

# Msunduzi Municipal Library Services



*Msunduzi Municipal Library (formerly The Natal Society Library) has provided public library services for the people of Pietermaritzburg since 1850. On 1 April 2004, libraries and staff of The Natal Society were incorporated into the Msunduzi Municipality as Msunduzi Municipal Library Services. The main library, named the Bessie Head Library, and eight branch libraries, aim to provide a comprehensive library service to all residents of the Msunduzi Municipal area.*

## ***THE BESSIE HEAD LIBRARY***

The Natal Society Library, the public library in Pietermaritzburg, was administered by the Natal Society for over 157 years from 1850 until 2004. On 1 April 2004 the Natal Society Library and its staff were integrated into the Msunduzi Municipality and became the Msunduzi Municipal Library Services. In June 2005, during a major project where main streets and major public buildings in Pietermaritzburg were renamed, the Main Library building became the Bessie Head Library.

**Bessie Head**  
**6 July 1937 ~ 26 April 1986**



Bessie Amelia Emery was born on the 6th of July 1937 in Pietermaritzburg. She was born in a mental hospital, the daughter of a white woman named Bessie Amelia Birch and an unnamed black father. She was brought up in foster care and then in a mission orphanage.

She obtained teaching qualifications in January 1957 and from 1956 to 1958 she taught at Clairwood Coloured School in Durban.

From 1958 to 1960 Bessie got involved in the world of journalism, working as a journalist for the *Golden City Post* and *Drum* magazine. At the beginning of 1960, she joined the Pan-Africanist Congress, a political movement. On the first of September 1961 she married Harold Head and in March 1964 Bessie Head left South Africa on an exit permit to Botswana, where she lived and worked as a lecturer and writer until her death on April 26, 1986.

### **Her Books**

***The Cardinals***, written in 1961 and published in 1991

***When Rain Clouds Gather*, 1968** (reflecting her involvement in agriculture at the Bamangwato Development Farm and her life in the refugee camp in Francistown)

***Maru*, 1971** dealing with racial prejudices

***A Question of Power*, 1973** dealing with the psychological effects of her mental breakdown and other issues such as race)

***The Collector of Treasures*, 1977** short stories reflecting different issues

***Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind*, 1981** short stories

***A Bewitched Crossroad*, 1984** novel about the history of Botswana

# Library Management



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## VISION

*Msunduzi Municipal Library Services shares the vision of the Msunduzi Municipality:  
**Improving the quality of life for all within the City of Choice.***

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Library Service mission is:*

***To improve the quality of life of the people of the Msunduzi Municipal region by anticipating and meeting their informational needs and by providing an appropriately substantial and supportive contribution towards their educational, cultural and recreational needs.***

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### BESSIE HEAD LIBRARY

*This central library has a wide range and choice of resources including books, large-print books, newspapers and periodicals, audio-books on CD and cassette, DVDs, videos, music CDs and scores, and CD ROMs for all age groups from infancy to old age.*

*The Adults and Children's Lending Libraries and the Music/Audio-Visual Library provide these resources for loan for recreation, to provide general information and to support cultural and personal development. Teachers, parents and students may book for groups of learners to view a variety of set works and educational videos/DVDs at the Library.*

*The Travelling Library takes books, including large-print, to a variety of venues in the suburban areas.*

*The Housebound Service delivers books (including large-print) and audio-books to the infirm and the aged in their own homes and residences for the aged.*

*The Adults Reference Library has been in existence for 157 years. It was founded by a group of prominent residents who hoped to promote the Colony by collecting and disseminating accurate information. This library has an extensive collection of reference materials and information resources with which it is able to support research, business, government and vocational endeavours and the needs of tertiary level students.*

*The Legal Deposit Collection was established in 1916, when this library was one of the 5 libraries in South Africa accorded Legal Deposit status. This privilege has helped make it into one of South Africa's major research and information libraries. Legal Deposit libraries play a unique and very important role as custodians, in perpetuity, of this country's cultural wealth and information.*

Through the Adult Reference Library all the citizens of South Africa have access to this huge collection of South African books, pamphlets, government publications, periodicals and newspapers.

The Periodicals Department offers, in addition to periodicals belonging to the Legal Deposit Collection, access to a small range of publications purchased on subscription and provides a public reading area.

The Children's Reference Library has an extensive collection of material to support the educational needs of primary and secondary school learners.

