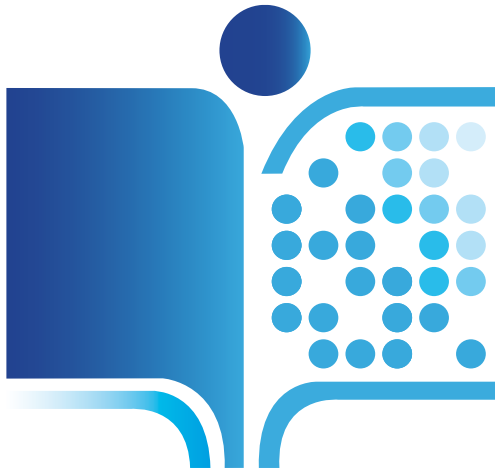


# MAKWENZEKE

Edition 3, 2017

SALB rolls out 27 new Mini-Libraries country-wide, advances are made with our children's tactile books, our Prison Braille Project goes ahead and we attend the LIASA and IFLA Conferences.



## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

An agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

## 27 NEW MINI-LIBRARIES

**THE MZANSI LIBRARIES ONLINE MINI-LIBRARIES PROJECT, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SALB AND NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA, WILL IMPLEMENT 27 MINI-LIBRARIES AT 27 PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

**SALB recently held an introduction, orientation, and specialised in-house training for our newly appointed Mzansi libraries online coordinators in Grahamstown.**

**THE DIRECTOR** Mr Francois Hendrikz welcomed the new Mzansi Coordinators and laid the tone of the meeting and gave a few words of encouragement to the new team.

The purpose of the session was to introduce the Mzansi Coordinators to the current Provincial Coordinators and staff in the Head Office who will be of assistance to them in order to deliver the project.

Presentations were made by the Provincial Coordinators and the Finance, Library and Information departments.

*RIGHT: From left to right: Ms. Siphokazi Mdyodyo (Western Cape/Northern Cape Coordinator), Mr Tsholofelo Thulare (North West/FreeState Coordinator), Ms. Lucia Mlambo (Mpumalnga/Limpopo and Gauteng Coordinator) and Ms. Lungile Luthuli (KwaZulu Natal/ Eastern Cape Coordinator).*



**Mzansi coordinators are appointed to implement the 27 new Mini-Libraries project**



# TACTILE BOOKS MAKE READING AND LEARNING FUN!

## New format for our tactile books



**AS PART** of gathering information about the use of tactile books and enhancing the current product, the South African Library for the Blind (SALB) National Braille Consultancy presented a workshop to learners from Khanyisa School for the Blind (Port Elizabeth) and Efata School (Umtata).

The purpose of these workshops was to present the new reading materials, and to interact and engage with the learners and teachers about the formats of tactile books available at the SALB.

The learners participated by way of a session reading the books and a short storytelling. It was an excellent opportunity to engage directly with the end users and interact with them on the practicalities and functionality basics of the tactile books. Teachers requested a greater emphasis be placed on the indigenous languages; books in line with the curriculum and among titles mentioned were books on weather phenomena, animals etc, which we'll be



hard at work producing - watch this space!

Our new format tactile books are being produced by SALB after thorough research into production methods using the perfect paper and using a new Brother 'scan n cut' in a more sustainable board book format. The new format will also allow SALB to supply a greater variety of titles to our readers. We wish to advise educators, parents and all our young readers that the tactile books are readily available at the SALB, and we encourage all schools to contact us for these books and also to provide feedback.

For further information please contact: SALB, Nombasa Kate - Tel: 046 622 7226

## SALB AT THE

# WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS

83rd General Conference and Assembly 19 - 25 August, 2017

**THE DIRECTOR** of the SA Library for the Blind (SALB) attended the Annual Conference of the International Federation Of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference in Wroclaw, Poland during August 2017.

The conference was attended by more than 3,000 delegates from 122 countries.

