

Exploring Worcester Region

Breede Valley Municipality Library Service

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Fifteen libraries, three depots and six Wheelie Wagons provide a service in the Breede River and Witzenberg municipalities. In the Breede River area seven libraries and four Wheelie Wagons under the leadership of Christine Gerber (library manager) together with 41 staff members, serve 29 542 library members. The total circulation in 2010 was 490 705 books.

Worcester Library

Staff: two librarians, eight library assistants (one conditional grant) and four library aids (one conditional grant)
Membership: 14 129
Circulation: 281 313 (2010)

Worcester Library was established in 1858 as a subscription library. The new library was built and officially opened in May 1988. The main library in Worcester has an extensive reference and study collection. The stock of the subscription library is still housed in the Africana room in the library. During 2010 a valuation of all Africana titles determined the value at R238 705. Worcester Library is proud to have this stock available for research purposes.

The library provides an extensive information service to learners of ten high schools and 17 primary schools. It also assists farm schools in the surrounding areas. The librarians concentrate to a very large extent on the provision of information to school learners from these schools by organising material in a special school section with staff members on duty during weekday afternoons. The staff concentrate on providing library orientation and information literacy skills development to school groups. It also serves the elderly of four old-age homes on a regular basis.

The three rural connectivity computers are very popular at Worcester Library and an average of 800 people use the Internet on a monthly basis.

The library hall is in high demand for social upliftment programmes. Exhibitions are of a high standard and keep national days in mind.

The library has a high in-house usage (not reflected in statistics) - an average of 32 000 people visit the library per month.

Esselen Library

Staff: one librarian, two library assistants, one library aid
Membership: 5 529
Circulation: 44 435 (2010)

The library is situated in Worcester South and has close contact with nearby schools in the area. It focuses on catering for primary school children and was, in co-operation with the Worcester Campus of the Boland

College, part of a project to empower children by encouraging them to become library members during 2010.

The library has held several community handwork exhibitions, and despite its relatively new staff, is planning extension activities for the future. The library hall is also used extensively.

The rural connectivity project with four computers and a printer started in January 2011.

Zweletemba Library

Staff: one librarian, two library assistants, one library aid
Membership: 1 553
Circulation: 7 191 (2010)

Situated in the Zweletemba township, 6km from the centre of town in Worcester, the library does not have a very large membership or circulation but it has an extensive in-house usage. Many people use the library for reading the daily newspaper and obtaining information. The library serves one high school, three primary schools and quite a few crèches.

A special feature of the library is the housing of an educational toy library, which provides a service to crèches and schools in the area. The toy library is a member of Active Learning & Leisure Libraries (ALL-SA). The librarian and an assistant underwent training on how to manage a toy library and how to assist learners to play with toys to develop skills. With

the assistance of trained toy librarians, all libraries are given the opportunity to make use of toys for educational programmes.

The Zweletemba Toy Library took part in World Play Day in May 2010 and a number of outdoor and indoor games were played during the day.

Goudini Library

Staff: one librarian, two library assistants (one conditional grant), one library aid

Membership: 2 265

Circulation: 43 663 (2010)

A few years ago the library building was upgraded. The library is well used and serves one pre-primary school, a combined high and primary school, farm schools in the rural areas as well as a number of crèches. Many high school students, commuting to Worcester high schools by bus, use the library for information for school projects. The library also serves one old-age home.

Regular displays and children's programmes are hosted.

The rural connectivity programme with four computers and one printer got off the ground in December 2010.

De Doorns Library

Staff: one librarian, two library assistants (one conditional grant), one library aid

Membership: 2 879

Circulation: 55 499 (2010)

De Doorns library is well used and provides a service to one combined high and primary school, two high schools and one primary school and several farm schools in the rural areas. It provides a valuable service to farm crèches with block loans and story hours.

During 2011 the library will be hosting a variety of extension programmes such as a career workshop, crochet classes and a readathon.

The library hall is well used for community-based meetings and workshops.

The rural connectivity programme started on 17 March 2010 with three computers and one printer.

► Yolanda Lottering, library assistant at Slanghoek Wheelie Wagon



▲ (Ltr): Winnie Bikani (library assistant), Cynthia Bali (EPWP), Elsie September (library aid) and Rosemary Matshikiza (librarian) at Zweletemba Library

► (Ltr): Toni Prins (library assistant), Mariska Bailey (librarian) and Francisca Jansen at Esselen Library



Touwsrivier Library

Staff: one librarian, two library assistants (one conditional grant), one library aid

Membership: 1 169

Circulation: 35 838 (2010)

This is a well-used library and provides a service to a community with a very high unemployment rate. It serves one high school and two primary schools and also supplies information to children commuting to schools in De Doorns and Worcester.

The library organises regular educational programmes for smaller children, teenagers and the elderly.

Touwsrivier Library hosted the pilot connectivity programme for the rural connectivity programme in the Breede Valley Municipal area and as result of their experience was able to assist other libraries.

The library has one of the best-used photocopying machine facilities due to a lack of other facilities in the town.

Steenvliet Library

Staff: one librarian, one library assistant (conditional grant), one library aid (conditional grant)

Membership: 867

Circulation: 22 766 (2010)

Steenvliet renders service to a community with a very high unemployment rate. It serves one high and one primary school. The staff organises regular educational programmes for smaller children and the elderly.

Steenvliet Library hosted the pilot project

in the Breede Valley Municipal area being the first library to get a CAMI computer with reader and mathematics programme. The programme is popular and a number of children make use of the opportunity to better their literacy and numeracy skills.