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## BRANCH LIBRARIES

There are eight branch libraries in the Msunduzi Municipal Library Services. There are three large ones in Northdale, Georgetown and Eastwood, a smaller one in Ashburton and three small ones in Woodlands, Sobantu and Ashdown. MACS Library, in the MACS Center in Alexandra Road, is established in an old blue travelling library bus.

The eight branch libraries, while offering a smaller range of materials than is available at the main library, endeavour to meet the needs of the communities they serve by offering Adults and Children's Lending services, and Children's Reference services in support of education. A limited Adult Reference service is available at Northdale, Georgetown and Eastwood libraries. Georgetown provides a study area and a Travelling Library service to schools.

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## AMERICAN CORNER

The American Corner is a miniature public library on the First Floor of the Main Msunduzi Municipal Library which was established in partnership with the United States Embassy.

The collection consists of fiction, non-fiction and reference books, periodicals, DVDs and CD ROMs on America and/or by American authors. Computers are available for online research on and about America. Programmes of talks, workshops and video showings are run, many of them with speakers brought out from the United States for this purpose. The Education Officer, from the Consulate in Durban, visits regularly to meet with anyone wishing to study in the United States.

## FACILITIES FOR HIRE

*Various facilities are for hire. All include kitchens:*

The Bessie Head Library:    one    auditorium,    boardroom,    utility/video-viewing    room,  
discussion/meeting room.

Georgetown Library:    two activity/lecture/meeting rooms

Northdale Library:    one activity/lecture/meeting room.

Eastwood Libraries:    one activity/lecture/meeting room.

## HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

*The central Children's Lending Library and most of the branch libraries conduct holiday programmes for children during the July and December school holidays.*

## LINKS

WebPals

<http://kznpals.wcape.gov.co.za/>

South African Places of Legal Deposit WebPAC:

<http://natlib1.sabinet.co.za/>

## LIBRARY HOURS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

BESSIE HEAD LIBRARY (Tel. 033 392 2683)

NORTHDALE (Tel. 033 391 4350)

Opening hours: Weekdays: 08:30 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.  
Saturdays: 08.30 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.

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EASTWOOD (Tel. 033 390 3716)

WOODLANDS (Tel. 033 387 1161)

Opening hours: Weekdays: 08:30 a.m. - 04:30 p.m.  
Saturdays: 08.30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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GEORGETOWN (Tel. 033 399 3641)

Opening hours: Weekdays: 09:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.  
Saturdays: 09.00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.

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SOBANTU (Tel. 033 390 1864)

ASHDOWN (Tel. 033 398 4654):

Opening hours: Weekdays: 08:30 a.m. - 04:30 p.m.  
Saturdays: Ashdown: 08:30 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.

Alternate Sats

Sobantu: CLOSED

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ASHBURTON (Tel. 033 326 1844):

Opening hours: Monday: 02:30 p.m. - 05:30 p.m.  
Tuesday: CLOSED  
Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. - 03:30 p.m.  
Thursday: 02:30 p.m. - 05:30 p.m.  
Friday: CLOSED  
Saturday: 08:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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MACS (Alexandra Road)

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 08.30 a.m. - 04.00 p.m.  
Wednesday: CLOSED  
Saturday: CLOSED

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## TRAVELLING LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Monday: 09:00 a.m. - 09:45 a.m. Moth Cottages  
10:00 a.m. - 04:00 p.m. Cascades Shopping Centre

Tuesday: 09:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Jan Richter Centre  
01:00 p.m. - 03:30 p.m. Bridge Tea Room

Wednesday: 09:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Hayfields Shopping Centre  
01:30 p.m. - 04:00 p.m. Oribi Village

Thursday: 09:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Liberty Midlands Mall  
02:00 p.m. - 04:00 p.m. Glenwood

## GREATER EDENDALE MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Monday - Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 02:30 p.m.

Enquire at Georgetown Library (Tel. 033 399 3641) for Daily Schedule

## AMERICAN CORNER TIMETABLE

### Librarian in Attendance:

Mon - Wed: 8:30-17:00  
Thurs: 8:30 - 13:00  
Fri: 12:30 - 17:00  
Sat: 8:30 - 13:00

### Computers available for use:

Mon - Wed: 8:30-16:30  
Thurs: 8:30 - 12:30  
Fri: 12:30 - 16:30  
Sat: 8:30-12:30

### Books, Magazines & Periodicals available for use:

Mon - Fri: 8:30-17:00  
Sat: 8:30-13:00

**ALL LIBRARIES AND SERVICES ARE CLOSED  
ON  
SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**