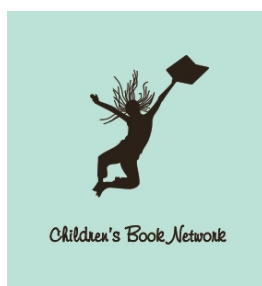


# *Children's Book Network*

Annual Report for 2016



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# Children's Book Network (CBN) 2017

*Putting children and books on the same page*

[www.childrensbook.co.za](http://www.childrensbook.co.za)

Children's Book Network turns five this year. Time to grow. Time to develop what we have built with the children of Red Hill, Clanwilliam, Stanford and Hermanus.

Time to share.

## Core information

We work with children from under-resourced communities, children between the ages of 9 and 12 – children who usually can read, but often don't. If somebody doesn't interest them in reading at this age, it is fair to assume that they will never read comfortably.

Our workshop participants attend voluntarily during school holidays and at weekends. We contact them through libraries, teachers and community leaders. Children elect to attend and become part of the process by taking a permission form to their carer and bringing it back. This means that children we work with really *want* to engage.

Often we will have multiple languages in a group – isiXhosa, Afrikaans and other African languages. Our experience is that children in this age group have a good *understanding* of English, even if they do not speak it fluently, and work well with us in that language. We always have translators available, but seldom need them.

## Where do we operate?

CBN has now moved to the Overstrand, centred in Stanford, and working with children in Hermanus, Stanford and – soon we hope – Gansbaai and other villages.

There is immense potential to bring the gift of reading for fun and enjoyment to more and more children.

## What do we do?

### **Workshops**

Our most heartfelt concept is that of themed workshops with children. We worked with Clanwilliam children for nearly two years around ideas of Time and Landscape. Other themes have ranged from local heroes to making music with rock gongs (ringing rocks).

Our participants have listened with rapt attention to Bach played both on the cello and on the violin, created lion masks, written their own rap, danced to fiddle music, made instruments, created their own shadow puppets and written plays for them, written their own anthems, mapped their town in chalk and taken their own photographs of their town for a Saturday morning theme. The list goes on ...

Every workshop begins, ends, and is punctuated by story sessions where the children are introduced to books they will not have seen before, ideas that may be new to them and challenges they didn't know they could meet.

Conservationists, archaeologists, beekeepers and astronomers, storytellers and drummers, penguin enthusiasts and artists, among many others, have shared their excitement and enthusiasm. The method works.

For full reports of all our workshops (and many pictures) please look at:

<http://www.childrensbook.co.za/workshops/reports>



### **The Books**

We choose our books from a wide range of possibilities ranging from short extracts from young adult books to picture books for very young children – many titles supplied by our Book Editor, Jay Heale. We try to make them

laugh as well as think. We talk about the meaning of books in life and imagination. We bring passion to the idea of reading.

We use non-fiction as well as fiction. Our chosen books range from very simple to really advanced. If they are interested enough, children will read them – and there is always quiet reading time when they are welcome to read everything from coffee table books to picture books.



### Who has funded this?

Our strongest supporters have been Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in South Africa, Sweden and Britain who have provided not only funding, but also practical advice and support. Our chairman and two other members of our board are Rotarians and our largest single donation came from Rotary Skelleftea in northern Sweden.

We were part of an exciting community development project associated with the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall and were awarded funding by the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation. This was a wonderful opportunity to work extensively on themes to do with the archaeology about to be submerged by the new dam levels.

We have also worked in tandem with the Centre for the Book (SA National Libraries) and Enlighten Education Trust in Hermanus both of whom funded workshops at their venues. CBN has held workshops with librarians in conjunction with the Franschhoek Literary Festival Trust and we hope to develop that connection further.

We are hugely appreciative of many personal funding donations, and by the priceless donations of time and energy from our volunteers.



Our registration process and governance is now complete, with our bank account, NPO Registration and section 18A tax exemption and PBO number acquired and our annual audits approved. We are ready for more action.