The SALB is a member of the IFLA Section for Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities (LPD) and attended two meetings.



IFLA is planning to develop Guidelines regarding the Marrakesh Treaty to assist Librarians to understand the contents and implications of the Treaty and to guide on how to promote the ratification of it in their countries.

The LPD Section also hosted a session during the official conference programme under the title: Marrakesh - The Road to Implementation. 31 Countries have already ratified, with 7 of those being from Africa. In some countries, the thinking is to first address local Copyright Legislation before ratifying the Treaty – South Africa is following this approach.

IFLA members were requested to



Libraries. Solidarity. Society.



**The big topic during the conference was IFLA's Global Vision for Libraries**

submit their views on what the core values of libraries should be; what the main challenges are to libraries; the characteristics of a united library field, etc. IFLA will consolidate all the inputs received and develop an International Strategy in response to all the questions.

The IFLA Conference programme covered a vast array of library types, services and initiatives from the level of policy to practice. 247 sessions were on the programme during the 6 days of the

Conference. Some of the interesting presentations were about reading programs for children in hospitals and how that is assisting the child and parents; the Dutch Tax Authority is using Public Libraries to assist people in person with

tax related matters.



Polish speakers shared an interesting initiative in Poland to promote the culture of reading where adults read stories to children aloud. A paper on measuring

the impact of library services highlighted the importance of engaging with users to determine how essential they are to the community they serve.

The IFLA Conference is the only event where various Libraries serving blind people meet to discuss joint programmes, plans and related initiatives. The opportunity to share thoughts with international counterparts on topics such as technology, production, services and various other initiatives are invaluable. Our participation in the meetings is also valued by our international counterparts due to the perspective of being a developing country.

# BRAILLE TRAINING AT WESTVILLE PRISON A REALITY

**THIRTEEN FEMALE INMATES ARE SPENDING MUCH OF THE YEAR LEARNING BRAILLE, SO THEY CAN CONVERT PRINT BOOKS INTO BRAILLE.**

**DURBAN** Westville Prison - Inside a prison workshop, several inmates tap away at what look like old typewriters.

The devices are called Perkins Brailers, they are used to write the code relied upon by many visually impaired people. In a first for Durban Westville Prison's system, 13 female inmates are spending much of the year learning braille, so they can convert print books into Braille.

The braille training was introduced at the beginning of 2016 at the Durban Westville Prison. The purpose of this exciting initiative was to introduce Braille training to inmates of the female centre - Durban Westville Prison, as a mutually beneficial programme for both the female inmates and the SALB. The trainees acquire a valuable skill and the SALB's brailist volunteer base is increased. Results of this initiative thus far have been positive, with an increased number of braille titles produced for the SALB.

**"To know I can actually do something good for somebody while I am here is good to know," said Westville inmate on the Braille training initiative.**

There are challenges which limit the number of inmates able to participate in this programme at present, such as limited computer knowledge and typing skills, as well as insufficient resources within the prison such as a limited number of guards allocated to supervise the inmates whilst attending braille classes, lack of dedicated space for training as well as a shortage of laptops and Duxbury Braille Software.

Teaching Braille relies heavily on memorisation. Learners start by learning the braille six cell dot system. They move to the computer where they begin to transcribe words, sentences and eventually sections of documents. SALB's Pumla Mahanjana, who is heading up the program, said one

of the biggest challenges is "They don't learn to read Braille by touch in here, they have to learn to read braille visually". Out of the 13 trainees we are receiving about 8 to 10 exercises from the most active every week. They all seem to be positive about their braille training. Even though

some of the trainees are slower than the others they make sure that they submit an exercise or two every week. Feedback reports for each exercise get sent to them and general training takes place regularly via email as they start new lessons every week.

We have received great feedback about this programme and we are eager to expand this to more prison centres and enhance our base of volunteers through this initiative.



