

KZN MUSEUM NEWS

Monthly updates on everything that happens at the KZN Museum!



sport, arts & culture
Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Heritage Day Celebrations at the KZN Museum



It was a joyous and festive occasion as the KwaZulu-Natal Museum commemorated Heritage Day with a special screening of two documentary films, *"The Life and Times of King Cetshwayo kaMpande"*, and *"The Coronation of the Zulu King, Misuzulu kaZwelithini,"* paying homage to both past and present leadership of the Zulu nation.

The films focus on two pivotal moments in Zulu history: King Cetshwayo's reign and battles against the British during the Anglo-Zulu War, as well as the coronation of King Misuzulu, following the passing of the longest-reigning Zulu King, iSilo uZwelithini KaBhekuzulu.

These screenings are the latest contribution to the Museum's ongoing project of commemorating Zulu Royal Kings, an initiative that dates back to 2023 and underpins the Museum's continuous efforts to preserve and safeguard the historical and cultural heritage of the Zulu Kingdom.



Reimagine Our Heritage Institutions for a New Era



KZN Museum Venue Hire

Pringle Hall

Capacity: 200

Hourly Rate (min 2hrs): R750

Daily Rate: R2 500

Ingede Theatre

Capacity: 63

Hourly Rate (min 2hrs): R650

Daily Rate: R1 750

Enquiries call 033 345 1404 or email reception@nmsa.org.za (T's & C's apply)



Heritage Day at Ncome Museum

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum concluded its Heritage Month commemorations with a Heritage Day event at the Ncome Museum on 30 August.

Celebrated under the sub-theme, *"Ncome Museum – Connecting the Past, the Present, and the Future through Heritage Preservation and Evidence-Based, Localized Socio-Economic Development,"* the event aimed to highlight the importance of preserving our heritage, whilst imparting invaluable cultural and historical knowledge to the young learners' in attendance.

As part of the broader Heritage Month theme, *"Reimagine Our Heritage Institutions for a New Era,"* the event also explored how museums and local crafters (sculptors, bead workers, authors/storytellers) who contribute to preserving heritage through their respective crafts can collaborate in more meaningful ways, that not only safeguard these scarce skills for future generations, but also enhance the local trade and tourism economy.

Robben Island Spring School Camp

The Robben Island Spring School Camp History Competition made its long-awaited return to the KwaZulu-Natal Museum! Following a gruelling selection process that stretched across three KwaZulu-Natal districts, Harry Gwala, uThukela and uMgungundlovu, three participants were selected to represent KwaZulu-Natal at the Robben Island Spring School Camp in Cape Town

Accompanied by Mr Dumisani Jali (Chief In-House Education Officer), the winners from left to right, Lwandolwethu Mcunukelwa (Harry Gwala), Namhla Shabalala (uThukela) and Amanda Pietersen (uMgungundlovu)

More on this here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz8payu>



KZN Museum School Tours & Lessons

School Tour Fees

Learners on Tour: R3.00 per learner
One Educator per 20 learners is FREE
Teachers/Adults: R20.00

Enquiries: 033 345 1404/reception@nmsa.org.za

Lessons Offered

A wide range of curriculum enrichment lectures/talks are available for all grades. Lectures make use of specimens and exhibits and the talks are also enriched by the use of notes and worksheets. Lectures can be designed to suit the educator's/ school's need.



Arbour Month Celebrations

It was a busy September for the KwaZulu-Natal Museum with many Arbour Month initiatives taking place across the month.

The Education Department ran outreach initiatives with eight local schools, conducting workshops in a bid to raise awareness on the importance of trees.

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum also joined in the Department of Forestry & Fisheries #OneMillionTrees greening campaign by gifting 5 lucky winners with a Red Milkwood Tree each, and also conducted a giveaway of seedlings courtesy of SANBI PMB, and DFFE, to Museum patrons.



World Literacy Day Competition

World Literacy Day commemorations in collaboration with the Krest House saw a celebration of community and timeless memories shared across the years. Museum patrons were encouraged to share some of their experiences at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, with many of the patrons sharing unique stories of their time at the Museum and touching on the friendly staff and cleanliness of the Museum.

