

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

## A surprising find at Sibhudu Shelter!



An exciting new kind of object was found during recent excavations at Sibhudu Shelter, near Ballito, on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal.

The deep cylindrical wooden container is thought to be a mortar recovered from Iron Age layers in the rock shelter. It is unusual to find well-preserved wooden items and this object is to our knowledge the first identification of an Iron Age wooden mortar in KwaZulu-Natal.

The object was discovered during excavations by an international team of archaeologists led by Prof. Nicolas Conard of the University of Tübingen. Archaeobotanist Dr Bongekile Zwane will identify the type of tree it was carved from. Samples will also be taken to date the object.

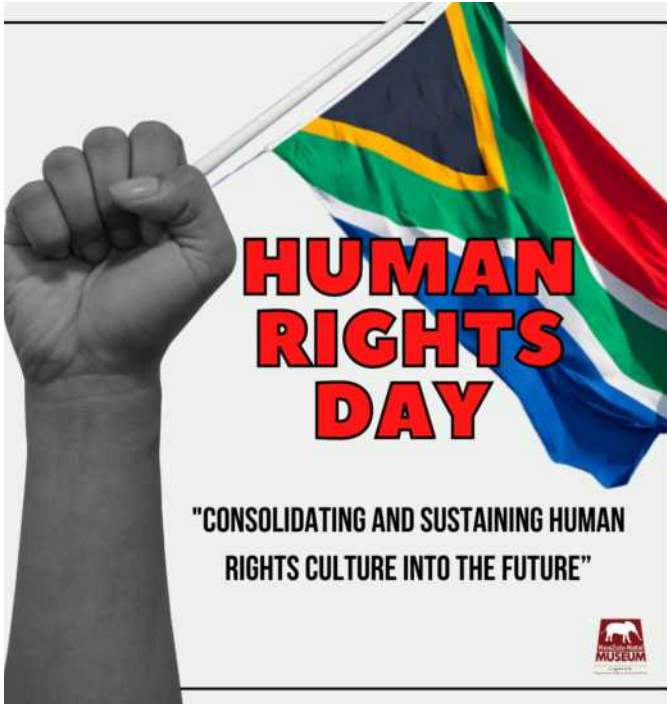
## Shining The Spotlight On The Department of Human Sciences

The Department of Human Science played hosts to Felixton College's senior history students as the school made a return to the KZN Museum, following their positive visit in 2017.

The learners were treated to an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the Human Sciences Department, which featured a talk about Archaeology and stone tools from Rock Art Specialist, Dr Ghilraen Laue, whilst Mr Mudzunga Munzhedzi highlighted conservation problems of heritage objects and outlined practices of how these objects are preserved.



# Commemorating Human Rights Month



During the month of March the KZN Museum joined the nation in celebrating the cornerstone of democracy in South Africa, the rights of all people in our country and the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

21 March is day when South Africa reflects on the past and remembers the events that took place in Sharpeville, 21 March 1960. Where 69 people lost their lives and 180 were wounded, when police opened fire on a peaceful crowd that had gathered in protest against the Pass laws.

## I Am The Flag

Human Rights Day celebrations saw the KZN Museum’s Education Outreach team visit Sifiso Primary School in Ixopo. The main purpose of the visit was to educate learners about the history of Human Rights Day and highlighting the significance of our national symbols through the “I am the flag campaign”, an initiative that aims at nation-building and social cohesion.



Other schools visited included, Sandasonke Primary, Ntuzuma (Pinetown District) and Mashaka Primary, Pietermaritzburg (UMgungundlovu District).



You can watch Human Rights Day celebrations, by clicking on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/romTj8QBWXI>



## 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



## Library Week Outreach

This week has been all about the power of telling stories as we continued to celebrate #salw2023 under the theme, “Libraries: Telling Powerful Stories.”

Thank you to Dindi Primary School for allowing us to share the importance of reading and libraries with the learners.

## World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day celebrates linguistic diversity and recognizes the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.

To commemorate the globally recognised UNESCO day, the KZN Museum's Education outreach team held a poetry workshop at Georgetown High School. The workshops touched on the history of poetry, highlighted the basics of constructing and reciting poems and how one can make a career out of poetry.

# "Libraries: Telling Powerful Stories"

## Library Week

South African Library Week celebrations drew to close at the KZN Museum as the museum's Library Department hosted a speech contest.

Learners from local schools (Nansindlela Primary School, Inzuzwenhle Primary School, Khethindlelenhle Primary School and Sinamumva Primary School) were invited to share their own powerful stories in the following categories, isiZulu poetry, English poetry, isiZulu storytelling and English storytelling.

**Winners of the competition were as follows:**

**isiZulu poetry:** Inzuzwenhle Primary School

**English poetry:** Inzuzwenhle Prima School

**isiZulu storytelling:** Nansindlela Primary School

**English storytelling:** Khethindlelenhle Primary School.



## 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.



## South Coast Sampling by Dr T Nxele

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum's Human Sciences department is hosting three visiting researchers from Europe, Dr Gregor Bader, Dr Gerrit Dusseldorp and Dr Viola Schmid. They are examining stone artefacts from the site of Umhlatuzana (near Hillcrest) which are part of the Museum's Archaeological Collection. The artefacts were excavated in 1985 by Jonathan Kaplan.

