542  
Membership: 1,898  
Stock: 14,996

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### EIKENDAL LIBRARY

This library, which is located in Kraaifontein, was thirty years old in 2012. A lovely mosaic mural at the entrance of the library depicts the dawn of civilisation. The library provides a service to a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking community, but about 40% of the current library users are isiXhosa-speaking. For this reason the senior librarian started building and marketing a special collection of isiXhosa books for adults and teens. This has led to a high circulation in these categories. The library also serves learners from Wallacedene and Bloekombos, who have to walk approximately five kilometres to find information.

The in-house use of the library is high and in the afternoons the library is abuzz with activity as learners search for information. The library's Internet facility is frequently used by learners and job seekers. The library serves learners from sixteen schools and nine crèches. Story hours are conducted regularly and marketing of the library is done at schools. During school holidays activities such as face painting, handwork and art work activities and DVD shows are presented to children. The library hall is used for community projects. The Friends of the Library is a support group that raises funds and assists with operational tasks such as book repairs. Book clubs actively conduct book discussions.

Challenges in the community are the high illiteracy levels, substance and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancies. The library's involvement with community organisations, the establishment of book clubs and the work of the Friends of the Eikendal Library have contributed significantly to an increase in circulation.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; one assistant librarian; two assistant librarians (part time); one library aid.

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Circulation: 50,354  
Membership: 4,291  
Stock: 18,811

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### KRAAIFONTEIN LIBRARY

The first library in Kraaifontein opened its doors on 5 October 1969 and on 21 August 1983 moved into the new library next to the municipal buildings. The library serves an Afrikaans-speaking community, but has also started showing a more diverse user profile. The neatness of the library, the restful atmosphere, soothing background music and excellent service are outstanding characteristics of this library. Circulation has increased with residents from adjacent areas who also make use of this library. Outreach programmes of the library include a service to two old-age homes in the vicinity, including block loans, monthly reading sessions to adults by the librarian, as well as participating in outreach activities of Badisa (a social work organisation in Tygerberg and Wynberg), drug rehabilitation support groups and the Kraaifontein business chamber.

Library orientation, visits to schools and crèches, displays of new acquisitions, introducing the library's activities on Facebook and storytelling hours for adults and children form part of the library's marketing initiatives.

The staff provide a service to five schools and five crèches and to learners from nearby areas. The staff assist learners with the retrieval



*Melton Rose Library*

*(Ltr): Vuyolwethu Ningiza, assistant librarian; Elizabeth Dumane, librarian; Nomthetho Nongwana, library aid; Shamielah Jansen, assistant librarian; Melanie van Sitters, assistant librarian; Nathasha Leonard, assistant librarian and Eleanore Pietersen, senior librarian*



*PD Paulse Library*

*(Ltr): Mary Jansen, senior worker; Deidre Benjamin, assistant librarian; Ronelda Maree, assistant librarian and Aida Ellman-Abrahams, senior librarian*



*Scottsdene Library*

*(Ltr): Tania Ngwendu, assistant librarian; Nazalia Jansen, volunteer; Meketsi Orele, librarian; Sylvia Bell, worker; Allison Jantjies, senior librarian and Charlette Andrews, assistant librarian*



*Sir Lowry`s Pass Library*

*(Ltr): Magdalene Daniso, assistant librarian; Veronica Godfrey, library aid; Sindiswa Madolwana, librarian (labour broker); Phindile Memani, senior librarian; Nicholas Stellenberg, assistant librarian and Tania Bailey, assistant librarian*

of information and with photostats. They also help job seekers to search for jobs via SmartCape and assist with the completion of application forms for jobs advertised by the City of Cape Town. Children's programmes are presented to learners during school holidays. The library hall is used for community meetings and activities such as line dancing, book club discussions and craft markets. The library staff dream about longer opening hours to be able to provide an extended service to library users.

Staff: one principal librarian; one librarian (contract); two assistant librarians; one assistant librarian (part-time); one library aid.

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Circulation: 208,743  
Membership: 6,311  
Stock: 38,751

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### **GORDONS BAY LIBRARY**

This library, which started operating in a converted house, opened its doors on 25 May 1956. In the years prior to 1956, library users had to pay a monthly subscription fee, but this practice was abolished when the Provincial Library Service took over.

The library has since been upgraded several times. The recent extension to the building will serve as a children's library and will provide space for desks where also adults can study or read in the morning. Holiday and reading programmes will also be offered in this room. The library serves a traditionally English-speaking community. Lately, patrons of diverse communities have also started using the library. The library's outreach programme in Temperance Town is very successful. Library staff visit the Red Cross Yellow Door Community Centre twice a month, and render a rewarding book exchange service to Afrikaans- and isiXhosa-speaking adults who are registered, but are indisposed library patrons. This centre also serves as a soup kitchen, which means that both 'minds and bodies are fed'.

Friends of the Gordon's Bay Library actively support its library, raise funds, mend books and give educational support to Temperance Town Primary School. Jeanette Kruger, a teacher and former staff member of this library, is currently coaching learners to take part in the Afrikaans Reading Competition for the Grade 7s. The library serves primary schools in Gordon's Bay and Temperance Town. The SmartCape and information facilities are used extensively by library users.

