



LIBRARIES
BIBLIOTEKE
AMATHALA EENCWADI

The Friends supports St Luke's



▲ Seen here are (ltr): Helen Duckworth of the Milnerton branch of St Luke's Hospice; Simon Ackerman and Pam Gillbee from Milnerton Library and Jenny MacDonal representing The Friends of the Milnerton Library

The Friends of the **Milnerton Library** supports St Luke's Hospice by donating books, magazines and audio material in order to help them to raise funds for the incredible good work they are doing. As their mission statement clarifies, the essential caring services St Luke's Hospice provides to people with terminal illnesses, that is, 'To provide palliative care for improved quality of life and to enable people to die with dignity', and that no person is refused the service of St Luke's because they cannot afford to pay for their care, it is imperative that communities support the Hospice in their efforts in any way they can. St Luke's has to rely on the generosity of their donors, the skill of their fundraisers and the loyalty of their volunteers to continue to care for the community of Cape Town.

The Friends of the Milnerton Library makes regular donations to the Milnerton

branch of St Luke's Hospice to be sold in their second-hand bookshop. Proceeds of sales are used to provide assistance to all the patients and their families in our community, wherever possible.

Mariëtha Eyssen

Principal Librarian, Milnerton Public Library

Speed dating books for teens

During the December school holidays, **Central Library's** staff decided to have a Speed Dating Books programme to introduce teens to exciting books to help them through the long break from school.

We selected books from different genres that spanned a wide range of topics, including fiction and non-fiction. The books were arranged in piles at the tables, in the beautifully transformed seminar room at Central. We employed a red and white theme, which was both romantic and Christmassy to suit the time of year.

The teens were warmly welcomed and we engaged with them on the topic of dating and, more specifically, the concept of speed dating. Then it was time to 'meet the books!' They were allowed time to 'speed date' the books by spending about five minutes with each pile, reading blurbs and the first few pages of the books with the aim of 'finding a match'.

We provided each one with a list of the books on offer, and asked them to rate the books 'Hot', 'Okay', or 'Not'. Light snacks and drinks were served, which always seem to add to the enjoyment factor. At the end of the programme, we had a lucky draw with book prizes for three lucky participants.

It was a light-hearted programme with lots of laughs and the teens loved the fun and humorous ambience. The facilitators were happy that they seemed to hit the nail on the head with most of the choices for the group, as a high percentage of the books were rated HOT! The participants were allowed to take the books they'd bonded with home for further bonding.

Interestingly, the teens urged us to have a follow-up programme in 2013 for their friends, which we plan to do. We will also present a similar programme for adults in the near future. The most popular book on the day was **The lovely bones** by Alice Sebold, which was boisterously applauded – possibly as a result of the movie currently on circuit. As usual, the programme was a learning curve, for us, as much as for those attending.

Akeela Gaibie

Senior Librarian, Central Library, Cape Town

What an innovative project! The booklist follows on the next page. ED



▲ Teens show off their books of choice and book prizes with facilitators Natalie Rae Denton and Akeela Gaibie

Speed dating booklist for teens

BOOK	HOT ☺	OKAY ☹	NOT ☹
A matter of attitude by Hayden			
Breathing underwater by Alex Flinn			
Chasing Romeo by AJ Byrd			
City of bones by Cassandra Clare			
Daniel X: alien hunter by James Patterson			
Dare to make a difference in your school (and your life) by Todd Hafer and Vicki Kuyper			
Deadlands by Lily Herne			
Dirty Jersey by Phillip Thomas Duck			
Dirty South by Phillip Thomas Duck			
Divine by choice by PC Cast			
Eye of the Oracle by Bryan Davis			
Ghostgirl: lovesick by Tonya Hurley			
Hanging on to Max by Margaret Bechard			
Incarceron by Catherine Fisher			
Infinity by Sarah Dessen			
Last chance by Sarah Dessen			
Lock and key by Sarah Dessen			
Manifest by Artist Arthur			
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli			
Nervous conditions by Tsitsi Dangarembga			
Never cry werewolf by Heather Davis			
Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The lightning thief by Rick Riordan			
Prism by Aliza and Faye Kellerman			
Teambuilding with teens: activities for leadership, decision making and group success by Mariam MacGregor			
The adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson			
The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod by Heather Brewer			
The forest of hands and teeth by Carrie Ryan			
The graveyard book by Neil Gaiman			
The house I loved by Tatiana De Rosnay			
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins			
The last dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde			
The lives of Christopher Chant by Diana Wynne Jones			
The lovely bones by Alice Sebold			
The secret countess by Eva Ibbotson			
The tattoo artist by Jull Ciment			
Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë			

