

Exploring Stellenbosch Region

LINDA MABINDISA

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Stellenbosch Municipality

In the Stellenbosch Region the six libraries (Cloetesville, Franschhoek, Idas Valley, Kayamnandi, Pniel and Stellenbosch) as well as the two satellite libraries in Jamestown and Groendal that resort under the Stellenbosch Municipality, operate for six days of the week. Stellenbosch Library also started the Klapmuts Library that will now become the responsibility of Klapmuts Primary School and the Education Department of the Western Cape. Groendal started out as a result of a donation to the community from Exclusive Books, but is in the process of being affiliated to the Western Cape Library Service.

Kayamnandi Library

The need for a library in Kayamnandi was determined in 1988. It was scheduled to open on 7 June 1993 but due to attacks on some provincial administration vehicles at that time, it was postponed. Subsequent to the attacks, the library was vandalised and eventually an insurance claim was paid out in 1995. The building was repaired and the library was finally officially opened on 18 April 1996. The library serves two high schools, two primary schools, 25 crèches and a nearby farm.

Staff: one librarian; two library assistants; one library assistant (Conditional Grant).

Membership: 1,383
Circulation: 5,393
Stock: 15,618

Franschhoek Library

Franschhoek Library was affiliated with the Western Cape Library Service in 1956. The library was situated in the building of the Dutch Reformed Church and it costs the municipality R150 per year to run the library. In 1957 the library membership increased from 80 to 475 of which only 330 members lived in the municipal area. During 1961 a new library was built adjacent to the municipal offices. At the time the stocktake account was R31.25 for the loss of 27 books of which the municipality had to pay R16.58.

In 1971 a service to Fleur de Lis Old Age Home was put into place. In 1988 the library was moved to its current premises in Reservoir Street West.

The fines levied over the years make for some interesting reading:

- 1967: 2½c per week per book – up to a maximum of 25c
- 1968: 3c per week per book
- 1969: 5c per week per book
- 1978: 10c per week per book.

Other interesting statistics:

- in 1969 a special request cost 3c
- in 1967 a librarian worked 15 hours per week and earned R40 per month
- in 1971 the salary was increased to R75 per month.

Franschhoek is now in the planning stages of building the library in Groendal that should be completed in 2013.

Four computers from the Conditional

Grant ICT project to provide free access to the public was allocated to Franschhoek. 340 people use it monthly for information on the Internet.

Staff: one librarian; four library assistants.

Membership: 2,214
Circulation: 44,131
Stock: 18,196

Cloetesville Library

Cloetesville Library was established in 1981 and celebrated its 30th birthday on 29 July 2011. The library provides a service to the community, especially with outreach programmes such as holiday programmes, and story hour assistance with literacy programmes.

There is a good relationship between the library and the schools in the area. On 24 June 2009 the library started the ICT Computer Project initiated by the Western Cape Government. Patrons have free access to the Internet for 30 minutes per month. Between 800-1,000 people make use of this facility. This project has also increased the in-house usage of the library.

An extensive pamphlet collection helps users with information for projects.

The in-house use of the library is high, although it is unfortunately not reflected in the statistics or membership figures. Displays are done monthly to attract patrons and create an awareness of stock for patrons.

The library hall is mostly used for children's programmes and activities.

Cloetesville Library also helped establish

Indlela yamathala eencwadi



◀ The gracious entrance to Wellington Library that opened its doors in 1923

▼ With a membership of over 8,000 in Wellington Library many hands are needed. Seen here is (ltr): Lefa Lebajoa, contract worker; Yandisa Mbobose, contract worker; Yvonne Arnoldus, library assistant; Elsabé du Toit, librarian; Julia Cloete, senior library assistant; Cheryll Thyse, contract worker; Chantel Gordon, shelf attendant; and Phira Masikisiki, contract worker



