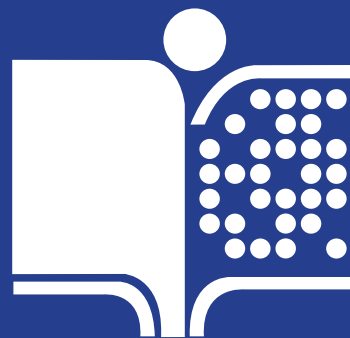


No.1 2015

MAKWENZEKE

Free Audio & Braille Book Services for the sight impaired



**SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND**



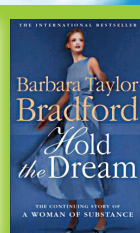
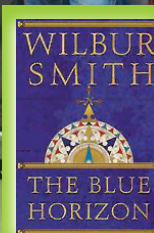
"MINILIBS"
A SUCCESS
STORY

Read more on page 8

**BOOKS,
MAGAZINES &
NEWSPAPERS**

**our
favourite
reads**

Page 6 -



BRAILLE EXAMINATIONS

IMPACTS POSITIVELY
ON READING AND
WRITING OF BRAILLE

Page 2



**9000
BOOKS
DONATED**

Page 3

SALB STRENGTHENS BRAILLE READING AND WRITING

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND'S (SALB)

National Braille Consultancy (NBC) is ready to mark the exams for the March 2015 intake of school learner examination papers from candidates from 7 Schools for the Elementary Braille Examinations.

Working for the SALB, the examiners, all experts of the South African Braille Authority (SABA) assisted SALB National Braille Consultancy in hosting the examination.

The task ran smoothly, e. g. e-mail announcements were sent

out, reports were accepted and the registration forms for the learners from all schools were received before the 23rd of February. Examination papers were printed, packed and posted via courier service to all participating schools. All examinations were written on the 5th & 6th March 2015. No problems were experienced and all examination scripts were received at SALB by the 13th of March 2015, awaiting marking when the SALB National Braille Consultant, Pasha Alden returned to office on 1 April 2015. It was a great pleasure dealing with all

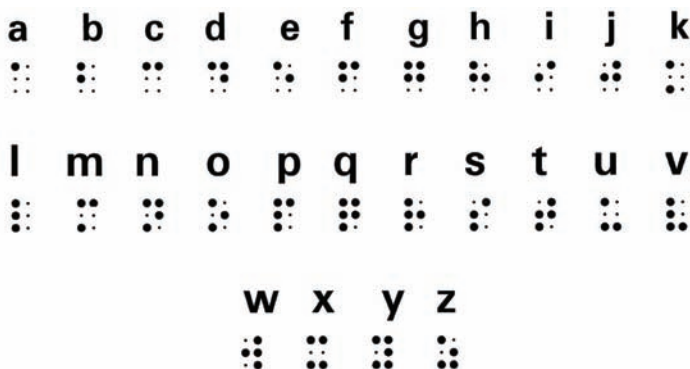
the schools, and the examinations all went off in a very friendly and professional manner.

The purpose of the Braille examination is to impact positively on reading and writing of Braille and to encourage Braille usage among learners at schools. SALB National Braille Consultancy definitely achieved this in 2015.

The Higher Braille Examinations are also set and will be announced shortly. This is the first year that all the examination information is set electronically for easy hosting and distribution of the examinations.

NBC can look forward to an excellent, fully electronic service to the schools and broader community going forward. It was a great pleasure to work with the schools.

"WATCH THIS SPACE" for stunning Tactile Books during the 2015 / 2016 year!



South African Library for the Blind's National Braille Consultancy (NBC) recently held the Elementary Braille Examinations for school learners



9000 AUDIO BOOKS DONATED



*Seen
with the award
are SALB Library Services
staff, back row: Helen Samuel,
Florence Jadi, Loyiso Kalashe
and Michael Moodie.
front row: Likhaya Jodwana,
Neli Kaunda, Arnold Sphere,
Mzwandile Radebe,
Xola Kila*

SALB RECEIVES RECOGNITION AWARD AFTER DONATING MORE THAN 9000 ANALOGUE AUDIO BOOKS

SALB received a recognition award as a gesture of appreciation by Tape Aids for the Blind. SALB donated 283 master tapes, more than 9 000 analogue audio copies and a number of tape playback machines to the organisation in order to reach out to more blind and visually impaired South Africans.

SALB has migrated from analogue to digital audio book production in almost 10 years ago. Making sure that all the analogue audio books were off shelves was our last phase of the

migration, which was December 2014. Our audio collection now consists of more than 7 000 titles that are currently on Daisy (Digi-Accessible Information Systems).

The award has been received and appreciated by the SALB Library Services as they had put extra effort to make sure that these tapes get packed and sent to all the organisations that needed them.



Knowing that their hard work has not gone unnoticed has put big smiles on their faces.

“Knowing that we continue to make a difference to our South African Blind citizens is what makes us happy. We never expected a recognition award, we were just doing what we believed was best for the beneficiaries of the service. We are happy for the recognition and I am sure we are all cheered” says Vuyo Mandongana, Senior Librarian: Outreach Services & Member Liaison.