Bekendstelling van SLIMS by Caledon Biblioteek



▲ Hier verskyn die nuut aangestelde kontrakwerkers by **Caledon Biblioteek**. (Lnr): Nosimo Zitho en Nathalia Watson

Erratum

Please note that the theme for Library Week 2013 is *Educate yourself @ your library* and not *Stay connected @ your library* as published on p. 59 in the November/December 2012 issue of the **CL**.

'n Kunstenaar is soos 'n stoel. Daar is vier bene – ambisie, deursettingsvermoë, intelligensie en dan eers kom talent. As een van die vier nie daar is nie, staan die stoel nie.

(Mimi Coertse)

Valhalla Park Library Book Club

The end-of-year function of the Valhalla Park Library book club was indeed a colourful affair:



**ALLERLEI
MISCELLANY
IINCWADI
EZAHLUKENEYO**

Kalk Bay

A new book, **With the train to Kalk Bay** written by Graham Isaacs and printed by LAPA, was launched at SASNEV on 24 November 2012. The book was also translated into Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu. 554 copies of the translated version in isiXhosa and isiZulu were donated to Biblionef and they immediately also bought 50 copies of each of the English and Afrikaans versions for their bookstock. We share with readers

snippets of Isaacs' talk during the very exciting launch of the book.

'Nelson Mandela once said and I quote: "I believe that education and reading are two of the most important things for children. Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. The system of apartheid robbed many children of their right to a decent education and of the joy of reading. This joy is one that I have treasured all my life, and it is one I wish for all South Africans."

'This powerful message he sent with his grandson when the **Illustrated Long walk to freedom** was published in 2009.

'My author tour kicked off on Friday 23 November with a train ride from Cape Town station to Kalk Bay. I was accompanied by 50 school children and their educators, the media and everyone in the LAPA Cape Town office.

'The children were very excited to be on the train and not in the classroom for that day. At Kalk Bay beach we had a storytelling and a question and answer session.

'This truly South African picture book tells the story of an exciting day in the lives of a Cape Town family. It is the day after Christmas and my family and I are spending the day on the

beach. On the way there, we call out the names of the stations we pass: "Bonteheuwel! Langa! Pinelands! Ndabeni! Maitland! Salt River!" And this is where we had to switch trains.

'All the children had a card with the names of the stations on it and you had to tick it off in the correct order if you wanted to be the lucky one to receive the prize. And the prize was that no one could send you to the shop or ask you to do anything.

'It turns into the kind of day you never, never, never want to forget – a day filled with sunshine, sandcastles, songs by the Cape minstrels . . . watermelon and ice cream for dessert!

My top books in the past year

Concerning taste, there should be no disputes! St Augustine wrote those words 1,600 years ago and their truth applies not just to taste in food, but also to taste in literature. Not everyone's soul is fed in the same way and we eventually gravitate towards where we are fed. Ron Rolheiser, columnist for more than 70 newspapers worldwide, shares the books that most spoke to him this past year:

Faith by Jennifer Haigh. This is a novel set in Boston during the height of the clergy sexual abuse crises. It is insightful, fair, knowledgeable as to the lay of the ecclesial and clerical land, and a great narrative, a page-turner. Few books will give you this kind of insight into the clerical sexual abuse crisis.

The sense of an ending by Julian Barnes. Barnes won the Booker Prize for this



novel. Lots of emotional intelligence here, a bit over-earthy at times, and a quick read. Amoral to the simplistic eye, but a moral book at a deeper level.

The land of spices by Kate O'Brien. First published in 1941 and condemned by the Catholic censors then for a single passage which today could appear in a high school catechesis book. A look into the inner-life of a convent boarding school in Ireland, it focusses on the growth of a young student and the inner religious and emotional struggles of the Mother Superior in charge of the school. Deeply insightful, a rare piece of literature.