◀ Stellenbosch Library celebrated its 150th birthday in 2009 and boasts a membership of over 12,000. Seen here is (ltr): Deidre Jethas, library assistant; Anton Muller, shelf attendant; Thobeka Stokwe, library assistant; Rinette Arendse, library assistant; Mario Slingers, office assistant; Bulelwa Mangle, library assistant; Cecile Marais, senior librarian; Sally Geldenhuys, library assistant; Edith Ncgofo, office assistant; Sonia Paulse, senior library assistant; Jenny Ceaser, library assistant; Gail Gxuluwe, book mender; Vuyiswa Ntshokolwana, library assistant and Grant de Mink, library assistant



▶ Seen here is Grant de Mink, library assistant from Stellenbosch Library with his creative display on the winelands



◀ The colourful children's section in Wellington Library

▶ Wellington Readers' friendly staff serves over 8,000 members. (Ltr): Adeelah Whatney; Tanya Wiese; Sylvia Ndlebe; Zodwa Krala; Denise Pieters; Oscar van Wyk and Diégo Albertus.



▼ Children playing soccer in the park adjacent to Idas Valley Library



◀ Idas Valley's staff have their hands full to provide in users needs. (Ltr): Colleen Adonis, senior librarian; Jacqueline Hendricks, cleaner; Doreen Booysen, library assistant; Brigotte Luiters, library assistant; Claudine du Toit, library assistant (Conditional Grant) and Cherlene Jonkers, temporary staff

a school community library in Klapmuts that was officially launched on 18 August 2011. The agreement was signed between the Western Cape Government's Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the school governing body of Klapmuts Primary School and the Stellenbosch Municipality. The Western Cape Education Department provided a substantial amount of library material. Staff: one librarian; three library assistants.

Membership: 3,327
Circulation: 20,917
Stock: 26,262

Stellenbosch Library

Stellenbosch Library is one of the oldest libraries in South Africa.

As early as the 18th century Adam Tas was a keen book collector in Stellenbosch. The Book Society of 1829 was the earliest organisation in Stellenbosch with direct ties to the later library of Stellenbosch Town. A page was turned when the library was affiliated to the provincial administration in 1965. In 2009 the library celebrated their 150th anniversary.

One of the special features of the library is its excellent reference section which provides information to school learners. It includes an extensive project shelf and a pamphlet collection that serves learners in the greater Stellenbosch area. Staff members focus on providing information literacy skills to learners.

Five rural connectivity computers are situated on the ground floor and an average of 80 patrons per day use the free Internet service.

There is a big demand for Stellenbosch Library's outreach programmes, for example, twelve old-age homes and retirement villages are served on a regular basis. Library Week is one of the best marketing exercises and the library usually runs a coffee shop with free coffee and eats for patrons as well as other programmes during this week. Excellent displays are done monthly. The library hall has a high usage rate as the community uses it for different programmes such as the Bridge Club, isiXhosa classes, et cetera.

The in-house usage of Stellenbosch Library is extensive and for this reason there are two customer-care desks.

Staff: one senior librarian; two senior library assistants; eight library assistants; one shelf attendant; one book mender; two office assistants; (Conditional Grant); three library assistants; one library assistant (Jamestown Library, Conditional Grant).

Membership: 12,112
Circulation: 169,495
Stock: 67,380

Idas Valley Library

On 20 November 2009 Idas Valley Library celebrated its 50th year of existence. The library was established in 1949 by members of the Library Club and remains a very important source of information in the valley.

The library also fulfils an important educational role in the community. Story hours, library orientation, and holiday programmes are the most important outreach programmes of the library.

Recently the focus has shifted to the rural areas of Stellenbosch and the library service is expanding in leaps and bounds.

Computer services to the public is another recent acquisition and is used extensively by children and adults alike.

The library also supports local schools with information and stocks an extensive and very up-to-date pamphlet collection and newspaper clippings for this purpose.

The importance of reading and the promotion of a reading culture remains a very high priority for the library.

