

KZN MUSEUM NEWS

Quarterly update on everything that happens in the KZN Museum!

Human Rights Month

Human Rights Month was commemoration at the KZN Museum with the "I am the flag campaign", an initiative that aims at nation-building and social cohesion through highlighting and informing the public about South Africa's national symbols.

For the month of March the Museum's Education Outreach team visited various schools, educating learners about South Africa's national symbols, the role they play in unifying South Africa as well as highlighting the history and significance of Human Rights Day, which is celebrated under the theme, *"The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains."*



World Read Aloud Day 2022

For World Read Aloud Day this year the KwaZulu-Natal Museum's Education Outreach Team along with the Museum's Library Department visited Maria Memorial Primary School.

The day's celebrations kicked off with the outreach team launching a reading club at the primary school, with an aim to improve learners reading literacy and develop their love for reading at an early age.

In keeping with the ethos of World Read Aloud Day, learners were given the opportunity to perform and share their favourite stories with the audience in attendance. Learners were also given pointers by the Museum's Library Department on how to better take care of books so that they can be shared and reused for many years to come.

Literacy is a human right!

Shark and Ray Conservation Wild Oceans and SAIAB

At the end of November 2021, a group of scientists from around South Africa met on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal to determine the distribution of sharks and rays in and around the Protea Banks marine protected area. The survey formed part of the Shark and Ray Protection Project funded by the Shark Conservation Fund and WildTrust in collaboration with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity. Fish, sharks, rays, cephalopods and their habitats were surveyed by remote underwater stereo video systems (stereo-BRUVs), consisting of a stainless-steel frame that houses two video cameras and films the seabed through the attraction of bait. Additional information obtained from these video surveys will allow scientists from the KZN Museum Malacology Department to determine if cephalopods (e.g. octopus, squid and cuttlefish) are benefiting from the protection that marine protected areas provide.



Formal in-house lessons

Grade 6 & 7 learners from Willowfontein Intermediate School paid a visit to the KZN Museum for formal lessons on photosynthesis and biodiversity respectively.

Both lessons included experiments based on the lessons offered. The Grade 6 learners had to test for the presence of starch from different types of foods, whilst the Grade 7 learners had to identify whether different types of plants were either monocots or dicots by looking at the leaf venation, root system and parts of the flower.

To book or enquire about formal lessons at the museum, kindly call 033 345 1404 or send an email to reception@nmsa.org.za.

Sifundisa ngokubaluleka kwemisundu kwa Swayimane

by Dr Thembeke Nxele

Abazukulu bakwagogo Khanyile bafunda amabanga aphansi, omdadlana ufunda ibanga lesithathu, owesibili ufunda ibanga lesibili kanti untombazanyana yena ufunda ibanga lokuqala. Bebancane bengaka bayakwazi ukubaluleka kokutshala njengoba uqoko nomkhulu wabo betshale umoba. Kulelikhaya banamasimu angaphezulu kwamathathu abatshale kuwo umoba okuyiwo obaphilisayo. Besihambe endaweni yakwa Swayimane siyobheka ukuthi imiphi imisundu etholakala kumoba wakulendawo ngokusizwa ubaba uMdunge womnyango wezolimo, ongumlimi kulendawo.

Siyile kwa Nomnganga, Ndlaveleni kanye nase Mabheleni. Emabheleni kulapho ke sithole uqoko nomkhulu Khanyile abanabazukulu abaye beza nabo kuthina bezofuna ukwazi ukuthi senzani, bebuza nesizathu sokuqoko lemisundu yakubo. Sibe sesibafundisa ngokubaluleka kwezilwanyana ezitholakala emhlabathini okukhona kuzo nemisundu. Labazukulu abazange besachitha sikhathi babe sebecela ukusisiza ngokugeza imisundu, besho ukuthi nabo mase bekhulile bafuna ukusebenza ngemisundu ngoba kanti ibaluleke kangaka, isiza ukuvundisa umhlabathi kagogo nomkhulu wabo ukuze bakwazi ukutshala umoba, babayise nasesikoleni! Ngosuku olulandelayo besibona, intombazanyana yeza igijima ithi “anti ngiwutholile mina umsundu namuhla ngawubeka ngangawubulala” kulapho ngibone khona ukuthi imbewu itshalekile.

Ukongiwa kwemvelo kuyinto okumele yenziwe abantu bonke, ikakhulukazi intsha ngoba yibo abaphathi bakusasa. Kubalulekile ukufundisa abantwana besebancane ngoba lolo lwazi bakhula nalo lubasize uma sebekhulile. Isintu sithi: “lugotshwa lusemanzi.”



Abantwana bakagogo Khanyile emabheleni befundiswa ngokubaluleka kwemisundu.

