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MAKWENZEKE



Free Audio & Braille Book Services for the sight impaired



AUDIO BOOK PLAYER UPDATE

We look at the latest information and updates on the library's audio book players

Read more on page 1 >>



South African Braille Authority

Meeting Highlights
on page 4 >>

Blazing a tactile trail towards a love of reading

Full story on page 3 >>





AUDIO BOOK PLAYER UPDATE

Quite a few years ago prior to 2007, it became clear that the South African Library for the Blind, would have to select a new format to allow its readers to continue to enjoy listening to audio books. The transition from books on cassette tape to books on Compact Disc (CD) was not easy because to structure and create a digital audio book was not as easy as producing an audio book on cassette. Despite this challenge, the Library has managed to build up a CD audio book collection, to cope with the demand of the majority of our members.

The sound quality between a cassette and a CD made the initial difficulties experienced with producing books on CD worthwhile. Not only did the sound quality improve by leaps and bound, but readers could now use random access on their

playback devices to place bookmarks, navigate between chapters, pages, and paragraphs, provided the book on the CD was accordingly structured.

These new playback devices were just short of magic, but extremely expensive when compared to the cassette players used previously. No longer were there lots of moving parts that could wear or become dislodged. No longer were there finicky dry cell batteries that could not be re-charged if the reader wanted to listen to their book away from the nearest wall mounted power socket. These new Victor Series players had built in re-chargeable Lithium-Iron battery packs, which seemed a good thing, until the battery packs started failing in around 2010. These Battery packs were designed to accept about 1 000 charging cycles, or last about 3 years, or whichever came first.

Since 2007 the Library has issued 4 050 Digital Audio Book Players (DAB) to date, at a cost of around R14,2 million, and of these 4 050 DAB players that were issued, 2570 DAB players have already been returned for servicing. At least 2 000 new battery packs have been replaced at a

cost of R90,00 per battery pack (R180 000,00) and about 250 CD-Rom units, at a cost of R600,00 per CD-Rom unit (R150 000,00), had to be replaced. Unfortunately the two most expensive items that make up the DAB player are also the items which fail more often than not.

It is therefore very important that every reader should treat their DAB player with the utmost care, by looking after it properly. Although maintenance and care instructions are included when the players are sent to new readers, it is extremely important to not allow the following to happen to your player.

DO NOT:

- 1 Allow the player to get wet.
- 2 Drop the player.
- 3 Allow the player to get dusty – wipe it often with a clean dry cloth.
- 4 Leave it on charge for more than 5 hours continuously.
- 5 Try to remove a CD from the CD-Rom unit by using a flat bladed object to remove the CD. The correct procedure is described in the manual.

By remembering these 5 basic rules of looking after the player, it will reward the user with an extended playback life span, and it will assist the Library with minimizing the expensive maintenance cost of the DAB players.

Happy listening.

Compiled by Johan Nel.



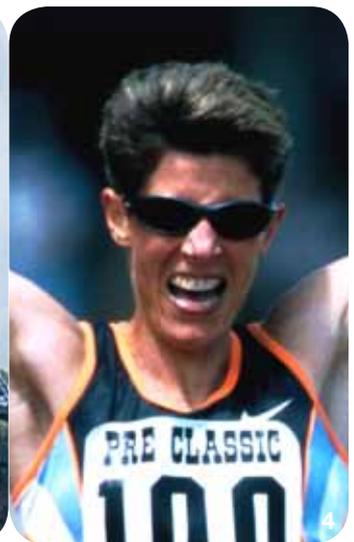
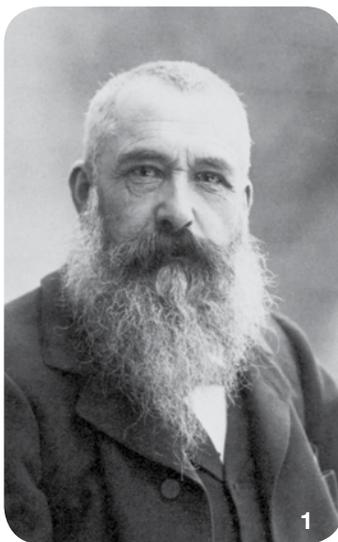
WORLDWIDE FACTS About Visual Impairment

