

## PEOPLE

## The new...

Over the last year the Book Selection Section has seen quite a number of changes in personnel, so I would like to bring you all up to speed with who's who at the moment.

A very belated welcome to Zweloxolile 'Kelvin' Saula, Pansy Stevens and Vanessa Solomons. They are our three new library assistants, who have been with us since the beginning of 2007 and are already part and parcel of our team. I hope you guys will have a long and happy stay with us.



Zweloxolile 'Kelvin' Saula

Colleen Williams, our chief library assistant, joined us in June 2007 from the Boland Control Area. Colleen brought with her all those excellent Excel skills that she used in the regions and together with Book Selector, Johanna de Beer, revolutionised our book selection meetings. We are now so high tech in our meetings it is just unbelievable.



Pansy Stevens

Colleen, I bow to your superior Excel(lent) knowledge. We are never going to let you go off to another section, I promise you!



Vanessa Solomons

Stanley Jonck came to us in September 2007 via the George and Worcester regions. We were extremely lucky to get someone as hardworking and diligent as Stanley. To his credit he

slotted right in with us and I must thank all the book selectors who assisted with his training as well as the other staff members who made him feel welcome.

*Tessa Caroline,  
Assistant Director:  
Book Selection*

◁ Stanley Jonck



## A sad farewell...

Sadly during the year we also had to say farewell to Book Selector Margaret Iskandar who retired at the end of August 2007. We asked, pleaded and begged but after 29 years Margaret had had enough and was ready to go.

Over the years, Margaret worked in different sections in the Library Service, but it was in Book Selection that she made her mark and excelled. She was our expert on crafts, computer science, historical fiction, crime, large print books and light romances. Margaret was always a big help during our Friday morning pre-selection meetings:

she always knew just which book to give to which selector when it came to the allocation of our weekly consignment of appros. She exhibited great sensitivity and insight when allocating diet, sex, gay or pregnancy books, et cetera. Margaret, 'noudat ek die boeke uitdeel, moet hulle maar net vat wat hulle kry!'

We all miss you at the book selection meetings, but we hope that you will have a long and happy retirement.



*Tessa Caroline, Assistant Director: Book Selection*

*The editorial team will miss your wonderful and interesting annual genre contributions greatly! ED*

## BIBLIOTEKE

## Nuwe satellietbiblioteek in Paarl

Ronwe Satellietbiblioteek en Bronnesentrum wat op 31 Augustus 2007 in die Paarl oopgemaak het, voorsien in 'n groot behoefte, nie net vir kindergebruikers nie maar vir die hele gemeenskap in die omgewing. Mev Ina Nel van die Drakenstein Biblio-teekdiens is aan die stuur van sake by die biblioteek, wat 'n gesamentlike projek van die Drakensteinse Biblio-teekdiens en die Weskus Wynland OBDS-kantoor is.



*Una Engelbrecht, Bibliotekaris,  
Paarl Biblioteek*

*'n Musiekaanbieding tydens die opening deur jong leerders*

## A garden party for Friends

The Friends of the **Somerset West** and **Helderzicht Libraries** celebrated their 19th year of existence in November 2007, and as is the tradition, the library staff hosted a lovely tea party as a show of appreciation for all their hard work. This year the function took the form of a garden party, with everybody wearing their favourite hat! We all know that without the positive support of our Friends, libraries would not be able to function properly.

*Talita de Klerk, Principal Librarian,  
Somerset West Library*

## Story reading workshop

A workshop for moms and their tots was held at **Greyton Library** to emphasise the importance of reading to one's children. There were some very young participants - one mother had been reading to her 6-month-old baby for several weeks already! After a short talk and video show, a 'demonstration' story was read and then the mothers chose books from library stock to read to their children.



Biblienef provided books as gifts to each child present and some of the little ones could not wait to get started.

*Judy Terry, Librarian, Greyton Library*

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### William Styron

William Styron, 81, writer of morally provocative epics - including **Lie down in darkness** and **The confessions of Nat Turner** - that explore, in agonising detail, the human capacity for evil, has passed away. A descendant of slave owners, as a boy Styron



### Mbekweni Library

A youth day exhibition held at **Mbekweni Library** lasted for a month. Here is Tsidi Mokhele who was responsible for the exhibition.

became obsessed with the 1831 slave revolt led by Nat Turner, which began not far from his childhood home in Newport News, Va.

