

MAKWENZEKE

March 2016

The period 1 January to 31 March was a busy period with staff training, The Puku Festival and the SALB National Library Week event being highlights



An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

SALB **NARRATOR** INTERVIEWS ACCLAIMED AUTHOR

At the recently held Puku Story Festival 18 – 21 February 2016 one of our narrators, Sarah Rose de Villiers, had the privilege of meeting and talking to Sindiwe Magona.

The launch of celebrated author Sindiwe Magona's 'Chasing the Tails of my Father's Cattle' was one of the highlights of the Puku Story Festival. Magona is among the artists being celebrated in the Department of Arts and Culture's Living Legends Legacy Programme.

"I should have been writing for far longer than 25 years. Why didn't I start writing earlier on?" asked Dr Sindiwe Magona at her book launch at the Puku Story Festival. "It was simply because I didn't

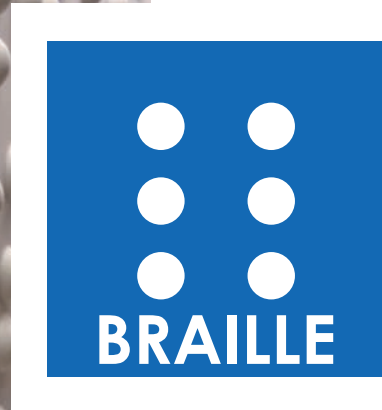


know anyone who looked like me who did such a foolish thing and called it work." Magona is not just an internationally acclaimed and celebrated South African author with wise eyes and witty

words. She is a role model to writers, readers and dreamers. But Sindiwe Magona doesn't write to receive royalties or win awards. She writes to be a role model.

"Our kids are not going to dream of becoming ... cont. on page 7





International Council on English Braille General Assembly 2016

The general assembly of the International Council on English Braille (ICeB), meets on 22-26 May in Baltimore in the United States.

A member of The South African Braille Authority delegation and a Braille Consultant of South African Library for the Blind (SALB) will be attending the General Assembly to present a paper titled: “Provision of Braille reading and learning material in South Africa: A balance between technology and Braille Adding Value and Creating a Love of Reading”.

The aim of the paper is to outline the changes in the landscape of providing information in Braille. The paper will explore the changes in trends of Braille usage, with particular reference to hard copy and electronic Braille, hard copy documents and Braille versus speech to text. It will outline the changing needs of Braille readers; explore ways to add value to the Braille reading experience for those disadvantaged and advantaged by accessibility to technology, as well as outline challenges faced around the teaching of Braille and technology. Besides technical and practical issues, the paper will also attempt to address

aspects of “creating a love of reading” by adding value to the provision of information in Braille with the aim of increasing the number of readers and maintaining the balance between the use of Braille and technology to those technologically advanced, and those disadvantaged on the African continent. Furthermore, the paper will seek to highlight the importance of the Braille hard copy for those whom technology such as computers and smartphones and assistive devices remains inaccessible.

Some Braille related matters of significance for the Braille community in South Africa are:

The report of the World Braille Council, A report on certification: Unified Braille certification for transcribers, report back on Braille signage, the report of the committee of Braille technology, and the meeting of the code maintenance committee.

Various papers will be presented by presenters from English speaking countries, members of the International Council on English Braille.

It is hoped to learn from other countries and share knowledge to enhance the reading experience at SALB.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

Meeting of the Standing Committee

Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities (LPD)

The South African Library for the Blind is a member of the Standing Committee for Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities (LPD) which is part of the International Federations of Library Associations (IFLA). The Library attends two meetings of the Standing Committee per year. The first meeting took place on the 8th and 9th of February in Oslo, Norway and was hosted by the Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille.

Apart from South Africa members of the Committee are from Sweden, Norway, U.S.A., Croatia, Finland, Egypt, Belgium and France. Mr Chris Friend, a representative of the World Blind Union attended the meeting as an observer and updated the meeting about the ratification process of the Marrakesh Treaty. In February 14 countries ratified the Treaty out of the required 20 before it will become international law. The expectation is that the required number of ratifications will be achieved before the end of 2016. Unfortunately the South African Government has not indicated yet whether it will ratify the Treaty. Lobbying in this regard is on-going.