Technical Services

After a well deserved holiday period the year has started off rather quicker than normal. Rostienne Mager started a Braillo 200 embosser repair and service course on Monday the 12th of January. This course was held at the South African Library for the Blind (SALB) in Grahamstown, and was held over 4 days. Both the Library's

Braille embossers required a comprehensive service having faithfully embossed over one million double sided Braille pages each.

The SALB has received sketch plans from the Public Works architect to illustrate the new floor plan for the SALB, once alterations to the existing

buildings commence. However, as drawn, these new floor plans will have to be considerably altered, before the SALB will look and function as a properly integrated unit. More news about the way forward with the new SALB building design and the implementation thereof, in the next edition of Makwenzeke.

Training

Marius Wolmarans attended a 5 day in-house training course that was conducted by Antony Dodds from Sensory Solutions, based in Pretoria.

Mr. Dodds trained Marius on how to service the Braille printers. By doing so, the library does not need to call on outside technicians in future,

to service these machines, as Mr. Wolmarans is now fully equipped to service these machines himself.

Financial Matters

The Library had a pre-audit meeting in early February 2015 with the Auditor General with respect to the upcoming Financial Year-end. The meeting took place at the SALB offices. It was the first time in the recent history of the Library that a meeting of this nature was set-up. It was attended by the CFO and Director as well as the Senior Audit Manager from the Auditor General's East London Branch. The meeting was held to reaffirm

the commitment of Corporate Governance of the Library and towards achieving a successful audit for the 2014/15 Financial year. It was an opportunity to engage the Auditor General on pertinent financial matters that could affect the audit outcome and also on clarification matters.

It proved to be fruitful and strengthened the link with the Auditor General and the Library.



SALB @ PUKU STORY FESTIVAL

SALB PARTICIPATED IN THE PUKU STORY FESTIVAL



Seen visiting the SALB stall at Puku is Busisiwe Titi, a Radio Presenter at Umhlobo weNene, a national radio station, with Noluvuyo Yona & Neli Kaunda from SALB

The Third annual Puku Story Festival took place in Grahamstown from 19 to 21 February 2015. The festival is aimed at promoting education and literacy in isiXhosa, through both the written word and the oral tradition. It was established in 2013 by the Puku Children's Literature Foundation.

According to its director and founder Ms Elinor Sisulu, Puku aims to bridge both the literacy and the digital divide that confronts the vast majority of Southern African children by developing dynamic and innovative programmes and projects to improve the quality of children's books, educational and recreational materials in all Southern African languages.

SALB was among a number of organizations that took part in the festival. SALB had a stall that attracted more than 200 people in 3 days. The purpose was to introduce SALB services to people who attended the festival. The stall had displays of Perkins Braille, document reader, Daisy player, Audio books, Tactile and Braille books. This effort was to bring awareness of SALB services to sighted individuals so that they can spread the word in their communities.

The school learners and educators who visited the stall were astonished by the work SALB does. Sighted school learners were also given opportunity to type their names using the Perkins Braille. They were also given Braille alphabet cards to familiarise themselves with Braille alphabet.

SALB staff also delivered a presentation on production of tactile books and the challenges encountered during the production. People appreciated the work done by SALB and encouraged the library to keep up the good work. Interestingly, people felt tactile books are a good learning tool for all children even the sighted ones. Publishers who attended also showed great interest in tactile books.

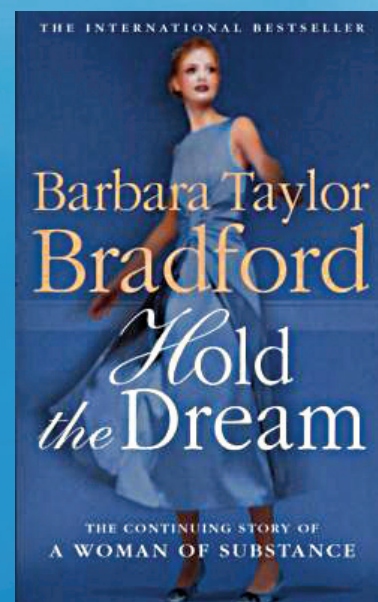
Top 3 titles

Hold the Dream

AUTHOR: Barbara Taylor Bradford

FORMAT: Audio & Braille - Made available since 05-03-2014

SUMMARY: The continuing story of Emma Harte, indomitable heroine of *A Woman of Substance*. Emma Harte was the heroine of Barbara Taylor Bradford's multi-million copy bestseller, *A Woman of Substance*. Now she is eighty years old and ready to hand over the reins of the vast business empire she has created to her favourite grandchild, Paula McGill Fairley. Emma bequeaths her mighty retailing empire with these heartfelt words, 'I charge you to hold my dream.' A towering international success, this is the powerfully moving tale of one woman's determination to 'hold the dream' which was entrusted to her, and in so doing find the happiness and passion which is her legacy.



