

# Museum Matters

The Newsletter for the Museums Association of Namibia



Issue 28

May-Dec 2015



## Membership Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Physical Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership information

Individual N\$120.00      Associate N\$200.00      Museum/Institution N\$40.00

*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 the invoice number or the name of the museum with the payment and fax a copy of your deposit slip to 061-302236 as proof of payment. Alternatively you can email it to [museums@iway.na](mailto:museums@iway.na)

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Membership category: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment type: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Contents

Page 3: Bulletin Board

## Features

Page 5: My Museum Journey

Page 7: Heritage Week 2015

Page 9: The power stones of the Owambo Kingdoms

Page 11: SCAMX 2015

Page 15: SCAMX Winners - Trip to Robben Island

Page 17: Exhibition Report: Photographs Beyond Ruins

Page 19: What you do matters!

Page 21: Changing History: World War 1 & Namibia

Page 23: Making Connections with the Finnish Museum Sector

Page 27: Changing History Travels to Keetmanshoop

Page 29: Exhibition Development for Namibian Museums Perseveres

Page 31: MAN Publication: Changing History

Page 33: MAN Publication: Making an Impact

Page 35: MAN Gets Gold: Tourism Expo 2015

Page 37: Ombombo Mobile Classroom – EduVentures goes mobile

## Regulars

Page 39: Youth Review- National Archives of Namibia

Page 40: Youth Review - Heritage Week 2015

Page 41: Opinion Piece: Making Museums Engagement Hubs

Page 43: MAN Gives Input on Namibia's Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy

Page 45: Curator's Toolkit

## Publisher

Museums Association of Namibia

P.O.Box 147 Windhoek, Namibia

112 Robert Mugabe Ave,  
Windhoek, Namibia

Email: museums@iway.na

Tel: +26461302230 Fax: +26461302236

**Published:** December 2015

**ISSN:** 2026-8092

# From the Editor...



Hi Museum family... We've reached the end of another exciting and fun filled year which, like any other year had it's ups and downs and we're so glad you have been here with us for the ride.

This edition of Museums Matters covers the activities between May and December 2015 and we've tried to be as inclusive as possible so please do check to see if you see your name or picture amongst the pages.

I'd like to draw your attention to the contributions MAN made to the new National Arts, Culture and Heritage policy on page 43. If you're a curator, as usual, we have included the Curator's toolkit for practical guidance to help you run your museum more efficiently.

Also take a look at the fun annual activities such as the SCAMX competition and Heritage Week. All in all, I hope you enjoy the read and that you find it both educational and entertaining.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a safe festive season!

## Disclaimer

Museum Matters is published by the Museums Association of Namibia but is not the voice of the association. 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 a written consent from the publisher and the author of the content as applicable.

**Editor:** Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala

**Cover Photograph:** Dr Jeremy Silvester

**Layout and Design:** Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala

# Bulletin

## Meet the



**Name:** Albertina Kalutenda  
**Course:** Bachelor of Tourism Management  
**Institution:** Polytechnic of Namibia



**Name:** Kaarina Efraim  
**Course:** BA Hons. History (Archeology) & Sociology  
**Institution:** University of Namibia



**Name:** Mighty Ugwanga  
**Course:** BA Tourism Management  
**Institution:** University of Namibia



**Name:** Jane Petrus  
**Course:** BA Tourism Management  
**Institution:** University of Namibia



**Name:** Barati Segoko  
**Course:** BA Visual Culture, Museum Studies and Creative Expression  
**Institution:** University of Namibia

In service training is an effective way of offering students job and career development options that benefit both the student and the organisation. The Museums Association of Namibia offers internships to students undertaking courses in relevant fields. The MAN tries to accommodate as many interns as possible during the year at both the MAN office and at member museums around the country. This year, MAN had 10 interns.

# Board

## Interns



**Name:** Betty Nambinga  
**Course:** Bachelor of Tourism Management  
**Institution:** Polytechnic of Namibia



**Name:** Tuuda Haitula  
**Course:** BA Hons. History (Archeology) & Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Namibia



**Name:** Khumo Kebualemang  
**Course:** BA Visual Culture, Museum Studies and Creative Expression  
**Institution:** University of Namibia



**Name:** Sunnypo Imalwa  
**Course:** BA Tourism Management  
**Institution:** University of Namibia



**Name:** Emilia Nembia  
**Course:** Bachelor of Tourism Management  
**Institution:** Polytechnic of Namibia

Applications for internships can be hand delivered to the Museums Association of Namibia together with an updated CV or emailed to [museums@iway.com.na](mailto:museums@iway.com.na) for attention to Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala, Human Resource and Administrative Officer.



# My Museum Journey

*Revecca Haufiku*



It's the year 2006 I am listening to a Lady giving a power point presentation on the future of museums, but what caught my attention was how to make museums more interactive? And she goes on to say, "Museums need to do away with telling visitors not to touch objects, but needs to find other ways to protect their objects."

Dr Napandulwe Shigweda 2006, MAN AGM Swakopmund.

My Name is Revecca Haufiku and this is my Robben Island journey.

History has always been my favourite subject in school. I am a great speaker so, I participated well in class discussions however when it came to writing the exam, I did not do so well. I critically analyse facts and question how history was structured in the text books, and this is not the answers the moderator wanted so it's sad to say that I did very poorly in my history exams all the time. In 2006, I could not clearly articulate or understand why I did so poorly.

However this did not deter me from participating in the history schools club competition (SCAMX). We were a group of four students; all in the same class all representing the Learners Representative Council (LRC). In high school there was some kind of prestige with being a member of a learner's body, and being in a position of leadership. We choose to do an exhibition on a local hero, it was deemed that even though he did not fight for the liberation of Namibia, we felt that he played a vital role in the struggle for independence and felt very strongly in giving back power to people that did not get the recognition they deserved. The exhibition methodology was interviewing, and collecting information in published articles. We collected images from his family, Levi Mweshekele has a street named after him, and so we thought it important to have a reproduction of the street name in our exhibition.

The competition was attached to the Museums Association of Namibia's (MAN) AGM, MAN holds SCAMX every year in order to grow and educate Namibian schools on the different ways that communities see history. The AGM/SCAMX competition was held in Swakopmund, a coastal town in Namibia.

When we arrived in Swakopmund we met and found out all the other schools that were taking part in the competition, we were happy to be the only school representing Tsumeb.

We were relatively confident that we would win the competition, sadly we did not win the competition so this meant that we did not get the winners price, which was an all expenses trip paid for by MAN to Robben Island. I remember thinking; I am going to Robben Island just not this time around.

I completed high school that year at Oshikoto Senior Secondary school, and I applied to work for the Tsumeb Cultural Village now: (Helvi ya Mpingana Cultural Village). There were no job openings, but due to the passion and interest I had shown when we donated our Levi Mweshekele exhibition to the Tsumeb Cultural Village, they send me to Windhoek to get online training on cataloguing. MAN held the training workshop; I had plans of changing the relationship that people from Tsumeb have to museums. After the workshop I went on to give training to museum curators from Keetmanshoop, Tsumeb, Grootfontein and Swakopmund. I worked as an intern for MAN for a couple of years until I left them to go and study broadcast journalism. The aim was to learn how to better represent museums and Namibian history in the media. The museums sector in Namibia has to learn how to use the media to their advantage, particularly because museum act as agents of knowledge production and not just places that keep and store objects. Museums do not simply issue objective description or form logical assemblages they generate representations and attribute value and meaning in line with classificatory schemas which are historically specific. They do not so much reflect the world through objects as use them to mobilize representations of the world past and present.



In 2015, I got a scholarship from Robben Island to pursue a diploma in museums and heritage studies at the University of the Western Cape. My research paper is Called Robben Island a Namibian heritage site. The study aims to show the significance of the political prisoner's part and contribution to the colonial history of Namibia and the endurance and patients of Namibian ex political prisoners that were imprisoned on Robben Island. Robben Island Museum has adopted the trade name 'Triumph of the human spirit over adversity', it's imperative that the Namibians that were imprisoned on Robben Island deserve more recognition both on Robben Island museum and in Namibia. For they were trailed and imprisoned in a country that they did not recognise as their own, kept far from their families and friends, this was meant to break them and their families. Therefore like other political prisoners they too have triumphed over adversity and deserve to be in an inclusive narrative of Robben Island. This is what my research paper aims to prove, I have always been fascinated in telling the history and lifting people and leaders that took part in the liberation struggle of Namibia and are not getting the recognition they deserve. I am at the very beginning of my journey.





