

# Ifa Lemvelo



The Newsletter of the Natural History Museum **2019**  
of Zimbabwe, Vol. 1 No. 3

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Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe

Offices at: Centenary Park, Corner Park Road &  
Leopold Takawira Avenue,  
Bulawayo

## Regional Director's Welcome

Welcome to our next museum newsletter. The Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe will be celebrating International Museum Day on Friday 17 May 2019 and entrance into the Museum will be free on this day only. One of the fundamental objectives of the museum day is to educate, and we have the ability to impact cultural and natural education effectively as we house the materials for doing so in our vast collections. On 17 May we will be making our collections and staff accessible for demonstrations in the central courtyard. So take this opportunity to meet those working behind the scenes and receive hands on information in a fun but informative way. Everyone is welcome!!!



### Entrance fees

**Locals:** Adults \$3

Children (5-14yrs) \$1

**SADC Countries:** Adults USD\$7

Children (5-14yrs) USD\$5

**International:** Adults USD\$10

Children (5-14yrs) USD\$5

**The Museum is open**

**24/7, 365 from**

**9am-5pm**

## Upcoming Events!!!!

- **The Dynasties continue!!**  
Join us every Wednesday at 1 pm for Sir David Attenborough's new BBC series. Its not late to catch up on the remaining 2 episodes
- **Painted Wolf 17th April.**  
Filmed in Mana pools and shows the life and struggles of two packs
- **Tiger 24th April.**  
A Bengal Tiger raises for cubs to adulthood
- **Holiday movies \$4/person**  
Wednesday 17th -Incredibles 2  
Wednesday 24th - The Lego movie 2: The 2nd part  
Thursday 25th - The Grinch  
Friday 26th - Ralph breaks the internet
- **An outing in Sauerstown to discover the early history of Bulawayo coupled with the Friends of the Museum AGM on Saturday 4th of May 2019 (see more information on last page).**
- **International Museum Day celebrations, Friday May 17, 2019**



Mushroom Art Competition is still on



**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF ZIMBABWE**

**af Alliance Française Bulawayo - Zimbabwe**

# MUSHROOM ART COMPETITION

Original work in any Medium

Visit the **MUSEUM FUNGI DISPLAY** for inspiration

Any Fungus or Mushroom

ONLY on A3 or A4 paper

Fantasy or Fossil

**AGE GROUPS**  
9 & 10 years  
11 & 12  
13 - 15  
16 - 18  
Adult

All entries submitted by the end of May 2019 to:  
The Secretary,  
Natural History Museum  
L. Takawira & Park Road  
Bulawayo

Enquiries: Contact Ms C Sharp +263 772 347 135



# friends OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

## 2019/20 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

PAYABLE IN USD, RTGS & ECOCASH AT PREVAILING BANK RATE

PENSIONERS - USD 5  
INDIVIDUAL - USD 10  
FAMILY - USD 20  
SOCIETY / GROUPS - USD 25

INCLUDES 2 FREE ENTRIES PER YEAR TO THE FOLLOWING SITES:  
THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, KHAMI RUINS & WORLD'S VIEW

VALID FROM 1ST APRIL 2019 - 31ST MARCH 2020

[naturalhistorymuseumzimbabwe.com](http://naturalhistorymuseumzimbabwe.com)

Museum club holiday fun!!.



CHILDREN AGED 7 TO 14 YEARS OLD ARE INVITED TO THE

# MUSEUM CLUB APRIL HOLIDAY "CAMP"

April 22 to April 26, 2019 | 10 to 1130am  
LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM!!!  
April 27, 2019 | 10 to 1130am  
ALL ABOUT SPIDERS NATURE WALK WITH DR. FITZPATRICK AT HILLSIDE DAMS!!!  
Expect a registration fee of \$4 for each class at the museum and \$20 for the Saturday nature walk.

**TRAYS** email [rays.trust@zimgane@gmail.com](mailto:rays.trust@zimgane@gmail.com)

Renew your Friends of the Museum Membership and don't forget to join us for the outing and AGM

# Did you know?

Located in the Mezzanine Floor of the Museum is a library! It is a special library that is open to everyone and houses books and journals in the fields of natural sciences, history and archaeology. There is a team of friendly staff that are always willing to assist. Do feel free to come and feed your mind with our rich collection.

## *A tribute to Molly Mabiso*

*6<sup>th</sup> September 1957 –26<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

By Philomena Silonda



Molly Mabiso joined the organisation as a young woman on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1983 as Clerical Officer in the Library and was one of the first African woman employed at the Natural History Museum. Within less than a year on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1984 she was promoted to Secretary because of the excellent work and ability to always be courteous and to act with discretion and work in a quiet conscientious manner.