The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce. Unlikely indeed. Set in England, a retiree sets off to mail a letter and just keeps walking. At first no one notices, then the world notices, and eventually nobody notices. Delightful and a page-turner.

The homeless bishop by Joseph Girzone. Perhaps more a treatise of spirituality than a novel, and perhaps more naïve than realistic, but a wonderful idealistic vision of what the Church could be if we in fact took the Gospel seriously.

Under the shadow of the banyan tree by Vannay Radner: Historical fiction, an account of one family's nightmare under the Khmer Rouge during the genocide in Cambodia. A haunting book, no doubt largely autobiographical.

When I was a child I read books by Marilynne Robinson. Known mostly as a novelist, Robinson has given us a book of essays, mostly commentary on our religious, political, and cultural situation today. Great insight and great balance. An important read vis-à-vis the tension between faith and culture today.

Patience with God, the story of Zacchaeus and **The night of the confessor** by Tomas Halik. Thomas Halik is a Czech priest, ordained underground during the Soviet occupation, who now teaches spirituality at a university in the Czech Republic. His books are finally available in English. I recommend both these works, particularly the first one, **Patience with God** which might be summed up as follows: An atheist is just another word for someone who doesn't have enough patience with God.

John of the Cross by Peter Tyler. The great Spanish mystic, John of the Cross, is a

Christian treasure. Unfortunately, because of his distance from us in time and language, his writings are best approached with the aid of a guide. Peter Tyler is such a guide and this book can be a good introduction to John of the Cross.

Manifesting God by Thomas Keating. Thomas Keating is one of the major spiritual leaders of our time and perhaps our foremost guide in contemplative prayer: His insights are scattered within a large number of books; but if you are looking for a single book, a handbook so to speak, on Thomas Keating and his vision of contemplative prayer; this is his most synthetic book.

Genius born of anguish - the life and legacy of Henri Nouwen by Michael W Higgins and Kevin Burns. Michael Higgins is the official authorised biographer of Fr Henri Nouwen. This book is not yet the definitive biography but an interim look at one of the most popular and influential spirituality writers of the last half-century.

Each of these books, for its own reasons, spoke to me. I offer them under that canopy. But - go where you're fed!

The Southern Cross

As Lyn Steyn so aptly mentions in Sundowners on page 27, 'lists of 'The best', 'The top ten', 'The top ten best' are plentiful this time of the year. Hence we thought we'd add yet another 'My top books' list to the pile. One can never have enough recommendations on what to read next... ED



**SKRYFGEDAGTES
ON WRITING
EZABABHALI**

'n Solo op sy tyd is darem altyd beter as 'n duet

'n Vriend wys my nou die dag die boek **Om te skryf** wat meer as 670 bladsye se voorbeelde, wenke, verduidelikings, bronne, woordelyste en so meer bevat. Talle van die bydraers is bekendes, plaaslike skrywers én klassieke name van oraloor.

Ek het onlangs die **Afrikaanse skryfgids** (saamgestel deur Riana Scheepers en Leti Kleyn) aangeskaf. Om dus nóg so 'n knewel oor skryfegnieke raak te loop was net té aantreklik: ek móés **Om te skryf** hê! En toe

gaan kuier ek vir iemand wat by althwee boeke se samestelling betrokke was.

Hý sê onverwags: 'O, wil jy een hê? Ek het 'n paar gratis gekry' en tjoef, stop hy my 'n **Om te skryf** in die hand. Eish, so baie boeke, só baie blaie, so min tyd. Maar ek knibbel aan hom (en ander om die beurt), hap hier en daar gretig aan gunsteling-skrywers se werk, en maak selfs soms notas.

Hierdie notamakerie is 'n bewys dat die inhoud van die boek regtig impak maak – die kopratte begin knars en elke slag se stukkie lees is oliedruppels op dié ou roeserige ratjies. Soms maak die ratte 'n vonkie – en ek sien in die flou liggie iewers, diep in die duister, ver agter tussen spinnerakke en stofbolletjies 'n gedagte sy hand opsteek: hier's ek, poets my skoon, ek vergaan amper van eensaamheid en ellende ... en *boink*, ek het dit! Ek soek 'n pen, skryf sommer my Nuwe Gedagte binne-in **Om te skryf** voor ek vergeet. En hoekom, sodat ek dit hier kan tik en daai amper vergete gedagtetjie, nou blink gevryf, in **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** kan verskyn.

