POSTBAG

And the winner is...nobody?

I am always reminded of the phrase: *smile and the whole world smiles with you, cry and you cry alone.*

There is no amount of fortune that will ever repay the loss of an opportunity to learn and be learned. The special place that your publication has found in our library is a silent but sure voice of empowerment. The articles, book choices and sometimes just news is something to look forward to. Just imagine a different cover every time. What are the chances that you could do an article on prison libraries. Don't know if you've ever done one? If not, please consider.
Thanks again.

Karel
Pollsmoor Prison Library coordinator

Martin Waddell visit schools

May I add an interesting footnote to Jay Heale's reference to Hans Christian Andersen award-winner Martin Waddell visiting schools in his article on the IBBY Congress in Cape Town in the September/October issue of the **Cape Librarian**.

Martin had expressed an interest in telling stories to children and I was fortunate enough to be asked to accompany him to various schools (and show him and his wife Rosaleen something of Cape Town as well).

These school visits were pure pleasure as Martin delights in telling his stories to his young listeners and they in turn are totally involved in listening.

The children at Sea Point Primary School and at Mickelfield Primary School in Rondebosch will not forget his visit in a hurry but the high point for me was his storytelling session at the Siyabulela Primary School in Langa.

It was decided that since these children were Grade I Xhosa-speaking learners Martin would tell his story in English and teacher Yoliswa Gulwa would then translate. But this turned into something totally different from simply telling a story and having it translated line by line.

Somehow between Martin and Yoliswa a spark was lit, no, it was a veritable blaze of joint pleasure in the act of telling a story. More than just the narrative and the words, it was the body language, the movements and the feelings that produced a memorable creative synergy between an English-speaking author from Ireland and a Xhosa-speaking primary school teacher in Langa,

MENSE

Ons sal Linda onthou

Na 'n lang en nou verbintenis van 33 jaar met die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens, het Linda van Zyl aan die einde van Augustus 2004, met vervroegde pensioen afgetree. Sy beskik seker oor van die langste diensjare van al die personeel tans nog werksaam by die Biblioteekdiens.

Kollega Johan Swiegelaar dink terug...

'Ek onthou nog goed die wonderlike voorreg, 30 jaar gelede, toe my pad met dié van Linda, destyds streekbibliotekaris van Mosselbaaistreek, gekruis het. Toe 'n student wat, na ander omswerwinge, weer teruggekeer het na die studie-omgewing, het ek in Junie 1974, onder die kritiese oog van Linda, praktiese werk in Mosselbaai Streekbiblioteek gedoen.'

'Ons professionele verbintenis is in 1975 voortgesit toe ek haar kollega geword het. Ek onthou so vele aangename tye waartydens ons saam beplan en gewerk het, veral die fisiese beplanning van biblioteke in die Outeniqua-gebied. Ook was daar die ontwikkeling van materiaalversamelings vir biblioteke, streekkonferensies, opleidingskursusse en sommer lekker gesels oor wat alles op hoofkantoor gebeur. Die goue draad was altyd Linda se vriendelikheid en oneindige geduld. Sy is dan eers tot hoofbibliotekaris en later assistentdirekteur in Outeniqua bevorder. Daar is by my geen twyfel dat my eie ontwikkeling as bibliotekaris oneindig armer sou gewees het as dit nie vir my werkskontak met Linda was nie.

'Ons in die Biblioteekdiens sal Linda altyd onthou, nie net vir die spesiale persoon wat sy is nie, maar ook spesifiek vir die professionaliteit en integriteit wat sy na die werksomgewing gebring het en spesifiek die bestuursvlak. Ons wens haar 'n wonderlike toekoms toe en is seker dat sy net so suksesvol met haar nuwe onderneming sal wees.

'Ons sal onthou, Linda. Jou bydraes sal altyd vir ons as hoogtemerk dien.'

Linda vertel...

'As ek terugkyk op my dienstydperk van 33½ jaar, is ek geneig om net die aangename dinge te onthou en van die onaangename, wat seker ook daar moes wees, te vergeet. Nadat ek einde 1970, tydens my finale universiteitsjaar, vir 'n onderhoud by 'n voormalige direkteur, mnr G Morris was, kon ek 'n keuse maak om as streekbibliotekaris in Graaff-Reinet, Grahamstad, Kimberley of Mosselbaai diens te aanvaar. Ook maar goed ek het laasgenoemde dorp gekies, waarskynlik omdat dit die naaste aan my tuiste in Kaapstad was, anders het ek nooit my man ontmoet nie! Weens die diskriminasie daardie tyd teen vroue, moes ek in 1973 bedank om in die huwelik te tree, maar is gelukkig weer heraangestel.

