



MEDIA RELEASE

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Knysna libraries celebrate South African library week

The Knysna Municipality proudly joins in celebrating South African Library Week from 18 – 26 March themed - “My Library, Your Library” with sub-themes - “My Library, My Home”, “Mind your Library” and “Tell me about your Library”.

Although national Library Week kicks off on March 18, the Knysna Municipal Library Services started with its activities on March 15 to ensure they reach as many schools as possible before the school holidays.

Mayoral Committee member: Community Services, Cllr Cathy Weideman explained that the theme, My Library, Your library takes libraries into the heart of the community and strives to give the residents a sense of ownership. “The theme creates a sense of ownership for our people. I believe that when people take ownership of resources and infrastructure available to them, they take care of what is available and guard against vandalism. This year's theme encourages people to take libraries to heart and to treat these as their homes so that destroying libraries and burning books ultimately becomes unthinkable.”

Weideman spoke about the jam-packed Library Week programme for Greater Knysna. “Furthermore, the Town library will be hosting various events ranging from Story-telling on March 20, coinciding with World Storytelling Day, Book Sale by the Friends of the Library in the library courtyard and Meet the Author Morning with complimentary tea by the Friends of the library on March 22, the Knysna Public Library Exhibition of books reflecting on "The Story of Southern Africa" and the Friends of the Library Exhibition of Popular and Classic Books is scheduled for March 23 and the activities will be closed off on March 24 with a discussion session by local children’s book author on how to become a children's book author. All activities at Town library starts at 10:00 am. For more information, visit a library closest to you.”

“I encourage all residents to join and visit the libraries on a regular basis. We should not only visit our libraries during Library Week, but on a regular basis. Membership in all our libraries is for free. For those who already have membership cards, the whole of library week will be fine free, with amnesty on any penalties for overdue books.”

South African Library Week is celebrated as part of the national drive to promote library services as well as literacy and the benefits of reading.

Library Week falls within the week of March 20, commemorate this day in 1818 when the South Africa Public Library, currently known as the National Library of South Africa, in central Cape Town was established.

Furthermore, South Africa celebrates Human Rights Day on March 21 and the Bill of Rights recognises the freedom of access to information as one of the basic human rights.

South Africa Library Week was officially celebrated for the first time in 2002 and has since become a very important date on the national Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) calendar. Since then SALW was driven by (LIASA) and celebrated nationally every year. LIASA is responsible for announcing the dates and theme for every year.

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