

◆ PEOPLE

**New in region**

Born and raised in Venda (Limpopo) Vhangwele Promise Mulaudzi studied BA at the University of Venda whereafter she enrolled for the post-graduate diploma in Library and Information Science at University of Limpopo (Tur loop) and the Bachelor of Information Science Honours at University of South Africa (UNISA).



In 1997 she was appointed as an assistant librarian at Mobile Library (City of Cape Town Libraries) based at Ndabeni and thereafter as librarian at Nyanga Public Library.

Promise enjoyed her time at Nyanga Public Library and being part of community development in the area. 'The experience I gained as a librarian with City Libraries and related activities in the community in the region will stand me in good stead for the task of regional librarian.' Promise assumed charge of her new post as Cape Town regional librarian on 1 August.

**Dedication ceremony**

With August being Women's Month, it seemed an appropriate time to celebrate the memory of one of Grassy Park Library's most beloved volunteers, Nita Leith. On 5 August 2006 it was exactly three years since she passed away. As a token of her love for the library, the Leith family donated a bench and several books to the library. A dedication ceremony was held at the library on this day and was attended by the Leith family, past and present volunteers and library staff members. The speaker was community leader and friend of the family, Phillip Bam. He spoke about the need to honour and celebrate the contribution that



**New Zealander visits**

*Seen here with Johan Swiegelaar, director, Library Services Western Cape during her visit is Jill Best, General Manager: Libraries, Tauranga City Council (New Zealand). Mrs Best visited various libraries after attending the wedding of her daughter in Zimbabwe.*

ordinary women, like Mrs Leith, made to their communities.

Nita worked for several years as a volunteer at the library. Her main focus was book repairs. She was at the library every Tuesday, irrespective of weather or poor health. She was well loved in the community and motivated others to also volunteer at the library. Her calm and pleasant demeanour, work ethic and willingness to help others, strongly influenced everyone around her. To receive a bench in her memory is an honour indeed. The family also donated a second bench which will be placed along the Muizenberg - St James catwalk.

*Anita Shaw  
 Librarian, Grassy Park*

◆ BIBLIOTEKE

*Athlone Library's promotion for World Cup Soccer was enthusiastically supported by all. Seen here are two youngsters Xola Matyeni and Kelly Goosen determinedly looking for answers to the quiz. (See page 7 for more)*



**Biblioteekweek vir drie weke**

Biblioteekweek by **Hawston Biblioteek** hou altyd 'n paar verrassings vir gebruikers in en vanjaar was dit 'n drie week lange viering om die gemeenskap aan te spoor om die biblioteek te besoek.

Vooraf bemarking het besoeke aan skole ingesluit - 973 kinders is bereik binne twee dae. Die aanbieding het die verskil tussen televisie en lees aangespreek. Dit het verbasende reaksies uitgelok by die kleinspan.

Die program het verskillende kompetisies ingesluit, onder andere, teken of versier van die gesiggies wat van die Biblioteekdiens ontvang is; kinders moes die boekies se titels neerskryf wat hulle gelees het; 'n gediggie oor lees of oor die biblioteek; en vir die ouers, naslaanwerk - 'n inligtingstuk oor aardbewings is aan hulle gegee waar hulle dit in hul eie woorde moes beskryf en die een met die mees oorspronklike en korrekte inligting is as wenner aangewys.

Gedurende die drie weke het die kinders wat die biblioteek besoek en boeke uitgeneem het, geskenkies ontvang soos inkleurblaai, lekkers, suigstokkies, ensovoorts. Elke dag het gesorg vir 'n verrassing. Dit klink seker soos omkoperij maar dit was die moeite werd. Personeel moes maar bontstaan. Die burgemeester en wyksraadslid het die prysoorhandigings behartig te midde van lekker ontspanning soos Marimbas, dansies, sang deur die skoolkoor en storie lees.

