

# MAKWENZEKE

Edition 1, 2017

During the last period SALB has been very busy with a Volunteer Appreciation road trip, our own staff awards and Mini-Library training and events.



## TOP DOT AWARDS

### SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

An agency of the Department of Arts and Culture



**THE LIBRARY LAUNCHED THE TOP DOT AWARDS** during a Staff Meeting in February 2017. The purpose of the award is to acknowledge staff achievement and success on various levels of their work. Natasha Agnew received the award for her excellent telephone etiquette which was supported by comments received from our members calling the library. Pumla Mahanjana received the award for successfully presenting a business proposal to South African Breweries Foundations to secure funding for the Prison Narration Project in the Durban Westville Prison. Malibongwe Nquma received the award for his persistent efforts over a long time to successfully obtain the Library's first Tax Clearance Certificate from SARS. Vuyo Kampu, Thembile Gxekwa and Francois Hendrikz received the award recognising the fact that they have not utilised any of their sick leave benefits during 2016. We say congratulations to our first recipients of the Top Dot Award.



# THE SALB ACTIVE NATIONALLY



**The South African Library For The Blind (SALB)** is a member of the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS). The NCLIS is a statutory body that is established by the NCLIS Act of 2001 and the vision of the Council is to position South Africa as the best informed Nation. One of the main functions of the Council is to inform the Ministers of Arts & Culture, Basic Education and Higher Education on library related matters. The Director of the SALB, Mr Francois Hendrikz represents the Library on the Council. One of the major contributions of the Council was the drafting of the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter that was finalised during 2014/15. In this document, it is clearly stipulated that all libraries have a role and responsibility to render services to people with disabilities. The work of the SALB is also prominently mentioned in the Charter. One of the recommendations of the Charter was the development of a National Library and Information Services Policy. Work on the policy started early in 2017 with

funding that was made available by the Department of Arts and Culture for this purpose. The Project and funding will be managed by the National Library of South Africa and a National Task Team will be responsible for the drafting of the Policy. Provincial consultations with all stakeholders started in January this year and it is planned to submit the first draft of the Policy in May 2017 to the Council for recommendation to the Ministry of Arts and Culture. The Director of the SALB has been asked by the Chair of the Task Team to serve on the Reference Panel to ensure that library services to people with disabilities are integrated in the National Library and Information Services Policy. The Director made a presentation on this subject during a National Consultative Forum meeting during January when the process was initiated. The SALB will keep its members informed about this development in future Newsletters.

The SALB is involved and represented in another National Committee, that is the Legal Deposit Committee. Legal Deposit is mandated by Law (Act 54 of 1997) and requires all publishers in South Africa to

deposit everything they publish to 5 Legal Deposit Libraries that is the Mangaung Library Service in Bloemfontein, the Parliamentary Information Service in Cape Town, the National Film and Video Archive in Pretoria, the National Library in Pretoria and in Cape Town and Msunduzi Public Library in Pietermaritzburg. The Act makes provision for a Legal Deposit Committee to plan legal deposit activities and to advise and guide the Minister of Arts and Culture and the Publishing Industry guide on this matter. One of the main responsibilities of the Committee is to ensure that documents are preserved and made accessible to the citizens of South Africa. It is because of the accessibility requirement that the SALB became involved as a member of the Committee and is working on that requirement for people with disabilities. The Director of the SALB has been appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture as the Chair of the Committee for the next three years. Legal Deposit Legislation is currently being amended to include the SALB as one of the Legal Deposit Libraries. Detail of this requirement will still be worked out.

## NEW SALB BOARD MEMBERS

**THE** South African Library for the Blind Act of 1998 mandates the Minister of Arts and Culture to appoint board members for the Library every three years. The act provides that board members may serve two terms of three years each. The term of the previous SALB Board came to an end by the end of September 2016. Four members were eligible for a second term and indicated their willingness to serve another term until

September 2019. The members who will be serving a second term is the well-known Dr William Rowland as the Chair of the Board, Mr Michael Watermeyer from the University of Cape Town and Ms Sebenzile Matsebula from the private sector and Ms Vangile Nyamathe from the Johannesburg Society for the Blind. Five new members were appointed by the Minister and they are Dr Shirlene Neerpuuth from the University of the

Western Cape; Ms Zamaswazi Phakati from the private sector; Ms Elizabeth Ramaoka from the private sector; Mr Nievesh Ravgee from the University of Fort Hare and Mr Xolisa Yekani from the SABC in Port Elizabeth. Library Management is looking forward working together with the Board to improve library services to members of the library and to ensure that the library's good governance record is maintained.