# Heritage

## Celebrate Namibian Style



### What is Namibian Heritage Week?

Heritage Week is an opportunity for Namibians to celebrate our heritage. The week encourages all Namibians to commit themselves to protect our wonderful natural and cultural resources. Namibia's major heritage institutions have joined together as a team to organize Namibian Heritage Week. As an umbrella organisation for museums country wide, the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) facilitates regional activities through its members during this week.





# Week 2015

## 21 – 26 September 2015



### What did MAN doing for Heritage Week?

This year, MAN had two activities under the theme “Celebrate Namibian Style”.

This theme has two meanings. Firstly, celebrating Namibian “style” meaning fashion and traditional dress and secondly, celebrating Namibian “style” meaning the manner in which Namibians celebrate (braai, music and dance).

Individuals and institutions from all over the country sent in photographs of them Celebrating Namibian Style!



  
HERITAGE WEEK TEAM

# The Power Stones of the Owambo Kingdoms



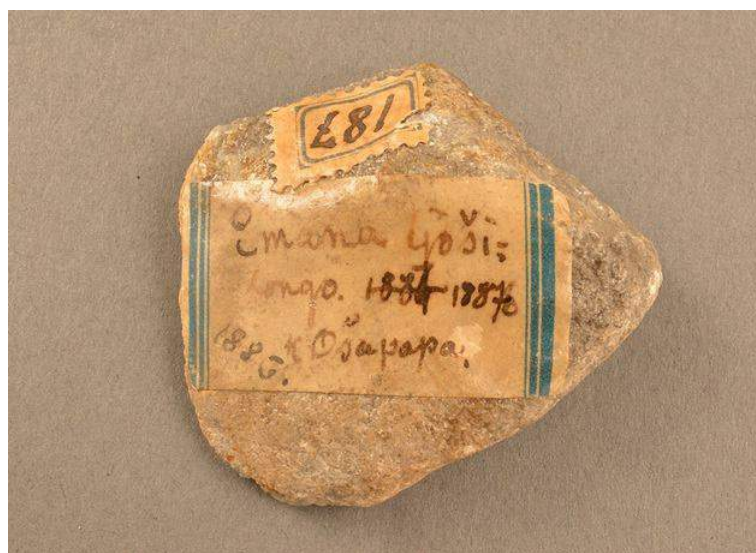
*Jeremy Silvester*

The Finnish Mission Museum and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Finnish Government have shown sensitivity to the goodwill that can be generated by the repatriation of objects of particular sacred significance. Since independence two important artifacts have been returned to Namibia. The 'Power Stone' (Emanya lomundilo woshilongo) of the Kingdom of Oukwanyama was returned to the Kwanyama Traditional Authority in 1990 and in 2014 the stone that was part of the regal symbols (omiya dhoshilongo) of Ombalantu was returned to the Mbalantu Traditional Authority (Ashipala, 2014). The stones were sacred objects and it was believed that if they were removed from the kingdom or damaged serious misfortune would strike the kingdom (Eirola 1992: 49)

When Namibia hosted the Conference of the International Committee of Museums of Ethnography in 2012, MAN was able to arrange for Ms Raili Huopainen (Director of the Kumbukumbu Museum of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) and Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich in Switzerland to visit Nakambale Museum. One of the positive outcomes of that meeting was that Ms Huopainen informed us that her museum would be closing shortly, but that, before it closed, she would ensure that all the Namibian objects in the collection were photographed. During our visit to the Museum of Culture in Helsinki, the curator, Ms Heli Lahdentausta, provided us with an unedited soft copy of the photographs that had been organized by Ms Huopainen.

The photographs included photographs that, we presumed, showed images of the stones from Oukwanyama and Ombalantu that had been previously been returned to Namibia. However, we believe, strongly, that one of the objects is, actually, a piece of the sacred stone of Ondonga that was long believed to have been lost. The translation of the catalogue entry for this object reads:

*Artifact 5620: "Piece of Ondonga sacred stone, Oshipapa. The piece is from a meteorite fallen on the Earth in 1883 or 1886. Power stones are believed to symbolize good government, stability and connection with the forefathers' spirits".*





We believe that the entry relates exactly with an incident described in Matti Peltola's biography of Martti Rautanen, which Peltola based on his translation of the account found in Rautanen's own diary:

*"In February 1886, the desire for knowledge gave Rautanen and Dr Schinz a life-threatening experience. It concerns a stone, which Rautanen calls 'Oshilongo-Sten' 'the stone of the kingdom'. Stones are rare in Ovamboland, so rare that religious reverence was shown to them. In many cases they probably were meteorites, which partly explains the awe. No mention of them was publicly made, especially when strangers were present.*

*Martin Rautanen and Dr Schinz had taken a trip to the site of late King Nembungu's court, which was to the east of Olukonda, a few hour's journey in an ox-wagon. Their attention was drawn to an enclosure. When they asked what it was, they were told that there were amulets there used in making rain and it was forbidden to examine them. Rautanen knew that there was a stone inside such an enclosure, but he had also heard of a special stone which was near there. Nambahu, one of the young men from the mission station, said that he knew where it was. He guided Rautanen and Dr Schinz to the place. Part of the stone was visible. Its even surface a few decimetres in extent, rose slightly from the ground. Dr Schinz was in a way disappointed, because the stone was evidently not meteorite, but quartzite. In order to be able to study it closer, he and Rautanen both cut pieces for themselves and then covered the sides of the stone with sand, as they had been before.*

*Before they returned, Rautanen's attention was drawn to a heap of wood which nobody had taken home, though fire wood was scarce. They were wooden posts used for building a stockade. Rautanen studied the place and found out that there had been a house. They were standing on the site of the court of King Nembungu, a circumcised King who had ruled Ondonga a generation before, perhaps in the 1830s, and had been held in high regard. Then they returned to Olukonda (115-116)*

Hans Namuhuja argued that Omukwaniilwa Nembungu Iya Amatundu was the ruler of Ondonga in the period 1750-1810. Namuhuja also states that Omukwaniilwa Nembungu is remembered as the custodian of iidhila (taboos) and omisindila (rites). The grave site at Iinenge is one of the most significant heritage sites in northern Namibia (Namuhuja, 1996: 11; Silvester & Akawa, 2010: 69). Lovisa Nampala refers to an interview she conducted with Shilongo Uukule on 17th August, 2001 in which it was stated that during the reign of Omukwaniilwa Nembungu a meteorite landed near his capital, Iinenge, and was adopted as the stone of the kingdom (omulilogwemanyalyoshilongo).

The stone was associated with the art of rain-making. After Nembungu's death people would still visit Iinenge for rain-making and, only if this was unsuccessful, travel further north to the Kingdom of Evale, which was the place where the most powerful rain-makers were found (Nampala, 2006, 55). Since this object is one that is likely to be of sacred significance to the Ondonga Traditional Authority the information about the stone has been submitted to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture so that further discussions might take place.

# School History Clubs

## Making Museums Matter

*Hilma Kapuka*



*The Fridrich Awaseb History Club representatives and their teacher Johannes Mushongo are the School Clubs and Museums Exhibition competition 2015 champions.*



*Fridrich Awaseb History Club in front of their winning exhibition.*

The Museum Association of Namibia held its 9th School Clubs and Museum Exhibition (SCAMX) Competition, from the 9th – 11th September 2015, in Tsumeb. This year, 72 learners participated in the School Clubs and Museum Exhibition Competition that is internationally recognised and praised as an innovative model for teaching heritage and history to the youth. The competition not only grant a lifetime opportunity to travel to the historic Robben Island, but also allows participants opportunity to participate in heritage, and museum development, a very rare opportunity young people have in Namibia. The prominence of the competition could be attested to the placement of the Otjikoto Secondary School's SCAMX exhibition on permanent display at Helvi Kondombolo Mpingana Cultural Village and Open Air Museum, and the return of the 2008 SCAMX Participant (1st Prize winner), as a teacher, and SCAMX coordinator for Singalamwe Combined School, Ms Kahimbi Mucheka from, Zambezi Region.

The theme for this year's competition was 'Our Forgotten Hero'. The theme led Young people into discussions of the meaning of heroism and to identify an individual from their region who, they felt, has made an important contribution to the region, but is not well known nationally. We did not only seek to get young people to experience rich learning experience of exhibition designing, get exposed to issues of commemoration and memorializing the past, but also hoped to get participants inspired by their heroes' hard work, commitment, enthusiasm, self-sacrifice, and great triumphs, and also embrace the legacy of their heroes and make their communities better places. Participants designed exhibitions on individuals who improved education, tackled poaching, or socio-economic champions who helped others without economic means to succeed to greater heights of life.