Dit gaan 'n instelling word om op twee dae elke week 'n verrassing aan die kinders te gee om sodoende die biblioteek te bemark.

*Belinda May  
 Hawston Openbare Biblioteek*





### Great fun at Knysna

*Due to unforeseen delays we received some Library Week report back photographs after going to press with the previous issue of the CL.*

*Above: Here we have a large group of little ones from Stepping Stone Independent School listening to a story in the Knysna Library*

*Above left: High school learners from Knysna attended an interesting discussion on 'How to write a story'*

*Left: Toddlers from Stepping Stones School enjoying cooldrinks and biscuits in the gardens of the library*

### AFRICAN WRITERS SERIES CELEBRATED

▷ *Mamre Library* plays host to the first of eight exhibitions to be held celebrating 40 years of African literature in Africa. The series comprises a collection of literary fiction, short stories, poetry, translations, drama and non-fiction by authors from African descent.



◁ *Regional Librarian Neville Adonis is seen at the exhibition with regional staff; Phadiel Mitchell (front) and (back ltr) Quinton Duncan and Clarette Pypers. Read more about this in the Jul/Aug issue of CL, page 6*

## The Nelson Mandela Library Cape Town

The City of Cape Town's main library is on the move. The Central Library, to be renamed the Nelson Mandela Library, will be moving from the City Hall to the Old Drill Hall across the road from its current location. This project, costing approximately R44 million must surely be one of the most praiseworthy and exciting ones yet to be undertaken by the City. The project is in part possible through a R15 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Approximately R10 million will be spent on books, courtesy of the provincial government.

When Central Library applied for and won the Carnegie Grant in 2003, it included a proposal that the city council would provide a building to be named the Nelson Mandela Library. The grant of \$2 million is to be phased in over a period of three years.

The Carnegie grant will mostly be used for stock and equipment. The City is covering the cost of the renovations of the Drill Hall, of which the interior has been gutted and replaced with an open plan structure on four levels. Work on the buildings started in April 2004.

The ground mezzanine floors will house the reference, art and music sections, and the children's section, which will include the children's professional collection, will be in the basement. The perimeter area will consist of offices, administration areas, a coffee shop, an exhibition area, meeting and gathering facilities and study and reading rooms. There will also be 40 workstations available, both for the SmartCape access initiative and for electronic information such as digital encyclopaedias.

Originally known as the Volunteer Drill Hall, the building was used in the 1880s for military purposes, and architecturally is a military rendition of British Tudor style. The building was completed in 1885.

A reporter (**Die Burger**) said of the building: 'With its new purpose this beautiful old building remains in service of the residents of Cape Town. This time around, however, for educational purposes - the most effective weapon against any enemy...'

▷ The view of the new library as seen from the mezzanine level. The difference between the old and the new framework is clearly distinguishable - the old and new, however, complement each other. Shelving still has to be installed. This is considered as phase one of the construction



### Drill Hall's new face

△ The side and front views of the Drill hall

◁ Architect John Rennie discussing the model of the revamped Drill Hall which will house the City of Cape Town's main library

▽ Staff from the Provincial Library Service had the privilege to enjoy a preview



## ◆ BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### Creator of Mike Hammer dies

Mickey Spillane, the crime novelist who created the tough-as-nails detective Mike Hammer, has died. Spillane was born Frank Morrison Spillane in Brooklyn, in 1918. He dropped out of law school to start out as a writer for cheap, so-called pulp fiction magazines and comic strips.

With his writing career on hold during World War II, Spillane joined the United States Army Air Forces as a flight instructor and took part in several missions.

Back from the war, he resumed writing and was also a trampoline performer with Barnum and Bailey Circus for a period - he played himself in **Ring of fear** in 1954.

He also worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for a short spell and was shot twice and stabbed during a drug investigation.

In 1947 Spillane wrote his first Mike Hammer novel **I, the Jury** in only nine days, and the story quickly became a best-seller, with millions of copies snapped up.