The brightest star in the sky

AUTHOR: Marian Keyes

FORMAT: Braille - Made available since 12-09-2013

SUMMARY: At 66 Star Street in Dublin, someone is watching over the lives of the people living in its flats. But no one is aware of it yet. One of them is ready to take the plunge and fall in love; another is torn between two very different lovers. For some, secrets they want to stay buried will come to light and for others, the unveiling of those secrets will have tragic consequences. Fate is on its way to Star Street, bringing with it love and tragedy, friendship and heartbreak, and the power to change their lives in the most unexpected of ways.



The blue horizon

AUTHOR: Wilbur A Smith

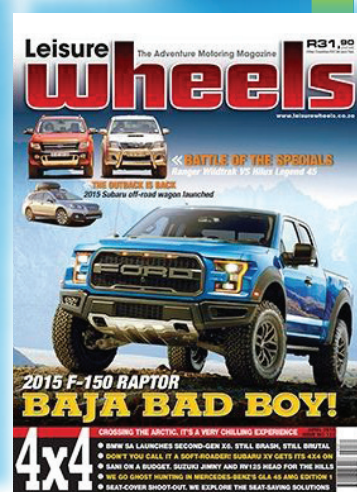
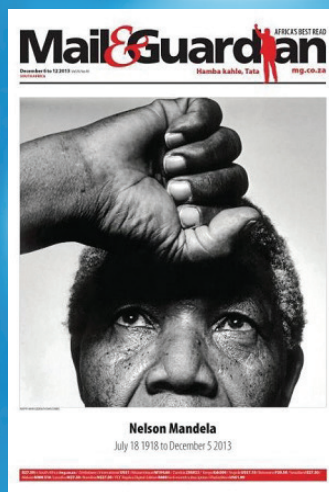
FORMAT: Braille & Audio - Made available since 10-09-2007

SUMMARY: The next generation of Courtneys are out to stake their claim in Southern Africa, travelling along the infamous "Robber's Road". It is a journey both exciting and hazardous, which takes them through the untouched wilderness of a beautiful land filled with warring tribes and wild animals. SEQUEL to: Golden fox.



newspapers magazines &

The South African Library for the Blind offers a number of newspapers and magazines to all its library members. If you are not subscribed to one or more of the magazines and newspapers, call us on 046 622 7226 and our friendly staff will make sure that you receive your selected magazine. They will also provide more info about available magazines.



Audio Newspaper:

Mail & Guardian
Star

Audio Magazines:

Bona - Xhosa
Bona - English
Huisgenoot
You
Canine Zone
Leisure Wheels
Joy
Fairlady
SA Garden & Home
People Friend

National talking newspaper & magazines - 6 in 1 magazine consisting of: Car; Cosmopolitan; National Geographic; BBC Top Gear; Readers Digest and Home and Gardens

Braille Newspapers:

Grocott's (Grahamstown local newspaper)
The Herald
Mail & Guardian

Braille Magazines:

True Love
Bona - Xhosa
Drum
Juig
Fairlady

More mini libraries or “**Minilibs**” are planned to take

library services to the partially sighted and blind throughout the Eastern Cape following the success of the first 24 Minilibs installed by the South African Library for the Blind in partnership with the province. The libraries include a text reader, a computer for access to online resources, and materials including braille books supplied by the SA Library for the Blind.

“We want to roll **Minilibs** out to every community,” says Lubabalo Dzedze, library and information services manager at the department of sport, recreation, arts and culture in the Eastern Cape. According to project coordinator, Pumla Mahanjana, **Minilibs** are housed in public libraries. Staff are trained on the use of the equipment and how to assist the visually impaired. “The visually impaired have a constitutional right to access these services. The project in the

Eastern Cape has been so successful that we are hoping it will eventually be rolled out across the country.”

One of the people to have benefited from the use of the **Minilib** is Sonwabile Dlakavu, who

able to read and to stay informed of developments. Before the **Minilib** we had nothing.” The **Minilibs** are spread through the rural areas as well as the metros. “Our partnership with the South African Library

for the Blind is making a big difference in the lives of the partially sighted,” says Joseph Lamini, Nelson Mandela Bay metro project manager for library services.

Dzedze says the vision is to have **Minilibs** wherever there is a public library. “In terms of the library charter we have to ensure that everyone has access to books and information services – and that includes the visually impaired,” he says. He was

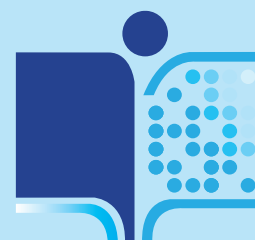
speaking at a Library Week celebration hosted at the Allanridge Library in Uitenhage.

“MINILIBS” HELP THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED



*SALB members from different libraries and districts took part in a quiz at the Allanridge Library Minilib recently to celebrate Library Week. The participants were required to write an article around the theme of Library Week “**connect @ your library**” with the purpose of showcasing the SALB Mini libraries, and what is on offer and how to become a member.*

lives in the town of Lusikisiki in the OR Tambo region of the Eastern Cape. He represents the region in general knowledge quizzes hosted by the department for **Minilib** users in the Eastern Cape. Commenting on the opening of the **Minilib** in Lusikisiki, he says “we (blind and partially sighted people) are at last



**SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND**

An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture