POSSAK

POST-BAG
ISINGXOBO SEPOSI

Cape Librarian July-Aug 2011

How very sad that Marietha Eyssen's tribute to Veronica should be followed so swiftly by her death. She has indeed 'said goodbye'. As well as being a stalwart on the committee of IBBY SA (previously SACBF), she was also a vital member of the team that presented the 29th IBBY World Congress in Cape Town in 2004.

Useful web site

Might I briefly (and separately) mention that the database of South African Children's Books in Print (SACBIP) on the *Bookchat* web site (*www.bookchat.co.za*) has now passed 3,000 entries. A useful place if your readers need to check out books written by Lesley Beake or books illustrated by Piet Grobler or books written about AIDS or set in Cape Town.

Another fine issue of a fine magazine.

Jay Heale

Veronica is mourned by many and our sincere condolences go to her family. As mentioned before, her legacy in the library world will be remembered by many. ED

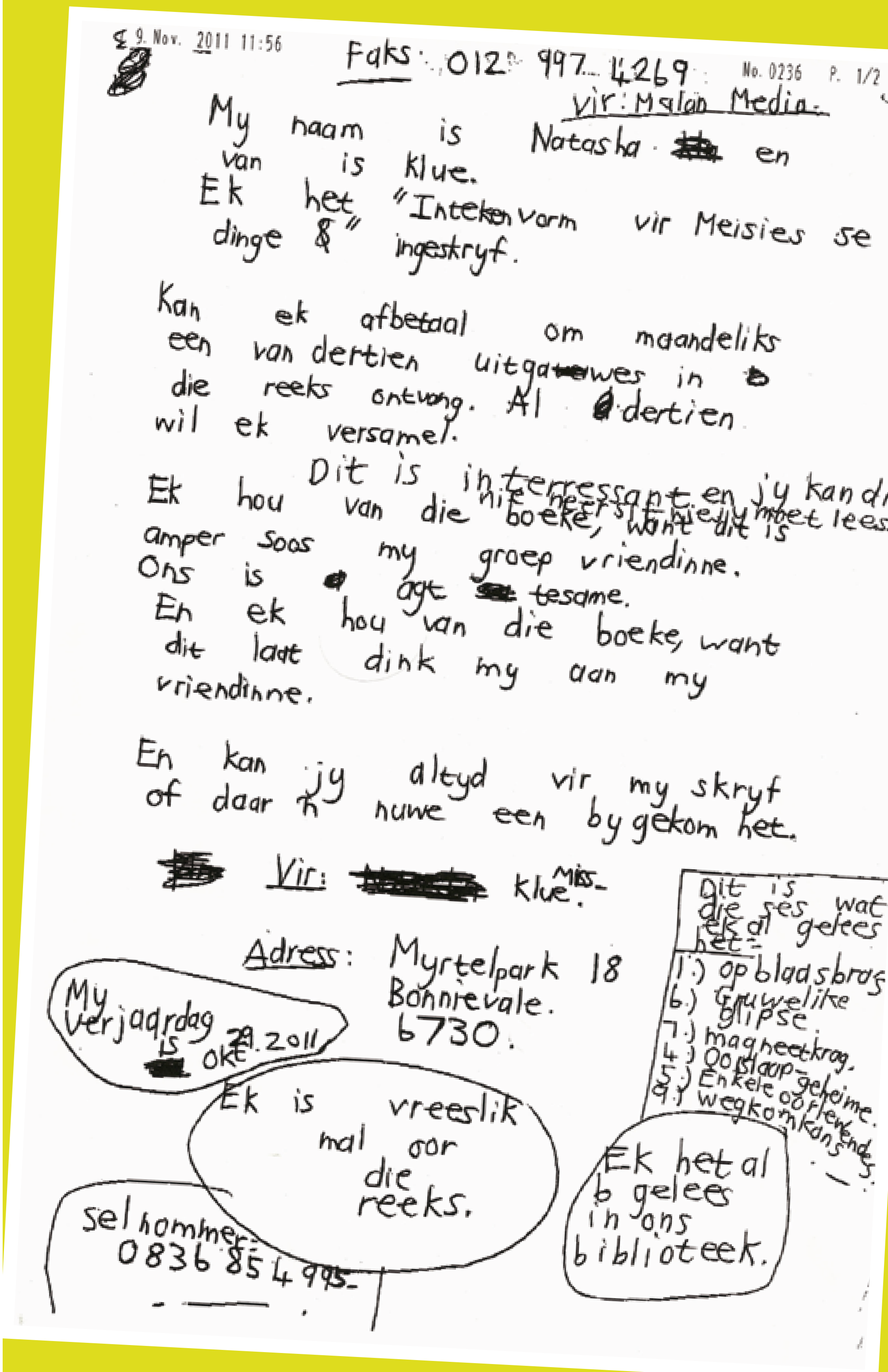
Meisies se dinge

Have a look at this touching letter I received from a girl in Bonnievale about the *Meisies se dinge &-* series. I am sending her the full set free of charge. (The letter on the right has been reproduced as is.)

Daleen Malan

Publishing Manager, Malan Media

Great decision, Daleen. Such a keen little bee should be encouraged. ED



9. Nov. 2011 11:56 Faks: 012 997 4269 No. 0236 P. 1/2

vir: Malan Media.