Despite juggling between exhibition and development and school work, with limited time and resources, participating school clubs states that teamwork and creativity led them to create excellent exhibitions. The quality of the exhibition is evident from Dr Martha Akawa, the Head of the Department of History, Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Namibia, whom indicated that the quality of the displays created by the school History Clubs this year was so high that the judges have recommended that the Museums Association of Namibia should publish the information in a competition booklet.

However, equally important, the competition provides a platform for participants to exchange information about the history and culture of their regions. Evidently SCAMX achieved its goals of encouraging learners to develop an interest in museums and, at a very practical level, to encourage nation-building.

The History Club from Friedrich Awaseb Secondary School in Otjozondjupa Region were the winners of the School Clubs and Museums Exhibition competition for 2015. The winning school researched and developed an exhibition on the late Mr Engelhart Adolf Gariseb. The competition for 2015 was tight with Delta Secondary School from Khomas Region being narrowly pipped into second place.

The team from Delta, have won a long weekend generously sponsored by the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Third place went to Negumbo Senior Secondary School from Omusati Region who won a set of rucksacks filled with a range of mystery gifts.



*Second Prize Winners, Delta History Club, with their teacher Mrs Uilika Kapolo and Tsumeb Councillor, Mr Linekela Shetekela.*



*Third Prize Winners, The Negumbo History Club and their teacher Ms Martha Aupindi and Dr Martha Akawa-Shikufa.*

Last year's winners, Olupale Combined School from Oshikoto Region, came fourth this year. However, they also won a special prize for the 'Best Oral History Research' which consisted of a multi-purpose printer for their club and a newly published book, Namibia and Germany: Negotiating the Past. Fifth place went to Shambyu Combined School from Kavango Region. The introduction of the fourth and fifth place though strengthen the competition, there has been unfortunately no sponsors to provide prizes for the schools just missing the top three places.

The prize-giving ceremony was efficiently hosted by Etosha Secondary School. All eighteen school history clubs that participated in the final was rewarded with book bags contained both novels and educational books sponsored by UNAM Press, Princess Ndaponah Publishing House, the Namibia Scientific Society and the School Library Service of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. Participants also visited Etosha National Park and Otjikoto Lake. We express our sincere gratitude to the Educational Regional Directors of //Karas, Khomas, Kunene, Okavango West and Okavango East, Omusati, Ohangwena, Otjozondupa, Oshana, Oshikoto, and Zambezi regions who provided transport for the excursion and the entire competition.

The Museum Association of Namibia organises the competition with funds from the grant-in-aid that it receives from the Directorate of National Heritage and Culture Programmes of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. Equally important, the Museums Association of Namibia would like to thank the following sponsors who made the competition possible; Robben Island Museum, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Minen Hotel, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the National Heritage Council for their generous support.







Next year the competition will be taking place in Otjozondjupa Region. The competition will be advertised, as usual, through the Regional Education Offices. However, any schools (with grades 8-12) that would like advice on establishing a school History Club so that they can participate in the competition in 2016 should contact Ms Kapuka at MAN on 061-302230 or by fax on 061-302236 or by email: [museums@iway.na](mailto:museums@iway.na)



# SCAMX 2015 WINNERS

There are no experience quite like winning trip out of the country, taking your first ever boat ride and getting to witness firsthand the place that Nelson Mandela called home for 27 years of his life. For the History Club of Fridrich Awaseb Secondary School, this was all the reality as they took a trip to Cape Town and the former home of Apartheid prison Robben Island, which is also part of Namibia's history.





[illegible]

# Exhibition Report - Photographs Beyond Ruins: The Old Location Albums 1920s-1960s

*Dr Lorena Rizzo*

The exhibition was set up at Usakos between the 23rd and 26th of June 2015 at the Municipality building. The building dates from 1908 and was declared a heritage building in 2008. The exhibition was set up in the entrance hall and the board room in the main municipality building. The entire building complex will be turned into a local museum in early 2016, and the photographic exhibition formally marked the establishment of the collection of the new museum.



*Usakos Municipality Building and exhibition venue, June 2015*

The exhibition was part of a larger cooperative project between the University of Basel and the University of Namibia. Students from both universities spent 10 days in Usakos, working on the exhibition set up and doing oral history research projects among the community of Usakos. Four student groups did research on migrant labour and the Oshiwambo speaking community in Usakos; the Boodorp (a former 'white' working class neighbourhood); education and housing in Hakhaseb and Erongosig (the new townships built in the early 1960s); and music, cultural practices and sports before and after the forced removals.

During the exhibition set up and research the students were supported by a team of scholars and artists: Dr. Giorgio Miescher (University of Basel), Dr. Lorena Rizzo (University of Bielefeld), Dr. Martha Akawa (University of Namibia), Dr. Vilho Shigwedha (University of Namibia), Paul Grendon (independent photographer, Cape Town), and Tina Smith (Head Curator, District Six Museum, Cape Town).

## **Exhibition Opening**

The opening of the exhibition was organised by Saara Ilovu, Economic Development Officer in the Usakos Municipality. The opening event took place on the 27th of June 2015 and included speeches by the Mayor of Usakos, Gustav Garobasen !Hoaeb and, the Deputy-Mayor, Davey van Wyk, Pastor Andreas Apollus, of the Evangelican Lutheran Church of Namibia, and Dr. Jeremy Silvester, Project Manager of the Museums Association of Namibia. Over 300 people attended, among them the four women – Cecilie //Geises, Wihelmine Katjimune, Gisela Pieters and Olga //Garoës, whose photographic collections form the core part of the exhibition. They were joined by representatives of donor institutions, among them Dr. Daniela Schlettwein (Basler Afrika Bibliographien) and media representatives.



## Catalogue

The exhibition was launched with a catalogue entitled Usakos. Photography beyond Ruins. The old location albums, 1920s-1960s. (Paul Grendon, Giorgio Miescher, Lorena Rizzo and Tina Smith; Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2015; 150 pages, colour).

The catalogue includes two essays – one on Namibian photographic history, and the other on the history of Usakos with a focus on segregation and apartheid urban planning. There are three sections that introduce the photographic collections of Cecilie //Geises, Wilhelmine Katjimune, Gisela Pieters and Olga //Garoës and a final section with colour photography by Paul Grendon, taken in Usakos between 2013 and 2015.



## Postscript

### *Jeremy Silvester*

The Museums Association of Namibia has been a partner in the exhibition project as we see it as a pilot for developing community-based exhibitions in Namibia and an example of the way in which young people can be actively involved in museum development. On 1st July, 2015 Dr Jeremy Silvester and Dr Martha Akawa facilitated a one-day planning workshop with the Museum Advisory Board (including representatives of the town's youth) that has been established by the Municipality of Usakos. In addition to explaining the role of the board the workshop drew up an action plan for the transformation of the old municipality building into a museum.

The Namibian students who had worked on the exhibition in Usakos travelled to the town of Basel in Switzerland in August. A second copy of the exhibition was mounted by the students in Basel. The exhibition had an additional four panels that were based on the research done by the Namibian and Swiss students in Usakos. We look forward to the official opening of Usakos Museum in 2016. The new museum will provide an ideal visit for heritage lovers travelling to the coast.

# What you do matters!

## Conference on International Holocaust Education

*Hilma Kapuka*

The Holocaust history is lightened by the stories of rescues. One of the remarkable stories is the Danish “October 43”. The Germans occupied Denmark in April 1940, but the Danish government remained in existence and was able to protect Danish Jews. In August 1943, the government resigned after refusing to accede to German demands. German police began to arrest Jews in early October. The Danish resistance movement, assisted by many ordinary citizens, coordinated mass rescue effort of some 7,200 Jews to safety in nearby neutral Sweden.

One of the rescued school children wrote a later:

*“There were very few Jews in my school, but I didn't think of them as Jews; they were just my classmates and pals. In Denmark we didn't distinguish between Jews and non-Jews, we were all just Danes. By October 1943, my classmates and I heard rumours of a German military build-up.*

*A few days before October '43 the principal of Ordrup High School had been knocking on the door of several classes in the middle of their lessons and had asked students of Jewish origin to come with him. On that day, my childhood was over. Before that day I was just one of the boys. On this day, at that moment, I was the chosen one, the different one, and the one who was asked to find his parents and getaway. Under cover of darkness, were brought to the shore, to waiting boats at an appointed time, and across the straits to Sweden”.*

However there were six millions Jews who could not account their stories to safety, as their lives abruptly ended in cattle train carriages, ghettos, gas chambers, crematorium, concentration camps, or the “death marches”. Holocaust history taught us that choices and actions taken or not taken by ordinary people like you and me determines the number of people killed or saved.

