

# Tuks turns a new page with BoekJol

Books, books and more books will be the buzzword from March 5 to March 8, when the University of Pretoria hosts its first BoekJol.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate reading and writing in the academic environment.

It is also the opportunity to host the first SA eBook Fair, which will introduce visitors to the new dimension of electronic and digital books. It is also aimed at fostering a culture of reading.

According to Ujala Satgoor, deputy director at the university's department of library services, the BoekJol is a platform where the following will be showcased:

- Current trends and developments in academic publishing;
- A hundred years of publishing at the University of Pretoria, and
- South African writers and authors (some of whom are alumni of the university).

The festival is targeted at students, staff, the alumni of all tertiary institutions, pupils, teachers, libraries, bookshops, publishers, book clubs, tourism and cultural organisations, government departments, the diplomatic community, community-based organisations, NGOs, businesses and the media – in short any



□ Writer Sindiwe Magona.

and every bookworm!

Mathew Phosa, politician and an Afrikaans poet, will be the guest speaker at the official opening on Wednesday.

High-profile writers will also participate in the festival.

Among them are Sindiwe Magona (author of *Living, Loving and Lying Awake at Night*, which was voted one of Africa's 100 best books), well-known journalist Fred Khumalo, Shimmer Chinodya (winner of the 2007 Noma Award for African writing), Michiel Heyns (co-

winner of last year's Sunday Times Fiction Prize) and poets Ingrid de Kok, Peter Horn, Sally-Ann Murray and Chris van Wyk.

At the first South African eBook Fair, which forms part of BoekJol, major international publishers will introduce their latest eBook collections and present a virtual exhibition of eBooks.

A symposium is also planned on "The eBook Phenomenon" on Friday with Mark Carden of MyiLibrary the keynote speaker.

About 600 children from six disadvantaged city schools will attend the Future Leaders at Play programme arranged in conjunction with the Tshwane Community Library and Information Services.

It includes story telling, puppet shows, art and interaction with the writers and illustrators of children's books.

BoekJol, which forms part of the university's centenary celebration, is a first for Tuks.

Wrapping up the programme are concerts by the Tuks choirs and orchestra, street musicians and art exhibitions. The museums and libraries on campus will be open to the public.

To find out more, go to [www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za), e-mail [bookfest@up.ac.za](mailto:bookfest@up.ac.za) or call 012 4202811. – Staff Reporter



□ Precious Goulden enjoys a book at the Eskia Mphahlele (Tshwane city) Library ahead of the Tuks BoekJol.

PICTURE: DAMARIS HELWIG