My naam is Natasha [redacted] en van is Klue.

Ek het "Intekenvorm vir Meisies se dinge &" ingeskryf.

Kan ek afbetaal om maandeliks een van dertien uitgawes in die reeks ontvang. Al dertien wil ek versamel.

Dit is interressant en jy kan dit nie neersit [illegible] moet lees.

Ek hou van die boeke, want dit is amper soos my groep vriendinne. Ons is agt tesame.

En ek hou van die boeke, want dit laat dink my aan my vriendinne.

En kan jy altyd vir my skryf of daar 'n nuwe een bygekom het.

[redacted] Vir: [redacted] Miss Klue.

Adress: Myrtelpark 18 Bonnievale. 6730.

My verjaardag is [redacted] 29. Okt. 2011

Ek is vreeslik mal oor die reeks.

Sel nommer 0836 854 995

Dit is die ses wat ek al gelees het:

1.) Opbladsbrag
6.) Gruwelike glipse
7.) Magneetkrag.
4.) Oorslaap-geheime.
5.) Enkele oorlewendes.
9.) Wegkomkanse

Ek het al 6 gelees in ons biblioteek.

Uitsonderlike diens in Ladismith

Ek het bykans tien jaar gelede met pensioen gegaan, uit die toe, Ou Transvaal, na die Wes-Kaap verhuis en tydelik op Plettenbergbaai vir bykans twee jaar gewoon, terwyl ek rustig deur Kannaland, die Overberg, die Langkloof en ander omliggende dele gesoek het na 'n finale aftreedorp.

Op my lys van die dorpe waar ek finaal sou aftree was daar enkele items wat op die dorp beskikbaar moes wees. Bo-aan die lys was dat daar 'n werkende biblioteek moes wees. Daar moes ook ander geriewe soos die dienste van 'n permanente mediese dokter, hospitaal, ouetehuis (vir moontlike later gebruik), bank en kruidenierswinkel wees.

Dit het ek alles op Ladismith gekry en hier woon ek nou reeds vir net meer as agt jaar baie gelukkig.

Soos genoem, hier was 'n werkende biblioteek wat ek baie waardeer het. Wat ek egter aan u as streekbibliotekaris moet noem is die voortreflikheid waarmee ons biblioteek die afgelope tyd bestuur word.

Met elke besoek aan die biblioteek word jy as lid van die publiek altyd vriendelik en met net die allerbeste professionele hulp ontvang. Geen versoek is te groot om jou mee te help nie en daar word sonder moeite aangebied om boeke wat jy dalk mag benodig en nie plaaslik beskikbaar is nie, vir jou in die hande te kry. Daar is ook altyd raad oor skrywers, boeke en ander interessanthede.

Laastens, die totale biblioteek gee jou die gevoel van netheid. Nie net is die boeke korrek in die rakke geplaas nie, maar die rakke en boeke is ooglopend afgestof en netjies. Daar is 'n gevoel van trots met die aanbied van biblioteekdienste op ons dorp en wil ek graag langs hierdie weg my diepe waardering teenoor almal wat hierby betrokke is, veral teenoor mevrou Gunter, uitspreek.

Nogmaals baie dankie vir, soos hulle op Engels sê, 'A job well done'.

Marius van Rensburg
Biblioteekgebruiker

Hierdie pragtige getuigskrif is aan Theuns Botha, Streekbibliotekaris van Oudtshoorn Streek gestuur. 'n Mens kry sommer so 'n lekker warm gevoel om die hart as jy dit lees, né. RED

BIBLIOTEKE

LIBRARIES
AMATHALA EENCWADI

Goedverwacht Biblioteek vier Vrouedag

Dannelene Noach, oud-Piketberger en skrywer van die boek, **Vrou alleen**, was die gasspreker op 'n Vroueoggend wat deur Goedverwacht Biblioteekgereël is. Negentig vroue het aangesit by keurig gedekte tafels en is getrakteer op heerlike eetgoed en tee. Almal is verder verryk deur die inspirerende spreker se ervarings in Saoedi-Arabië, voordragstukke deur Magdaleen van Zyl en die gesoute Maria Afrikaner as seremoniemeester.

▲ Gaste tydens die Vrouedagfunksie in Goedverwacht

▼ Dannelene Noach by haar boek, ***Vrou alleen***

▲ Maria Afrikaner was die seremoniemeester tydens die Vrouedagfunksie

▸ (Lnr): Carol Jantjies; Charmaine van Rensburg; Liezl Dietrich; Magdaleen van Zyl en Dannelene Noach tydens die geselligheid

Caledon hou fees

Die Caledon Fees is vanjaar vanaf 9-11 September 2011 in die dorp gevier. Caledon het as gevolg van die wêreldbekende warmwaterbronne ontwikkel en die amptelike ontstaan van die dorp was die totstandkoming in 1810 van die kerkdorp, Zwartberg. Op 31 Desember 1810 het die goewerneur, Sir John Cradock, die dorp na sy voorganger, die Hertog van Caledon, vernoem. Twee eeue later was dit dus gepas om die totstandkoming van die dorp en sy 200ste herdenking te vier.

