

# KZN MUSEUM NEWS

*Monthly update on everything that happens in the KZN Museum!*



## Easter holiday fun at the Museum!



Thank you to everyone who slithered their way to the KZN Museum for a scaly educational experience on reptiles!

Reptile Party Time certainly made it an event to remember, with an exotic array of fascinating creatures, from colourful snakes to fearsome lizards, that left the audience in awe of their beauty.

Thank you for your continued support, be sure to follow us on all our social media platforms for more KZN Museum events.

**KZN Museum, there's always something new to see!**

## There's something for everyone!



Celebrating Freedom Day under the theme, "Consolidating and Safeguarding Democratic Gains", the KZN Museum hosted an open dialogue session with Grade 10 and 11 learners from various schools across Pietermaritzburg.

The dialogue aimed to unearth the youths concerns surrounding South Africa's current state of affairs and highlight their hopes and the changes they wish to see in the future, especially with the upcoming South African general elections in 2024.

The topic of the dialogue was "South Africa faces numerous challenges that have negatively impacted our constitutional rights as citizens. These challenges include load-shedding, water-cuts, escalating crime, poverty, unemployment, and rampant corruption to mention but few. Do you feel that your rights as a citizen in a democratic country are violated?"

This resulted in the learners engaging and expressing their views on the topic and raising some interesting points.



## Commemorating Freedom Month



During the month of April, South Africans across the country celebrated Freedom Day under the theme, "*Consolidating and Safeguarding Democratic Gain,*" and called on all South Africans to reflect on the attainment of freedom and democratic gains over the past 29 years.

## Learner's Resource Centre (Internet Café)

### Operating times

Weekdays: 9h00 - 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

## Freedom Day Lecture



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

As a part of Freedom Month celebrations, the KZN Museum visited Eminyezaneni High School for a special Freedom Day Lesson with Grade 12 History learners.



The lesson highlighted the history topic of the Black Conscious Movement (BCM) and the role it played in the struggle against apartheid, which led to the freedoms we enjoy today.

## World Book & Copyright Day

The KZN Museum celebrated World Book & Copyright Day with Nansindlela Primary School. The days events saw renowned poet & author, Luleka Mhlanzi, join in the celebrations and share her journey as an author with learners, highlighting her expertise as well as different ways one can make a career out of writing.

Learners were also treated to a behind the scenes tour of the of the KZN Museum's Library Department, showcasing the important role libraries play in the preservation of history and knowledge through its various collections.



## KZN Museum School Tours & Lessons

### School Tour Fees

Learners on Tour: R2.50 per learner  
 One Educator per 20 learners is FREE  
 Teachers/Adults: R15.00

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.

## Celebrating Dr Jason Londt

Dr Jason Londt, Emeritus Director of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, has made a notable impact on South African and International Entomology over a career of more than 50 years. The KwaZulu-Natal Museum is publishing a "*Festschrift of African Invertebrates*" in honour of Dr Londt for his 80th birthday this month.

Dr Londt joined the KwaZulu-Natal Museum in 1976 as the Assistant Director. He was appointed as Director in 1994 and retired in 2003. He worked primarily on assassin flies (Asilidae) describing 585 new Asilidae species in his career!

Dr Londt continued to collect and publish papers well after his retirement. There are over 65 000 specimens in the museum collection thanks to his collecting efforts. In recognition of him and his incredible collecting record, he has had 36 insect and two earthworm species named after him.



Dr John Midgley and I attended a Plazi workshop that seeks to promote the development of persistent and openly accessible digital taxonomic literature.

"Plazi, amongst other things, maintains a digital taxonomic literature repository to enable archiving of taxonomic treatments, participates in the development of new models for publishing taxonomic treatments and advocates and educates about the vital importance of maintaining free and open access to scientific discourse and data" ([www.plazi.org](http://www.plazi.org)). This therefore plays a fundamental role as it means the information will be provided freely. This benefits research in developing countries that might not have the financial power or funds for purchasing journals.

During the workshop we were trained to extract taxonomic treatments (scientific description of a biological species) and enhance data from different PDF scientific literature using a program called GoldenGATE-Imaging (GGI). GoldenGATE-Imagine opens PDF documents, extracting metadata and marking taxon names and treatments, decoding embedded fonts where required, and finally segmenting pages into columns, blocks, paragraphs, and lines. All of this allows the Plazi system to separate the parts of the documents that can be shared without breaking copyright law and allows the end user to find things easily.

## Data Liberator Through Plazi

## KwaZulu-Natal Museum Venue Hire

Pringle Hall	Capacity: 200	Hourly Rate (min 2hrs): R350	Daily Rate: R1 500
Ingede Theatre	Capacity: 63	Hourly Rate (min 2hrs): R275	Daily Rate: R1 200

Enquiries call 033 345 1407 or email [reception@nmsa.org.za](mailto:reception@nmsa.org.za) (T's & C's apply)

**Storeroom Talks**

Another fascinating edition of storeroom talks at the KZN Museum.

Dr Viola Schmid (Austrian Archaeological Institute), talking on "The Upper Pleistocene sequence of Umhlatuzana rockshelter unveiling technological changes and regional cultural developments", shared an interesting visual presentation of stone artefacts from the recent excavation and actual artefacts from Jonathan Kaplan's excavation, focusing on the period from 40,000 to 20,000 years ago.



**Excavations Near Weenen**

Archaeologist Gavin Whitelaw, KwaZulu-Natal Museum, and a team from the University of Pretoria led by Kefilwe Rammutloa are currently excavating an Iron Age site near Weenen, KwaZulu-Natal.

The site dates to 1300 years ago. The photos show archaeologists Kefilwe Rammutloa and Pascal Mutakaya excavating a possible courtyard floor. Kefilwe is a PhD candidate at Yale University.

**Getting some hands on experience**



The Department of Human Sciences welcomed two new faces to the department, Ki-Leigh Moodley and Meelah Sherman. The two grade 10 learners will be job shadowing Dr Ghilraen Laue over the course of the school holidays as they look to learn more about archaeology as a career choice.

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# KZN Museum Marketing Outreach



## Africa Month Celebrations

Join us as we celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Africa at the KZN Museum Africa Day Fair!

Enjoy our showcase featuring African culture, art, fashion, cuisine and the ever popular Reptile Party Time - where parties come alive as we honour our incredible continent during Africa Month.

**Date:** Saturday, 20 May 2023  
**Time:** 9h00 - 14h00  
**Venue:** 237 Jabu Ndlovu Street, PMB  
**Reptile Show Tickets:** R30 per person (Show will take place from 10h00 - 11h00)

Tickets for the reptile show are available online at [webtickets.co.za](http://webtickets.co.za) or at your nearest Pick n' Pay store.

**AFRICA DAY FAIR**  
 Saturday, 20 May 2023  
 9h00 - 14h00  
 Reptile Show Tickets: R30 per person (10h00 - 11h00)  
 Venue: KwaZulu-Natal Museum  
**REPTILE PARTY TIME**  
 FOOD STALLS • AFRICAN BEADWORK • SCULPTURES • VEG FLEA MARKET  
 PORTRAITS • FACEPAINTING • AFRICAN BOUTIQUE • & MUCH MORE  
 web tickets AVAILABLE AT Pick n' Pay

Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/25wtn28k>

# KwaZulu-Natal Museum

237 Jabu Ndlovu Street  
 Pietermaritzburg  
 3201  
 Tel: 033- 345 1404  
[www.nmsa.org.za](http://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 15.00 (Over 17 years)  
 Children : R 5.00  
 Scholars : R 2.50 (On tour) per child  
 Pensioners & Toddlers : FREE

