

POSSAK

POST-BAG ISINGXOBO SEPOSI

May I talk?

I was forced to think by an article by Enid Stephenson in *Carousel*, the best of the (few remaining) magazines on children's literature. She points out that in her local Suffolk library 'there is no need to ever talk to a librarian. Books can be ordered online, then you take them off the reserved shelf yourself, check it out yourself and indeed check it back in. What is your experience?' Well, presumably you have read the book. She bemoans the lack of opportunity to talk to a librarian.

I'm puzzled. My local Cape library has just gone through that computer-updating process which has driven all librarians and most visitors to distraction. I daren't stop and ask 'Read any good books lately?' Even when all that was over and I'm sure more efficient, we still don't chat about books or authors. The public library is a processing machine. You go in with one bag of books. You go out with another. Somewhere upstairs the children's librarian is doing valiant work keeping kids out from under your feet. Old men sleep in corners. Should it be a place where you talk to the librarians? Of course it should! But first, give the librarians time to read books so they have something to talk about. Where are the 'Meet the author' moments? Where are the whispers of 'I put this one aside for you?' Or even 'So what did you think of that one?' They all look so haggard and hectic, I daren't start a conversation. Is one supposed to?

Yours thoughtfully,
Jay Heale

Would anybody care to comment? ED

MENSE

PEOPLE ABANTU



A new face ... Vuyokazi Mandongana

Vuyokazi Mandongana has joined the Central Reference Section. Vuyo, as she prefers to be called, was born in the rural outskirts

of Keiskammahoek in the Eastern Cape and raised and schooled in Mdantsane.

Vuyo's career in library and information science started in 1996 when she enrolled for the library and information science degree at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). She completed her B.Bibl in 1999, and because she was still young (and wild) she decided to join the media industry as broadcasting was her second love. In 2000 she received training as a television producer from the Department of Communication who later employed her as an educational programme producer at the Institute for Satellite and Software Applications (ISSA) in Houwteq, Grabouw.

But, as the saying goes, 'once a librarian always a librarian'. At ISSA Vuyo was also responsible for the audiovisual archives of the media unit. Four years later she joined eTV as an audiovisual archivist. In less than a year with eTV she realised that an audiovisual archivist was not what she was cut out to be. She decided to go home and plough back her library experience to her community in the Eastern Cape at the Amahlathi municipal libraries, and more specifically, in her home town, Keiskammahoek. After two years as a public librarian she felt that it was about time to advance her career and she thus joined the Western Cape Provincial Library Service as the central reference librarian. Vuyo enjoys her new position and plans to learn a lot from her new colleagues. She intends to use all her relevant experience to make a positive contribution in the Central Reference Section.

Vuyo boasts a three year old baby girl, Mila from whom she draws strength and she works very hard to be a good role model. She is always willing to learn something from and about people around her. 'I believe that all the people in my life, both socially and professionally, are there for a reason.' She is grateful to those that contributed to her career development - that includes her former colleagues, mentors and family. 'I also feel it is appropriate to thank all my new colleagues but particularly the SN staff for the warm welcome.' I already feel at home, ready to learn and face any challenge.'

We trust that you will have a long and fruitful stay in the Service. ED

Totsiens aan Susan Smit

Susan Smit het 21 jaar gelede die onderwysberoep verruil vir die openbare biblioteek, toe sy 'n pos as biblioteekassistent by Somerset-Wes Biblioteek aanvaar het. Na een jaar diens was sy so begeesterd met haar nuwe beroep, dat sy as deelydse

student by UNISA ingeskryf het vir die B.Bibl graad wat sy, met finansiële bystand van die munisipaliteit, suksesvol voltooi het.



Weens haar onderwysagtergrond en belangstelling in skoolprojekte het sy die naslaan- en studieafdelings behartig. Ten einde die personeel se taak te vergemaklik, dienslewering te bespoedig en inligting te ontsluit, het sy (voor rekenarisering) Somerset-Wes se totale niefiksieversameling in 'n onderwerpskatalogus vasgelê en geïndekseer. Sy het ook by verskeie biblioteke lesings oor 'Die naslaanonderhoud' gelewer.

Sedert rekenarisering is sy verantwoordelik vir Somerset-Wes se kolleksie-ontwikkeling, katalogisering en klassifikasie van niefiksie materiaal. Daarbenewens lewer sy 'n biblioteekdiens aan ses ouetehuse en was ook die afgelope 20 jaar by 'n vrywillige, na-uurse biblioteekdiens aan die SHARE geletterdheidskool betrokke.