Personeel in die **Caledon Biblioteek** het 'n pragtige uitstalling oor Caledon in die biblioteek aangebied. Die Minister van Kultuursake en Sport, Dr Ivan Meyer, het die biblioteek besoek en die uitstallings geprys.

Yolanda Julies
Bibliotekaris, Caledon Biblioteek

Celebrate the book! *National Book Week 2011*

As part of this year's celebration of National Book Week the Western Cape Provincial Library Service, in partnership with the City of Cape Town Libraries, showcased a 'demo library' - *getting to know your library* at the Liberty Promenade Shopping Mall in Mitchell's Plain from 5-10 September. National Book Week 2011 – a joint project by the South African Book Development Council (SABDC) and the Department of Arts and Culture – was introduced to celebrate the book and a love of reading. As part of a national effort to embrace the value of reading and the important role it plays in a nation's development, a satellite National Book Week was held in Cape Town with the main event held in Gauteng. This was a networking opportunity for all involved in reading promotions.

The event coincided with the launching of a poster on 8 September 2011 to celebrate International Literacy Day.

To symbolise the kick-off of the Rugby World Cup a colourful poster sporting the Springbok captain, John Smith, with the slogan, *Unite behind the Boks@your library … the Boks always play by the book* was also launched on 9 September 2011 by Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport. Dr Meyer also officially opened National Book Week. The opening was attended by local public librarians, staff of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Provincial Library Service staff, the media, City of Cape Town library staff and members of the public.

As one of the biggest shopping malls in the Western Cape the Liberty Promenade Shopping Mall in Mitchell's Plain was the ideal venue for hosting National Book Week 2011. Its position lends itself to reaching out to a broad sector of the community that can attract many potential library users. The choice of the Mitchell's Plain community was based on the fact that it is currently facing social and economical challenges. This project and the subsequent exposure of National Book Week, together with the launching of posters for International Literacy Day and the Rugby World Cup had a positive effect in the community as could be seen by the number of people who visited the 'demo library'. Visitors showed tremendous interest in books, libraries and reading. During this week library staff from neighbouring public libraries (Mitchell's Plain, Rocklands, Brown's Farm, Weltevreden and Khayelitsha) assisted at the 'demo library'.

In order to familiarise people who have never been in a library before with the look and feel of one, the 'demo library' was 'built' using three 'walls' of banners, depicting library shelves with books, a Wheelie Wagon complete with books, computers, a loan and issuing desk, seating facilities, promotional material, posters and library application forms. The aim of the 'demo library' was to provide for the information, reading and learning needs of the community and to promote a culture of reading, library usage and lifelong learning. The intention was to encourage non-library users to make use of their public libraries and to explain the treasures that can be found in them. Members of the public were advised by the staff manning the 'demo library' on how to become a member of their local public library.

Interesting activities were presented during the week which included projects and workshops such as bookmaking, reading classes for the elderly, story hours and face-painting for children, exhibitions, current awareness and guidance on how to become a library member. More than 10 people attended the bookmaking workshop and more than 15 elderly people attended the reading class. More than 5,000 children were reached during story hours, face-painting sessions and promotional hand-outs.

On the last day of National Book Week a group of eight cyclists visited the 'demo library' with books to be donated to people in Mitchell's Plain as part of the

▲ *The 'demo-library' - getting to know your library that was 'built' in the Liberty Promenade Shopping Mall in Mitchell's Plain*

The Books-on-Bike outreach at the 'demo-library'

Dr Meyer getting down to the little one's level . . .

Between 5, 000 and 10, 000 people visited the 'demo-library' in Mitchell's Plain during National Book Week. Here new prospective library members are signing up for membership

Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport performed the official opening and had lively interaction with children, adults and the elderly during the week

The 'gogos' from the Nomzamo Book Club also paid a visit to the 'demo-library' (also see page 11)

National Book Week also saw the launch of the striking rugby poster Unite behind the Boks @ your library, the Boks always play by the book. *Neil Jacobus was part of the library team*

Seen here is the Library Service clan with director Nomaza Dingayo in the front

Provincial Library staff manned the 'demo-library' and spent many hours enrolling new members and promoting the Library Service as a whole

Staff members Sophia Rickett and Ethney Waters (soon to be part of the editorial team) visited the 'demo-library'

To instill a desire to read in everyone from a young age is every librarian's dream

Books-on-Bike outreach project. This initiative donates books to people in need. The media, their organisers and trainers were present. Between 5,000-10,000 people visited the 'demo library' - *getting to know your library*. Hundreds of application forms to become members of their local public library were completed and will be allocated to relevant public libraries all over the Cape Peninsula.

The event was promoted extensively in public libraries and in the media, which resulted in high profile interviews on radio stations, news coverage on the Cape Gateway web site and in various local newspapers. It is estimated that the message reached more that 1.2 million library users and approximately three million people in Cape Town.

In all, the 'demo library' - *getting to know your library* was a successful endeavor to bring about a reading awareness amongst non-members public libraries.

An exercise in marketing

With the generous book donations that Bellville Library regularly receives from the community, there has also been a steady stream of old vinyl records (LPs and 7-singles) over the years. Mostly technology seemed to have overtaken these old recordings, but obviously some were also just part of packing up the family home and downsizing to a townhouse or retirement home.