Story hours for children and holiday programmes are offered. The children's activities will be extended as soon as the children's library becomes operational. The circulation of English fiction has increased substantially. Generally, the library is quite busy, in fact, it has the fourth highest circulation in the district.

Staff: one principal librarian; one librarian; one assistant librarian; one library aid.

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Circulation: 102,177  
Membership: 3,296  
Stock: 21,811

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### **EERSTE RIVER LIBRARY**

The first library in Eerste River opened its doors on 22 January 1998. The library serves a predominantly Afrikaans community but is lately serving a more diverse community as people from adjacent new areas also use it. The library is extremely busy, being currently one of three libraries with the highest circulation in the Helderberg. This is due to library marketing initiatives such as a membership campaign conducted by library staff at places such as Eerste River station, where the services and programmes of the library are advertised. The staff in fact, moves out of the library building into the community.

The circulation of English titles and non-fiction for children has constantly increased over the years. The circulation of junior non-fiction compares well with that of bigger

libraries in the region. According to the librarian, the children read junior non-fiction as they find the topics interesting. Holiday programmes such as face painting and other art classes, as well as DVD shows keep children occupied during the holidays. The library staff present library guidance sessions at schools and crèches. Stories are read to crèche children and children's reading groups established by the library create a culture of reading among young patrons. The library serves children from four schools and fourteen crèches and is very busy. The photostat machine even sometimes overheats! The research section covers many topics and, together with other study material, is used extensively. The Internet facility is used by learners and job seekers. Job seekers are also helped to draw up their CVs in order to improve their chances of finding a job.

Challenges for the library are substance abuse in the community, vandalism and theft. Since the library started offering sessions on library etiquette, fewer books have been damaged. The library has built up a good network with community organisations and business people now beginning to sponsor the library's outreach programmes. The hall is available for activities such as craft classes, reading and holiday programmes and for use by community groups such as the Down Syndrome support group and the chess club.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; four assistant librarians; two assistant librarians (part-time); two library aids.

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Circulation: 131,327  
Membership: 8,953  
Stock: 33,089

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### **SUIDER-STRAND LIBRARY**

This library was officially opened on 4 April 1979. The library serves an Afrikaans-speaking community, but like many other libraries in the





*Somerset-West Library*

*(Ltr): Annastatia Williams, library aid; Murlan Blom, library aid; Talita de Klerk, principal librarian; Ina Coetzee, librarian; Jackie van Schalkwyk, librarian; David Daniels, assistant librarian; Chaylene Muller, assistant librarian; Sarina Fourie, librarian; Alta de Villiers, assistant librarian; Paige Malgas, librarian and Ncomeka Mapoyi, librarian*



*Strand Library*

*(Ltr): Bongive Moss, library aid; Patricia Booysen, assistant librarian; Louisa Vermeulen, librarian; Enka van Staden, senior librarian; Karen Coetzer, assistant librarian; Heather Davids, assistant librarian; Elize du Plessis, librarian and Rina Engelbrecht, librarian*



*Suider Strand Library*

*(Ltr): Carlene Sauls, library aid; Carol van der Heever, assistant librarian and Ray Milalen, labour Broker*



City of Cape Town, it is currently characterised by a more diverse user profile. It does outreach work with crèches in the area and also has a child-friendly section where children from crèches can hear stories.

The library is always neat and clean and staff are known for their friendly service. It stocks a representative collection of English fiction and non-fiction and people from nearby areas also make use of its services. The Internet facilities are frequently used by job seekers and the information and study facilities are used extensively by learners and students. Except for the number of crèches, the library also provides a service to six schools in the vicinity. Holiday programmes, handcraft classes and community meetings are held in the hall. The library also has a Friends organisation which serves as a support group who help to raise funds, cover books, and help children after school with language education and mathematics classes.

Circulation has increased as a result of the community's involvement in library activities. The challenges in the community impacting on the library are poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and a lack of computer training.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; two assistant librarians; one assistant librarian (part-time); one library aid.

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Circulation: 57,486  
Membership: 3,553  
Stock: 19,694

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#### **MELTON ROSE LIBRARY**

This library, which serves the Afrikaans-speaking communities of Kleinvllei, Eerste River, Tuscany Glen, Malibu and Blackheath, opened its doors on 18 June 1990. The library users currently form a diverse group. The Melton Rose Arts and Craft project, initiated to lower unemployment in the community, as well as the job creation projects of the Stigting vir Bemagtiging deur Afrikaans (the beauty industry,

homebased care and pre-school education) which empowered local people in 2013 to start their own small businesses, were held in the library hall. The hall is also used for meetings of senior citizens, youth and book clubs and cultural activities. The library provides a service to nineteen schools and six crèches. At the start of each school year the learners visit the library for library orientation sessions.