Volgens Susan verlaat sy die diens slegs omdat sy die verpligte aftree-ouderdom bereik het. Sy sou baie graag die uitdaging van die nuwe Brocade biblioteekstelsel wou meemaak, maar helaas, die handwerk en die stoepstoel wag! Die biblioteek sal nietemin altyd 'n passie bly en kan voortaan op haar staatmaak vir vrywillige diens.

*Talita de Klerk, Biblioteekaris
Somerset-Wes Biblioteek*

*Jy sal voorwaar 'n groot leemte laat, maar geniet nou
maar die verpligte rustyd! RED*

BIBLIOTEKE

LIBRARIES AMATHALA EENCWADI

Bekende lei boekbespreking

Ter viering van Vrouedag het **Kuilsrivier Biblioteek** die vroueskrywer, EKM Dido, genooi om haar nuutste boek, **Emma en Nella**, te bespreek.

Dido is gebore in Tsomo in die Oos-Kaap. Sy het 'n Rooms-Katolieke skool in Cradock bygewoon en het haar opleiding

in verpleegkunde in Kimberley voltooi. In 1972 het sy Kaap toe verhuis waar sy ook verdere diplomas in verpleegkunde verwerf het. Sy het, onder andere, 'n BA graad in verpleegadministrasie, gemeenskapsverpleging en opvoedkunde in verpleging deur die Universiteit van Suid Afrika verwerf. In 2005 het sy ook 'n eredoktersgraad in letterkunde van die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland vir haar bydrae tot letterkunde ontvang.

Met haar eerste boek, **Die storie van Monica Peters**, het sy in 1996 die eerste anderskleurige vrou geword wat 'n boek in Afrikaans gepubliseer het. Ander boeke sluit in **Rugdraai en stilbly** (1997), **'n Stringetjie blou krale** (2000), **Die onsigbares** (2003) en **'n Ander ek** (2007).

Dido doseer tans verpleegkunde by die Netcare Opleidingskollege in Bellville. Sy is direkteur van die Suidoosterfees asook van Woordkuns by die Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees.



↑ EKM Dido doen 'n voorlesing uit haar nuwe boek, **Emma en Nella**. Langs haar sit Jane Horne van Kuilsrivier Biblioteek



↑ Elzette Myburgh, eerste bibliotekaris, **Kuilsrivier Biblioteek**, Jane Horne, (sy hou die skrywer se jongste boek, **Emma en Nella**, vas), Sophia Rickett, Nolene Smith, die skrywer, EKM Dido en Valencia Verhoog. Die geleentheid was die eerste boekbespreking deur 'n skrywer by Kuilsrivier Biblioteek

Holiday fun at Somerset West

Lots of fun was had by young users during the holidays at **Somerset West Library**.



Activities at **Brackenfell Library** had great support from the young ones.



↑ A teddy bear picnic



↑ Superheroes!

Small library expands

The tiny hamlet of **Bereaville** in the Western Cape has revamped its small, informal library, originally started years ago by Robert Edson, the local headmaster, in his home. Now it is housed in the basement room of the local clinic and it has undergone a facelift, spear-headed by local resident, Angora van Doorn. Books, shelving and furniture have been donated, volunteers have built a playground, a splendid mural has been painted and computers, donated by the HAN (Hoegerschool Arnhem Nijmegen)/UWC project, have been installed. Students from HAN come to the Genadendal area to do practical work - a much appreciated input into these small villages.



↑ The newly donated computers



↑ Although small, the upgraded library in Bereaville is greatly appreciated by the residents



Sy was vyf keer 'n finalis vir die Booker Prys en het die Whitbread Literêre Prys twee keer gewen.

Koningin Elizabeth II het haar in 2000 verklaar tot dame, die vroulike weergawe van die titel ridder.

LITERÊRE TOEKENNINGS

LITERARY AWARDS AMABHASO WONCWADI

Umuzi author wins award

Imraan Coovadia's novel, **High low in-between** has been named this year's recipient of the University of Johannesburg English Literary Award for Books published in 2009.

Coovadia has won the main prize of R60,000 which makes this one of the biggest book prizes in the country.

Oz novel is Booker bestseller

A book that sparked heated discussions at book clubs across Australia has emerged as the bestseller from the longlist for this year's Man Booker Prize.

The slap by Christos Tsiolkas, a bestseller in Australia since its publication in 2008, sold more than 5000 copies in the first week of August after being named among the 13 novels in the prize's longlist, according to Nielsen BookScan figures.

The book intertwines stories told by various characters after a guest at a suburban barbecue hits a three-year-old child who is not his own. Set in Melbourne the novel takes on themes such as infidelity, loyalty, misogyny, domestic violence, racism and envy.