Winners:

Frame 1: Miranda David (Son and daughter pictured)

Frame 2: Sharona Maipath

Frame 3: Nivashni Sukdhev (Parents Pictured)

Congratulations once again to the winners, pictured receiving their prizes, which included KZN Museum-branded items and books courtesy of The KREST House.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy your goodies, and thank you for sharing your amazing memories with us.



Learner's Resource Centre (Internet Café)

Operating times

Weekdays: 8h00 - 16h00

Saturdays: 9h00 - 16h00

Sundays: 10h00 - 15h00

Services

Internet Access: R10 per hour

Copies: R0.50 per page

Printouts: R1.00 per page

Services

Scanning: R3.00 1st page thereafter

R1.00 per page

SAVAH Conference 2025



The exhibition *the afterlives of things: re-engaging teaching collections* opened at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Visual Arts last night, 25 September 2025.

Organised in the context of the annual SAVAH (South African Visual Arts Historians) conference, the exhibition features artworks from the teaching collections of UKZN's Centre for Visual Arts as well as the KZNM's Departments of Natural and Human Sciences, along with work from UKZN students and staff that responds creatively to those objects.

The exhibition asks: **what is the role of the teaching collection today? How might we bring dormant collections back to life, and what possibilities emerge when they are reanimated through mindful touching, teaching, and creative practice?**

South African Marine Science Symposium 2025

The South African Marine Science Symposium (SAMSS) began on the 8th September 2025 in Cape Town. The symposium unites scientists, practitioners, educators, policymakers, and community leaders to exchange expertise and advance understanding of marine and coastal systems. Together, they explore innovative strategies to enhance ecosystem resilience and promote the sustainable conservation of South Africa's oceans and coastlines.

Representing the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Nelisiwe Manukuza, Marine Malacology Curator, made a notable contribution to the symposium. On 10 September, under the sub-theme Biodiversity, Taxonomy and Systematics, she presented a poster showcasing the Museum's extensive collection of marine molluscs.

Under the sub-theme Ecosystem Studies, Conservation and Governance, Nelisiwe delivered an oral presentation based on her Masters research, highlighting the crucial role of mangroves in supporting prawn populations and sustaining coastal ecosystems. The KwaZulu-Natal Museum continues to advance marine science research while promoting the conservation of South Africa's rich marine biodiversity.



KwaZulu-Natal Museum Venue Hire

Mammal Hall Capacity: 300 Hourly Rate (min 2hrs): R1 350 Daily Rate: R5 000

Enquiries call 033 345 1404 or email reception@nmsa.org.za (T's & C's apply)

Excavations at the Kaingo Game Reserve in the Waterberg



Ghilraen Laue is once again in the Waterberg at a site called Dwaalhoek, this time joined by fellow museum archaeologist Dimakatso Tlhoale, both representing the Human Sciences Department from the Museum.

They have joined Professor Lyn Wadley from the Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI) at Wits University, along with her research team, which includes Dr Bongzi Zwane from the University of Johannesburg and Dr Rosa Moll from ESI, Wits.

This marks the fourth site they have excavated at the Kaingo Game Reserve. The team continues to uncover fascinating insights into the region's rich archaeological and cultural history.

Full Article: <https://tinyurl.com/2eku5wpe>

SAMA National Conference 2025

The 89th South African Museums Association (SAMA) 2025 National Conference is currently taking place in The City of Tshwane, under the theme, *"Sustainable Future Through Cultural Resilience."*

This year, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum is represented by Dr Ghilraen Laue, Matabaro Ziganira, Thando Malevu, Anele Bhengu, Mudzunga Munzhedzi, and Dr Justine Winjtes (Online participant). During the first day of the conference, Mudzunga Munzhedzi, Collections Technician at the Museum's Human Sciences Department, gave a presentation titled, *"Collaborations among Museums: the case of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum and Eswatini National Museum."*

The presentation outlined the benefits of institutional collaborations, citing a recent collaboration between the KZN Museum and the Eswatini National Museum, where the Museum's Human Sciences Department provided curatorial, collections care and conservation training to a museum curator and conservator from the Eswatini National Museum.

