

# MEET OUR AWARD WINNERS!



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During the recent Ministerial Awards function held at the beautiful Kronenburg Wine Estate in Wellington, three libraries received awards for outstanding service during the year.

## BEST SERVICE TO THE YOUTH

Rocklands Library in Mitchell's Plain walked away with the honours in this category.

Rocklands was established on 6 October 1980 at a time when the community faced many challenges such as drug abuse, illiteracy,

gangsterism and violence. The library started a Friends of the Library organisation in 2007 to assist with fund-raising, reading programmes, holiday programmes, et cetera. This group has grown from only five members in 2007 to fourteen in 2011.

The staff's goal is to uplift the community of Rocklands and to empower individuals, especially females, and they can confidently say that they have succeeded in many ways. In 2008 Rocklands Library won the award for the 'Most involved community library'; in 2009 for 'Best children's services'; and in 2011 for 'Best service to the youth'. Indeed a remarkable achievement.



◀ Theresa Denton and Marlene Nelson from Rocklands Library with Nomaza Dingayo, Director: Provincial Library Service, Western Cape

They have established many 'mini' libraries such as Weltevreden Primary, Seaview Primary, Caradale Primary and Eisleben Primary and also provided these libraries with books. The foster home Mary Solomen's Haven is also on their donation list.

Projects include the establishment of a book wizard and discussion group to develop children's reading abilities; an information literacy programme for the youth; reading programmes; a remedial reading programme; chess clubs; a youth debating forum; and a drugs and awareness kid's club.

Rocklands has also created partnerships with the Crime Community Care Organisation (CCCO), the social development NGO Hands off our children (HOOC), Mitchell's Plain District Hospital, the Heinz Park Social Development Programme, a teacher-child community assistance programme, the Cape Flats YMCA and the Mitchell's Plain Oral History Project.

Interesting and educational workshops were presented such as the Triangle Project (a support organisation for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender individuals); career guidance workshops; drugs and substance abuse; junior career counselling and computer and parenting workshops.

For adults there are adult education and training classes on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Staff also provide a service to the Omega Senior Club and arrange outings to various places of interest.

The Rocklands Library Interest Group supports unemployed people, mostly females who have not completed matric.

In closing, Rocklands Library seeks to address an important gap in non-profit services by combining empowerment, education, and skills training for women. The library plans to develop and market comprehensive services in order to compete intelligently in all three areas.

In the words of Theresa Denton (senior librarian): 'Service to our users is our reason for being; those who need us most should be our highest priority.'

Other nominees were Trevor Human (Youth Development), Doron Isaacs (Equal Education) and Rina de Villiers, (senior assistant librarian, Barrydale Library.)

## BEST CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

CJ Langenhoven Memorial Library in Oudtshoorn won the prestigious Ministerial Award for the best children's library in the Western Cape.

At Langenhoven Memorial staff ensure that reading material will interest students, that their books and magazines apply to all ages, and that learners are supplied with books and Internet sources. Their pamphlet collection consists of clippings from newspapers, magazines and Internet articles.

A new information station is currently being established to facilitate and improve learners' research experiences.

The outreach team of CJ Langenhoven Memorial Library started in 2007 when the Conditional Grant started funding libraries to appoint extra personnel to enable learners to actively participate in reading.

School visits are filled with fun activities such as concerts, singing and learning vital lessons in an exciting way and during each term there is a special theme and message for the children.

The outreach team visits 27 rural schools and reaches 5,200 learners each quarter, and themes are planned with the community's needs in mind.

Their slogan is, *We reach out to the stars of tomorrow.*

An annual reading competition is held for learners from grade 1-3 in co-operation with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) as well as a Spelling Bee competition for intermediate and senior phase learners.

An exciting and unique youth week during which hundreds of students participated, was arranged during the 2010 June/July school holidays and subjects such as teen pregnancies and drugs were discussed.

At CJ Langenhoven there is a separate room for Cami, as part of a service offered to the youth. Cami is a set of educational computer software programmes which give learners the opportunity to enhance their reading (Afrikaans and English), mathematics and perceptual skills. A staff member is always on duty to assist students and to provide stimulating and proper activities. 81 members used the Cami Corner during the fourth term of 2010!

In the greater Oudtshoorn region, Cami classes are presented at all the libraries.

Other nominees were Manenberg Library and Theresa Denton, senior librarian at Rocklands Library.

## MOST COMMUNITY-INVOLVED PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wellington Library was voted the library that was the most involved with their community. As part of their activities the library has recently established a network of branch libraries on the farms in the area, the first being Bergriver Primary, a farm school just outside of Wellington. Apart from the book stock, they also installed three computers to help pupils to develop their technological skills. Shortly after, several other satellite libraries were established, the latest one at Rondeheuwel Primary, a farm school near Hermanus.

During the school holidays Wellington Library presents many activities and projects for pupils. Authors' visits are also held at the Breytenbach Centre in Wellington. Despite the trend in many libraries of decreased circulation figures, Wellington's figures have shown a continual growth over the last 20 years - an encouraging achievement!

Other nominees in this category were Wesfleur Public Library in Atlantis, Rina de Villiers (senior assistant librarian) from Barrydale Library, and Masiphumelele Library in Hout Bay.



◀ Receiving her award is Elbé Kruyt from the director CJ Langenhoven Memorial Library, Oudtshoorn



▲ Librarian Elsabé du Toit receives the award for Wellington Library as the library most involved in their community. Presenting the award is the director, Nomaza Dingayo



◀ Dignitaries who graced the awards event (ltr): Brent Walters (HOD, Cultural Affairs and Sport), Hanneljie du Preez (Chief Director, Cultural Affairs), Faeza Meyer and Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of the Department of Arts and Culture

▼ A magician's performance left the audience gasping



▲ Kronenburg Wine Estate's serene setting was the perfect venue for this glamorous event



▲ Director Nomaza Dingayo with her husband Mzoliswa

◀ To entertain guests a wonderful and unusual ballroom dance ensemble performed by handicapped dancers