The LPs varied from pristine collections of the classical masters to big names in the then popular culture to mass-market compilations and to children's songs. The problem was that the library ended up with a few hundred of these records which just gathered dust and took up space in the storerooms. In the spirit of the library maxim of 'the right book at the right time for the right person', staff were sure that there were people out there who would still be interested in some of these records, but it was just not so easy to match the two.

Coinciding with one of their regular secondhand book sales, however, they recently tried a new marketing strategy. In a glass display case, prominently placed, they displayed examples of the LPs, and invited people to buy a record '*for the music*' (the classics); '*for nostalgia*' (remember Groep Twee, the BeeGees?); '*for crafts*' (displaying an example, courtesy of their creative Edgemead colleague Lorraine Matthewson, of a scrapbooked photo collage on an LP); '*for retro chic*' décor (colourful record sleeves); '*for creative underplates*' (some records were rather scratched or without sleeves); and '*for original invitations*' (a 7-single record with an invitation to a 21st birthday party).

The initiative paid off generously: all the records were sold (admittedly only for R2 each!) - the cheeky '*while stocks last*' line probably did not hurt sales! It was a very successful marketing exercise: it generated a lot of interest and attracted many new people to the library.

Die beste raad as jy in 'n ry moet wag – haal jou boek uit, sit gemaklik en lees! Hierdie dogtertjie is afgeneem in Bellville Biblioteek waar sy, onbewus van die omstanders, hardop vir haarself sit en voorlees uit haar biblioteekboek.

SKRYWERS EN BOEKE

BOOKS AND AUTHORS
IINCWADI NABABHALI

What I'm reading

Earl Lovelace was a favourite amongst the audience during the very successful Open Book Festival recently hosted in Cape Town. (See page 21.)

Lovelace was born in Toco, Trinidad, and spent most of his life on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

What has he been reading recently? **The black Jacobins**, by CLR James, a book on the Haitian Revolution under the leadership of Toussaint L'Overture; **A scuffling of**

islands, a compilation of essays on Calypso in post-independence Trinidad and Tobago by Gordon Rohlehr; **The Caribbean writer**, the silver anniversary issue on Haiti (2011); and **The shebeen tales** by Chenjerai Hove. 'At Open Book in Cape Town, I met the young South African writer, Thando Mgqolozana who wrote **A man who is not a man** – an impressive debut novel,' said Lovelace.

His books include **While gods are falling**, **The dragon can't dance** and **Salt**, which won him the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

LITERÊRE TOEKENNINGS

LITERARY AWARDS AMABHASO WONCWADI

Wenner van Protea Prys

Louis Esterhuizen is vanjaar se wenner van die Protea Prys vir sy bundel **Wat die water onthou**. Die aankondiging is tydens die Digtersgala van die Versindabapoësiefees gemaak. Die Protea Prys word gegee vir die beste Afrikaanse digbundel wat die vorige jaar by enige uitgewer verskyn het.

Esterhuizen en sy vrou, die digter Marlise Joubert, het die Versindaba begin, en daarna op eie stoom ook die Versindaba webwerf.

Wat die water onthou is Esterhuizen se agtste bundel en sy derde by Protea Boekhuis. Dit is ook vroeër vanjaar vir die ATKV-Woordveertjietoekenning vir digkuns benoem.

Johan Lodewyk Marais en Melt Myburgh is ook vir die Protea Prys benoem – Marais vir **Diorama** en Myburgh vir **Oewer bestaan**, sy debuutbundel wat vroeër vanjaar die Ingrid Jonker Prys gewen het. Myburgh het by dieselfde geleentheid sy prys van die organiseerder, Caro Wiese, ontvang.

Dit is die 56-jarige Esterhuizen se eerste prys. Hy was voorheen onderwyser en adjunkhoof van Pretoria Boys' High School; later vakhoof vir Afrikaans by Rondebosch Boys' High School in Kaapstad. Sedert Junie 2002 is hy bestuurder van Protea Boekwinkel in Stellenbosch, bekend vir veral hul Saterdagpraatjies met skrywers.

Esterhuizen se debuutbundel, **Stilstuipe**, het in 1986 by Human & Rousseau verskyn. Van sy verse is ook in talle bloemlesings opgeneem, onder meer **Die Afrikaanse poësie in 'n 1000 en enkele gedigte** en **Groot verseboek**.

Die prys behels R10,000 en 'n geraamde protea.

Die Burger

ALLERLEI

MISCELLANY IINCWADI EZAHLUKENEYO

Eskom powers a spirit of reading

Eskom, in partnership with the City of Cape Town Library Services' Districts 3 and 4 hosted the annual Reading Competition on Friday, 16 September 2011 at the Belhar Civic Centre.

The purpose of the reading competition is to create a passion for reading and boost the low literacy levels amongst learners. South Africa faces big challenges in this regard, and the media regularly report on the low levels of reading abilities and skills amongst children in South Africa.

The theme of this year's reading piece was about *Climate change*, how to recycle, re-use and rethink. The reading piece, *It all starts with us* was written by Pearl Boltman, an intern at the Marketing Services Department in Edgemead. The learners were tested on their reading ability, comprehension and spelling. About 18 learners competed in the 2011 Inter-district Reading Competition in the English, isiXhosa, and Afrikaans categories. These learners are the winners in the district finals where approximately 320 learners participated in the preliminaries to the Inter-district Competition.

The geographical area of Districts 3 and 4 consist of low income communities with economical, educational and social challenges. Unemployment, illiteracy, high levels of school drop-out and crime are daily occurrences in all of these communities. The public library is the only recreational place in most, if not all, of these areas.

The guests were entertained by the extremely talented Bridgetown Community Theatre Group.

Regional Communication Department
City of Cape Town

They decide on the names

Meet the province's Geographical Names Committee. Please note that Mr Elsworth McPherson is the chairman and not Anita van der Merwe as erroneously indicated in the July/August 2011 **CL**.

Back: Dr Francois Verster (Naspers archivist); Prof Izak van der Merwe; Andrew Hall (Director: Heritage)
Middle: Rory Martin; Schalk Carstens; Freda Jonck; Dr Mawande Dlali; Prof Bertie Neethling
Front: Marek Kedzieja; Elsworth McPherson (Chairperson); Vuyani Ngcuka
Absent: Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis

Happy logophiles

Logophiles are lovers of words. They love puns like these . . .

You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish . . . or . . . I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

If you take your laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

Bedbugs in books alarm libraries

Libraries love bookworms, but book bugs? Not so much.

Lower Mainland libraries in British Columbia, Canada are advising the public to report bedbugs found in loaned books after a New Westminster library shut its doors for a day for pest control. An inspection by bedbug-sniffing dogs revealed that there were bugs in certain books. After a steamcleaning and heat treatment the library was re-opened.

Two libraries in Burnaby dealt with the pests earlier when the bugs were detected at its Metrotown and Cameron street branches. The locations were treated and library staff are now checking each book for the bugs as they are returned.

'It's the first time we've had them in New West, but it's not going to be the last time,' New Westminster city councillor Jaimie McEvoy said. 'I would say that every library should check [for bedbugs] on a regular basis. It's not just a one-time thing. It's part of life now. There is a public health issue there, in most cases a relatively minor public health issue, like lice, but they can carry infections.'

eoconnor@theprovince.com

Something to be aware of. ED

Die jaarlikse Johan Combrinck Gedenklesing vind plaas op 9 Februarie 2012 in die Jannasch-saal in die Endler op Stellenbosch waar prof Jonathan Jansen gaan praat oor Afrikaans se rol in die Suid-Afrikaanse samelewing.

Koop-'n-Afrikaanse-boek-Dag

'n Suksesvolle Koop-'n-Afrikaanse-boek-Dag is vanjaar op 13 Augustus gehou.

Die Burger en *RSG* asook *Radio Laeveld* en *Radio Namakwaland* het 'n reuse-aandeel in die sukses van die dag gehad.

Peet van Staden van *SABC Nuus* het ook 'n insetsel tydens die TV-aandnuus gelewer en in *Rooi Rose* het Corlia Fourie 'n artikel in die Augustus-uitgawe geskryf.

Boekwinkels landwyd het 'n groot rol gespeel in die sukses van hierdie dag. Nylstroom se boekwinkels het laat weet dat hulle tot 30% hoër verkope gehad het en Bargain Books in die Paarl het Afrikaanse boeke ter waarde van R9,000 verkoop.

Die Boek Hoekie in die Paarl se verkope het met 30% verhoog.

Leserskring se verkope was 60% hoër as hulle vorige twee uitverkopings.

Soek hier werk

Werkloosheid is 'n omvattende probleem wat 'n breë benadering vereis.

WerkNet het 'n platform vir 'n virtuele loopbaanskou geskep: *www.loopbaan.co.za.* Besighede of individue kan deur middel van hierdie platform hul opleidingsdienste en kursusse adverteer of kennisgewings van geleenthede vir indiensopleiding plaas. Die gemeenskap word so betrek om aan hulpbehoewende jongmense geleenthede te bied.

Doen aansoek om GRATIS op die virtuele loopbaanskou te verskyn en rig navrae aan Karin Venter by <*karin@helpendehand.co.za*>.

Taaltoffies: 'stunning'?

Enkele jare gelede (1997) het die destydse rektor van UOVS (Prof Retief) tydens sy verwelkoming aan die afgevaardigdes van 'n FAK-kongres in Bloemfontein verwys na 'n groepie jong seuns wat 'n sekere meisie bespreek het. Een van hulle sou toe die opmerking gemaak het: 'Sy's 'n "stunning" girl' waarop nog een (sy eie seun), hom toe reggehelp het: 'Nee, sy's "koorsmooi".' 'n Pragtige Afrikaanse alternatief vir dié woord wat so kwistig deur ons jongmense gebruik word.

2011 Collector's Edition set to be the biggest issue of them all

Top names in South African literature, photography, poetry and cartooning contribute to bumper year-end edition

Fifty of South Africa's very best writers, thought leaders, poets, cartoonists and photographers have stepped up to help *The Big Issue* SA's vendors earn their own year-end Christmas bonus.

Each of the 50 talented South Africans have contributed a piece of work to *The Big Issue's* second annual Collector's Edition with the aim of ensuring this bumper 92-page publication is a sell-out success, as last year's inaugural Collector's Edition proved to be.

The 2011 Collector's Edition will sell for R30 a copy – 50% of which (R15) goes direct to the vendor.

The Big Issue provides job opportunities and social support to hundreds of previously unemployed vendors, who earn an independent, sustainable income through sales of *The Big Issue* magazine. The key reason for introducing the Collector's Edition concept last year was to give the 450-plus *Big Issue* vendors a very special product to sell at a slightly higher price, which successfully enabled them to earn their own year-end bonus. Because R30 is a steal for a publication of this quality and calibre, it is expected that vendors will significantly bump up their income in the run-up to this year's festive season.

Renowned names such as Moeletsi Mbeki, Ferial Haffajee, Zakes Mda, Khadija Patel, Marianne Thamm, Henriëtta Rose-Innes, Zukiswa Wanner, Jay Naidoo and Fiona Snyckers are just some of the writers and thought leaders readers can expect.

On the photography side, veterans David Goldblatt, Pieter Hugo and Eric Miller are joined by several up-and-coming names, including award-winning photographers Antonia Steyn and Gary van Wyk.

Poetry contributions range from the highly acclaimed Lebo Mashile to Struggle stalwart Hugh Lewin and spoken word artists such as Blaq Pearl and Ian Ewok Robinson. And

there's Afrikaans poetry from the likes of Toast Coetzer and Jitsvinger.

There is also more cartooning and illustration this year, including work by the legendary Zapiro, joined by Dave Anderson, Themba Siwela, Wilson Mgobhozi, Treknet and the Trantraal Brothers, to name but a few.

Continuing the 2010 Collector's Edition's cover theme of *South African icons* (Archbishop Desmond Tutu), the 2011 Collector's Edition cover will feature Nelson Mandela with the tag line, *The power of change is in your hands*.

The 2011 Collector's Edition would probably retail at more than three times the price if sold via book stores, so it makes for a great Christmas stocking filler for just R30. And, at the same time, it will help vendors to earn their own bonus too, so it really is a win-win situation.

Note: Libraries in the greater Cape Town area will be supplied with a poster and a copy of this edition and are encouraged to put these on display together with relevant stock on hand.

Visit: www.bigissue.org.za for more information.

SKRYFGEDAGTES

ON WRITING
EZABABHALI

Oor dwase en ander varke, boeksgewys

In 'n onlangse *Burger* skryf Wilhelm Jordaan oor 'boekdwase'. Hy noem verskillende soorte boekversamelaars – dié wat boeke bloot as artefakte versamel, soos mense duur drank versamel of porseleinfiguurtjies, of wat ook al. Hy praat hier van 'eie glorie en versiering'. Ons ken almal sulke mense – hulle stal die boeke uit waar almal hulle kan sien, soos in die sitkamer – en ek verbeel my hulle sal ook hul geraamde graadsertifikate in hulle studeerkamer of werksplek tentoonstel: alles bewyse van geleerdheid (lees: status, nie kennis nie), soos ander mense medaljes sal dra of rosette en bekers uitstal.

Ai, wat 'n vermorsing. Ek kan dink aan talle ander mense wat graag daardie boeke sou wou lees, daar waar hulle nou stof vergaar. En dan, sê Jordaan, is daar ook diegene wat die boeke lees, maar slegs om te kan spog met hulle kennis – uiteraard oppervlakkig, soos diegene wat verse uit **Die Bybel**/**Koran**/Shakespeare/Grondwet of wat-ook-al kan aframmel, sonder om te weet waaroor dit eintlik gaan. Jy kry sulke musiekkenners ook – hy/sy kan enige lied hoor en dadelik sê wie, wat, waar en wanneer. Maar van die binnewerke en betekenis van die musiek weet hulle niks: die betekenis van die lirieke, die aanwending van die instrumente, die konteks van die tyd, die kommentaar op ander kunstenaars se werk . . . bokkerol. Kunsversamelaars: ditto.

Jordaan sê dit gaan nie oor punt een tot twaalf miljoen nie, maar oor die wysheid wat die boeke bring – daarom moet mens eintlik die regte boek op die regte tyd lees. Wat beteken dit? Miskien dat jy as leser moet wéét dat dit die regte boek op die regte tyd was: dat jy moet wéét wat die boek regtig sê. En dalk meer as een boek, in dié tyd. Die sinergie van boeke? Miskien, maar dalk eerder die boodskap in 'n spesifieke teks – dis daar, al die tyd, maar jy moet dit raaklees en die inhoud ontsluit. Wanneer dit saak maak.

Minister hosts 'gogos' from Langa Book Club

On 20 September 2011, Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the Western Cape, hosted a Thank You breakfast for the 'gogos' of the Nomzamo Book Club as part of the ongoing celebration of National Book Week.

The club consists of a group of approximately 35 women from Langa who read to children and the elderly in their community.

Minister Meyer met the 'gogos' during National Book Week and was so impressed with their selfless contribution to the community that he wanted to meet them again and talk about how important their work is in improving the literacy levels of our youth.

Dr Meyer also handed out certificates to the women present with the wording,

For opening the doors to knowledge, creativity, and opportunity for our youth.

Én dit toepas, anders is dit ook maar net van akademiese belang.