## SALB AT LIASA CONFERENCE 2017

### LIASA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

**SALB's** Florence Jadi and Loyiso Kalashe attended the prestigious LIASA conference which was held 2 - 6 October 2017.

It has been an interesting journey for LIASA since its inception as a library association in 1997 and as part of this journey the Annual Conference is now emerging as a highlight on the library and information services (LIS) calendar.

The conference was opened by Deputy Minister Ms Makhotso Soty (DAC) who said libraries need to respond to modern challenges to access emerging technology. Mandla Ntombela (LIASA President) talked about the theme adopted for the 2017 LIASA Annual Conference, Re-envisioning the role of Library and Information Services, which allows us to reflect on the current state of libraries and librarianship in South Africa and the future of the South African Library and Information services (LIS) sector.



A pre-conference workshop called 'User Experience' was presented by Andy Priestner during which the value of research techniques and their application in the library sector was explored.

During a 'light bulb' session LIASA looked back to 1997 all the way to current day. During this session past LIASA presidents were given a chance to share their challenges during their term in office. There was also an interesting parallel session which saw a number of guest speakers of all ages.

The Marketing and Advocacy Workshop was presented by Buhle Mbambo-Thaton. There were other interesting sessions, such

as the Librarian of the Year interview - and here the Eastern Cape was well represented with two runner's-up. There was a cheese and wine cocktail event and much enjoyed entertainment was provided at and the Gala dinner. A motivational speaker touched the audience with his story and closure of the conference. The conference was highly informative and an eye opener to the Library Information Services (LIS) sector and Florence and Loyiso both said they gained invaluable experience.

Each attendee was given a flower to celebrate and commemorate 20th anniversary of LIASA celebrations.

# STAFF SCENE

## Mandela Month:

As part of the Mandela Month initiative, the Library arranged a clean-up project. A number of staff at the SALB took to the streets in old clothes, with poking sticks and refuse bags in hand on a cleaning spree. A mountain of bags was filled with rubbish during that cleaning spree. Well done to everyone who participated!

## Long-Service:

This year to date, no less than 3 staff members completed 10 years of service at the SA Library for the Blind (SALB)!

Ms Cornelia Ntengu completed 10 years of Service during January 2017, Ms Patricia Magabie reached 10 years of Service during August 2017 and Ms Florence Jadi reached the same milestone in September this year.

**Ms Cornelia Ntengu** started off as a volunteer, and later successfully applied as a Trainee Brailist in the Braille Production Section. After passing the requisite Braille Transcriber's examination, she was promoted to Brailist. She is presently the Snr Brailist at the SALB.

After working at SALB for a period of almost 8 years, **Ms Magabie** left the employ of SALB due to her (late) husband being transferred. With the unfortunate passing of her husband, she returned to Grahamstown where her roots are. She successfully applied for a vacant position at SALB in 2007 and has since been back at SALB for 10 years. She is presently a Snr Library Officer in the Member Liaison and Outreach Section of SALB.

**Ms Florence Jadi** was appointed at SALB during September 2007, after serving as a contract worker. She held the position of General Library Assistant, before being promoted to Library Officer. Since her appointment, she qualified in the Library and Information Services field and is still continuing with further studies.

Congratulations to the three of them.

## Apprenticeship Programme:

Two pupils, one partially sighted and one blind, from Re-Tlamaleng School for the Blind in Kimberley visited the SALB for a period of one week during the first



week of April 2017 on an Apprenticeship Programme. The pupils were taken through the programme and were exposed to the services rendered in each of the respective sections and sub-sections in the Library. The pupils were very engaging and blended in well during their time at the SALB. They found the programme very fulfilling. We wish them well in their future aspirations.

## Termination of Service:

**Ms Nobesuthu Lose**, Librarian Cataloguing at the SALB resigned from employment to take up a new position outside of Grahamstown. She left the employ of SALB towards the end of April 2017 after approximately 9 years of service. Our best wishes accompany her.