1. Somewhere in the world, someone goes blind every five seconds.
2. A child goes blind every minute.
3. Eighty percent of all blindness is preventable or curable.
4. It is estimated that at least 7 million people go blind every year.
5. Worldwide some 180 million people are blind or visually disabled—the equivalent of two-thirds of the entire U.S. population.
6. Rates of blindness will double by the year 2020 unless prevention efforts are intensified.
7. People in developing countries represent 90 percent of the world's blind population and are 10 times more likely to go blind than those in developed countries.
8. Africa averages just one ophthalmologist for every 1.25 million people.

Blindness and diabetes World Diabetes day is on 14 November 2013

It's Eye Care Awareness Month (23 September - 20 October 2013) 80% of blindness is avoidable either through prevention or through treatment – which is why, internationally, Eye Care Awareness Month (ECAM) 2013's message: "Get Your Eyes Tested... - See more at: <http://www.sancb.org.za/#sthash.XPHYIX5.dpuf>

Famous Blind People Who Changed the World



- 1. Claude Monet** - (November 14, 1840 - December 5, 1926) Claude Monet was a founder of French impressionist painting. By 1907, he had become quite famous, but began having serious problems with his eyesight and started to go blind. Even though his eyes continued to get worse, he never stopped painting. At the end of his life, when he was almost completely blind, he painted one of his most famous murals of water lilies.
- 2. Thomas Gore** - (December 10, 1870 - March 16, 1949) Thomas Gore was a Democratic politician. He

became blind as a child, but never gave up his dream of becoming a senator. In 1907, he was one of the first two senators from the new state of Oklahoma. He was re-elected twice more. He was famous as a member of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party.

- 3. Louis Braille** - (January 4, 1809- January 6, 1852) Louis Braille accidentally stabbed himself in the eye, becoming blind from this injury. He was the inventor and designer of Braille writing which enables blind people to read from a series of organized bumps.

- 4. Marla Runyan** - (Born January 4, 1969) Marla Runyan is a marathon runner who is legally blind. She is the three-time national champion in the women's 5,000 meter run. Runyan was the first legally blind athlete to compete in the Olympics Games. She placed eighth in the 1,500-meter in the 2000 Sydney Olympics making it the highest finish by an American woman in that event. In 2002 she finished as the top American at the 2002 New York City Marathon to post the second-fastest debut time ever by an American woman.



Blazing a tactile trail towards a love of reading

Following the success of SALB as finalists and second prize winners in the ABSA Unicef award for early child care publications, the SALB is pleased to inform readers that 18 more titles were added to the pre-school tactile picture books project.

Titles now include nursery rhymes such as "Jack and Jill", "Humpty Dumpty", "Itsy Bitsy spider". Newly added titles for the period 2012-2013 include "Day and Night" "The flowers in our garden", "Sam loses a tooth" "Winter and summer", "Anne eats an egg" "My pets", "under the ground" "In the river" and "In the jungle".



These are some of the fun titles distributed at 22 schools for the blind. It is hoped to produce titles in the languages of English Afrikaans, Venda and Tswana.



Furthermore, it is envisaged that titles will focus, among others on fun with musical instruments and computers.



UNICEF'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The first nine years of children's lives are fundamentally essential to their development as human beings. In fact, they are so vital that a country's economic position, globally, and its success as a nation depends on its Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes.

Taking into consideration the South African Government's commitment to recognise and support ECD, the South African Early Childhood Development Awards aim to raise awareness of the ECD sector's goal to break the cycle of inherited poverty while promoting excellence in the ECD sector.