During this time Molly also performed the role of Human Resources Officer and therefore Molly was the first person any new employees to the organisation would meet and her pleasant efficient manner and her knowledge of the work place, logistics and procedures made her such a valuable asset to the smooth running of the museum. She would organise any meetings, dinners and receptions of Official Openings and Board Meetings held in the museum, and she just did this in a calm manner and always with a ready smile.

Her many “other duties” included selection and control of the stock in the museum shop and stationery store and assisting with bookkeeping. Due to her honesty and integrity it was not long before the workers had landed her the added responsibility of running the community chest to assist the staff in births, hospitalisation, death and any other need that might arise. She also championed the rights of the workers, and for a time she served on the workers committee

where she challenged management on many of their policies until they finally had to make the necessary positive changes.

Molly started her career having to use the Remington type writer to type all reports, minutes, publications etc, and as the years progressed she adapted to the newer technology of the computer era. Molly just transcended smoothly at the different levels of technology and service. She was a natural hard worker in every given task that came her way at home and at work.

In December 2000 Mr Mabiso was appointed Assistant Heritage Education Officer and she soon found her own feet and handled many projects that came their way. She always related to pupils and students and to the staff accompanying them on museum visits in a friendly and professional manner and assisted them with their various educational needs. She always had a smile on her face and was of as much assistance to the visiting groups. This showed the organisation in a very good light with her good public relations, a trait she tried to instil in those she worked with. There were a few times that Molly has without a departmental head and was left to organise the annual Primary Schools Quiz but she never went without help as staff respected and admired her and were always willing to help her. She also had a winning smile, a kind heart, a soft word and even the younger members of staff gravitated towards her as a counsellor, mentor and friend.

Many of us had the privilege to work alongside her for many years and watched as she raised her family and doing everything to keep her family together thought the trying times in Zimbabwe and it was a fitting tribute that her eldest daughter, working for UNICEF, was able to secure a grant to set up the Education Centre at the Museum that assisted the department to take educational visits to greater heights.

For some of us she was more than a co-worker of long standing, she was a sister, an encourager, a fellow business person, and pillar of strength and a strong prayer partner for our families and peace in the work place. We will cherish the memories of her 35 years of sterling and exemplary service. It is our prayer that the legacy she left both in her family and work place may continue to burn bright and guide us. May her dear soul rest in eternal peace.

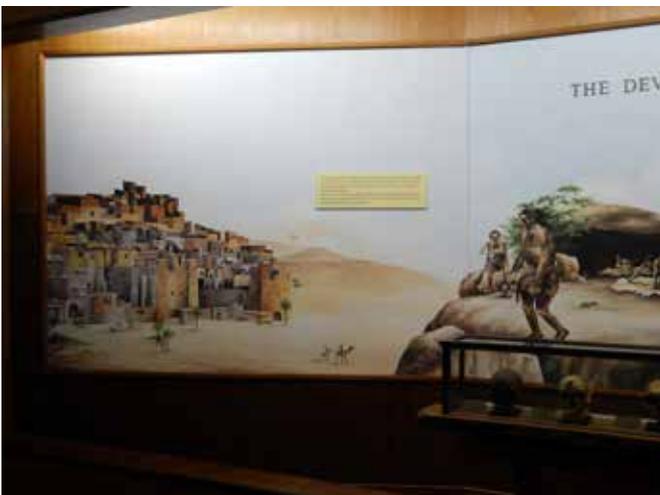


Molly planting a tree at International tree planting day

## New Look in the Hall of Man: Natural History Museum Galleries

By **Violah Makuva**

Every time people complain about the unchanging face of the Museum galleries and visitors would not want to repeat a museum visit to see the same things. People are thrilled by change and when there is change they are motivated to inform others about it. Last year saw the entrance to the Hall of Man being revamped and having a new look. We give credit to Research Associate Rob Burrett for the comprehensive research with the assistance of the Evolutionary Studies Institute, Witwatersrand University, and the Artist Belinda Marshall for drawing and painting the Exhibition. This is giving the museum visitor an appealing visual appreciation of The History of the Development of Humankind. This Exhibition now gives a detailed background to what is found in the Display cases of the Hall of Man.