The genocide committed against the Nama and Herero communities by the German Colonial Government in 1904 marks the first genocide in the genocide plagued 19th century. This was followed by many more genocides and massacres, including the Holocaust. Other victims who also suffered alongside the Jews were the Roma and Sinti, the handicapped and homosexuals, and the Jehova witnesses, and many more people deemed to be contaminating the pure Aryan tribe. Yet, it seems that the world did not learn from the consequence of Holocaust well enough from these crimes against humanity, as evident from Bosnia, Rwanda, the Sudan, Cambodia, Burma, and Syria. Museums, monuments, and heritage centres were set up not only to memorialize these events but also to educate the world, to take action against these unconceivable events. One of such institution is the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), the United States' official memorial to the Holocaust. Adjacent to the national Mall in Washington, D.C., the museum provides space for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history.



The conference was held under the theme “The process of integrating Holocaust history into country specific context”. Conference sessions explored innovative pedagogical models that could be used to teach Holocaust in diverse cultural settings, so that people are better able to see its relevance in the contemporary world and their own lives. Museum staff, Holocaust survivor and internationally-renowned researchers were also at hand to support conference participants in developing their projects.

The Namibian team found that the manner in which Holocaust and genocide is presented in the school curriculum does not allow for a critical analysis of why the Holocaust and Namibian genocide took place. Consequently the teaching methodology limits learner’s knowledge on the two subjects, to historical facts, and the crucial link to the contemporary human right violations is missing. Also, there seems to be a lack of learning resources and teaching aids to enhance both the teaching and learning process.



*The Namibian Team, Ms Naistikile Iizyenda, Mr Sackaria Siranda and Ms Hilma Kapuka At the entrance of the USHMM*

The Namibian team is currently working towards developing an educational mobile exhibition on the 1904 Nama-Herero Genocide. The mobile exhibition not only provides the much needed teaching and learning resources for the Namibian genocide, but also allows for exciting teaching methodologies that will ultimately, make genocide studies a relevant subject that teachers can relate to the contemporary violation of human rights. The exhibition, which will travel to all fourteen regions of Namibia, will allow teachers to teach about the genocide beyond the textbook prescriptions. Through interactive activities designed to link past and contemporary human right violations, the exhibition will enhance critical thinking around the issues contemporary human right violations.

The importance of teaching genocide can never be overrated. Holocaust education addresses one of the core function of most education system, which is to mould learners into responsible citizens. Equally important, the Simon-Skjodt Center of the USHMM, demonstrates that through education, genocide is preventable. Taking appropriate action against early signs such as Dangerous Speech catalyses effort for human right violation.

Though Holocaust occurred in a distant past, it is still rooted in the present, and it is this conflicting relations that makes Holocaust the most effective avenue for examining basic moral issues. Designing holocaust education programmes as “lessons for humanity”, and not as a historical fact, enable learners to develop critical awareness, that the Holocaust was not an accident in history. It occurred because individuals, organizations, and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately mass murder to occur. Silence, apathetic, and indifference to the suffering of others, can ultimately, inadvertently perpetuate human right violations.

# Changing History

## World War One and Namibia

*Tuuda Haitula*



On 8 July 2015, a group of eleven students from the University of Namibia History Society left Windhoek for Otavi, accompanied by Martha Akawa, history head of department together with Dr Jeremy Sylvester and Hilma Kapuka from the Museums Association of Namibia.

The purpose of this trip was to launch the mobile exhibition titled "Changing History: World War One and Namibia" an exhibition on the ways in which the Namibian history was changed, because of the First World War. History was changed by the fact that, when Germany lost the war, she lost all her colonies, and Namibia was one of those.

Namibia was put under the mandate of Britain and South Africa was entrusted to carry it out. Many Namibians thought that that was the end of the war in Namibia, only to realise that it would take them another 75 years to get independence. The exhibition is made up of five large banners and on these banners are mainly photographs from the period that Germany was in Namibia until 1915. There is also a timeline of German activities in the then South West Africa and the different development features carried out by the Germans during their reign in Namibia such as the construction of the railway line connecting towns such as Swakopmund, Otavi and Windhoek.







The purpose of this exhibition was to commemorate the end of the war in on Namibian soil between Namibia and Germany.

Khorab was the ideal place for the launch because that is where the German Schutztruppe surrendered to the South African troops, on 09 July 1915. The place where the signing took place is well recognizable up to this day, because of the monument that is erected there.



The official launch took place on 09 July 2015 at 18:00, 100 years after the surrender. The launch took place on Khorab lodge where we were residing and was attended by learners and teachers from different schools around Otavi and Tsumeb, the major of Tsumeb, German high commissioner and several members of the Otavi/Tsumeb community. The exhibition was then taken to UNAM on 10 August 2015 and was there for 5 days, until the 14 of August. There exhibition was set up in the library foyer which as a good space as it attracted many people, people who were just walking in or out of the library and made a stop at the exhibition. There was no official opening for the exhibition at UNAM, it was just set up.



During the 5 days that the exhibition was there, a number of people came through to look at what was being displayed, learners specifically but several lecturers made their ways to the foyer. This exhibition had a quiz this time around where people could win MAN goodies had they answered the questions correct, questions derived from the exhibition.

*The UNAM History Society students were Tuuda Haitula, Iyambo Erasmus, Bianca Basson, Tauno Hiholiwe, Frans Neputa, Efraim Kaarina, Helao Hishongwa, Samuel Klaudia, Watemo Motlalekgosi, Andimba Fillipus, and*

# Making Connections with the Finnish Museum Sector

*Magdalena Kaanante, Charmaine Tjizezenga and Jeremy Silvester*

Namibian museums have, traditionally, displayed the objects in their collections as exhibitions. Indeed many of our regional museums show all the objects in their collection in what might be called 'open shelf' displays. Our museums contrast with the larger museums of the world which are like icebergs with most of their artifacts hidden from view and where 90% of their collection lies 'below the surface' in storage facilities.

The history of Namibia has meant that there are museums in other parts of the world which have collections containing significant numbers of artifacts from Namibia. In 2014 the theme for International Museums Day was 'Museum Collections Make Connections' (after the International Council of Museums adapted a theme that was originally proposed by ICOM Namibia). The Embassy of Finland's Exhibition Development project provided funding to enable a team from MAN to visit Finland from 6th-16th June, 2015. The team consisted of Dr Jeremy Silvester (Project Development Manager) and Ms Charmaine Tjizezenga (Project Officer: Exhibition Development) from the Museums Association of Namibia and Mrs Magdalena Kaanante (Curator: Nakambale Museum). The primary purpose of the trip was to review Namibian collections, explore potential partnerships for future exhibition exchanges and initiate dialogue and knowledge transfer about artifacts.

The collections held in many museums in Europe reflect a history of collecting that is entangled with histories of colonialism, evangelism, trading and raiding. Exhibitions there are, increasingly, engaging with the 'politics of provenance' and the biographies of collections and collectors. Objects have been decontextualized from both the places and the intangible cultural heritage that give them depth. We believe that there is tremendous potential for international dialogue that create connections and partnerships between museums and between museums and communities. The first, necessary, activity to achieve this goal is the mapping of collections and the construction of effective communication through the establishment of inclusive networks. The support of the Embassy of Finland has enabled this important work to be started in collaboration with museums in Finland.







Finland has a unique historical relationship with Namibia. Namibia is a strongly Christian country today (with over 90% of the population describing themselves as Christians). However, when Finnish missionaries first arrived in northern Namibia, there was considerable resistance to the introduction of a new religion with new beliefs and rituals. By 1900, after thirty years of mission work, the Christian community in northern Namibia numbered only 873. However, the church network, gradually spread and the missionaries introduced new forms of education and literacy and also a western health system, including the establishment of the first hospital at Onandjokwe). The Finnish missionary focus on northern Namibia means that Finnish museums predominantly have objects from this part of Namibia.

