

# Exploring Beaufort West Region

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The Beaufort West Municipality covers the towns of Beaufort West, Merweville, Murraysburg and Nelspoort. The Library Services Department of this municipality forms part of the Directorate: Corporate Services. There are nine libraries in the department, namely Beaufort West, Mimosa, Leeu-Gamka, Laingsburg, Merweville, Nelspoort, Murraysburg, Klarstroom and Prince Albert, with three depots, Mandlenkosi, Klein Swartberg and Matjiesfontein.

## Leeu-Gamka Biblioteek

Leeu-Gamka is 'n klein Karoodorpie in die Wes-Kaap. Die dorp het tans 'n baie hoë werkloosheidsyfer. Die biblioteek is naby die skool en kliniek geleë en is in Augustus 2007 ingehuldig. Die gemeenskap bestaan uit meer as 3,000 mense. Daar is net een skool en die leerlinge besoek gereeld die biblioteek. Die bibliotekaris en assistent geniet dit om leerders met hul take te help, en gesels gereeld oor nuwe boeke en skrywers.

Die biblioteek lewer 'n diens aan die laerskool, kleuterskole en bejaardes. Internet-dienste word gratis aan die publiek beskikbaar gestel. Die personeel van Leeu-Gamka Biblioteek is lief vir uitdaginge, uitstallings en om met die gemeenskap te

kommunikeer.

Koshuiskinders maak ook gebruik van die biblioteek. Die plaasboere besoek die biblioteek gereeld. Mejj G Deelman en D Willemse moet omtrent bontstaan om almal te help.

Personeel: een bibliotekassistent; een skoonmaker.

Ledetal: 1,326  
Sirkulasie: 1,061  
Voorraad: 5,209

## Murraysburg Public Library

Murraysburg is a small town 160km from Beaufort West on the R63 North turnoff from the N1, and is also the last town within the Western Cape border. This town with a population of about 7,500 people is also one of the poorest in the country where 90% of the people depend on government grants and farm labour on the district's sheep farms.

Murraysburg Public Library opened on 21 October 1966 with Esther Pienaar as the first librarian.

The library currently fulfils a most needed and important educational role in the community, such as community outreach programmes, story hours, holiday programmes and library orientation. Library staff also has a very close relationship with the local primary and high school and the Abet Centre. The librarian visits the Huis Spitskop Old Age Home across the road once every two weeks with the book

trolley. The library offers a free computer and Internet service to the community that is extensively used by learners. A wide range of library stock includes books, DVDs, videos, CDs, newspapers, magazines and reference books that are widely promoted and used. The promoting of a reading culture and the upliftment of the community through information and technology remain the main priority of the library.

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

Membership: 3,346  
Circulation: 3,043  
Stock: 12,654

## Prince Albert Public Library

Prince Albert Library serves the Prince Albert community. This library was opened in 1826 and is now 150 years old: the oldest library in the region. The library also forms part of the Information and Communication (ICT) project. A new counter and two beautiful shelves have recently been installed in the library with assistance from the Municipal Replacement Funding (MRT). The staff have regular story hours and put on beautiful displays. During Library Week they invite preschools and primary school learners for library orientation. The library is open every weekday: 9:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:30 and closed on Saturdays.

▼ Leeu-Gamka se kleurvolle kinderafdeling



► 'n Gerieflike studie-area in Leeu-Gamka Biblioteek



▲ Gertruida Deelman, biblioteekassistent (links) en Deborah Willemse hou die wiele aan die rol in Leeu-Gamka Biblioteek

▼ Murraysburg Library's DVD and CD collection



▼ Prince Albert Library's energetic staff (ltr): Jeanetta Nel, library assistant with Reinie Smit, librarian. (Kato Malies was on leave)



◀ The reference section of Murraysburg Library



◀ Prince Albert Library's children's section is a delight to visit



▲ Murraysburg Library serves one of the poorest towns in the area. See here is (ltr): Sharon Boksmans, cleaner; Donovan Snyders, librarian and Bongive Davids, library assistant

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

Membership: 2,620  
Circulation: 6,243  
Stock: 14,847

### Beaufort West Library

Beaufort West is the largest library in the region. They have regular story hours and staff visit old age homes twice a month. There are usually more than one display in the library. The library is open every weekday: 10:00-17:00, as well as on Saturdays: 8:00-12:00.