Programmes marketing the library are conducted and story hours are held for children. In 2013 a total of 171 story hours, attended by 666 children, were held. In the afternoon the library is extremely busy. The in-house use is high, and the pamphlet collections and other information sources are frequently used for school projects. The Internet facilities are used by learners and job seekers. The library arranges the annual Afrikaans reading competition for Grade 7 learners of the schools in the vicinity. The staff started a book club for teens, while a picture book club for pre-schoolers is envisaged with a view to creating a culture of reading among the children. Some of the offices in the building were previously occupied by sections of the Council, but the entire building will soon be used by the library alone.

Staff: one senior librarian; one librarian; two assistant librarians; one library aid.

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Circulation: 81,723  
Membership: 5,089  
Stock: 27,623

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#### **SCOTTSdene LIBRARY**

This library opened its doors on 25 June 1987. It serves a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking community, but lately, it has also started to serve a more diverse group of library users. Previously a toy library, which used to loan educational toys to children with development backlogs, formed part of the Scottsdene Library, but unfortunately this does not exist anymore. This library also renders

a service to members of old-age homes in the area. Learners from twelve schools and twenty crèches in the area make use of the library for information retrieval and reading for enjoyment. The Internet and information facilities at the library are extensively used by learners and job seekers.

The biggest challenge in the area is gangsterism, which compels learners to make use of libraries in other areas. However, the library still fulfills its role as an information centre in the area. Many library patrons use the library to obtain interesting reading matter, to read the newspaper in peace or to study in silence, especially in cases where circumstances at home are not conducive to studying. The hall is used for library programmes such as holiday programmes for children, story hours for crèches, DVD shows as part of holiday programmes, and art classes. A programme aimed at improving children's reading skills is conducted by YMCA volunteers.

Staff: one senior librarian; one assistant librarian; two assistant librarians (part-time); one library worker.

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Circulation: 43,179  
Membership: 3,068  
Stock: 21,415

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#### **KUILSRIVIER LIBRARY**

This library was opened in 1926. The new library, built in Cape Dutch style, opened its doors on 25 March 1957. Since then it has been upgraded several times. The library serves a mainly Afrikaans-speaking community, but like all other libraries, now has a more diverse group of library users. Kuilsrivier Library provides a service to twenty-five crèches and twenty schools including Bellville Technical High School. At the beginning of the school year library orientation sessions for learners are arranged on request. Story hours are held at crèches and at the library. During visits to schools learners are taught

how to retrieve information from the library's research section. The SmartCape and study facilities are used by learners and members of the broader community.

The recent appointment of a children's librarian enables the children's section to function effectively. The stock in the teenage section has been upgraded and attractively set out and as a result the English junior fiction statistics increased phenomenally from 2011 to 2012. The hall is used for community activities such as line dancing, community meetings, book club discussions, handcraft projects and craft markets.

The Friends of the Library assist with fund-raising and operational tasks such as interfiling returned books on the shelves. The library is currently more involved in arranging programmes for adults. A knitting club was started in 2013, while a needlework club will also be established in 2014. All the extended activities, holiday programmes, as well as reading programmes for children and adults have resulted in an increase in circulation. A well-known female author is regularly chosen as guest speaker at the annual Women's Day celebrations at this library. This in itself is a cultural experience for the female audience, who uses this posh event to pose questions to the visiting author and to socialise. Although the new children's section does not yet have all its furniture and books, it is already equipped with study desks sponsored by the Friends.

Staff: one senior librarian; two librarians; four assistant librarians; one library aid.

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Circulation: 191,243  
Membership: 9,985  
Stock: 28,916

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### JAN KRIEL SCHOOL DEPOT

This school for special education in Kuilsrivier has been upgraded several times. The new media centre, opened in May 1990, includes

a library with tape aids, as well as a public library section which houses a research section. Services are provided to independent learners, learners reading with tape aids, as well as staff who need subject matter. The library purchases many of its books with its own funds. Library expansion is currently taking place to enable the library to offer Internet facilities as well. In the meantime, outstanding titles are received and shelf reading is done regularly, while stock-taking of own stock is conducted. The school plans to appoint a qualified librarian as soon as the information centre has been completed.

Staff: vacant.

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Circulation: 7,709  
Stock: 4,051

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### BRACKENFELL LIBRARY

This library is located in Paradys Street, practically next to the Pick n Pay Hypermarket in Brackenfell. The library has an excellent stock which is optimally utilised by residents from Brackenfell as well as those employed at the shops in the Hypermarket shopping complex. It has the highest circulation in this region and has been upgraded several times.

The new library building, which has a very attractive interior, was opened on 3 June 1987. The library is well managed, has a pleasant atmosphere and user cooperation is excellent. Children enjoy visiting the library where they can relax in the cosy children's section and select their books. Activities such as puppet shows, attractive displays, paintwork and story hours, presented with great imagination by library staff, are popular among children. This increases the circulation and encourages children to become lifelong members of the Brackenfell Library.

Outreach projects of the library include visits to old-age homes, as well as block loans. The library provides an information service

to six schools in the vicinity. Staff market the library by means of visits to pre-primary schools and crèches. Learners from twelve schools in other areas also make use of the library's information facilities. The research section is well equipped with research material (own stock as well as that of the Western Cape Library Service). Adults feel welcome in the library, read the newspaper, relax and browse through the new acquisitions displayed on a table. The Internet facilities are mainly used by learners and job seekers. Rendering a service to residents of five retirement facilities built recently is a challenge that the library has to deal with, because many seniors are not able to visit the library themselves. Unfortunately, owing to its high circulation the library currently does not have extra staff to provide this service.