'Tydens my 21 jaar as streekbibliotekaris van Mosselbaaistreek was daar volop ervarings en uitdagings wat maar so tussen huisvrou wees en kind grootmaak moes gebeur. Veral in die sewentiger- en tagtigerjare, moes ek die beplanning, afhandeling en intrek van talle nuwe biblioteke, asook 'n streektrek, behartig. Met 'n goeie grondslag gelê deur my toesighouer, Julie te Groen, is ek aan die diep kant ingegooi, veral wat biblioteekbeplanning betref. Ook maar goed, want die ervaring het handig te pas gekom met die 28 biblioteekprojekte waarvoor ek verantwoordelik was. My lojale en hardwerkende personeel het reuse bydraes gelewer vir die suksesvolle afhandeling van die projekte. Saam het ons hitte, vloedwaters en koue trotseer, pap wiele help omruil en vele ander insidente beleef. Gelukkig was ek in al my diensjare en ongeveer 500 000 km wat ek afgelê het, nooit in 'n ongeluk betrokke nie.

'In Maart 1992 is ek bevorder tot eerste bibliotekaris en in September 1998 tot assistentdirekteur in beheer van Outeniqua Beheergebied. Ek het baie rondgery, selfs na verafgeleë plekke soos Springbok, Vanrhynsdorp en Calvinia. Die area het egter gekrimp met die instelling van die nuwe provinsies. Ek voel bevoorreg dat ek deel kon wees van 'n Biblioteekdiens wat beskou word as die beste in die land en ook dat ek deel kon wees van vele vernuwings, soos rekenarisering en herskikkings. Ook is ek dankbaar vir gemotiveerde en pligsgetroue personeel, veral in die streke, wat baie daartoe bygedra het om my taak te verlig en my goed laat lyk het! Baie dankie veral ook Cornel, op wie se kundigheid, inisiatief en lojaliteit ek baie staatgemaak het. Ek is vol vertroue dat met 'n totaal van 83 jaar se ervaring van Cornel Jonck, en streekbibliotekarisse Theuns Botha, Elna Cloete, Elna Gous, Pieter Hugo en Ronel Mouton, die werk vorentoe vlot sal verloop. Ek wil graag al die bibliotekarisse bedank vir hulle ondersteuning en onbaatsugtige diens deur die jare - die oplossing vir die funksie-probleem lê hopelik nie te ver nie.

'Alhoewel ek die daaglikse kontak met kollegas baie gaan mis, sien ek uit na nuwe uitdagings en om soggens bietjie later te kan slaap!'

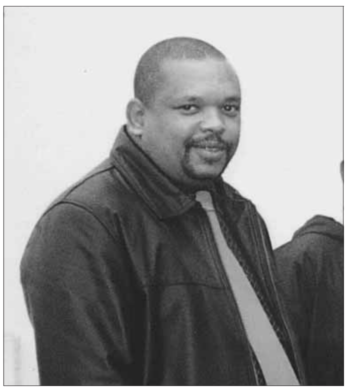
➪

Cape Town. The result was a performance by the two of them that had both the children and the adults squealing with delight.

My only regret is that there was no video camera around to record this event for posterity.

Rheina Epstein
Correspondent

New president for LIASA



Thomas (more popularly known as Tommy) Matthee, Head of Drakenstein Library Services, was installed as President of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) (2004 to 2006) at the Annual General Meeting held in September 2004. He is the first public librarian to serve LIASA in this capacity.

Matthee who hails from Paarl in the Western Cape, and a founder member of LIASA, was closely involved in various processes that led to the birth of LIASA; starting in 1996 as assistant treasurer in ULIS I and continuing as treasurer in ULIS II in 1997. He served two consecutive terms as LIASAs first treasurer, from 1998 to 2002. From 2002 to 2004 he chaired the Western Cape Branch and served on the national executive committee as an additional member with the task of coordinating and advising the various interest groups.

During this time he represented LIASA at the Ghana International Book Festival where he presented a paper on *The LIASA/Carnegie partnership*, and the second Helsinki Finland Book Festival where he presented a paper on the *Development of South African Libraries: Heritage of the past and visions for the future*. He has also served on various boards including the Centre for the Book, the Patience Maisela Library Staff Development Trust and is a member of the National Council on Library and Information Services (NCLIS). In 2002 he participated in LIASAs South African Library Leadership Programme (SALLP).

He graduated from the University of the Western Cape with a B.Bibl in 1992.

Nohra Moerat
Former National Public Relations Officer, LIASA

BIBLIOTEKE

Leer meer oor video's

Kraaifontein Biblioteek het onlangs 'n baie suksesvolle video-werkswinkel aangebied wat deur persone vanuit alle oorde (Kraaifontein, Brackenfell, Scottsdene en Melton Rose Biblioteek) bygewoon is.

Eers is kursusgangers gewys hoe om 'n videomasjien skoon te maak, waarna verduidelik is hoe om 'n videokasset oop te maak en die binnedele te ontleed en reg te maak. Hulle is ook geleer hoe om 'n band te las.