One of the legacies of the extensive Finnish involvement in northern Namibia is that several missionaries received gifts from local communities. However, missionaries also collected examples of local crafts and, specifically, obtained objects that were associated with previous belief systems, often from converts to Christianity. The collections included artifacts associated with ancestral leaders or for traditional medicine and rituals used by the namunganga (traditional healer). Such objects served as mobile exhibitions in Finland providing evidence of the success of the evangelical mission. The interaction between Finnish missionaries and local communities also left a significant cultural fingerprint. For example, many Christian converts adopted Finnish names whilst the missionaries also influenced the development of a new forms and fashions of clothing in northern Namibia.

The team contacted all the museums with significant Namibian collections before travelling and made appointments and, where possible, requested and obtained catalogue information and photographic images of the relevant artifacts. The objective of 'mapping' collections of Namibian ethnographic artifacts fits within the broader objectives of the 'Africa Accessioned' project which was initiated by the International Committee of Museums of Ethnography (ICME) in partnership with the SADC Heritage Association (SADCHA). Dr Silvester serves as the Chairperson of the 'Africa Accessioned' Working Group (with representatives from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Finland, Germany, Sweden and the UK). The visit, therefore, benefitted from the contacts and preliminary research that had been conducted by the Africa Accessioned project to identify and contact relevant museums in Finland.



Initial research indicated that the most significant collections of Namibia artifacts were those donated by two influential Finnish missionaries, Martti Rautanen and Emil Liljeblad. Rautanen's ethnographic collections was donated to the Museum of Culture (National Museum of Finland). The most numerous collection of objects donated by Finnish Missionaries was held in the museum of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM). The museum was opened in 1931, but renamed 'KumbuKumbu' in 2009 when the exhibition was given a new look. Unfortunately the museum closed in 2014 and its entire collection is now in storage at the National Museum of Finland. The collection consists of approximately 1,500 objects. The collection includes not only historical items, but also more recent examples of craft work such as basketry, jewellery and carvings.

A second important collection that was prioritised by the team was that of Emil Liljeblad whose collection of objects was donated to the University of Oulu. The team were greatly assisted by the publication *Namibiana in Finland II* (Taskinen, 2004) that had identified seven museums with objects from Namibia. However, it was noted that many regional museums only had a handful of artifacts. For example, Kuopio Museum of Cultural History has four objects, Huittinen Museum has two objects and Hämeenlinna Historical Museum has nine objects from 'Africa' (probably all from Namibia).

The main emphasis was, therefore, placed on the collections in Helsinki and Oulu.

However, the team did split up at the end of the trip so that they could visit two smaller collections. The Museum of Tammisaari (Provincial Museum of Western Nyland) has 18 artifacts that had been donated by Karin Hirn who had worked as a nurse at Onandjokwe Hospital up to the 1930s. The second visit was to a collection at the Parish of Lammi.



The collection at Lammi had been donated by Hilma Rantilla. It consists of 42 ethnographic artifacts and 16 natural history specimens. The existence of this collection suggests that there may be other, scattered, artifacts in other small museums and venues around Finland. When the team visited the local museum in Oulu (the Northern Ostrobothnia Museum), for example, it was able to view three objects from Namibia held by the museum.

We believe that Finland can provide a good model for the development of new international relationships between museums. Dialogue about collections will have two threads. On the one hand communities may engage with museums about specific objects that they feel have particular sacred or political significance, such as the 'Power Stones' of the Ovambo kingdoms. The biography of objects such as this can create a new form of exhibition that engages with the politics of display and creates greater international, mutual, understanding.

The second form of engagement can be to use the objects of the collections to create greater awareness of the history of northern Namibia and the way in which cultural syncretism (where aspects of different cultures blend to create something new) or cultural practices were suppressed as a result of the Namibian-Finnish encounter and the ways in which this impacted on people in both Africa and Europe. Our report makes twenty-five recommendations which, we believe, will enable Finland and Namibia to use museums to strengthen our cultural connections to the mutual benefit of both countries.





# Changing History Travels

Tuuda Haitula



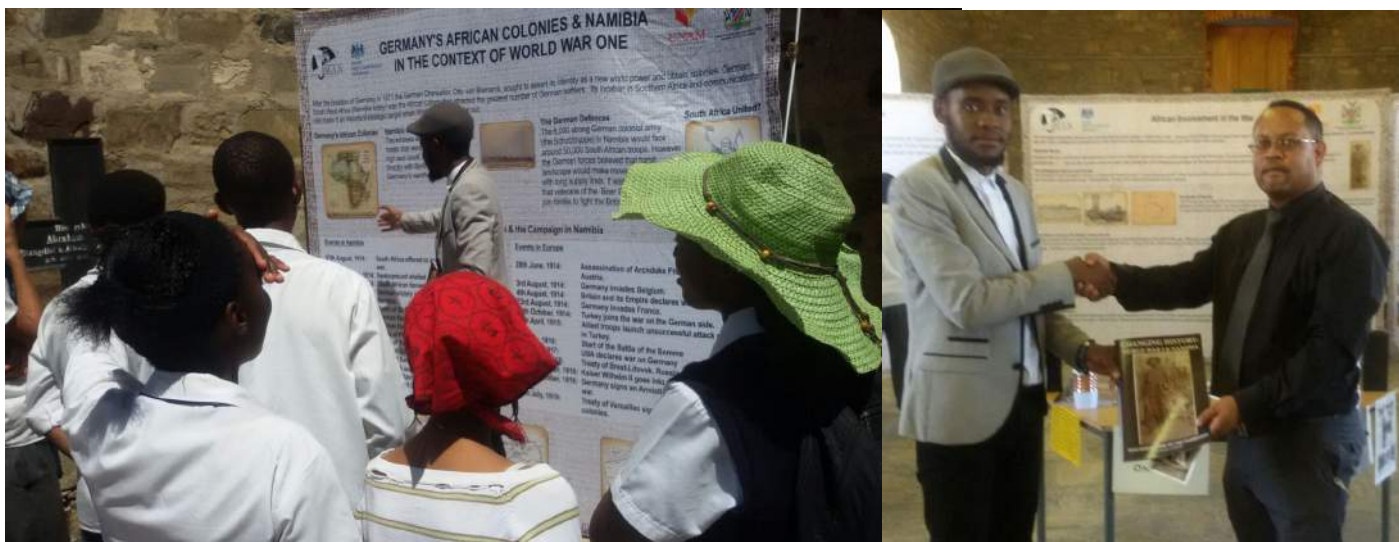
The purpose of this exhibition was to commemorate the end of the war on Namibian soil between Namibia, South Africa and Germany. A mobile exhibition was suitable for this exhibition so that it can be possible for the exhibition to travel around the country and have a greater audience from several regions look at it. The aim is for the exhibition to reach and educate as many Namibians as possible from all sectors and demographics whilst specifically targeting the youth.

With funding from the German embassy, the exhibition is expected to travel throughout the country. Keetmanshoop was just the starting point of these trips and all the schools in the regions are invited to go see the exhibition when it reaches their town. In Keetmanshoop, nine schools were invited to view the exhibition, four primary and six high schools, which was on display at the Keetmanshoop Museum. The school groups were guided by the UNAM History Society students who explained the exhibition to them. At the end of the guide of the exhibition and the museum, the school groups were further engaged in fun activities such as a quiz about the exhibition with prizes sponsored by the Museums Association of Namibia.





# to... Keetmanshoop



The official launch was held at Khorab in Otavi, this was the ideal place for the launch because that is where the German Schutztruppe surrendered to the South African troops, on 09 July 1915, exactly one hundred years ago. The place where the signing took place is well recognizable up to this day, because of the monument that is erected there.

The development of the exhibition was made possible by funding from the British High Commission in Namibia and the German Embassy made it possible for a teacher's guide book to be printed from the exhibition and for the exhibition to travel to Keetmanshoop. The teacher's guidebook will be donated to every school that visits the exhibition around the country.

The Museums Association of Namibia would therefore like to thank the British High Commission and the German Embassy for collaborating to make this mobile exhibition a success.



# Exhibition Development for

*Charmaine Tjizezenga*

## Black and White Exhibition Launch

The Museums Association of Namibia, together with the Finnish Embassy, launched the “Black and White” exhibition on the 8th October 2015 at Nakambale Museum and Rest Camp in Olukonda. The “Black and White” exhibition is a photographic exhibition featuring 32 photographs in Northern Namibia by early Finnish Missionaries. The oldest picture in the exhibition was taken in the 1893.

