

KZN MUSEUM NEWS

Quarterly update on everything that happens in the KZN Museum!



Youth Month

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum commemorated Youth Month at the Willowfontein Community Hall in a joint initiative with a local organisation called Dlananathi.

In keeping with the theme of Youth Month, **"Promoting sustainable livelihood and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow,"** the commemoration aimed to assist unemployed out-of-school youths and graduates from Willowfontein and surrounding areas to set up and develop their own businesses by equipping them with essential business skills.

Youth and economic development organisations such as National Youth Development Agency, EDTEA KZN as well as emerging SMME entrepreneurs were also present to impart knowledge to the youth in attendance.

Empowering our youth!

Human Rights Month

The KZN Museum commemorated Human Rights Month 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.

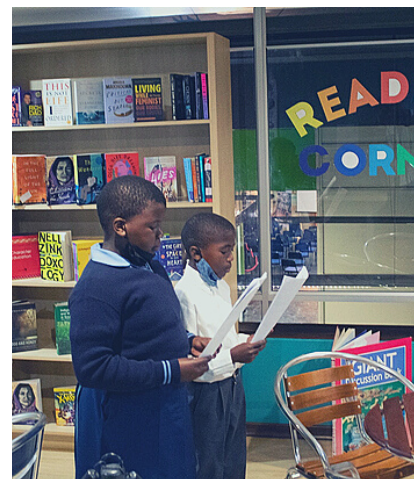
For Human Rights month the Museum's Education Outreach team visited various schools, educating learners about South Africa's national symbols, the role they play in unifying South Africa as well as highlighting the history and significance of Human Rights Day, which is celebrated under the theme, *"The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



Museum launches a reading corner

Created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995, World Book Day is a worldwide celebration, promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. KZN Museum celebrated World Book and Copyright Day by launching a reading corner at the Learners Resource Centre.

Special thanks to guest speaker Mr Mzi Mngadi for his wise word, the performers Shayimamba JAMA Da poet and Aphiwe Mthembu as well as all the attendees who witnessed the launch.



Biodiversity Month

In celebration of Biodiversity Month, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum in collaboration with Duzi-uMngeni Conservation Trust, Umngeni Water Pmb and Izimbali ZeSizwe facilitated an educational workshop for community members of KwaPata at the KZN Museum. The celebrations focused on the theme, "Building a Shared Future for All" and featured educational talks on water conservation and invasive plants and how to manage them to sustain healthy biodiversity. Biodiversity month celebrations continued in the month of May with the KZN Museum along with Duzi-uMngeni Conservation Trust paying a visit to ML Sultan Secondary School. Grades 8 to 11 learners were treated to an informative talk on waste management and participated in an active learning session focusing on waste management.



In-House Workshop

A workshop was facilitated for the Midlands Welfare Forum which comprised representatives from The Haven, PCH (Pietermaritzburg Children's Home), Project Gateway, Siphokazi Social Services, FAMSA, Siyabonga Helping Hands, PADCA, Sunlit Gardens, ABH, Marian Villa Home and SANCA. The workshop allowed for networking whilst participating in a hands-on skill sharing session where attendees engaged in candle-making while learning all about seed bombs. The activities were so well received that they will be adopted as activities for the various organisations that were present. This allows the KZN Museum to further partner with more entities, allowing for greater inclusivity with impact.

International Museum Day

Every year International Museum Day is celebrated on the 18 May. This year the focus was on "Museums have the power to transform the world around us."

To celebrate the day we showcased our various departments to the visitors highlighting the work that is done behind the scenes in a Museum.

It's a whole new world behind the scenes and the visitors were amazed and impressed by what they saw and heard. The departments that participated included the research departments, exhibitions, marketing, and library team as well.



Education Outreach

Grade 10 learners from Woodlands Secondary School had the opportunity to actively engage in water testing and biomonitoring activities using testing kits on the tributary that flows into the Baynespruit River. (The tributary flows along the school boundary.)