The slap won the 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Other books on the Booker longlist include Peter Carey's **Parrot and Oliver in America**, Paul Murray's **Skipper dies** and David Mitchell's **The thousand autumns of Jacob de Zoet**.

Following are the winners of the coffee table books offered by the *Cape Argus* and Exclusive Books:

- Felicity Brokensha, Wynberg - **Cars**
- Edward Cooper, Fish Hoek - **Earth: a new perspective**
- Juanita Davis, Green Point - **Echoes: the complete history of Pink Floyd**
- Gavin Gilmour, Plumstead - **Portraits of the new architecture**

The vision for the library is that it will be a place where people, particularly children, can enjoy books, do school projects, get help with homework, play board games or just have a cup of coffee.

Many children arrived in fancy dress for the opening of the library and tea and cakes were served.

Judy Terry

Former librarian, Bereaville

Library a winner during long break

Many Mitchells Plain pupils are spending their extended holiday with their noses buried in books at the **Rocklands Library**.

The library, which has won two provincial government awards since 2008, has been offering a range of activities, including story-telling, book quizzes and competitions aimed at improving young children's studying and reading skills.

Children of different age groups, many too young to read, were participating in the activities when Education MEC Donald Grant visited the library.

Grant said it was imperative that children participate in programmes such as this one, and continue reading throughout the year.

He said research had shown that younger children could lose some of their reading skills if they did not practise reading during long holidays.

'You don't realise how lucky you are to have these wonderful facilities and that there are people who read stories to you,' he told the children.

Chief Librarian Theresa Denton said many of the children did not have books to read at home. 'This particular holiday was very long, and we needed to ensure that children

were not idle. We have extended some of the activities we offer during school terms into the holidays, and have added others, including art and crossword puzzle sessions.'

Denton said that during school terms the library's services included a programme to help community members achieve a matric qualification, and story-telling for children from crèches, while books were delivered to local schools that don't have their own library.

Vrouedag by Caledon Biblioteek gevier met dorpsbestuurder Tania Roussouw as gasspreker



SKRYWERS EN BOEKE

BOOKS AND AUTHORS IINCWADI NABABHALI

Bekroonde skrywer sterf

Die hoogaangeskrewe Britse romanskrywer Beryl Bainbridge (75) is oorlede.

Sy het meer as 'n dosyn boeke gepubliseer; waaronder **The bottle factory outing**, **According to Queeney**, **Every man for himself** en **Master Georgie**.

- Konrad Houtzamer, Observatory - **Salvador Dali**
- Yvette Polovin, Bantry Bay - **The family at home**
- Derick Troost, Durbanville - **Space: a journey of discovery**
- Keith Davies, Somerset West - **The world tomorrow.**

SALA wenners

Die Suid-Afrikaanse letterkunde-toekennings (SALA) vereer vanjaar 17 skrywers, waaronder vier Afrikaanse skrywers.

Die toekennings wat vanjaar die vyfde keer toegeken word, word as Suid-Afrika se voorste literêre toekennings in al die landstale en genres beskou.

Die Afrikaanse kortverhaalskrywer Abraham H de Vries het die SALA-toekening vir sy lewenslange bydrae tot die letterkunde ontvang vir sy oeuvere. Die Zoeloe-skrywer Matthew J Mngadi word eweneens vir sy oeuvere vereer met 'n toekening vir sy lewenslange bydrae tot die letterkunde.

Die poësi-toekening gaan aan die Afrikaanse digter Loftus Marais vir **Staan in die algemeen nader aan vensters** (Tafelberg Uitgewers) en aan Mxolisi Nyezwa vir sy bundel gedigte **New country** (UKZN Press).

Vir literêre vertalings gaan die toekening aan die Afrikaanse romansier Ingrid Winterbach en haar broer Dirk, 'n digter en beeldhouer, vir die vertaling van **Die boek van toeval en toeverlaat** uit Afrikaans in Engels as **The book of happenstance** (albei uitgereik deur Human & Rousseau).

SALA het die Afrikaanse romansier Etienne Leroux postuum vereer vir sy oeuvere; so ook die Xhosa-skrywer WK Tamsanga en vir Sol Plaatje oor alle Suid-Afrikaanse tale heen.

K Sello Duiker Gedenktokennings gaan aan vier skrywers, naamlik: Die Engelse skrywer Chris Marnewick vir **Shepherds and butchers** (Umuzu), 'n Venda-skrywer, HR Tshiane, vir **Vhuanzwo** (Maskew Miller Longman), die Tswana-skrywer Kabelo D Kgatea vir **Monwana wa Bosupa** (Tafelberg) en die Xhosa-skrywer Siphateleni Kula.

