



LIASA FREE STATE NEWSLETTER

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LIASA is a professional non-profit organisation, uniting and representing all institutions and people working in libraries and information services in South Africa. It strives to unite, develop and empower all people in the library and information field into an organisation that provides dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustain library and information services for all people in South Africa.

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START-UP LIBRARIES AND MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES OF THE FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Submitted by:

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On Thursday 22 September 2016 during a function at the President Hotel Bloemfontein the Free State Department of Education (FSDoE) celebrated the official handover of 15 Start-up Libraries to 15 rural schools – 10 of the schools are in the Motheo District and 5 in the Lejweleputswa District, sponsored by *South African Primary Education Support Initiative* (SAPESI), *Biblionef*, *SA Taxi Foundation*, *Sony Corp* and *Sumitomo Corp Africa*.

Start-Up Libraries are corner libraries comprising of shelves and books and receive a collection of approximately 500 books each.

The schools had been part of the Mobile Library Service for 3 years, but due to the number of rural schools in the province, the Mobile library Service has to be extended to other rural schools. However to sustain the reading culture created, the 'outgoing' schools are provided with the Start-Up Libraries.

The Mobile Library Service is jointly operated since 2007 by SAPESI and the FSDoE, as part of its literacy programme. SAPESI imported the buses from Japan and the FSDoE provides drivers and library assistants who assist teachers and learners in making full use of library resources. So far, SAPESI has provided the FSDoE with 10 mobile libraries, servicing 337 of the 1087 schools without libraries, the majority of which are in remote, rural areas.

At the same function the research results of the Mobile Library's impact on under-serviced rural schools were also presented. The participatory action research project was done in the 5 districts of the province by the Resource Coordinators and Media Subject Advisors through the University of the Free State. The non-profit company, *Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance* (VVOB), sponsored the research.

As token of acknowledgement for their parts in the research project, the researchers from the FSDoE received certificates from the leader of the research project, Dr L. Jacobs (UFS).

From the research results it is clear that the English reading and speaking capabilities of the primary school children improved since their schools had been visited by mobile libraries.

At the ceremony learners from *Stilte Farm School*, one of the rural schools in Virginia (Lejweleputswa District) read from a story book to illustrate this impact.

†Otto Liebenberg (1950 – 2016)

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On 24 September 2016 Otto Liebenberg passed away after a short illness. He had oesophageal carcinoma.

As a man with a passion for the Afrikaans culture, particularly the Afrikaans literature, it is indeed appropriate that he passed away on Heritage Day.

Although Otto was a culture man he was at first intending to follow a career as a scientist after school. However, fate directed him to a short career as a teacher, followed by a long career of dedication to Naln and Afrikaans literature for almost 40 years. In 1976 he started as a professional human scientist at Naln. In 1987 he succeeded Prof. P.J. Nienaber as Naln's curator. Otto served in this position until his retirement on 31 August 2015.

Although Otto was retired he still returned to his office with a jacket and a tie – just as he did for almost 40 years before. When his youngest daughter told him that he did not have a job anymore, Otto said immediately he *has* a job, he is just not being paid for it anymore.

His cluttered and chaotic office was well-known. Only Otto knew where he put everything. One day someone put a photocopy on his door of a picture of Albert Einstein, sitting behind his own cluttered desk, quoting: "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?"

We will always remember him, always.

May his soul rest in peace.

Amanda Groenewald



LIASA PRESIDENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2016

During the 17th Annual LIASA Conference from 10-14 October 2016 in Durban, the LIASA President, Segametsi Molawa announced the LIASA Free State Branch as the winner of the Presidents Award for best branch 2016.

The trophy was received by Me Erna Mostert during the conference and the Chairperson, Me Elmari Kruger thanked the 2016 BEC for all the hard work during the last BEC meeting of 2016.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017



- **16 February:** World Read Aloud Day
- **18-26 March:** South African Library Week
- **23 April:** World Book Day
- **10 July:** SA Librarian's Day
- **19-25 August:** IFLA (Wroclaw, Poland)
- **8 September:** International Literacy Day
- **2-6 October:** LIASA Conference
- **23 October:** International School Library Day
- **23-28 October:** Open Access Week

YEAR END FUNCTION 2016



The Year was ended of at the Fichardtpark Branch Library with a lunch.