In 1952, after seven novels, Spillane became a Jehovah's Witness and took some time out travelling throughout the United States spreading a religious message.

He returned to his desk in 1961 to write four more Hammer novels until 1970. Several Mike Hammer stories were turned into movies and later a 1980s television series.

Never the critic's darling, Spillane made no excuses for the crude and violent content of his work, saying in an interview: 'Those big-shot writers could never dig the fact that there are more salted peanuts than caviar... If the public likes you, you are good.'

*Cape Times*

### Zoe Wicomb at UWC

Zoe Wicomb is a professor at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and extraordinary professor attached to the University of Stellenbosch. She read from her latest novel **Playing in the light** at a public reading hosted by the Women's and Gender Studies Programme at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) on the eve of Women's Day. Despite confessing that she felt very nervous about reading her work in public, she held her listeners spellbound not only by the quality of her writing but also by her delivery.

## Cape Librarian

### 40 years ago...

*Stefan Wehmeyer Assistant Director: Support Services*



- The focus of the October 1966 issue of the **CL** was the youth. Does the following sound familiar? From the editorial: 'A disturbing factor in the library scene is the loss of the reader during his transition from the juvenile to the adult library. The most important aspect if library service is to reach this group is the attitude and personality of the librarian.'
- En soos mev Le Roux tereg opmerk: 'n Belangstellende, vriendelike en opregte atmosfeer help om selfs die 'moeilikste' tiener te laat ontdooi. Daar is niks wat hulle afskrik soos 'n openlike afkeurende houding of 'n martelaarshouding van: 'Ag, liewe land, hier is die spul Ducktails al weer.'
- Reading habits of teenagers in the 1960s? The librarian from Observatory Library comments: 'Most of them tend to go on a solid diet of romances and westerns or cheap crime, in spite of our efforts at readers' guidance.'
- Mej Frouws van Worcester se raad vir die bibliotekaris was tieners bedien: 'Sy moet die jong mens simpatiek behandel, sy probleme verstaan en leiding gee, maar sy mag nooit self sedepreke lewer nie.'
- Die skryfster M.E.R. word 90 en word vereer met ere-burgerskap van die dorp Swellendam. M.E.R. is in 1976 op die ouderdom van 100 oorlede.
- Nigel Mackenzie, Hugh Desmond, Jane Darnley, Bettie Manver, Mollie Waring, Margaret Cameron en Elizabeth Fenton is alles skuilname vir die outeur Kathleen Lindsay. Sy het in daardie jare nie minder as 22 boeke per jaar die lig laat sien nie.
- Letters from standard I (now grade 3) pupils to Miss Gillard from Fish Hoek: 'Dear Miss Gillard, thank you very much for visiting the library. My mother is a librarian, but uneducated. At school we have 4283 books.' 'Dear Mrs Gellard, I love reading book's. I promise never to ruin or destroy good books. When I am big, I will write books about, how to live clean and good, in houses and in every big works.'
- In die Zeitgeist van 1966 was uitstallings oor skeepswrakke (stranding van die Seafarer) en oor die destydse simbole van die republiek (RSA 1961-1966) tydens die 5-jarige vieringe, aan die orde van die dag.
- ...and reading between the lines I found this snippet...the **CL** of September 1966 congratulated Miss C Taylor on her marriage to Advocate J van Gend.

### Loslitdag by hoofkantoor...

*Sommige mense het omtrent dié dag ernstig opgeneem... Personeel het geskat dat vir kollegas wat amper onherkenbaar was - van krullers en kopdoeke tot plastiekbottel skoene... Hier neem Hoeda Salaam 'n blaaskansie na 'n moeilike dag... (Sien ook bladsy 7)*



▷ **Athlone Library** staff, Ndileka Jaxa and Ian Gordon supporting their favourite team at the World Cup Soccer display held recently



▽ Samir Daniels and Kerwyn Herbert say: 'We know all the answers...'



