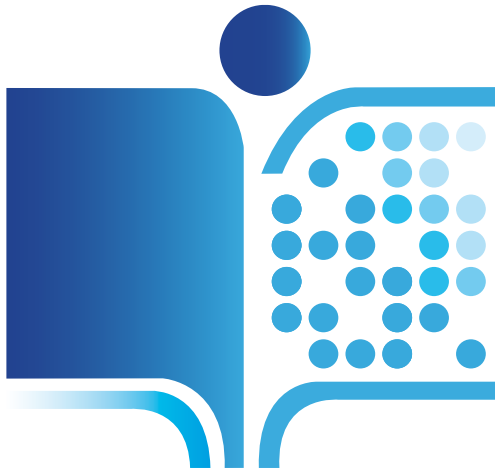


MAKWENZEKE

Edition 1, 2018

SALB prepares for Centenary celebrations, DJ Fresh puts the spotlight on Braille, e.tv helps to launch our new kiddies Tactile Books & Braille Manuals and our Mini-Libraries continue to grow nationwide.



SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



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100 YEARS of SERVICE IN 2019

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS - YOU ARE INVITED

The South African Library for the Blind will be celebrating its centenary during 2019.

Plans to celebrate 100 years of library services to blind and visually impaired people are well underway and will be finalised soon. The Library will be celebrating this very proud milestone with a few events and would like to make sure all South Africans take note of our centenary - whether they are blind or not.

The main event will be the prestigious

gala dinner which will be held in Grahamstown with invited guests from the blindness sector, Government, organisations and individuals who have supported the library over many years. The Library will also be launching its centenary publication - the story of 100 years of the library, told in an interesting manner. The annual National Arts Festival will be another platform for us to proudly share the celebrations and display the creative and artistic talents of blind people. We are

calling all blind and visually impaired creatives, be it fine artists, crafters, performing artists such as singers, dancers and musicians etc. to please contact Natasha Agnew or Pasha Alden at (046) 622 7226 - we would love to share your creativity as part of our exhibition.

CALLING ALL CREATIVES

We are really excited about our centenary and would like to involve as many people as possible in this historic event. We will keep you informed about the celebrations in future editions of this newsletter.

FRESH OUTTA



Radio Park

BRAILLE & TA

METRO FM'S DJ FRESH INTERVIEWED THE SALB'S BRAILLE CONSULTANT TO PLACE THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAILLE

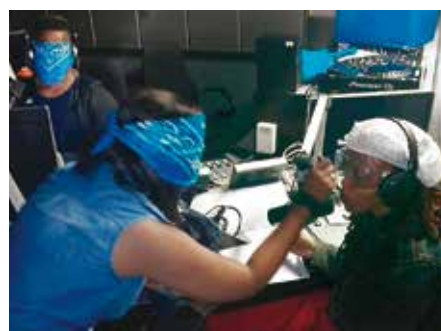
DJ FRESH and his Metro FM Breakfast Showteam went 'BLIND FOR A BIT' on the 20th November as they focused the show on braille and blindness to highlight the importance of Disability Month.

DJ Fresh interviewed our very own Pasha Alden, our National Braille Consultant, on being blind and how one copes with blindness. They discussed the importance of getting little ones to start reading braille at an early age by introducing tactile kiddies books which use shapes to make up/build 3-D pictures to represent the items in the story. These tactile kiddies books have 'starter' braille alongside the 'pictures'.

Being blindfolded for the show highlighted the difficulties the blind face as DJ Fresh attempted to identify objects in a box by touch only, and his co-presenters tried to feed each other, also whilst blindfolded.

It was a refreshingly fun opportunity to highlight the importance of braille and the work of the SALB, while also providing information on the new format tactile kiddies books available from the SALB.

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OOK

ACTIVE BOOKS



MEET MICHAEL MOODIE, OUR LIS STAFF MEMBER



The South African Library for the Blind (SALB) regularly receives emails from happy members praising the organisation for the great services it renders and letting us know how grateful they are about it.

