



Gauteng North Branch

Newsletter

Issue 1 (2015)

From the Chair

Dear Gauteng North Members

Welcome to this first issue of the *Gauteng North Branch newsletter* for 2015.

The purpose of the newsletter is to report on activities within the Branch and to keep members informed on issues related to LIASA and the Library and Information Services (LIS) sector in general. Individuals and member institutions are encouraged to forward short news items to the Branch PRO, for inclusion in our next issue, to be published in July 2015.

LIASA members were shocked and disheartened by the burning of the Mohlakeng library in Gauteng South earlier in the year. We should continue to engage with our communities on the importance of libraries as the core to learning and social development and the provision of access to information.

The Branch Executive would again like to invite members to participate in upcoming branch events. A **Branch Seminar** will be hosted in June, where members will have the opportunity to engage with knowledgeable speakers on the following topics:

- How do we integrate libraries into the society for national development?
- Who can we partner & collaborate with towards achieving our goal?

The goal: actionable innovative projects to advance reading and information literacy.

Please diarise the dates and events as set out on the last page of the newsletter.

Enjoy the read!

Martha de Waal (Branch Chair)

In this issue of the Newsletter:

Meet the Branch Executive Committee -- Professional Status of LIASA -- Gauteng North Strategic planning session -- LIASA Leadership Weekend -- Valentine's tea -- SALW 2015 in Gauteng North -- SALW at the SA Weather Services -- Partnership with Exclusive Books -- IFLA 2015 -- Benefits of LIASA membership

LIASA Gauteng North Branch Executive Committee 2014-2016

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Breaking news ...

Recognition of LIASA as a Registered Professional Body

The announcement of the Recognition of LIASA as a Registered Professional Body was received with excitement and a sense of pride. It recognised the hard work by a dedicated group of library leaders who have the Association, its members and the profession at heart.

All those who have worked on this endeavour over many years are acknowledged for their roles in registering the designation 'professional librarian' and the subsequent application for a second designation applicable to support staff members who work in the Library and Information Services sector.

Integral to the professional body status are:

- A professional qualification (for entry into the profession) and
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD), to ensure relevant and appropriate skills and competencies in the LIS work place.

LIASA will be working closely with employer institutions, library schools, independent LIS providers and librarians to successfully implement this during the next two years. Librarians will be expected to comply with these requirements to maintain their designation as professional librarians.

The Gauteng North Branch was fortunate to be the first Branch to be informed on future implementation guidelines, as presented by Ms Annamarie Goosen, the LIASA Manager, during the Gauteng North South African Library Week event. The negotiations with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) to approve the Library and Information Association of South Africa as professional Body, was indeed a journey of great success.

**'Libraries for development:
Action, integration and collaboration'**

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

**‘A man who does not plan long ahead will find trouble at his door’ --
Confucius**

The Gauteng North Branch Executive Committee held their Strategic planning session on 29 January 2015 at the University of Pretoria Groenkloof Campus. The purpose was to provide a common sense of purpose and identity; to provide long-term direction and to ensure that we know and communicate what our branch is about.

We were very privileged to have Mr Danie Malan, the LIASA National Treasurer, to facilitate the session. The fact that he serves at the national level and has insight on the broader strategic direction of the Association made it even easier for him to facilitate our session and provide valuable direction to the discussions. Mr Malan challenged the Committee members to think out of the box and to align the Branch vision and mission to the national strategies. After deliberations and brainstorming the Committee managed to come up with the following inspiring vision and mission:

Vision: Dynamic visible branch of excellence serving the Gauteng North Library and Information Services sector

Mission: The Branch that connects the Library and Information Services sector and promotes the development of Gauteng North through access to information

The Committee also deliberated on the values at national level so as to have a common understanding as a Committee because these are the same values which govern the Branch.

The Committee also had an opportunity to do a SWOT analysis which proved to be valuable. It helped to get a better understanding of the status of the Branch; take advantage of strengths, address weaknesses, deter threats and capitalise on opportunities. This will eventually assist in the development of branch goals, strategies and action plans, because as Peter Drucker pointed out: ‘plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work.’