## To the future – Train the trainers and Toolbox Reading Kits

### ***Train the trainers***

We are very much aware that workshops can only reach a limited number of children. Much of the success of a workshop lies in the relationship between carefully chosen facilitators and children who are often not used to such close personal interaction. For a workshop with 25 children (the maximum for effective results) we need 3 trained facilitators and ideally 3 assistants.

This is a high proportion but means that each child has an *experience* of all the activities, becomes more confident in reading, has a chance to be a personality in the group and to fully participate. Our main aim is in reading, but we hope the children also acquire more confidence and belief in themselves. We are working on ways of reaching more children, more teachers and more librarians.

We are in the process of developing a reading kit that will extend our reach through teacher-librarians and librarians, particularly those working after school and on Saturday mornings. There are many individuals and organizations that would be glad to have more help with what, and how, to read to children and how to interest and entertain them in workshop situations; how to encourage a love of reading.



## Toolboxes

The Toolbox Project has been two years in the making and is being warmly anticipated by librarians who have attended workshops with the prototypes. Each kit provides material for a ten-week term of activities. The first completed kits have been delivered to Red Cross Children's Hospital School and Sivile Primary School in Khayelitsha. A further kit has been donated by the Crankhandle Club to the children at Red Hill informal settlement.

Making the kits has been a huge learning curve. They come in a plastic filing box with a handle and contain ten Super Books on the theme. (Books and Stories was the first theme, with Green Theme and Time closely following.) The kit also includes ten theme books, ten non-fiction and ten fiction stories. There are also books on art, poetry and music. Most importantly, there is a detailed handbook (over 100 pages) on how to use the kit and expand on our suggestions using any books on the same theme that may be available in community or school libraries and book collections.

<http://www.childrensbook.co.za/workshops/toolboxes>

When funding permits, we will add art materials and games to the mix – all with the same aim of getting books to children and children to books.



## The reading game

Something we are looking forward to expanding is the CBN reading game. This idea, originated and developed by the CBN team, is a board game where reading has to take place before the next throw of the dice. Played by a group of 4 to 8 children with a facilitator to help, the participants have to find the answer to a question – in a book or printed text – before they can proceed with the game. It leads to great hilarity and excitement (as well as reading). In the coming year we will be looking at variations of the game, including a heritage game for Heritage Day.



## Where to get more information?

From Day One, we have reported everything we do on our website at [www.childrensbook.co.za](http://www.childrensbook.co.za)

There are thousands of photographs and words telling the developing story of Children's Book Network. Favourite place to look is <http://www.childrensbook.co.za/workshops/reports> where there are details of every workshop we have done.

For more information (and pictures) of the toolboxes, please go to: <http://www.childrensbook.co.za/workshops/toolboxes>



## What do we need?

Help. Funding is a given (every organization needs more of that). Just as importantly we need to expand the number of people involved, particularly in the communities where we work.

Children's Book Network has, from Day One, believed that people who work with us should be paid if they cannot afford to donate their time. Musicians, poets and other creative people need to make a living. Community workers who give their time need to be rewarded. Food has to be provided; books bought. Art materials, printing, telephone, petrol ... accountancy fees, printing, all of these things cost money.

We need fresh ideas and input, more people on the floor at workshops ... advice.

If you would like to, and are able to, help please contact us at [info@childrensbook.co.za](mailto:info@childrensbook.co.za).

Thank you!

Lesley Beake

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Director Children's Book Network

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18 July 2017

## REPORTING ON OUR PLANS

### This Year

2016 has been a year of steady, often laborious consolidation.

