

Joy for bookworms!

By **ZIMBILI VILAKAZI**

BOOK lovers are in for a treat!

The University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Creative Arts is hosting its 19th Time of the Writer Festival from 14-19 March.

This year's theme is "Decolonising the Book".

Festival manager Tiny Mungwe said the theme was inspired by a growing call from authors and book lovers for increased diversity.

"The change is very big for us. By breaking with years of tradition, we will have another set of operational challenges.

"But it is something we believe is crucial for the festival and for local literature if we want to effect some kind of change in our thinking," said Mungwe.

"Each day, the festival will take place in a different location across the surrounding areas of Durban.

"There are venues located in Clermont, Cato Manor, Umlazi, Inanda and KwaMashu."

She said the festival will also acknowledge the work of

Thando Mggolozana, one of South Africa's leading writers.

Mggolozana has been very vocal about the need for change in our society.

He also helped organise the festival.

The festival is a nationwide initiative by literary experts, where open discussions on how to write, edit, publish, translate and market a book take place.

During this festival there will be daytime as well as evening programmes.

Daily programmes will allow people to share and contribute towards this topic, and evening programmes will feature a joint conversation on the day's discussions.

This year, the festival is partnering with the eThekweni Municipality's libraries.

All events are free to library or student cardholders.

For those without cards, a fee of R20 will be charged at the door.

For more information about the event, visit www.ukzn.ac.za or call 031 260 2506.