Staff: one librarian; four library assistants (one Conditional Grant; one temporary), one cleaner.

Membership: 1,671
Circulation: 28,724
Stock: 21,788

Pniel Library

Situated in the Dwarsriver Valley between Stellenbosch and Franschoek, Pniel Library was opened on 2 April 2002. The library serves the communities of Lanquedoc, Pniel, Kylemore and surrounding farms in the Dwarsriver Valley.

It started with one full-time librarian and one part-time library assistant.

Although the library is small, they offer an extensive collection of library material that includes DVDs, CDs and videos.

Story hours and holiday programmes are held regularly to promote a reading culture amongst learners and adults.

Computer services are available which since 2008 include Internet services to the public. Recently, four brand new computers were donated to the library by Paju Municipality in Korea.

Two primary schools, one high school, a pre-primary school and a few play groups in the area are served by Pniel Library.

Although not reflected in the statistics, the in-house usage of the library is quite high because learners from informal settlements in the area are not allowed to take items home.

Staff: one senior librarian, three library assistants; one office assistant/bookmender.

Membership: 974
Circulation: 16,619
Stock: 12,523

Jamestown Library

The Jamestown Library was officially launched on 16 July 2010. Mr Cyril Jooste, the mayor of Stellenbosch Municipality, opened the ceremony and thanked everybody involved for driving this project. The patrons at the retirement village nearby are always willing to help with outreach programmes, as well as story-telling events. The hours of the library changed on 1 February 2012 to be open six days of the week. Staff: one library assistant.

Membership: 87
Circulation: 5,954
Stock: 7,087

Klapmuts Primêre Skool Openbare Biblioteek

Van 'n doodgewone skool tot 'n biblioteek-in-die-skool wat die hele gemeenskap van Klapmuts bedien – dit is die pad wat Klapmuts Primêre Skool Openbare Biblioteek van 1976 tot vandag geloop het.

Klapmuts se inwonersyfer is tans 9,000. Meer as 'n derde van die gemeenskap ontvang welsynbystand en daar is 'n hoë werkloosheidsyfer in die dorp. Talle mense, onder andere, Roseline Herandien (Bonnie), die bibliotekaris van Cloetesville Biblioteek, advokaat Hanlie Linde, direkteur van Stellenbosch Munisipaliteit se Departement van Gemeenskapdienste, raadslid J C Anthony en die hoof van Klapmuts Primêr, Ronald Frans, was die dryfkrag agter die pogings om die skool in 'n volwaardige openbare biblioteek te omskep. Op 18 Augustus 2011 is die deure van die biblioteek amptelik geopen – 'n historiese gebeurtenis aangesien hierdie die eerste openbare biblioteek in Suid-Afrika is wat in 'n skool gehuisves word.

Inligting vir almal is nou moontlik gemaak en lede van die biblioteek het toegang tot rekenaars, die Internet, kopieër- en lami-neerfasiliteite asook 'n groot versameling biblioteekmateriaal.



◀ Young users delight in the new facilities provided at Klapmuts Library

▼ A useful and creative feature behind Cloetesville's issue desk are the five wall clocks to indicate international times



▲ Klapmuts: Beverley Rhode (left), library manager and Nadia Solomons, senior library assistant, are responsible to make a success of the first public library in a school

▶ Cloetesville staff (ltr): Rinette Olivier, cleaner; Eric Baba, library assistant; Glynis Kelly, library assistant, Bonnie Herandien, snr librarian; Sulinda Petersen, library assistant



▶ Babalwa Makupula, conditional grant library assistant (left) and Zozo Malambile, senior librarian, look after the well-being of Kayamnandi's users



▼ Groenheuwel



▲ A colourful pillar hails users welcome to Kayamnandi Library



◀ (Ltr): Groenheuwel Library's Cindia Brown, library assistant; Margareth Gelderblom, general worker; Mercia Sias, head librarian; and Sokhana Nduzuzo, library assistant, provide a service to over 3,000 users