Ons het nou meer begrip oor die werklading van die videospan by die Biblioteekdiens en daar sal gesorg word dat alles so maklik moontlik vir hulle gemaak word indien 'n video wat die biblioteek weer wil terughê, na hulle toe gestuur word.

Hiermee baie dankie aan Goosain en John vir 'n baie insiggewende werkswinkel.

Nelia van Zyl
Bibliotekaris, Kraaifontein Biblioteek

Fish Hoek Library... 50 years later

This year the friendly seaside town of **Fish Hoek** saw the 50th birthday celebrations of their library. Among the guests were Ethel-May Gillard, the first librarian and Lynn Steyn who followed in her footsteps. (Photo on page 5.)

The day was filled with interesting displays such as that of the Photographic Society, that incidentally also celebrated their 50th anniversary.

A local publisher presented a book display during which the public was encouraged to purchase books and donate these to the library.

Marianne Elliott
Southern region

Parow turns 21

Parow Library has come of age and celebrated its 21st with a party complete with a birthday cake, balloons and refreshments (photo on page 5).

Guest speaker councillor Wim van der Bijl congratulated past and present staff members for 'raising an important member of the community to maturity'.

Carla Molier was the first head librarian with eight staff members. Membership at the time was 10 850 and about 220 600 books were circulated.

The library first became computerised in June 1994. Other major changes included the appointment of the first black head librarian in April 1999, Thami Mbatha, when Molier left to take up the position as area librarian.

Rosa Folscher was the acting head librarian until Mbatha was appointed.

Under her leadership the library grew and today it boasts 18 225 members and a circulation of 536 278 books with 15 staff members who keep the library running smoothly.

'The information needs of our library users have also changed. Some lenders are now looking for information about the Freedom Charter and black participation in the World War II. This information, previously labelled dangerous because of censorship laws, is now freely available on our shelves', she said.

*Bo: (links) 'n Pragtige fynbosuitstalling in **Kleinmond Biblioteek** en (bo regs) word kinders vriendelik deur kiertsregop soldaatjies genooi om hul tuis te maak in die kinderafdeling*

*Below: **Observatory Library's** unusual combined celebration of Bandana and Casual Day - their efforts generated enough funds for two people to register with the Bone Marrow Foundation*

*Bo: Ter viering van die 10 jaar demokrasie is 'n muntlegging by **Piketberg Biblioteek** gehou. Hier word die Suid-Afrikaanse vlag op die parkeerterrein geteken en die publiek en skole het kom munte lê - fondse ingesamel is aan die plaaslike kinderhuis geskenk*

Links: Ook deel van die vieringe was 'n blommerangskikkingkompetisie met die tema 'Weef 10 goue demokratiese jare'.
(Vlnr): Carina Kennedy (deelnemer), Marcelle Ellis (wenner), Gerna Croeser (bibliotekaris), en Johan Raats (vorige burgemeester van Bergrivier Munisipaliteit) staan hier by die wenrangskikking

*Above: A happy group of young users in **Somerset West Library***

*Left: An unusual gathering of **Fish Hoek**'s first, past and present librarians during their fifty year celebrations. Here we have Ethel-May Gillard (centre), first librarian in charge of Fish Hoek with her successor Lynn Steyn on her right and her successor, Sue Alexander on her left*

The library also has a business corner which provides information on how to start and run a business.

'Our children's section is pure delight with suspended lights in metallic colours. It also features a school project section. We no longer focus on leisure materials like magazines for kids but we have a variety of study guides based on the school curriculum', Mbatha said.

As a service to the elderly the staff deliver books every two weeks to Huis Uitsig, Huis Martina and the Tygerberg Dienssentrum.

Tygertalk

Congratulations to both libraries! We all know that libraries are totally indispensable - even more so in our new-found democracy! ED

Clever fundraising

Through the generosity of the public and the ingenuity of the staff, **Observatory Library** raised R400 for the Sunflower Fund. This will enable two people to register with the Bone Marrow Foundation (photo on page 5). As Bandanna Day and Casual Day fell in the same week, the library staff combined the two events by wearing Sunflower bandannas and night apparel. Observatory Library has an ongoing collection for unwanted spectacles for Operation Brightsight, averaging approximately 100 pairs a month. Clothing and household goods are also collected and distributed to The Friends of Valkenberg Hospital, various charities and National Government Organisations in the area.

Nadia Ismail and Rosemary Robins
Librarians, Observatory Library

The power of poetry

On the second Saturday of the month poetry comes into its own at the **Central Library** when emerging poets have an opportunity to read their poems and established poets willingly share their experience and expertise. The afternoon can take many forms - from basic workshops on poetry techniques to published poets describing their creative processes to emerging poets seeking an audience. What is striking is the generosity of established poets in sharing their approaches and the enthusiasm of the emerging poets (used in this sense for poets who have not yet had their work published).

