

## Witzenberg Municipality Library Services

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The term 'as the mountains are around Jerusalem ...' gets real meaning when you take a look at Ceres with its boisterous and magnificent surrounding mountain ranges. The town, affectionately known as the 'Eden of the Cape', can be reached through Michell's Pass (from Cape Town on the N1 or R44, R46), Theronsberg Pass (from Touws River on the R46) and Gydo Pass (from Citrusdal on the R303). The municipal boundaries include the towns of Tulbagh, Wolseley, Ceres, Prince Alfred's Hamlet and Op-die-Berg.

### Libraries in the area

The area is served by a total of eight libraries: Ceres (home to John Steyn), Rietvallei, Emfundweni (Nduli) and Bella Vista libraries; Tulbagh – the two libraries that are found here are Tulbagh Public Library and Witzenville Public Library; and Wolseley – the two libraries serving this area are Wolseley Public Library and Montana Public Library.

### Ceres

Four libraries can be found in the town, and the library hours of all are from 09h00 until 17h00 daily. Awareness programmes are held on a monthly basis, and are prominently advertised and marketed through exhibitions, pamphlets and Library Week promotional items.

The library with the largest collection of library material is the centrally situated **John Steyn Library**. The current membership of over 5 000 keeps the dedicated and highly motivated staff constantly busy. School visits are held at least twice a week by learners from the neighbouring primary and high schools.

Close interaction with the staff at the old-age homes in the area sees that the reading needs of the elderly are being met. Block loans are granted to most of the homes and mostly large print books are



▲ (Ltr): Thelma Ambraal (assistant librarian), Elaine Slinger (librarian), and Katy Loff (library assistant) – the Bella Vista crew

circulated amongst the senior residents. The library is a beehive of activity when learners at the primary and high schools start with school projects. The well-stocked reference collection is of immense help ... thanks to the Provincial Library Service! Supporting research needs is the well-kept pamphlet collections.

To keep the little ones occupied, Melana Seroot and Geraldine Morris have spent hours making the children's section a joy for any toddler to visit. They make the most interesting mobiles of kids' favourite characters.

The staff members are Geraldine Morris (head), Wilna Jansen, Ndileka Nguqu, Melana Seroot and Marelene Reitz.

The long-awaited Information and Communication Technology Project (ICT) has finally been completed and the launch took place on 17 May 2011.

Another busy library in the area is **Bella Vista**, with Elaine Slinger as the head, outstandingly supported by Katy Loff. Apart from serving the community, the library also supplies valuable information and school project material to the two primary schools and one high school in the area. With the growing number of registered library users and the high circulation figures it became necessary to employ additional help. With the provision of the conditional grant from The Provincial Library Service, we were fortunate to employ a dedicated and loyal worker in the person of Thelma Ambraal. With sheer skilfulness and utter commitment from Thelma and Katy, the public is spoilt

▼ Seen here is assistant librarian Vanessa McKenzie (in blue) hard at work with her juniors at Op-die-Berg Wheelie Wagon



with interesting and eye-catching displays, some of which are made by children in the area.

**Emfundweni Library** caters for the community of Nduli. Eunice Malapi is the head and is well supported by Jeffrey Makalenja. This is a haven for kids with inadequate space at home, and the afternoons become noisy and busy when kids work on their school projects and other research work.

During final exams the library hall serves as a study room, especially for learners writing their grade twelve exams. The library is currently reaching out to the nearby Warm Bokkeveld Prison by lending reading and study material to the clients.

Set away from the bustle of noise, and in the most serene environment, lies **Rietvallei Library**. The head of the library is Sandra Seroot, assisted by Dalene Reitz. This library mainly serves the two primary schools and one high school in the area. As it is situated on the same premises as one of the local clinics, they concentrate on health-related awareness programmes.

### Tulbagh

The historic town of Tulbagh is home to Tulbagh Public Library and Witzenville Public Library. The town has only two schools, but both primary and high school learners are accommodated at either of them. Both libraries are open to the public from 09h00-17h00 on weekdays.

William Cloete is the head at **Tulbagh Public Library**, and with his team of

dedicated workers no load of work is too heavy and no mile too long to reach out to the members of this community, and specifically to their registered library members.

It is in exactly this spirit of reaching out that it is no problem for William to get into his car to fetch his elderly readers if they call on him . . . outstanding to say the least!