Meet our very own **Michael Moodie**, one of the staff members behind the smiles of our members.

Michael joined SALB in August 1985 as

a temporary Library Assistant and was permanently employed in February 1986 and has been part of the team ever since.

Currently Michael works as the Dispatch Assistant in the Library and Information Services (LIS) department. His typical day starts by preparing the outgoing reading material and getting ready for the arrival of the Post Office van. Next

he offloads returned items and loads the van with the outgoing reading material. Later Michael also visits the Post Office to post DAISY Players and reading material and bring back mail to sort according to the departments. A large part of his workday is taken up with booking out braille books, preparing and packaging them and posting them to library members.

He is popular in the organisation for his morning greeting hugs to his colleagues and to some, "a day is not a day without Moodie's hug".

Michael loves his job - he says "there is nothing that makes me happier than knowing that I am contributing towards changing peoples lives." Michael looked back on the work-related difficulties they experienced in the pre-technology days. He expressed how thrilled he is with modern technology and the new system the library introduced which has improved accuracy and speed of filing.

When not working Michael has a love for pigeons and enjoys entering his pigeons in racing competitions. We thank Michael for his dedication and all the great contributions he has made in the organisation.

THE PRESIDENT'S KEEPERS BRAILLE & AUDIO BOOKS GET FAST-TRACKED

DURING November 2017 the release of Jacques Pauw's book entitled, **The President's Keepers: Those keeping Zuma in Power and out of Prison**, caused a huge stir in the media.

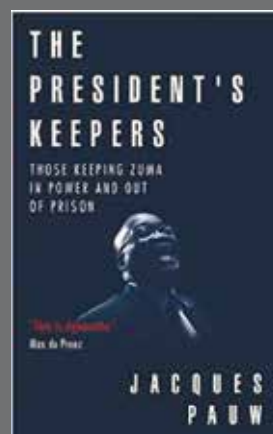
We wished to offer it to our readers as soon as it was available in book stores. To show that SALB can keep abreast of current affairs our braille and audio production teams were tasked with fast-tracking production of the book. Much work was required, including drawing up of time-plans, allocating dedicated staff to specific duties and re-shuffling existing time schedules to accommodate production. The book arrived on the 4th December.

For audio production narration space in studios had to be booked, CD covers and barcodes had to be printed, braille and text labels created as well as labelling and pouching the CD copies

had to be done. We would like to thank Mrs Vivien Botha who so eagerly helped with the narration and who also managed to keep within the tight time-frame allowed. Reading for 3 - 4 hours daily for 2 weeks is extremely exhausting and a strain on the eyes and throat. We do appreciate your commitment and willingness to assist us in these unusual circumstances.

Thanks also go to our Audio Production staff members, Charlene Prince and Petro Taai, who put everything else aside to focus on the task at hand - thank you for your unending dedication and willingness to lend a hand when needed.

Our dedicated braille production staff,



observing the values of SALB, managed to get the braille books printed and bound by the 12th of December. Upon arrival the book was immediately scanned, sent to the Braillists for editing and translated into braille, then proofread by Zandra Schoenbee. The end result is 6 volumes consisting of

670 Braille pages all together. On the 13th of December it was ready to be catalogued. It was a very special gift from management and staff to fast-track our readers so that they could enjoy reading it during their festive season.

cont. from page 3

e.tv HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-SCHOOL BRAILLE SKILLS

ON THE 21ST NOVEMBER our braille consultants Pasha Alden and Nombasa Kate continued on their journey to launch the new style kiddies tactile books with an event held at the Tshilidzini Special School, attended by the media. The young learners enjoyed a reading session, followed by a storytelling session and the best readers received treats.



ON 22ND NOVEMBER Pasha Alden was interviewed on Sunrise e.tv. The interview highlighted the importance of pre-braille skills, the role of pre-school tactile books, braille standards and code development and the publication of the siSwati braille manual.



