

# MUSEUM MATTERS

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JUNE 2023



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

ISSN: 2026-8092



Museums Association of Namibia  
Making Museums Matter - Since 1990

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that the information on this form is true and correct.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual N\$150.00 ☐ Associate N\$250.00 ☐ Museum/Institution N\$450.00 ☐

*Please note that **Associate Members** are museums still in development and not yet open to the public*

Is this a (Choose one): New Membership ☐ Membership Renewal ☐

## PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE TO:

Museums Association of Namibia, Standard Bank, Gustav Voigts Centre Branch,  
Windhoek, Acc. No. 246311029 (Savings Acc.)

Please reference your name/name of the museum with the payment and email a copy  
of your deposit slip/proof of payment to [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na)

### **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Membership category: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment type: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your continued support.*

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Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala

## EDITOR

Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala

## DISCLAIMER

The Museums Association of Namibia publishes Museum Matters but the newsletter is not the association's voice. The information contained in this newsletter is intended to inform members (and the general public) about our past and future activities. It is also a platform for sharing ideas and experiences. MAN members are encouraged to submit articles and suggestions to help us improve Museum Matters for you. No person, organisation or party can copy or reproduce the content of this newsletter or any part of this publication without written consent from the publisher and the author of the content as applicable.



# BULLETIN BOARD

The following section contains announcements and information about MAN's operational activities.



# From the Editor

Ndapewoshali Ashipala



With every new issue of Museum Matters, we have the pleasure of witnessing and documenting the growth of the Namibian heritage, arts, and culture sector. Each article submitted by our members highlights a story of endurance, perseverance, and passion.

As usual, this issue includes articles submitted by member museums detailing their past year experiences. With hard work, creativity, and the willingness to step outside our comfort zones, we, as the heritage, arts, and culture sector, have managed to remain relevant and find innovative ways to keep culture alive. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who submitted their articles apart from being a platform to keep our members informed and strengthen collaboration in the sector, the newsletter is also a free platform for our members to advertise their events and museums to MAN members, the Namibian and the International community.

With that said, in this issue, you will also find interesting updates on MAN's past, present, and future projects, as well as submissions from our members and youth reviews from our student interns.

We hope you find this special issue to be motivational, educational, and interesting and if anything catches your eye, please feel free to let us know.

■ With hard work, creativity, and the willingness to step outside our comfort zones, we, as the heritage, arts, and culture sector, have managed to remain relevant and find innovative ways to keep culture alive. ■

We hope this issue also encourages you, if you are not already, to become a member of MAN and to tell us about your experiences in the sector and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and that it will encourage you to keep Making Museums Matter.

Finally, please keep an eye out for our Annual report for the 2022/2023 financial year which will be published by the end of June 2023.

# About Us

Launched in 1990, the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) is a Non-Governmental, community development focussed organisation (civil society) representing museums and heritage, institutions and practitioners throughout Namibia. As a representative body, it supports museums in various ways such as in the field of training, funding and the networking of professionals. Since 2002 it has been given responsibility by the Government of Namibia. It receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture “. . . to facilitate the establishment of heritage institutions at the regional and local level and to support such institutions by providing guidance, assistance and expertise where necessary and possible”.

Because the Namibian Government has officially recognized MAN as the voice of Namibian museums and lobbies on issues of concern raised by its members, MAN supports and encourages the establishment and development of museums throughout Namibia; it actively seeks to promote links between museums and other partners to enhance their role as educational resources and tourist attractions; it provides training to museum workers and encourages young people to consider a career in the heritage sector through an internship scheme; MAN is proactive in developing a heritage network in Namibia to promote greater cooperation and communication between stakeholders in the heritage sector.

MAN is also involved in seeking the repatriation of cultural property held in museums overseas and seeks to prevent the illegal trade in cultural artefacts from Namibia; it actively participates in international bodies such as ICOM and AFRICOM to ensure that issues of concern to Namibia are raised on this platform; it also seeks to build cooperative links with our sister organisations in neighbouring countries.

The Executive Committee (EC) is the decision-making body of the Museums Association of Namibia. The Committee provides leadership and overall strategy for the organisation as well as assuring everyone that the organisation's finances are sound, its operations are legal and that its procedures work. The EC represents the membership of the organisation and oversees the long-term development of MAN. The Organisation is led and managed in line with its governing documents. The role of an Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia is a voluntary one. The current EC consists of, Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa (Chairperson), Dr Elliot Mowa (Vice Chair Person), Mr Aaron Haufiku Nambadi, Ms Kaarina Efraim, Dr Goodman Gwasira and Dr. Aina Paulina Muulila.

# Current Projects

MAN believes in community-driven, collaborative sustainable project development and execution and is currently working on numerous, exciting projects with different partners which include, but are not limited to;

1. **Namibian Heritage Week**, is an annual event hosted by the Namibian Heritage Week team, which is comprised of different organisations and individuals who are committed to the preservation and promotion of Namibian Cultural Heritage.
2. **The Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures:** Collaborative Conservation and Knowledge Production of the Historical Collections from Namibia held at the Ethnological Museum Berlin and the National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek which includes the Museum of Namibian Fashion and the Virtual Museum of Namibian Fashion (MNF), six Post-graduate Diploma Scholarships in Heritage Conservation and Management at the University of Namibia (UNAM), the Conservation and Documentation of ethnographic collection at the National Museum of Namibia, capacity-building for Namibian Museum Professionals and community-based provenance research.
3. **The Revitalisation of the Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village** in Tsumeb, in collaboration with Hedmark County Municipality
4. **Museum Outreach Programme** for the Ovahimba, Damara and Ju/'Hoansi living Museums, in collaboration with the University of Namibia and the Goethe Institut,
5. **Salvaging the ELCRN Archives and Making them Accessible for Research**
6. **NAMCOR** - Development of a Permanent Exhibition in the National Maritime Museum in Lüderitz
7. **The (In)Audible Past** in collaboration with the University of Basel, Namibian artists, researchers and culture professionals, and the University of Namibia
8. **Action for Restitution to Africa (ARA)** - Africa Accessioned in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape.
9. **Usakos -Making of Common History**

# Our Team

The Museums Association of Namibia currently has two full-time permanent staff and one external consultant. Additionally, the project staff employed by the different projects.



**Ndapewoshali Ashipala**

*Director*



**Tuuda Haitula**

*Museum Development Officer*



**Naphtali Chipasha**

*Accounting and Business Advisory*

# Project Officers & Interns

MAN employs two Project Officers and two research interns for the “**Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures:**” Project on a fixed-term basis. The project runs until the 30th of June 2024.