With the assistance of Diana Kock and Jamain Paulse these awareness programmes and their touching displays show their commitment and dedication.

This library is also the permanent location where artworks of the local art students are exhibited.

In November/December 2010 the ICT project kicked off at the library, a welcome injection that boosted library user numbers. It is a well-utilised entity for the community, and a good research tool for learners who are busy with school projects.

**Witzenville Library** is headed by Geraldine Adams, and (with one vacant post at this library) she is supported by Thami Faku. Thami has been appointed with funding from the Conditional Grant via the Western Cape Provincial Library Service. The displays and exhibitions are the proud work of Geraldine, who, with enthusiasm and brilliance, can create an outstanding quality piece of art from some ordinary rusted barb wire.

The ICT project was also initiated here, and not one day goes by without the workstations being swamped by community users and eager school learners. This project also saw an increase in members and circulation figures.

## Wolseley

Home to a natural watershed, Wolseley is the town where Wolseley Public Library and Montana Public Library are based. Both of these libraries have members from the surrounding districts and membership amounts to almost 1 500 adult and juvenile users.

Samuel Sass, head of the **Wolseley Library**, is a highly dedicated, loyal and worthy leader of his team. He is assisted by Miemsie Ndeya. Completing the team of workers is Elaine de Wee, whose post is

funded with a conditional grant.

Wolseley ranks second to John Steyn, with a circulation of 4 800 plus and also boasts with the second highest number of registered users (3 051).

The town is also home to a well-established home for the elderly, and regular visits are undertaken by the staff to satisfy the reading needs of the seniors. Massive efforts are being undertaken to address the needs of the schools in the area, but sadly we have some selfish learners who tear valuable and crucial pages from our reference books.

Wolseley Library is earmarked for ICT implementation in the 2011/2012 financial year.

The complex with its Eastern building design that houses the **Montana Library** looks from the outside like an ordinary-shaped building . . . but what a surprise when you enter the building! A library hall and small kitchen can be reached directly from the foyer. The library with its unusual design inside can also be accessed from the foyer. As one enters the library you can sense an atmosphere of calmness and tranquillity, quietly enhanced by soft background music.

When each school day is finished, the tranquil scene changes into a hive of activity with lots of movement and talking as eager learners search for information to finish school projects and do research. With amazing calmness Ursula Christiaans, the head of the library, simply knows how to control the learners and supply the much-needed information. She is ably assisted by Rachel Sass.

There are two crèches, two primary schools and one high school in this previously disadvantaged area and there is close cooperation between this library and the Wolseley Public Library.

## Wheelie Wagons

The Provincial Library Service in conjunction with the local municipality were excited when the Wheelie Wagon project was launched in **Prince Alfred's Hamlet**. Attended by staff and dignitaries at provincial and local levels, it was indeed a proud moment when the ribbon to officially open the site was cut by the late Honourable Mayor

Kevin Klaasen on 31 March 2009. The two schools in the area, FD Conradie and St Marks Primary schools, contributed to the cultural flair of this historic event when they displayed their eloquent dance moves.

The service to the community was started on 1 April 2009 in the town hall (built in 1926). In 1979 offices were added next to the town hall.

At the time only four Wheelie Wagons were used to safely lock away the valuable books and reference works. Professionally run by Thelma Ambraal, these resources soon became too few to satisfy the needs of all, and with the provision of more book material from Provincial Library Service, it was clear that more Wheelie Wagons were needed. These were supplied later.

Beautiful displays can be seen throughout the town hall building, giving it a vibrant and cheeky atmosphere. The facility is open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09h00-1700.

**Op-die-Berg** is situated 45 km outside Ceres, and the children at the local schools and surrounding districts had little or no access to decent resource material and reference books. To address this need the baby of our information services was started on 31 March 2010 as a Wheelie Wagon project. Housed in a room in a facility hired by the municipality, the space was too small to even accommodate one Wheelie Wagon, so shelving was installed here. Cozy, warm and cute, this room was soon flooded with children and adults from the community. The kiddies literally had to wait their turn on extremely busy days!

The facility originally received close on 1 000 material items, and boasts a current vibrant membership of 383 (April 2011) compared to the 147 at the same time last year. Plans for extension or alternative accommodation are being investigated.