What sugarcane has to do with the KZN Museum? by Matabaro Ziganira

One might expect that agricultural crops such as sugarcane is solely a business of cane growers and research institutions in the agricultural sector. And when it comes to museums, animal specimens only are considered. Yes, that is correct! However, sugarcane does not grow in empty space, it grows in the soil; and that is where the KZN Museum comes in. The soil is the habitation of many invertebrates including earthworms. Earthworms play a critical role in the productiveness of the soil (sugarcane field in this case), and are very important indicators of the general health of the soil. Good healthy soil simply means healthy plants and thus good harvest for the farmers. Thanks to Dr Nxele and Mr Matabaro Ziganira both of the natural science department who have been mining ‘iminyundu’ earthworms in fields and raising awareness about them to small-scale cane growers in KZN Midlands. Of course lots can be said about sugarcane but what matter the most for the KZN Museum are the invertebrates, soil and plant interactions.

Southern African Mountain conference!

The first Southern African Mountain Conference was held recently, ground-breaking in its attempt to approach mountains from many different angles, including ecological, social and archaeological.

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum was well represented at the conference with four papers. Dr Igor Muratov spoke about the distribution of terrestrial molluscs in mountain areas and the importance of micro-habitats for their recovery. Dr Thembeke Nxele discussed how more research is needed to understand native mountain earthworms and their possible vulnerabilities. Dr Ghilraen Laue spoke about regional differences in rock art styles from one mountain zone to another. Dr Justine Wintjes and Ms Nothando Shabalala's paper dealt with ritual practices aimed at transforming rock shelters into homes.



The conference took place at Champagne Sports Resort, surrounded by a dramatic vista of mountain peaks, rain clouds and occasional sunbeams.

Birds, cloves and baskets - a new donation!

The Human Sciences Department of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum is excited to announce the donation of 160 new items to their collection. The donation was made by Dr John Vincent of Howick. Most of the items belonged to Dr Vincent's late father Col. Jack Vincent.

Col. Jack Vincent was born and schooled in England. He travelled to South Africa for the first time just before his 21st birthday in 1924. Once in the country he began to take an interest in the local birds and in time ornithology became more than just a hobby. Col. Vincent travelled widely in Africa documenting the birdlife and collecting specimens that were taxidermied and sent to the British Museum. Col. Vincent's complete taxidermy kit as well as 12 bird specimens were amongst the items donated. In 1935 Col. Vincent was commissioned to open a clove oil factory in Zanzibar. His contract stated that he had 18 months to acquire land, build a factory and distil 100 tons of clove oil.



He managed to do this in a year. The collection donated to the museum includes Col. Vincent's notes on the distilling process as well as many different samples of clove oil produced by the factory including a sample from the very first distillation at the factory. Dr Vincent also donated some historical basketry including two early lidded baskets from the Vukani Association in Eshowe, and a spear that belonged to a game guard in the Hluhluwe game reserve in the 1960s.

Fieldwork in the Groot Winterhoek Mountains, Eastern Cape Province

In late 2021 Dr Ghilraen Laue of the Human Sciences Department at the KZN Museum returned to the Groot Winterhoek Mountains to undertake further fieldwork. Dr Laue started working in this under-researched area in 2012 and in the last 10 years has documented 70 new sites, including 11 new sites during this field season. There are still large areas of Groot Winterhoek Mountains that need to be explored and many more sites waiting to be discovered.

Dr Laue's research includes the investigation into depictions of bird therianthropes; creatures with the bodies of swifts and human heads. Three new sites with these types of images were recorded, including a unique image where the 'wings' are bent up like arms and have human fingers. (see below left). Among the many images recorded was this well preserved panel of five human figures with antelope-eared caps. (see below - right)



This heavily painted shelter is situated high up in a narrow valley of one of the tributaries of the KwaZungu River.

New temporary display

Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World exhibition.

The temporary exhibition explores Emerging Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Risks and highlights how pathogens can spread to people from wildlife and livestock, why some outbreaks become epidemics and how human, animal and environmental health are connected as “One Health.”

Be sure to check out the new exhibition on your next visit to the KZN Museum.



Outreach Holiday Activities

The KZN Museum's Education Outreach team took part in a collaborative outreach holiday programme between the Upper West Side, DUCT and the museum held at the Old Prison.

The KZN Museum team facilitated seed bombs and DIY candle creation activities with children between the ages of 8-12 years from surrounding communities.

Celebrations included a performance by the Education Departments Outreach team, titled Colourless Tears, a play that portrayed the negative effects of war and how there are no winners in war, as both parties suffer casualties.

The day's activities came to an end with a reciting of a poem that highlighted the scourge of the GBV pandemic in South Africa and reiterated the need to act against GBV as the country strives to move from awareness to accountability.

Snake Show

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum presents, "**Snakes at the Museum: A Live Show with Nick Evans.**"

Be captivated by master snake handler, Nick Evans- Snake Rescuer from the KZN Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and TV show, Snake Season, as he showcases some of Africa's wild snakes live at the KZN Museum.