But even more striking is the wealth of talent displayed, the fresh raw images and the delight that all the participants have in engaging with words, rhythm and metre. We may hear praise poetry with its unique cadences, sharp haiku or even a simple rhyme. For many of the participants English is not their first language yet they are able to express themselves eloquently and vividly. Possibly working in another language provides a particular dimension with attention-arresting images and metaphors.

Central Library is to be congratulated on this initiative which has been running for nearly three years; for filling what is obviously a gap amongst word people and for giving so much listening (and thinking) pleasure to both participants and listeners.

Rheina Epstein
Correspondent

SKRYWERS EN BOEKE

Jan Rabie vereer

Vanaf 25 tot 27 Oktober 2004 het verskeie verrigtinge in Stilbaai plaasgevind om die bekendstelling van JC Kannemeyer se twee boeke, **Jan Rabie: prosa pionier en politieke padwyser** en **Hutspot**, te doen.

Die toneelopvoering van **Jan en Jorie**, oor die huwelikslewe van Jan Rabie en sy vrou Marjorie Wallace, bekende skilder, het 'n vol saal op 25 Oktober getrek. 44 lesers het ook die toer na Riethuiskraal meegemaak waar Jan Rabie vanaf sy sesde tot sestiende jaar gebly het. Sy vader was die skoolhoof van die plaasskool. Dr Kannemeyer en mnr Kleinhans, wat die plaas ongeveer 13 jaar gelede gekoop het, het van Jan Rabie se jeugjare daar vertel. Hulle het plekke soos die kleinpontjie oor die Goukourivier en die kalkklowe waar die seuns moes hout kap, uitgewys. Die toerlede kon ook 'n besoek aan die ou plaashuis en skole bring.

Deel van die verrigtinge was 'n dokumentêre fliek, lesings deur Abraham de Vries, Ampie Coetzee, Lucas Malan en John Kannemeyer, 'n Strandveldse ete met kontreikos soos mieliekoekies, volstruisfrikkadelle, volstruiseier-omelet met mossels, veldkool, ensovoorts, en 'n argeologiese toer.

Ander gaste was skrywer Hennie Aucamp en Nicol Stassen, uitgewer van Protea Boekhuis. Dr Kannemeyer het die Stilbaai Leeskring hartlik bedank vir hulle entoesiasme en deelname om alles 'n sukses te maak.

Die Stilbaai Leeskring bied die vierde Lesersdag op 4 Mei 2005 in die Gemeenskapsaal op Stilbaai aan. Vir meer inligting skakel (028) 754-3998/ (028) 754-2149.

Heleen Dockel
Stilbaai Leeskring

Klink na 'n wonderlike dag. RED

Potter-karakters minder

Harry Potter se aanhangers moet solank die snesies gereed hou: nóg 'n karakter in dié gewilde boekereeks gaan sterf.

Volgens die webwerf *www.sky.com* het die skrywer van die reeks, JK Rowling (39), erken dat nog 'n karakter in haar nuwe boek aan die kortste end gaan trek - en dat dit selfs Harry kan wees.

Aanhangers sal tot volgende jaar moet wag wanneer **Harry Potter and the half-blood prince** verskyn om uit te vind wie oorleef nié tot die laaste hoofstuk nie. Die beroepsweddersagentskap William Hill aanvaar reeds weddenskappe op die moontlike kandidate.

Harry se vriend Hagrid, is met 3/1 die gunsteling, met Dompeldorius, Hogwarts se hoof, kort op sy hakke met 4/1.

Die Burger

Moord inspireer 'skrywer'

Op skool is sy dikwels geprys vir haar wenopstelle - maar dis eers twaalf jaar later dat Nicci Thabo (30) van Wellington ware erkenning vir haar woordkuns kry.

Thabo, van die wynlandgoed De Compagnie in die Bovlei, het die prys gewen vir 'n skryfkompetisie van die Bloemfonteinse Skrywersvereniging - in die kategorie vir deelnemers uit voorheen benadeelde gemeenskappe - vir haar kortverhaal, *Sy plek is leeg*.

Hoërskoolleerlinge en volwassenes wat nog nie voorheen skeppende skryfwerk teen vergoeding gepubliseer het nie, kon deelneem. Dit is die grootste skryfwedstryd in sy soort in Suid-Afrika. 'n Paneel het die inskrywings anoniem beoordeel.

'Ek het onthou wat my standerd ses juffrou oor my opstelle gesê het. En ek het ook nog nooit vergeet hoe ek tien jaar gelede 'n goeie vriend van my verloor het toe hy vermoor is nie. Hy was die inspirasie vir my verhaal.'

Thabo het die afgelope week vir die eerste keer hulp met haar skryfwerk gekry toe sy 'n kursus by die skrywer Riana Scheepers bygewoon het. 'Ek het nog nooit voorheen klasse geloop of kursusse gevolg nie. En anders as wat mense dink, het Riana my nié gehelp nie. Sy het net die posseël op my inskrywing geplak.'