▶ The entrance to Jamestown Library



▼ (Ltr): Ms Pat Sijaji, senior librarian; Mr M S Juba, library assistant; Ms S Dyonta, library assistant; Ms Tsidi Mokhele, assistant librarian; Ms T Ntsigi - the helpful staff from Mbekweni Library

▲ Mbekweni Library serves a population of approximately 42,000



▲ Jamestown's library assistant is Marcha Scaiola

▼ Paarl Library's children's section has a great following



▲ The spacious reading area in Paarl Library

▼ Saron Library's staff have been busy since day one when they circulated 302 items. Seen here are (ltr): Carol Willemse, cleaner/messenger; Shirley van Huffel, librarian; Carol Williams, contract library assistant; and Elizabeth Kordom, relief library assistant



◀ The children's section at Pniel Library boasts a good selection of stock

▶ Always ready to serve - Pniel Library's staff (ltr): Bronwyn Joshua, library assistant; Claire Mentoor, senior librarian; Heather Steenberg, library assistant; Chaylene Muller, library assistant; and Melinda Adams, office assistant



▲ Support the Proteas! - a display to attract users at Saron Library

Talle projekte is oor die jare aangebied, onder andere, tuinbou en kleremaakprojekte in samewerking met Maatskaplike Dienste en die British High Commission. Die skool huisves ook die maatskaplike diens en 'n kliniek. (Meer oor Klapmuts Biblioteek op bladsy 42).

Personeel: een bibliotekaris; twee biblioteek-assistente.

Ledetal: 814
Sirkulasie: 882
Voorraad: 5,893

Drakenstein Library and Information Services

Lorensia Thomas

Head: Library and Information Services, Drakenstein Municipality

Eight libraries and eight satellite libraries in the Drakenstein Municipality strive to deliver a wide range of services to the communities of Paarl, Wellington, Gouda, Hermon, Saron, Simondium and other surrounding rural areas. Drakenstein libraries provide venues for events and meetings, for inclusive community and education projects, activities for children, a meeting place for families, assist people with literacy problems, provide access to the Internet and other outreach services which include children's reading groups, cultural events and book discussions. The circulation for the 2009/2010 municipal financial year was 936,390 with a total membership of 68,044 and a stock total of 226,242.

Drakenstein libraries and librarians form the heart of our communities. We strive to deliver an effective service that contributes to the enhancement of people's lives.

Drakenstein Library

Drakenstein Library in Paulus Street opened its doors to the public of Paarl East in November 1969 and was officially inaugurated on 5 March 1970. Drakenstein serves a population of 40,000 and provides a service to 16 primary schools and five secondary schools in the area. The crèches in the vicinity also make use of block loans and the toddlers attend weekly story-telling sessions.

Library activities include story-telling

sessions to preschools, visits to the Rusthof old-age home, providing soup to the children attending library activities during winter; literacy classes, book education and a wide variety of educational and fun activities during school holidays. National Library Week is the highlight of the year when the library organises outreach programmes. The library also provides a service to the satellite library situated at the Simondium Primary school and the Klein Drakenstein play group. Staff: one senior librarian; one assistant librarian; two library assistants; three contract library assistants; one cleaner.

Membership: 14,086
Circulation: 145,466
Stock: 30,297

Gouda Library

The Gouda Library previously resorted under the management of the Ceres Municipality. However, after the geographical demarcation of districts it became the responsibility of the Drakenstein Municipality.

The library started in a classroom at Bakersville Primary School on 1 July 1996, but an increase in membership and circulation resulted in problems with operational space. The annual circulation for 1996 was 1,327 per annum and the membership total was 536.

The Western Cape Library Service granted two million rand for the erection of the new Gouda Library which serves a population of 7,600 people. The new building was completed and handed over on 21 August 2009. It was officially opened on 24 October 2009. The building comprises 300m² and there is ample space for future development on the grounds.