**Kevanhu Alfred Muifi**  
Curator  
Museum of Namibia Fashion



**Elia Ilithilwa Mvula**  
Conservator  
National Museum of Namibia



**Liina Kaunapawa Nambahu**  
Research Intern (Researcher in Training)  
MAN Office and Resource Centre



**Bayron Cornelius van Wyk**  
Research Intern (Researcher in Training)  
MAN Office and Resource Centre



# Project Officers & Interns

MAN employs two Consultants and three archive research interns for the “Salvaging the ELCRN Archives and Making them Accessible for Research” Project on a fixed-term basis. The project runs until the 30th of June 2023.



**Dr Wolfram Hartmann**  
Archivist



**Mr Werner Hillebrecht**  
Archivist



**Ruiumuini Ally  
Kahuure**  
Archive Intern  
(Archivist in Training)



**Peya Mbushandje  
Nankulungu**  
Archive Intern  
(Archivist in Training)



**Romancia  
Rose-Mary Uises**  
Archive Intern  
(Archivist in Training)

# Project Officers & Interns

MAN employs one Project Officer for the “Usakos, - Making of Common History” Project on a fixed-term basis. The project runs until the 31st of January 2024.



Chalden Sabab  
Project Officer  
Usakos Museum

In-service training is an effective way of offering students job and career development options that benefit both the student and the organisation. MAN offers internships to students undertaking courses in relevant fields. MAN tries to accommodate as many interns as possible during the year at both the MAN office and at member museums around the country.

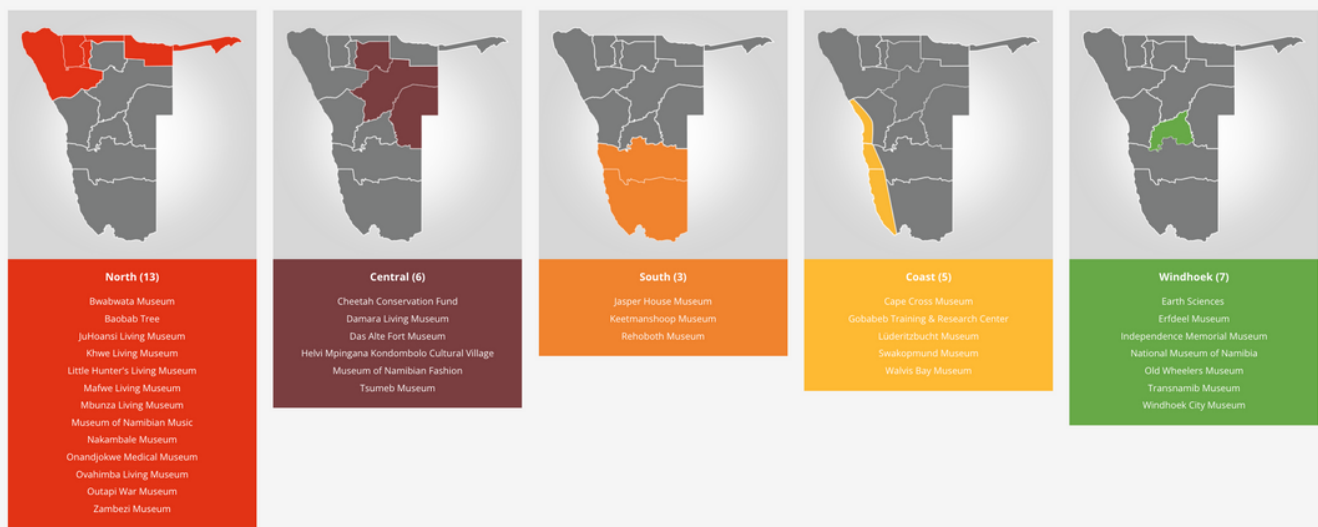
IMAN continues to provide internships from other universities in Namibia as well as international students studying in the field of History, Tourism, Museums and Culture.

Applications for internships can be submitted to the Museums Association of Namibia together with an updated CV to [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na) for the attention of Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala.

# MAN WEBSITE & ONLINE RESOURCE CENTRE

## Museums in Namibia

An overview of the Namibian Museums which are members of the Museums Association of Namibia.



## INDIVIDUAL MUSEUM CONTACT DETAILS

Our member museums provide the information on our website. If you have any queries and would like to visit the museum, don't hesitate to get in touch with the museum directly. You can find the contact details for the museum you would like to contact by:

1. Click on “VISIT A MUSEUM” on our website.

Our member museums are divided according to geographic location (Central, Coast, North, South and Windhoek).

2. Select the museum you would like to contact, and if they are MAN members, you will find their contact details on their page.