Vir haar weninskrywing het Thabo nie net 'n geldprys ontvang nie, maar sy kon ook die Skrywersvereniging se slypskool vir ontluikende skrywers gratis bywoon. Haar verhaal is in die publikasie **Inkvars 2004** gepubliseer.

Rapport

LITERÊRE TOEKENNINGS

Nobel Prys vir vrou

Die Oostenrykse romansier, dramaturg en digter Elfriede Jelinek is met die Nobel Prys vir Letterkunde bekroon.

Die Sweedse Akademie, wat dié prys van 10 miljoen krone (sowat R8,97 miljoen) toeken, het in sy commendatio verwys na Jelineks se 'musikale stroom van stemme en teenstemme in romans en dramas wat met buitengewone taalvaardigheid die gemeenskap se clichés en absurditeite, en die onderwerpende mag daarvan, openbaar'.

Dit is die eerste keer sedert 1996, toe die Poolse digter Wislawa Szymborska gewen het, dat 'n vrou met die Nobelprys vir Letterkunde bekroon is. Sedert die prys die eerste keer in 1901 toegeken is, het nog net nege vroue dit gewen.

Jelinek se tekste is dikwels 'n mengsel van prosa, poësie en drama. Haar onlangse werke is variasies op een van haar grondtemas, naamlik, die oënskynlike onvermoë van vroue om hul volledig te vind en uit te leef in 'n wêreld waar hulle deur en as stereotipes geminag word.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse skrywer JM Coetzee het verlede jaar die Nobel Prys gewen.

Die Burger

Jonker en Joubert vereer

Die Orde van Ikhamanga, Suid-Afrika se hoogste toekenning vir prestasie in die skeppende en uitvoerende kunste, is aan twee Afrikaanse skrywers gedoen. Een is postuum toegeken aan Ingrid Jonker (1933-1965) uit erkenning vir haar letterkundige bydrae en haar vroeë betrokkenheid as skrywer by die Afrika-problematiek.

Drie poësiebundels van Jonker is gepubliseer: **Ontvlugting** (1956), **Rook en oker** (1963) en **Kantelson** (1966).

Haar werk het opnuut onder die aandag gekom toe oudpresident Nelson Mandela met sy openingsrede van die eerste demokraties verkose parlement in 1994 haar gedig, *Die kind is nie dood nie*, in Jack Cope se Engelse vertaling aangehaal het.

Verskeie dokumentêre films is oor haar en haar werk vervaardig. In Desember is Helena Nogueira se dokumentêr oor Jonker deur Ster-Kinekor uitgereik.

Simone Venter, dogter van Jonker het die toekenning vir haar ontslape ma op 'n plegtigheid in die Uniegebou in Pretoria in ontvangs geneem. Venter het gesê dit was vir haar 'n groot voorreg om die toekenning namens haar ma te ontvang en dit is iets wat die herinneringe aan Jonker net versterk het. 'Ek en my mamma was vriende…meer as enigiets. Sy sou vandag so trots gewees het.'

Die ander toekenning het gegaan aan Elsa Joubert, vir haar letterkundige bydrae en haar vroeë betrokkenheid as skrywer by die Afrika-problematiek. Sy is een van 30 ontvangers wat vereer is.

Joubert is reeds sedert haar debuut **Water en woestyn**, (1956), intens met die Afrika-problematiek gemoeid. Haar roman, **Die swerfjare van Poppie Nongena** het vele bekronings gekry en is ook in verskeie tale wêreldwyd vertaal. Die boek is verlede jaar aangewys as een van die honderd Afrika-boeke van die eeu.

Die enigste ander Afrikaanse skrywer wat só vereer is, is Karl Schoeman, wat die toekenning in 1998 van Mandela ontvang het.

Die Burger

De Vries verower RAU Prys

'Skrywers oor sestig moenie literêre pryse aanvaar nie', het dr Braam de Vries gesê toe hy die RAU Prys vir sy kortverhaalbundel, **Tot verhaal kom** (Human & Rousseau), ontvang het. 'Jy weet nooit of dit gehalte is wat bekroon word of uithouvermoë nie.'

Só het hy altyd geglo, maar veral die betrokkenheid van die jeug in die RAU Prys se keurpaneel het hom tot ander insigte oorgehaal.

De Vries, wat in sy lang skryfloopbaan dikwels oor die hoof gesien is vir die groot pryse in die Afrikaanse letterkunde, het gesê hy het 'nog nooit vir enige prys geskryf nie'.

'Dat hierdie toekenning in koerante aangeprys is as regstelling van onreg, het my verbly, maar ook regtig verbaas. 'n Skrywer wat na eer en beprysings streef, sal nie die kortverhaal toelaat om hom of haar te kies nie - en wie 'n wilde perd probeer ry, het nie tyd om te kyk wie van die toeskouers knik en wie frons nie. Vir diegene wat my as skrywer probeer benadeel het, is ek werklik jammer, maar ek het dit nooit agtergekom nie.'