Hopelik is die gedagtetjie blink genoeg om ander se aandag te behou: nie net 'n stofmagneet op 'n hoë rak nie, maar 'n gesprekdinamo – wat daar op sy ere-rakkie raakgesien word en nuwe gedagtes ontlok. En hier is dit: in my vrou se mandjie aan haar kant van die bed lê 'n stapel boeke. Een wat al lank daar lê is 'n speurverhaal. Dis geskryf deur twee skrywers, nogal 'n eggenotespan (amper soos Sergeanne Golon, wat die *Angeliq*-reeks geskep het). Hierdie boek, 'n plaaslike produk, kry egter nie aftrek nie, en ek het al gewonder hoekom.

Om vir VROUTJIE direk te vra werp selde 'n antwoord af – daai appel hang net doer bo en waai in die wind, tot ek opgee en een by Fruit & Veg loop kry. Of eerder, ek loop net. En dan, eendag soos nou, hoor ek daai *karplaks* en dan het die appel geval. Hierdie slag het die appel uit die boom genaamd **Om te skryf** geval, en dit handel oor skrywerstemme. Maar laat ons nou nie soos VROUTJIE vaer as die Orakel van Delphi wees nie: die vraag is: hóekom wil ons nie sommer romans lees wat deur meer as een skrywer geskryf is nie, terwyl dit heel aanvaarbaar is wanneer mens feiteboeke lees?

Dis omdat ons, wanneer ons 'n storie lees, 'n spesifieke skrywerstem soek. Maar hoekom? Want jy wil hê die verteller moet aan jou persoonlik en alleen daai storie

vertel. Jy verlang na die intimiteit van verteller-en-toehoorder. Soos toe jy nog 'n bonsai-mensie was en Ma of Pa al haar/ sy aandag aan jou gegee het: dís waarna jy verlang: storietyd, veilig en gemaklik en ietwat bederf... jy is die enigste luisteraar vir wie 'n solosang gelewer word, terwyl jy nie omgee as feiteboeke 'n koorgesang is nie – jy's mos gewoonnd daaraan dat 'n hele span onderwysers of dosente hulle ding gedoen het: punt een, punt twee, en so aan, *ad infinitum*.

Nee, jy verkies eerder 'n gedugte span kenners wat daai feite aanbied – as jy iets wil leer, wil jy dit netjies en legitiem uitgelê hê. Waarde vir jou geld, want feite is soos bore en hamers. Goeters wat jy nodig het en betroubaar moet wees.

Stories egter, is 'n heel ander... wel, storie. Daar's emosie betrokke en redelik voor in die emosiekoor is nostalgie – verlange na die warm gevoel van geborgenheid; veilig toegevoe in komberse, liefde én daai bekende stem. Dis hoekom Vroutjie nog soms vra dat ek hardop moet lees as sy al haar leeslampie afgeskakel het. En dis hoekom ek nie juis gewillig is nie – ek wil nie my stem hoor nie. Ek wil die skrywer se stem hoor. Al verbeel ek my dit net. Verbeel is immers deel van die leesproses!

Ek glo dat die meeste boekwurms sal saamstem. Miskien onderskat ons die skrywerstem. Maar bowenal onderskat Ma en Pa hul bydraes om aan Jannie en Sannie lewenslange leesgenot te verskaf – as Ma en Pa nie meer daar is nie, lees ons maar self, want ons kan onself nou help, dankie.

Dankie Ma, dankie Pa. O, en dankie aan my vriend vir **Om te lees**. Ek verstaan nou sommer meer oor 'om te lees'. Hóékom ek dit doen, veral.