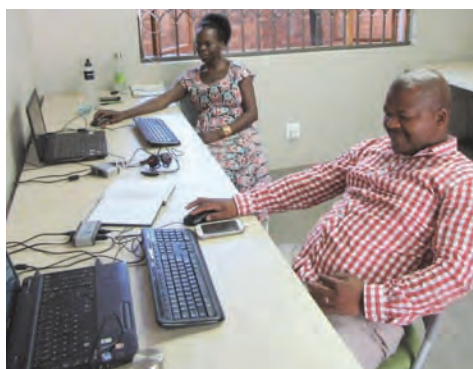
A representative from the Daisy Consortium also briefed the meeting about the development of the Epub3 standard. It is promoted as the International standard to produce accessible reading material and development is done in partnership with a host of International Organisations including the International Digital Publishing Forum. The Library is an Associate Member of the Daisy Consortium and is aligning the production of its Audio books to this standard.

Ms Monica Halil LÖvblad, a representative from the World Intellectual Property Organisation, also briefed the meeting about the work of the Accessible Book Consortium (ABC). The Library is a Board Member of the Council and participated in the briefing session. The ABC works on three initiatives, i.e. Capacity Development, Inclusive Publishing and the TIGAR Catalogue. Last mentioned is a joint catalogue of 12 International countries, including the catalogue of the Library, representing more than 350,000 fully produced titles in 55 different languages. The Library and our members have already benefitted immensely from this catalogue and downloaded 180 titles this year alone.



The meeting addressed a number of standard items such as planning, finances, projects and communications and other matters. An exciting event will take place in August this year when the Standing Committee will host a mini-conference in Louisville, Kentucky with the theme: Creating an inclusive community of readers. The Library plans to participate in this event.

It is of strategic value for the library to be a member and actively participate in the work of the LPD Standing Committee. It is the only platform where we meet colleagues from Libraries involved in the same work we are doing. It is the platform where we share common challenges, find solutions and identify opportunities for collaboration to benefit not only the organisations but also the members of those organisations.



Sensory Solutions Training

From the 29th February - 3rd March 2016 two SALB staff members, each from a different province, attended a three day training in Gauteng, Pretoria at Centurion.

The training was conducted by Sensory Solutions on JAWS installation, and Zoom Text software which is to be done in all facilities in an effort to sustain the Mini-Library project. The training was facilitated by Mukhtar and Marita of Sensory Solutions.

Day one covered Job Access With Speech (JAWS) installation, Window 7 and Microsoft, and procurement of computers and administrative rights when it relates to licences.

Day two dealt with Zoom Text, installation of the software, how to 'log in' and the different types of Zoom Text that can be used in computers, as well as the use of

Scanners, Desktop Magnifiers - all specific Mini-Library project needs.

Day three provided more focus on file management, the use of Internet Explorer, and different types of devices were overviewed which would make the work of the Mini-Library project team more efficient. A showcase of products and practical implementation of the theory was done by the trainers. This day was also used to recap on the previous two days.

The training was an eye opener and the SALB staff were exposed to new skills as well as technical and theoretical information which they are looking forward to implementing and sharing with their colleagues and the Mini-Library facilities. They say they are both also really keen to implement the latest equipment which was showcased in their training.

STAFF SCENE

AT SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

Over the period 1st September 2015 to 29th February 2016 a number of events took place in the Human Resources section

No less than 10 appointments were made, three staff members were promoted and at least four terminations occurred during the period mentioned above. Herewith a list of appointments, promotions and resignations:



Our Member Mrs Joan McRae turned 104, on the 13th February 2016.

Mrs McRae joined us in 2010 and has read 499 books. Mrs McRae loves reading classics, true crime, family stories, historical novels and short stories etc.

Her favourite authors are Charlotte Bingham, Agatha Christie, Georgette Heyer, Maeve Binchy, Rosamund Pilcher.

We phoned her on her birthday and conveyed our best wishes from the SALB family. As she is a little hard of hearing now we spoke to her daughter who was celebrating her birthday with her, who conveyed our message to her. They were very touched to hear from us.