South African Braille Authority Meeting Highlights

The meeting was held on 9- 10 May 2013 at the Parktonian Protea Hotel, Braamfontein in Johannesburg

Mr Greef as the treasurer of SABA reported on the finances. He gave an outline of the registration and membership fees and the challenges he experienced from some of the members of SABA. It was said that institutions that don't pay membership as from next year won't be even allowed to come and observe at SABA meetings as this is not fair to other institutions who are always up-to-date with their payments. An amendment was made that it was not possible for the South African National Council for the Blind to become a member of SABA or SABA to affiliate to Council and the reason for this was, most of SABA's members are also member organizations of Council and to avoid dual membership both parties had to sign a Memorandum Of Understanding.

It was reported that SANABP which was established in 1986 as an Advocacy organization and started with its braille production in 2004 has now elevated into higher level by partnership with

SANCB to form a new braille production consortium.

Mr de Klerk (SABA chairperson) will be attending the ICEB meeting to take place in New Zealand next year as he is the Vice President of ICEB.

Mrs Schoeman from the Department of Basic Education reported on the state of the 22 schools for the blind and the interventions they have done in trying to assist teachers at such schools and all the frustrations they experience in the process.

Training on TIGAR embossers: This item was referred to the executive of SABA to look for funding to train people on this project and it was advised that people attending this training will have to have Basic computer skills as a foundation.

Grade 2 braille: The need to promote grade 2 braille in schools was emphasized and it was mentioned that the SABA executive will take the matter up with those schools still teaching in

grade 1 braille. It was resolved that all production houses should indicate on their front cover pages if the book is not in grade 2 braille.

Duxbury Braille Translator: It was reported that problems encountered with translation tables should be reported to Mr de Klerk.

SAQA accreditations: It was reported that one have got to be an accredited service provider in order to offer accredited SAQA qualifications. It was also reported that chances of obtaining a Braille Diploma at the University of Pretoria will be investigated but for now accreditations will remain Blind SA's responsibility as they are approved service providers.

Neighbouring countries: Botswana reported that they have not started with UBC implementation as the officials in their ministry don't see eye to eye with switching to UEB.

Tributes



Mrs. Pamela Paton

We were deeply saddened by the loss of Mrs. Pamela Paton, one of our very dedicated narrators and one of Grahamstown's well-known community leaders. She had a great interest in History and narrated about 60 books for the library between 2000 – 2005. Most of these books were very thick and required advanced language and interpretation skills. Some of the titles she narrated were: *Frontiers* by Noël Mostert; *Civilizations* by F. Fernandez-Armesto; *Celebrity Surgeon: Chris Barnard* by Chris Logan; *Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy by Tom Holland*; *The Second World War* by Martin Gilbert; and more.

Tribute to a great author: Chinua Achebe

Chinua Achebe was born 16 November 1930 and passed away on 21 March 2013. He was a Nigerian novelist, poet, professor, and critic. He was best known for his first novel and magnum opus, *Things Fall Apart* (1958), which is the most widely read book in modern African literature.

Raised by his parents in the Igbo town of Ogidi in southeastern Nigeria, Achebe excelled at school and won a scholarship for undergraduate studies. He became fascinated with world religions and traditional African cultures. After graduation, he worked for the Nigerian Broadcasting Service (NBS)

and soon moved to Lagos. He gained worldwide attention for *Things Fall Apart*; his later novels include *No Longer at Ease* (1960), *Arrow of God* (1964), *A Man of the People* (1966), and *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987). Achebe wrote his novels in English.

The Library has the following titles of his:

Things fall apart –(English, Xhosa, Afrikaans)

Anthills of Savannah, Arrow of God, The drum,

No longer at ease (English and Xhosa)

A man of the people

CIRCULATION SNIPPETS by Ria Greaves

Dear Members

We all get frustrated by issues such as postal strikes, receiving books not appropriate according to your interest or taste, delayed responses, malfunctioning of playback devices, etc. As a valued library member, I encourage you to contact us, with any challenge experienced, to enable us to address these and improve our service delivery to you.