The Friends of the Brackenfell Library provides an essential support network to the library. The high circulation proves that the public is satisfied with the service the library provides. The library is involved with the work of local community organisations, for example, handcraft groups, senior clubs, book clubs and reading programmes for children.

Staff: one principal librarian; five librarians; five assistant librarians (full-time); three assistant librarians (part-time); one library aid.

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Circulation: 579,002  
Membership: 16,137  
Stock: 59,150

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*Sophia Rickett is the regional librarian of the False Bay Region, Western Cape Library Service.*



# Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

**One never realises the impact someone has on your life until that person is not there anymore**

by Cherezaan Basadien

When I heard the sad news on 6 December 2013 that Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the man that everybody called Madiba (according to his clan name, or Tata, as he was affectionately known) had passed on, it felt as if I had lost my grandfather.

One never realises the impact someone has on your life until that person is not there anymore. I grew up with the saying 'One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter,' and that is how I learnt about Nelson Mandela as a freedom fighter.

In this article I want to pay tribute to one of South Africa's biggest icons: Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Mr Mandela (Madiba) was an anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, activist, lawyer and philanthropist whose politics of forgiveness and reconciliation made him a global peace icon.

February 2010 marked 20 years since the apartheid regime of South Africa unbanned the African National Congress (ANC) and other liberation movements, and released Nelson Mandela from prison. He was the first South African president to be elected in a representative democratic election and held office from 1994 to 1999. Before his presidency, Mandela was active in the struggle against apartheid and the leader of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe. Together

with other ANC leaders, he was convicted during the Rivonia Trial (1963-1964) on charges of sabotage, as well as other crimes committed while he led the movement against apartheid. For his convictions, Mandela served 27 years in prison, spending many of these on Robben Island. Following his release from prison on 11 February 1990, Mandela supported reconciliation and negotiation, and helped lead the transition towards multiracial democracy in South Africa.

Madiba died on 5 December 2013 and was buried ten days later in his rural boyhood home of Qunu after a state memorial service in Pretoria attended by dignitaries from around the world.

## **Apartheid's last stand**

*U 320.968 APA*

This is a Discovery Channel biography DVD about Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, who brought about social reforms after 300 years of oppression. This DVD brings us closer to the issues surrounding South African's hard-won peace and the struggle to put economic hardship and psychological pain behind them.

Nelson Mandela peacefully ended South Africa's apartheid-driven violence and the world called it a miracle. As an international symbol of that miracle, Mandela ordered

that the notorious Robben Island Prison, where he spent 17 years, be transformed from the icon of apartheid to a multiracial emblem of peace. This DVD showcases what happened on Robben Island to people like the warders, some of their wives, inmates, et cetera. Mandela invited Bono and other great superstars to the island to give bigger exposure for his 46664 AIDS concert.

## **Mandela**

*U 920 MAN*

A captivating view of the incredible spirit of one of the world's most fascinating people, this full-length documentary follows Nelson Mandela from his early days and tribal education to his election as South Africa's first black president. Madiba talks about his early life, his childhood, adolescence, career in law, first marriage, time in prison, his parents, his homestead, et cetera, and you get to see the president in everyday activities.

The DVD is divided into chapters:

1. Growing up Xhosa
2. Rite of passage
3. Escape to the big city
4. Political awakening
5. Rise to leadership
6. On trial - armed resistance
7. Robben Island
8. Winnie banished
9. The world takes notice

10. Release
11. Transition to democracy
12. Black president.

The DVD pack includes a Mandela original soundtrack CD with 25 original soundtracks of essentially South African music. Tracks include Jennifer Jones and Hugh Masekela, The African Jazz Pioneers, The Havana Swingsters, The Skylarks, The Father Huddleston Band, The Manhattan Brothers, The Jazz Dazzlers, The African National Congress Choir, Johnny Clegg

and Savuka, The Specials, Vusi Mahlasela, The Kalahari Surfers, Babsy Mlangeni, Bayete and Jabu Khanyile, Brenda Fassie and more.

Also included is a beautiful 48-page book filled with dozens of art images, photos and an essay by acclaimed British journalist Robin Denselow. It tells the amazing story of the extraordinary life of Nelson Mandela.