Appointments:

September 2015:
Sinazo Afrika (Trainee Brailist); Portia Mqoke (Trainee Brailist)

October 2015:
Luke Adriaan (Systems and Database Administrator); Vuyolwethu Kampu (Intern)

December 2015:
Xolani Simakuhle (Project Assistant Eastern Cape)

January 2016:
Lebogang Swartz (Library Project Coordinator North West)

February 2016:
Llewellyn Stevens (Printing Assistant); Nokothula Gunuza (Librarian Intern)

Promotions:

On 1 September 2016, Ms Cornelia Ntengu was appointed as Snr Brailist of the SA Library for the Blind. She was a Brailist until then.

During September 2015 Mr Rostienne Mager was promoted to Technical Officer and Ms Florence Jadi promoted to Library Officer.

Terminations:

Ms Nelisiwe (Neli) Kaunda (Snr Manager: LIS and Mr Marius Wolmarans (Printing Assistant) both resigned from the SALB at the end of December 2015. Mr Wolmarans completed almost 23 years of employment at the Library by the time he resigned from the Library.

Ms Neliswa Mtsewu (project Coordinator Eastern Cape resigned from the Library at the end of January 2016.

Our best wishes accompany them in their future endeavours.

General:

Furthermore, two partially sighted learners from Athlone School for the Blind in Cape Town visited the Library during December 2015 for a period of one week for an Apprenticeship programme. The SALB is proud to report that six blind or partially

sighted learners have already benefitted from this programme. Linda Matokazi and Ashlynnne Magwa visited the SA Library for an Apprenticeship programme for a period of one week. They both enjoyed the programme and benefited from it. We wish them all the best with their future aspirations.



From left to right: Ashlynnne Magwa (learner); Ms Zodwa Gqolodashe (staff member in Audio Production); Linda Matokazi (learner)

The Library also celebrated remarkable long service milestones reached by three of their staff members. Ms Charlene Prince completed 10 years of service during October 2015 and Mrs Helen Samuel and Mr Michael Moodie both completed – wait for it – 30 years of service in January and February 2016 respectively.



From left to right: Helen Samuel; Francois Hendrikz (Director); Michael Moodie

We salute especially Mrs Samuel and Mr Moodie for this wonderful achievement!

BOOK REVIEWS

Free State of Mind

By Nthabiseng Jaffa, Rita Chihawa & Lebo Leisa (B10081: 1vol. & DA6766: 42 min.)

Summary: This a 3-in-1 poetry anthology divided into 3 chapters: with 44 poems. All poems tell the authors' emotions, vulnerability, strength, trials and tribulations. These pieces are carefully selected to inspire, motivate, heal and edutain the lovers of literature.

False River

By Dominique Botha (B12155: 3v. & DA6701: 08hrs, 29 min.)

Summary: When Paul and Dominique are sent to boarding schools in Natal, their idyllic childhood on a Free State farm is over. Their parents' leftist politics has made life impossible in the local dorp school. Angry schoolboy Paul is a promising poet, his sister his confidant. But his literary awakening turns into a descent. He flees the oppression of South Africa, only to meet his death in London. Dominique Botha's poignant debut is an elegy to a rural existence and her brother - both now forever lost. The novel is based on true events.



Unbelievable!

By Chad Le Clos with Myan Subrayan (DA 7313: 05 hrs, 1 min.)

At the 2012 Olympics Chad le Clos, a twenty-year-old from Durban, astounded the world by achieving the 'unbelievable': he beat Michael Phelps, his childhood hero and the world's number one swimmer, in the 200 metres butterfly final. This book tells all about the making of a swimming sensation - in the words of the golden boy himself, his family and those who have stood by him from the start. It is an encouraging account of realising the ultimate goal, not through chance, but with the resolute support of family and friends and Chad's own relentless dedication to his sport. Taking its title from his dad, Bert le Clos', famous exclamation on BBC TV when his son defeated Phelps, this book follows Chad's rise to Olympic stardom. An inspirational story for all wishing to achieve beyond what may seem possible



MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS

The SA Library for the Blind keeps you up-to-date with the latest news in accessible formats. We have added Finweek and Sunday Times in Braille.

Finweek is South Africa's leading financial weekly magazine focusing on investment. With its brisk, creative and authoritative analysis of business and investment issues, it's an essential business tool in the daily battle for competitive advantage. Today's business decision-makers have to cope with increased pressure on their time and are expected, more than ever before, to succeed in the face of stiffer competition.



Finweek provides relevant information in quick bytes, along with award-winning investment advice.