Special member of this issue:

Our special member is Mr. Lionel Colyn. He lives in Florida, Gauteng and has been a member for about 20 years and is a panel beater. He has read 1016 books from the SALB. An article was written in Leisure Wheels magazine about him, which resulted in an invitation from Swampland Safari Trails in Botswana to take part a wonderful 13 day trip starting in Maun, visiting the

Victoria Falls and lots more. Lionel was also involved in the Rooitrok Project, travelling in a 4x4 through our country. Apart from reading, Lionel's hobby is building Ferrari Scale model cars. If you are in that area and need panel beating, you know where to go. Lionel, we wish you the very best for the future.

Updating your profile:

If you want to update or change your reading preferences, please contact audiolib@salb.org.za

The list of choices is too long to publish here, but we will send it to you so that you can receive a wider range of books.

SALB Book Collection (OPAC) on our website:

You can access the complete collection through our website www.salb.org.za Click on Library Catalogue on the left menu, to enter the collection. If you click on 'Advanced Search' you will have a

choice between fiction and nonfiction, click on one of these options, and you will find books in different categories like Thrillers, Romance in the Fiction option, or Architecture, Health etc. in the nonfiction option.

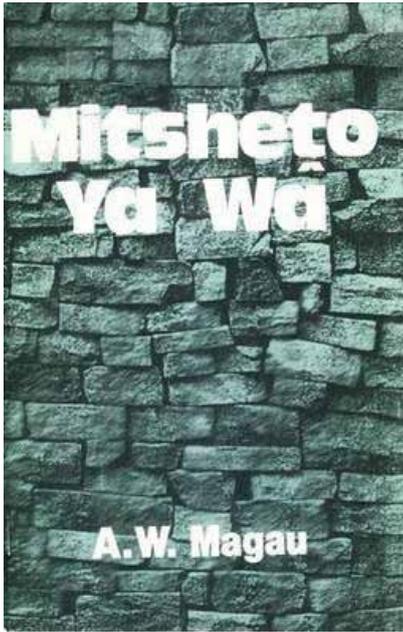
Overdrive Collection:

We will purchase new Overdrive books later this year. If you haven't looked at the site yet, browse through, you will be pleasantly surprised. You can access the site via our website www.salb.org.za and if you want to download contact audiolib@salb.org.za for you library card number and pin number.

Tips:

If your Daisy book is stuck into the player, switch the machine off. Wait a few seconds. Press the power and eject buttons simultaneously until the disc comes out.

