

KZN MUSEUM NEWS

Monthly updates on everything that happens at the KZN Museum!



Human Rights Day - Making Human Dignity Real



This year's Human Rights Day theme, *"Bill of Rights at 30: Making Human Dignity Real,"* highlights the shift from formal rights to practical implementation, ensuring that the Constitution's promise of dignity is experienced by all citizens, especially the marginalised.

In partnership with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), the KwaZulu-Natal Museum provided a space for meaningful engagement with young people from Durban University of Technology, encouraging them to embrace one of the most fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution, the right to vote.



Representatives from the IEC were present to educate and empower the youth in understanding the value and importance of civic participation, and how their involvement actively contributes to a more just and inclusive South Africa.

"Bill of Rights at 30: Making Human Dignity Real"



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)



VENUE HIRE

PRINGLE HALL

CAPACITY: | HOURLY RATE (MIN 2HRS): R750 | DAILY RATE: R2 500



INGEDE THEATRE

CAPACITY: 63 | HOURLY RATE (MIN 2HRS): R650 | DAILY RATE: R1 750



MAMMAL HALL

CAPACITY: 300 | HOURLY RATE (MIN 2HRS): R1 350 | DAILY RATE: R5 000

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

Our range of modern, budget-friendly venues offer the ideal space to meet your event requirements. Enquire by calling 033 345 1404 or send an email to reception@nmsa.org.za



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



World Poetry Day

Commemorated annually on the 21st of March, World Poetry Day is recognised globally as one of humanity's most cherished forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum, in collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa & Research Institute, celebrated World Poetry Day by hosting a poetry competition on South Africa's National Symbols.

The competition, which was held at King Senzangakhona High School, aimed to raise awareness and educate learners about the importance of national symbols, continuing the Museums' mandate of fostering nation building and inspiring a winning nation.



Library Week

Celebrating South African Library Week under the theme, *"Reclaiming Knowledge, Empowering Futures."* The Museum's Library Department hosted a quiz competition for Grade 6 and 7 learners from Ndabenhle Primary School, Hlelingomusa Primary School, and Lungisile Primary School.

The quiz, which focused on Pietermaritzburg and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, aimed to encourage learners to reclaim their knowledge of local history and educate them about the vital roles libraries and museums play as crucial sources of information that help bridge the knowledge gap within communities.

Following two intense rounds of competition, Ndabenhle Primary School claimed first position, followed by Hlelingomusa Primary School, with Lungisile Primary School taking third place.



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.

SCHOOL TOURS



EXPLORE. ENGAGE. LEARN

Book your school tour today, simply contact 033 345 1404 or
send an email to reception@nmsa.org.za



KZN Museum Tea Time Talks



We recently had the pleasure of hosting Professor Pierfilippo Cerretti from the Sapienza University of Rome for one of the Museum's Tea-Time Talks. During this eye-opening talk titled, *Robotics, Artificial Intelligence & Megabarcoding: A step change in the study of hidden diversity*,

Professor Cerretti spoke on the hidden world of flies and the technological revolution in taxonomy. One of the key takeaways highlighted during the talk was the decline in the number of descriptions of new insect species by scientists. Professor Cerretti demonstrated through his own work that implementing technologies such as AI, robotics, and DNA sequencing can increase the rate at which researchers describe new species.

Read up on some of Professor Cerretti's work here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrUYckv7>



Watch as PhD student Ben de la Fontaine, University of Pretoria and KwaZulu-Natal Museum, South Africa, shared a photographic journey through the first year of his doctoral research during his Tea Time Talk earlier this month. The talk focused on key fieldwork experiences, discoveries and insights gained during Benjamin's first phase of the study.

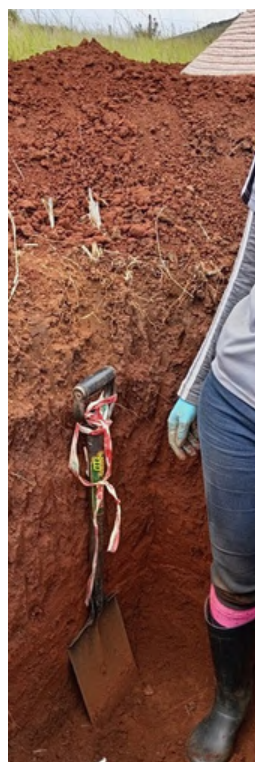
Click the link below.

Watch the full talk here: <https://youtu.be/kc0UyIAAiII>

Extended Sleep

When there is plenty of rain, earthworms are generally out and about, mating and making our soils fertile. During the dry season, they enter a state of anabiose during which they either migrate deeper into the soil, roll into a ball and "sleep" or they become less active in the leaf litter, if they are leaf litter species. When the rain is delayed, earthworms also delay coming out of their sleep until the conditions are favourable.

Swartberg is on the border of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces. During the 2025–2026 rainy season, Swartberg received less rain, and interestingly, the sampling in December-February recovered earthworms that were still sleeping from the previous dry season. With winter fast approaching, one can only wonder if the sleeping beauties will make it to the next rainy season or if natural selection will play out! Sampling in the area continues, and more data will paint a better picture of the effect of climate change on earthworms.



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

LEARNERS RESOURCE CENTRE



AFFORDABLE & CONVINIENT

The Museums Learners Resource Centre offers affordable and reliable internet access to cater to your professional and personal needs.



Celebrating The Power of Books



BOOK DONATION DRIVE

The KwaZulu-Natal Museum invites the public to donate pre-loved books in good condition (fiction, non-fiction, novels, academic, and children's books). Donations can be dropped off at the Museum's reception area.



1 April - 20 April, 2026
MUSEUM OPERATING TIMES



KwaZulu-Natal Museum
237 Jabu Ndlovu Street, PMB

MORE INFORMATION



033 345 1404



info@nmsa.org.za



As we gear up to join the global community in promoting literacy, education and celebrating the power of books on World Book & Copyright Day, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum calls on members of the public to assist by donating pre-loved books (in good condition) to the Museum. We accept all types of books – fiction, non-fiction, novels, academic books, children's books and more.

Books can be dropped off at the KZN Museum's reception area from 1 to 20 April 2026.

Date: 1 - 20 April 2026

Venue (Drop-off): 237 Jabu Ndlovu Street, PMB

KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Inspiring A Nation of Winners!

Easter Holiday Trading Times

Backing Bafana Bafana

Early Closure

Due to the upcoming Easter weekend, the Museum will close at **12h00** on **Thursday, 02 April 2026.**

Thurs, 02 April 2026: Closing at 12:00
 Fri, 03 April 2026: Closed
 Sat, 04 April 2026: Open
 Sun, 05 April 2026: Open
 Mon, 06 April 2026: Closed.

We apologise for any inconvenience.



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As an agency of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, entrusted to foster nation building, promote social cohesion and inspire a nation of winners, the Museum calls on all South Africans to unite in support and back our national team as they prepare to take on the rest of the world at the 2026 World Cup in North America.

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

