

Artist illustrates new children's bible

STAFF REPORTER

If some of the scenery in a new South African children's bible looks familiar, it might be because the illustrations were done by Simon's Town artist Marie Prinsloo.

"There might even be a friend or two who might be able to recognise themselves in the illustrations of some of the bible characters," she admits.

Last year she teamed up with Table View freelance journalist and children's book writer Wendy Maartens to illustrate *Bible Stories for Children*.

The book is published by Struik Children/Penguin Random House South Africa, and is also available in Afrikaans as *Bybelstories vir Kinders*.

Ms Prinsloo used acrylic paint to give bold life to Maartens' interpretation of more than 50 bible stories. She gave it a definitive South African feeling by including elements such as proteas, lions and local bird species.

After almost eight months' worth of work, the last panels were delivered to the publishers four days before the Prinsloo family house partially burnt down in early June.

"The book shelf on which I kept the finished panels burnt out completely, but by God's grace the work was already at the editors," she says.

Ms Prinsloo says the seascapes of False Bay have been a great source of inspiration ever since her family moved into their home in Glencairn Heights a decade ago.

Her bright, playful paintings featuring lighthouses, local architecture and fishing boats are well-known to those frequenting the Chameleon Gallery in Kalk Bay.

Her paintings are also to be found in the Bay Gallery in Langebaan and the Stone Fish Gallery in Paternoster on the West Coast.

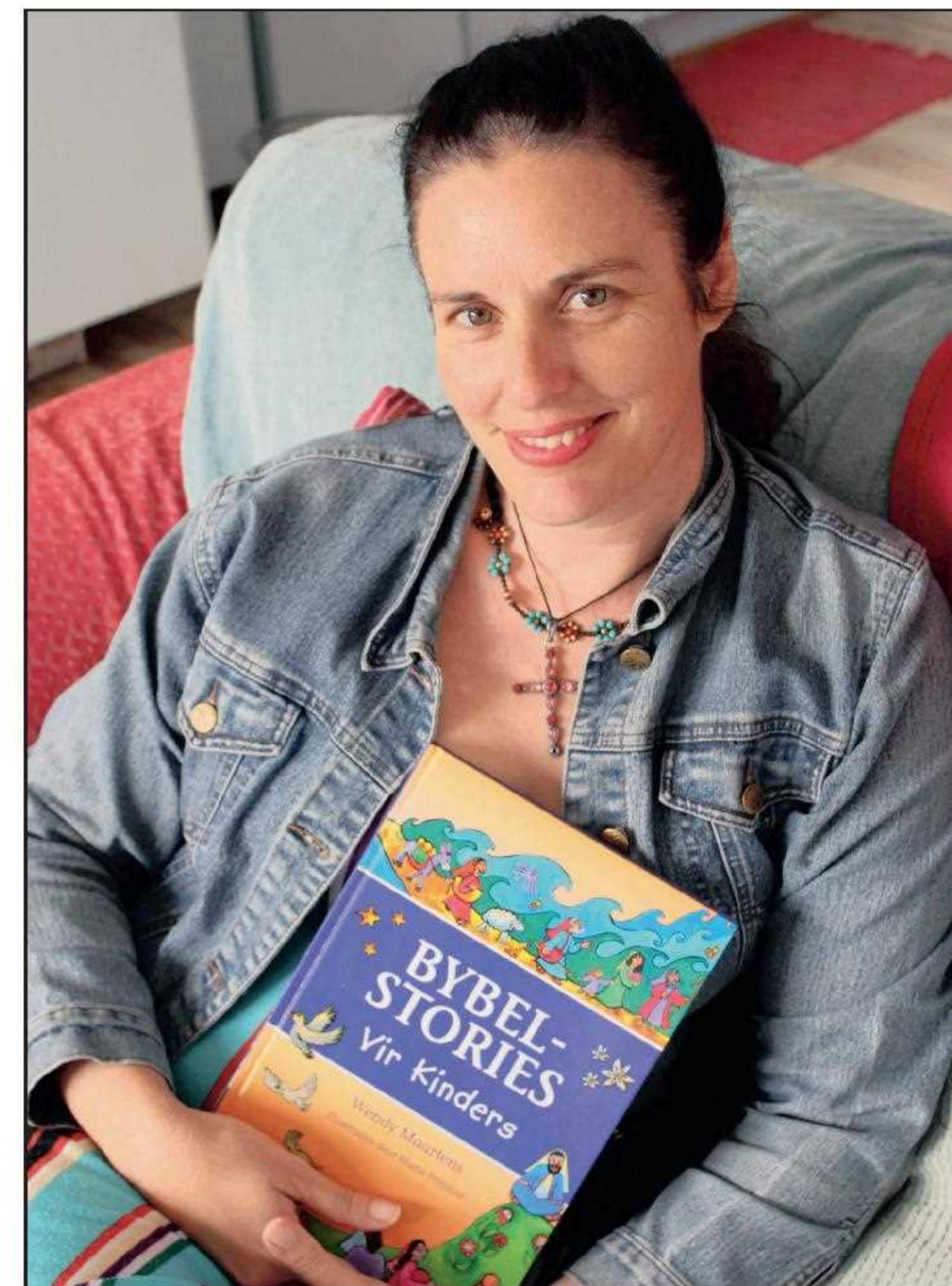
The children's bible is the first time that she has tried her hand at illustrating a full-length book.

Since school she has, however, devel-

oped a very particular illustrative style which is recognised for her use of bright and bold colours. No pastel shades for this artist... she recently also produced her own series of cards and calendars.

Ms Prinsloo grew up in Oudtshoorn, and went on to study fine art at Stellenbosch University. Before settling in Glencairn Heights with their children Ivan and Marguerite, she lived with her husband Stefan in Belgium, the Netherlands, Centurion and Paarl.

Ms Prinsloo also gives a monthly art class to a few local residents, who have all been inspired by her creativity and passion for life.



■ Marie Prinsloo, with the Afrikaans edition of the new *Bible Stories for Children*.

PICTURE: ENGELA DUVENAGE