Duzi-uMngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT), in collaboration with the KZN Museum, facilitated the information-sharing session and activities. DUCT sponsored T-shirts for several learners and KZN Museum sponsored testing kits for the school.



Wellness Day

The Museum recently hosted its annual Wellness Day event for its entire team. Our gratitude goes to all the amazing service providers for so generously sparing their time and offering their valuable services for the benefit of our staff!

Our gratitude goes to Shubnum Ismail and the Royal Rehabilitation Hospital for her effort in putting a team together, which includes the teams from Daymed Hospital, Lancet Laboratories, A Team Ambulance Services, Pranisha Deonarian (dietician) Judy Umraw, Yumna Hassim optometrist and Pmb Mental Health Society.



Archaeoacoustic project in the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park

Recently, Dr Ghilraen Laue, Human Sciences Department, Kwazulu-Natal Museum, joined the ERC Artsoundscapes project for collaborative fieldwork in the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park. The Artsoundscapes project, based at the University of Barcelona in Spain, aims to investigate the relationship between the acoustic properties of shelters and the placement of rock art by the image-makers. The fieldwork team included Professor Margarita Díaz-Andreu, principal investigator on the project, Dr Neemias Santos da Rosa, Post-doctoral researcher and Mr Diego Moreno Iglesias, engineer and research assistant from the University of Barcelona, Mr CJ Hung, MSc student from the University of the Witwatersrand, and Mr Raphael Mnikahti, rock art guide, and Mr Richard Duma, community elder, both from the local Thendele Village. Over a period of three weeks, the team visited 50 rock painting sites in the Kamberg and Giant's Castle areas of the Drakensberg and carried out acoustic tests at 32 of these sites.



Taxonomy

From the 28th April to the 8th May a training course in Taxonomy and Systematics of African Pollinating flies was held at Shawswood in Karkloof, KZN. The course is one of the planned outcomes of the ongoing Belspo-NRF project DIPTEACH (Diptera Museum collections as a source for taxonomic research and TEACHing activities) and is supported by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation project PINDIP (Pollinator information Network on Two-winged Insects (Diptera)), a project that one of our Museum department head, Dr. John Midgley, is highly involved in. The course was set up around daily activities that involved the teaching of collecting specimens (flies), using different methods such as malaise traps, hand netting and sweep netting. The students were also taught how to pin, label and preserve specimens and to identify specimens to family and genus level using the published volumes of the Manual of Afrotropical Diptera that the students were all given for the course. Each aspect of the course had its own lecture presented by the lectures involved namely Dr. Kurt Jordaens, Dr. John Midgley and Dr. Terence Bellingan. The course was well delivered and will benefit both students and workers that attended the course.



AFRICA MONTH

Celebrating Africa's strong cultural identity and common heritage was the focus this Africa Day.

Africa Day is observed annually to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Union (OAU), the precursor of the African Union, on the 25th of May 1963. The Museum hosted a cultural day and celebrated the diversity our continent offers in the form of food, dance, music and attire just to name a few.



Career Expos

The KZN Museum visited Clydesdale Secondary School in uMzimkhulu and Maritzburg College in Pietermaritzburg recently, for a career expo where learners were able to interact and engage with museum staff. Learners were quite fascinated by the artefacts on display and were able to gain first hand knowledge on the various career paths available at the museum.



The Museum also hosted Grade 12 learners from Zamazulu Secondary School for a Museum Career Awareness Expo. The expo aimed to raise awareness of the different career fields available at museums and assist learners with career choices as they prepare for university applications. Durban University of Technology students were also on hand to give advice to the learners and also to assist them with their university applications.



Museum Marketing Outreach



The Museum's marketing team recently set up a promotional table at the Cascades Centre to inform the public about the Museum's offerings and programmes. With the assistance of the education department visitors to the stand were able to engage and ask questions and even collect free promotional material.



New Exhibition coming soon!



A sneak peek into the progress of our upcoming Invertebrate Exhibition. Lots of new and exciting features being worked on.

KZN Museum

237 Jabu Ndlovu Street
Pietermaritzburg
3201
Tel: 033- 3451404
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