Die Nadine Gordimer Kortverhaal Toekening gaan aan die siSwati-skrywer JJ Ngcongwane vir **Tikhatsi Letimatima** (Nasou Via Afrika).

Bettina Wyngaard wen Jan Rabie Prys

Bettina Wyngaard, skrywer van **Troos vir die gebroekenes**, het die Jan Rabie Rapport Prys vir vars nuwe Afrikaanse prosa gewen.

Die prys is deel van die jaarlikse Via Afrika literêre pryse, wat erkenning gee aan voor-treflikheid in Suid-Afrikaanse skryfwerk.

Karen Brynard se **Plaasmoord** en Odette Schoeman se **Swartskaap** was ook op die kortlys.

Wyngaard sê: 'Die erkenning en dat dié soort werk bekroon word, beteken vir my baie. Ek hoop dit gee ander bruin skrywers wat hul stories vertel, meer blootstelling.'

Vanjaar se Via Afrika literêre pryse het gegaan aan **Santa Gamka** deur Eben Venter, wat die WA Hofmeyr Prys vir Afrikaanse Letterkunde oor alle genres heen vir die vierde keer en óók die M-Net Letterkunde Toekennings se Afrikaanse kategorie gewen het.

Elsa Joubert se **Reisiger** is met die Recht Malan Prys vir Engelse of Afrikaanse Niefiksie of Nie-literêre Werke bekroon.

Die Universiteit van Johannesburg (UJ) het ook aangekondig dat Joubert die wenner is van sy prys vir die beste skeppende skryfwerk in Afrikaans, ook met **Reisiger**.

In die **Nimmer-limmer-bos / In the Never-Ever Wood** deur Linda Rode, geïllustreer deur Fiona Moodie, het Via Afrika se MER Prys vir geïllustreerde kinderboekke ingeoes. Peter Dunseith se **The bird of heaven** het die MER Prys vir Jeugliteratuur gekry. **Small moving parts** deur Sally-Ann Murray het die Herman Charles Bosman Prys vir Engelse Letterkundige Skryfwerk en Outobiografie gewen.

Brynard se **Plaasmoord** kry die UJ Prys vir die beste, oorspronklike Skeppende Debuutwerk in Afrikaans wat in die vorige kalenderjaar gepubliseer is.

ALLERLEI

MISCELLANY

IINCWADI EZAHLUKENEYO

Anger at treatment at local library

I am angry and disappointed in whoever runs or directs policy of the City of Cape Town's Library Service. I have held a library card since the 50s and have been a regular user of the city's library service throughout this time – more than 50 years in fact.

Recently, I visited Wynberg Library and queued to have my books scanned – while watching the listless, sullen staff attend to those before me.

When it was my turn I presented the books and my card and was abruptly told my card could not be used as their system had changed. The person behind the counter presented me with a form to complete and mentioned that it would take two weeks before I could take out books again.

Why didn't City Libraries notify the public via email or municipal newsletter, or

prominently displayed signs to the effect that the cards would become invalid? And why couldn't they allow members to take out books one last time on their old cards?

AJ Hanekom
Cape Argus

Library of m-novels aims to ring changes across Africa by getting teens to read - on cellphones

The Shuttleworth Foundation is bringing a library of mobile novels to cellphones with the launch of a Yoza Library.

The stories in the m-novel library are part of the foundation's mobiles for literature (m4Lit) project.

The Yoza Library uses cellphones to encourage teenagers to read and write, using cellphones to make reading material affordable and accessible.

Steve Vosloo, founder of Yoza and fellow for 21st Century Learning at the Shuttleworth Foundation, said cellphones were Africa's e-reader.

'Yoza aims to capitalise on that to get Africa's teens reading and writing,' he said.

Statistics show 51 percent of households in South Africa do not own any leisure books, while six percent own 40 books or more. Only seven percent of schools have functioning libraries.

Yet, Vosloo points out, 90 percent of urban youths have a cellphone.

The m4Lit project was started last year as a pilot plan to determine whether teenagers would read stories on cellphones. It was launched in September with a 20-page story, **Kontax**.

Readers could leave comments on chapters, vote in opinion polls and enter a writing competition.

At the end of May another **Kontax** story was published.

The **Kontax** stories have been read more than 34 000 times. They were published in English and Xhosa. Now a story is being written in Afrikaans.

More than 4000 entries were received in the competition, and more than 4000 comments were left by readers, many asking for more stories in different genres.

The m-novels are written in conventional language, rather than using text-speak. Users can also get hold of prescribed school reading, like **Romeo and Juliet** or **Macbeth**.