The new Exhibition has an appealing way of showing the visitors what to expect and building up the story of the development of humankind. The drawings and

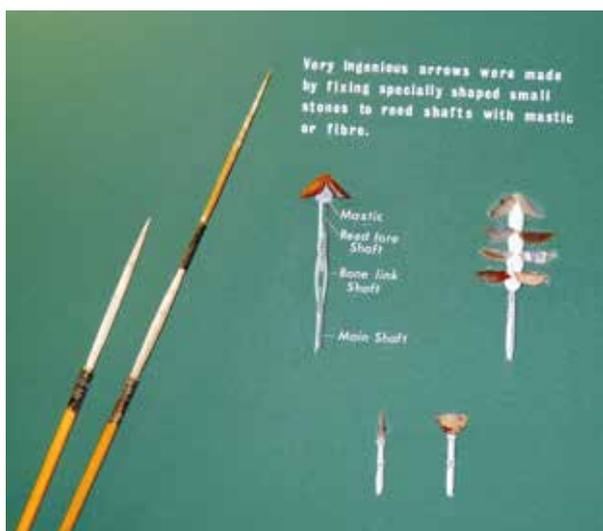
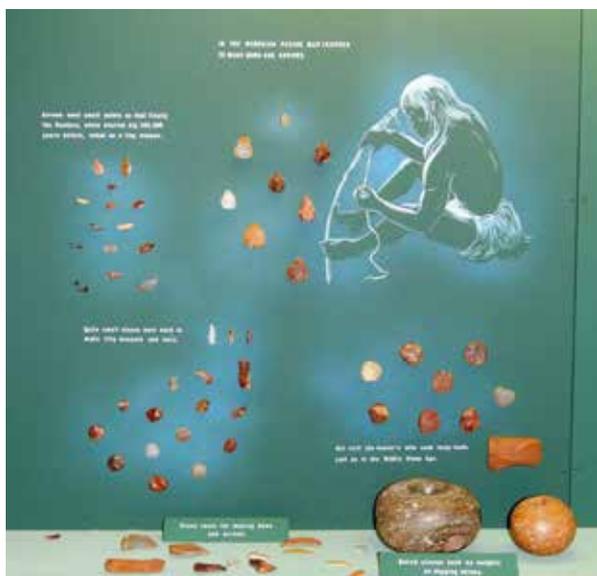
paintings show the development of man where the human skull is shown as increasing physically in size and this implies also intellectual development with increase in size of the human brain as shown in the Exhibition. The information panels are quite educative informing how the development in the human brain, their upright posture and the use of hands has enabled man to manipulate their environment, and develop from dwelling in rock shelters to living in modern built cities.

Casts of human skulls from *Australopithecus africanus*, *A. robustus*, *A. sediba*, *Homo habilis*, *H. naledi*, *H. heidelbergensis*, *H. neanderthalensis* to the *Homo sapiens* (Modern man) show the development of the human brain from a small size to a large size. When the past cannot be told from oral tradition and cannot be read from written history there is missing history that can be obtained from "Archaeology". One may wonder where the knowledge about these skulls of Early Man was obtained from. Thanks be to the Archaeologists who excavated ancient sites and managed to complete "The Puzzle of the Past" using fragmentary skull pieces to reconstruct the appearance of Early Man as labeled in Display Case 2.



The new Exhibition prepares the visitor on what to expect in the galleries of the Hall of Man, by seeing the items and tools painted in this Exhibition. These tools are found under Pre-Historic Hunting Case 3. Large handaxes were used for hunting and they with the times became smaller stone microliths which were used by the San Bushmen as arrowheads. Women are shown scrapping using some stones called scrappers. The Early man clothing were animal skins as shown in the paintings. The paintings show that in the earliest times when Early man were hunter-gatherers they didn't wear clothes and were not quite upright in posture. Later in their upright posture they could run faster in hunting and with the long sticks they are holding in the paintings they could stab the animal at a closer range. As they developed in their hunting skills they modified their hunting tools and used the

animal skins to make clothes to cover themselves. This means they had developed skills to prepare the skins to make leather. The San “Bushmen” Case 25 displays other cultural objects made by the Early man, which are women ornaments, leather handbags, punching needles, bone arrowheads, ostrich eggs, bows and arrows.



## 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Heritage Quiz Program

By Mgcini Dube

As was in the past, the caption on the displayed copies of Matopo rock paintings in the Hall of Man reads “Rock paintings are stories from the past told in pictures by the Bushmen” these paintings in the new Exhibition are stories being told to the Natural History Museum visitors about The History of the Development of Humankind. The new Exhibition is quite eye catching with more detailed information and the skulls are more accessible in terms of presentation to the visitors thus the visitors spend more time acquiring edutainment from their museum visit.