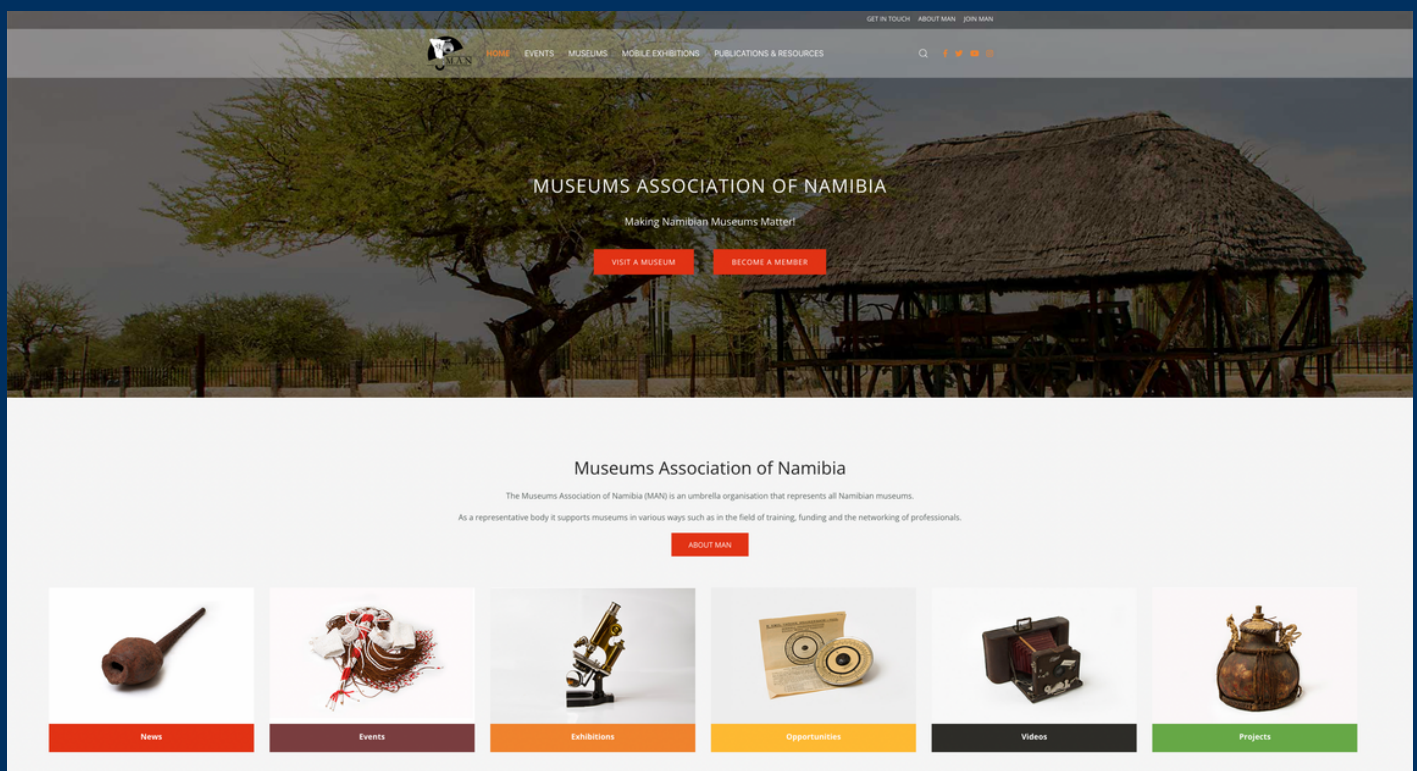
# MAN WEBSITE & ONLINE RESOURCE CENTRE

## MAN MOBILE EXHIBITIONS

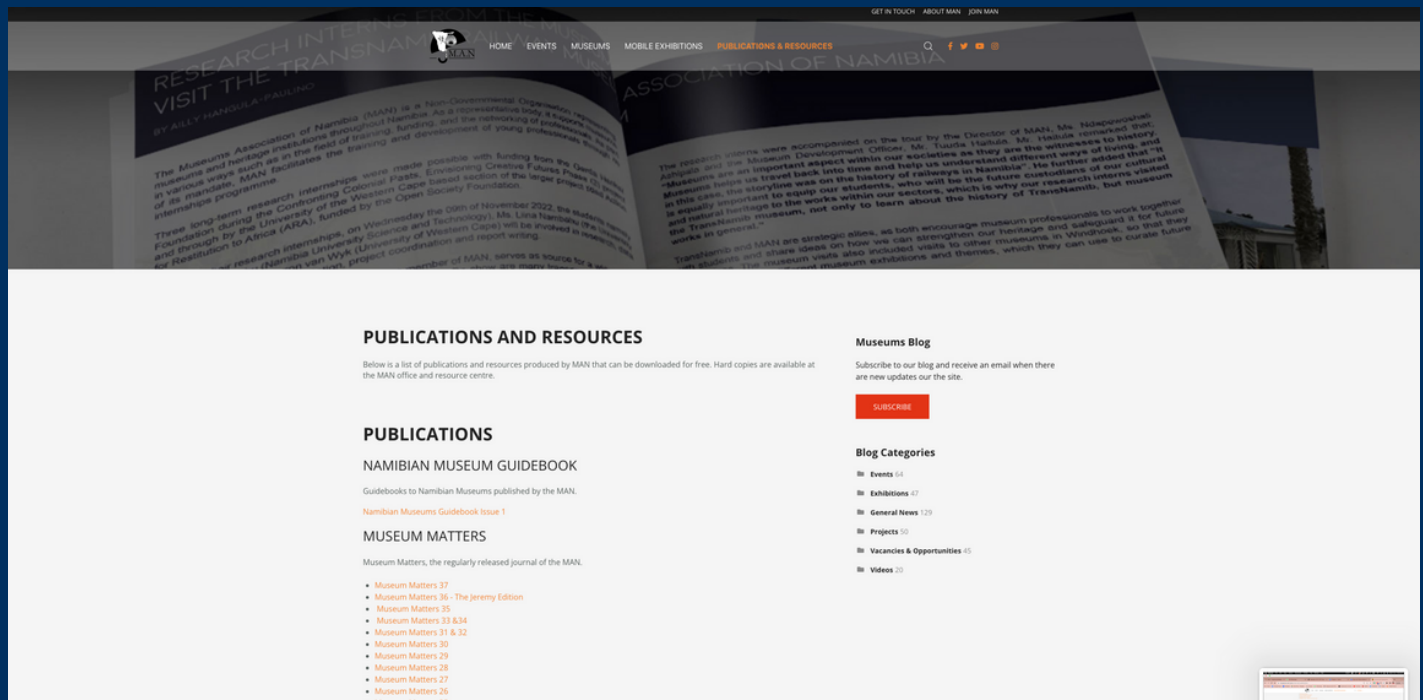
The Museums Association of Namibia has developed numerous mobile exhibitions with our aim to have “museums without walls” which is a way to bring museums to the people, no matter where they are. For that reason, we encourage our member museums, schools, and institutions to borrow our exhibitions to showcase in their towns and regions.

To loan a mobile exhibition, complete the MAN Exhibition Loan Form available on the MAN website and send it to [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na)

Our mobile exhibitions are easy to set up, take down, and transport. To learn how to set up and take down our mobile exhibitions, you can watch a tutorial on our YouTube channel.



# MAN WEBSITE & ONLINE RESOURCE CENTRE



## MAN PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Over the years, MAN has made a habit of documenting its work through the Bi-Annual Newsletter "Museum Matters" and its Annual Reports. MAN also produces handbooks after workshops and guidebooks or catalogues to accompany mobile exhibitions. Recently, we have also produced a guide to Namibian Museums which will be updated annually.

You can download the publications, newsletters, exhibition handbooks, templates and catalogues, as well as the Guide to Namibian Museums, for FREE, on the MAN website under the Publications tab. Hard copies are available at the MAN office and resource centre. Below are a few covers of journals and publications produced by MAN. These covers represent a small fraction of the publications produced by MAN over the last 33 years.



# MAN MEMORABILIA

*"Things that are remarkable and worthy of remembrance"*

*"things that stir recollection or are valued or collected for their association with a particular field or interest"*

- Merriam-Webster

Our items are available for purchase at the MAN office and through the Museum of Namibian Fashion's online shop. During MAN events, the items are sold at discounted prices for MAN members.

## Mugs

N\$60.00 each



## Wrist bands

N\$20.00 each



## Notebooks

N\$100.00 each





# FEATURES

The following section contains articles submitted by our members and some MAN activities. The articles speak mainly, to our member's activities between December 2022 and May 2023. The articles are about our member museums and the experiences of industry professionals in the museum, heritage, arts, and culture sectors.

Apart from being a platform to keep our members informed and strengthen collaboration in the sector, the newsletter is also a free platform for our members to advertise their events and museums to MAN members, the Namibian and the International community.

The "Events" section of the MAN website also shares details, posters and information about events within the heritage, arts, and culture sector, as provided by our members and partners, and/or hosted by MAN.

More detailed reports and information about MAN activities are available in the Annual Reports which are published annually and are available on the MAN website and in the MAN office.

# Bwabwata Living Museum

By Kake George



## ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Bwabwata Living Museum is a recently established museum located in Bwabwata National Park.