**Confessions**, written in the first person, drew bitter criticism from black leaders, who called it

presumptuous, but won Styron a Pulitzer Prize. Along with **Sophie's choice**,



the harrowing tale of an Auschwitz survivor; that became an Oscar-winning 1982 movie starring Meryl Streep, it cemented his reputation as a literary giant. But his success did not come easily. In 1990 he chronicled his struggle with depression in the memoir **Darkness visible**. And in reference to his work, which he produced on a legal pad at the painstaking pace of no more than a page and a half per day, he said, 'A great book should leave you with many experiences - and slightly exhausted.'

*Time*

## Boekverkoper maak keur bekend

Net vyf Afrikaanse titels is op Exclusive Books se 2007 The List - voorheen bekend as Publishers' Choice, wat altesame 51 titels bevat. **Nuwe geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika** deur Hermann Giliomee en Bernard Mbenga is ook onder die Engelse titel, **New history of South Africa**, op die lys.

Die ander Afrikaanse boeke is **Alles goed en wel: lagstories na willekeur** saamgestel deur

Abraham de Vries, **Asbesmiddag** (Etienne van Heerden), **Die val van die dice** (Pat Stamatélos) en **Onsigbaar** (Deon Meyer).

Die lys word jaarliks sowat twee maande voor Kersfees bekend gemaak en die boeke daarop word prominent in takke landwyd uitgestal.

Ander boeke deur bekendes in Suid-Afrika is die biografieë **Thabo Mbeki: the dream deferred** (Mark Gevisser) en **In black and white: The Jake White story** (Jake White en Craig Ray), die roman **Seven steps to heaven** (Fred Khumalo), die kookboek **Zhoosh!** (Jeremy en Jacqui Mansfield), die humorboek **Take two veg and call me in the morning** (Zapiro), die aktualiteitsboek **Screw it, let's do lunch** (David Bullard), die reisboek **Dark continent my black arse** (Shile Khumalo), die geskiedenisboek **Diamonds, gold and war** deur Martin Meredith, en die digbundel **Black butterflies** (Ingrid Jonker - deur André P Brink en Antjie Krog vertaal).

Onder die bekende internasionale skrywers is Naomi Klein (**The shock doctrine**), Alan Greenspan (**The age of turbulence**), Minette Walters (**The chameleon's shadow**), en Jefferey Deaver (**The sleeping doll**). Daar is ook die outobiografie deur Eric Clapton, **The autobiography**.

*Die Burger*

## Eerste boek sonder Potter

JK Rowling, die skrywer van die **Harry Potter**-reeks, het haar eerste boek voltooi waarin die towenaar seun nie verskyn nie - 'n versameling geïllustreerde feeëverhale, **The tales of Beedle the Bard**.

Slegs sewe eksemplare van die boek sal gedruk word.

## OPLEIDING

## Pret by George en Mosselbaai



Biblioteekpersoneel van George- en Mosselbaaistreke het vroeër vanjaar met groot entoesiasme aan die werksinkels om praktiese uitstallings te skep, deelgeneem. 'n Heerlike atmosfeer het geheers onder die afgevaardigdes tydens die George-streek se werksinkel. Die redakteur, Grizéll Azar-Luxton het die gehoor 'n kykie agter die skerms gegee oor die produksieproses van die Kaapse Bibliotekaris en het talle beloftes vir bydraes van personeel ontvang. (Sy sien met afwagting uit daarna...)

*Links en links onder: Op die foto links verduidelik Monica Wagner hoe om 'n treffende plakkaat te maak sonder dat 'n mens uitermatig kunstig hoef te wees. George streekpersoneel luister aandagtig na haar*



*Regs: Ook in Riversdale Biblioteek is hoofkantoorpersoneel gulhartig ontvang deur personeel van die Mosselbaaistreke. Die redaksiespan is ook daar weg met groot beloftes vir bydraes...*



Rowling het self die illustrasies gedoen en haar handskrif is gebruik om die vyf verhale te vertel wat die versameling beslaan.

Daar word in **Harry Potter and the deathly hallows** verwys na **The tales of Beedle the Bard**.

*Die Burger*

## Norman Mailer oorlede

Die Amerikaanse skrywer Norman Mailer is in November op die ouderdom van 84 oorlede. Met sy dood was hy besig om die vervolg op sy roman, **The castle in the forest**, wat in 2007 verskyn het, te skryf.