## TECHNICAL SERVICES

**ON** Friday the 10th of February, a client Forum Meeting Took place between the SALB, the Department of Arts and Culture, and the Public Works Department at their Regional Office in Port Elizabeth.

A productive meeting was held and finally progress was made. This includes the finalisation of the Site Clearance document produced by the Department of Arts and Culture, and after many years, the completion of the Deed of Donation document by the Department of Arts and Culture to prove that the SALB donated 4 even to the Government of South Africa.

Once all parties are happy with the Deed of Donation document, it will be signed by all parties, the even can be consolidated and registered, and together with the Site Clearance document, a Planning Instruction document will be issued by the National Office of Public Works. This will enable the Regional Office of Public Works to appoint consultants to get this Upgrade and Extension Project going.

Hopefully, by the time you read the next newsletter, there will be lots of good news regarding this project.

### SALB REACHES OUT TO TWO SCHOOLS IN LIMPOPO

On 2 & 3 February The Braille Consultant at SALB visited two schools in Limpopo.

The purpose of the visit was to present a short course with tactile books and spice up the teaching of Braille and contribute especially to pre-Braille reading skills. It was also a fine opportunity to highlight amongst educators the importance of Braille to the young blind child. Schools visited were Siloe School for the Blind and St Francis Academy. It was gratifying to observe learners taking advantage of the hardcopy and electronic Braille document at one of the schools.

# VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION TRIP

7 - 10 NOVEMBER 2016

**T**HE PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP was to give our volunteers gifts to thank them for the wonderful job they've been doing in assisting the SALB for many years and also to say farewell to those who are no longer able to volunteer their services due to mostly ill health and their age. During these visits, we also managed to assist with some audio related and Braille transcription queries as well.

meet one of our narrators situated in Port Elizabeth, **Patricia Mangold**, at the airport. Patricia started narrating for the library in October 2010 and she has read 30 books thus far.

We were also supposed to be meeting with **Mrs Fay Welsh**, a Transcriber who had Brailled 42 titles since 1997 and **Mrs Mooneyen Muller**, also a Transcriber who had Brailled 36 titles since she started in 2002. We were going to meet

about the SALB and showed interest in narrating books.

We stayed in Humansdorp for the night before we continued our journey to the Western Cape the next morning.

## Day 2

**DAY TWO OF THE TRIP** started after breakfast with a drive to Knysna where we experienced the most beautiful picturesque view of Brenton-on-Sea



Jeremy Riches



Patricia Mangold



Sister-in-charge for Fay Welsh



Dienie Muller



Anita van Niekerk



Anita van Niekerk



Cecil le Roux



Freda "Blommie" Visser

**Melton Kivitts, Noluvuyo Yona**, accompanied by **Charlene Prince** from Audio Production embarked on a Volunteers Appreciation trip to the Western Cape.

## Day 1

**ON OUR FIRST DAY** of the trip we visited two of our narrators in Port Elizabeth. Our first stop was at **Jeremy Riches'** house, where we received a warm and hearty welcome. Jeremy is one of the library's long standing narrators. He started narrating for us in 1999 and is still currently narrating books and magazines. To date he has narrated 328 books and is still going strong.

After our visit to Jeremy we went to

Muller at the airport and thereafter all travel to Mrs Welsh's house in Humewood, Port Elizabeth. Unfortunately we were delayed and also got lost on our way to Mrs Welsh's house. We eventually arrived to find they had already left, so we left the 2 parcels we were presenting to them with a sister-in-charge at the old-age-home and took pictures of the nursing Sister and the gifts.