The exhibition provides a unique view of life in Northern Namibia at a time when most people had not yet converted to Christianity. The production of these photographs was funded by the Kumbukumbu Museum in Helsinki shortly before it closed down in 2014. The former President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E Hifikepunye Pohamba, officially launched the exhibition.

The Launch was attended by the Governor of the Oshikoto Region: Hon. Henock Kankoshi, Bishop V.V Nambala, Deputy Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare: Rev. Aino Kapewangolo, Councillor of Oshikoto region: Hon. Darius Shikongo Mbolondondo and the Ambassador of Finland: HE. Anne Saloranta. The launch was also attended by local residents and the traditional performance by the various groups was electric.



H.E Pohamba admiring his gift from M.A.N, a picture of King Kamonde and his wife together with a Finnish missionary's wife in the middle. The picture forms part of the “Black and White” exhibition at Nakambale Museum.



Zingona Cultural group performing at the welcoming ceremony





# Namibian Museums Perseveres

## Round Table

The Finnish Embassy in Namibia organised a round table meeting with all its FLC partners on the 27th to the 28th October 2015, the aim of the meeting was to increase awareness and knowledge of key governance tools and approaches that are required to build sustainable organizations.

Three staff members from the Museums Association of Namibia attended the meeting: Dr Jeremy Silvester, Ms Charmaine Tjizezenga and Ms Bertha Iindongo. The staff members engaged with other stakeholders, and shared experience. Topics discussed included: Good governance, innovation and best practice approaches, and managing transitions and funding changes.



FLC partners that attended the round table

## Upcoming Events

### Exhibition Retreat

MAN is organising a 10 day exhibition retreat with its members at Midgard Country Estate on the 23rd November to 3rd December 2015. The retreat will focus on planning and designing four mobile exhibitions, we aim at touring these exhibitions to different regions within Namibia and to other countries too. The mobile exhibitions that we are developing are: Migrant labour, Traditional Medicine, Baobab Tree and The 1094 Genocide

### Nama Exhibition

On the 24th March 2016, the Keetmanshoop Museum together with MAN, will launch a new exhibition in the Keetmanshoop Museum. The exhibition is themed: The Nama Culture. It will educate visitors about the Nama Culture and its history.

# CHANGING HISTORY: WORLD WAR I & NAMIBIA



**TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION**  
Dr Jeremy G Silvester



The mobile exhibition has been designed as an educational exhibition to compliment the Namibian school curriculum. The exhibition is particularly relevant for Grade 8 History students dealing with Theme 5 on the curriculum which covers the transition from German to South African rule in Namibia. The exhibition will enable groups of learners to be provided with a 'guided tour'. The Museums Association of Namibia is working with members of the History Society at the University of Namibia who will travel with the exhibition and provide the guided tour for learners.

The Teachers' Guide provides additional information and additional images to compliment that contained in the mobile exhibition panels themselves. The exhibition itself consists of five banner walls. Two additional sections of loose photographs are included which can be mounted on a wall or passed around. One of these sections consists of five questions that can be answered by learners after they have viewed the exhibition. The second section consists of three 'discussion points' that use images to encourage group discussion on three issues raised by the exhibition.

The Museums Association of Namibia is able to provide you with a soft copy of the guidebook if you email us at [museums@iway.na](mailto:museums@iway.na). The hardcopies of the handbook are available at the offices of the Museums Association of Namibia.



# Making an Impact

Jeremy Silvester & Tina Smith



Exhibition Planning & Design for Namibian Museums - May 2015



**This Handbook was developed following a workshop attended by members of the Museums Association of Namibia and has benefited from their experience and inputs.**

**The Handbook is intended to be practical and includes a ten step plan for developing an exhibition that can be adapted to your museum's needs, checklists to help you review your current progress and review your processes.**

**The Museums Association of Namibia is able to provide you with soft copies of any of the forms that you might require and would recommend that you customise them by adding the individual logo and, where necessary, contact details of your museum.**

**You can contact MAN at [museums@iway.na](mailto:museums@iway.na) for a softcopy version of the handbook. The hardcopies of the handbook are available at the offices of the Museums Association of Namibia.**

# MAN Gets Gold

## Tourism Expo 2015



*The Museums Association of Namibia took part in the annual 2015 Namibia Tourism Expo, which took place on 10-13 June 2015, at the Windhoek show grounds. The event was sponsored by NEDBANK, Old Mutual and Namibia Media Holdings (NMH). The theme of this year's expo was "Embracing Ecotourism". MAN did very well at the expo and improved their performance this year, having received a silver award in 2014 to receiving a gold award this year.*

### The Red Board

The display of the red board was a tool to encourage interaction with individuals, get a view of what people think heroes are, who and why they should be granted heroine status. The concept behind this board was to interest people to talk about their society icons, people from their communities whom they thought were outstanding and are contributing to the community in a positive way, the activities that they are involved in and why they should be recognized as heroes.

### These are some of the 'Forgotten Heroes' that people mentioned:

- Job Amupanda:** Job Shipululo Amupanda is a Namibian politician and Land activist who formed a movement called Affirmative Repositioning. He mobilised thousands of young people who turned up at the City of Windhoek's head office in Windhoek. Amupanda studied at the University of Namibia where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and served as the President of the Students' Council where he gained popularity during his tenure. He completed his Masters at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He is currently busy with his Philosophy degree.
- Pastor C. Christiaan - A.M.C Church, Keetmanshoop:** Pastor Christiaans was a teacher at the first Christian church school in Keetmanshoop. He was one of the many pastors who played a role during the struggle for independence in the Southern part of Namibia.
- Hidinihamba Haitamba:** Haitamba is an entrepreneur doing odd jobs around Windhoek for procurement purposes in various companies, NGO's and the government.
- Dr. Abisai Shejavali:** Dr Shejavali is a reverend in the Lutheran Church and was a General Secretary of the CCN just before independence. His work included receiving Namibians returning from Exile.
- Anna "Kakurukaze" Mungunda (1932-1959):** Mungunda was a Herero woman who demonstrated her bravery and heroism by setting alight the car of De Wet who was the superintendant of the Windhoek Old Location. She was shot on the spot and killed by the South African apartheid repressive police during the Old Location uprising in Windhoek on the 10 December 1959.
- Kapepo:** A well known young man in the informal settlements of Windhoek. Kapepo is dedicated to helping young orphaned children. He runs an orphanage and is involved in charity.
- Rosa Namises:** A lady that is devoted to taking care of children and runs an orphanage in Katutura.



## MAN Survey

The Museums Association of Namibia (M.A.N) at the 2015 tourism expo conducted a survey to find out what type of museums would interest people, and their general expectation of a museum. The purpose of doing this survey is to curb the general impression that people have about museums, which is the usual Historic, Cultural and Heritage museums that they are already familiar with or have already visited. From the individuals that visited the stall, a total number of 183 people participated in the survey. The survey was made up of ten museum choices and every participant was expected to pick three choices.

The following choices were offered:

1.Namibian Music Museum, 2.Sports Museum, 3.Interactive Science Museum, 4.Social Media Museum, 5.Museum of Broken Relationships, 6.Namibian Language Museum, 7.Namibian Fashion Museum, 8.Museums of Birds, 9.Museum on Namibian Food, 10.Children's Museum

Amongst the ten choices the three most popular were the Namibian Language Museum, the Museum on Namibian Food and the Namibian Music Museum. The Museum on Namibian Food was the most popular with a number of 34 people who were in favour of it. This was followed by the Namibian Music Museum which had 27 votes and the Namibian Language Museum with 27 votes.

Museum on Namibian Food – 19%

Namibian Music Museum – 15%

Namibian Language Museum – 14%

Other choices that visitors suggested were:

1.Museum of Indigenous Languages

2.A Stamps museum

3.Our Forgotten Heroes



## 2015 Tourism Expo Quiz

Annually during the expo MAN runs a competition, where individuals visiting their stall participate in a quiz and stand a chance to win a prize at the end of the expo.

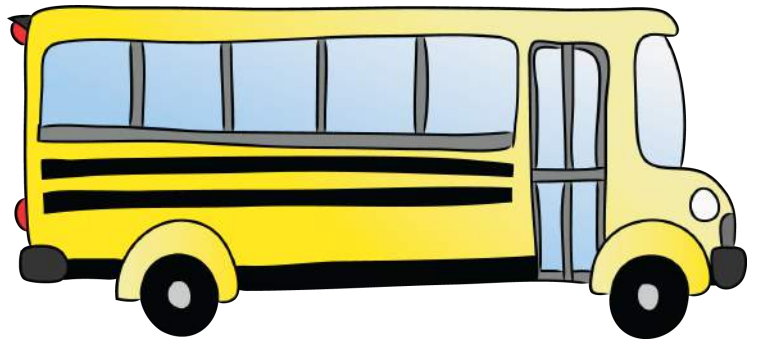
For this years' competition MAN collaborated with NACSO and Mbiri skin care products and they had a hamper filled with MAN memorabilia, Mbiri products and NACSO goodies that would be up for grabs at the end of the competition. They came up with a short quiz with 3 questions for each organisation, so whoever was interested in taking part in the completion would have to visit all three stalls in order to get the information needed to complete the quiz.