Volgens De Vries word die RAU Prys deur baie skrywers beskou as dié prestigeprys in die Afrikaanse letterkunde - nie net omdat die prysgeld 'n allemintige R50 000 beloop nie, maar ook omdat dit nié 'n 'mensonterende toeskouersport' is nie.

Dat die beoordelaars besluit het om 'n kortverhaalbundel te bekroon eerder as 'n roman, het hy spottenderwys bestempel as 'die jongste afwyking in 'n reeks abnormaliteite'.

Die wenner van die debuutprys was die digter Marius Crous. Hy is met die RAU Debuutprys bekroon vir sy bundel, **Brief uit die kolonies**, wat by Protea Boekhuis verskyn het.

Rapport

Debute wen Boeke Prys

Mark Haddon se **The curious incident of the dog in the night-time** en Khaled Hosseini se **The kite runner** is die gesamentlike wenners van vanjaar se Boeke Prys wat deur Exclusive Books toegeken word.

Dit is die eerste keer in die prys se tienjarige geskiedenis dat daar 'n gelykop-uitslag is. Albei boeke is debuutwerke.

Die wenners is deur 36 boekjoernaliste en resensente van dwarsoor die land aangewys. Die opdrag was dat die mees onweerstaanbare lekkerleesboek aangewys word uit 'n kortlys van ses Engelse romans wat die voorafgaande jaar gepubliseer is.

Die ander finaliste was Barbara Trapido se **Frankie and Stankie**, Dan Brown se **The Da Vinci code**, Jonathan Raban se **Waxwings** en Alexander McCall Smith se **Tears of the giraffe**.

Die Burger

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Hollinghurst wen Booker

Die Britse skrywer Alan Hollinghurst is aangewys as die wenner van vanjaar se Man Booker Prys vir Fiksie vir sy vierde roman, **The line of beauty**. Hollinghust was ook in 1994 met sy roman, **The folding star** op die kortlys vir dié prys.

Behalwe dat hy £50 000 (sowat R568 000) ontvang het, sal die prys hom van verhoogde boekverkope en wêreldwye erkenning verseker.

Hy is in 1954 in Gloucestershire gebore en het op Oxford gestudeer en later daar Engels gedoseer. Hy was etlike jare adjunkredakteur van die **Times Literary Supplement** en in 1993 een van die beste jong Britse romanskrywers wat jaarliks deur die tydskrif **Granta** aangewys word. Hollinghurst, wat tans in Londen woon, se vorige romans is **The swimming-pool library** (wenner van die Somerset Maugham Prys), **The folding star** (wenner van die James Tait Black Gedenk Prys) en **The spell**.

Die Burger

OPLEIDING

'n Anderste soort bustoer

Op 26 en 27 Oktober het bibliotekarisse, as deel van opleiding, 'n bustoer na verskillende biblioteke onderneem onder leiding van Jeanette Vosloo, assistentdirekteur: Boland. Sir Lowry's Pass, Hermanus, Kleinmond, (foto's op bladsy 5), Bellville, Delft en Brackenfell se biblioteke is besoek. By elke biblioteek is 'n praatjie oor hul spesialiteitsveld aangebied en kursusgangers kon leer oor optimale benutting van klein biblioteekspasies; effektiewe voorraadbou; poppekasvertonings; organisasie en benutting van sakehoekies; en hantering van diversiteit. 'n Baie suksesvolle toer waartydens almal iets geleer het. Die kommentaar van kursusgangers? 'Daar kan méér sulke kursusse gereël word.'

Sophia Rickett
Valsbaaistreek

Bo: Jeanette Vosloo aan die woord in ***Sir Lowry's Pass Biblioteek***

Regs: Op besoek aan ***Hermanus Biblioteek*** *tydens die opleidingstoer*

MISCELLANY

New LIASA committee

At the 2004 Annual LIASA Conference held in Polokwane, the following members have been elected to serve as office bearers for the term 2004-2006 on the LIASA Executive Committee: President: Tommy Matthee (Western Cape); Deputy President: Tshidi Makhafola (Limpopo); Treasurer: Dr Brian Brink (Limpopo); Secretary: Karlien de Klerk (Eastern Cape); PRO: René Schoombee (North West).

Additional Members: Robert Moropa (Gauteng North); Charlie Molepo (Gauteng South); Doraliza Ackerman (Free State); Connie Magoba (Gauteng North).

Karin Kitching
Office Manager, LIASA National Office

LIASA in Limpopo

The 7th Annual Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Conference recently took place in Polokwane in the Limpopo Province.

Since its inaugural conference in 1997, LIASA has presented its conference and annual general meeting in a different province each year. Its acronym LIASA (pronounced liyasa) is most apt, as liyasa in the Nguni languages means 'the dawn'.