▽ **Milnerton Library's twentieth...**

*Milnerton Library* celebrated its 20th birthday in July. All the staff that have worked at the library during the last 20 years were invited to the celebrations. It was a heart-warming experience to meet everybody that, over the years, played a role in the library's successes, and to put faces to those names that we have heard so much about. A special display was made with photographs of the building and all staff, past and present. A delightful bookworm cake was also made to celebrate the event

Christelle Lubbe  
 Librarian, Milnerton Public Library



▷ Aktiwiteite tydens Biblioteekweek in **Hawston Biblioteek** het, onder andere, 'n leesprogram ingesluit. Hier is jong lesers besig om kliphard aan die projek deel te neem. Die kleurvolle leessertifikaat (heel regs) is as deel van die projek uitgereik

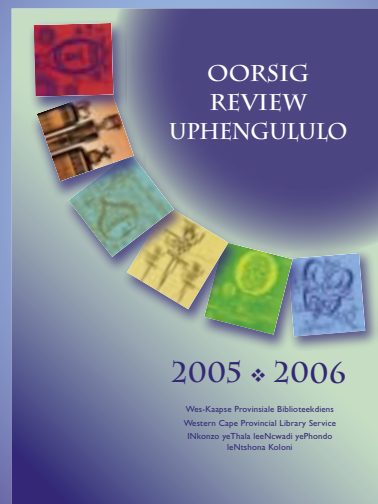


△ **The ultimate Casual Day**

*Taking Casual Day to the next level are (back, ltr) Antoinette Brandt, Adri Bester, Stefan Wehmeyer, Dalena le Roux, Szerena Knapp and Monica Wagner. In the front is Sandy Kingswell and Hoeda Salaam. Note the two lasses on the left - the epitomy of casual Japanese geisha maidens..?*

**NEW PUBLICATIONS**

*Our comprehensive 2006 Annual Review that will soon be distributed to public libraries in the Western Cape via the regional organisation*



Zoe Wicomb lived in Cape Town and her latest work grapples with the issues of identity confronting 'play-whites' in the person of the protagonist with her hybrid roots. A former student and lecturer at UWC, she has published widely on South African writing and culture. Her previous works of fiction are **You can't get lost in Cape Town** (once banned) and **David's story**.

*Rheina Epstein  
Correspondent*

## Fantasy novelist dies

British fantasy novelist David Gemmell has died aged 57. Gemmell was born in West London in the summer of 1948 and published his first novel, **Legend**, in 1984, after struggling with many rejection letters, one of which read: 'You mention in your resumé that you are working as a lorry driver's mate for Pepsi Cola. This is an occupation not without merit. Good luck with it.'

He worked for some time as a freelance journalist, placing work with leading British tabloids like **The Daily Mail**, **The Daily Mirror** and **The Daily Express** as well as writing for and editing a local newspaper in Sussex. This aspect of his career ended when he published his third novel, **Waylander** in 1986, using many of his colleagues' names for characters in the story and upsetting the paper's managing director in the process.

He became one of Britain's best-loved writers of fantasy fiction, publishing 28 novels under his own name and one under the pseudonym Ross Harding.

*BBC / EOFTV News*

## Son finishes unpublished Tolkien book

An unfinished book by the late JRR Tolkien, author of **The lord of the rings**, has been completed by his son Christopher and will be published early next year. Tolkien began working on **The children of Hurin** in 1918 but failed to complete it. His son has spent about three decades completing the story from the many drafts produced by his father.

'This epic story stands as one of the finest expressions of JRR Tolkien's skills as a storyteller,' said HarperCollins Publishing chief executive Victoria Barnsley.

*Cape Times*

## Gordimer nie op Booker-kortlys

Nadine Gordimer, wenner van die Nobel Prys wat 'n kans gehad het om die gesogte Man-Booker Prys te wen, se naam verskyn nie vanjaar op die kortlys nie.