Dan sê Jordaan dat daar ook diegene is wat boeke bymekaar hark om na die prentjies te kyk – hier sal fotograwe en illustreerders seker gebelg voel, want hulle werke is immers ook belangrik, maar daar is uiteraard 'n verskil tussen staar en inneem, al is laasgenoemde ook dalk nie die ideaal nie. Koffietafelboeke, selfs resepteboeke deesdae, is nie die sondaars nie, maar die versoekings. Miskien moet 'n mens sulke dwase aan strokiesboeke bekendstel; dan leer hulle, byvoorbeeld, 'n paar Latynse frases in **Asterix the gladiator**. Maar, o wee, dit sal tog net gebruik word om andere te imponeer: 'Nos morituri Salutant vos' mag skielik 'die neus van 'n dooie Selakant lyk soos 'n jakkals' word – dus ook nie aan te beveel nie.

En dan kom Jordaan by die grensdraad en klim oor: daar is ook dwase wat niksseggende boeke skryf, sê hy. Aan die ander kant van die venster, wat dalk 'n spieël kan wees, staan die outjies en vroutjies wat seepkissies soek om hulle diep 'insiggies, gedagtetjies en gevoelentjies' as 'vername rigtingwysers vir die mensdom' aan te bied. Hulle is deesdae diegene wat blogs oorheers en skynbaar dag en nag voor die rekenaar sit om die buitewêreld te beïnvloed. 'Ja', sal hulle gil, daar in hul donker muwwe kamertjies agter toegetrekte blindings, 'En wie is jy, Wil-helm Jor-daan, om ons te oordeel?'

Maar hulle praat hulself gou in 'n hoek, letterlik in daai einste kamertjie, omdat hulle gebrek aan insig deur hulself aan die groot klok gehang word. Gou eggo hul hol frases in hul leë koppe en leë kamers (want daar is nie boeke op hul rakke nie) en blindelings vuur hulle hul loskruitpatrone in die donker af. Buite in die straat hoor iemand dalk doef, doef, doef en dink, 'Die verbrande tieners se musiek maak mens mal. Is hulle deesdae almal dan doof?'

Nee, skryf Jordaan, mense beleef boeke as reisgenote (op reise na ander wêrelde), en so ontsnap dié lesers van donker klein kamers na die uiteindes van die verbeelding. 'Om 'n goeie boek te lees, is om in die donker waters van die lewenschaos af te duik en met blink en skoon dinge terug te keer.' Inderdaad: pêrels van wysheid, wat nie voor swyne gewerp moet word nie. Behalwe as jy 'n semel of 'n boekdwaas is. Dan is jy meer verlore as enige seun in enige gelykenis: bloot varkkos. Helaas en sela.

Jordaan is nie die eerste persoon wat boekdwase identifiseer nie – hy noem mense soos Sebastian Brandt wat in 1494 reeds hieroor gespot het in sy **Das Narrenschrift** en Geiler von Kayserberg wat in 1509 'al hekelend 'n aantal boekdwase geëien het'. Die meeste mense wat boeke liefhet (om die regte redes) het sekerlik van hierdie verskynsel van 'kyk, ek het ook boeke, en baie' bewus geword, en ná oordenking die patrone herken wat Jordaan uitwys. Juis daarom maak sy stellings impak. By laasgenoemdes/boekliefhebbers, nie by die dwase nie.

Ja'k; in die dae wat boeke te duur is vir 'gewone' mense, of eerder vir mense met 'n gedurige honger vir boeke, maar te veel ander gate het om toe te stop, terwyl. miljoene ander verkies om soos beeste en skape voort te strompel na net nog 'n dag in Suburbia, hul suwwe breine oorspoel met elektroniese data wat hulle self meer verdoof en desensitiseer, ja in dié dae, is daar waaragtig nog boekdwase wat boeke, die kosbare entiteite, vermors soos vrate kos mors by 'n MacDonalds vreetkompetisie.

Mag 'n pestilensie uit die Middeleeue hulle haal . . .

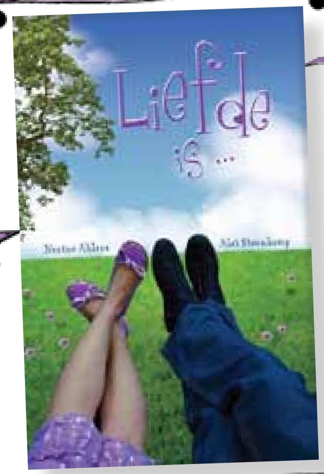
Dr Francois Verster
Korrespondent

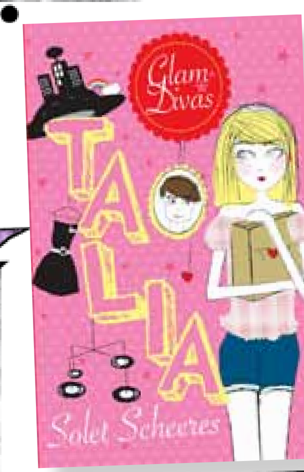
Kaapse Bibliotekaris 40 Jaar Gelede ...