## Museums of Broken Relationships

The museum of broken relationships is a museum in Zagreb, Croatia, dedicated to failed love relationships. Its exhibits include personal objects left over from former lovers, accompanied by brief descriptions. The purpose of displaying this museum was to inform people that there are different types of museums that one can find; it was also a tool to encourage interaction with the people that visited the stall. The purpose of displaying this museum at the stall was to find out peoples' perceptions on museums, and to find out if they would perhaps be interested in visiting a different type of useums as opposed to the typical historical, cultural and traditional museums that one can find.

# Ombombo Mobile Classroom

## EduVentures Goes Mobile!



*Benson Muramba*

For the last few years EduVentures an educational program for the national museum with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the Solidarity International (SODI), Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and United Nations Small Grant Programme (UNDP/ SGP) has been planning a new approach that is financially sustainable and can target a lot of schools where the service is needed. This approach comprises a mobile environmental education program, referred to as “Ombombo” (Butterfly in Otjiherero) Mobile Classroom. This is basically a mobile rural awareness raising environmental education programme tailored to educate the Namibian youth on specific environmental issues, in the face of increasing environmental concerns such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

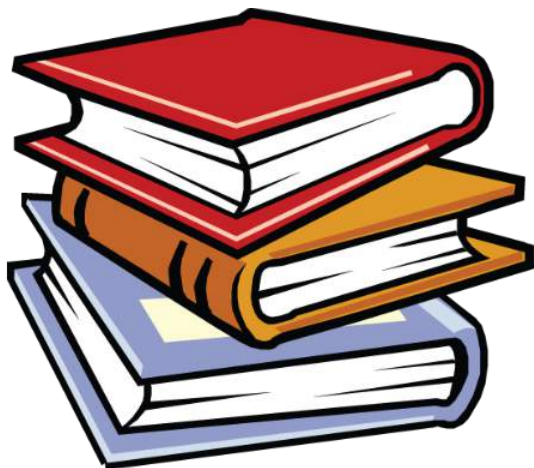
The classroom is equipped with material and apparatus to cover a variety of topics and educating learners from Grades 8 to 12 in rural schools on environmental issues. Under professional guidance, a group of 18 - 20 learners participate in a variety of practical and fun activities to help them understand Namibia’s environmental concerns. The selected participants will be taught in the mobile classroom for a period of five days and afterward establish environmental clubs at all the schools that will be monitored by Eduventures. A curriculum that aimed at supplementing the Namibian Education system with hands on learning on theoretical topics covered in school curriculum was developed and approved by NIED. The curriculum covers four modules namely Biodiversity, Climate Change, Heritage and Sustainability.

Our main targets are rural schools learners because we feel they are the most vulnerable to climate change and need to be prepared for the challenges.

Namibia has a variable climate and is dependent on its natural resources; therefore we need to take care of our environment. This programme will be beneficial to not only the youth but also the community, teachers as well as environmental officers at large.

Although other mobile environmental education projects exist around the world, the Namibian mobile environmental education project referred to as Ombombo Mobile Classroom is the first in Southern Africa.





# Youth Review:

## National Archives of Namibia

Emilia Nembia

I am carrying out my internship with the Museums Association of Namibia. I was assigned a task to write a review about the National Archives of Namibia.

In short, it is an institution that offers historical information and photos. The National Archives maintains the institutional memory of government ministries, offices and agencies.

They collect and preserve Namibian history and the heritage documents which are not yet published; and supporting education and research by providing access to these available resources. The archive collects different records on different histories such as churches, literature from Namibian history, films and videos.

There are photo collections and mainly used by academics for research, by the tourism industry to illustrate brochures and decorate lodges for marketing purposes and by school children to make their projects grabbing readers attention.

I would recommend the use of the library to the youth as one of their source of learning especially to students willing to pursue their studies in history and other related courses to what the archives offer.

Studying rooms are offered where all the study material can be viewed and there is a professional advice available that can be used to find information on any history related research.





# Youth Review:

## Heritage Week 2015

*Albertina Kalutenda*

I conducted an interview with Mrs Beverley van Wyk from the National Heritage Council of Namibia's Marketing department. The National Heritage Council (NHC) was responsible in organizing the Heritage Week that took place in September 2015.

Mrs van Wyk informed me that the main challenge faced by NHC was with marketing. The NHC did not have a dedicated budget for Heritage Week from one source so made it difficult for them to market the week successfully. As a team they had to rely on each institution allocating a budget for their activities and marketing their activities individually.

The NHC played their part in marketing through social media, television and radio. They also received sponsorship from Base FM and NBC National Radio so they did not have to pay for airtime. NBC also availed them an interview on Good Morning Namibia for free.

The NHC did what they could with the resources available but I suggest that the next organizers of Heritage Week try harder to make or keep the nation aware of this week because most of the people were not well aware of the week.

I recommend that they keep advertising using posters and billboards in highways area as well frequent radio advertisements to keep local people aware of the activities that are going to take place during the week. In my opinion, NHC was not well prepared for the week because only three activities that took place in Windhoek.



# Opinion Piece:



*Hilma Kapuka*

In her keynote address at the American Alliance of Museums 2015 Annual Meeting and Museum Expo National Museum of African Art Director Johnnetta Betsch Cole said, “If we are to be relevant and stay artistically and financially viable, we must rethink what takes place in our museums, to whom our museums belong, and who have the privilege of telling important stories through the power of science, history, culture and art”. The call for museums to rethink their role falls under the broad concept of new museology. In its most basic meaning, the concept implies new museum practices. The concept changes the definition of a museum as we know it, and transform museums from places of exhibiting objects of interests, to a processes of knowledge production. In this new space, museums are centres of education, research, and discovery, and where and digital technologies has transformed museums into hands-on institutions.

Such a shift has changed the focus of the museums operations. Firstly, museums not only strive to understand their audiences’ interests and motivations, but also attract more people to come to museums. Secondly, museums are known for being historical institutions that memorialize historic events and bear witnesses to political and social change. However this status quo is being challenged, in a positive manner, for museums to focus on contemporary social issues. Museums, not only exhibit their collections, but also use them to challenge, and inform the present, and inspire the future. Museums are extending their operations to becoming institutions where interactive public programme predominate museum’s functions. The transformation has ultimately changed the relationship between museums and the public. Some museums allow the public to have curatorial voices and even decide on preferred programmes, and thus making museums powerful community assets. The transformation also allows museums to use such influence to teach respect for cultural differences and foster community cohesion and sustainability.

The changing of conventional museum is a move that Namibian museums could embrace. Although faced with funding challenges, Namibian museums, could experiment to such a transitions, by tapping on local low cost resources to enliven these esteemed institutions. One strategy is to uphold the social value of museums in society. Taking on such a role is very crucial for Namibia today, given the high crime rate, high unemployment rates, high gender based violence. Museums provide an ideal place for learning as they can use their collections and displays as point of reference to teach about Museums can use their exhibitions to teach about values of self-sufficiency, perseverance, innovation and Excellency.



# Making Museums Engagement Hubs

Namibian museum could design youth programmes as a new approach and pathway for youth education, one which enable young people to become "creative thinkers" and "social change-makers." The programme should explore unique youth talents, or which allow the youth to think creatively, and above all uses basic education to restructure their communities. The youth programmes should be designed to equip to young people to learn about traditional skills as inspiration to design new technologies that would better livelihood in their communities and enhance self-sustenance. Such programs not only create the much needed interaction platform between the young and the old generations, but also creating a new audience for the museum. Youth programmes not only make young people see themselves as an integral part of the museum, but also take ownership of museums, contribute to curatorial decisions and develop new and diverse ways of sharing knowledge.

The youth programmes should be built on partnership between other museums, universities, libraries, government bodies, visitors, sponsors, and communities, all working towards making museums more resilient and sustainable. Also, a synergy of institutions is necessary as it ensures understanding at every level of development and implementation. A combined approach of talks, workshops, partner collaborations, networks, and conferences is necessary for sharing of ideas and to collectively address challenges.