The theme for the conference in Limpopo was *Libraries and Democracy*: the vital link. Most appropriately, it coincides with the country's celebration of a decade of democracy. The outgoing president of LIASA, Robert Moropa, said in his speech that the theme enabled a review of the role libraries played in the task of building this democracy, and to identify areas where they have done well. 'However, most importantly, this conference must help us to identify missed opportunities, our challenges, failures and shortcomings.'

An array of librarians presented papers at the conference, that also included international speakers like Dr Alex Byrne, president elect of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Helena Asamoah-Hassan, university librarian at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Dato Zawiyah Baba, director general of the National Library of Malaysia, Kathryn Harris, division manager for library services at the

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Hanelore Vogt, chief librarian of the City Library in Wurzburg, Germany.

The conference gave delegates the opportunity to explore a common problem against the background of different experiences. Experience, knowledge, vision and action for a better life were linked at the LIASA Conference in Limpopo.

The 8th LIASA Conference will take place in Nelspruit during September 2005. Librarians from all sectors, public, academic, special, and school libraries are invited to contact the LIASA National Office on (012) 481-2875 and become part of the professional library connection for more information. Each province has a LIASA Branch that aims to actively serve their librarians in their Province.

René Schoombee
National Public Relations Officer, LIASA

Reading Promotion Award

The Centre for the Book's Lorato Trok was overjoyed to receive the IBBY Asahi Reading Promotion Award (which includes a cash donation of US$10 000 to further the project) for the First Words in Print project.

President of the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award Jury, Xosé Antonio Neira Cruz said in his commendation speech: 'First Words in Print has filled South African houses with words and with books. With these gifts has come, as it often does, the hope of a better world for everybody. We must recognise the Centre for the Book in Cape Town for doing this work and then, together praise its efforts.'

In accepting this prestigious award and the affirmation that it makes for the project, Lorato offered insight into her own experiences:

'There is a perception that African people have a culture of non-reading. I dispute that. I grew up in poverty and neither my mother nor my father were readers. What I know is I have always loved books and reading. I would pick up anything with words on it to read.

'There weren't any books in my native Setswana language that I could read, except textbooks. The only thing that kept me from owning books was because my parents couldn't afford to buy us books, and there was no library in our area and in any of the schools that I attended. What we rather say is African people love books and reading just as much as anyone, but because the majority of them are poor, buying books is not a priority in terms of needs.'

Supported by the Japanese newspaper company Asahi Shimbun, the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award is given annually to a group, or an institution, which, through its outstanding activities, is judged to be making a lasting contribution to reading promotion programmes for children and young people. The nominations are submitted by the National Sections of IBBY and may include projects from any part of the world.

First Words in Print is a pioneering project of the Centre for the Book that aims to enable more young South African children to have access to the stimulation of picture books and story books in their own languages. In a country where an estimated three million adults are illiterate and another eight million are functionally illiterate, the importance of stimulating an interest in books at an early age cannot be overestimated.

So far four books have been published and distributed to 22 500 children in five regions of the country. Another five books have been developed, as part of a competition run by SAPPI, and these will be integrated into the project as well.

For further information please contact Lorato Trok or Nazli Johaardien at telephone (021) 423-2669 or e-mail ‹Lorato.Trok@nlsa.ac.za› / ‹firstwords@nlsa.ac.za›.

The image of the librarian

Authors thanking librarians for their help is nothing new but James Lee Burke goes

CAPE LIBRARIAN

40 YEARS AGO...

- Festive season message from the director, Library Service: 'The compliments of the season to all and may the new year hold for each and everyone that full measure of personal happiness that flows from service to other.'
- Technological advances à la 1964: Julian Rothnick said at a SALA congress that the application of photographic techniques to printing was a tremendous technological advance and brought the unit cost of book production down as it avoided typesetting. This made the printing of books in small quantities feasible. Today, of course, our magazine is printed directly from computer to plate.
- Die nuwe streekbiblioteekgebou sowel as die nuwe openbare biblioteek word op Vanrhynsdorp geopen, alles op dieselfde dag. Mevrou die LUK en Mevrou die Burgemeester het die deure amptelik oopgesluit en daar is op gesellige wyse tee gedrink en verversings genuttig. Die burgemeester se noenmaal het die verrigtinge afgesluit.
- Van die beste vertaalde boeke vir 1963 soos bekend gemaak in 1964: S Lagerloff se **Die wonderlike reis van Nils Holgren** en S Chons se **Florina en die streepvoëltjie**. Snaaks toe ek die titels lees, onthou ek hoe as kind, hierdie verhale uit vreemde lande 'n groot indruk op my gemaak het. Sekerlik toe al het die reisgogga my gebyt.
- Interessant - 40 jaar gelede open nuwe biblioteke in Barrydale en Rawsonville. En 2004 sien die opening van opgegradeerde fasiliteite in dieselfde gemeenskappe. Die eerste boek uitgereik in 1964 by Barrydale, **Sewe dae by die Silbersteins**. Een van die karakters uit die boek was 'Popperok'. Een van die min boeke wat my chemikus pa ooit gelees het. Vandag nog noem hy my ma 'ou Popperok'.
- The speed with which the latest Harry Potter book was ordered and made available to libaries was reported on recently. But just have a look at what was achieved with bestsellers in 1964: Geoffrey Jenkins **The river of diamonds**: Monday 19 October approved copy received from the bookseller at 8am; ordered at 11am; books delivered by bookseller at 2:30pm; quantity checked and invoice passed for payment by 4pm; book catalogued by 4:15pm; book entered in accessions register by 4:30pm for processing on 21 October. The 250 copies were through the processing belt by the end of the day and were packed and railed to the regional libraries by Friday 23 October (and six days later I celebrated my fifth birthday!).