The aim of the museum is to reduce poverty and unemployment in the Khwe community through cultural and natural conservationist heritage. We also aim to educate the generation on the sustainable use of our natural resources for future generations to find our harmonious nature.

We also aim to educate the youth on the importance of cultural identity which leads to a sense of pride and belonging. It can also promote a healing process as there is a need to move beyond negative stereotypes, toward celebrating the successes and highlighting the positive aspects of the Khwe culture.

Culture is essential to every community and teaching young people about their culture is important. We need to revert back to our old traditions. Our elders need to instil more traditional skills for example painting, hunting, carving and more.

Young people need to learn about our history and tradition. Teaching young people about who they are, enables them to identify the critical people in their lives. Understanding who their family members, tribes and totems are to develop a support plan to help their journey in life.



# Bwabwata Living Museum

By Kake George



## CHALLENGES

### WATER

We do not have water at the centre. Therefore, we fetch it from the one waterhole drilled for the community project, for agricultural purposes.

### SHELTER

We need a structure for storing the artefacts and for an office, as well as a library.

### ELECTRICITY

We do not have electricity in the area. We, therefore, need the provision of a solar-power system.

## CONTACT

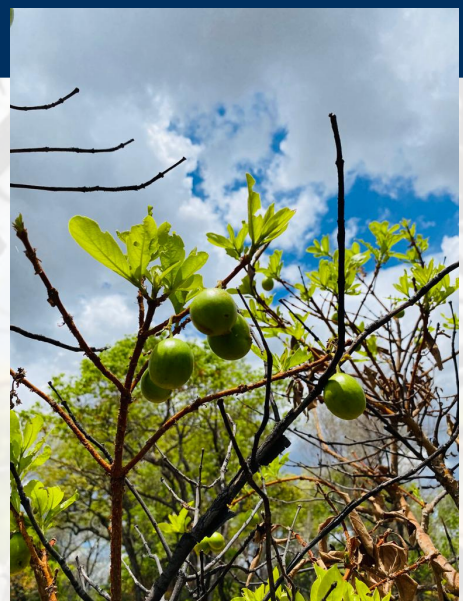
Kake George

Tel: +264 81 270 0788 / +264 81 270 3916

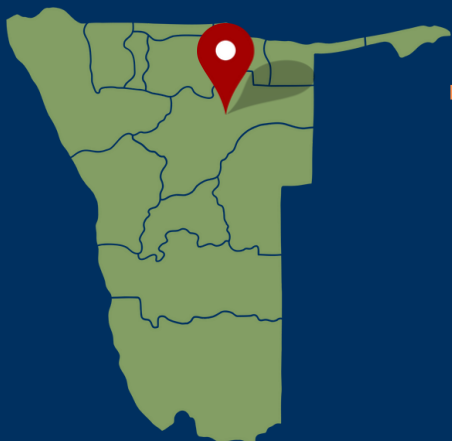
Email: [kakegeorge46@gmail.com](mailto:kakegeorge46@gmail.com)

Monday - Friday: 10h00 - 18h00

Weekends and Public Holidays: Closed







# The Grootfontein Museum

By Antje Rahn



The town of Grootfontein in north-central Namibia has regained a tourist attraction. The Grootfontein Museum is again permanently open to visitors since January 2023.

## CURIOUS ABOUT CULTURES AND READY TO TAKE A TRIP INTO THE PAST?

To obtain a touch and feel about the country's history a visit to the Grootfontein Museum is a rewarding experience. Contrary to expectations, the privately founded and funded museum not only displays Grootfontein's history but also offers interesting traditional and cultural artefacts of different local ethnic groups. Our so-called Ethnical room has left our visitors in awe and represents a vast exhibition of our proud Namibian indigenous tribes.

Its extensive original photography collection is sponsored by the Spanish Embassy and various other artists. It is one of a kind and the most all-embracing originality of photography in the 1970s and 1980s. There is a lot to discover with the large selection of the extensive range of exhibitions in the Grootfontein Museum. Embark on an exciting journey through different rooms that exhibit interesting themes.



# The Grootfontein Museum

By Antje Rahn

The selection of exhibitions and collections is vast and guarantees exciting browsing for the whole family. Filled with compelling stories like the founding of Grootfontein, an open-air museum in the courtyard about the farm economy and a mining room, the exhibits bring past times to life before the visitor's eyes. Be it the ox cart, the lathe of a blacksmith and wagon-making workshop, a petrol pump or the telephone exchange. You can also learn a lot about mining in the area. Added to this, is the beautiful ambience of the historic building set amidst the green flora of the Grootfontein fountains, giving off a feeling of total calm and peace.

The Fort was built in 1896 and has housed the Museum since 1983, founded by private initiative. Meaning in 2023 the Grootfontein Museum will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Grootfontein is a good stopover, from Etosha National Park or the centre to the northeast of Namibia to the Kavango and Zambezi regions.

## WHAT IS NEW?

The Grootfontein Museum opened a small Café to enjoy coffee or refreshments while visiting. Enjoy freshly brewed coffee amidst antique furniture and historical artefacts. We are awaiting your visit!

## FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

Grootfontein Museum: +264 (0)67 242 456

Email: [grootfonteinmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:grootfonteinmuseum@gmail.com)

Monday – Friday 08h30 – 16h00: NAD 80 per person

Saturday – Sunday & Public Holidays: NAD 120 per person (pre-booking essential - opens only on request) School Groups/Groups larger than 10 are quoted individually

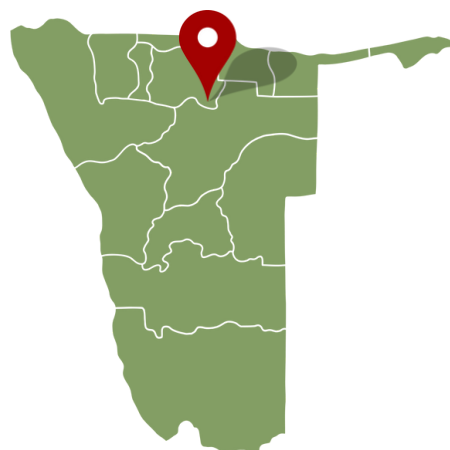
Antje Rahn +264 81 477 1096

<http://www.altefortmuseum.de/>



# Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village

By Wilma Shilamba and Kaija Shililifa Awene



The village is located in Tsumeb, close to the entrance of a junction from the east, south and north part of Namibia. Many tourists pass by daily en route to and from around the world, to visit the well-known Etosha National Park and other plentiful tourist attractions in the maize of Triangle. The HMK Cultural Village houses traditional homesteads representing Namibia's communities, an Information Centre and a display of craft products. There is a large paved area where cultural performances are held seasonally.

The HMK Cultural Village gives a look into the rural lifestyle of Namibians and you can also join a guided tour to learn more about the local traditional beliefs and cultural practices. The Cultural Village in Tsumeb is an open-air museum under Tsumeb Municipality, aimed at promoting various Namibian cultures to local residents, and national and international tourists. It was inaugurated to the public in September 1997 by the late first female former Mayor of Tsumeb Susan Nghidinwa.