Staff: one library assistant; one contract library assistant; one part-time contract cleaner.

Membership: 2,511
Circulation: 16,524
Stock: 9,489

Groenheuwel Library

During a ward meeting in 2004 the community of Groenheuwel identified the need for a library as a high priority. The staff of Drakenstein Library initiated the planning of the library. Groenheuwel started out as a satellite library in 2006 with a total of 810 members and circulated 1,957 items in the first month. Only 15 people were allowed

to enter the building at a time because of safety regulations. This arrangement caused people to queue constantly to enter the library and space became a priority.

In 2009 planning started for a move to new, larger premises. A decision was made to utilise the existing prefab building in Gouda with an additional prefab unit to extend Groenheuwel Library. The project started in earnest in April 2010 and the library was opened on 1 December 2010 as part of the Cultivating Communities project. The increase in membership and circulation as well as the information needs of the community made this necessary.

Staff: one senior librarian; one permanent library assistant; one contract library assistant; one cleaner.

Membership: 3,544
Circulation: 33,792
Stock: 10,443

Mbekweni Library

Mbekweni Library opened in 1994 and became part of the Paarl Municipality in 1995 (now Drakenstein Municipality). The library is in the centre of Mbekweni Township and started in a very small room with less than 500 books which were donated by READS. It now is about 545m² in size.

In the township the total population is estimated at approximately 42,000 and consist mainly of isiXhosa-speaking people, most of whom live in informal housing. Unemployment is rife in the area. The library has some quality resources but is not yet utilised according to the expected standard.

The library is also utilised as a resource centre. Although much bigger now, the library is always overcrowded with students, scholars and community members during the afternoons. The library initially had two staff members (Ms M Mokhele and Mr R France). Early in 1995 an additional staff member was employed.

Staff: one senior librarian; one assistant librarian; one permanent library assistant; one contract library assistant; one cleaner.

Membership: 4,242
Circulation: 11,314
Stock: 23,078

Paarl Library

Paarl Library is situated in the Valley of the Drakenstein Municipality. The library in Mill Street opened on 9 March 1967 and

▼ The Drakenstein staff - all decked out in checks! (Ltr): Germaine Kulsen, library assistant; Yolandi Swartz, library assistant; Louisa Mbabane, library assistant; Sam Mokhele, library assistant; Loes Alexander, library assistant; Noleen May, library assistant; and Rachel Fortuin, cleaner



◀ ICT computers being used by the public in Franschhoek Library

▼ Franschhoek Library is housed in this lovely period-style building



◀ Senior librarian, Amarie le Roux and the mayor, councillor Charmaine Manuel inspecting the contents of the book trolley at Nieuwedrift Primary School



◀ Interim library manager Patricia Sijaji, councillor Adam Bekeer, library assistant Petro Gelant and Principal May with some learners from Simondium Primary School.



◀ The Groendal Library operates from a container and is used solely as a children's library. Seen here is Chantal Williams, library assistant.

▼ Gouda Library's children's section



◀ Andrid Pieters, library assistant (left) and Jo-Anne Smith, contract library assistant - always keen to help users at Gouda Library

although this building that houses the library was supposed to be a temporary facility, 42 years later it is still in use. There is no room for development or progress. It has become incredibly difficult to efficiently serve the large community and the many educational institutions in the surrounding areas. Paarl Library currently provides a service to 30 crèches, seven primary schools, 10 high schools, four colleges, three old-age homes and also maintains three satellite libraries. The library is, however, in the process of relocating to new premises. Staff: one senior librarian; one assistant librarian; one senior library assistant, eight permanent library assistants; five contract library assistants, one shelf attendant; one cleaner.