## Appointments:

With the notice of resignation by **Ms Lose** (Librarian Cataloguing), the position was advertised. **Ms Nokuthula Gunuza** was successful in her application for the vacancy. Ms Gunuza, who was also an Intern at the Library in the same section before, took up the position from 1 June 2017.

**Ms Gunuza** holds a Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree. She also gained working experience through In-service Training, Volunteering and an Internship role.

The National Library of South Africa also availed some funding as part of the Mzansi Online Project Initiative for the establishment of a number of Mini-Library services for the blind in all the Provinces of South Africa. 4 Project Coordinators were appointed to oversee the establishment of at least 3 Mini-Libraries per province. They were appointed to service the provinces in clusters.

**Ms Lungile Luthuli** was appointed as

Project Coordinator for the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Cluster with effect from 1 August 2017. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree, completed a Quality Executive Development QED Facilitator Training course and holds a Diploma in Information Technology - Programming. She has held Administrative, Systems related and different Project Administrative or Coordinator related positions in her career.

**Ms Lucia Mlambo** was appointed as Project Coordinator for the Gauteng, Mpulanga and Limpopo cluster from 1 August 2017. She holds a BCom Honours Degree in Business Management and has held various roles in Project Management and/or coordination throughout her career.

**Mr Thulare Tsholofelo** holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree, as well as a Diploma in Project Management. He also completed an NQF 5 E-Records Management and Records Management qualification course, an NQF4 Community Facilitator Programme course and an Outcomes Based Monitoring and Evaluation course. His work experience ranges between administrative, project coordination and Strategy and Performance Monitoring roles. He is appointed in the position of Project Coordinator for the Free State and North-West Cluster.

**Ms Siphokazi Mdyodyo** is appointed as Project Coordinator for the Western Cape and Northern Cape Cluster. She is presently studying towards a Master's in Business Administration and Project Management, whilst holding a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management. She also obtained a BCom Economics degree and a certificate course in Pastel Accounting. Her work experience gained is in Project Coordination and Administration.

Cont. on page 8...

# KZN MINI-LIBRARIES INSPIRING LEARNERS



## SALB HELD MINI-LIBRARY MOBILISATIONS IN KZN RECENTLY

A Mini-Library mobilisation meeting was held at the Esikhaleni Public Library in KwaZulu-Natal and was attended by the students from Mfolozi College, the disability chairperson from the Department of Health, Mr Bheki Sibiyi and the library staff.

Mr Sibiyi inspired the learners and expressed great appreciation for the project and the impact it has on the lives of the blind people in UMhlatuze Local Municipality. Their activity room is utilised as the venue for the disability forum meetings and their public library environment is very welcoming for their visually impaired members.

Holding the disability forum meetings at the public libraries promotes inclusion as the environment allows interaction between visually impaired people and sighted patrons in a public service space. The platform has a reciprocal benefit between the blind people and sighted people as the sighted patrons are sensitised about the rights of the people with visual impairment utilising the library. This social interaction also helps to eliminate social stigma, prejudices and stereotypes about people with albinism as they interact with and share the public library. Albinism is an inherited disease characterised by a substantially lower rate of melanin production. Melanin is the pigment responsible for the colour of the skin, hair, and eyes. Regardless of skin or hair tone, people with albinism always experience some level of dysfunction with their vision.

The mobilisation meetings educate about the benefits of an informal support



system in improving the quality of life of the members with special needs. The family members and friends are welcomed and encouraged to share their own experiences. Issues such as visually impaired patrons requiring assistance

**Holding the disability forum meetings at the public libraries promotes inclusion as the environment allows interaction of the visually impaired people in a public service.**

with navigation, making tea and utilising ablution facilities are also addressed.