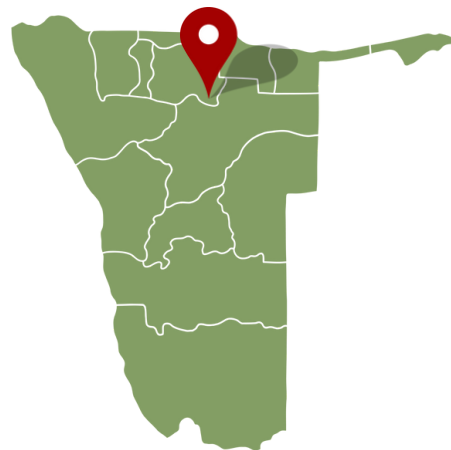
## ACTIVITIES

Since 2019, the Tsumeb Municipality has worked closely with stakeholders and representatives of Namibia's communities, to restore and rebuild some homesteads, which has become a continuous practice. Local community, schools and international guests visit the village regularly.



# Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village

By Wilma Shilamba and Kaija Shililifa Awene



Namibian Heritage Week is an annual national event organized by the Namibian Heritage Week Team. Tsumeb Municipality has taken this opportunity each year to actively celebrate the event on-site, to protect Namibia's wonderful natural resources and bring the cultural village to life.

Some of the highlight activities that happened recently at HMKCV are:

- "Ombazu Festival" led by the Red Flag Association - Tsumeb Commando No.5.
- The Ovaherero community come together to showcase and teach the young about the culture, for example, how to prepare for traditional marriage/wedding.
- "Tsumeb # NISA - Damaradi Korokhoes" This festival was about the Damara women showcasing their beautiful dresses.
- Craft shops are also available at Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village.
- There is a provision of accommodation to visitors and also host local events during weekends events at an affordable rate.
- All the activities take place in an open area or the homesteads.

## ENTRANCE FEES

|                         |  |                                       |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| International Visitors: | N\$34.50 per adult   | N\$17.25 per child under 16 years old |
| Local visitors:         | N\$23.00 per adult   | N\$8.05 per child under 16 years old  |
| Opening Hours:          | Mondays to Fridays from 07h30 to 16h30<br>Saturdays 08h00 to 13h00 |                                       |

Accommodation booking: Mondays to Fridays from 08:00 to 16:30

HMK Cultural Village does not open on public holidays; however advance bookings are welcome to customers who are interested to visit the village.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUERIES CONTACT:

Wilma Shilamba: [wshilamba@tsumebmun.org.na](mailto:wshilamba@tsumebmun.org.na)

Kaija Shililifa Awene: [kshililifa@tsumebmun.org.na](mailto:kshililifa@tsumebmun.org.na)

Tel: +264 67 220787/ 221056 or 0811482391      Website: Visit <https://hmkcv.business.site>

A TREASURE IN THE  
CORNER OF THE DESERT

# THE JASPER HOUSE MUSEUM

By Garaldine Kavari

The Jasper House Museum was renovated in 2021 and officially re-opened on 27 January 2022 and since then the Jasper House Museum has been a place to visit in Oranjemund.

The museum has been renovated, with some incredible exhibits. Between 2022 and 2023 we received about 3524 visitors where over 213, were international visitors.

The museum was featured on the cover of the 2021/2022 Annual Report by the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN), which covers the reporting period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The Jasper House Museum is making an impact in the community of Oranjemund. The museum is self-guided and informative, with many photographs and memorabilia on show.

With the recent expo in Windhoek, OMD2030 took the opportunity to highlight the Jasper House Museum as one of the tourist attractions in Oranjemund.





A TREASURE IN THE  
CORNER OF THE DESERT

# THE JASPER HOUSE MUSEUM

By Garaldine Kavari

In conjunction with the community, we held our first event at the Museum for 2023 on Independence and it drew many crowds and was featured as the town's major event. We had various cultural groups who came to perform, like the !Garibams High School Choir and Cultural dance groups, the Oranjemund Community Choir, the Euphoria band, a Namibian Artists Marjory Cloete, Poetrty was done by Bonita Hartney. Great thanks go to Ms Likando who gave us the historical background of the Independence of Namibia. Due to the involvement of these different stakeholders in the community, we had our first successful event at the Museum.

With the OMDis town transformation project and making Oranjemund a Tourism destination, we hope that the museum will play a pivotal role in being one of the tourist attractions in town. We plan to engage with different stakeholders and independent bodies as liaisons to better highlight The Jasper House Museum as one of the oldest and with historical and cultural backgrounds of the early settlers of the town of Oranjemund. With a vast diverse culture and ushering the new status as a proclaimed Town.