Hy het in 1948 die letterkundewêreld aangegryp met **The naked and the dead**, wat as sy outobiografiese roman oor die Tweede Wêreldoorlog (waarin hy geveg het), bestempel is. Dié boek sou sy naam vestig. Meer as 30 boeke het uit sy pen verskyn, waaronder romans, biografieë en nie-fiksie. Mailer is twee keer bekroon met die Pulitzer Prys, vir **The armies of the night** (1968) en **The executioner's song** (1979).

Mailer is op 31 Januarie 1923 in New Jersey gebore. Sy rekenmeesterpa, Isaac Barnett, was 'n emigrant van Suid-Afrika en sy ma was Fanny Schneider. Op 18 het hy sy eerste verhaal gepubliseer terwyl

hy aan Harvard Universiteit sy graad in lugvaartkunde voltooi het. Kort ná sy universiteitsopleiding het hy in die Tweede Wêreldoorlog in die Filippyne gaan veg.

Hy was een van die stigters van die New Yorkse koerant, *The Village Voice*. Hy het ook as rolprentmaker gewerk en het die verwerking van sy roman, **Tough guys don't dance**, self geregisseer.

Hy was ses keer getroud en het agt kinders.

*Die Burger*

## MISCELLANY

## Librarians have the power

During the 2007 Cape Town International Book Fair a number of seminars and workshops were held. I took time out to attend a most fascinating (and free) workshop on *Information for change: Generating, publishing and applying knowledge for development* organised by, among others, the HSRC, Oxfam and the Canadian International Development Research Centre and sponsored by various book agencies. Denis Beckett, a Johannesburg journalist and writer, was the skilful moderator.

*Taking action with information* was the underlying theme of the keynote address of Shehnilla Mohamed, the South African Programme Director for Oxfam Great Britain. She defined information broadly as facts and findings ranging from numbers to stories gathered from many sources and including experience, observation, interviews and research. The information once gathered is analysed as to the problem and decisions are taken as to action. Shehnilla emphasised that advocacy for change is dependent upon having the correct information, which is then appropriately disseminated to those who have the power to influence policy making and thus effect change.

The second speaker, Ineke Buskens of GRACE (Gender Research in Africa on ICTs for Empowerment), concentrated on the generation of knowledge through research. She focussed on participatory research approaches and knowledge construction, raising a number of ethical questions. Her insightful statements and provocative questions would each suffice for a doctoral thesis but briefly summarised among them were:

- ❖ information is increasing but there is no time to process it
- ❖ all research has an agenda

⇒

## Kaapse Bibliotekaris

### 40 jaar gelede...

Stefan Wehmeyer Assistentdirekteur: Steundienste



- ★ Pieter Fourie, artistieke bestuurder van KRUIK se Afrikaanse Toneel, oor beroeps-toneelkunstenaars: 'Vandag is die toneelkunstenaar nie meer die vreemde wese met lang hare en twyfelagtige karakter nie. Hy het 'n permanente verblyfplek, haarkapper, huisdokter, vriendekring en selfs 'n klein tuintjie in sy agterplaas of blomplante in sy woonstel.'
- ★ J van Anrooy sê die volgende oor kitsch: 'Skilderye gemaak van posseëls, tafeltjies gemaak van takbokhorings, sigaretkassies gemaak van kosbare boekbande, 'n siertafel gemaak van 'n olifantpoot, 'n elektriese haard versier met nagemakte houtstamme en met kunsmatige vlamme en vuur asook kopermuurborde met die voorstelling van 'n beroemde skildery daarop uitgehamer.' (40 jaar later is van dié seker versamelstukke!)
- ★ Mrs B Jordaan (from Montagu) wrote an article about the versatility of country librarians. Tongue-in-cheek she wrote: 'Indeed one may almost say that a lonely middle-aged, well-read widow makes a ten times better country librarian than a young lass proficient in Anglo-Saxon and Library Science. Not only is such a woman a benefit to the community, but she solves the problems of her loneliness as well'. 'The people who think that a librarian only stamps books should think again. But then, of course, that is all some librarians do.'
- ★ Editor of the **CL**, Erica van Rensburg, about her two-year stint at the magazine: 'And then, article hunting - where else would I have learnt to smile and smile, for as every Machiavellian editor knows, the author victim, once ensnared, must be held by charm continually - or at least till he has served his purpose. For any female of average curiosity this job offers fertile hunting grounds. I was in my element, in a busy whirl of exciting prospects, seeking items to satisfy the journal readers...'
- ★ In die Sestigs was die voormalige Kaapstadstreek ook verantwoordelik vir die bevoorradings van die Suid Afrikaanse Vloot se skepe. In Oktober 1967 vertrek die tenkskip Tafelberg met 250 boeke in sy depot op pad na Argentinië. (Ek wonder wat was die matrose se flouste verskonings vir boeke wat weggeraak het? Hoeveel boeke het oorboord geval in die koue Suid-Atlantiese Oseaan?)
- ★ South Africa in the grip of apartheid. A report from the East London region details developments at separate depots for coloured communities. But nothing whatsoever about facilities for the Xhosa-speaking population who were by far in the majority.