SALB formed intersectoral programs with Reshmika of the South African National Council for the Blind on making the enrolment forms for Optima College and NSFAS accessible to the Mini-Libraries. The librarians were encouraged to distribute the forms to the Special Needs Schools, community based organisations and individuals advocating for the rights of the people with disabilities in their areas. The KwaZulu-Natal Blind and Deaf Society Life Skills Coordinator, Mr Derrick Munyai, linked SALB with Community Based Rehabilitation volunteers operating in KwaZulu-Natal and we invited them to the introduction workshops and training meetings.

Mrs Sithembile Mkhize at Nkandla Library provided the refresher training session

which covered the SALB technologies and services provided to the visually impaired patrons to existing and newly employed staff. Providing support to the librarians educates and equips them with skills on operating the devices and helps them integrate librarianship qualities in the project.

To celebrate National Book Week we promoted the SALB services in the Harry Gwala District, hosted by Umzimkhulu library, and provided the Mini-Library promotional materials for their notice boards and invited the schools for the blind to attend the event.

SALB strongly believes that self-representation is a crucial right for the visually impaired and Mr Mlungisi Sigwebela, an intern who reads stories to the sighted children at Umzimkhulu library, demonstrated to learners from the mainstream schools how he reads stories and brailled books to the blind and visually impaired students. The sighted learners found the braille, audio and reading technology material provided by the SALB for the visually impaired people very interesting. Main-streaming and self-representation of the visually impaired in public libraries eliminates prejudice and promotes social cohesion in the public libraries for a healthier and enlightened community.

Through the Mini-Library introduction workshop in Eshowe public library the patrons had an opportunity to share difficulties in using the normal print books and expressed their pleasure at having the SALB Mini-Library installed in the public library in their area. Library staff engaged with the patrons showing their desire to provide a user-friendly service for all.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## NEW BOOKS TO LOOK OUT FOR

### Title: Fearless

Author: Francine Pascal

Format: Audio

Review: [www.literallyjen.com](http://www.literallyjen.com): "The first book in the series nicely sets up the setting and the characters, and hints at a bit of mystery surrounding Gaia's new foster mother, Ella. She is corresponding secretly with someone who has an unhealthy interest in Gaia. Even though Ella hates Gaia, her mission is to keep Gaia alive. But it's hard, since Gaia has attracted the attention of a few gang members who want her dead. Gaia Moore, the seventeen-year-old heroine of the series, is an incredible girl. She knows martial arts, can speak several different languages, and has an IQ that is off the charts".

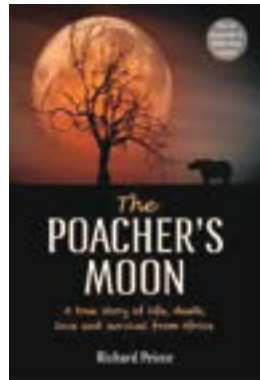


### Title: The poacher's moon: a true story of life, death, love and survival in Africa

Author: Richard Peirce

Format: Audio

Review: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com): "A wonderful story that has been beautifully written. The insight it gives about poaching in Africa is very enlightening. The perspectives of the game keeper's, the poachers and the rhinos are all presented. A fascinating glimpse into what is happening on Africa's game reserve".

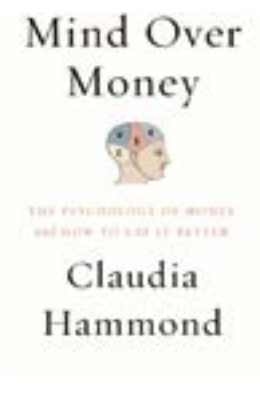


### Title: Mind over money: the psychology of money and how to use it better

Author: Claudia Hammond

Format: Coming soon in Audio & Braille

Review: [www.kirkusreviews.com](http://www.kirkusreviews.com): "A comprehensive guide for bringing the power of money under control. It discusses 263 experiments by psychologists and neuroscientists that demonstrate how science can illuminate our many foibles and obsessions about money and deal with them effectively. The author - who has won awards from the British Psychological Society, the British Neuroscience Association, and other medical, psychological, and publishing associations for her contributions to the public understanding of science - reviews their insights, which range from the best ways to encourage children to improve their grades at school and teach them how to manage their pocket money to lessons about older, unconscious processes... In a practical, sometimes-amusing narrative, Hammond provides a valuable summary of work in psychology, behavioral economics, and more, and her numbered "Money Tips" are particularly helpful. A delightful treatment of a subject many of us would prefer to ignore, gently subversive in its undermining of preconceptions and prejudices."