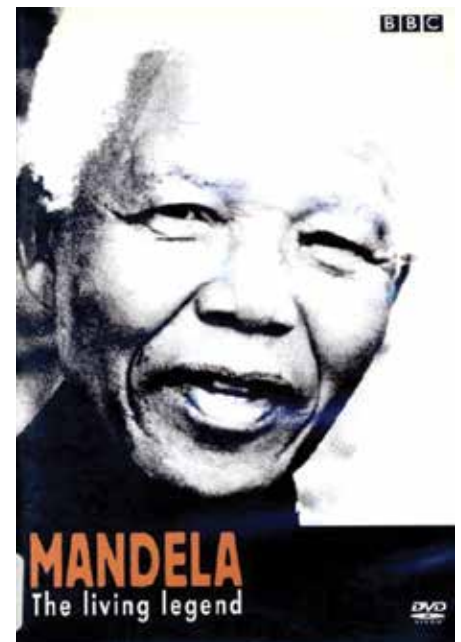
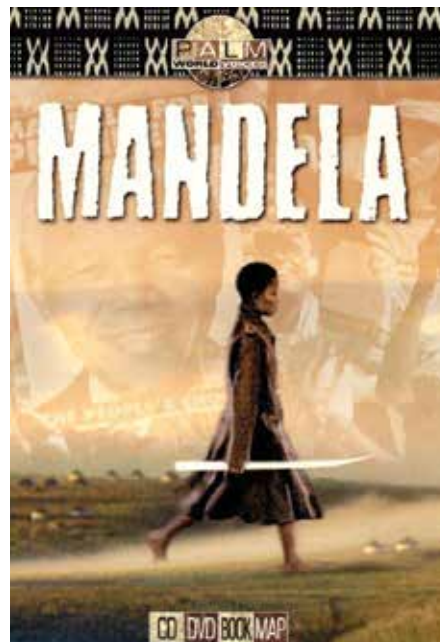
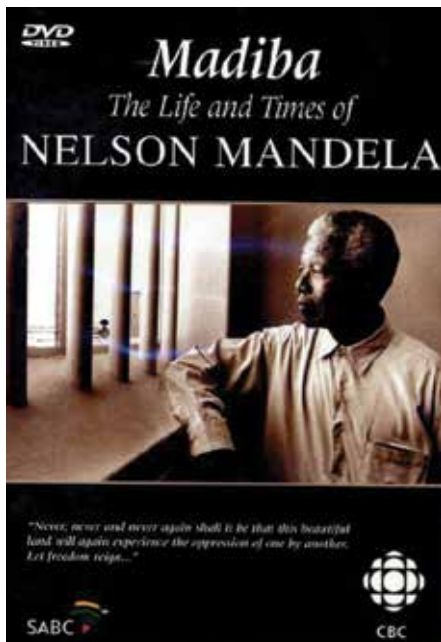
It also includes a National Geographic Society map of South Africa detailing Mandela's history and was nominated in 1997 for

an academy award for Best Documentary.

### **Nelson Mandela: The struggle is my life**

*U 920 MAN*

This DVD sketches the early life of Mandela as a young man amongst men of wisdom, to politics and Robben Island, his release and then his presidency. The work also provides a glimpse of the people who have mentored, influenced and inspired Mandela. The DVD focuses more on Madiba and the struggle and







*Otlile Monama, three, stands under a statue of former president Nelson Mandela, in Nelson Mandela Square. Image by: Daniel Born*

the unbanning of the ANC, than on his presidency. What fascinated me in this DVD was the communication between Madiba, the government of the time and (the answers that he gave in negotiations between them) and how he smuggled messages out from prison to his people.

### **Madiba: The life and times of Nelson Mandela**

*U 920 MAN*

This captivating biography is filled with the adventures, mishaps, fortunes and inexhaustible resolve of a truly historic life. The role of the big corporations and the impact they had on apartheid, the unbanning of the ANC and the role they played in the economy, AIDS and education are discussed. A practical problem with this DVD is that black South Africans speak out against the ANC and other relevant issues like unemployment, housing, et cetera, in their mother tongues and there are no subtitles or translations for viewers who don't understand the languages.

Mr Mandela (Madiba) was an anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, activist, lawyer and philanthropist whose politics of forgiveness and reconciliation made him a global peace icon

### **Mandela: the living legend**

*U 920 MAN*

This BBC documentary shows the true Madiba, focusing on his life after he became president of South Africa. It portrays his everyday life, and includes his interaction with world leaders, models, superstars, et cetera, and also with his personal assistant, Zelda la Grange, his friends and comrades.

This was the last in the series of DVDs that I viewed about Madiba but it was also the first that actually told me what his isiXhosa

name, Rolihlahla, means: 'The troublemaker', and hearing that, I thought that he really lived up to his name.

I salute you Tata for everything you have stood for and against. Hambla Kahle.

*Note: Most of the DVDs in this article are biographies of the great man.*

*Cherezaan Basadien, audiovisual selector, Western Cape Library Service.*

# Searching the OPAC: SLIMS Public Catalogue vs Desktop Quick Search

by Marilyn McIntosh

Searching for flight MH 370, the Malaysian airliner that mysteriously disappeared in early March this year, increasingly appears to be like searching for the proverbial needle in a haystack while nobody seems to know exactly where the haystack is. The mystery deepens daily.

Thankfully this cannot be said of searching for catalogue entries in the OPAC of SLIMS. As suggested in the title, there are two methods of searching, one being directly through the Public Catalogue within SLIMS and the other via an external Desktop which makes use of a Google-like, full-text search environment. The purpose here is to examine both methods and make useful comparisons.