Fairhills Wheelie Wagon

Staff: one library assistant (conditional grant)

Membership: 75

Circulation: 734 (2010)

The project is based in the Rawsonville rural area in a community centre maintained by the Fairhills farming community. Initial talks started in May 2007 and the project was established in November 2007. The official opening took place on 23 April 2008. The Wheelie Wagons were never used because the Fairhills group decided to erect proper library shelves. The Fairhills group started building a new library/computer facility next to the local Lorraine Primary School in 2010. The project was moved to the new facility in March this year. Due to the fact that the school will be nearby and the farm workers live nearer to the new facility, its membership and circulation will increase.

Hexvallei Wheelie Wagon

Staff: one library assistant (conditional grant)

Membership: 250

Circulation: 3 404 (2010)

The project is based in the De Doorns rural area in a community centre maintained by the Mooigezicht Estates farming community.

Initial talks were held in December 2007 and the project started circulating books on 9 June 2008. The official opening took place on 11 November 2008. The Wheelie Wagons were not used because the Rossouw family from Mooigezicht Estates decided to erect proper library shelves. The library assistant assists students of two nearby farm schools and adult learners. She also organises regular story time sessions with the farm crèches.

Sandhills Wheelie Wagon

Staff: one library assistant (conditional grant)
Membership: 147
Circulation: 984 (only started in November 2010)

The project is situated in the De Doorns rural area in a special small library building next to the community centre of the Hexview Farms. Initial talks were held in December 2009 and the official opening took place on 5 November 2010. The Wheelie Wagons were not used because the Le Roux family from Hexview Farms decided to renovate two rooms and to erect proper library shelves. The project seems to be very successful and 621 items were issued during the first month. The library assistant assists students of the nearby primary school, the high school students and adult students. She also visits the nearby farm crèches offering block loans and story time sessions.

Slanghoek Wheelie Wagon

Staff: one library assistant (conditional grant)
Membership: 313
Circulation: 4657 (2010)

The project is situated in the Rawsonville rural area at Slanghoek Primary School. Initial talks were held in October 2006 between the municipality, the Provincial Library Service, the district municipality and the Slanghoek Primary School and was officially launched on 14 March 2007. Due to a lack of space the Wheelie Wagons were moved to a few rooms in the school but happily, since 2010 they are now situated in a room behind the school hall. The project is closely linked to the school's programme but also issues books to adults from the nearby farms and makes provision to assist high school learners by being open one afternoon per week.



◀ Back (ltr): Irene Mothibe (library aid), library assistants Owen Lewis, Thobeka Zawukana, Hilary Freeks, Benice Erasmus, Zoliswa Skenjane, Karen Jorgensen (children's librarian), Erica Verwey (library aid), and Christine Gerber (library manager)
 Middle (ltr): Claudine Wentzel (library assistant), Debonita Cupido (adult librarian), and Liecel Matolla (library assistant)
 Front (ltr): Yolanda Yekwani (library assistant), and Thuliswa Thonyama (library aid) at Worcester Library



▲ (ltr): Elsa Louwrens (librarian), library assistants Chantelle Jacobs, Beverly Kok, and Francisca De Klerk (library aid) at Goudini Library



◀ (ltr): Elena Crowley (librarian), Michael Moahloli, and Anneline Windvogel (library assistants) at De Doorns Library



▲ (ltr): Cintie Brintjies (library assistant), Charlotte Manuel (librarian), and Moreen Matthys at Touwsrivier Library

▼ Marlen Hendricks (library assistant) at Fairhills Wheelie Wagon

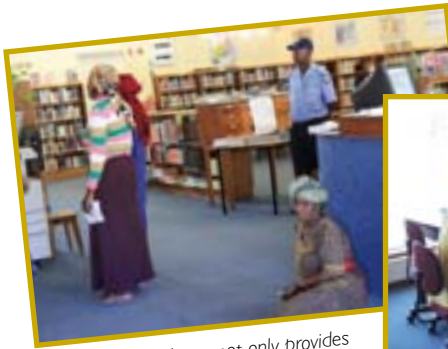
▲ (ltr): Priscilla Bezuidenhout (library aid), Alida Marries (librarian), and Janene Snyders at Steenvliet Library



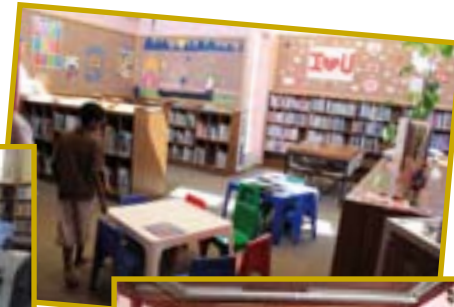
▲ Library assistant Thelma Mema at Hexvallei Wheelie Wagon

▶ Mary-Ann Oliphant (library assistant) at Sandhills Wheelie Wagon





▼ The well-patronised computer area at De Doorns Library



◀ ▼ The warm welcoming interior of Esselin Library where users are often treated to colourful and happy displays

▲ De Doorns Library not only provides an extensive service to information-keen users but is also just a lovely space where one simply can relax ...



▼ Neatly stacked and clearly marked shelves in a well-designed space make for easy browsing in Steenvliet Library



▲ Goudini Library's attractive entrance



▼ Eye-catching life-size displays at Goudini Library draw attention to current events



▲ The cami-corner flanked by a colourful display at Steenvliet Library

▼ The serene pale-green walls at Touwsriver Library impart a sense of calm and serenity when one enters the library



▼ Zweletemba Library's trademark - their well-stocked and very popular toy library



◀ A cheerful purple entrance welcomes users to Zweletemba Library



▲ A comfortable study area, a well-stocked magazine collection and access to computers ensure that users make good use of the facilities at Touwsriver Library

▼ The plush children's section at Worcester Library where story-telling sessions are also often held



▶ A spacious issue desk at Worcester Library prevents borrowers having to queue for service. Users (far right) clearly make good use of the many facilities that Worcester has to offer