Yoza aims to build a library of cellphone stories of multiple genres for teenagers across the continent within six months.

Yoza is available at www.yoza.mobi. It can also be found on MXit: go to Tradepost > MXit Cares > mobiBooks on all Wap enabled cellphones. It is also on Facebook, where users should search for Yoza cellphone stories.

There is no charge for stories, but users pay between 5c and 9c a chapter for mobile data traffic to their network operator.

Stories are published under a Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike licence, which means anyone may copy, distribute, and remix the content, provided authors are credited.

The project is looking for sponsors or partners.

Cape Argus

Lavender Hill Secondary joins short list

Lavender Hill Secondary School last week joined the ranks of the approximately eight percent of South African schools with functional libraries.

The school's library, put together by Equal Education (EE), now houses 3300 English and Afrikaans fiction and non-fiction books.

EE is a movement which started working for quality and equality in South African education two years ago and its *I school, I library, I librarian* campaign prompted the Cape Times to launch its *A library in every school* fundraising initiative last year.

Guest speakers at the school's library launch included Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and Professor Brian O'Connell, vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, who spoke about the challenges this next generation faces. He said: 'Life on earth has been relatively simple for a long time. It's changing.

'We see all the signs of it changing. There are now seven billion of us, there will be nine billion in 50 years' time . . .

'Imagine Cape Town twice the size. How do you live in it? Where does the water come from? Where does the energy come from? There are massive, massive challenges coming our way and this generation, you, have to think your way through it.

'Yours is the next responsibility. But how do we do it? These poor kids come into our schools, they are nice children - open, friendly.

'They can't read and they can't write. You feel such anger. This is a serious business. This nation is in terrible danger.

'In 15 years' time we will have no more white scientists left. We are not replacing any of them. How the Dickens do we think we can make a go of it going forward?'

Pupils hungry for more books at lower prices

Equal Education is waiting to hear from the government whether proposals made about VAT exemption on books, lower import

tariffs and price reduction of books would be considered.

Equal Education, a movement of pupils, parents, teachers and community members, started working for quality and equality in South African education two years ago.

The organisation held a 24 hour fast at various locations across the country and attracted 5000 supporters, to bring attention to the need for the Education Department to provide the budget, timeline and plan necessary to create school libraries.

In the Western Cape, only a quarter of schools had libraries, while nationally the figure stood at approximately eight percent.

There are working libraries at only four of Khayelitsha's 53 public schools, serving as many as 57 000 pupils.

Cape Argus

Books for a better life

What began as a project to tackle illiteracy is growing into an even bigger ray of hope.

Narrow muddy paths, fringed with clumps of grass and populated with clucking hens and chickens lead to a bright green shack. This little shelter has been decorated with hand-prints to give it a friendly, homely look. Yet this isn't someone's home - it's a library. And it's changing the lives of the people who live in this poverty-stricken corner of the country. Open the door and you'll enter a different world - a world where books and magazines fill the shelves from floor to ceiling, where children sit in silence on mats and cushions, engrossed in the wonder of words and the power of pictures.

Welcome to the Cling Community Library in Evaton in the Vaal Triangle near Johannesburg, which was officially opened to coincide with Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July last year.

It has grown so much since then it's hard for the men and women whose brainchild it is, to keep up. Boxes of books and piles of magazines donated from far and wide stand along the walls of the library shack, waiting to be unpacked. But there's no room for them - every square centimetre of the place is choc-a-block already.

Yet the people in charge aren't complaining. Tholakele Mbewe, Sthembiso Nhlapo, Meshack Tladi, Xoli Mthethwa, Thembi Sefatsa, Gladys Posa, Edith Mthimkhulu, Emily Dlamini and Sello Mabona (who recently passed away) have achieved what they set out to do: open the doors of learning and discovery to the community.

The Cling Library - (short for Community, Literacy and Numeracy Group) might be only 20 square metres in size but to the people who use it it's just as magical as any library in the big city . . .

There are books of all kinds, from mathematics, economics and science textbooks to novels and poetry. A pile of magazines is stacked by the window.

The group works for the library as volunteers and established it to answer the call around Madiba's birthday last year for everybody to spend 67 minutes doing something to benefit South Africa. Their idea has lasted a lot longer than that and the rewards are endless.