- ❖ who decides on what research needs to be done?
- ❖ methodologies need to be transparent
- ❖ the integrity of the researcher is vital
- ❖ what happens if the researcher does not provide the client with the required answers? (From the floor: 'he/she is out of business!')

Doing research means being human - a journey into the unknown and reflections on that journey; balancing between self and critical awareness.

Brian Warafarowa of New Africa Books, in addressing how publishing shapes and disseminates information, highlighted the problems in Africa and also offered alternative solutions. On reflection most of his solutions depended on discussion, negotiation, co-operation, co-production, working together and developing a new approach to sharing information. African publishers have a horde of common issues - information needs to be distributed throughout Africa but not necessarily through conventional channels.

In the session on the role of libraries in supporting change the Malawian national librarian Gray Nyali described the work of the National Library of Malawi which is responsible for all the library services in Malawi - the national library and its functions; public libraries and school libraries. A formidable responsibility.

The workshop closed with Lumba Sianga from Women for Change, an NGO in Lusaka, Zambia, describing how they used the knowledge gathered from the women they work with, not only to empower the women but also in women's issues advocacy. I understand from an informant that a similar group operates in Kenya.

There were a number of librarians among the NGO managers, resource centre organisers, academics, representatives from research organisations, advocacy groups and community development organisations from all over Africa. I wonder if they were as blown away as I was by the quality of the speakers and the questions that they raised.

I was struck again and again by the powerful role that librarians can play throughout the process of generating, disseminating and applying knowledge. Librarians with access to different sources of information can also add value by processing this information specifically for different users, and disseminating it through the various channels at their disposal. And crucially, librarians can help advocacy for change by providing the vital information - facts, figures, case studies, research reports and documentation that can be used in convincing policy makers of the justness of the cause. As the keynote speaker emphasised: 'Those who have the information have the power.'

*Rheina Epstein, Correspondent*

## Oranges and peaches

'n Seuntjie het na die biblioteek gekom om sy boeke te hernu. Hy vra toe of ons nie sy 'Jekyll en Heidi' boek sal hernu nie. Ek vertel dit vir 'n lid wat hier kuier uit Ierland wat toe die volgende vertel: 'n Vrou het na die biblioteek gegaan en vir die boek 'Oranges and peaches' gevra. Haar dogter het glo vir haar gesê dit is baie interessant. Hulle het al wat 'n katalogus is deurgesoeek maar kon niks vind nie. Op die ou einde kom dit toe uit dat die titel van die boek wat sy soek **Origins of species** is.

*Wilna Hooneberg,  
Bibliotekaris, Kleinmond Biblioteek*





**Worcester Biblioteek** is omtrent aan die woel - dit is duidelik dat personeel van hierdie biblioteek hulself uitleef in die maak van uitstallings. Links is 'n uitstalling gehou oor die Verre Ooste; links bo hulle Moo...-uitstalling; regs bo 'n uitstalling om 'scrapbooking' en decoupage te bevorder; en regs 'n Wêreldbeker-uitstalling. Lede by hierdie biblioteek kan hulself werklik gelukkig ag om sulke entoesiastiese personeel te hê om hulle voorraad bekend te stel



### GEORGE EN MOSSELBAAI STAL UIT



Links: Nadat personeel met groot aandag na Monica Wagner se praatjie oor die maak van plakkate geluister het, het die George werkswinkelgroep groot pret gehad tydens die skep van hul eie plakkate

Onder: Hier pronk die verskillende groepe van die George-streek met hulle handewerk



Bo: Een van die oogmerke van die werksinkels gehou in die twee streke verlede jaar was om personeel te motiveer en te help om plakkate en uitstallings aan te bied. In Riversdale Biblioteek aangekom is die redaksionele span met hierdie pragtige uitstalling begroet - 'n mens het amper oorbodig gevoel...