Before launching into more in-depth discussion, it must be mentioned that effective information retrieval from any system, including from the catalogues of all library management systems, is dependent on several factors. While the intrinsic searching power and flexibility built into a system is of paramount importance, so too is the old adage of GIGO: 'garbage in, garbage out'. In the case of libraries, the onerous task of inputting data rests squarely on the shoulders of cataloguers and all other staff members who are permitted to enter, edit or delete catalogue records. Small mistakes, like vital spelling errors, can compromise the integrity of the

union catalogue, making retrieval of that item almost impossible irrespective of system capabilities.

## Basic structure and differences *Public Catalogue within SLIMS*

This facility is directly available within SLIMS, is always accessible when the user is logged into the system and is therefore only of use to registered staff members who have the required identifications and passwords. Library members and the public at large cannot access the OPAC via this route.

For ease of reading, the Public Catalogue search will be referred to as the OPAC search in this article.

## *Desktop Quick Search*

The common practice currently emerging is that each provincial library service or parent body, will set up a Desktop with the look and feel they wish to portray. A search, or 'Quick Search' as it known in the Desktop, can be done on items housed in any of the libraries affiliated to this parent body. A complete list of these libraries often appears on the opening screen. Alternatively, all the listed libraries can be searched simultaneously.

As the SLIMS network of libraries has expanded, many municipal areas have created individual desktops that allow access to the catalogues of all the libraries within their jurisdiction. Searches on these municipal desktops are therefore restricted to only the relevant

branches and do not include a province-wide search as the parent body's desktop would.

Armed with the appropriate Desktop URL, anyone has access to and can search the catalogues, whether they are members of a library or not.

## Functionality *OPAC search*

The entire OPAC can be searched, records displayed and the availability viewed in all the libraries holding copies of the specific titles. There is also an option to display the availability of titles in groups of libraries, for example, all branches belonging to a particular municipality, rather than in the *All libraries* configured on the server. This option is dependent on the initial setup of the institutions on the server. For instance, City of Cape Town libraries will always see the holdings and availability of titles in all the libraries that fall within the city boundaries, whereas libraries affiliated to the Western Cape Library Service are grouped together according to municipal boundaries and therefore have access to both search options.

This searching facility has *Simple* and *Advanced* capabilities.

- Although the *Simple search* caters for various options, all of which can be viewed and the appropriate one selected from the drop down box provided, it is primarily

## Examples of desktop opening screens



used for an extensive author search, retrieving a specific title if the completely correct title is known, and for directly retrieving a specific record through the ISBN. The other search options available are of limited practical use.

- The ability to search by ISBN is an invaluable asset as it is the search option of choice for cataloguers who would use this constantly, it being the quickest and cleanest means of retrieving a specific title.

Searching by ISBN is also directly available in the cataloguing section of SLIMS. This is done by means of the search box next to the 'Edit a record' field.

- On the screen above, it can be seen that SLIMS advises on how the author name could be entered, including the use of the wildcard immediately after the first name initial. This could be handy especially when the first name is unknown or the spelling of it is in doubt. However, where

at all possible, it is preferable to enter the first name, for example, *Smith, Wilbur*. Be aware that, besides retrieving Wilbur Smith, the suggested format of Smith, W\* is also likely to produce an inordinately long list which would include W, Wade, Walter, Wanda, Wendy, et cetera.

- An author search will also retrieve all the records where the author in question happens to be a second or subsequent author.
- When using the 'Title/series' search option it is important to remember that the title should be entered precisely, with no spelling mistakes and all the words in the correct order. Only the first four words of a particularly long title need be entered. This option can be used to retrieve the title proper and can also be employed for searching for a series title.
- The *Advanced search* is considerably more flexible and effective than the *Simple* as it affords the opportunity of connecting several words and phrases with Boolean logic 'AND', 'OR' and 'NOT' combinations. Additional power is provided by the ability to combine terms from various different fields of a catalogue entry in a single search.

## Examples of Advanced search combinations

Finding a specific title when the author is known is quickly done by

combining the author's surname with one word from the title. This example would produce only the records of Truman Capote's *In cold blood* and would exclude Renee Otmar's book with the same title.

The above example indicates the combination of single title keywords with two subject headings, all of which must appear in the required record in order to be retrieved.

The following example demonstrates how the 'OR' and 'AND' can be used together in a single search strategy. Setting up a more complicated strategy such as this just requires a little logic and the knowledge that the 'OR' combinations are processed before the 'AND'.

- The *Advanced* search also allows for the immediate filtering of the potential results, for example, by *Material Type* (book, CD, DVD, magazine, et cetera.) and by *Collection* (adult fiction, juvenile non-fiction et cetera.) Finding all DVDs and videos featuring lions and elephants is quick, simple and accomplished in a single step. The *Advanced* search strategy, plus any filtering that may be required, are entered and processed simultaneously.
- The appropriate use of truncation symbols or wildcards, the '?' and '\*' are very useful and should be used when necessary.