The library is open on weekdays and is a hub of activity in the township. In the mornings children from surrounding crèches come to enjoy stories read to them by Cling workers. After 2pm primary and high school learners make their way to the library to use the books and in the evening elderly people in the adult basic education programme grace the shack with their legends and folk tales. 'We're proud that elders have a place to go,' Gladys says. Things began to fall into place for Cling after the team completed their research and approached Marina van Wyk, Emfuleni Municipality's director of libraries, and Nelisiwe Mbatha-Mthimkhulu, Gauteng's MEC for sports, recreation, arts and culture. They liked what they heard and threw their weight behind the idea. The Vereeniging Library donated countless books and Mbatha-Mthimkhulu donated sports equipment to the library. Now the library is facing another problem: a severe shortage of space. The number of books grows almost daily and about 30 boxes of unused books are shoved into a corner. 'They still have more than 10 000 books which have been donated but that are with the Department of Arts and Culture because of lack of space. Biblionef, a book donation agency based in Cape Town, also approached the library about a book sponsorship but due to the lack of space they had to put that offer on hold.

Cling's ultimate goal is to see the library become a central hub that includes a computer centre, feeding scheme for impoverished children, recreational centre for sport and of course a centre for books. www.you.co.za

Writing on the wall for 'old' books?

Sales of digital books for e-readers have surpassed hardbacks for the first time on Amazon, marking what the online retailer called a tipping point for book publishing.

For every 100 hard-backs Amazon shipped in the past three months, it has sold 143 electronic books to users of its Kindle e-reader, says founder Jeff Bezos. The Kindle has only been selling for 33 months.

Cape Times

Soccer fever reigns!

Librarians never fail to surprise. Give them a project, an event, a happening and you can bet your bottom dollar that they will rise to the occasion. The 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup was no exception. Nothing was too much trouble and even in the remotest areas librarians went to great lengths

to create their own soccer magic. On these pages we share some photographs of activities and displays. We also encouraged staff and friends to send in photographs of any special celebrations during this period! Enjoy.

➤ A private soccer dinner at the home of Adri Bester (from SN). Everybody also had to dress up in soccer gear



➤ A great party to which the editor was invited. Placemats featured famous soccer players, the pumpkin centrepiece was a winner and the menu consisted of various types of meatball dishes that represented particular countries' recipes, as did the sidedishes and desserts



➤ A soccer display at **Brackenfell Library**. Note the clever application of the 'flaps' on the soccer ball



➤ Lizette de Kock with her striking soccer display at **D'Almeida**



➤ **Meulstraat Library** in Paarl presented this 'active' display

Vuvuzelas - annoying people since 1660 ...

Our recently retired SN librarian, Dalena Le Roux was so intrigued by the mass e-mail sent during the World Cup (see bottom photo left) that she just had to try and trace its origins. (Typical of a reference librarian ...) Despite several searches she simply could not find it. However, in her quest for 'truth', she came upon several pieces of art, depicting 'vuvuzelas' Proof that nothing is new under the sun!

Thanks for this bit of useless information, Dalena! ED



← The original e-mail



ON WRITING

SKRYFGEDAGTES EZABABHALI

'n Werkswinkel wat jy maar by sy naam kan noem

Hierdie is die tweede bydrae oor 'n werkswinkel by die Sentrum van die Boek wat deur die skrywer bygewoon is. (Sien KB Mei/June 2010.)

In April en Mei het die uitgewer, A room to read, weer 'n werkswinkel by die Sentrum vir die Boek aangebied. Hierdie keer sou dit geheel en al 'n ander storie wees!

Om te lees is opvoeding en daarom is dit gepas dat dit in hierdie ou gebou was - eens die eerste universiteit van Suid-Afrika. Daar waar studente vanmelewe stuitige dinge hoog op die galery aangevang het, loer ek eers weer in en bewonder die lieflike boekrakke met glimmende koperversiersels. En waar duiwe eens deur die lekkende dak na fronsende navorsers gemik het (ek onthou nog 'n ou akademikus wat swetsend sy hemp in die badkamer gaan afwas het), daar sien ek toe met die eerste aankoms rye kinders sit. In afwagting, ongeduldig, maar met goeie rede: hulle gaan stories hoor.

Ek kyk na links, doer in die gang af waar stemme opklink. Dit is nie kwaai professore of stigtelike staatsamptenare nie; dis 'n ensemble ontluikende skrywers wat daar vergader. Agt dames en twee maljanne wat wil leer om vir jong lesers lekker stories te skryf. In die groot vertrek wat vroeër 'n personeelkamer was, sit Tanji reeds, besig met haar skootrekenaar. En nadat Afrika-tyd ook sy normale tydtoets (toets van my geduld) afgelê het, het ons begin.