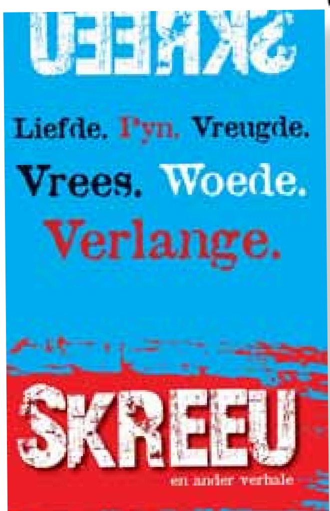
Stefan Wehmeyer Adjunkdirekteur: Streke

- Johan Nel skryf in 'n artikel, *Deurbraak vir uitgewers*, oor die redes vir die toenemende gewildheid van Afrikaanse boeke. 'Daarvoor is daar baie redes: die vernaamste is sekerlik die feit dat ons puik, moderne provinsiale biblioteekstelsel, wat gedurende die vyftigerjare landwyd ontplooi het, sy invloed gedurende die jare sestig laat voel het: ons mense het, danksy die deeglike netwerk van biblioteke, begin lees.'
- Die **KB** wy 'n hele artikel met illustrasies aan Albrecht Dürer wat in 1471 gebore is. Hierdie skilder word soos volg beskryf: Onuitputlik van vindingrykheid, noukeurig in waarneming, onfeilbaar van hand, was hy ook buitengewoon van intellek en Melanchton het van hom gesê dat sy kuns slegs 'n fraksie gevorm het van sy persoonlike grootheid van gees.
- The **CL** relates the newest ideas from America. A dial-a-story system was introduced in Wyoming. Children from four to ten could phone the library whereupon a story was told by 'Miss Tell-a-Bell'. The service was so popular that extra staff had to man the telephone lines.
- Mary Kleinschmidt, (former head of the Publications Section) interviewed the well-known South African author Joy Packer: 'I am woken at 06:30 and start work at 07:30, whether I am in the mood or not. I accept no invitations before late afternoon. I do my writing in wire-bound student's notebooks and my secretary has somehow learned to read my ghastly handwriting and abbreviations. I never read my books once they have been published.'
- An article appeared to highlight the dangers of substance abuse: 'There does exist, concomitantly, a twilight zone of dubious substances, both organic and synthetic, which are in disrepute – dagga, heroin, LSD and the amphemitomines, and these substances which CLAIM TO DO FOR US WHAT WE CANNOT OURSELVES DO are here to stay.'

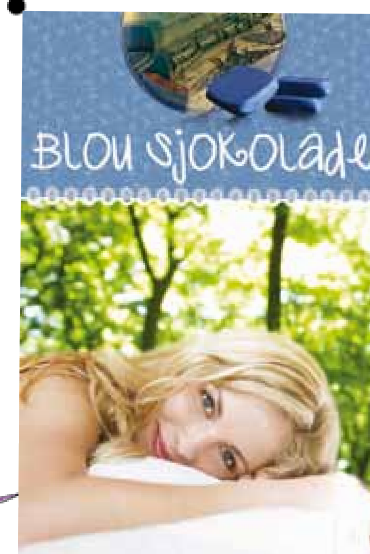
CL

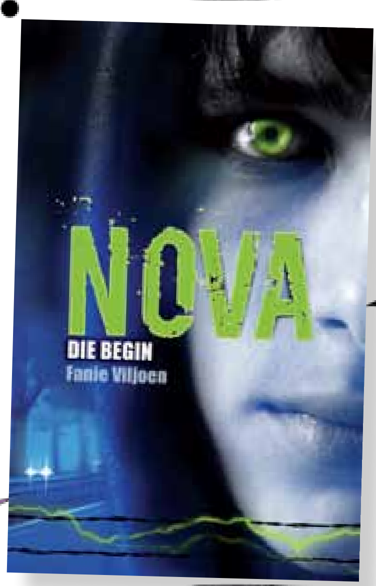


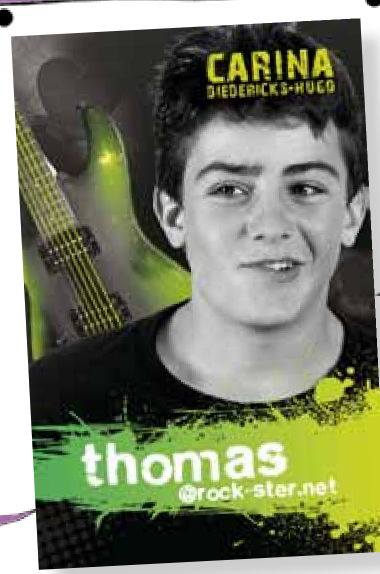


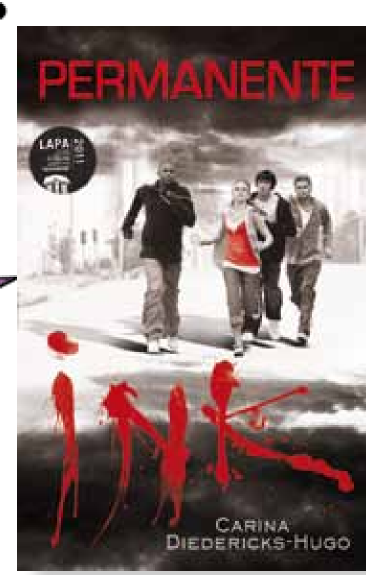


GEVIND: FUNKY TIENERBOEKE









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