More on this here: <https://tinyurl.com/4cvx5vpk>



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Our Chief PR and Marketing Officer, Viranna Frank, attended the National Arts and Culture Awards 2025 Awards held at Sun City from 21–23 August, where the KwaZulu-Natal Museum was honoured as a finalist in the Outstanding Museum category.

We are proud to have been recognised among the best. This recognition inspires us to continue growing, innovating, and serving our community with excellence.

Congratulations to the William Humphreys Art Gallery on winning the award in this category!

Pictured is Viranna Frank with world-renowned Zulu praise singer and senior official within the Zulu royal household, uBaba Buzetsheni Mdletshe.

Women's Day Celebrations

The KZN Museum hosted an event celebrating National Women's Day in collaboration with Inkunzi Isematholeni Foundation and the Dept. of Community Safety and Liaison.

With many of the Gr 9 to 12 female learners in attendance preparing to make crucial subject choices and others, life in university, the event aimed to empower and encourage the learners to be the architects of their own future.

Prominent guest speakers were on hand to share their own personal stories, inspiring the learners with their journey to success, whilst highlighting the many challenges of university life.



August Marketing Outreach in Pictures



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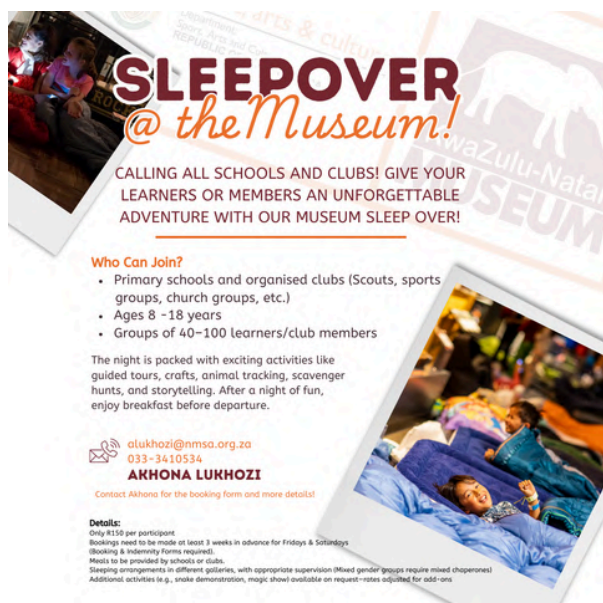
KZN Museum upcoming events

Make the most of the school holidays with a movie day filled with adventure and endless exploration, right here at the KZN Museum. Tickets are now available for sale at the KZN Museum at R20 per person. For enquiries or bookings, call **033 345 1404** or send an email to reception@nmsa.org.za

Cap it all off with a fun family night out at our annual Night at the Museum: Halloween Edition event. Dress up in your best costume and enjoy the spooky thrills we have on offer. Tickets are available at webtickets.co.za: <https://tinyurl.com/aax6zvcz>



New Educational Offering



Sleepover @ The Museum

Introducing a new and exciting addition to the Museum's lineup of offerings! The Sleepover @ The Museum initiative is geared towards schools and organised clubs, featuring educational and interactive activities such as guided tours, crafts, scavenger hunts, animal tracking, storytelling, and much more. (Terms & Conditions Apply)

Ages: 8-18

Groups: 40-100 learners/club members

Only R150 per participant

N.B: bookings to be made 3 weeks in advance. For bookings and enquiries alukhozi@nmsa.org.za | **033 341 0534**

KwaZulu-Natal Museum, There's Always Something New To See!

KwaZulu-Natal Museum

237 Jabu Ndlovu Street
Pietermaritzburg
3201
Tel: 033- 345 1404
www.nmsa.org.za

OPENING TIMES

Weekdays - 9:00 to 16:00
Saturdays - 9:00 to 16:00
Sundays - 10:00 to 15:00
Holidays - 9:00 to 16:00

ENTRANCE CHARGES

Adults: R 20.00 (Over 17 years)
Children: R 10.00 (4-17years)
Scholars: R 3.00 (On tour) per child
Pensioners & Toddlers: FREE