It was indeed an insightful day and it afforded the Committee an opportunity to engage and come up with a strategic direction which will guide the Committee throughout their term of office and also provide guidance to the Gauteng North Branch.

--Submitted by Eunice Lesejane

Feedback: LIASA Leadership Weekend 2015

The LIASA Leadership weekend (LLW) is a programme that LIASA started in 2013, involving all the portfolio holders at National and Branch levels to ensure that the leadership gets an opportunity to understand the portfolios they have been elected into.

The 2015 LLW was held on 20-22 February at The Villas Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria. A total of 31 members (LIASA National EXCO, Branch Chairs, Chairs-elect and Interest Group Chairs) participated in the programme.

The programme included the following presentations:

- The State of School Libraries in South Africa (Ms Mona Niemand – Senior Education Specialist)
- The State of Public Libraries in South Africa (Mr Puleng Kekana – Director: Library Policy and Coordination, Department of Arts and Culture)
- Introduction and implementation to the Transformation Charter (Ms Segametsi Molawa – LIASA President), and:
- Reading? Let's just do it! (Mr Tshepo Sefothelo (NGO-ReaderLympics)

Round table discussions focused on the following:

- The role of libraries and information services in the development agenda
- Leading with integrity: effective leadership
- Library services in the digital age: the South African perspective



EXCO and Representative Council members, following a weekend of hard work

One of the highlights of the weekend was a presentation by Ms Annamarie Goosen (LIASA Manager) on 'LIASA as a registered professional body' and the registration of the designation of 'professional librarian.'

The LIASA President expressed her gratitude towards LIASA EXCO and the Representative Council for their commitment and leadership on National as well as Branch level to serve the Association, its members and the profession and for making the 2015 LIASA Leadership Weekend such a huge success.



The month of February: Gauteng North Valentine's event – 12 February 2015

Why I love books, authors and libraries ... a heart-warming presentation by Mr Sam Cooper from Tshwane Community Library Services, to celebrate the many aspects of love that live within the hearts of true library professionals.

The event was held at The Villas Hotel and Conference Centre, Arcadia, Pretoria and was sponsored by Exclusive Books Kolonnade. As February was a very busy month for many libraries and institutions, only a small group of library professionals were able to attend. But it was heart-warming to notice the happiness and loving care amongst the Gauteng North members.

Sam's wise words were a reminder to stay passionate about our careers and profession and the communities and clients that we serve.

Ms Elisca Coetsee from the Ampath Library had the following to say:

"The Valentines' tea was wonderful; you could feel the love through the beautiful decor assembled with care by the Branch Executive Committee, who went over and above to make us all welcome and comfortable. Sam's speech was very insightful; he definitely gave me something to think about afterwards. The Gauteng North Branch feels like a library 'family' - I am proud to be a part of it!"



Branch EXCO members with Sam Cooper

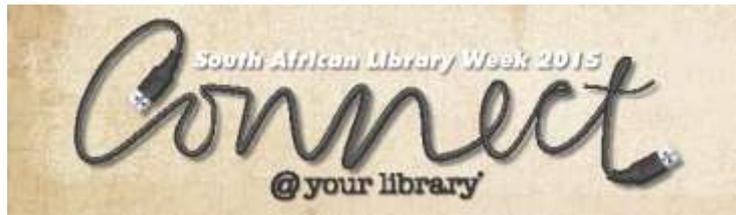


The winners of a heart-shaped tin of chocolates: Danie Malan (UPLS), Lindi Wiltz (Sabinet) and Harry Nkadameng (NLSA)



New member and first time attendee, Bontle Lencwe from the African Bank, with Therese Els (Glenstantia Community Library)

South African Library Week 2015 @ LIASA Gauteng North Branch



The Gauteng North branch celebrated South African Library Week with an event hosted on 24 March in the Auditorium of the Research Commons at the Education Library (Groenkloof) of the University of Pretoria.