After having accomplished all in Port Elizabeth we drove to Humansdorp that afternoon and met with **Mrs Dienie Muller**, who is a Copy Typist since 2003 and had typed 8 titles. She was delighted to see us and we presented her with her gifts and took pictures with her. She asked us a few questions

and visited our next narrator **Anita van Niekerk**. Anita was very pleased to finally put names and faces to the voices on the phone and the people she had exchanged emails with. Anita became a narrator in 2013 and to date she has already narrated 26 books ... and counting. She also had a few questions about copy typing for Braille and how that would work. Noluvuyo explained the process to her and she might become a copy typist in the future.

That afternoon we travelled to Mossel Bay to **Mrs Cecil le Roux**. Cecil's visit was a special visit as she volunteers for both our Audio and Braille Production sections. Mrs le Roux started assisting

the SALB in 1994 as a Transcriber and was assisting us with direct Braille and proofreading and correcting files of other Transcribers in Braille as well. Over the years she quit direct Braille and correcting Braille files and switched to copy-typing due to health issues until she recently quit with copy-typing as she was battling with her health. She welcomed us in her house and we gave her a gift to thank her for all the 232 titles she had produced in Braille and she was very excited to see us and had so many stories to tell us.

Cecél has been a narrator since 2002 and has read a total of 123 titles thus far and says she enjoys the reading very much.



Melton Kivitts and Nolvuyoyo Yona from the SALB Volunteer Appreciation road trip team seen here visiting Mr and Mrs Meiring and Mrs Eleanora Fraser



Freda "Blommie" Visser



Mrs Dale Meiring



Dale Meiring with Mr Meiring



Mrs Eleanora Fraser

## Day 3

**DAY THREE OF OUR TRIP** commenced after a good night's rest and we set off for Stilbaai to visit the last of our Audio Production volunteers for this trip, **Freda "Blommie" Visser**. After travelling for two hours in the heat we finally reached the Carewell Lifestyle Estates where Blommie is a resident. On our arrival, all the staff were very pleased we had finally made it, as Blommie was very excited for them to meet "her people" from the Library for the Blind. This visit was a bittersweet visit as Blommie recently had to give up narrating due to ill health.

Blommie started narrating in 1999 and gave us a total of 227 books till 2016. This makes her the female with the most titles narrated for SALB. Blommie treated us to a nice lunch and a drive to the beach as her final goodbye. Thank you Blommie for all the years of hard work and we will surely miss you, but we will never forget you.

## Day 4

**ON DAY FOUR, OUR FINAL DAY**, our journey back home to the good old Eastern Cape started with just one more stop-over in Sedgefield. On the 10th we went to Sedgefield where we met the two Transcribers, **Mrs Dale Meiring** and

Mrs Eleanora Fraser from Knysna. We were welcomed by Mr and Mrs Meiring and as she is one of the longest standing Transcribers, she started sharing stories about the SALB, how she started volunteering and the old ways of Braille, and they showed us all the awards she'd received from the SALB from the past years. This visit was slightly different from the other visits as we knew Mrs Meiring and her husband well from seeing them when they used to attend the award ceremonies at SALB in Grahamstown and at other special occasions such as "Dinner in the Dark". Mrs Meiring first started Braille in 1978 when they lived in Alexandria in the Eastern Cape.

We also gave **Mrs Eleanora Fraser** a gift. She travelled all the way from Knysna that morning to meet us with Mrs Meiring as they are friends, having met through the SALB. Eleanora Fraser used to receive Braille assistance from Dale Meiring. They told us the lovely story of how they met having stayed in the same street but not ever meeting. They actually met whilst attending Braille training and became fast friends.

Both ladies were very excited and didn't want us to leave. They both

showed interest in narrating books as they have started battling with Braille due to their age and health issues.

## Conclusion

**THE TRIP** was worth it, because we've been interacting with these volunteers almost daily via phone or e-mail but have never met in person. We had been eager to meet for a long time. Most of our volunteers are elderly and some have hearing issues making telephone contact difficult at times. We were also able to attend to computer literacy and some of the issues experienced due to out-of-date and slow computers during our visits.

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our volunteers for the warm welcomes when we visited them, the great conversations, the interest shown and all the good work they have done throughout the years of service - you have rendered the most invaluable support to the library and the blind and visually impaired communities. The work you do does not go unnoticed or unappreciated so thank you once again and keep up the good work.