Sunday Times is South Africa's best read newspaper which features news, lifestyle and entertainment focusing on fashion, travel, home & decor, fashion & beauty.



Magazines

BRAILLE	DAISY
Bona - Xhosa	Bona - English
Drum	Bona Xhosa
Juig	Canine Zone
Fairlady	Huisgenoot
SA Garden & Home	Joy
	People's Friend
	Fairlady
	You
	SA Garden & Home

Newspapers

BRAILLE	DAISY
Grocott's	Mail & Guardian
The Herald	The Star
The Star	
Mail & Guardian	

Focus on helping visually impaired to read

LERATO TSHIPE

THE SOUTH African Library for the Blind celebrated National Library Week with pupils from Prinshof School for the visually impaired in Tshwane.

The week was officially celebrated for the first time in 2002 and has become a very important day for the Library Information Association of South Africa.

According to the director of the association, Francois Hendrikz, it

was the primary responsibility of the organisation to make the basic human right of freedom of access to information a reality.

Hendrikz said Prinshof was the second school among the 22 schools for the blind in the country they had visited. The organisation also frequently kept in touch with the schools. "Reading is an activity shared and enjoyed by sighted and blind people alike. We tend to disregard people with disabilities and specifically blind and visually

impaired during celebratory days and events," said Hendrikz.

During the event, members of the organisation engaged with pupils in spelling games and a reading competition.

Hendrikz perceived Prinshof as one of the biggest and well established schools for the blind in the country.

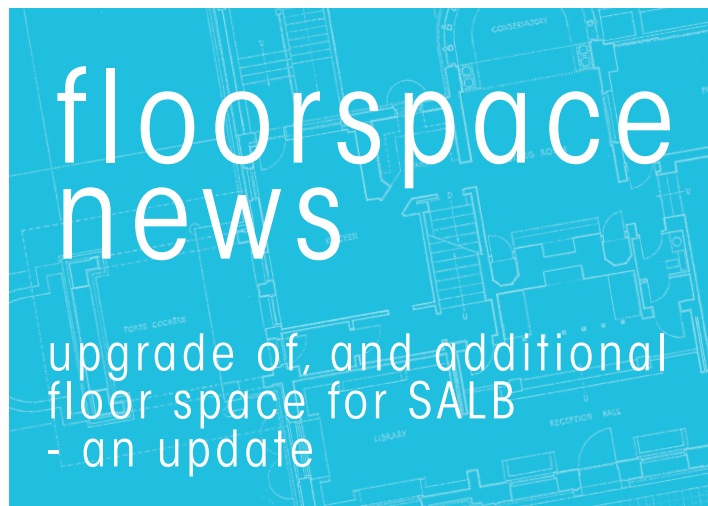
Thia Strydom, a teacher at the school, said it was important for educators to continually encourage pupils to read, irrespective of

whether they were blind or not.

Strydom said it was through reading that people could broaden their mindset, knowledge and vocabulary.

"There are disadvantaged blind children who do not have this privilege. So, I urge parents to assist children by looking for help at the nearest libraries," she said.

Hendrikz said they were committed to making it possible for people with visual impairment or blindness to read independently in a format most affordable to them.



THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) ANNOUNCED

at a client Forum Meeting on the 5th of February 2016, that money was set aside by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) to have the consolidation and registration done of all the erven (land marked for building) on which the Library building is built.

There is currently a discrepancy in erven registration - some even being registered in the name of the South African Library for the Blind, whilst other erven are registered in the name of the Government of South Africa. Unfortunately, no action can be taken regarding the upgrade of, and additional floor space required by the Library, until these erven are all consolidated and registered in the name of the Government of South Africa.

There appears to be some

passing of the buck going on between PWD and DAC and unfortunately nobody seems to know when the consolidation and registration will eventually take place. In the meantime, I hope for the best, but I am prepared for the worst - not 100% Benjamin Disraeli, but close enough.

- **Johan Nel**, Technical Services Department, South African Library for the Blind

COMPUTER JIVE

Concentrate, hit the keys;
Pick up speed, if you please;
Oh my me, wrong again;
Come on now, where's my pen;
Wiggle toes, just lean back;
Crack stiff neck, arch your back;
Rub sore eyes, with a sigh;
Crinkle brow, with the cry;
Time is gone, let's go again;
I shall win, don't know when.

