



# Children's Book Network

## Annual Report 2017-18

*Founders: Gina Mhlophe, Lesley Beake and Sindiwe Magona*

*Patron: Gcina Mhlophe*



# Who we are and what we do

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Children's Book Network (CBN) came from a passion for children and reading – particularly children between the ages of nine and twelve who can read, but don't.

Very little is done to help this vulnerable age group make the leap from C-A-T to stories involving real cats ... grey cats, lost cats, brave cats, frightened cats ... We find that most of the children we work with can decipher the letters on the page – will even read aloud if given half a chance – but read mechanically, with very little imagination and no real understanding of story, beyond a sense of 'this happened, and then that happened'.

The methods we have developed during the last five years are experimental, but they work. Nobody else is doing this.

- We bring children from under-resourced communities to action-packed workshops at weekends or in their school holidays.
- We bring exciting books that are the very best in the world, as well as top South African books.
- We work in English as the children are taught in English by this stage at school.
- We bring dynamic, creative personalities to motivate the workshops. They bring their individual passions with them. This has included drummers, poets, hip-hop songwriters, archaeologists, astronomers and conservationists, yoga teachers, cellists ... the list is long.

- We provide quality art materials and materials for writing projects, music and drama, games and fun.

The children we work with *choose* to come. This is not a school activity. We work with communities. Last month six children from De Kop informal settlement ran five kilometres from home to the workshop venue because their transport failed and they *wanted* to be at a Saturday morning workshop.

They come because our workshops are fun, we respect them as people and listen to them – and, most of all, because they are motivated to master this mysterious and life-enhancing skill called reading.

### **Carrying our work forward**

For the past three years we have been working on CBN Reading Toolboxes that we are distributing to enthusiastic, trained facilitators who will reach a much wider audience of children. (Readership, might be a better word.)

The toolboxes are brim full of books, ideas, games, suggestions, excitements, more books, fun things to do, more books ... and more ideas about books. With either the full Toolbox, or a smaller version (a Toolkit), a teacher-librarian, community activist or dedicated book person can enthuse hundreds of children to read with enjoyment, imagination – and understanding.

### **Plans to achieve more**

2017 Has been a pivotal developmental year, exciting and scary by turns. We spent a great deal of time developing the methods that will help us to reach more children.

There are dedicated book-lovers and readers out there who are able to help. There are teacher-librarians and librarians. There are creative artists and musicians. We want to reach them and offer training and practical help. Much of the work done during 2017 is aimed at developments in 2018.

## **Workshops**

We held 15 workshops in 2017, in spite of a lack of adequate funding for part of the year. This included a three-day Winter Workshop at Enlighten Trust, training workshops at Red Cross Children's Hospital with a donated toolbox and another for teachers at Seville Primary School in Khayelitsha. We also worked with library forums, to spread the word about toolboxes and Lesley presented our ideas to a high level working group of provincial library executives in Pretoria.

## **Toolboxes**

The prototype toolboxes (all donated and working hard in their new homes) are much loved – but the new versions work better. They have a smoother filing system for keeping all books and materials under control and the handbooks and manuals have been updated and revamped.





# Building CBN in 2018

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## **Workshops**

We now have two fully trained facilitators, equipped with complete Toolboxes, working in Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain. In addition, there is a facilitator in-training for workshops in Stanford and Die Kop. They are each planning ten workshops (at least), this year. Planning is also in place to extend this to Kleinmond and Gansbaai when funding permits

## **General Training**

Toolboxes: We have three prototype Toolboxes in: Red Cross Children's Hospital School, Red Hill informal settlement and Seville Primary School (Khayelitsha). These facilitators need further training.

## **Toolboxes**

There is a huge amount of research and development involved in the concepts, books and materials in each of the Toolboxes and Toolkits. This will be ongoing and the books in particular upgraded as new titles become available and older ones go out of print.

## **Toolkits (NEW ITEM)**

We have a Toolkit being used by a local facilitator from De Kop informal settlement (Vuyokazi Siza) and her helper from Stanford community (Patricia Valits). There is an ideal opportunity to develop the concept of the Toolkits and to offer further training. The toolkit consists of one theme with all the ideas and concepts, selected books for quiet reading and an administration bag with the paperwork needed to organise a workshop.

## **Librarian Training (this is currently being developed)**

CBN has already been working with librarians from National Libraries and at provincial level and we have given several workshops in this

connection. We will be approaching them again, with a view to further fine-tuning the Toolboxes to their requirements.

## Costs involved

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### Workshops

- **1-day workshop** (this includes a healthy snack on arrival and lunch for the children). Three trained facilitators including music and art expertise and community helpers. Art and writing materials. R10 000.
- **Half-day workshop** (this includes a snack on arrival and apples to take home and stipends for the local trained facilitator and helper. It can include transport, if needed. R1 500

### Full toolbox R6 500

- Five themes with 2 to 3 selected books on each theme
- Handbook of concepts and ideas
- 50 books for the children to read in quiet moments
- Administration kit to help with planning and financial recording.
- Bag of art and writing materials, games and activities

### Toolkit R1 500 (NEW ITEM)

- One theme with 2-3 selected books on the theme (replaced regularly)
- Handbook of concepts and ideas
- 25 books for the children to read in quiet moments
- Small supply of art and writing materials and games



## **Training workshop librarians (R5000 including travel costs)**

- Demonstration of CBN concept and practicalities
- Interaction to find what suits specific situations best.
- Devising concepts as a result

## **Research and development**

There is an ongoing need for research into new books, games, activities – even searching for and providing the art materials and stationery takes time. We need to include this somewhere in our budgets for running both toolboxes and workshops. It is enormously time-consuming and critical to keeping the working kits fresh, alive and functioning.

