EDITORIAL

As was anticipated by many of us, the months of September and October turned out to be dream months for bibliophiles. September kicked off with National Book Week, an annual event which this year was held in Hermanus and had as it's theme, *Stay connected: get to know your library*. Guests were inspired by the words of the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the Western Cape, Dr Ivan Meyer, when, as part of his keynote address, he shared his profound belief in the value of books and reading and ultimately the value of a library card. He referred to the words of celebrated author Toni Morrison, who, in relation to libraries and the services they offer, penned the following: 'Access to knowledge is superb, the supreme act of truly great civilisations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand alone in accomplishing this mission…' It pleased me to hear that, subsequent to the event, the number of library members in in the Hermanus region increased by 431. This is truly something to celebrate! (More on this event on page 46.)

The other very exciting event was the Open Book Cape Town festival, the second of its kind held in the city. One of the highlights at Open Book was the hosting of the Edinburgh World Writer's conference via satellite featuring Keith Gray and Anjali Joseph who provided the international input with Antjie Krog and Njabulo Ndebele providing a local perspective. New on the programme this year was a poetry session which drew a full house. The festival coordinator Frankie Murray shares the experience with us on page 17 and in the next edition of the **CL** we will be featuring an in-depth discussion of one of the presentations – so watch this space.

Often library users are at a loss as to what to read or where to find something on a specific topic. On page 11 assistant director Ronel Mouton has some valuable tips on improving the crucial skills required of an effective librarian – one that can advise, direct, suggest but never sensure.

We also have something for the young ones – picture books about reading and libraries. Although not by any means the entire stock of the Library Service on the topic, book selector Theresa Sass provides a list of relevant titles on page 19. Do make use of it and let's see if the increase in library membership in the Hermanus area may extend to the greater Western Cape area.

All this talk of reading! I'm signing off right now – I'm going to settle down with a good book!

Soos verwag deur baie van ons, was September en Oktober droommaande vir bibliofiele. Septembermaand het afgeskop met Nasionale Boekweek, 'n jaarlikse geleentheid wat vanjaar in Hermanus aangebied is met die tema, *Stay connected: get to know your library.* Tydens die loodsfunksie was gaste geïnspireer deur die hoofspreker, Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister van Kultuur en Sport wat in sy toespraak die invloed wat boeke op sy lewe gehad het en die waarde van 'n biblioteekkaart besing het. Hy het verwys na die bekende skrywer, Toni Morrison se mening oor biblioteke: 'Access to knowledge is superb, the supreme act of truly great civilisations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand alone in accomplishing this mission…' Ek was verheug om na afloop van Boekweek te hoor dat die ledetal in die Hermanusomgewing met 431 gestyg het – dit is mos werklik iets om oor opgewonde te raak! (Meer hieroor op bladsy 46.)

Die ander baie opwindende geleentheid was die Open Book Cape Town fees, wat vanjaar vir die tweede keer in Kaapstad aangebied is. 'n Hoogtepunt was die satellietaanbieding van die Edinburgh Writer's Conference met Keith Gray en Anjali Joseph as die internasionale verteenwoordigers en plaaslike bydraers Antjie Krog en Njabulo Ndebele. Nuut op die program was 'n 'poetry'-sessie wat 'n volgepakte saal getrek het. Frankie Murrey, feeskoördineerder van Open Book, deel die evaringe met ons op bladsy 17 en in die volgende uitgawe van die **KB** plaas ons 'n in-diepte bespreking van een van die hoofaanbiedinge tydens die fees – so hou gerus hierdie spasie dop.

Dis geen geheim dat biblioteekgebruikers soms verlore voel en nie werklik weet wat om volgende te lees of waar om 'n boek oor 'n spesifieke onderwerp te kry nie. Op bladsy 11 gee assistentdirekteur Ronel Mouton nuttige wenke aan bibliotekarisse hoe om hierdie noodsaaklike vaardighede te ontwikkel - om te adviseer, wenke te gee, voorstelle te maak, maar nooit om sensuur toe te pas nie.

Laastens het ons iets spesiaals vir die jongspan – prenteboeke oor lees en biblioteke. Alhoewel dit geensins die Diens se totale voorraad van titels oor hierdie onderwerp is nie, verskaf boekkeurder Theresa Sass 'n lys van titels oor die onderwerp op bladsy 19. Maak gerus hiervan gebruik en kom ons kyk of ons Hermanusstreek se prestasie oor die hele Kaapprovinsie kan uitbrei.

Al hierdie gepratery oor boeke en lees! Ek groet onmiddellik – ek gaan nou 'n lekker boek lees!

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