## NATIONAL DAYS 2008 NASIONALE DAE

Compiled by Szerena Knapp

*Note: Although this issue will appear too late for readers to advertise related events in January, we publish the complete list of national days as we have it for the sake of correctness. International or national days for the rest of 2008 will be published in the January/February 2008 issue of the CL.*

*Every effort has been made to ensure that the correct information is published. Should there be any discrepancies please contact the compiler on (021) 483-2483.*

### JANUARY

#### SunSmart Awareness Month

Date: **1-31 January 2008**  
 Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa  
 Contact person: Alice Victor  
 Tel: (021) 689-5347  
 Fax: (021) 685-1937  
 E-mail: <projectswp@cansa.org.za>  
 Web site: [cansa.org.za](http://cansa.org.za) / [cansa.co.za](http://cansa.co.za)

#### World Braille Day

Date: **4 January 2008**  
 Presenter: SA National Council for the Blind  
 Tel: (012) 346-1171  
 Fax: (012) 346-4699  
 E-mail: <marlene@sanb.org.za>

#### World Leprosy Day

Date: **27 January 2008**  
 Presenter: Leprosy Mission Southern Africa  
 Contact person: Peter Laubscher  
 Tel: (011) 440-6323/440-5826  
 Fax: (011) 440-6324  
 E-mail: <peter@tlm.co.za>  
 Web site: [leprosymission.co.za](http://leprosymission.co.za)  
 Contact person: Otto Kingsley  
 Tel: (021) 558-2020

### FEBRUARY

#### SunSmart Awareness Month

Date: **1-29 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa  
 Contact person: Alice Victor  
 Tel: (021) 689-5347  
 Fax: (021) 685-1937  
 E-mail: <projectswp@cansa.org.za>  
 Web site: [cansa.org.za](http://cansa.org.za) / [cansa.co.za](http://cansa.co.za)

#### Diarrhoeal Disease Focus Month

Date: **1-29 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Provincial Government Western Cape: Child Health  
 Tel: (021) 483-4266

#### Sexually-transmitted Infections Month

Date: **1-29 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Planned Parenthood Association of SA (PPASA)  
 Tel: (021) 448-7312  
 Fax: (021) 448-7320  
 E-mail: <ppawc@ppawc.co.za>  
 Web site: [ppasa.org.za](http://ppasa.org.za)

#### World Wetlands Day

Date: **2 February 2008**  
 Theme: *Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People*  
 Presenter: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
 Contact person: Desetso Ramotso  
 Tel: (012) 310-3822  
 Fax: (012) 322-2682  
 Cell no: 082 219 5136

#### World Cancer Day

Date: **4 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa  
 Contact person: Alice Victor  
 Tel: (021) 689-5347  
 Fax: (021) 685-1937  
 E-mail: <projectswp@cansa.org.za>  
 Web site: [cansa.org.za](http://cansa.org.za) / [cansa.co.za](http://cansa.co.za)

#### Condom Week

Date: **10-16 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA)  
 Tel: (021) 448-7312  
 Fax: (021) 448-7320  
 E-mail: <ppawc@ppawc.co.za>  
 Web site: [ppasa.org.za](http://ppasa.org.za)

#### Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day

Date: **14 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Congenital Heart Information Network (CHIN)  
 E-mail: <mb@tchin.org>  
 Web site: [tchin.org](http://tchin.org)

#### Pregnancy Education Week

Date: **16-23 February 2008**  
 Presenter: Childbirth Educators' Resource Group  
 Contact person: Lynn Bluff  
 Tel: (011) 827-6912/0860181818  
 Cell no: 083 227 6712

#### Teen Suicide Prevention Week

Date: **17-24 February 2008**  
 Presenter: The SA Depression and Anxiety Group  
 Tel: (011) 783-1474.

#### World International Tourist Guide Day

Date: **18 February 2008**  
 Presenter: World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations  
 E-mail: <info@wftga.org>  
 Web site: [wftga.org](http://wftga.org)

#### International Mother Language Day

Date: **21 February 2008**  
 Presenter: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)  
 E-mail: <bpi@unesco.org>  
 Web site: [webworld.unesco.org](http://webworld.unesco.org)

### MARCH

#### Health and Nutrition Campaign

Date: **1-31 March 2008**  
 Presenter: Cancer Association of South Africa  
 Contact person: Alice Victor  
 Tel: (021) 689-5347  
 Fax: (021) 685-1937  
 E-mail: <projectswp@cansa.org.za>  
 Web site: [cansa.org.za](http://cansa.org.za) / [cansa.co.za](http://cansa.co.za)