further in his book **Last car to Elysian Fields** featuring Dave Robicheaux and published by Orion in 2003. In his acknowledgements he thanks Leslie Blanchard at the Iberia Parish Library and Vaun Stevens and Don Spritzer at the Missoula Public Library for their friendship and generous help over the years but in the body of the book on pages 102-103 he writes the following:

'I long ago became convinced that the most reliable source for arcane and obscure and seemingly unobtainable information does not lie with government or law enforcement agencies. Apparently neither the CIA nor the military intelligence apparatus inside the Pentagon had even a slight inkling of the Soviet Union's impending collapse, right up to the moment the Kremlin's leaders were trying to cut deals for their memoirs with New York publishers. Or if a person really wishes a lesson in the subjective nature of official information, he can always call the IRS and ask for help with his tax forms, then call back a half hour later and ask the same questions to a different representative.

'So where do you go to find a researcher who is intelligent, imaginative, skilled in the use of computers, devoted to discovering the truth, and knowledgeable about science, technology, history, and literature, and who usually works for dirt and gets credit for nothing?

'After lunch I drove to the city library on Main and asked the reference librarian to find what she could on Junior Crudup.'

Rheina Epstein
Correspondent

You CAN read it

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer inwaht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?
Yaeh and I awlyas thought slpeling was ipmorantt!

NATIONAL DAYS

Compiled by Szerena Knapp

*We have had requests to publish detail regarding national days in the November/December issue of the **CL** each year. Below is the information available at the time of going to print. International or national days for the rest of 2005 will be published in the January/February 2005 issue of the **CL**.*

Every effort has been made to ensure that the correct information is published. Should there be any discrepancies please contact the author on (021) 483-2483.

JANUARY

Sun Safe Awareness Month
Date: **1-31 January 2005**
Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa
Contact person: Alice Victor
Tel: (021) 689-5347
Fax: (021) 685-1937
E-mail: ‹projectswp@cansa.org.za›
Web site: *cansa.org.za / cansa.co.za*

World Braille Day
Date: **4 January 2005**
Presenter: SA National Council for the Blind
Tel: (012) 346-1171
Fax: (012) 346-4699
E-mail: ‹marlene@sancb.org.za›

World Leprosy Day
Date: **30 January 2005**
Presenter: Leprosy Mission Southern Africa
Contact person: Peter Laubscher
Tel: (011) 440-6323/440-5826
Fax: (011) 440-6324
E-mail: ‹peter@tlm.co.za›
Web site: *leprosymission.co.za*
Contact person: Otto Kingsley
Tel: (021) 558-2020

FEBRUARY

Diarrheal Disease Focus Month
Date: **1-28 February 2005**
Presenter: PGWC: Child Health
Tel: (021) 483-2686

Sun Safe Awareness Month
Date: **1-28 February 2005**
Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa
Contact person: Alice Victor
Tel: (021) 689-5347
Fax: (021) 685-1937
E-mail: ‹projectswp@cansa.org.za›
Web site: *cansa.org.za / cansa.co.za*

World Wetlands Day
Date: **2 February 2005**
Presenter: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Contact person: Desetso Ramotso
Tel: (012) 310-3822
Fax: (012) 322-2682
Cell no: 082 219 5136

International Cancer Day
Date: **5 February 2005**
Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa
Contact person: Alice Victor
Tel: (021) 689-5347
Fax: (021) 685-1937
E-mail: ‹projectswp@cansa.org.za›
Web site: *cansa.org.za / cansa.co.za*

Condom Week
Date: **7-14 February 2005**
Presenter: Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa
Tel: (021) 448-7312
Fax: (021) 448-7320
E-mail: ‹ppawc@ppawc.co.za›
Web site: *ppasa.org.za*

Pregnancy Education Week
Date: **12-20 February 2005**
Presenter: Childbirth Educators Resource Group
Contact person: Lynn Bluff
Tel: (011) 827-6912/0860 18 18 18
Cell no: 083 227 6712

Teen Suicide Prevention Week
Date: **20-26 February 2005**
Presenter: The SA Depression and Anxiety Group
Telephone: (011) 783-1474.