Gordimer se nuutste boek **Get a life**, was op die sogenaamde 'langlys' van 19 boeke wat verlede maand bekend gemaak is. David Mitchell, wie se boek **Black swan green** die beroepswedders se gunsteling was, en die Australiër Peter Carey se **Theft: a love story** het ook nie die paneel van vyf beoordelaars beïndruk nie.

Die boeke op die kortlys is **The inheritance of loss** deur Kiran Desai, **The secret river** deur Kate Grenville, **Carry me down** deur MJ Hyland, **In the country of men** deur Hisham Matar, **Mothers milk** deur Edward St. Aubyn en Sarah Waters se **The night watch**.

*Die Burger*

## LITERÊRE TOEKENNINGS

### Weideman met Akker vereer

Die skrywer George Weideman is op die tweede Versindaba op Stellenbosch met die Akker-toekenning bekroon. Dié toekenning is verlede jaar ingestel om jaarliks 'n digter te vereer wat deur sy of haar loopbaan baie gedoen het om die digkuns te bevorder en ander digters in hul loopbaan te help.

Weideman se eerste jeugboek, **Los my uit, Paloekas!**, het die Silber Sanlam Prys in 1992 ontvang en vir **Die optog van die Aftjoppers** die Goue Sanlam Prys in 1994. Laasgenoemde is ook in 1995 met die Scheepers Prys bekroon, en deur die Kinderboekforum as Suid-Afrikaanse benoeming gekies vir die Ibbv- Internasionale Jeugboek Prys.

Weideman vertel dat hy as 'n jong digter waardevolle leiding van, onder andere, André P Brink en TT Cloete ontvang het. In dieselfde gees, sê 'n nuusverklaring, het hy self 'verskeie begin-digters deur die jare aangemoedig, en waar nodig, streng aangespreek oor hul digpogings'. Tog sê Weideman: 'n Mens moet versigtig loop as jy oor skryfwerk praat, want jy trap op mense se drome.'

*Die Burger*

## MISCELLANY

### Astronaut's R12m surprise

Local billionaire Mark Shuttleworth stunned the Durbanville community by his recent donation of R12 million for the upgrading of two local libraries. Shuttleworth's mom, Ronelle Shuttleworth, made the announcement during Durbanville's 200th anniversary in August.

Mayor Helen Zille said the City of Cape Town welcomed the donation because it came at a time when most City libraries were struggling to survive.

*Argus*

### Nuwe reeks mediapryse

Die beheerraad van die Andrew Murray Prys-fonds het verlede week aangekondig dat 'n nuwe reeks Afrikaanse mediapryse - bekend as die Andrew Murray-Desmond Tutu Pryse - voortaan toegeken gaan word. Dié pryse - vir teologiese boeke, Christelike joernalistiek en radio-, klank- en beeldproduksies - sal vir werke in al die amptelike tale van Suid-Afrika toegeken word.

## Social Capital Building Fund buys books

An amount of R203 822 was received from the Social Capital Building Fund of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport for the purchase of books earmarked for libraries in the three Presidential renewal nodes, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Central Karoo (Beaufort West). For this project 47 titles (1014 copies) of school textbooks and reference resources were acquired.

*Nazlie Warner left and Jasmina Harker were part of the team that processed the books for distribution to the earmarked libraries*



Die Andrew Murray Prys vir godsdienstige boeke in Afrikaans is vanjaar gewen deur dr Allan Boesak vir sy boek **Die vlug van Gods verbeelding**.

Andrew Murray en Desmond Tutu - albei skrywers van talle teologiese boeke - is voorbeelde van mense wat die media in hulle tyd op 'n merkwaardige wyse benut het.

*Die Burger*

## City needs R10m for staff

The City of Cape Town needs at least an additional R10 million to augment its library budget in order to address a 40% staff reduction which has occurred in the last five years.