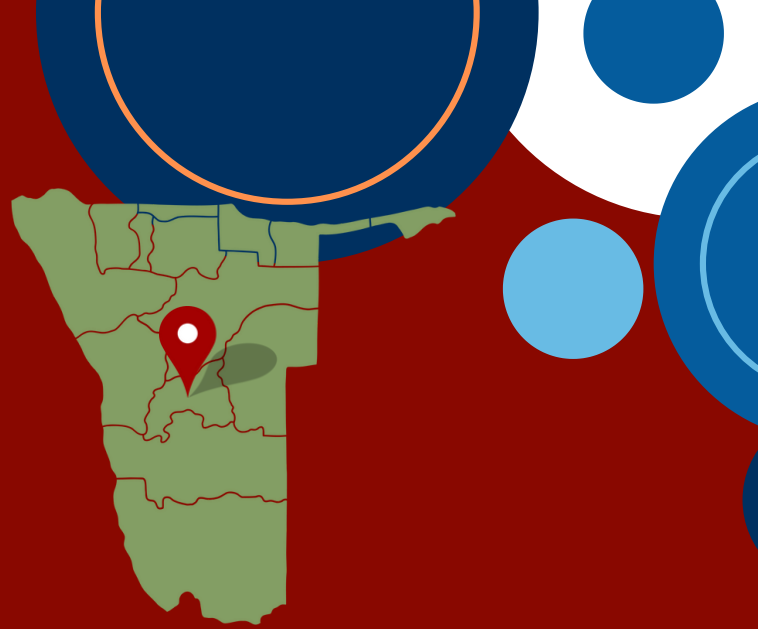




# The National Archives of Namibia

## A SILO OF DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

By Ndamian Hangula: Archivist

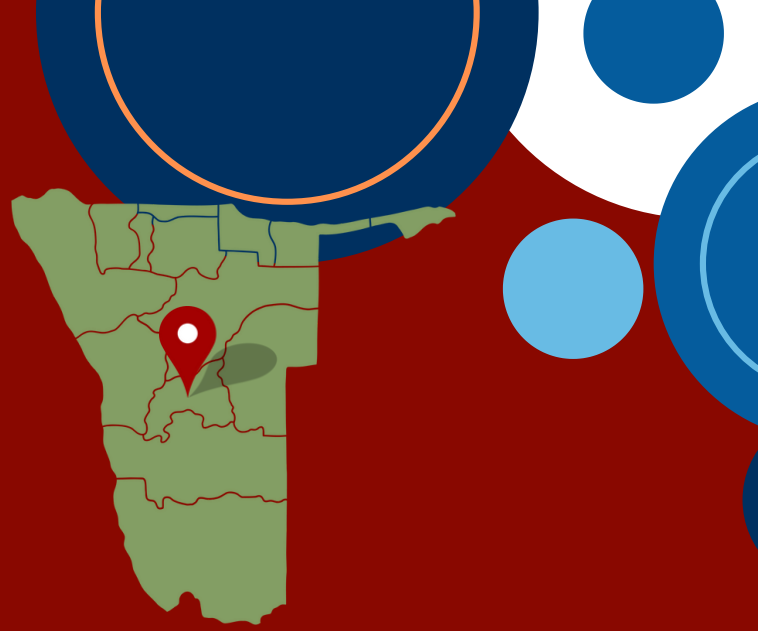


One may ask, what is a National Archive? A national archive is a government institution tasked to oversee the preservation of national documentary heritage as well as ensure proper records management in government institutions. What are the archives? Archives refer to any records such as photos, files, CDs, DVDs, maps, posters and audio-visual that possess an infinite value. These documentary heritages are preserved to be accessed by the public.

# The National Archives of Namibia

## A SILO OF DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

By Ndamian Hangula: Archivist



What struck me first through the experience I encountered in the National Archives, is the abundance of archival information. The archives are well-resourced. There is a lot of raw historical data that needs to be interpreted. No place in Namibia can equate to the National Archives in terms of having an abundance of documentary heritage. The way the information is provided to the public is very remarkable.

The entrance into the archives is free of charge and users are only charged minimal for reproduction services. The archives provide a reading room with ample space and users who have enough time will consult the material in the archives at no cost. Silence in the reading room is guaranteed and users are subjected to fair and equal treatment.

On preservation, what surprises me is the condition in which the archival materials are. The records created as early as the 1900s are still in a very useable condition. That demonstrates that the archives are indeed a silo of documentary heritage that ensures that the country's documentary heritage is well-taken care of and will be useable as long as life exists on earth.

The public is urged to visit the National Archives of Namibia so that they can experience and see how the national documentary heritage is being preserved. The Archives are open from Monday to Friday, 9h00 to 16h00 and closed on weekends and public holidays.

I am ending with a quote by Blad Meltzer who said,  
*"Most archivists do not like surprises, that's why we work in the past".*



# Onandjokwe Medical Museum

Commemorating Dr Selma Rainio's  
"Gwanandjokwe" Birthday on Namibia  
Independence Day on 21 March 2023

By Kleopas Nghikefelwa



On 22nd March 2013, the museum was officially opened by Hon. Dr Richard Kamwe, former Namibia Minister of Health and Social Services. In October 2022, the Onandjokwe Museum building celebrated the 111th Anniversary of Onandjokwe's medical heritage. This year, On 21 March 2023, ONANDJOKWE Medical Museum, EBEN Ezer retired nurses organization and KUKU SELMA SHEJAVALI GWANANDJOKWE invited some retired nurses who served or were trained in Onandjokwe Hospital.





# Onandjokwe Medical Museum



Commemorating Dr Selma Rainio's "Gwanandjokwe" Birthday on Namibia Independence Day on 21 March 2023

By Kleopas Nghikefelwa



On Namibia's Independence Day on 21 March 2023, the Onandjokwe Medical Museum celebrated both Namibia's Independence Day and commemorated Dr Selma Rainio's Birthday. This event was very successful because it attracted about 40 retired nurses with Onandjokwe Medical history. Now we have a database of cell phone numbers and names of these retired nurses.

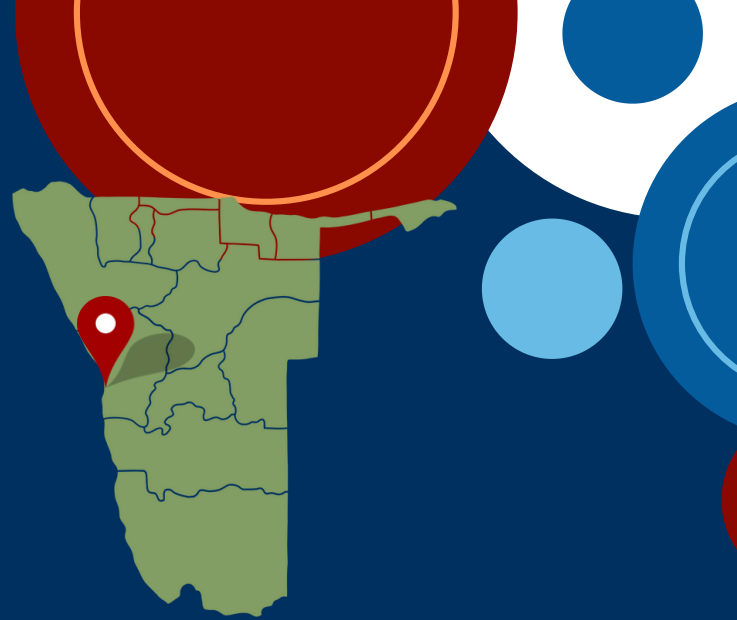
The membership is N\$50.00 per retired nurse and N\$ 100.00 for active nurses and medical doctors. We will publish this form and share this information with ELCIN congregations, where retired nurses can be found. These forms help our museum create a database of Onandjokwe retired nurses and medical doctors, who may be willing to support the development of Onandjokwe Medical Museum. The event was officially opened with a prayer by Tatekulu Rev. Julius Mutuleni, who served as the head of Onandjokwe Hospital for 15 years plus. The event needs to be done every year on 22 March.

We thank those good Samaritans who made some donations and gave support to help this event turn into reality.



# The Swakopmund Museum

## An Activity Hub

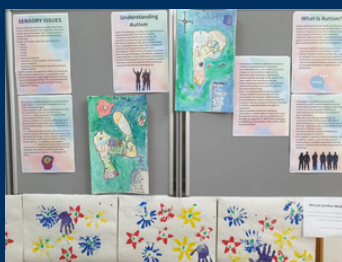


By N. Phiri, L. Beresford and N. Kohlstädt

A third of 2023 has come and gone. The staff of the Swakopmund Museum and their colleagues at the Sam Cohen Library (both parts of the Scientific Society Swakopmund) gave everything to provide edutainment to Swakopmund and its visitors. Here are some examples:

### NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

The Swakopmund Museum opened its doors for two special evening tours. The aim was to be educational, a bit scary and to bring culture to life. A roaring “lion” led visitors into the partially lit Museum where animal skulls glowed. The acoustic space of the Museum was used to its full potential when a local band sang traditional tunes from the gallery. Next “Captain Salvador” told about his experience of arriving in German South West Africa and on the ox-wagon an old “oom” scared with his dark tale of stolen gold. The tour further featured a search for the resident ghost. Finally, visitors were serenaded by the “8th Octaves”, a local Marimba Band. Their rhythm and energy were so contagious that visitors joined the traditional dances. There were several more funny and scary moments – but we cannot give away all the secrets! The “Night at the Museum” will be repeated by popular request.