Pasha says it was great meeting the legendary DJ Fresh and the Metro FM Breakfast Show team on air, as well as being interviewed live on e.tv's Sunrise Breakfast Show. "Although daunting, it was really exciting and a first for me. Huge respect to these wonderful people who get up at the crack of dawn to give us the latest scoop on current affairs, news etc and entertain us in the mornings. Thanks Metro FM and e.tv!"



TECHNICAL SERVICES

WISHING all our readers a fantastic 2018; we hope that all your wishes for this year will come true.

We have progress to report on the library's upgrading and extension project. Since our last newsletter the Planning Instruction has been issued by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). At that point we all thought it was

the beginning of a smooth way forward and we would soon have consultants appointed and the project could get off the ground.

We've unfortunately encountered another obstacle - National Treasury now requires a letter from the DAC to ensure that enough funding is available for the project, while the DAC is expecting a Project Execution plan from the Port Elizabeth office of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW).

This plan was due before the end of November 2017, but to date, almost mid-January, no Project Execution plan has been sent to the SALB for perusal.

On the technical equipment front the Library is eagerly awaiting a fresh batch of Stratus 12 playback devices which were ordered from Humanware during mid-December.

Until next time, stay safe.

Johan Nel - Technical Services, SALB



DAISY PLAYER HANDOVER FOR DISABILITY MONTH

Nkalimeng Lentsoa Library (Sharpeville)
GAUTENG PROVINCE

A disability month event was organised by the Bukamoso organisation for blind at Sharpeville on the 29th November 2017. The event was a combination of disability awareness and DAISY Players handovers from SALB. Our library members Mpho Matsepo, Palesa Ramotsoanyane and Thomas Nkwe were given DAISY Players. The members and chairperson of Bukamoso passed the message of gratitude to SALB and asked the public to encourage blind people to come to the library.

SCHOOL HALL LIBRARY DREAM COMES TRUE

Siloe School for the Blind
LIMPOPO

Refurbishment of an old school hall into a school library started as a dream at Siloe School for the blind at Thogwaneng village near Polokwane. This special project was the dream of the Minister of Department of correctional Services and Defence Mr Michael Masutha. The project team was formed from different organisations including the Department of Correctional Services, National Library of South Africa, DSA, South African Library for the Blind and other organisations that made financial contributions. Renovations, furniture and security gates were produced by Polokwane and Thohoyandou male offenders and parolees.

Meetings were held every Thursday to push the project to completion to enable the launch before the school holidays. SALB's role was to procure assistive devices, the installation and the training of librarians on how to use devices and software. On Wednesday 8th November SALB delivered 7 computers, 7 DAISY Players, 1 document reader, 8 JAWS and ZoomText applications, promotional materials and loan books to the school.



LAUNCH OF THE SILOE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND MINI-LIBRARY, ATTENDED BY DIGNITARIES INCLUDING LEGENDARY MUSICIAN STEVE KEKANE.



MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY EAGERLY TRY OUT THE DAISY PLAYER!

SEEN HERE WITH CHAIRPERSON MR ISHMAEL SESTSI AND MS JOYCE RAMOGOLA, THE LIBRARIAN

On the 28 November the school library at Siloe School for the blind was launched and named Adv Tshillo Michael Masutha Library for the blind. The library will assist students from the school and members of Thogwaneng village with reading materials and training on reading devices. This successful launch was attended by former students of Siloe which include music legend Mr Steve Kekana, Mr Webster Sekwafi and others. SALB lead the library tour and explained how the reading devices work. Ms Linda Ngaleka, together with the Mzansi coordinator Ms Lucia Mlambo, led a library tour for the VIPs and introduced the braille and audio books, explained how the reading devices work and gave a demonstration of a DAISY Player. Edit Micorosystem, one of the donors of assistive devices, also provided a demonstration on their technologies.

NEW KZN MINI-LIBRARY OFFICIAL OPENING

Maphumulo Public Library - Maphumulo
KWAZULU-NATAL

The Maphumulo Mini-Library was officially opened by the KZN Arts & Culture MEC, Mrs Sithole-Moloi on Tuesday, 21 November 2017. Ms Lungile Luthuli, Mzansi Coordinator EC/KZN,

staged what the Mini-Library would look like once installed, with the help of Yolelwa Mbanjwa and the KwaDukuza PL Mini-Library equipment.