In line with the SALW theme, each member of the Branch Executive Committee had the opportunity to **connect with Branch members** by introducing themselves by means of a short presentation. The presentations included interesting personal detail, highlights of their professional careers and the sharing of their **connection** with LIASA as their Association of choice.

The theme of SALW, **Connect @ your Library**, also highlights the importance of library practitioners connecting with each other, across all sectors, for the sharing of skills, best practices, global trends and national priorities, and with a common understanding and vision for the development of an informed nation. During the Branch event, members had the opportunity to **connect** with each other by finding another member with a matching puzzle piece from the SALW poster. Finding a partner with a matching puzzle piece created a lot of laughter and confusion, but with the ultimate intention to keep the newly formed connection alive, to learn from one another and to share expertise and best practices.

The Branch was privileged to have the LIASA Manager, Ms Annemarie Goosen as guest speaker, with her presentation on *The Recognition of LIASA as a Registered Professional Body*. Many questions were asked and there was a general sense of excitement about this new development within LIASA and the profession.

The Branch Executive Committee would like to thank all members who took the time from their busy schedules to attend the event. Following the excitement of the morning, members were sent off to their respective places of work with a lovely take away lunch bag.

--Submitted by Martha de Waal & Cora Bezuidenhout





The Branch Executive Committee received the following comments from **Ms Elsabe Olivier** (University of Pretoria Merensky Library):

“Congratulations on an interesting event at one of UP’s lovely venues! Annamarie Goosen’s presentation gave us food for thought; we loved the puzzle game and meeting the Branch Executive Committee personally and professionally. Thank you for the tasty food hampers - what a nice idea!”

SALW at the South African Weather Service Library

In support of the Library week 2015 theme, *Connect @ your Library*, the staff of the South African Weather Service (SAWS) Library reached out to other Library and Information practitioners in order to encourage and foster connections to better serve our respective user communities. Held on the 26th of March 2015, the outreach coincided with the annual World Meteorological Day “week” with the theme, *Climate Knowledge for Climate Action*. Through the information session the intended audience learnt how the SAWS data, information and publication resources, as well

as the Regional Meteorological Training Centre and library serve to promote *Climate knowledge for Climate Action*.

There were representatives from Government departments (Environmental Affairs; Energy), public entities (SANBI; ARC, Soil, Climate and Water) as well as the parastatal CSIR.

The programme included *Welcome & Introductions* by Dr Winifred Jordaan (Head: Regional Training Centre), followed by various presentations:

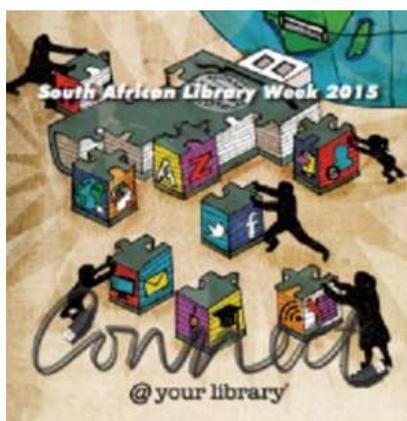
- World Meteorological Day: exploring the theme - Hannelee Doubell (Manager: External Communications)
- Climate information and Climate publications - Elsa de Jager (Unit Manager: Climate Information)
- Recognised World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Regional Training Centre - Dr Winifred Jordaan (Head: RTC), and:
- South African Weather Service Library - Karin Oxley (Principal Librarian).



Much interest was shown by the audience in the presentation of lightning statistics and the importance of not only conveying early warnings to rural communities, but also in educating the public especially through radio talks in understanding those warnings.

With the information session concluded through a vote of thanks & lucky draw by Anastasia Demertzis (Senior Library Assistant), all adjourned to the Library where further networking was done over light refreshments.

--Submitted by Karin Oxley





Announcement – Announcement – Announcement

10 % discount to LIASA members

The Gauteng North Branch Executive Committee is proud to announce a partnership agreement with **Exclusive Books Kolonnade**.