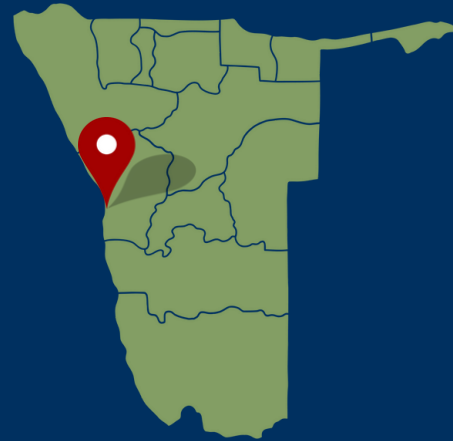
### NIGHT OF THE GALLERIES

As you might know, the Swakopmund Arts Association annually organizes the “Night of the Galleries” over the Easter Weekend. This year the Swakopmund Museum took part, testing out late-evening opening hours. An amazing number of visitors enjoyed this opportunity!

# The Swakopmund Museum

## An Activity Hub

By N. Phiri, L. Beresford and N. Kohlstädt



### AUTISM AWARENESS

The Swakopmund Museum sees it as its responsibility to serve the community by raising awareness on important topics. This year, in collaboration with the Stepping Stone School of Swakopmund, they organised an event for parents and the general public to learn more about autism. Professionals, such as a paediatrician, a speech therapist, and an occupational therapist shared their insights and knowledge. The Museum further hosted a special Autism Awareness Exhibition which gave information about neurodivergence and showcased beautiful pieces of art from the special-needs students of the Stepping Stone School. The Swakopmund Museum team feels very passionate about raising awareness also on other topics! So, keep an eye on their events calendar as “Ocean Month” is coming closer.

### PLANETARIUM

Namibia’s night sky is awe-inspiring and there is so much to learn! The Swakopmund Museum invited the first mobile planetarium in Namibia hosted by the African Millimetre Telescope. What a unique way for young and old to explore the universe! Due to overwhelming demand, unfortunately, not everyone could be accommodated, despite best efforts. The Namibian students giving the interactive presentations did us proud and we trust this will not be the last time that the team will come to the Swakopmund Museum.

With these well-received activities above and plenty of free educational talks, the Swakopmund Museum entertained, gave culture and heritage a specially lit platform, raised awareness on issues and shared scientific information widely.

To keep informed please visit the website <https://en.sciswk.com/>



# TRANSNAMIB Museum Commemorates 30 Years Of Heritage

By Ailly Hangula-Paulino



The TransNamib Museum is a unique and important part of Namibian history. It celebrates the history of the railway system in the country and was founded in July 1993 by former South African Railway and TransNamib employee, Mr Walter Rusch.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Established in 1993, it was an initiative to preserve and celebrate the history of the railway system in Namibia. The Windhoek Railway Station hosts the Museum, which houses various artefacts, including old locomotives, wagons, and other railway equipment. It also features interactive displays and educational programs about the history of the railway system in Namibia.

## IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Significantly, the TransNamib Museum has an impact on Namibian culture and tourism. It has become a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from all over the world. The museum has also helped to educate people about the history of the railway system in Namibia and has become an important part of the country's cultural heritage and a centre for academic research.





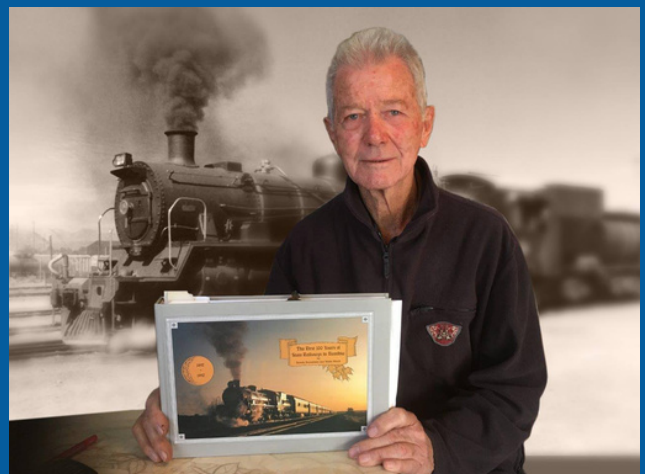
# TRANSNAMIB Museum Commemorates 30 Years Of Heritage

By Ailly Hangula-Paulino

Since its opening three decades ago, it has become an essential part of Namibian culture and tourism. It celebrates the history of Namibia's railway system and has helped educate people about this important part of the country's past. The museum is a unique and important part of Namibian history, and it is sure to remain a popular tourist destination for many years to come.

Mr Walter Rusch, Founder of the Museum also co-authored “The First 100 Years of State Railways in Namibia” with Mr Brenda Bravenboer in 1997. Rusch had a vision to transform the Museum to be a place for artists historians, storytellers, poets, book launches, music, and exhibition as part of the anniversary in July 2023.

Regrettably, Walter Rusch passed away in October 2022. May his soul rest in peace.







# Museum of Namibian Music Admin Experience

By Ester Neshani Leonard

My name is Ester Neshani Leonard; I got involved in Arts and Culture Industry after completing my matrix in 2006 up to date. My education history is very short and I am in the process of expanding it for more knowledge and skills in the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector.

I managed to complete a Diploma from the College of the Arts in "African Performing Arts" (2006-2008), an Honours degree from the University of Namibia (2014-2017) Majored in Music and Textiles and I am currently studying for Post-graduate Diploma in heritage conservation and management with the University of Namibia, both studies sponsored by the National Arts Council of Namibia.

I have been working for the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture since 2009 as a Dance part-time lecturer and in 2021 I got seconded and became the Arts Extension officer and Museum Administrator of the Museum of Namibian Music.





# Museum of Namibian Music Admin Experience

By Ester Neshani Leonard

The Museum of Namibian Music was officially virtually launched in March 2021 in Omuthiya, the capital city of Oshikoto Region. It was an honour to have the first museum in my home town, very unique and modernized. The purpose of the Museum of Namibian Music is none other than to safeguard the Namibian Musical heritage. As a Namibian Arts and Culture educator, I feel fortunate that we have a place in Namibia that safeguards our musical heritage, where students can conduct their academic research and also a place for entertainment and relaxation.