#### Red Cross Month

Date: **1-31 March 2008**

#### International Endometriosis Awareness Week

Date: **6-12 March 2008**  
 Presenter: Endometriosis Society of South Africa  
 Tel: (011) 646-0449

#### International Women's Day

Date: **8 March 2008**  
 Presenter: United Nations (UN) Development Section  
 Department of Public Information  
 Room S-1040, United Nations, New York, NY 10017  
 Email: <mediainfo@un.org>

#### World Kidney Day

Date: **13 March 2008**  
 Presenter: Kidney Foundation of South Africa  
 Contact persons: Sue Peiser / Pat Fourie  
 Tel: (011) 788-0046  
 E-mail: <peiser/admin@global.co.za>

#### Brain Awareness Week

Date: **14-20 March 2008**  
 Presenter: Mental Health Information Centre  
 Tel: (021) 938-9229

#### National Library Week

Date: **16-22 March 2008**  
 Theme: *From local to global @ your library*  
 Presenter: Provincial Library Service: Western Cape  
 Contact person: Mary Ann Hodges  
 Tel 021 483-2483

**National Water Week**Date: **17-22 March 2008**

Presenter: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Contact person: Michelle Parker

Tel: (012) 336-8252 / (021) 950-7100

E-mail: &lt;bdc@dwaf.pwv.gov.za&gt;

**International Earth Day**Date: **20 March 2008**

Presenter: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Contact person: Desetso Ramotso

Tel: (012) 310-3822

Fax: (012) 322-2682

Cell: 082 219 5136

**World Poetry Day (UNESCO)**Date: **21 March 2008**

Presenter: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

E-mail: &lt;bpi@unesco.org&gt;

Web site: [webworld.unesco.org](http://webworld.unesco.org)**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**Date: **21 March 2008**

Presenter: United Nations (UN) Development Section

Theme: *Empowering youth to fight racism*

Contact: Department of Public Information, Room S-1040, United Nations, New York, NY 10017

Email: &lt;mediainfo@un.org&gt;

**World Forestry Day**Date: **21 March 2008**

Presenter: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Contact person: Michelle Parker

Tel: (012) 336-8252 / (021) 950-7100

E-mail: &lt;bdc@dwaf.pwv.gov.za&gt;

**World Water Day**Date: **22 March 2008**

Presenter: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Contact person: Michelle Parker

Tel: (012) 336-8252 / (021) 950-7100

E-mail: &lt;bdc@dwaf.pwv.gov.za&gt;

**World Meteorological Day**Date: **23 March 2008**Theme: *Polar Meteorology: understanding global impacts*

Presenter: South African Weather Service

**World Tuberculosis Day**Date: **24 March 2008**Presenters: Health Promotion Resource Centre  
CMC Health Resource Centre

Tel: (021) 931-8140

# Simply the Best

A trip to the bookstore with my granddaughter is always a big production. She peruses the aisles for hours, touching the books, running her hands over the covers, picking them up, putting them back, looking at a few pages here and a few pages there.

I never fully realised the importance my five-year-old Grand Angel placed on these excursions, until the day I suggested she pick the book she liked best, so we could get on home for dinner. Her response was remarkable: 'But Grammy, I like them all the best. All the covers are bee-yoo-tiful and all the pictures are bee-yoo-tiful and they're all different. Just like people.

Remember when you told me about people?'

I most certainly remembered when I 'told her about people'. I had explained that we are all beautiful in our own different way. Each of us has a story to tell and no two stories are the same. We learn by sharing our stories and listening to the stories of others. Difference is the thing that makes each and every one of us special.

I had no idea she'd equated the lesson with books. What a wondrous revelation!

A good head and shoulders taller than the bookshelves in the children's section of the store, I looked out over the sea of multi-shaped, multi-weighted, multi-coloured books, with their multitude of content, and the accuracy of the equation shot straight through me.

It was perfect.

No one book was better than any other book. They were equally beautiful and equally special.

With dinner still waiting and our stomachs beginning to growl, decision time was finally at hand. But how to choose?

I hit on the right question when I asked, 'Which book wants to go home the most with you today?'

After a short moment of deliberation, her eyes lit up. She ran to a specific book and removed it from its place on the shelf.

The deciding factor was the picture on the cover, a turtle with sad eyes.

'We need to find out why the turtle's eyes are sad.'

Later, snuggled deep in the covers of her bed, that's exactly what we did.

Terri McPherson



*Now isn't this a delightful story?*