Vir drie dae het ons wenke ontvang, na mekaar se steeds wollerige nuwe stories geluister en kennis uitgeruil. Eenkant het Joel, groot en donker, gesit

en op sy rekenaar getik, tik, tik. Af en toe het hy opgekyk en geglimlag, maar dit was al. En so het hy voortgegaan vir die volle ses dae wat ons in sarsies van drie dae elk oor drie weke in sy sfinksagtige geselskap was. Moenie my verkeerd verstaan nie: Joel is 'n vriendelike man, maar stíl. Ons moes later informasie oor die publikasieproses uit hom trek - met 'n spreekwoordelike tang.

Op Dag Een dan, het Tanji uiteindelik haar stoeiery met die steekse Powerpoint gewen en toe ons mooi tien stuks sterk is, skop sy af met 'n lesing oor skryfwerk vir kinders. Dit was basies 'n wenkelys met hier en daar 'n praktiese toepassing: interessant én nuttig. Die praktiese aanwending van hierdie kennis sou in die dae wat volg manifesteer as die toue wat die mas omhoog sou trek; reg vir uitvaar, biddend vir die regte wind (beslis nie reën nie).

Skryfskole of werkswinkels, wat jy dit ook al wil noem, is selde 'n totale tydverkwisting - al leer jy slegs een of twee nuwe tegnieke en maak jy dalk net twee nuwe vriende is dit reeds 'n belegging - maar hierdie een, so effe op 'n lui slakkepas (Tanji het nie veel meer as Joel gesê nie, behalwe as sy van die rekenaarskerm af gelees het), was tog 'n aangename verrassing.

Hoewel die kommunikasieproses nooit verder as tweede rat gevorder het nie, was dit nooit in neutraal nie. Ons het by mekaar geleer, met empatie en begrip vir die feit dat, behalwe vir vier lede van die groep, Engels ons tweede taal is. Tanji het met 'n groot kwas en breë hale 'n prentjie geskilder van wat A room to read se visie is. Hulle is 'n niewinsgewende organisasie wat pro-aktief besig is om die kwynende leeskuultuur in ons lank-lydende land te beveg. Die woorde van HG Wells het weereens nuwe relevansie gekry: 'Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.'

En hy is in 1946 oorlede . . . ver, ver, ver hiervandaan.

Maar Joel verstaan hierdie kwessie baie goed. Dit is sy missie om boeke in kinders se hande te lê en ek moet erken: ek duik eerder vir Bakkies Botha reg van voor af as om in Joel se pad te staan. Ek glo hy sal suk-ses behaal so ver as dit menslik moontlik is.

Nietemin, iets oor die aktiwiteit van die ses dae: ons moes elkeen een storie skryf. Lengte: 850 woorde. Ouderdomsgroep: 3-9 jaar, met illustrasies. Onderwerpe: ons kon kies tussen omtrent vyf onderwerpe. Ek het, soos my ou kameraad Pieter die Poeët Hugo wat langs my gesit het, oor 'n padda geskryf. 'n Baie besondere padda. Syne het 'n kroon verlê, myne het iemand per abuis gesoen. Watter handeling die onwaarskynlikste is, is arbitrêr. Beide stories het - ons moes dit later voorlees vir 'krit' deur ons maters - heelwat lagbuie ontlok; dit was dus darem nie geheel en al onsuksesvol nie. Die poedingtoetsers is egter nie ons skryfmaats nie, maar eers die proeflesers, wat binnekort aan die werk gaan spring, en uiteindelik, indien jou storie die vagevuur oorleef het, die eintlike jurie: die jong (hopelik) leeshonger kinders.

Die ander skrywers het meesal oor verhoudings tussen kinders en diere geskryf; veral lesse oor dieremishandeling is gefiksionaliseer. Een dame het oor selfbeeld geskryf en een het die allemintige draak-in-die-kamer (nie 'n olifant nie), naamlik HIV/Vigs aangedurf. Daar was nie een enkele storie wat nie met 'n bietjie poësie en pamperslang in 'n treffer omskep kan word nie. En so het ons dan gepoëts en gepamperslang en later gespoeg en geplak ook: op die voorlaaste dag moes almal 'mock-ups' maak, wat beteken dat jy 'n skyn-boek maak, met aanduidings tussen teksgedeeltes waar en wat jy visueel voorgeset wil hê. Met ander woorde, voors-

telle aan die illustreerders om jou storie verteerbaarder te maak. Hoe jonger jou teikenmark, hoe meer tekeninge natuurlik.

En daar in die ou personeelkamer waar stoere lektore 'n eeu gelede begin het om ons jeug vir beter dinge voor te berei, het ons ook 'n paar stuiwers in die armbeurs gegooi. Soos 'n kollega dit stel: 'met literêre aspirasies.' En hoekom nie? As skrywers vandag op die skouers van reuse staan, dan kan kinders gerus op ons s'n klim. Hierdie keer begin ons jonger en is die net veel wyer uitgewerp - die uitgewers wil die stories in soveel moontlik van ons landstale aanbied.