- We completed the necessary paperwork to support good governance and managed the tortuous process of mastering the inner workings of our bank account. A Givengain donation button has been inserted onto each page on our website – making the process as easy as possible for potential donors.
- We strengthened relationships with our partners such as National Libraries (Centre for the Book) and worked extensively with Franschhoek Literary Festival Trust on their Book Week for Young Readers and also with some of the teacher-librarians who are part of that project.
- We continued working with Enlighten Trust to bring more joy to reading in the communities of Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant.
- We worked with Stanford children at Butterfly Centre and Overberg Honey and developed skills started in 2015.
- The enormous task of creating the toolboxes was begun, workshopped with librarians and enjoyed by children. There remains a lot to be done – next year is going to be busy!



## Next Year

2017 will include all of the above – only more so.

- We will continue to make contact, and stay in contact with the organisations and individuals we have worked with in the past and add to the list. In particular, we want to strengthen links with libraries in the region – Hermanus, Stanford and Gansbaai, and the library at Enlighten Educational Trust.
- We have already begun the process of involving more young people as volunteers at workshops and on aspects of CBN such as social media and creating the toolboxes.
- We are giving serious attention to better methods of evaluating workshops, particularly from the point of view of children and teacher-librarians.
- The toolboxes are the way forward in spreading the news of what we do, and enabling more facilitators to take and run with the ideas. Our preliminary *Train the Champions* workshops were warmly received. More, much more, needs to be done.

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is becoming more and more difficult for ALL organizations who depend on support from the private sector. We will have to redouble our efforts in this direction.

In future we will need to make use of volunteers who can donate this valuable skill in raising funds. Fundraising is a full-time job and not an add-on to the administrator or director's job tasks. To offer a fundraiser a percentage of the funds that he or she raises is generally frowned upon by donors. Consequently, a salaried or volunteer position is more practical and sustainable.

Current funding proposals that are still pending:

- Lotto application
- Yamada Foundation

We have compiled a list of potential donors to approach in the next financial year.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### CHILDREN'S BOOK NETWORK (CBN)

[www.childrensbook.co.za](http://www.childrensbook.co.za)

#### WHAT WE DO:

Work with under-resourced children

Children who are aged 10, 11 & 12

Children who can read ... but don't

We work in English – with translators available

We work with communities, not usually with schools

We work through community leaders and librarians

We give workshops lasting from a morning to four-days

We use South African and African books and stories

We excite children into the idea of reading

We do this with song, poetry, art and music as well as words

We provide life-experiences for disadvantaged children

We teach life skills and add confidence

#### WHAT WE HAVE

Five years of experience

Strong governance and accountability

Proper financial background and reporting

#### WHAT WE NEED

Local support and sponsorship including board members

Partners who can work with us to spread this message

A volunteer and creative network to work with us

Please join us! It is not only a great thing to do – it's fun as well!

Lesley Beake, Director

[lesley@lesleybeake.co.za](mailto:lesley@lesleybeake.co.za)



## THANKS

Our sincere thanks go to all who have helped us this year:

Our board members – (chair Roy Zazeraj), and Mike Welwyn, and Kenny van Aardt with Lesley Beake (Director). All of these busy people have made time to attend our meetings and give good counsel. Our other board member, Anele Mhlahlo, is studying music in Canada for the foreseeable future and will take up the position of Ambassador Extraordinary next year.

Members of Rotary Newlands for their support and Rotary Hermanus for their interest. Rotary Newlands also donated funds to purchase two toolboxes.

Chantel Oosthuysen has willingly shared her considerable skills and determination in keeping CBN properly documented and accounted for. As Trust Secretary, her work has been impeccable. As keeper of the finances, she has done a sterling job. As workshop administrator she has been invaluable. We are not quite sure how we are going to manage without her!

Butterfly Centre in Stanford. This delightful school for children with special needs has warmly welcomed CBN from our arrival in Stanford, and continues to extend their hospitality and allow us to use their premises for workshops.

Overberg Honey in Stanford offers a sweet experience for CBN children who absolutely love going there to experience at first hand the sights, sounds – and most of all tastes – of bees and bee-keeping.

Panthera Africa who invited our children to see the big cats on their conservation farm and who inspired great results and feedback from those who visited.