Richard Albertse (July 2015)



The South African Library for the Blind celebrated National Library Week by visiting Prinshof School in Tshwane.

cont. from page 1



astronauts or writers or all the celebrated things if they don't see people who look like them do those things," she said. "I write so that young people - children who look like me - can grow up seeing someone who looks like their mother writing."

In addition to emphasising the importance of role models in South African society, Magena stresses the significance of arts and culture as a reflection of

the state of this nation.

"The arts really portray the soul of the nation. When you see the paintings, when you hear the music, the drum - that's what art is about because art is fished out of the quagmire we call life."

We are eager to have her on board at SALB as a narrator and working with her publishers for further titles written by the acclaimed author.

She has contributed to a collection of indigenous titles of which we have produced a few already in Audio and Braille formats: uHlohlesakhe nendlezane yeLitye, Umfo waseMzini neMpempe yakhe, Isilo esoyisa ingonyama and the following in English; To my children's children & Beauty's gift just to name a few.





The staff of the South African Library for the Blind recently attended the annual Puku Story Festival 2016. The festival seeks to spark children's interest in storytelling and reading in isiXhosa.

This year the festival celebrated the work of internationally acclaimed writer and daughter of the Eastern Cape, Dr Sindiwe Magona. The festival took the form of author conversations, exhibitions poetry readings, storytelling sessions, theatre performances, workshops a book launch and a thanksgiving service held at St Phillips Church in Fingo Village.

- A theatrical production of mother to mother followed by a Post-Performance discussion with Thembi Mtshali-Jones and writer Dr Sindiwe Magona.

Various staff members of the SALB attended author conversations, exhibitions poetry readings, storytelling sessions, theatre performances, workshops. They showcased products and services produced and utilized by the SALB and as a result thereof were approached by the Puku Story Festival organizers to host their own workshop next year.

Worth notable mention include:

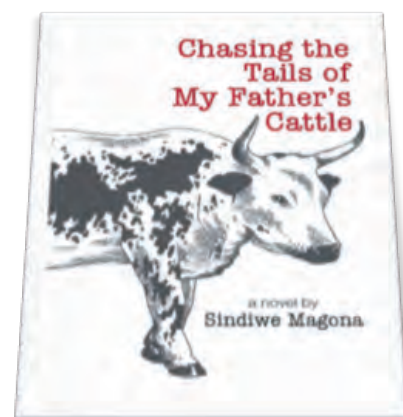
Award-winning writers and storytellers including Sindiwe Magona and Gcina Mhlope agreed to join our home narrators pool.

David Phillips publishers who promised to donate books in print copy as well as audio copies.

Nal'ibali (isiXhosa for "here's the story") the national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading promised to supply the SALB with storytelling content for tactile books.

The SALB through the efforts of various staff members who attended the Puku Story Festival was able to recruit new narrators and promoted the library in different sectors which have shown interest.

Left: Dr Sindiwe Magona



Above: Dr Sindiwe Magona's latest book "Chasing The Trails Of My Fathers Cattle"



Above: SALB Staff: (from left to right) Pasha Alden, Vuyokazi Mandogana and Pumla Mahanjana.

Some of this years' highlights included:

- Dr Sindiwe Magona, in association with the National English Literary Museum and Grocott's Mail, launched her latest book "Chasing The Trails Of My Fathers Cattle"

- An open day to celebrate International Mother Tongue Day at the Puku Story Festival, with storytelling, games, face painting, reading corner and more.



Above: Children taking part in various activities on offer at the Puku Story Festival.

SALB staff members were also given the opportunity to engage with various children in preschool, primary school, teenagers, parents, care-givers, teachers and members of the general public.



Above: Noluvuyo Yona of the SALB engaging with a Puku Story Festival attendee who visited our stand.



By SALB Puku Festival Organizing Committee 2016: Nobesuthu Lose, Nombasa Kate, Patricia Magabie, Portia Mqake, Andrew Brooks, Luke Adriaan, Loyiso Kalashe, Lethabo Ledwaba, Thembile Gxekwa, Helen Samuels, Unathi Ngangani, Florence Jadi, Vuyo Madongana, Noluvuyo Yona and Pumla Mahanjana.