With my one-year experience in the new museum, I have learnt to accept challenges and find amicable ways to solve them. Taking criticism positively and learning from them, how to multi-task and manage time, and how to explore new things on social media. I have learned to network locally and internationally, I have learnt how to be a curator professionally.

I have never experienced the challenges that I went through this year, being an Arts officer, managing a new museum, being a full-time student, going through a puerperium period and losing a mother who has been suffering from dementia-related diseases for 35 years. Apart from all those challenges, I managed to at least organise a successful "Museum of Namibian Heritage Week 2022".

Finally, I would like to thank my colleague Mr Kamati Samuel (Arts officer) for assisting in the museum during my absence and all those who supported the Museum of Namibian with all kinds of support and also the MAN team for making museums matter!





# YOUTH REVIEWS

The following section contains articles submitted by young professionals in the sector. As a community-driven organisation, youth engagement through museum education, training and other methods ensures that MAN achieves its mandate to:

- actively seek to encourage links between museums and other partners to enhance their role as educational resources and tourist attractions.
- provide training to museum workers and encourage young people to consider a career in the heritage sector through an internship scheme.

The purpose of this section is to see the sector through the eyes of the youth, as a way in which to understand the manner in which the sector is currently engaging with the youth and how this can be improved.



# YOUTH REVIEW

## Ruiumuini Ally Kahuure

Archivist in Training

My internship as an Archives Intern for The Museums Association of Namibia from 01 March 2023-30 June 2023 has been the most rewarding and motivational experience. I couldn't have had a better internship experience. Working with Maharero Papers allowed me to explore archiving in action and what it means to work with unique materials. This was the most interesting and valuable experience.

Church archives play a vital role in preserving culture, and heritage and serve as historical eyewitnesses. They offer support, justification, and explanation for both past actions and present decisions. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) was born as a result of the work of the Rhenish Mission Society in 1842. Today the ELCRN Church Archives is one of Namibia's most important historical archives, dating back to 1844.

During my first month at the ELCRN Church Archives the first task I was assigned was repairing Church Registers,

which consisted of church registers from Karibib, Tsumbe and Rehoboth to mention a few. The second month of internship work would be fluid, as there was no fixed task, as a result, the range of activities or tasks assigned would vary in duration. Therefore the tasks I was assigned were compiling and inventorying the LWF/LWI Newsletter we had previously sorted and organised from 1971-2010, and pagination the famous Maharero collection to prepare it for scanning. From there I went on to scan a few Khoi Books, I found it challenging operating the overhead scanners, but I gradually got the hang of it. Furthermore, I had the opportunity of translating letters that were written in Otjiherero, I found this a challenge as deciphering the handwriting was difficult, and in the end, I managed to interpret the letters into English.

I worked back and forth between the ELCRN Church Archives and the National Archives, during this period I had the privilege of translating letters by Manase Tjisesesta.

Now more than ever there is an active interest in the history of our country. Namibia has a rich intangible national heritage that could be found in the archives.

The ELCRN Church Archives is a valuable and accessible resource, that isn't known yet. Once the public recognizes that, there will be public support for funding it. This exposure has benefited me generally in reinforcing my skills and abilities. I have created a positive state of mind, and a solid sense of obligation, ingenious, open, and responsive to changes. Found the German classes to be very valuable. I have learned distinctive angles of professionalism from my work encounter, smiling, and behaving myself even when I am irritated or disturbed.

# YOUTH REVIEW



## **Peya Mbushandje Nankulungu**

Archivist in Training

We know how Archives are essential in this era in which every piece of information is very important. Archives as records, are non-current records of a person(s), organization or corporate body preserved because of their enduring value; also referred to as “archival holdings.

The documents stored and preserved at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia Archives are mostly from between the 1800s to 1900s. 90% of the records contain the Mission Stations information, including correspondences and property materials.

From the start of my internship at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia Archives, I started with repairing the materials that were in poor condition.

We used an Archival material repair tape called “FilmoPlast” to merge together the papers that were torn and the lost materials that were falling apart.

Since most of the materials are written in German, with the help of my Supervisor, we also consolidated and merged Parishes and Mission station property and correspondence files. In addition to that, I dealt with sorting and packing the materials of Mission stations, provided reference numbers and packed the archival boxes into cabinets.

One of my tasks during my internship was to digitize the materials by scanning them at the University of Namibia and arranging them alphabetically.

I have also installed a software called “INFRANVIEW” which is the software that allows one to access the materials that are scanned since the documents are stored and preserved as Tiff files.

Furthermore, with the assistance of my colleague Ms Ruiumuini, we have translated a document written in Otjiherero by Jordan about who owned Grootfontein which was written to Samuel Maharero.

There are still more materials that need to be digitized. Since 90% of the materials are old, I would recommend they be scanned so they do not get damaged when they are being used and accessed.



# YOUTH REVIEW



## **Romancia** **Rose-Mary Uises**

Archivist in Training

The project was established to rescue the archives of ELCRN. Being the archives with the longest historical depth it covers substantial aspects of Namibia's immediate pre-colonial history. My brief for the duration of the internship was to assist with the digitization of its collection, to ensure its survival for the future. As such I was introduced to advanced digitization technology skills on different scanning devices in the National Archives of Namibia, at the archives of ELCRN and at the Archives Division of the University of Namibia.

I subsequently spent, together with my colleague Peya Nankulungu, most of my time with the digitization of a huge collection of photography, conference minutes, reports and letters starting in the 1840s. This provided me with deep insights into the 19th-century history of Namibia history of evangelisation and then the Lutheran church.

In order to make the most of this, I participated in a German language course, which was offered as part of the employment contract. During my tenure, I participated in a workshop, offered by the National Archives of Namibia in conjunction with the Basler Afrika Bibliographien. Under the theme Listening to History: Archives and Sound Recordings-Curating Repatriation, the workshop was an eye-opener and an immense learning experience for me. It was done as a means to create awareness and advocacy on the existence of archived sound recordings and their crucial role in preserving original voices from Namibia's past. It was an awe-inspiring experience to hear the voices of historical figures and individuals through tape recordings, rather than reading about them in books. The workshop served as a reminder of the deepening challenges faced by archivists in preserving historical documentation and sound recordings. It drew my attention to the necessity of adequate gear and equipment, as the lack of such or its outdatedness, as the lack of staff and staff training in the field makes this aspect of history preservation quite challenging.

The digitization, hence the preservation of the archival materials held in AELCRN will ensure that the memory of the church's role in the Namibian liberation struggle will not be forgotten. It renewed my interest and understanding of our historical journey during the German colonial era, during South African overlordship and, since 1990, the story of independent Namibia. Handling the historical documents first-hand widened my knowledge. This project also serves to remind us that the archives are essential, not just stock-taking of documents but a crucial backbone of Namibia's existence, its road to independence, where it is currently and where it will be in the future.

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