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Meet LIASA's new Office Manager

I am Adelaide Nomonde Vilakazi, I commenced work as LIASA Office Manager on the 2nd March 2006. I previously worked for the British Council and Gauteng Legislature. For the past 11 years I have been involved in various projects and worked with people from different walks of life.

I am a graduate of the University of Fort Hare, obtained my degree in Library and Information Science in 1993; in 2004 I completed the Professional Management Programme at UNISA.

I wish to work with you in upholding LIASA's advocacy of supporting and providing efficient, user-oriented and excellent library and information services that aspire to equitable access to information for all communities (literate and illiterate) in South Africa. I hope and wish for a good relationship that will encourage an exchange of ideas and expansion of knowledge to recognise excellence in our Association.

I strongly believe in the importance of our members. Therefore I will, together with NLO staff, work towards supporting, developing and delivering programmes and high quality service to all our members.

Members please note:

1. We urge members who have not yet returned their Raffle tickets to kindly do so. The cut off date for this process was 1 May 2006. If you are still in possession of a ticket please send it to the LNO.
2. The Membership campaign - "PROUD TO BE A LIASA MEMBER" - is still running. We are encouraging all members and branches to participate in this campaign. The campaign runs from January 2006 until 31 December 2006 and there are attractive prizes to be won - visit our website for more information www.liasa.org.za
We are aware of the membership problems and we request members to bear with us as we are in the process of appointing a Membership Administrator.
3. Award for the LIASA/Sabinet Librarian of the Year - The deadline for Branch nominations is 31 May 2006 and nominations must be received by the relevant LIASA Branch by this date to be considered. The Branch winners (finalists) will be announced at the end of July 2006. These winners will then be adjudicated at national level during August. Three finalists will be announced by the end of August and the winner will be announced at the LIASA Conference 2006.
4. Conference 2006 preparations are well underway and we are happy with everyone's overwhelming participation. The event will take place at St Georges Hotel, Pretoria. You are advised to make your own travel and accommodation arrangements in time or seek assistance/advice from the conference organiser Rina du Toit at (012) 331 3404.

EDITORS NOTES

Dear Readers,

The main focus for June is the recent celebrations of South African Library Week, 13–17 March 2006 around the theme "Libraries: Partners in learning, nation-building and development". Seven pages are devoted to short reports, articles and photographs, depicting how this wonderful event on the SA Library Calendar has grown from its humble beginnings in 2001 to an event that is celebrated in all kinds of libraries across the country; from our premier institution, the National Library of South Africa to the small De Beers' Finsch Mine in the Northern Cape. It is encouraging to note that despite scarce resources and other challenging obstacles, librarians promote their institutions and services with pride and enthusiasm.

News from the National Library has become a regular column, keeping readers updated on its growth, activities and latest national developments as it strives to take its place as a truly public institution serving the South African people as a whole.

If you have been wondering about the most exciting event to come to our shores in 2007, then turn to page 19 for an update on the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Durban, 19–23 August 2007. Its theme is "Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships". You can even get information on how to work as a volunteer at this prestigious event, which will be held in Africa for only the second time in its history.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about all sorts of exciting activities, from a mini-conference on mergers at tertiary institutions to a profile on the fascinating Kimberley Africana Library. There is news of new libraries being opened and librarians winning awards for professional excellence in serving the community.

Far from being moribund in despair, our profession and the institutions we work in soldier on. We should all be immensely proud to be a librarian, and more importantly, "proud to be a LIASA member"! *Nohra Moerat*



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