During the launch it was explained and demonstrated to the MEC and her delegates just how the project and its equipment worked. There was much excitement about the project and the community was informed about it at the Imbizo held after the launch in the Maphumulo community.

DOOR TO DOOR USER MOBILISATION

Swartreguns Pulic Library

NORTH WEST

Door to Door User Mobilisation and enrolment, part of the key project milestones, were actioned by Mr Tsholofelo Thular, Mzansi online Project Coordinator (NW/FS), at the Swartreguns Public Library in Borolelo township in Kgetleng River Local Municipality. Borolelo is a small township that has elders who are visually impaired and partially blind. To date seven users were enrolled; as a result they will be trained on how to utilise the equipment and how to continuously make use of the MLO services effectively and efficiently at the Swartreguns Pulic Library.



LUNGILE LUTHULI, MZANSI COORDINATOR EC/KZN, STAGED WHAT THE MINI-LIBRARY WOULD LOOK LIKE ONCE INSTALLED, WITH THE HELP OF YOLELWA MBANJWA



TSHOLOFELO THULARE-MZANSI, MZANSI COORDINATOR NW/FS, TRAINING USERS IN THE DOOR TO DOOR USER MOBILISATION



**MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY
EAGERLY TRY OUT THE DAISY PLAYER!**



GRAAFF REINET RE-ACTIVATION EVENT



**GRAAFF REINET RE-ACTIVATION EVENT -
WE HAD SO MUCH FUN AND IT SHOWS! WE COULD NOT
RESIST TAKING A FUN GROUP PICTURE!**

EC MINI-LIBRARY PROJECTS- AN UPDATE

EASTERN CAPE (EC)

We ended our 2017 whirlwind trip around the Eastern Cape with continued training and awareness events as we established new or re-activated existing Mini-Libraries in the province. We wanted to ensure that Mini-Libraries around the Eastern Cape are active and being used to their full potential by members from local communities. Awareness campaigns and trained library staff continued to provide training in the use of JAWS and Mini-Library services and providing members with recreational and educational opportunities through access to information when using the Mini-Library.

At present internet connectivity remains an issue in some of the EC libraries, however, with the commitment and support of our stakeholders, such as the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture (DSRAC), who are serious about addressing this problem, it will only be a matter of time before the Mini-Library virtual platform will be complete in all the libraries.

Lady Frere

We held a second awareness event in Lady Frere, after this new Mini-Library was established in August 2017.

Graaff-Reinet

The re-activation event at the Graaff-Reinet Mini-Library situated inside the Horseshoe library in the town was well supported; training and awareness events were held and organised in partnership with the Dr Beyers Naude Municipality. A fantastic group of about 15 ex-librarians attended a Mini-Library Services and JAWS training session,



GRAAFF REINET AWARENESS EVENT

visiting from Graaff-Reinet, Willowmore, Jansenville, Klipplaat, Aberdeen, Kroonvale, Zaai-manshoek, Adendorp and Umasizakhe.

Special thanks to Ms Pumla Funani, Principal Librarian DSRAC Graaff-Reinet, and Ms Zoleka Kali, Manager Corporate Services - Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality, who worked tirelessly to ensure these were successful and well attended events (in pic above).

Butterworth

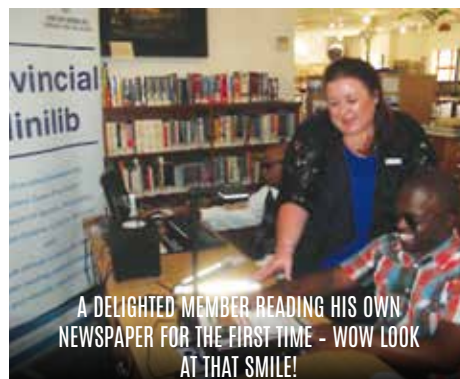
A new Mini-Library was established at Butterworth main library. An officer from the municipality, a local social worker working from REHAB and an NGO or non-profit organisation who provides rehabilitation services to the blind joined us on our training session for the library staff. We are hoping to host an awareness event there soon with the support of the local municipality.