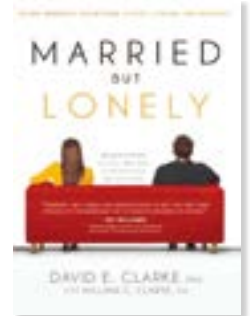


### Title: Married but lonely

Author: David E Clarke

Format: Coming soon in Audio & Braille

Review: The author is a Christian psychologist, popular speaker and author of nine books including Kiss me like you mean it and the 6 steps to emotional freedom. This book is a step by step guide to get you and your spouse to the marriage you've always dreamed of having.

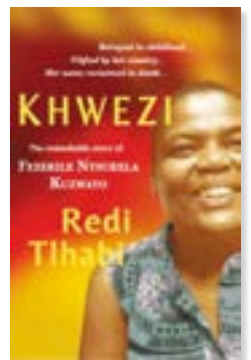


### Title: Khwezi: the remarkable story of Fezekile Ntsukela Kuzwayo

Author: Redi Tlhabi

Format: Coming soon in Audio & Braille

Review: [www.writerswrite.co.za](http://www.writerswrite.co.za): "This is not an easy book to read – not because it is not well written. It is. It is a story beautifully told. It is the subject matter that will break your heart. I found that I had to read the book in fits and starts, because I ended up crying every time I picked it up. Watching a country being destroyed daily by Jacob Zuma, I can only imagine what it must be like to be the direct victim of his abuse, as Fezekile Kuzwayo was. When Fezeka accused Zuma of rape, she laid charges against him. What followed best illustrates Zuma's presidency. He played the victim and accused Fezeka of plotting against him. His supporters vilified her, burning down her family home, even mock stoning her outside the court. How people could put this abusive psychopath in the position they did, and still do, is South Africa's shame. This book tells the story of this remarkable woman who was abused in childhood, vilified by Zuma's zombies, and exiled from her country. Redi Tlhabi's writing is powerful and clear. The book shows us how patriarchal South Africa is and how women who are abused have the system so stacked against them that it's overwhelming. Khwezi, as she was known during the rape trial, died before the book could be published, but I think she would be pleased with the result. We finally have a chance to get to know the complex, beautiful woman she was. Redi Tlhabi has given her a long life, and through her book, she has shone the light on all voiceless, abused women. The damage Zuma and the ANC have wrought should make them hang their heads in shame and beg Fezeka's mother and all South African women for forgiveness. Zuma is one of patriarchy's ugliest poster children and his tenure has set South Africa back in ways we can't even begin to fathom. This book is a must-read for every South African man and woman."

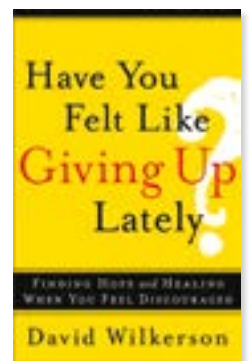


### Title: Have you felt like giving up lately?

Author: David Wilkerson

Format: Coming soon in Audio & Braille

Review: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com): "An awesome read from the late David Wilkerson. This book is written to encourage the weary and discouraged Christians. He clearly understood what it is to suffer, question and doubt despite true faith. As always, he took no-compromise approach to sin in the Christian's life but pointed out scriptural assurances we have of God's unshakable love for his children".



# BUSY YEAR FOR EC MINI-LIBRARIES



Basic sighted guide skills were demonstrated to trainees. This allows them to assist blind people visiting the library, especially when escorting the blind person around the library.