# STAFF SCENE

1 JANUARY 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2017

## AWARDS

One of the highlights during the period 1 October to 31 December 2016 is that **Mr Francois Hendrikz**, our Director completed 10 years of service at the SA Library for the Blind.



## APPRENTICESHIPS

Two pupils from Bartimea School for the Blind and Deaf in Thaba Nchu visited the SALB for a period of one week during October 2016 on an apprenticeship programme. One pupil, **Pulane Mojandane** is blind and the other, **Mojalefa Selemela** is partially sighted.

As part of the programme the apprentices are taken to the different functions performed in the respective sections of the SALB for them to get a better understanding of work performed in different occupations. They both thoroughly enjoyed the programme. The SALB wish them the very best in their future aspirations.

## TRAINING



Attending training Solly Mahlangu (right) and Calvin Mogojane (left).

During November 2016 six of our staff members attended an in-house Health and Safety Representative training course presented by NOSA. The training assist the committee members to be proficient in their roles as Health and Safety representatives at the SALB.



## SALB WELCOMES THREE QUALIFIED BRAILLISTS

We are pleased to announce that Portia Mqake, Esmeralda Oosthuizen and Unathi Ngangani passed the English transcribers' Braille examination of SALB and are now qualified Brailleists.

We wish to congratulate them and look forward to their contribution to Braille!

## MPUMALANGA MINI-LIBRARY PROJECT JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 ACTIVITIES

**IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY** most of the Mini-Library project activities were to do with the distribution and training of registered members in the use of Daisy players.

In Mbombela 14 library members received their Daisy players. In Volksrust Public library 7 members received their Daisy players and the librarian invited their local newspaper.

The newly registered members of Siyabuswa Public library received their Daisy players and a refresher training session was conducted to support the members who received the Daisy players in November 2016.

Below left and right: Mbombela Public library Daisy Players distribution and Daisy Demonstration



# MINI-LIBRARIES



## The Eastern Cape Mini-Library project ended 2016 on an extraordinary note!

We were blessed with the well-received and successful launches of 7 new Mini-Libraries (MiniLibs), 10 awareness events and 9 training events in the Eastern Cape. We managed to train 54 Library staff, 2 Community services officials, as well as 10 blind and partially sighted champions in Mini-library services and JAWS.

**SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND (SALB)** hosted events in Komga, Mt Frere, Mbizana, Stutterheim, Addo, Adelaide, Fort Beaufort, Barkly East, Ncgobo, New Brighton and Queenstown with trainees joining from Mdantsane, Motherwell, Mt Ailiff, Lusikisiki, Peddie, King William's Town, Kirkwood and Sterkspruit.

This adds to our growing network of MiniLibs in almost every province of South Africa. In the Eastern Cape alone the Mini-libraries have mushroomed to a whopping 36 and are placed in urban and remote rural areas all

over the Eastern Cape as we strive to accommodate the needs of the blind and partially sighted!

Each launch was treated as an event by the receiving municipalities and our thanks go out to them for helping to make them such a success, without their support and financial input this would not have been possible.

Kindly have a look at the pictures included of the events as an illustration of how important the Mini-libraries are to our Eastern Cape communities and how it empowers our blind and partially sighted members!

## JAWS AND MINI-LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE BLIND TRAINING AND AWARENESS EVENT IN BARKLY EAST (INCLUDING LIBRARIANS FROM BOTH BARKLY EAST AND STERKSPRUIT)



Above: Here we have Nomonde doing "Orientation and Mobility", a technique called "trailing" under blind fold.

**A VERY COMMITTED GROUP** of blind and partially sighted members came to the awareness event and Senqu Municipality provided the transport for the members and treated them

to a wonderful cooked lunch, Senqu Municipality really went the extra mile in support of this project! A very big thank you to Mrs Lulu Gologolo – Community Services Director (Senqu Municipality).



Above: Here is our beautiful team of trainees, from the left Lungile Booi (Senior Librarian – Senqu Municipality), Unathi Sobudula (Manager – Community Services Senqu Municipality), Mnikhaya (Librarian – Sterkspruit), Nomonde Nxele (Librarian - Barkly East), Lydia Marques (Trainer – EC Mini-library Project Coordinator) and Themba Haji (Librarian – Barkley East). Sophy Mahwka is not shown in this group picture but joined the training as a champion/volunteer (see below left).