Matatiele

We were invited to attend a Council board meeting in Matatiele as we are busy preparing the establishment of a new Mini-Library in Cedarville, happening sometime in 2018.

As you can see from the Eastern Cape news desk, we truly had a busy and very productive 2017, however Thembelani Dzedze, Minilibrary Project assistant, and myself, Lydia Marques, EC Project Coordinator, would like to thank our Heavenly Father for blessing our work and keeping us safe on our travels on the roads around the Eastern Cape and for our wonderful staff and management at SALB head office who are always just a phone call away and ready to assist - we appreciate you!

2018 here we come!



**A DELIGHTED MEMBER READING HIS OWN
NEWSPAPER FOR THE FIRST TIME - WOW LOOK
AT THAT SMILE!**



**A MEMBER ENJOYING A MOMENT
AT THE MINI-LIBRARY**





MS SIPHOKAZI MDYODYO -
MZANSI COORDINATOR NC/WC



THE ROADSHOW WAS HELD OVER 5 DAYS IN 5 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WITHIN THE PAARL COMMUNITY TO MAKE SURE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE COULD BE REACHED



DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY LIBRARY SERVICE AND MZANSI LIBRARIES ONLINE ROADSHOW - PAARL COMMUNITY

ROADSHOW

Paarl and Mbekweni Public Libraries

WESTERN CAPE

The Drakenstein Municipality Library services decided to embark on a Roadshow to introduce some of the services offered in their community libraries (Paarl and Mbekweni Public Libraries) including Mzansi Libraries Online. "Our Mzansi Libraries Online project was introduced to them just at the right time, which made it easy for us to become part of this initiative", said Ms Siphokazi Mdyodyo, Mzansi Coordinator NC/WC. The Roadshow was done over 5 days in 5 different spots within the Paarl community to make sure as many people as possible in the community could be reached. This was a good initiative for SALB and Mzansi as we managed to reach people who had blind family members in their households. The Mzansi Online Coordinator has since been in touch with those members to register them for this project.

KIMBERLEY, A SPARKLING EXAMPLE

Retlameleng Special School and Galeshewe Public Library

NORTHERN CAPE

'The City of Diamonds' embarks on a new journey that embraces transformation for the blind and partially sighted - with Ms Mmabatho Nyamane, Mini-Library Provincial Coordinator.

The Northern Cape is about to sparkle as the SALB Mini-Libraries in Kimberley, situated in Retlameleng Special School and Galeshewe Public Library are brought to your door step. The Mini-Library will inculcate the culture of reading and it will serve as a cornerstone for potential writers and aid learners pursuing their

studies. Registered users will be at liberty to use a wide range of technologies to access a broad spectrum of information. Finally, the era of reading and the agency to access information has dawned.

Embrace transformation! Embrace innovation!

Below are the learners from Retlameleng Special School, accompanied by the Principal, Mr Selebogo, and Mr De Beer who is one of the educators that will be responsible for managing the library.

Galeshewe Public Library

The Mini-Library banner is very visible to all members of the public that will visit Galeshewe Library. As you walk in, the hanging banner will be one of the first things sighted people will take note of.



THE MINI-LIBRARY AT GALESHEWE PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE MINI-LIBRARY IS CLEARLY VISIBLE AT GALESHEWE PUBLIC LIBRARY



RETLAMELENG SPECIAL SCHOOL LEARNERS



PRINCIPAL, MR SELEBOGO AND EDUCATOR, MR DE BEER, RETLAMELENG SPECIAL SCHOOL

BULK SMS SERVICE

IN ORDER to improve communication with our members SALB recently sent out

sms messages to members who have mobile numbers. The bulk sms service will be used by the Library more frequently to keep members updated about up-coming

events, latest book releases, delivery issues etc. Please do not respond to the sms messages, but rather phone the Library on 046 622 7226 for further details.