

# Masiphumelele a peaceful 'spirit'

SUE ALEXANDER

Librarian, Fish Hoek Library

The beautiful new outreach wing of the Masiphumelele Library was officially opened on Tuesday 2 March 2010 by an enthusiastic group of sponsors, users, volunteers, staff and interested parties.

Festivities commenced with singing the national anthem and a prayer by Rotarian and retired minister Trevor Tyres. Sue Alexander welcomed all and introduced Kululwa Nkatshu who performed her poem *The unidentical policeman*.

John Winship, Colleen Whitfield and Stuart McLeod, respectively of Rotary, Exclusive Books and PenBev, each reflected on their roles in realising the project.

Performance poet Kgotso Diniso presented his poem *In the ghetto*.

Jane Philippi (MasiCorp) and Michael Tyhali (Ukhanyo Primary) added comments from their special perspectives before Alderman Felicity Purchase on behalf of the City of Cape Town thanked the sponsors and everyone involved in the project for building the centre. Public and private partnerships are vital in enhancing services in developing communities.

The poem *Freedom* was presented by Sikelelwa Mashiyi.

Lulama Langeni, public relations officer for the LIASA Western Cape branch and senior librarian of Weltevreden Library, spoke on behalf of the library profession, focussing on the role of libraries in developing communities and supporting educational and cultural initiatives. Her message was powerful and well received. We will all remember 'Umntu ngumntu ngabantu' - a person is a person by another person.

The morning's celebrations were rounded off by a group of learners reciting Sandile Dikeni's *Love Poem for my Country* and the

unveiling of the plaque.

Refreshments were provided by PenBev.

The peaceful welcoming ambiance of the new centre cast a spell over the event, with everyone enjoying the relaxed congenial atmosphere. Activities flowed seamlessly and almost spontaneously. There was plenty of time to view and admire the various rooms, appropriately decorated and presented to illustrate their future functions. The excited staff eagerly guided visitors through every inch of their new domain. Everyone lingered, absorbing the spirit of the space, reluctant to leave, reluctant to end the experience.



▲ It was broad smiles all around during the official opening of the new wing



◀ Sikelelwa Mashiyi exploring new stock

▶ John Winship, Colleen Whitfield and Stuart McLeod representing Rotary with Librarian Sue Alexander (2nd from the right)



◀ Sue Alexander and Lulama Langeni, public relations officer for LIASA, Western Cape

▶ Lulu Ngumbela, Bulelani Mlandy, David Lewis and Phillip Ndaliso



◀ Sue Alexander and Peter Clarke

▶ Mary Nodar, Sue Alexander and Richard Nodar



◀ Graham Finlayson, Mfundo Galada and Stuart McLeod

▶ Shelley O'Carroll and Siphokazi Katamzi



◀ Stuart McLeod, Anthea and Ron Forbes

▶ The Southern Projects builders team

