

# 2020 Digital National Book Week event

by Neville Adonis

The Publication and Promotions Section of the Western Cape Library Service have been busy with various events for a very long time, such as the popular annual Library Week event; Oral History Initiative event; Africa Day event; Literacy Day event; World Book Day event; the LIASA Village Exhibition event and then also the longstanding National Book Week event.

Apart from our annual Library Week event, which is running annually for a few decades now, the National Book Week event has become our second longest running event of the Western Cape Library Service. Last year we celebrated the 10th anniversary in partnership with the South African Book Development Council (SABDC). Over the years we hosted this event at various municipalities. Each year we select a different municipality and have now rolled out this event at approximately ten municipalities and the public libraries they serve, which included, amongst others, places such as Ceres, Laingsburg, Swellendam and George, Paarl and Cape Town.

This year, due to the current situation with the COVID-19 virus, where all events and gatherings are not allowed, and, or, limited, it was decided to have the National Book Week event in a digital format, which means that whatever we planned to do will be online.



Anroux Marais, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport (middle), launched National Book Week in Bonnievale on 2 September 2019

Needless to say, in my wildest dreams I did not think that we would host the National Book Week event this year as all our events are cancelled for this year, but a call from the SABDC, our partner in this event, to have a teleconference to discuss the possibility to have the event in a different format to fit in



with the changing environment we are in, has given me some hope and positiveness that we indeed can start planning on a digital and online National Book Week event. I just need to say that this is our first digital event attempt, but the prognosis seems to be that it will realize given the creative and strong partnership with the SABDC.

The primary aims and objectives of the 2020 digital National Book Week campaign are firstly to have a conversation with the public library raising the awareness of reading and books; to promote and encourage reading; to increase access to books and to increase social media awareness. To achieve these aims and objectives we plan to have the following projects and programmes running throughout the National Book Week event in September 2020: a national poster designed by the SABDC with the theme: *Books beyond words*, to all the public libraries in the Western Cape, multiple online activity books, which include our very own *My Bhuki book* in Afrikaans and English and our *Be a Star Activity book* for children, instant newflashes as well as online programmes that will include storytelling, word games, motivational talks, Wordathon and reading stories on your cell phone.

The existing online services that are currently provided by the Western Cape Library Service to the public libraries

in the Western Cape includes the very popular online **Cape Librarian** magazine, SLIMS online library books catalogue, Living Atlas where you can see all our libraries and find out more about each facility such as its location, library hours and contact details.

For more information on the Western Cape Library Service please visit our website at [www.westerncape.gov.za/library](http://www.westerncape.gov.za/library).

#### **National Book Week 2020:**

**Theme:** *Books beyond words*

**Date:** 7-13 September 2020

**Format:** Digital

**Webiste:** [www.sabookcouncil.co.za/national-book-week/](http://www.sabookcouncil.co.za/national-book-week/)

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