



**READING ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

<http://readingassociation.org.za/> 034-281-NPO

The Director of Non Profit Organisations, Ms M Nyiko  
Private Bag X901  
Pretoria 0001

From: Janet Marx,  
National Chair, Reading Association of South Africa  
034-281-NPO

17 June 2016

Dear Ms Nyiko,

This report contains the following:

1. A list of the RASA executive committee for 2015
2. A narrative account of the activities of RASA in 2015
3. The minutes of the RASA AGM held in September 2015 in Cape Town (attached annex C)
4. The Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (attached annex E)

### **1. RASA: National Executive Committee 2015**

The Reading Association of South Africa consists of four provincial branches namely: Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape. The National Executive Committee consists of elected representatives from the four branches and plays an oversight role. In line with the amended constitution adopted at 2014 AGM the office bearers are elected into executive positions for two years after which the position is open for a new office bearer. This applies at national and branch level. The branches run independent activities and annually there is a National Conference which rotates between the Provinces. The National Conference was held in Cape Town in 2015.

National chairperson:	Eileen Scheckle	Eileen.scheckle@nmmu.ac.za
National Secretary:	Tamara Veriava	tamarveriava@gmail.com
National Treasurer:	Janet Condy	jcondy@mweb.co.za
National Vice-chair:	Janet Marx	jntmr@gmail.com
National Vice-treasurer:	Carien Wilsenach	carienwilsenach@gmail.com
EC Chair	Margie Childs	Margie.childs@nmmu.ac.za
EC Treasurer:	Deyi Mbelani	m.mbelani@ru.ac.za
Gauteng Chair:	Hilary Janks	hilary.janks@wits.ac.za
Gauteng Treasurer:	Carien Wilsenach	carienwilsenach@gmail.com
KZN Chair:	Leonard Hlongwa	leonardhlongwa@ymail.com
KZN treasurer:	Sakhina Mitha	s.mitha@mweb.co.za
WC Chair:	Karin Murriss	karin.murriss@uct.ac.za
WC Treasurers:	Rose-Anne Reynolds	learningsupport@pnps.co.za



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## **2. Narrative account of RASA activities 2015 written by Janet Marx, National Chair of RASA (Reading Association of South Africa)**

In this section I will include the following two items:

- a) Activities of RASA national executive
- b) Activities of the provincial branches: WC, EC, KZN and GP

### **a) Activities of RASA National Executive**

The National Executive Committee meets twice a year, once in March and again closer to the year end to coincide with the National annual conference. The dates are dependent on dates set for the national conference hosted by an alternating provincial team taking cognizance of the public school holidays to ensure as wide attendance as possible. In 2015 the National Conference was hosted by the Western Cape RASA branch and so the EXCO meetings and AGM took place in Cape Town.

The RASA executive met on March 2015 and 1 September 2015 (minutes attached annex A and B).

The AGM was held on 3 September 2015 (minutes attached annex C).

Activities of the National EXCO include:

- The Reading & Writing Journal
- Social Media: The website and Facebook accounts
- RASA Newsletter
- *The Teacher* a supplement of the Mail & Guardian
- Sponsorships & Finances
- Reports from the branches discussed in section b below.

### **The Reading & Writing Journal**

The Reading Association of South Africa makes a fundamental contribution to the development of literacy in South Africa through the research articles published in this open source journal. *Reading & Writing* is an inter-disciplinary and inter-professional scholarly journal that explores how literacy is defined, enacted and promoted in a range of institutional, socio-cultural and disciplinary contexts', particularly within Africa and other developing countries.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Agnes Chigona, Research Fellow - Faculty of Education, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa.

Ms Trudie Retief from OASIS who hosts the journal was invited to present the statistics of the reach of this journal at the AGM. Trudi provides feedback on the journal. It has grown from 822 visitors to 8007 unique visitors, most of which are from Asia. The HTML version can be translated. The articles are available in 4 formats. The time articles spend in review has been reduced. There will be a special conference issue from the 2015 conference. It was agreed that Karin Murriss and Cathy Kell would be the editors for the special edition for the

The logo for the Reading Association of South Africa features a stylized illustration of a city skyline with various buildings and structures. Below the illustration, the text "READING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "OF" in a smaller font size between "ASSOCIATION" and "SOUTH AFRICA".

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special 2015 conference edition to be published 6 -9 months after the conference. See presentation to EXCO and at AGM (annex D)

### **Social Media: The website and Facebook accounts**

The usability of the RASA website was raised at branch and national meetings and it was agreed that this will be moved away from AOSIS and a new website would be developed in 2015. In March the website [www.readingassociation.org.za](http://www.readingassociation.org.za) was inactive by September Eileen Scheckle was in the process of reviving the site. Janet Marx and Eileen Scheckle are currently running the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/readingassociationofsouthafrica/](http://www.facebook.com/readingassociationofsouthafrica/)

### **RASA Newsletter**

New newsletters have been scarce since 2014 as Irene Reid had not received any submissions from the branches. In 2015 a newsletter was published and focused on the National RASA conference. Tamara had shown an interest in taking this process forward but was no longer in the position to volunteer to do this. Jacqui Dornbrack is very concerned that the RASA community isn't getting a newsletter. This will be a matter that needs to be followed up in the next financial year.