### Desktop Quick Search

- Being a *Google*-like environment, the desktop search is much favoured for its ease of use. Words, names and phrases are entered essentially without any form of Boolean operators except when it is absolutely necessary that all the words are present in the material retrieved. An example of this is that should 'aids' and 'tb' merely be entered adjacent to each other in the search field, the resultant retrieval will include all material on 'aids' as well as all on 'tb'. However, should it be required that both these words should always appear

together in the same document, simply entering a '+' immediately in front of 'tb' will produce the desired result.

- At first glance a Desktop search appears to produce more hits than a similar search in the OPAC. The reason may be that the Desktop search, true to its *Google*-like nature, interrogates every available field, while the OPAC search requires that the user specifies the indexes which should be searched.
- For the same reason mentioned above, the Desktop may produce an increased number of incorrect results but it's a matter of gaining on the swings that which you lose on the roundabout.
- Exactly the same filters as those applied in the OPAC search, are available in the Desktop, with two provisos. While filtering with both the *Material Type* and the *Collection* can be done together and applied immediately to the search terms in the OPAC, the Desktop search must first be done and then subsequently filtered. The other small drawback is that both filters cannot be applied simultaneously. This amounts to a number of extra steps.
- Wildcards can and should also be used where applicable.
- As attractive and popular as the Desktop is, it is of utmost importance that cataloguers are warned against searching here as ISBN searches only retrieve catalogue records to which objects have been linked, resulting in the dangerous assumption that the item in question does not exist. The possible consequence may be the creation of further unnecessary duplicate catalogue records. Cataloguers beware.
- Another important point relating to ISBN searches is the format in which these numbers are entered. All hyphens and/or spaces must be omitted. Please note that the 'X' at the end of some 10-digit ISBNs is not searchable in the OPAC, but can be used in a

Desktop search.

- Unlike the OPAC search within SLIMS which is accessible only to registered staff members, the searching facility of the Desktop is available to anyone with Internet access and the catalogues of all libraries listed on it may be viewed and searched.
- Numerous libraries have found the Desktop to be a wonderful marketing tool.

### Closing comments

As can be seen on the opening screens of the Desktop (examples included), the *Quick Search* option is flanked by another option called *Catalogue* which allows members of the public free access to actual *Simple* and *Advanced* OPAC searching as would be done directly from within SLIMS. While great for library staff, it may not be desirable to make this available for public use. Staff already have access to the Public Catalogue directly in SLIMS. When setting up the Desktop it may be prudent to give serious thought to the format, functionality and accessibility, and consider the exclusion of the Catalogue search option as has already been done by some.

After performing a number of parallel searches using both of these routes, I have not found one to be significantly more accurate than the other but there is no doubt that the OPAC search requires more skill of the user than does the Desktop if similar results are to be achieved.

The look, feel, general accuracy of retrieval results and the speed with which the search is completed certainly tip the scales in the Desktop's favour and it's not surprising that many libraries now have it running in tandem with SLIMS which allows them to dip in and out of it as and when required.

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*Marilyn McIntosh is a functional specialist in library systems at CIPAL.*





# I like COFFEE

# I like TEA . . . part 2

## What is it about tea that makes it so popular the world over? by Dalena Le Roux

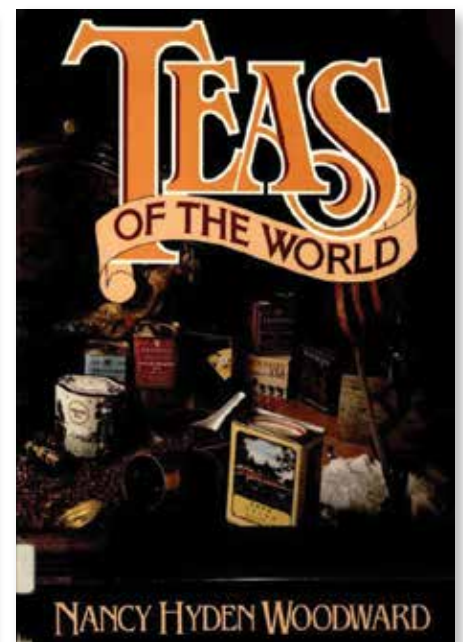
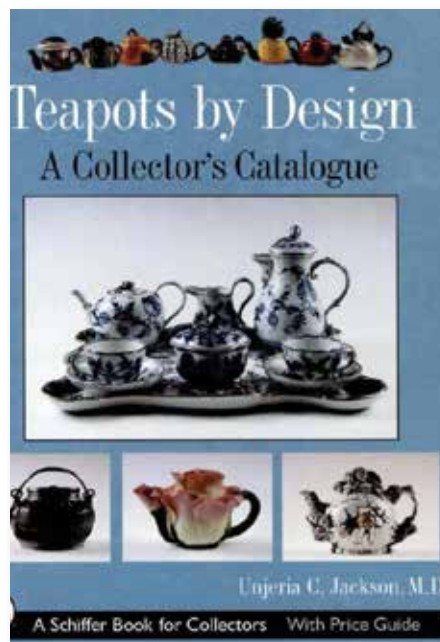
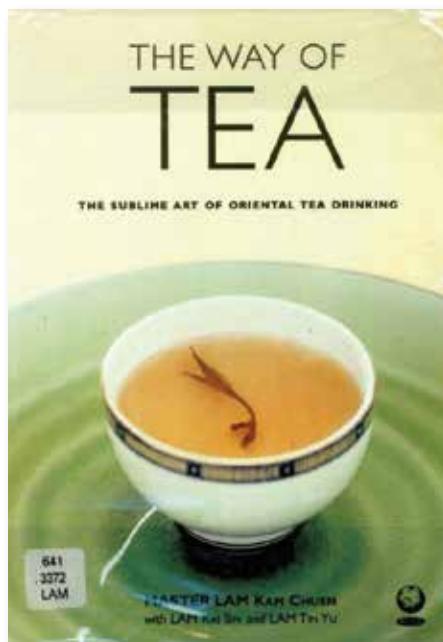
Tea-drinking runs like a vein through the cultures of East and West, the focus of pleasure and leisure, and the inspiration for a variety of customs and ceremonies. It has influenced the course of history, shaping trade routes and contributing to the causes of several wars and incidents (remember the Opium Wars which saw China reduced from a great imperial power, and the Boston Tea Party, which started the American War of Independence). English, Dutch and other European explorers have