The site of Umhlatuzana was re-excavated by Dr Dusseldorp and a Leiden University team in 2018 and 2019 to gain a better understanding of the different archaeological layers at the site. The stone artefacts from these excavations were analysed by Dr Schmid. Dr Bader's recent fieldwork at the nearby site of Umbeli Belli has yielded similar lithics including iconic hollow-based points already described by Kaplan at Umhlatuzana.

To date hollow-based points are only known from three sites in KwaZulu-Natal, Umhlatuzana, Umbeli Belli and Sibhudu. The research team is re-examining the artefacts from the Kaplan excavation in order to better understand this unique expression of the final stages of the Middle Stone Age (approximately 40-35 000 years ago). This research shows how people in southern Africa developed increasingly different cultural traditions on a regional scale.

## Visit by Royal Armouries

Between 1919 and 1920, the Secretary for State for the Colonies offered material from the Tower of London, which was part of the Royal Armouries, to various museums in the Dominions. Three South African museums—the South African Museum in Cape Town, the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria, and the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg—took up the offer and received loans of suits of armour. In the days before mass communication was possible through digital processes, the suits of armour would have been valuable learning material for anyone interested in the Medieval Period.



As part of the process of loans between museums, from time to time, staff from the loaning institution visit the place where their items are being held to inspect the objects. In the second half of 2022, Dr Brent Sinclair-Thomson, of the Royal Armouries visited the KwaZulu-Natal Museum to do a condition assessment of the various items that comprise the suit of armour. Dr Sinclair-Thomson completed his PhD at Wits University in 2020 on San rock art and is well-known to archaeologists at the Museum. Over the course of a few days, the items were checked and assessed by Dr Sinclair-Thomson and Dr Justine Wintjes. One interesting aspect that emerged was that the armour was not a complete suit made at the same time but, instead, was a compilation of different parts made at different times. Another interesting feature is that one of the breastplates appears to have been damaged by a weapon of some sort and there is a round indentation on the upper part of the plate. The breastplate seems to have absorbed the impact and whatever damaged it did not pass through the metal—luckily for the wearer!

## 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)

# Upcoming Events at the KZN Museum

**The Upper Pleistocene sequence of Umhlatuzana rockshelter unveiling technological changes and regional cultural developments**

by Dr Viola Schmid  
Austrian Archaeological Institute

**A storeroom talk**

Presented to you by:

WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 10:30 am **FREE**



Umhlatuzana rockshelter near Marianhill in KwaZulu Natal has a deep archaeological deposit laid down during the past 100,000 years. Archaeologist Jonathan Kaplan excavated the site in 1985 following fears that it would be destroyed during the construction of the N3 toll road. At the time, some archaeologists expressed concern about the integrity – and therefore the value – of the deposits, but new excavations in 2018–2019 by the University of Leiden showed that there had been no large-scale movement of the archaeological sediments. Dr Schmid presents visual images of the stone artefacts from the recent excavation and actual artefacts from Jonathan Kaplan's excavation and focuses on the period from 40,000 to 20,000 years ago. Umhlatuzana is one of the few sites in KwaZulu-Natal that preserves a record of this period and where we can see the character of the stone tool tradition shifting towards a miniaturisation in technology. The Umhlatuzana sequence allows us to explore various facets of this technological change, as well as its causes.

Spaces are limited and RSVP is essential.  
Contact: Ghilraen - glaeu@nmsa.org.za

## Storeroom Talks Makes A Return

Dr Viola Schmid (Austrian Archaeological Institute) presents: Visual images of the 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.

Date: 12 April 2023  
Time: 10h30  
Venue: 237 Jabu Ndlovu Street  
Entry is FREE

# Save The Date!

Get your diaries out and mark the dates, here is what's happening at the museum.



**EASTER TRADING HOURS**

THURSDAY, 06 APRIL CLOSING AT 12:00  
FRI, 07 APRIL CLOSED  
SAT, 08 APRIL 09AM - 4PM  
SUN, 09 APRIL 10AM - 3PM  
MON, 10 APRIL CLOSED

Follow us on our social media platform for updates on all KZN Museum events.

**WHAT'S ON KWAZULU-NATAL MUSEUM**

**APRIL**

- 09 April Kissing Her Senseless Book Launch
- 23 April World Book and Copyright Day
- 23 April Tennis Apartheid and Social Justice Book Launch
- 27 April Freedom Day
- 28-29 April Marketing Outreach (Edendale Mall)

**MAY**

- 04 May African Textile Workshop
- 18 May International Museum Day
- 19 May Biodiversity Day Event
- 20 May Africa Day Fair
- 22 May Biodiversity Day
- 25 May Africa Day
- 26 May Royal Show Exhibition

**JUNE**

- 15 June Youth Day Event
- 16 June Youth Day
- 26-30 June Holiday Programme

**A JOURNEY OF NEVER ENDING DISCOVERY!**

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