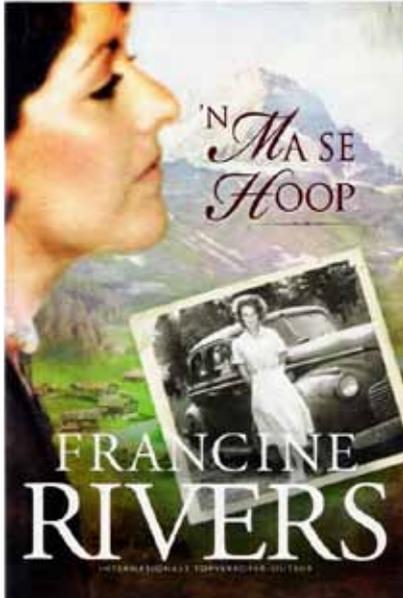
New Books



Mitsheto ya wa

A W Magau

Transcribed by: Braille Service of Blind SA.. - 2 v.of braille. B2334
ID: 38922



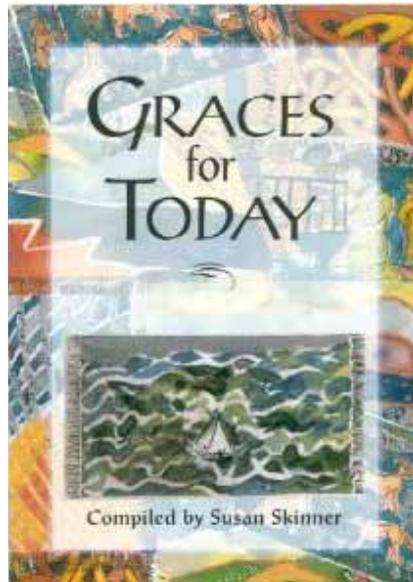
Ma se hoop

Francine Rivers

Transcribed by:
A. du Plooy.. - 6v. of braille. B2099
ID: 38837

Summary: Net voor die Eerste Wereldoorlog uitbreek, verlaat Marta

Switserland en laat daarmee saam ook haar moeilike kinderjare agter. Marta word 'n hardwerkende skoonmaker en ontmoet later vir Niclas, 'n man wat net so vasbeslote soos sy is om 'n beter lewe in 'n beter plek te vind. 'n Ma se hoop is die verhaal van Marta wat haar drome om eendag 'n hotel te besit, opsy skuif ter wille van haar man en kinders. Haar vrese en onvervulde drome word dan oorgedra in wat sy vir haar dogter Hildemara begeer. Marta se ongenaakbaarheid oor die jare wek in Hildemara 'n desperate behoefte aan haar ma se liefde en respek. Uiteindelik verloor Hildemara haar wil om te bly lewe en die enigste persoon wat haar kan help, is die persoon wat sy so bitter graag tevrede wil stel: haar ma.

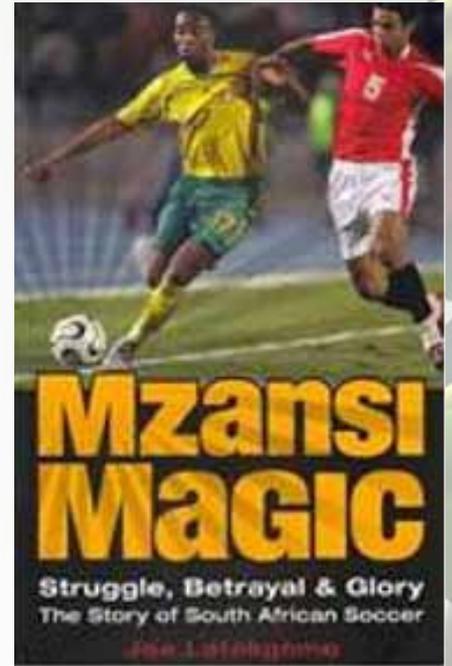


Graces for today

Susan Skinner

Transcribed by: RNIB.. - 1 v. of braille. B5012
ID: 38924

Although these graces are mostly drawn from the great Christian tradition, they are directed at the present time, to life as we lead it. Everyday we make unforeseen discoveries about ourselves and the world around us. Likewise in a spirit of serendipity, the graces are not categorized. Designed to be dipped into whenever you need the comfort of words that show we are not alone.



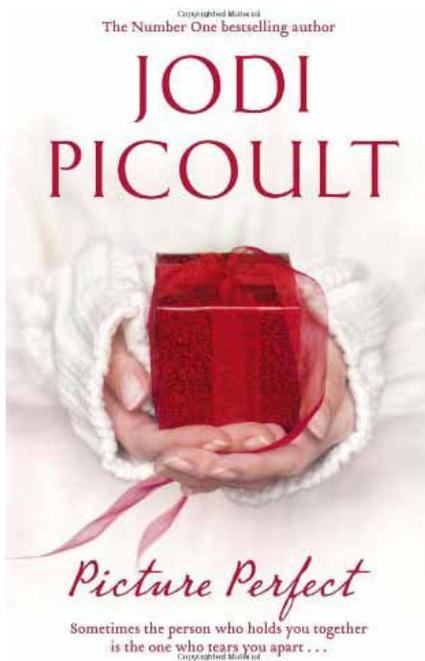
Mzansi magic struggle, betrayal and glory : the story of South African soccer

Joe Latakomo

Summary: Joe Latakomo combines historical fact with striking anecdotes to bring the stories and characters of South African Soccer to life. A veteran sports journalist, the book is in many ways a personal account of his experiences and encounters with players and administrators. Mzansi Magic intercepts the ball at the first soccer game played between British soldiers stationed in South Africa in the late 1800's. Then it is dribbled through the decades all the way to the world cup in 2010. It even includes a chapter on the use of muthi in the game. Lastly the book also shows how the struggle against apartheid played out on the soccer field and in the fight by black soccer organisations to be recognised by FIFA.