built great trading empires on the import of tea. It has played a part in medicine, currency, politics, naval architecture, literature, manners and fashion. Since its discovery it has been a source of inspiration for the religious and the carefree, for the painter, writer, politician and master artisan. And it has been celebrated with humour in books, poetry, painting, sculpture and music.

Tea comes from the plant *Camellia sinensis*, a hardy evergreen shrub that grows in warm and humid sub-tropical

climates. Besides China, where it was discovered more than 4000 years ago, tea today is also grown in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Turkey, Kenya, Malawi and even in the north-eastern regions of our own country.

There are as many different ways of growing and preparing tea as there are ways of brewing, serving and enjoying it. The leaves can be treated in various ways to produce different types of tea. For green tea, the leaves are steamed; for black tea, the leaves are laid



out to dry and wither, then rolled and fermented, which gives the leaves their familiar coppery-brown colour. There can be as many different teas as there are wines, for soil, altitude and climate influence the final flavour of the tea as much as the processing it undergoes. Teas are infinitely variable in style and taste, like Darjeeling, Lapsang

tea is one of those eternal creature comforts that soothe body and soul

Souchong, Earl Grey, Ceylon, Assam, Oolong, English Breakfast and many, many others.

The drinking of tea has been seen as an opportunity to visit with friends and family and has become the traditional ceremony with which to welcome a visitor whatever the time of day. The tea party was as much a staple of social life in ancient China as in the nineteenth century drawing rooms of Europe, and bricks of tea transported

perilously by yak were as central to life in Tibetan monasteries as the gently simmering samovar was to life in imperial Russia.

But it was the English who made tea part of their life in ways that continue to the present day. Picture this: it is four o'clock on a winter afternoon. The kettle is on, the kitchen is warm, and the smell of fresh toast and cinnamon from a freshly sliced tea cake hangs in the air. Finally the fresh brew is ready and poured into warmed, waiting cups. With the first sip, a feeling of contentment prevails, for tea is one of those eternal creature comforts that soothe body and soul and warm the heart.

Whenever one sips a cup of tea, it should remind one of its life-giving qualities and its contribution, past and present, to civilised existence.

To get to know more about tea time, SN offers the following titles:

#### *General*

Eden, Thomas. **Tea.**- Longmans, c1958.

Faulkner, Rupert. **Tea: east and west.**- V&A Publ., 2003.

Fukukita, Yasunosuke. **Tea cult of Japan.**- Japan Travel Bureau, 1955.

Hewitt, William W. **Tea leaf reading.**- Llewellyn, 1998.

Lam, Kam Chuen. **The way of tea: the sublime art of oriental tea-drinking.**- Gaia Bks., 2002.

Mair, Victor H. **The true history of tea.**- Thames, 2009.

Mitscher, Lester A. **The green tea book.**- Avery, c1998.

Tanaka, Seno. **The tea ceremony.**- Kodansha Int., 1974.

Theron, Annekie. **Babas, allergieë en rooibos.**- Theron Ondernemings, 1974.

Woodward, Nancy Hayden. **Teas of the world.**- Collier, c1980.

Zittlau, Jorg. **Green tea for health and vitality.**- Sterling, c1999.

#### *For the collector*

Jackson, Unieria C. **Teapots by design; a collector's catalogue.**- Schiffer, c2006.

Sandon, Henry. **Coffee pots and teapots for the collector.**- Bartholomew, 1973.

#### *For the tea party*

Foley, Tricia. **Having tea: recipes and table settings.**- Sidgwick, 1988.

Isles, Joanna. **A proper tea.**- Piatkus, 1987.

#### *For fun*

Anderson, Robert. **Tea and sympathy: a play.**- Heinemann, 1957.

Hesse, Eeko. **Tea: the eyelids of Bodhidharma.**- Prism P., 1982.

Miller, Hugh. **High tea: a comedy in one act.**- French, 1949.



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[www.westerncape.gov.za/library](http://www.westerncape.gov.za/library)



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