When we concluded our awareness speech in Tsolo, members took part in a quiz about the Mini-Library services and those giving correct answers received sweets as prizes. As you can see, we all had lots of fun ending the day on a sweet note!



Group of trainees from Tsolo.

## We have had a very busy year

...in terms of either establishing new Mini-Libraries throughout the Eastern Cape or re-activating existing Mini-Libraries

Doing this usually involves Mini-Library training for the library staff and an awareness event for the local community to ensure they are aware of the Mini-Library service for the blind and partially sighted.

Since the last newsletter, we picked up our baton again in July 2017, starting in **KIRKWOOD**, where we have Betty, the librarian doing all in her power to ensure a successful re-activations awareness event. We had a beautiful, successful and well attended awareness event, after which many new members enrolled. They will be eligible to receive Daisy players and electronic books, as well as make use of the JAWS computer and document reader stationed inside the Kirkwood library. The members are also assisted by two champions who have been involved in services to the blind for many years as field workers for Nkosinathi Foundation. They are eager to assist the members and want to hold group meetings at the library for members to form a support group. Transport for the members seems to be a challenge at times, but SALB is doing everything possible to try and accommodate members concerning transport where possible, as mandated by the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture (DSRAC), the sponsor for the Mini-Library project.

Next we held an awareness event at **WILLOWMORE LIBRARY**. This library is very small and services the small rural community of Willowmore, a beautiful little town on your way to Graaff Reinet.

We had a few members attend from the local community as well as a local councillor, Mr Hendrik Booysen, who passionately encouraged the visually impaired in the community to make use of the Mini-Library services. The librarians at this library are

Mrs Linda Nazima and Themban Busakwe and they are ready to assist anyone who wants to make use of the Mini-Library services.

We also established no less than THREE new Mini-Libraries, one in **TSOLO** (July 2017), one in **LADY FRERE** (August 2017) and one in **PATENSIE** (September 2017).

Librarians and library assistants from various libraries within the Mhlonlto (Tsolo) and Emalahleni (Lady Frere) Municipalities joined the training events.

Blind people from the community were invited to the awareness event. Great thanks go to Mhlonlto Municipality for providing the transport and lunches for the members.

At **LADY FRERE LIBRARY** we had a small gathering of blind members attending the awareness event, however the Emalahleni Municipality in **LADY FRERE** decided they want to promote the Mini-Library on a bigger scale after witnessing the great work we have done previously concerning training and awareness. A better understanding of the project came to light, so they have decided to arrange a huge awareness event in October 2017 which we will report on in our next update. A big thank you goes out to

Ms Yandela Nkwentsha from Community Services and Emalahleni Municipality, for making all the arrangements for the events and for providing lunches and transport for trainees and members, it is much appreciated!

Our next stop was **HUMANSDORP** and **PATENSIE**. In Patensie we completed the establishment of the Mini-Library by delivering and setting up the equipment in the library. You will remember from our previous newsletter that we have had events at the Patensie library already, but waited for

...Cont. on page 8



Training included an assimilation session under blindfold to sensitise librarians to the needs of a blind person visiting the library.



Great thanks go out to the Principal Librarian Tozama Msawuli for making sure the library staff from different libraries in Tsolo attended the training.



Group of trainees from Lady Frere.

# BUSY YEAR FOR EC MINI-LIBRARIES

...Cont. from page 7

work that needed to be done in terms of security at the library to be completed before we could set up the equipment. We are pleased to report that equipment has now been set up in September 2017 and the beautiful Mini-Library unit consists of a desk with a JAWS Computer, Document reader, two tables and chairs where members can gather for monthly group meetings, as well

as a cupboard to keep all records and equipment in a safe place.

As the picture to the right shows, we had a lot of fun doing the district training event at Humansdorp Library in September 2017. Librarians from all over the Kouga Local Municipality district joined the Mini-Library Services and JAWS training event. It was very successful and well attended.