Bronne

Scheepers, R en Klein, L (red). **Afrikaanse skryfgids**.- Penguin, 2012

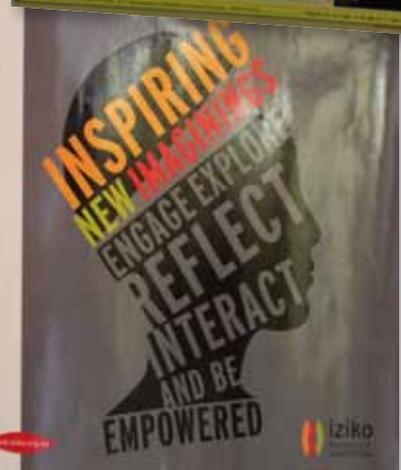
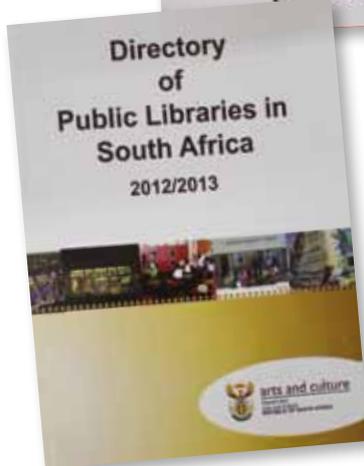
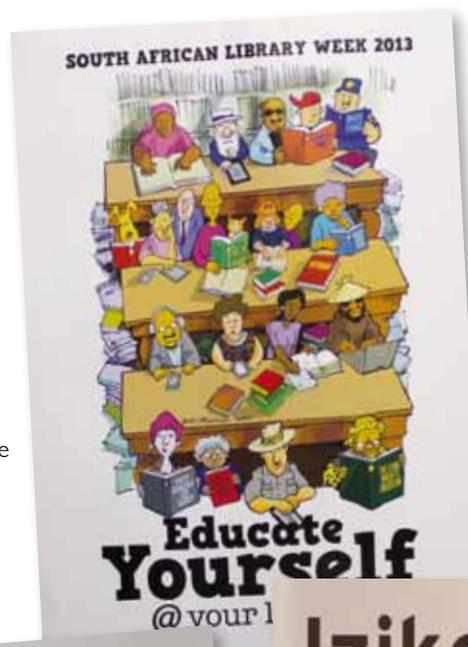
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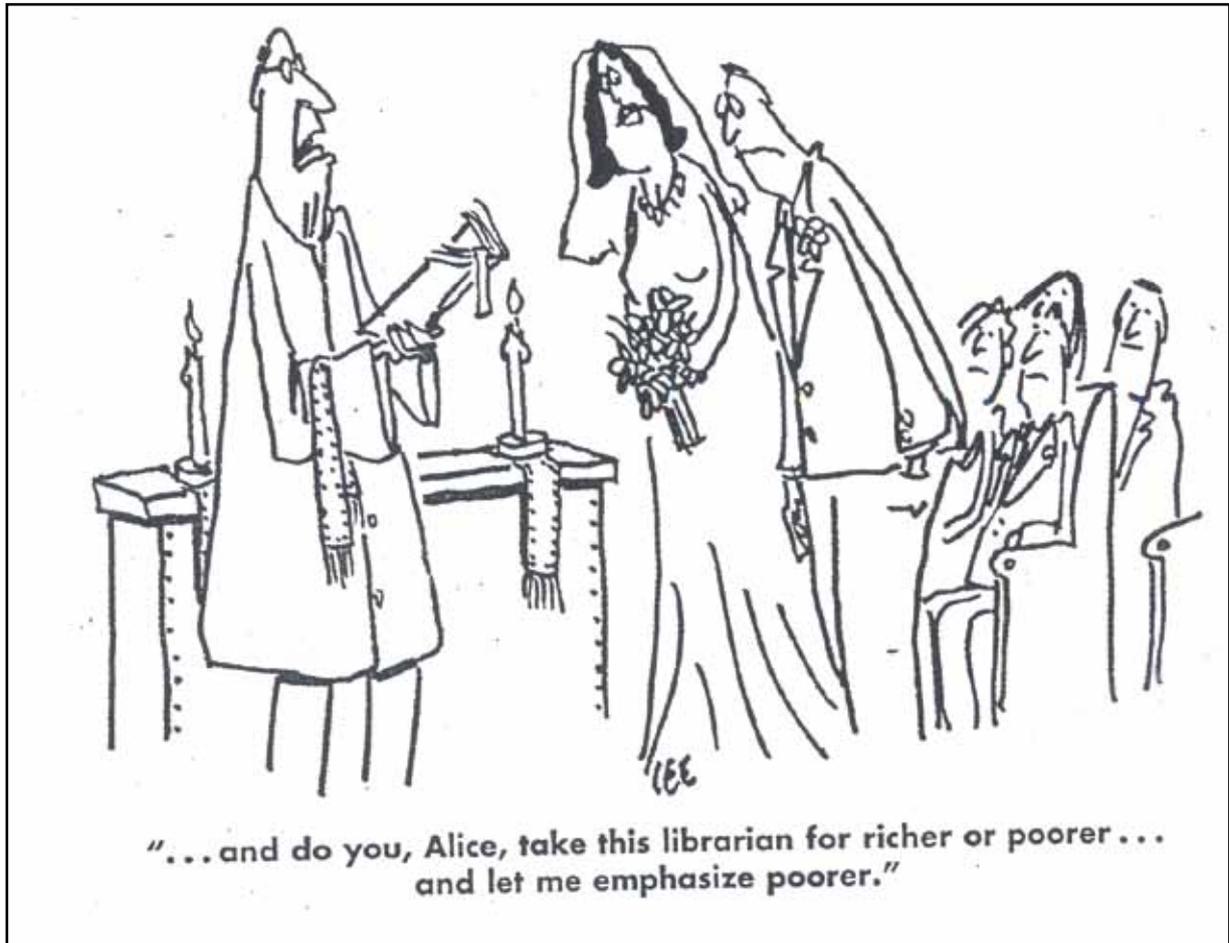
Dr Francois Verster
Korrespondent

