

## Operationalization of the Ingquza Hill Museum By Manzi Vabaza

Ingquza Hill Massacre occurred on 6 June 1960, on the Ngquza Hill near Flagstaff and Lusikisiki in the then Eastern Pondoland. After years of dissatisfaction and opposition to the application of the Apartheid government's Land Rehabilitation Programme/ Betterment Scheme; the use of chiefs by the apartheid state; and the Bantu Authorities Act of 1951 which meant that Transkei would gain independence, a group of Mpondo men and women gathered on Ngquza Hill to attend a meeting by iKongo (congress), a movement formed to fight for the rights of the Mpondo people in Eastern Pondoland. The peaceful gathering was met with a violent response from the state. Two military aircraft bombarded the villagers with teargas and smoke bombs, while armed policemen surrounded the crowd. Eleven people died at the scene, 58 were injured and twenty three people arrested and sentenced to death. Those that were sentenced to death were hanged in the gallows in Pretoria, and were buried as paupers in Pretoria.

The Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture erected a monument in 1998 to honour the fallen heroes. As a follow up to the monument, in 2003, DSRAC spearheaded the process to exhume the remains of those who were executed, from Mamelodi Cemetery in Pretoria, to be reburied at Ingquza Hill. The National Department of Arts and Culture then later joined the process by building a Museum on the site in commemoration of the Ingquza Hill Massacre. Albany Museum was then identified to work towards making the Museum operational since only a structure was built. A sum of R600 000 was made available by the Department of Arts and Culture for the project of operationalisation of the Ingquza Hill Museum.

Join friends of the Museum. Email: [l.dyani@am.org.za](mailto:l.dyani@am.org.za)

Officials from Albany Museum are currently having their hands on deck to assist the AmaMpondo people and the government to realise the dream of telling the story of Ingquza Hill Massacre. Five (5) temporary staff members have been contracted for a period of a year and they are receiving a monthly stipend. Albany Museum Technical Services officials are working on identifying and correcting construction related infrastructure problems like leaking roofs, leaking toilets, water distribution system, malfunctioning door locks and malfunctioning power generator. Equipment like computers, Wifi routers, garden implements, cleaning materials etc. have been procured.



The Exhibitions Officer has modelled the first long term that will be constructed at the museum. He is conducting research for the exhibition and has already visited the Ysterplaat Aviation Museum in Cape Town, and has also established links with the National Aviation Museum to establish the aircrafts that were used in the attack and any other relevant information. With assistance from the Technical Services officials from Albany Museum, the gallery is being prepared, to house the exhibition. The exhibition is expected to be completed by the end of May 2020 for official opening in June 2020.

*Employee of the Month Award - A partnership between Sanlam and the museum saw awards for outstanding performance for levels 2-5 being made for September, October and November. Well done Bonny Tana, Ednill Thomas and Theodora Mtyobo.*



## Newsletter Umthombo Vol. 1 No. 2

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*Caring For Your Past  
Looking To The Future*

## Training a new generation of palaeontologists

By Dr Rose Prevec

In November, palaeobotanist Dr Rose Prevec participated in a field school near Victoria West, with the aim of training Palaeontology Honours students from the University of the Witwatersrand in the joys and frustrations of searching for plant fossils in the Karoo.



The school was run by Dr Julien Benoit, of the Evolutionary Studies Institute at Wits, and it represents the first concerted effort to teach graduate students a diversity of field techniques essential to palaeontological studies. The course (also involving a theoretical component held at Wits), particularly targeted postgraduate students interested in performing Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs), which form part of the legislative framework in place to identify and protect fossil heritage in South Africa during construction projects. Dr Benoit and his team crowdfunded the entire two week field school for 15 participants. This is a funding model that few researchers have embraced, and demonstrated the amazing generosity and interest of the international community when it comes to finding and studying fossils. Courses such as these are incredibly important in terms of job creation, empowering interested parties to embark on careers in palaeontology



independent of the traditionally academic jobs that have been the sole employment opportunity for palaeontologists in the past. Thorough training of PIA practitioners is essential if our unique and valuable fossil heritage is to be adequately protected during projects such as road construction, mining activities and other developments that may impact on the hidden treasures for which our country is so famous.

Although we didn't find much in the way of plant fossils, the students each experienced the thrill of discovering multiple vertebrate fossils and learned how to painstakingly excavate a fossil from the unforgiving bedrock. Only by pacing across the hot and dusty Karoo landscape (and up and down the precariously steep sides of hills and mountains), searching every inch of exposed rock for hours and days in the sun, can one truly appreciate the skill, patience and endurance required for this type of work.

I think the 2019 Palaeontology Honours class at Wits received a good introduction to palaeontological fieldwork through Dr Benoit's excellent initiative, and it was a great pleasure to be involved in this very positive experience.



### Museum Opening Times

Weekdays: 9-4:30 pm

Weekends: by arrangement for groups

### Contact Details

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## Herbarium News

By Dr Pumlani Cimi



I am part of Natural Science Collections Facility (NSCF) – Working Group (WG) as a result from the 25 to 26 November 2019 I attended the NSCF-WG meeting in Pretoria at the botanical gardens. In meeting we discussed issues affecting collection such as policy documents including permits needed by scientists when planning any field trips, Filling out the Salvage Form, basic specimen receipt / form, damage assessment form, donation form, Intention to donate collection objects form, Loan agreement form, Collection object movement record form and Request for access to collections form. These forms are now available to institutions to use. This is a work in progress if an institution has a query in one of these forms this group will attend to it.

## Fresh Water Invertebrates: Field Trip



In the last two weeks of November we have criss-crossed the country hunting for these creatures (redclaw and *Cherax cainii*) and establishing contacts with stakeholders as part of Nonkazimulo Mdidimba work looking at the potential of eDNA bioassessment of these invasives in the country, together with their co-introduced parasites. Thanks to Sammy and FWI members for your assistance.

### Forthcoming Events

13 Feb 2020 Wellness Day at 10:30-1:00

28 Feb 2020 Opening "Ukwenziwa kwegqirha" exhibition