### ***The Teacher* - a supplement of the Mail & Guardian**

*The Teacher* a supplement issued by the Mail & Guardian is interested in having literacy articles written by RASA. An editorial agenda was agreed on between RASA and *The Teacher* and a sub-committee led by Janet Marx was formed to manage this process. The following members have written articles for this publication which reaches 100,000 sites per month: FunDza, Nal'ibali, Catherine Langsford and Lilli Pretorius as well as Tessa from the African Story Book. By September 2015 RASA was informed that the Mail & Guardian was undergoing a restructuring process and the future of *The Teacher* was undecided. The editor of *The Teacher* had resigned. This relationship would be pursued in 2016.

### **Sponsorships**

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust had made a grant of R150,000 to be issued in equal tranches of R75,000 in 2015 and 2016. The grant was a contribution to the general operations of National RASA and could be used to assist with secretariat work as well as other identified areas of work such as the website and newsletter.

The Zenex Foundation made a contribution of R50,000 to the Western Cape branch to sponsor teachers to attend the national conference. OUP donated R200,000 to the Western Cape branch as a contribution to the conference.

Further discussions will be undertaken regarding sustainability issues for the branches as Gauteng and the Western Cape are able to attract more donations than KZN or the Eastern Cape. For the 2016 conference the Western Cape and Gauteng branches will make financial contributions to KZN as their funding is low and there will be startup/deposit costs that need to be managed.



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### Finances

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 the Reading Association of South Africa raised income of R367,875 and incurred expenses of R169,432 with an operating surplus of R198,443. The retained surplus as at 31 December was R541,726 compared to R343,283 as at 31 December 2014. The financial statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 27 April 2016. The audit<sup>1</sup> opinion by Valentine Sargeant was that "...the financial statements fairly reflect, in all material respects, the financial position of the association at 31 December 2015 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice for Small and Medium-sized Entities"

### b) Activities of the provincial branches: WC, EC, KZN and GP

The reports from the various chairs are summarized as follows:

Western Cape	Chair: Karin Murriss	<p><b>7 March 2015</b> Sara Stanley presented a talk on creating story worlds</p> <p>Hosted the <b>10<sup>th</sup> RASA National Conference 2 – 5 September Together with the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Literacy for All Conference</b> <b>Theme: Imagination &amp; Literacy: Theory and Practice</b> <b>Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 441 delegates</li> <li>• Key note speakers: Viv Edwards, Kieran Egan, Barbara Comber, Des Hugo &amp; Na'ibali</li> <li>• 22 Zenex sponsored teachers in attendance</li> <li>• 1000 participants on the Literacy Day</li> </ul>
Eastern Cape	Chair: Margie Childs	<p><b>AGM 27 February</b> Workshop on Cell phone Libraries and Reading Clubs: Dorothy Dyer from FunDza also presented a session on 'reading for pleasure'</p> <p><b>21 March 2015 at NMMU</b> Two presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Les Foster and her team 'Conversations with teachers: Lessons learned from a cross-age bilingual reading programme in a township school.</li> <li>• Professor Patrick Bean 'Our digital footprint, now and in the future?'</li> </ul> <p><b>16 May 2015</b> isiXhosa Inkubelo Spelling Bee Grade 1 – 3 learners from Walmer Primary in Gqebera participated</p> <p><b>17 October 2015</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> AFS attached as annex D



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		<p>Post RASA National conference Open Day Ideas from Professor Kathleen Heugh's work on translanguaging were shared by Margie Childs.</p> <p><b>Reading Club Tour</b> Mrs Brigitte Lenong from the Central University of Technology Reading Club visited the Port Elizabeth Project to establish a relationship with the RASA EC members Plans were shared about the NMMU initiative to begin in 2016 about reading for enjoyment at the level of Higher Education students.</p> <p><b>Reading clubs and Family Literacy Days</b> A RASA member the Lebone Centre is the lead agent in 5 after-care centres in Grahamstown</p>
KZN	<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Leonard Hlongwa</b></p>	<p><b>4 Branch meetings</b> <b>26 March 2015 Meeting and Branch AGM</b> Liz Ralfe spoke on Reading to Write</p> <p><b>31 March 2015</b> Irene Reid ran a workshop about Reading to Write at Spearman Road Primary School</p> <p><b>29 March 2015</b> Launch of the Write Now Creative Writing Competition – this resulted in 150 entries</p> <p><b>15 October 2015</b> Held at Freedom Café Prize giving for Write Now! Competition</p> <p>Plans are underway for the 2016 conference to be held at Clarendon Primary School in Pietermaritzburg 30 September – 2 October 2016</p>
Gauteng	<p><b>Chair: Hilary Janks</b></p>	<p><b>The following three workshops took place in 2015</b></p> <p><b>21 February 2015 AGM</b> Jenny Hatton and Joan Rankin presented a workshop on children's books and illustrations</p> <p><b>23 May 2015</b> Workshop: 'Doing Critical Literacy in the Classroom' presented by Hilary Janks and Kerry Dixon</p> <p><b>12 September 2015</b> Workshop: 'Literacy and the imagination: working space and place as resources for children's learning' presented by Barbara Comber, University of Technology Queensland.</p>

  
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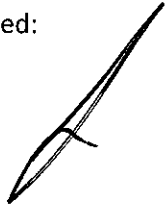
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		<p><b>The following Seminars were held:</b> <b>23 June 2015</b> The ethics of schooling children: the case of childhoods in School Writing Programmes <b>24 June 2015</b> Writing as a Textual Playground: Symbolic Play and Children's Learning</p>
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The financial statements that reflect the activities above can be found in Annex F

Yours sincerely

Signed:



Janet Marx, current RASA chairperson 2016



Eileen Scheckle, outgoing RASA chairperson 2015