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### Redaksionele beleid

Die **Kaapse Biblioteekaris** is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens en verskyn tweemaandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstyde asook praktiese artikels. Die redaksie behou hom die reg voor om, indien nodig, bydraes te redigeer, te verkort of te herskryf. Die publikasie van artikels wat nie in opdrag geskryf is nie, kan egter nie gewaarborg word nie. Die menings van medewerkers is nie noodwendig dié van die Biblioteekdiens nie. Alle kopie vir 'n bepaalde uitgawe moet die redaksie twee maande vooruit bereik. Artikels, briewe en nuusberigte kan direk aan die redakteur gestuur word.

### Editorial policy

The **Cape Librarian** is the house journal of the Western Cape Provincial Library Service and is published bi-monthly. Articles in the field of library and information science, library administration, news items, reviews and accession lists are included. The editorial staff reserve the right to edit, shorten, or rewrite any copy should it be deemed necessary. We cannot guarantee that unsolicited copy supplied will be printed. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Library Service. Copy for a particular issue must reach the editor two months in advance. Articles, letters and news items should be submitted directly to the editor.



## KERSBOODSKAP CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



**D**ie uurglas van 2003 het bykans leeggeloopt en wanneer mens oor die gebeure en aktiwiteite van die jaar nadink, soek jy onwillekeurig na dit wat 2003 anders gemaak het as vorige jare.

Die hele situasie rondom die toekoms van openbare biblioteke in Suid-Afrika was sekerlik vir my die brandendste aangeleentheid van die afgelope jaar. 'n Uitgebreide diskoers is moontlik oor die plasing van die wetlike verantwoordelikheid vir openbare biblioteke, asook die plaaslike bedryf daarvan. Die kern van die uitdaging bly egter 'n finansiële een, naamlik die vestiging van 'n aanvaarbare bedeling vir die befondsing van openbare biblioteke op plaaslike vlak.

Verskeie aksies is geloods en samesprekings op alle moontlike vlakke gevoer om begrip te verkry vir die omvang van die probleem en om 'n haalbare proses te stimuleer vir die oplossing daarvan. Die einde van 2003 het gedui op ernstige samesprekings tussen provinsiale en munisipale rolspelers oor onbefondsde mandate en spesifiek ook openbare biblioteke. Hierdie interaksie sal definitief na 2004 oorgaan. Daar is geen twyfel nie dat daar in 2004 ook ernstig besin sal moet word oor die spesifieke kostes verbonde aan openbare biblioteekdienste.

Vir die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens self was dit baie spesiaal om die biblioteke van die voormalige onafhanklike Kaapstadse Stadsbiblioteke in die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens netwerk te verwelkom. Hierdie biblioteke is sedert Maart vanjaar ingesluit in die biblioteekmateriaaldiens aan geregistreerde openbare biblioteke. Die inskakelingsproses het, in die geheel gesien, relatief vlot verloop.

Graag bedank ek elke enkele biblioteekwerker, hetsy in die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens óf in openbare biblioteke, vir hul bydrae om in 2003 weereens 'n uitstaande en groeiende diens te kon lewer aan die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap. Biblioteke was nog deur al die eeue 'n reële indikator van die ontwikkeling van die mens.

My diepste wens is dus dat 2004 vir ons finaliteit sal bring oor die befondsing van openbare biblioteekdienste sodat ons almal doelgerig aan die toekoms van openbare biblioteke kan werk.

Mag u 'n mooi en vreugdevolle Kerstyd beleef en 'n baie voorspoedige jaar in 2004 hê.

**I**nsofar as the year 2003 is concerned the sands of time are fast running out and when one reflects on events and activities of the year, one involuntary tries to pinpoint that which made it different to previous years.

Certainly the issue that concerned me the most during the year was the future of public libraries in South Africa. An extensive discourse is possible on the issues of the ownership of the legal responsibility for public libraries as well as the management thereof. The basic challenge, however, remains a financial one, namely, the establishment of an acceptable dispensation for the funding of municipal public libraries. Many projects have been launched and discussions have taken place at every possible level in an effort to facilitate comprehension of the extent of the problem and to stimulate a viable process for its solution. The end of 2003 has witnessed serious discussions between provincial and local authorities on the issue of un-funded mandates and more specifically public libraries. This interaction will definitely be persevered with in 2004. There is no doubt that in 2004 serious consideration will have to be given to the specific costs related to public library services.

It was indeed a privilege to welcome the formerly independent Cape Town City Libraries to the Western Cape Provincial Library Service network. City Libraries have officially been included in the provision of library material to registered public libraries since March of this year and the transition process has been a relatively smooth one.

I wish to thank each and every library employee in both the Provincial Library Service and the various public libraries for their contributions during 2003 to once again ensure growth and professional service delivery to the people of the Western Cape. Libraries have through the ages always been a true barometer of the development of mankind.

My sincere wish for 2004 is that it will bring to finality the issue of the funding of public library services which will enable us all to actively promote service delivery. My wish for you all is a peaceful festive season and prosperous 2004.

Johan Swiegelaar

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