Deputy mayor, Andrew Arnolds, recently accepted a petition from a delegation representing the Friends of the Central Library (Focal) at the Cape Town Civic Centre, Focal, which had secured about 2000 signatures from concerned library users. Concerns raised were reduced operational times because of the 'staffing crisis' at the Central Library in City Hall.

It has emerged that in at least 18 of the hundred libraries operated by the city, only one staff member runs the library and the city needed to employ about 80 professional librarians that will cost R10m to address the staff shortages. The city operates the libraries on behalf of the provincial government.

Arnolds said, 'The city is currently spending R132m on libraries while the province provides R10m on books. The city must provide the funding even though it is not our core business, but we are committed to providing the service to the community. The national government has also promised to provide R200m to all municipalities in the country but what will the city get out of that? We have told the province that we do not have the funds any more because we can not come up with the R10m, so we have told them to come up with the money,' he said.

Marcia Raymond, Focal chairwoman and a former head librarian at the central library, said the professional staff had been cut from 22 in 1988 to 11 at present.

Janice April, a teacher at St Paul's Primary School, said literacy levels at the school had increased from 32% in 2002 to 70% last year 'largely because the children use the (central) library extensively'.

*Cape Argus*

## Online resources for ready access

Library professionals now have an improved source of information on the new 3M Library Systems Web site. Found at [www.3M.com/zallibrary](http://www.3M.com/zallibrary), the site offers quick access to information about library security, productivity and information management solutions that help give libraries more freedom to serve customers.

The new 3M Library Systems Web site features an easy-to-navigate format that includes 3M library solutions, case studies, news and event information. Links to industry-related areas include industry research, library suppliers, consortiums and library organisations.

For more information about the 3M Library Systems solutions, visit <http://www.3M.com/zallibrary> or call 011-806-2000.

## Web site for bibliophiles

An enterprising Oudtshoorn couple have launched aBillionbooks.com - a big momma of a web site which hosts online bookstores from around the world - all on one page.

'Soon there will be a billion books available online worldwide,' predicts husband-and-wife team Norman Eaglestone and Justine Nofal.

aBillionbooks.com operates like a shopping mall of books. 'I think the site is best described as a web site about other book-sites,' says Nofal. They have partnered with the 'greatest online bookstores of the world to bring together in one place the majority of books available online for the convenience of book buyers everywhere'. There are currently about 25 online stores featured on the site.

Amazon.com (established 1995) who started the bookie wave, have an inventory with around 100 million books. Buy.com, which was established two years after Amazon, lists 900 000 books. Closer to home, Kalahari.net clicks in with half a million titles. Jiggerbug.com is a babe with a mere 25 000 titles in their stable.

That brings us to the number of users on the web. 'They are saying that 600 million people use it in the world - daily,' reflects Nofal. 'Seems a lot, but hey, there are six billion people so the growth potential is huge. They say that about 500 000 new users come on board every month. The big growth is in China. Do not think English is a

problem. It is not. English is the language of the Internet.'

*Cape Times*

## Xhosa dictionaries unravel maths puzzle

Learning maths and science in a second or third language has resulted in a large number of black pupils failing or dropping these school subjects, according to researchers at the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa.

The researchers have compiled the first Xhosa dictionaries to focus on chemistry, biology, mathematics and technology terms.

'Mathematics is difficult when you are not learning it in your mother tongue,' said researcher Keith Welman.

With the introduction of the dictionaries as a resource in maths and science classrooms, teachers will now also be able to explain terms in Xhosa.

Compiling the dictionaries took almost three years. The natural science dictionary, which focuses on chemistry, biology and technology, consists of more than 3500 terms. The dictionaries were trilingual, they said, with terms explained in Xhosa, English and Afrikaans.

Wababa said they tested the dictionaries on a group of teachers, who used it as a teaching tool in their lessons, and 'had a good response'.

*Cape Argus*

2006



## *Biography lends to death a new terror*

Oscar Wilde

## *Autobiography is a preemptive strike against biographers*

Barbara Grizzuti Harrison