Staff: four library assistants; one library helper (Conditional Grant).

Membership: 6,926  
Circulation: 13,488  
Stock: 27,106

### Merweville Library

This small library has only one staff member, yet has regular activity programmes and displays. The library is open during weekdays: 10:00-13:00 and 13:45-16:30 and closed on Saturdays.

Staff: one librarian.

Membership: 458  
Circulation: 460  
Stock: 4,785

### Laingsburg Library

Laingsburg Library serves the Laingsburg community. Since 2011 Laingsburg is also part of the ICT project.

The library is open every weekday: 9:30-13:00 and 14:00-17:00 and closed on Saturdays.

Staff: one librarian; one library assistant.

Membership: 1,195  
Circulation: 3,933  
Stock: 13,244

### Klaarstroom Library

Located in Klaarstroom the library is small with only one staff member. Since 2011 the library is also part of the ICT project. They have regular activity programmes and entertain users with interesting video shows. The library is open from Mondays to Thursdays: 10:00-17:00, and Fridays:

12:00-17:00 and closed on Saturdays.  
Staff: one librarian.

Membership: 267  
Circulation: 1,242  
Stock: 4,569

### Mimosa Library

Mimosa Library serves the community of Mimosa. Since 2010 this library is part of the ICT project. They have regular programmes such as a spelling bee for schools (annually), reading, poetry and a general knowledge quiz. The library is open from Mondays to Fridays: 10:00-17:00 and every Saturday: 8:00-12:00.

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

Membership: 5,184  
Circulation: 5,417  
Stock: 20,237

### Nelspoort Biblioteek

Nelspoort Biblioteek is geopen in Junie 2007, en is geleë in Nelspoort, 52km buite Beaufort-Wes. Die Sonstraatjie Kleuterskool besoek die biblioteek een keer 'n maand, en verskeie programme word aan die Laerskool Restvale Primêr aangebied. Gereelde uitstallings om die biblioteek te verfraai word volgens temas en spesiale dae gemaak.

Nelspoort het in die verlede bestaan uit die Nelspoort Opleiding- en Rehabilitasiesentrum, maar vorm ook nou deel van die Beaufort-Wes Munisipaliteit. Die dorp is ook bekend vir sy Boesmantekeninge, en is die middelpunt van die omliggende plase.

Personeel: een biblioteekassistent.

Ledetal: 686  
Sirkulasie: 294  
Voorraad: 7,400

### Wheelie Wagons

There are three Wheelie Wagons in the area:

### Mandlenkosi

Staff: one librarian.

Membership: 464  
Circulation: 378  
Stock: 2,341

### Matjiesfontein

Staff: one librarian.

Membership: 216  
Circulation: 203  
Stock: 1,665

### Klein Swartberg

Staff: one librarian.

Membership: 92  
Circulation: 366  
Stock: 1,609



▲ An interesting display at Merweville Library to draw users' attention to relevant stock



▲ Merweville Library's Philancia Braaft runs the show singlehandedly



▼ ◀ The spacious Beaufort West Library has of over 27,000 items of stock



▲ ▶ The small library of Klaarstroom has only one staff member. Magdalena Michaels (right), the library assistant has to singlehandedly see to her 267 members' needs



▲ The friendly staff at Beaufort West Library (ltr): Ayanda Piti, (Conditional Grant); Zanele Furmen, library assistant; Sharifa January, library assistant; Marie Frieslaar, library aid; Jean Luiters, library assistant; and Kholeka Ngqulana, (Conditional Grant)



▲ A delightful Panda exhibit in Laingsburg Library



▶ Laingsburg Library's Louisa du Toit, librarian and Liesl Koenze, library assistant have 1195 users to look after

▶ ▼ Mimosa Library has been part of the ICT project since 2010. Note the attention-grabbing mobiles on the right



▲ (Ltr): Felicity Williams, library aid; Minna Stander, library assistant; Mandla Tshibo, library aid (Conditional Grant) and Elriza Philander, library aid (Conditional Grant) are always ready to assist at Mimosa Library



▲ Nelspoort Biblioteek vier Mandela Dag



▲ In Nelspoort Biblioteek is kleingoes baie welkom



◀ Nelspoort Biblioteek se Juline Wildschut is die bibliotekaris wat omsien na inwoners se leesbehoefes