Our service to libraries

Featured below are publications produced by other organisations. As a service to NGOs and non-profit organisations, the Publication and Promotions Section distributed these to the 343 libraries in the Service during the months of January and February this year:

- ▶ LIASA yearplanner
- ▶ LIASA Library Week poster
- ▶ Directory of public libraries in South Africa
- ▶ Iziko Summer School poster





Cape Librarian 40 JAAR GELEDE ...

Stefan Wehmeyer Adjunkdirekteur: Streke

Hoogtepunte van 1973 sluit in:

- ▶ Op 3 April 1973 sê Martin 'Marty' Cooper: 'Joel, this is Marty. I'm calling you from a cell phone, a real handheld portable cell phone.' Na hierdie historiese eerste selfoonoproep in New York sou dit nog 10 jaar duur voordat die eerste kommersiële sellulêre dienste bekend gestel word, teen 'n prys van net 4 000 Amerikaanse dollar.
- ▶ The Vietnam War ends with the withdrawal of the last US troops.
- ▶ Die Suid-Afrikaanse entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth word gebore.
- ▶ The end of an era of cheap oil arrived when (OPEC) hiked oil prices tremendously in retaliation for 'Western countries' involvement in the Yom Kippur War. The market price for oil rose substantially, from \$3 per barrel to \$12 per barrel.
- ▶ Steve Biko word deur die Suid-Afrikaanse regering as verbode persoon verklaar.

Januarie en Februarie 1973 se Kaapse Bibliotekaris:

- ▶ Anita Claassens van Robertson Openbare Biblioteek skryf 'n artikel oor die 100ste bestaansjaar van Robertson Openbare Biblioteek.

(Anita het einde Desember 2012 afgetree na meer as 40 jaar by Robertson Openbare Biblioteek en die huidige Robertson Openbare Biblioteekgebou is vanjaar 50 jaar oud).

- ▶ Mary Kleinschmidt interviewed the famous Una Van Der Spuy, author of gardening books, at her beautiful gardens at Old Nectar in the Jonkershoek Valley. 'Una feels strongly that South Africans are not nearly conscious enough of parks or tree-planting in streets... ugly architecture could be softened by climbers, shrubs or trees – the streets would be cool and shady and the dry landscape camouflaged.' (Una Van der Spuy died on 5 July 2013.)
- ▶ Isabelle Lubbe van Boekkeuring doen aanbevelings van boeke oor; onder andere, skaak (gewild na groot skaakwedstryd tussen Boris Spassky en Bobby Fischer) en skryf verder: 'die moontlikheid van komende TELEVISIE het belangstelling onder die leespubliek gaande gemaak'. (Eksperimentele TV-uitsendings het vanaf Mei 1975 in die hoofstede in Suid-Afrika begin).