**(R50 000)**





# Funders & Donors

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A huge thank you to our funders of 2017:

- The Paddy and Sue Kell Family Trust
- National Lotteries Commission

## Donations

- Roger McCarthy
- Anthony Gregorowski
- Henrietta Chiappini



# Organizations we work with

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- Rotary Newlands
- Rotary Cape of Good Hope
- Rotary Skelleftea
- Rotary Hermanus
- Overstrand Libraries
- Centre for the Book
- Bookchat and Jay Heale
- Red Cross Children's Hospital
- Red Hill Reading Programme
- Enlighten Education Trust (Hermanus)
- Book Dash
- Biblionef
- Bumble Books
- Cambridge University Press
- NB Publishers
- New Africa Books
- Jacana Books
- Franschhoek Book Week for Young Readers
- Phendulani Book Quiz
- Imaginary House

## Numbers of children we reached in 2017

Date	Title	Theme	days	CH	T-L	S
March						
27, 28	PRAESA Reading Conference at Biblionef					40
April						
10	Honey workshop	Bees & Honey	0,5	25		
13	Easter Eggs	Easter	0,5	21		
22	Stanford Heroes	Local Heroes	0,5	25		
June						
30	Toolbox handover to Seville Primary School					
July						
3, 4, 5	A Green Experience	Green Heroes	3	40		
September						
23	Landcape and lives of children	Our world project	0,5	19		
October						
3, 4	Introducing me	Our world project	2	23		
13	Toolbox presentation at Red Cross	Toolbox				5
28	Me, us, here	Our world project	0,5	23		
November						
10	Library Forum Overstrand and Winelands in Villiersdorp		1		18	
15	Red Cross Children's Hospital	Imagination	0,5	15		
December						
16	Workshop with festive theme	Festive	0,5	26		
February						
16	Message of Nelson Mandela	Heroes	0,5	30		
<b>Total</b>			<b>10</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>

### Key:

CH: Children

T-L: Teacher Librarians

## Note

We would have liked to reach many more children, but 2017 was a critical year for CBN with funding hard to come by, especially in mid year. Funding from the Kells Family Trust (November) and from National Lotteries (December) have enabled us to proceed with exciting plans with both the toolbox project and the workshops during 2018. There have already been three workshops in Mitchell's Plain on Saturdays (day workshops) reaching between 20 and 25 children each day as well as an ongoing programme in Stanford





# Structure

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*Patron: Gcina Mhlophe*

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

*From 1 March 2017 to 22 September 2017*

- Roy Zazeraj (Chair)
- Mike Walwyn
- Kenny van Aardt
- Anele Mhlahlo
- Lesley Beake (Director)

*From 22 September 2017 to 28 February 2018*

- Anthony Gregorowski (Chair)
- Roy Zazeraj (Retiring Chair)
- Primrose Mrwebi
- Hildegard Witbooi
- Lesley Beake (Director)

*From 8 January 2018 to 28 February 2018*

- Dave Mohr

## **ADMINISTRATION**

- Director Lesley Beake (also currently a board member).\*
- Administration assistant \*
- Trust Secretary \*

## **Fundraiser**

- Local fundraiser (Elaine Davie) \*
- Person to contact local suppliers for donations V

## Accounts and tax matters

- Book-keeping \*
- Banking administration and payment \*

## Information and publicity

- Website V (LB)
- Social media V (Still not filled)
- Local interaction V (Explorio local community)

## CREATIVE TEAM

### Workshop team

- Creating new ideas (LB) \*
- Workshop planning and administration (LB) \*
- Catering and transport arrangements V
- Evaluation and assessment \* (To be discussed)

### Toolbox team

- Creating materials (LB) \*
- Training the trainers (LB) \*
- Library outreach (LB)

## KEY

\* Monthly retainer based on an agreed number of hours plus substantial volunteer time

% Fundraising by arrangement as discussed by board – possible percentage plus volunteer

V Volunteer

## Where to find more information

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Everything we have ever done is on our website. As with all our activities, it focuses on the children. The best links to click on are:

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

(For everything)

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

(For reports on workshops)

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

(For more on the toolboxes)

<http://www.childrensbook.co.za/sites/default/files/resource-documents/cbn-funding-proposalrevisedsmall.pdf>

(For everything about our funding proposal for 2018-2019)

## Governance and Donations information

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### **Banking details**

Bank account details:

Account Name: The Children's Book Network Trust

First National Bank: Tokai Branch

Branch number: 200409

Account Number: 625 70 830 458 (Cheque account)

# Thanks

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Rotary Newlands for support, encouragement – and a supply of impeccable board members, including Roy Zazeraj, Kenny van Aardt and Mike Walwyn.

Jay Heale for his ceaseless support and encouragement – and for being our Book Editor for so long.

New board members for agreeing to step up and part of CBN's exciting path forwards.

Our creative and administrative team for the many, many hours of volunteer work.

Our funders, particularly the National Lotteries and the Kells Family Trust.

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