My eie aspirasies in hierdie opsig spruit toevallig uit 'n insident wat ek beleef het toe ek saam met Nomaza Dingayo (nou direkteur) in 2006 by Citrusdal se dorpsbiblioteek was. Ons het rondgestaan voordat verrigtinge kon begin en ek het skielik gesien hoe 'n klein blondkop dogtertjie in 'n oopte tussen die boekrakke gesit en lees het. Sy het met haar ken op een knie gesit

en die sonlig het haar hare in 'n geel waas omtower - en 'tower' is die woord, want sy was in 'n wonderland ver van ons af, miskien in die middel van 'n bos of vlei, loerend tussen takke deur na 'n ander kind wat gelukkig rondhuppel; onbesorgd en onskuldig, met pratende diere en al - ongelukkig so anders as wat te veel van ons kinders deesdae beleef.

Ek het haar aangestaar en ... ek was self ver weg in Parow se kinderbiblioteek iewers in die sertigerjare, met my heel eerste biblioteekboek vasgeklem in 'n ystergreep: **Die Uile in die wapad**, deur Cor Dirks. Ek het gou alles in daai ou huisie langs die moederkerk van hoek tot kant deurgelees en toe ek 13 word met 'n onbeskryflike gevoel van opwinding teen die trappe opgehardloop om die grootmensbiblioteek bo in die stadsaal te verken. Amper 40 jaar en duisende boeke later is ek steeds dankbaar vir die voorreg.

Dit is elke leser se plig om op een of ander wyse hierdie voorreg, wat níé jou geboortereg is nie, aan ander beskikbaar te stel. Want soos Richard Steele (1672-1729) gesê het: 'Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.' Inderdaad: bring gerus LO terug in die skole, maar om hemelsnaam: laat die kindertjies lees!

A room to read betaal R5000 vir 'n storie (hulle kies uiteindelik uit sowat 50) en hulle was in Augustus by KIKS, waarna 'n sekere tiental 'aspirerendes' geweldig uitgesien het.

NS: Daar is nog sulke uitgewers wat ook hulle ware by KIKS uitgestal het, soos BK Uitgewers wat lekkerleesboekies teen R20 (hoofsaaklik vir die swart mark) saamstel. Hulle beplan om een boek per jaar uit te gee, terwy A room to read sedert 2007 reeds 22 publikasies die lig laat sien het.

Dr Francois Verster
Korrespondent

Cape Librarian 40 YEARS AGO ...

Stefan Wehmeyer Deputy Director: Regions

- ▶ The August 1970 edition commemorated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the British Settlers. Two articles were written on the subject. In **Bookish 1820 Settlers**, JM Berning wrote about Thomas Pringle and a library he established. Henry Dugmore, a Methodist minister, was responsible for the 150 hymns for the original Methodist Xhosa Hymnal. Mary Kleinschmidt wrote an article titled *Local antiquities and the librarian* in which she advised librarians on how to collect materials for local history collections.
- ▶ NP Van Wyk Louw sterf in 1970. Van Wyk Louw, digter, dramaturg en kritikus, het die Hertzog Prys vir Letterkunde vyf keer gewen. Ernst van Heerden word aangehaal as hy sê: 'Met sy dood verloor die Afrikaanse letterkunde sy grootste, sy indrukwekkendste gestalte.'
- ▶ 'n Hoogtepunt in 1970 was die omskakeling by baie biblioteke na 'n nuwe uitreikingstelsel. Uitreikingskaarte word voortaan

volgens vervaldatum en volgens uitreikingsnommer geliasseer. Dit was 'n reuseverbetering op die ou stelsel waar uitreikings volgens aanwinningsnommers geliasseer was. Die Biblioteekdiens het die 'enumerators' aan biblioteke verskaf.

- ▶ Destyds is daar baie depots oor die hele Kaapland geopen. Hierdie depots is later gesluit en vandag word daar weer baie depots in landelike areas ooggemaak. In 1970 het 'n nuwe depot geopen by Op-die-Berg naby Ceres. Presies 40 jaar later is daar weer 'n depot in die vorm van 'n trolliebiblioteek (wheelie wagon) by Op-die-Berg.
- ▶ The 17th edition of Dewey made its appearance. Miss Shaen Hinchliff, senior librarian in the cataloguing department is congratulated on an article *The seventeenth edition of Dewey in practice* which she wrote for the journal *South African Libraries*.