Experience an adrenaline rush like no other that will keep you at the edge of your seat as you get up close and personal with snakes such as the Puff Adder, Black Mamba and the Ball Python to name a few.

Purchase your tickets at **webtickets.co.za** or at any Pick n Pay and Boxer stores.

Date: 30 April 2022 (Saturday)

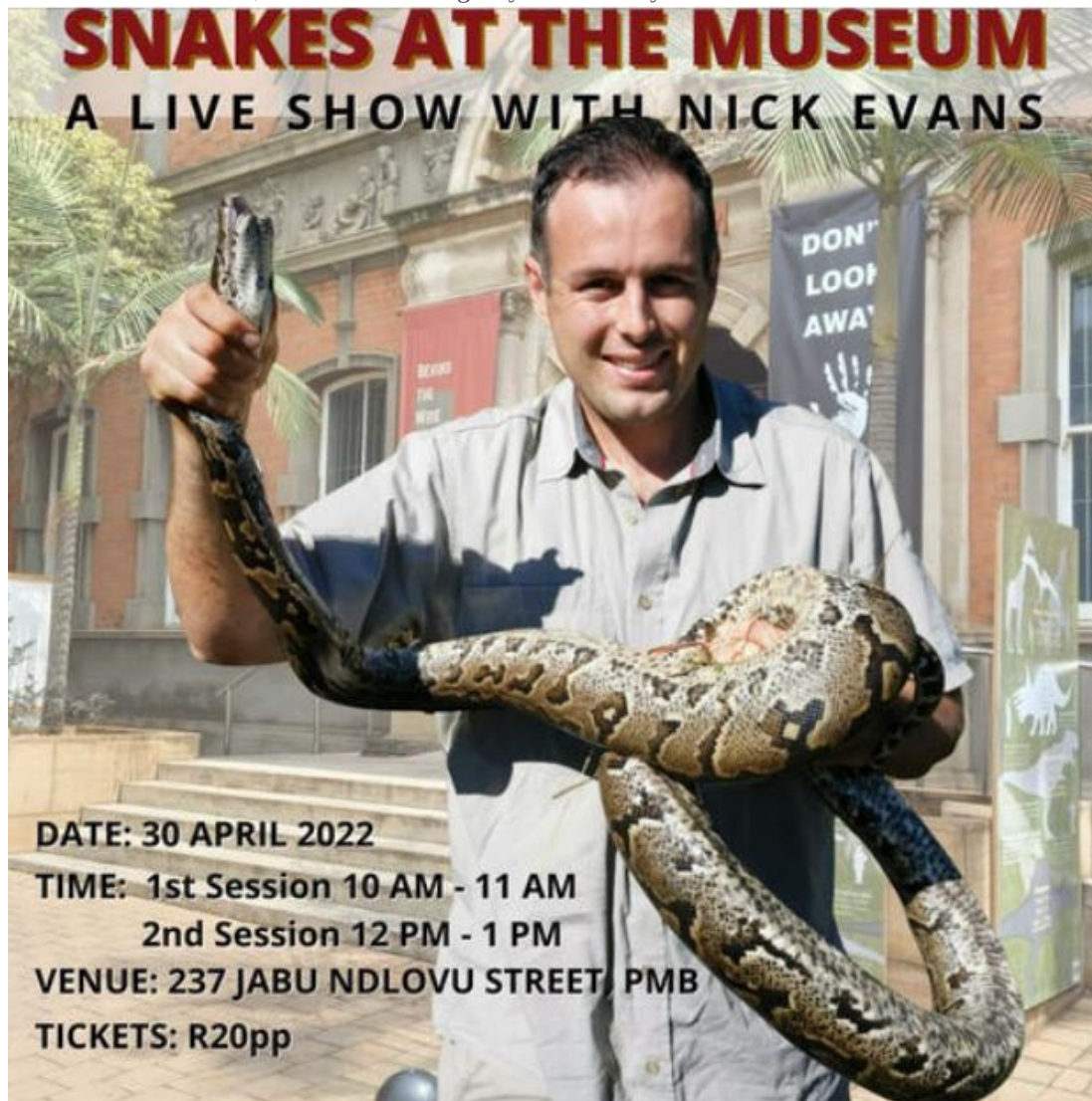
Time: 1st session 10 AM – 11 AM

2nd session 12 PM – 1 PM

Venue: 237 Jabu Ndlovu Street, PMB (KZN MUSEUM)

Tickets: R20 pp

Limited tickets are available, so be sure to get yours early!



Holiday Programme in pictures!



KZN Museum

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www.nmsa.org.za

OPENING TIMES
Monday to Friday - 9:00 to 15:30
Saturdays - 9:00 to 15:00
Sundays - 10:00 to 15:00

ENTRANCE CHARGES
Adults : R 15.00 (Over 17 years)
Children : R 5.00
Scholars : R 2.50 (On tour) per child
Pensioners & Toddlers : FREE