Trainees at Humansdorp library

## STAFF WELLNESS & WOMAN'S MONTH



...Cont. from page 4

### Staff Wellness:

**The SALB** re-ignited its Staff Wellness drive. Each month a different section in the Library take turns to arrange an event for staff. These morale building and general team cohesion events usually lasts around one hour. These laughter-filled events are a result of hard work and dedication from the hosts. We have had a games event, a quiz event, a meal with live performances and a few 8-ball pool tournaments. Most events are coupled with a dress-up theme. Well done



to all hosts thus far and for the participating staff. It is great to see everyone pull together.

### Woman's Month:

During August, the male employees at the SALB arranged an event for the female employees to show their support of 'Woman's Month'. A slideshow was prepared and presented to the 'dames', whilst they were being served something to drink and to eat by some of the men/guys/blokes... or something. A picture speaks a thousand words they say...



## TECHNICAL SERVICES

**DEAR READERS**, in this edition we share updates on the Library's extension as well as some other technical updates.

We cannot wait for the extension and upgrade to become a reality, although it is really taking a long time to materialise. There have been further delays - the person who will sign off the Planning Instruction for the project has been attending a course.

Without this document consultants for the project cannot be appointed. The Deed of Donation was, however, hand delivered to Treasury two weeks ago. Consolidation and registration of the erven can take place once it is signed by Treasury.

Sadly the South African Library for the Blind will no longer be able to supply spare batteries for the Stratus players due to the high cost involved to the Library. There are further Customs 'clearing' stumbling

blocks to delivering this service - Lithium-ion batteries have been placed on the "Dangerous Items" list and must be cleared by a Customs specialised division at extra expense and time.

The Classic X range of playback equipment was declared obsolete a while ago, and batteries for both the Classic X and Stratus range are no longer available at competitive rates in South Africa.

Until next time...



## TER NAGEDAGTENIS AAN VINK ROUX

**DIT IS MET LEEDWESE** dat ons ons Afrikaanse lesers in kennis stel van die afsterwe van Sarel Petrus Johannes Roux, beter bekend as Vink Roux. Hy het, na 'n lang siekbed in 'n sorgsentrum, die stryd verloor.

Vink het by die biblioteek as voorleser aangesluit in 1999 en was deel van die Biblioteek vir Blindes familie vir die volgende 13 jaar. Hy het boeke voorgelees tot sy gesondheid dit vir hom onmoontlik gemaak het om verder te gaan in 2012. In die verloop

van daardie dertien jaar het Vink 'n totaal van 405 boeke vir die biblioteek gelees. Die eerste gedeelte daarvan was toe nog op band opgeneem voordat die Biblioteek oorgeskakel het na die digitale weergawe van opnames. Ons het hom as 'n toegewyde en besonderse voorleser geken. Op sy unieke manier het hy sy stem en uitspraak verander om by elke karakter en omstandigheid te pas. Hy het elke boek so-te-sê opgevoer. Jy het gehoor as 'n karakter bly, frustreerd, kwaad of bang was. 'n Maer ou het soos 'n maer ou geklink en 'n skurk soos 'n skurk.

Vink het ook daarvan gehou om 'n verskeidenheid boeke te lees! Van

speurverhale tot biografieë. Hy het veral die lees van die vertaalde Christelike novelle van Francine Rivers en Tim LaHaye en Jerry B. Jenkins geniet.

Vink was 'n plat op die aarde man wat met sy geel Porsche, kaalvoete en 'n "ag kom vleg gou my hare asseblief my skat", diep spore in ons harte hier by die biblioteek getrap het. Eksentriek, maar intelligent verby. Ons gaan hom baie mis. Jou stem op aarde mag wel stil geword het Vink, maar ons en ons lesers het nog die voorreg om deur die jare vorentoe so af en toe nog na jou boeke te luister. Mag jou siel in vrede rus.

- Charlene Prince