Enlighten Educational Trust in Hermanus has invited us back to hold the three-day Winter Workshop – again with a green theme – and offer us very welcome support and encouragement.

Jay Heale for tirelessly bringing new books to our attention and for donating many of them to our book collection.

Nini Stevens for stalwart work at the catering coal-face.

The Crankhandle Club for donating a toolbox to the children of Red Hill informal settlement.

Emily Hallinan for her warm support and book donation.

## Organisations we work with

### Rotary Clubs

- Rotary Newlands
- Rotary Stanford
- Rotary Skellefteå

### Reading & Related Organizations

- Assitej SA (International Theatre Organization)
- Biblionef
- Bookchat
- Book Dash
- Books for the World, a project of Rotary Newlands
- Bumble Books
- Cambridge University Press
- Centre for the Book (National Libraries)
- Enlighten Education Trust (Hermanus)
- FunDza Literacy Trust
- IBBY SA
- PRAESA and Nal'ibali

To quote Jean Williams, of Biblionef, we should: 'Do what we do best and *collaborate!*'

## Workshop & Event Register for 2015

Date	Title	Theme	days	children	children	teacher & librarian
March						
16	Grassy Park Children's Librarians Forum	General	1		60	6
29	Music Workshop	Music	1	20		1
April						
29	Panthera Africa trip	Cats	1	10		
30	Cat Workshop	Cats	1	32		
May						
9-13	FLF Book Week for Young Readers	General	5		285	6
28	Bee Workshop	Bees	1	19		
June						
4	Workshop Demo for librarians	Books and stories	1	30		12
July						
4-6	3-day workshop	Green	3	25		
11-13	3 x 1-day workshops	Green	3	34		
August						
2	Stanford Workshop	Sunday Times	1	15		
September						
10	Workshop Demo with children	Books and stories	1	10		10
12 & 13	School Holiday Program	Green	2	50		
January						
16	World Read Aloud Day	Books and stories	1	50		
<b>Total</b>			<b>22</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>35</b>

## Money Matters

<b>Incoming</b>	
Rotary Skeleftea (carried forward)	91528,17
Donation McCarthy	5000,00
Centre for the Book	9375,00
Enlighten Trust	12750,00
Givengain	82,50
Franschhoek Literary Festival Library Fund	3000,00
Rotary Newlands: Toolbox	7000,00
Donation Coosner	500,00
PnP	2500,00
Givengain	454,50
<b>Total</b>	<b>132190,17</b>

<b>Outgoing</b>	
Operational	
Administration and management fees	106917,00
Advertising	40,00
Auditors remuneration	2527,00
Bank charges	2090,00
Books	1931,00
Computer expenses	0,00
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	2499,00
Insurance	4516,00
Legal expenses	0,00
Office supplies	0,00
Postage	725,00
Printing and stationery	4752,00
Subscriptions	370,00
Telephone and fax	1590,00
Transport and freight	350,00
Travel - local	0,00
Website	3399,00
Workshop expenses	47977,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>179683,00</b>



## Donations in kind

Jay Heale for constant and excellent input on the books we use in workshops and toolboxes and for many donations of actual books.

The Butterfly centre for generously allowing us to use their premises in Stanford for workshops.

Enlighten Education Trust for sponsoring workshops and for use of their premises.

Centre for the Book for sponsoring a Train the Trainers workshop and for providing a venue for the toolbox handover.

Nini Stephens for the very generous donation of food, cooking and time for the children during the winter workshops.

Book Dash for donated books to distribute at workshops

Cambridge University Press for generous discounts on books purchased for toolboxes

Bumble Books for book donation

Emily Hallinan for book donation and for patiently waiting in Cambridge bookshops.

To the anonymous others - for all the small bits of time and small items donated or purchased. These are important. They add up. Thank you.

### **Board of Trustees**

Roy Zazeraj (Chair)

Mike Walwyn (Deputy Chair)

Lesley Beake

Anele Mhlahlo

Kenny van Aardt

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