In conclusion, Namibian museums should aim to shift toward becoming agents of social change, by revitalizing communities in which they are built, and serving as mediums for dialogue around the challenging issues of our time. Museums should not just be "witnesses to history", but also a voice and a force in shaping the social future.



# MAN Gives Input: Namibia's Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy

Jeremy Silvester

MAN submitted a six page document following discussions at the Annual General Meeting. MAN felt that the initial draft was a good working document, but that it placed more emphasis on the arts and did not clearly articulate the important role of museums in society. The submission started by reviewing the role that assigned to MAN in 2001 document Unity, Identity and Creativity for Prosperity that states:

*"The Museums Association of Namibia will be strengthened to facilitate the establishment of heritage institutions at regional and local level and to support such institutions by providing guidance, assistance and expertise where necessary and possible." (Para. 57).*

MAN felt that new policy provided an opportunity to present a vision of the role that museums can play in communities and establish a transformative agenda for the museum sector. We felt that it was important that the outline of this vision could start with the addition of definitions of a 'Museum', 'Cultural Village' and 'Living Museum' to the glossary.

We argued that the Namibian vision for museums could be summarized as follows: Museums are, traditionally, the guardians of artifacts that represent our cultural heritage and specimens of natural history. Museums hold objects that are important to a particular community or to the nation. However, museums are no longer perceived as only storage centres for collections. Internationally, museums are transforming to play a far greater role in engaging with communities and operating as educational resources.

Museums in Namibia should also evolve. Namibian museums still have an important role to preserve moveable heritage objects. However, museums should be dynamic spaces with programmes of educational activities and regular changes in their displays. Museums should also strive to be inclusive. Museum displays should be multi-vocal to reflect different perspectives and showcase Namibia's rich cultural diversity.

MAN argues that the policy's vision of the role of museums in society should be followed by a section with specific strategic interventions. We believed that the policy provides a great opportunity to clearly define the roles of the different institutions working in the museum sector within a section that should be labelled 'Tangible Heritage: Moveable Heritage Objects'.





## **The four additions recommended by MAN were:**

- 1) The National Museum of Namibia and National Archives of Namibia will be empowered as specialist units for the conservation of Namibia's material and documentary heritage. Special provision will be made at the National Archives of Namibia for the conservation of visual images.
- 2) The National Museum of Namibia will be supported to serve as the focal point for research on Namibia's material culture. The National Museum of Namibia will work in collaboration with relevant institutions of higher education.
- 3) The Museums Association of Namibia will be assisted to support regional museum development in Namibia through training, support for new community-based museum projects and other museum initiatives, the revision of existing exhibitions and design of new exhibitions. The Museums Association of Namibia will serve as the representative body for museums and museum workers in Namibia.
- 4) Regional and national stakeholders will be consulted to develop and co-ordinate a national plan for the development of one project in each of the 14 regions that will highlight a unique aspect of Namibia's arts, culture and heritage.

The Museums Association of Namibia does not support the development of Regional Multi-purpose Centres (each including a museum) as suggested in the draft policy. We believe that regional museums are best located at a site of cultural/natural significance and where the local community is involved and committed. We believe strongly in a decentralized concept of regional museums and that it is important that such projects are driven by local communities with the role of the Ministry and other national bodies, such as MAN, to provide support and training.

The proposal for a 'regional museum' in every region was included in NDP 2 and the proposal for a 'cultural village' in every region in NDP 3. However, over the ten year period covered by these two plans these goals were not achieved. We believe that this is because it is important that museums are built on foundations that are based on local initiatives and local attractions.

MAN does support the development of one heritage site or museum in each region that highlights a unique feature of the natural and cultural heritage of that region. However, we believe that it is important that a national plan should be drawn up following a national conference of regional stakeholders at which a shortlist of different options for each region can be presented and discussed. Each region would then obtain investment in one museum or heritage site that has been developed to international standards as a place that can promote both education and tourism.

# The Curator's Toolkit:

*Dr Jeremy Silvester*

There is a danger, in Namibia, that, sometimes, museums are seen as silent sites where curators serve as caretakers dusting exhibits that have not changed for years (if not decades). One way for museum workers to challenge this misleading stereotype of museums is to develop and announce an exciting calendar of events at the start of the year. The programme will provide an opportunity to lure the local community into the museum and to attract different audiences with different interests.

*We would like to challenge MAN's Member Museums to plan a programme with SIX unique events that will take place over the twelve months, January to December, for 2016. When you have the dates for your programme fixed send a copy to us and we will advertise it through MAN's website and facebook page.*

## Four Things to Remember with Public Programming

When preparing a programme of events it is important to:

- 1) Stay focused:** Organise events that relate to, and reinforce, the core mission and focus of your museum. For example, the TransNamib Museum might organise a reunion of former train drivers. Remember it is better to organise a few well attended and successful events than to cram your diary with dozens of events that fail to attract any visitors.
- 2) Build partnerships:** Events provide a great opportunity to create partnerships with local organisations and businesses. For example, a municipal museum might link up with a local business to create an exhibition or event to mark the 50th anniversary of their operation in the town.
- 3) Be Imaginative:** It is important to think outside the box. Is there an event that you can organise at your museum that would be unique? For example, perhaps you could organise a talk about an object that is only found in your museum or a plant or heritage site that is only found in your region.
- 4) Market the Programme:** At times museums spend a lot of time, money and energy organising special events, but neglect to market. If you have followed the guidelines set out in MAN's Handbook on Marketing Museums you should already have a contact list of tour operators, schools and other stakeholders who are likely to visit your museum. You can use this list to carry out targeted marketing to ensure that you have a good number of visitors to your events.

*Effective public programming can raise the profile of a museum, both locally and nationally. It can also increase visitor numbers and help you to build stronger working relationships with local schools, businesses and the community. A good programme of events can increase visitor numbers and give the museum curator increased job satisfaction! Please contact MAN if you would like help in drafting a public programme for your museum.*



# Public Programming in Namibian Museums

## Five Public Programming Ideas

**1) International and National Days.** The United Nations currently lists 128 days (or weeks) that are used to draw attention to particular issues. Several of these are already celebrated nationally in Namibia. Here are a few suggestions that might give you some ideas for events for your museum in 2016:

*World Wetlands Day (2nd February)*  
*International Mother Language Day (21st February)*  
*World Wildlife Day (3rd March)*  
*International Womens Day (8th March)*  
*World Water Day (22nd March)*  
*World Malaria Day (25th April)*  
*International Day for Biodiversity (22nd May)*  
*Africa Day (25th May)*  
*World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17th June)*  
*International Albinism Awareness Day (26th June)*  
*World Breastfeeding Week (1st-7th September)*  
*International Literacy Day (8th September)*  
*World Tourism Day (27th September)*  
*World Food Day (16th October)*  
*World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (20th November)*  
*World AIDS Day (1st December)*  
*Human Rights Day (10th December)*

Museums might also think of events that coincide with national events, such as Namibian Heritage Week (provisionally 19th-25th September, 2016) or Independence Day (21st March). One advantage of international days is that the UN organisations often create posters and materials that can be downloaded and printed from the internet to help you create a small exhibition.

**2) Temporary Exhibitions:** A museum can organise a temporary exhibition. If you do not have space you could look at an alternative venue, such as a shopping centre. MAN will have a number of mobile exhibitions available for loan in 2016, but you could also think of displaying the work of a local artist or work from local schools. Why not even start an annual art competition for your town?

**3) Film Shows and Public Talks:** MAN has established a small collection of films about Namibia that are available on loan or museums might also invite a speaker. For example, the Namibia Scientific Society runs a very successful programme of public talks making recent research on issues (ranging from Namibia's spectacular underwater lakes to the power stones of the Ovambo kingdoms) available to the general public.

**4) Educational Events with Local Schools:** Museums can cement their role as important educational resources by organizing educational workshops with teachers from their local schools. MAN has produced a draft Handbook on Museum Education for Namibian Museums that provides tips on possible activities. Learners can be inspired by the opportunity to touch or draw cultural, historical and natural objects. Of course, we must preserve our collections, but some museums build up 'educational collections' of items which can be handled.

**5) Fun and Fund-raising Events:** Programming can include fun activities that help make the museum a focal point for the community. Some museums have an annual fund-raising braai, an auction, or a 'Night at the Museum' with musical performances.