Left: Interested members had a closer look at the JAWS computer and the document reader, they were very excited to make use of it. Here the champion Sophy Mahwka (right) eagerly orientates a member to the computer keyboard!

## JAWS AND MINI-LIBRARY SERVICES: TRAINING & AWARENESS EVENTS – QUEENSTOWN LIBRARY

WE HAD A “FULL HOUSE” awareness event! Members showed up not only from the library, but also officials from Enoch Mgijima local municipality, health workers from local clinics and members from the media to mention but a few.

Our awareness speech included information regarding the MiniLib Services that has just been established at the Queenstown Main Library, testimonies on video in IsiXhosa and by a local blind person, a word of thanks to all the stakeholders involved to make this service a reality such as DSRAC & SALB and the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality who assisted in facilitating this process as well and for generously supporting.

Right: Our wonderful trainees are from the left (back row) Nondumiso Mabece, Tumeke Dlelana, Lydia Marques (SALB facilitator), Mthandazo Ntsham, Nozie Ntlabati, Pamela Duna, (front right) Luvuyo Matiwane and (front left) Mandisa Sitole.



## MINI-LIBRARY TRAINING & AWARENESS EVENTS – FORT BEAUFORT AND ADELAIDE LIBRARIES



Above: We had lots of fun, learning about JAWS, how to work the 'Daisy' audio device and learning about Mini-library services.



Above: Librarians and 2 x champions hard at work doing training.

## AWARENESS EVENT & MINILIB SERVICES & JAWS TRAINING FITZPATRICK LIBRARY (STAFF FROM ADDO AND KIRKWOOD LIBRARIES) –16 & 17 AUGUST 2016



Above left: Trainees - All the library staff and champions from Addo and Kirkwood libraries.



Above middle: Mr Riet Peni, a champion and a blind member, gave a beautiful testimony of what the MiniLib services mean to him and also did a demonstration on how to use a Daisy Player.



Above right: These are some of the blind and partially sighted members from Addo and Kirkwood who attended the Awareness event, seen here taking part in a fun quiz.

## AWARENESS EVENT & MINILIB SERVICES & JAWS TRAINING - ALFRED NZO DISTRICT AND KOMGA

Right: These school children loved hearing about library services and learning about the MiniLib!



Far right: Handing over of Daisy player and revealing the stand banner for the MiniLib services.



## MINI-LIBRARY: AWARENESS & TRAINING EVENTS – ENGCOCO LIBRARY (INCLUDING LIBRARIANS FROM ENGCOCO, LUSIKISIKI AND CLARKEBURY LIBRARIES)



**TRAINING INCLUDED** an assimilation exercise, sensitising librarians to the needs of blind members and introduction to JAWS and ZoomText software. The training also covered an introduction to using the Daisy player and information regarding Mini-Library services which includes the procedures to be followed issuing Daisy players and electronic books to members, SALB circulation procedures and hosting library programmes for blind members visiting the library on group days.

Above: These are some of the blind members who came to the awareness event, including the charismatic Mr. Wandisile Mafufu (far left in red golf shirt) a councillor.



## MINI-LIBRARY: STUTTERHEIM TRAINING & AWARENESS EVENT – 15 & 16 NOVEMBER 2016

**THIS HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST GROUP** of trainees for the year, fifteen trainees including four blind champions!

Trainees represented four libraries – Stutterheim, Mdantsane, King William's Town and Peddie. Sighted trainees did an assimilation exercise under blindfold so as to sensitize their understanding to the needs of blind people. The programme director, Mr Mavela, made sure everything ran smoothly with

the interesting programme that was planned. The programme included blind members explaining how the Daisy player works, how JAWS works on the computer and also a lesson in Braille. Lydia Marques, EC Project Coordinator for the MiniLib project gave a speech explaining the establishment of the MiniLib project and the services provided to the blind members through the SALB MiniLib services available at

the local library. She also explained the partnerships with DSRAC and the support and involvement from the local municipality supporting SALB's facilitation of the project in their area.

The group of blind members from Dimbaza sang beautifully and other groups, such as a group of dancing school children kept the crowd entertained! What a huge success the event was, as well as the year 2016!