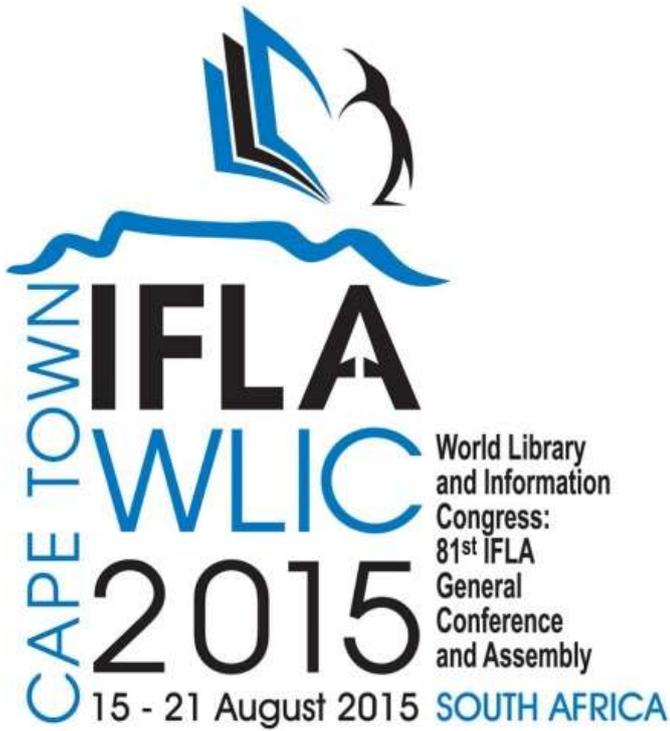
According to the agreement Gauteng North Branch members would now be entitled to a **10% discount on book purchases** on presentation of their 2015 membership card. The store is situated in the Kolonnade Shopping Centre, in Montana, Pretoria. (Tel: 012 548-6590).

The store manager, Ms Tertia Koegelenberg is a passionate advocate for libraries and books and reading and is treating the store's involvement with LIASA Gauteng North as a community project, with the possibility of ongoing collaborative projects.

Creating in-store awareness for South African Library Week 2015



"Freeze mob" reading to create awareness for reading during South African Library Week



IFLA 2015

IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2015 will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15-21 August.

The theme is:

'Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation'

As a result of the IFLA Conference being hosted by South Africa, no annual LIASA Conference will be held in 2015, but the LIASA AGM will be held during the IFLA Conference.

<http://www.liasa.org.za/node/1195>

<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81>

<https://www.facebook.com/WLIC2015>

<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23wlic2015>



IFLA President, Ms Sinikka Sipila and LIASA President, Ms Segametsi Molawa

LIASA Membership Benefits

Connect	Belong to a community of like-minded professionals & receive communication via the LIASAOnline listserv & SMS service
For free	Receive four issues of the LIASA-in-Touch, the information-filled magazine for the LIS professional
Ching-ching	Discounted rates for meetings, workshops, seminars & the annual conference, plus discounted rates for training sessions, courses & workshops
Value yourself	Eligibility for the various prestigious LIASA awards
Train your brain	Eligibility for grants, scholarships or other financial support opportunities
Associate	Eligibility to attend the IFLA Conference on the IFLA membership rate
Serve	Eligibility to serve on national, branch, interest group & other LIASA structures
Interest	Membership to two Interest Groups of your choice & access to their activities
Additional benefit: Buy your favourite new titles from Exclusive Books Kolonnade & receive a 10% discount on presentation of your 2015 LIASA membership card.	
Acknowledgement: Belong to a Professional body	

Join LIASA now: <http://www.liasa.org.za/join>

--Submitted by Viveka Pillai

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Branch Seminar	25 June
Librarian's day	10 July
Branch AGM	17 July

Please forward news items for the July issue of the Newsletter to reach the
GN PRO, Ms Gerda Ehlers, by Friday 13 July