We thank the Friends of the Museum, ACOL Chemicals, Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe Matabeleland Branch, Julia Duprée and the Evolutionary Studies Institute, Witwatersrand University for funding this project.

The Heritage Quiz Program for Primary Schools celebrated its 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019 with a milestone change in its approach. National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ) have been holding such Heritage Quiz’s since 1993 involving Primary Schools in Zimbabwe. NMMZ is divided into 5 administrative regions and previously the programme has been run from cluster, zonal, district and inter-provincial levels with the winning school representing the region, in this case the Western Region, at National Level. The competition has grown from strength to strength over the years. Initially only 150 schools participated, but with the hard work and dedication of the Staff in the Education Services there are now well over 4800 schools participating in this quiz annually.

The museum Educational Services aims to create awareness of our cultural and natural heritage among

our primary school youths, and future leaders of this country. This quiz has gone a long way in achieving this objective. As evidenced by the questions that are asked which focus on the past, heritage, conservation, science and nature, the environment and general knowledge, the quiz enhances the school curriculum. Indeed the museums give a much more practical presentation than would be possible in any classroom setting. It is for this reason that a long standing partnership exists between the Ministry of Education and National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe.

2019 is a unique year, with a new dispensation in the way the Heritage Quiz is conducted. NMMZ is being more inclusive by considering and recognising the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe, thus the organisation has expanded by doubling from the 5 Regional teams to 10 Provincial teams being the representatives at National level. The 2019 provincial competitions were held at the same time in the different provinces on 22 March. The Western Region which incorporates three provinces (Bulawayo Metropolitan, Matabeleland North and South Provinces) will each send their winning team to compete at the finals to be held at the Museum of Human Sciences on 17<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate International Museum Day.

The news of expansion, though announced late, was well received by Heads in Charge representing the National Association of Primary School Heads (NAPH) structures. Part of the excitement came from the fact that the expansion gives each province an opportunity to participate up to national level (equal representation) which is in line with the envisaged Government policy of devolution. This was hailed by the schools as transparent and having an effect of eliminating leakages that have sometimes spoiled the program. The expansion also saw the awarding of different prizes including certificates to all participants and trophies and shields to the winners and runners up. Finally the expansion enabled competitors to exercise their linguistic freedom as they could express themselves freely in their home languages. This saw the fusion of different cultures and thereby presenting us as true cultural hubs.

At the provincial finals 12 schools competed in Matabeleland North, 16 in Matabeleland South and 10 in Bulawayo Metropolitan provinces. The winners are as follows:- Matabeleland North 1<sup>st</sup> Place Kings, Hwange, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place A.M.R., Lupane, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place David Livingstone, Umguza; Matabeleland South 1<sup>st</sup> Place St. Christopher's, Gwanda North, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mt. Cazalet, Gwanda North and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Dingumuzi, Mangwe; Bulawayo Metropolitan 1<sup>st</sup> Barham Green, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place J.W. Mthimkhulu, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Hugh Beadle.

The Natural History Museum would like to thank

Lupane Local Board, Mzingwane High School and St Patrick's Primary School for providing suitable venues for the exciting competitions. We hope that this initiative will grow in leaps and bounds in the next coming years.

## *Friends of the Museum AGM*

The Grange & the founding of modern Bulawayo

**Date :4th of May 2019. Time: 14h30 for 15h00**

Possibly the oldest surviving building in modern Bulawayo is Dawson's Store, part of the historical centre that became The Grange Hotel. Built in the 1880s, it was the trading post run by James Dawson in the "Whiteman's Town" next to King Lobengula's royal capital of Bulawayo [*eMahlabathini*]. During the Anglo-Ndebele War of 1893 most Europeans took flight in the immediate months prior to the conflict. However two men remained, staunch friends of the King- William Filmer Usher and Fairbairn. With the destruction of the Ndebele capital as British South Africa Company forces advanced, these two men took refuge on the roof of Dawson's store, the only substantial brick building remaining. Protected by the word of the King there they remained until the invading forces arrived. This building, although modified in the 126years remains and we will be entertained by several talks on the events and personalities involved in this and later history of this site and the Sauers Town suburb.

### **Directions**

The Grange- northern end of Kenilworth Road, Sauers Town. For those who don't know where this, take the Victoria Falls Road, turn right at the old Portuguese Club onto Jacaranda Avenue. Cross the stream and take second road to the left [Kelinworth]. Proceed straight to the very end where there is a gate leading off to the left with a sign **The Grange**

Bring chairs and Refreshments.

# Provincial Heritage Quiz Finals in pictures