Membership: 19,237
Circulation: 297,206
Stock: 83,782

Wellington Readers' Library

The library was established in 1957 as a result of delegations from the community to the municipality council requesting a library in the then Coloured area. Negotiations between Council and the Western Cape Library Service resulted in a library depot being erected in Market Street which was officially opened on 22 July 1958. The building became inadequate and the municipality had to find an alternative. The hostel of the Theological Institute of the Dutch Reformed Church became available and was bought. A kitchen as well as a projector room was added and on 27 October 1967 the library opened its doors to the public. The first librarian was Mr W Williams who was in charge of the library until his retirement in 1997.

The building's layout was, however, never intended to house a library and the Western Cape Provincial Library Service and the Wellington Municipality agreed to allocate R1 million on the 2000/2001 budget for the improvement of libraries in Wellington. The town library was upgraded and enlarged whilst Readers' got a new library in Van Wyksvlei.

This modern new library in Coode Street was opened in April 2002 and officially inaugurated by the then minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Patrick Mackenzie. Wellington Readers' Library was also computerised in 2004.

The library serves four primary schools, four high schools and all the crèches of the surrounding areas. Readers' is very involved

in community projects and assisting schools with the organisation of their school libraries. Staff: one senior librarian; one senior library assistant; one library assistant; four contract library assistants; one cleaner.

Membership: 8,259
Circulation: 63,738
Stock: 18,418

Saron Library

Saron Library opened its doors to the public on 9 July 2003 but the official opening took place on 25 October 2003 by the then mayor, Mr Herman Bailey. 1,016 members joined the library and on the first day 302 items were circulated. The library opened with a manual system but went online on 17 September 2004.

The library serves three crèches, two primary schools, one high school and the students of Weskus Kollege. The schools and crèches visit the library regularly for story hours and library orientation and library staff visit the schools twice a year. Saron Library reaches out to the community and also has a soup kitchen during the winter months. Holiday programmes bring an increase in usage as the library is the only recreation facility in the community.

Staff: one senior librarian; one library assistant; one contract library assistant; one cleaner.

Membership: 2,775
Circulation: 31,282
Stock: 16,220

Wellington Library

Wellington Library first opened in 1861 in Church Street but only stayed open for two years because of lack of interest from the residents. In 1879 a library committee was formed who re-opened the library, where it operated in the same building for 44 years as a subscription library. A new building was inaugurated on 2 May 1923 and in 1956 the library became part of the free provincial library service. The library building was extended in 2002 and in 2004 became computerised on the PALS system.

Wellington Library is involved in various community activities and received a provincial award in 2010 for the most involved community library.

Staff: one senior librarian; one senior library assistant; two permanent library assistants; four contract library assistants; one shelf attendant; one cleaner.

Membership: 9,893
Circulation: 179,357
Stock: 34,111

Satellite libraries

As an extension of our services to the rural communities we started, in cooperation with schools, to open satellite libraries.

Simondium Primary Wheelie Wagon (Ward 1)

Simondium Wheelie Wagon opened on 4 September 2008 and is run from a converted classroom at Simondium Primary school.

Nieuwedrift Primary Wheelie Wagon (Ward 17)

Nieuwedrift was opened on 29 September 2006. Jonathan Kock and Petro Gelant from Paarl Library ran the Wheelie Wagon twice a week during school hours for learners as well as for adults from the surrounding farms, sometimes until five o'clock in the afternoon.

Nagenoeg Wheelie Wagon

Nagenoeg Wheelie Wagon was officially opened on 30 August 2004 by Minister ZC Stali. It was identified as a main project for the Library Service in terms of the premier's 100 days deposits.

The Wheelie Wagon is housed on the farm Nagenoeg, situated in the Lynedoch area between Stellenbosch and Somerset West.

Approximately 30 workers with their families live on the farm. Other farms are Kleinmoerbe, Feinddraai, Meerlush and Welmoed, whose workers also use the facility.

The Lynedoch Primary school is about 7 km away. The two Wheelie Wagons are located in a small room, which is attached to a small clinic.

Staff: one librarian

Membership: 55
Circulation: 1,256
Stock: 1,642