The librarian in charge is Vanessa McKenzie, who started in October 2010, and the facility is open from Monday to Friday from 12h00-17h00.

# THE LIBRARY ROUTE

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▲ The happy family at John Steyn Library. (Ltr): Marelene Reitz (cleaner), Melana Seroot (assistant librarian), Geraldine Morris (librarian), Wilna Jansen (librarian, a conditional grant appointee), and Ndileka Nguqu (assistant librarian)



▲ Ursula Christiaans (left), librarian-in-charge of Montana Library in conversation with Joan Stuurman (library manager, Witzenberg Municipality)



◀ Thelma Ambraal, assistant librarian who runs the Wheelie Wagon at Prince Alfred's Hamlet

▼ At Emfundweni Library librarian Eunice Malapi (left) and Jeffrey Makalenja (library assistant) run the show



▲ (Ltr): Sandra Seroot (librarian) and Dalene Reitz (library assistant) who assist users at Rietvlei Library



◀ Seen here is the dedicated team at Tulbagh Library. (Ltr): William Cloete (librarian), Nomathamsanqa Faku (cleaner), and Jamain Paulse (assistant librarian)



◀ Diana Kock, acting librarian at Witzenville Library

▶ Woseley Library's team – librarian Samuel Sass (left) and Elaine de Wee, (cleaner, a conditional grant appointee)

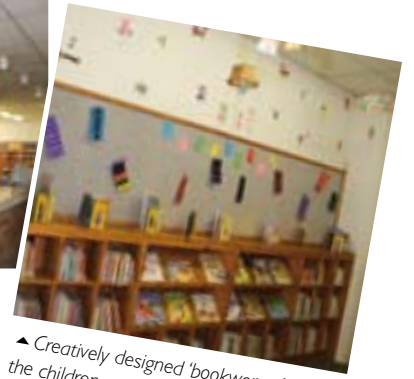




▶ 5 000 library users keep staff on their toes at John Steyn Library. Seen here is the spacious entrance area



▲ Bella Vista Library's staff often present users with eye-catching displays



▲ Creatively designed 'bookworms' adorn the children section at Bella Vista Library



▲ The interesting mobiles of favourite characters in the children's section at John Steyn Library is very popular

▼ Enfundweni Library – a haven for children who need study space

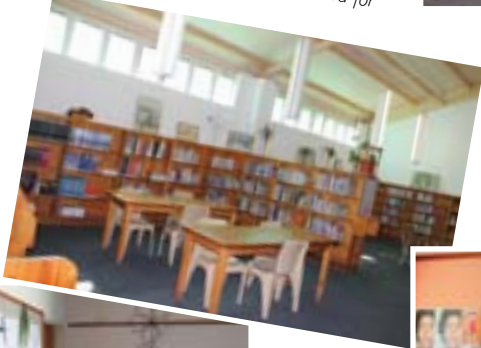


▶ An atmosphere of warmth and tranquility greets users at Montana Library



▼ Montana Library with its attractive Eastern interior design

▼ Witzenville Library's colourful area for children



▶ The counter at Enfundweni Library



◀ Eye-catching displays at Woseley Library

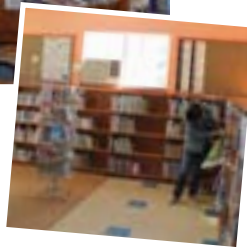


▼ At Tulbagh Library displays are one of the passions of Jamain Paulse and her colleague Diana Kock

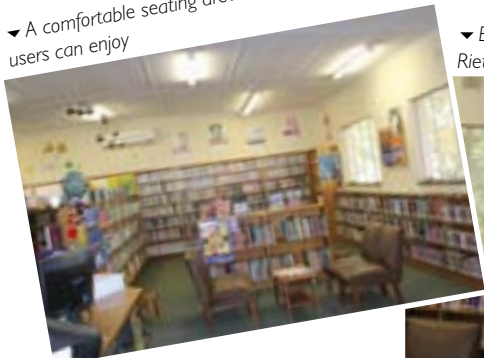
◀ A touch of nature at the entrance of Witzenville Library. The wire art is created by Geraldine Adams



▶ Woseley Library has the second highest membership figure of 3 051



▼ A comfortable seating area at Rietvlei Library that users can enjoy



▼ Effective use is made of wall space at Rietvlei Library



▲ Tulbagh Library provides a permanent display area for local artwork by students