Transcribed by: SALB.. - 3 v. braille. B5971
ID: 39067

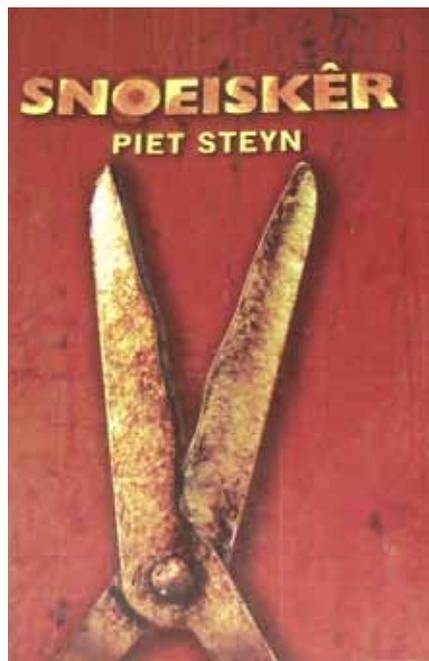
Book Reviews



Picture Perfect
by Jodi Picoult - (DA5561)

Jodi Picoult writes family dramas. In each of her books, she explores a certain specific relationship challenge, subtly changing it from a terrible nightmare into a feasible solution. The solution, however, is not always what the reader hopes for, and sometimes the story even has a negative outcome. But these books are so attuned to real life, that, after reading one of her books, you always are left with greater understanding for those people who are forever struggling with life's hardships.

In *Picture Perfect*, Cassie tries very hard to make things work. Her efforts and resolves, however, brings no change,

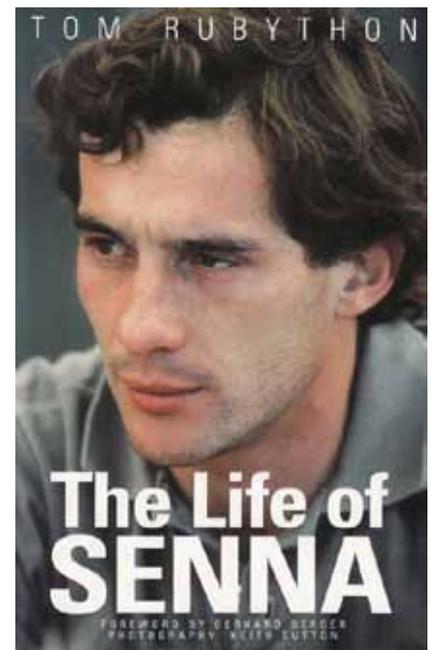


and, in the end she is forced to accept defeat.

After reading this book, I am left with "There I am, but for the grace of God". A splendid and almost perfect read by the narrator Laurel Lefkow. (Reviewed by Richard Albertse)

Snoeiskêr
by Piet Steyn (Afrikaans DA3684)

Piet Steyn's suspense debut is a blow to the pit of one's stomach. Crude, violent, knee-deep in the country's most sombre realities. It is also written with an in-depth knowledge of the characters who live and die under these circumstances, and with a masterful control of tension and the unexpected.



Ek het die boek, *Snoeiskêr* deur Piet Steyn baie geniet! Dit was my beste boek wat ek heel jaar gelees het! (Reviewed by Hector Loftus)

The Life of Senna
by Tom Rubython - (DA6110)

This book is very well written and gives a detailed and personal view of an extraordinary man. It will appeal especially to formula one fans. The book gives an in-depth account of the entire life of Senna from growing up in Brazil and his first forays into motor sport in Europe to his life in the spotlight and ultimately his untimely death. The book gives much more of the man rather than just the racing driver. (Reviewed by Ria Greaves)



blind people  reading