



KZN MUSEUM NEWS

Monthly updates on everything that happens at the KZN Museum!

World Read Aloud Day 2026 Celebrations



In celebration of World Read Aloud Day, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum's outreach team, led by the Education and Library Departments, conducted a series of outreach initiatives promoting literacy and fostering a passion for reading.

Celebrated annually on the first Wednesday of February, World Read Aloud Day celebrates the power of reading aloud to improve literacy, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. In keeping with the day's objective, learners and teachers from each of the respective schools visited came together to read aloud, share stories and build a lifelong love for learning and reading.

A heartfelt thank you to Russell Junior Primary School, Nyamazane Primary School and Nsongansonga Primary School for inviting us to partake in the incredible World Read Aloud Day celebrations.



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



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)

SANBI Career Expo

Sharing knowledge and sparking curiosity as we engaged with Grade 11 learners from St John Paul II Secondary School during the SNABI High School Career Fair.

This annual event brings together stakeholders from heritage, biodiversity, environmental management, and science sectors to share valuable insights on career opportunities with students as they choose their fields.

Thank you to the KZN National Botanical Garden (PMB) for inviting us to the career day and for providing a platform where learners gain valuable information about their career aspirations.



International Mother Tongue Day

As we celebrated International Mother Language Day, under the theme, "*Youth Voices on Multilingual Education*," the Museum's Education outreach team visited Glenover Secondary School to honour the beauty of linguistic diversity and pay tribute to the languages that shape our identities, cultures, and communities.

Learners engaged enthusiastically in the day's activities, showcasing their passion for linguistics as they read stories and recited poetry in their native languages, emphasising that indeed, every voice matters.



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.

International Day of Women in Science



Celebrated International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

The Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School STEM Fair is an annual event that celebrates all things STEM, bringing together the highest-achieving female Grade 6 learners in Maths and Science, based on marks obtained in 2025, from schools across Pietermaritzburg. The initiative seeks to encourage and inspire female learners to explore careers in STEM, with the hopes that they will one day influence and shape the future of science in South Africa.

In the 2026 edition of the fair, our outreach team was joined by Mr. Mudzunga Munzhedzi, a Collections Technician from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum's Human Sciences Department. Mudzunga is responsible for the collections care and conservation of culturally and historically significant artefacts – essentially, safeguarding the tangible stories from our nation's past. The proper preservation of these artefacts adheres to strict standards and requires pristine environmental conditions to avoid any deterioration or damage.

Technology Meets Heritage Conservation

Mr. Munzhedzi was on hand to engage with learners and demonstrate how the Human Sciences Department utilises technology to preserve our heritage through photogrammetry, the technology that uses 2D photos to create accurate 3D models. The digitisation initiative, which is facilitated by Drs. Justine Wintjes, Ghilraen Laue, Gavin Whitelaw, along with associates of the KZN Museum from various institutions, has produced high-resolution 3D models of artefacts and archaeological sites from across southern Africa.

The addition of these technologies has greatly enhanced the preservation efforts of artefacts by reducing the need for excessive physical handling of the items. The integration of this technology has also facilitated the global sharing of information for research and educational purposes, ensuring broader accessibility without compromising the integrity of the original objects.

3D Models from KZN Museum Human Sciences Dept.: <https://tinyurl.com/58pe9czz>

Celebrating Women and Girls in Science: <https://tinyurl.com/282wxjdb>

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)

Recent publications from DHS



At Umhlathuzana Rockshelter, just outside Durban, archaeologists are uncovering the story of a major turning point in human history. New analysis of stone tools shows that the shift from the Middle Stone Age to the Later Stone Age happened more rapidly than previously believed.

Click the link below to read up on these exciting developments as published by Schmidt et al., 2026. Wind(ow) of change: The end of the Middle Stone Age and the beginning of the Later Stone Age at Umhlathuzana rockshelter showcasing concurrent technological and techno-economic shifts, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 377, p.109806.

Full article: <https://tinyurl.com/2w473h8s>



In a recent study published in the *South African Archaeological Bulletin*, researcher Dr. Gavin Whitelaw from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum examines four distinct Late Iron Age settlement forms established by Nguni-speaking communities in KwaZulu-Natal between 1300 and 1880.

From the hilltop settlements of Moor Park to the stone-walled homesteads of Nqabeni, the clustered, cattle-centred layouts of Mgoduyanuka, and the royal capital of uMgungundlovu, each settlement reveals insights into how these communities organised their space and understood concepts of authority, kinship, and communal identity.

Sign-up and access the full article here: <https://tinyurl.com/22mvcert>

SAASS Student Development Workshop



The Southern African Archaeology Student Society held its 11th Annual Student Development Workshop: At the Crossroads, hosted at the Skukuza Science Leadership Initiative Campus in the Kruger National Park.

Bringing together 22 participants from six SADC countries and ten universities, this workshop went beyond academia and aimed to equip the next generation of heritage professionals with real-world experience, from archaeological surveying and artefact photography to digital skills, field safety, and exploring career pathways in Cultural Resource Management.

At the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, supporting student development is central to our mission. By empowering young researchers, we strengthen the understanding and appreciation of South Africa's rich history and extraordinary biodiversity.

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

Making Way for New Exhibitions

In 2024, South Africa celebrated 30 years of democracy, and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum exhibited items from the dawn of our democracy in a temporary display.

Although much has been achieved, South Africans are faced with social ills such as unemployment, poor service delivery, and state corruption. Even as access to education has improved, the lack of economic growth has stifled employment opportunities. Rampant corruption further undermines economic growth. One major question we asked in the exhibition was: "What does democracy mean to you?" Another aspect of the exhibition was to get people to tell stories of their experiences when they first heard that South Africa was to be free of apartheid and when they first voted. Cards by a ballot box allowed the public to write down these and other experiences and deposit them like votes.

The exhibition was taken down a few days ago as the space is being cleared for a new display. It was uplifting to see so many messages from visitors on the cards, some critical of the state of the country, others more positive. Perhaps, after the next 30 years, there will be even more positive comments because the country has managed to succeed at many more things.



Easter Holiday Activities



Endless adventure & discovery await you at the KZN Museum these Easter holidays!

Watch this space as we bring you a line-up of fun-filled holiday activities for the whole family to enjoy...follow our WhatsApp Channel here: <https://tinyurl.com/cjd2apw4>

KwaZulu-Natal Museum, A Never-Ending Journey of Discovery!

Mon-Sat: 9h00 - 16h00

Sunday: 10h00 - 15h00

Adults R20| Children (4-17yrs) R10| Toddlers & Pensioners FREE!

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

