



L to R: Rooksana Omar, CEO (Designate); Omar Badsha; Marilyn Martin; Dr Somadoda Fikeni; Adv Brenda Madumise (Chairperson); Ayanda Wakaba; Prof Pearl Sithole and Prof HC (Jatti) Bredekamp, CEO (Ex Officio).

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Iziko welcomes new Council

The fourth council of Iziko Museums was inaugurated at a joint ceremony in Pretoria with the council of the other flagship institution, Ditsong, on 16 July, by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms. Lulama Xingwana. During the inaugural speech, the Minister expressed her gratitude to the council members for accepting the challenge and for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

Museums wield the potential to serve as platforms from which cultural exchange, awareness and enrichment can be facilitated in order to promote tolerance and understanding.

The impact of the global economic crisis has impacted the availability of resources worldwide. The minister implored council members to exercise their oversight role "without fear or favour" and emphasised the need and importance of finding creative ways in which to operate. She reiterated President Zuma's State of the Nation sentiment, that we should all work "faster, harder and smarter".

The new Iziko council members were welcomed by the CEO, Prof. HC (Jatti) Bredekamp, the CEO Designate, Ms. Rooksana Omar and introduced to the senior management team at the first council meeting, held on 13 August at Iziko Rust en Vreugd.

Iziko staff members were presented with the names and a photo of our new council at a staff meeting held on Friday, 20 August. A profile of all the council members will appear in the next issue of *e-news*.

- Melody Kleinsmith, Communications Coordinator, IA

Editorial

Women's Month saw a flourish of feminine activity at Iziko - from the attractive mugs given to our women as gifts; our CEO Designate welcoming women to Iziko Museums on Saturday, 7 August; to the inaugural meeting of our new Council - the chairperson of which is also a woman. Read more about the new Iziko council, meet new staff in old posts and old staff in new posts. Keep up to date with the Social History department's move to their new building and the *Hearth of our Heritage* campaign. Even though the CEO is leaving us soon, he is not slowing down - keep up with his busy schedule in the CEO's diary.

September marks the beginning of spring, book the 20-26 September for Heritage Week. Cape Town is going to be jumping!

Spring has almost sprung, time to dust off those tackies staring reproachfully at you from the bottom of your cupboard, start jogging and prepare your beach body - it's going to be hot!

- The *e-news* editorial team

It's that time of the year again! Remember to come dressed for laughs this **Casual Day - Friday, 3 September**. Tickets will be on sale from your department's AA at R10 each.

Usuku lokubhiyozela imini yoomama lukhunjulwe ngesizotho

Iziko's department of Education and Public Programmes, in close collaboration with Great Women International, commemorated National Women's Day on Saturday, 7 August. We reflected on the long journey that South African women have traveled - women who took it upon themselves, at the height of apartheid in the 1950s, to speak out against injustices.

History reminds us that it was this courage that soon recaptured the urgency of our political zeitgeist and injected new energy into the veins of South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle. Whilst we paid tribute to Helen Joseph; Lilian Ngoyi; Rahima Moosa; Sophy Williams and many other women whose selfless sacrifice is enshrined in the country's collective memory; we asked ourselves the question *what is the role of heritage and business institutions in creating a conducive environment for women empowerment in today's world?*

The event was attended by researchers, business agencies, academics and ordinary citizens who brought 'life' and ambiance into our spaces. It became quite apparent to me

that the key to our success as heritage institutions lies heavily in how we maintain and sustain our symbiotic relationship between ourselves (heritage institutions) and broader community in which we are located. This is perhaps the secret ingredient that will help us find relevancy within society's different needs.

Wathint' abafazi wathint' iimbokodo...

- Wandile Goozen Kasibe, Public Programmes Coordinator, EPP



L to R: Lelemba Aphiri (Sandra's & Lelemba's Finance Institute); Puleng Mpokotho (Great Women International); Rooksana Omar; Dr Wayne Alexander and Dr Amrita Pande (UCT).

EPP celebrates remarkable senior women

Iziko's Education and Public Programmes Department invited seniors to a special Women's Day programme held at the Castle of Good Hope on Wednesday, 11 August. Seniors from the Sanctuary Ministries, Efese Senior Group, the Christian Assembly and the Ravensmead community were treated to a tour of the Castle of Good Hope, as well as a visit to the *Ghoema & Glitter: New Year Carnival in Cape Town* exhibition. This programme aimed to highlight the role of women in society and the importance of preserving all cultural traditions.

The women also had the opportunity to create their own rhythms in a music session, intended to develop a sense of 'human interconnectedness' and to serve as a reminder of women's powerful role in society.

The programme recognised the bravery of those who protested against the pass laws in 1956 and honoured the women who continue to serve as role models in our society today. These women are actively involved in community work; running soup kitchens for the poor, HIV and Aids counseling and facilitating youth programmes in the Ravensmead community.

An enjoyable time was had by all and many of the women described the day as *magical, fun and a meaningful learning experience*.

- Olga Hendricks, Senior Social History Educator, EPP



Ravensmead community members sway to the beat of their own drumming.



Dazzled by the Ghoema & Glitter exhibition.

CEO's Diary: September-October 2010

30 Aug-3 Sept	Annual leave
16 Sept	Official opening of Iziko's Social History Centre, by the Minister of Arts and Culture
20-22 Sept	ICOM International Committee of Literary Museums' workshop on "International Museums Day 2011: Museums and Memory," Berlin, Germany
27-30 Sept	"Museums in Action" SAMA Conference, Durban

Staff News

New Appointments

Annette Loubser

- Senior Museum Educator (EPP)

Sindile Rubushe

- Fundraising Coordinator (IA)



Sindile Rubushe

Learners help Iziko go green

Seven third year Environmental Management learners from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology have joined Iziko's Education and Public Programmes department. Mphumzi Biyana; Zintle Malla; Jason Spannenberg; Neziswa Veyi; Zizo Bulana; Zikhona Baba and Neziswa Veyi are engaged in an in-service training program which commenced in July and will run until December.

Their main task will be to develop guidelines and procedures for Iziko, specifically the South African Museum, to minimise the site's negative impact on the environment.

Please could you welcome the learners and offer support with their efforts to collect the data required from each department for a variety of practices, such as electricity and water usage and recycling, etc.

The learners are based in Mindspace with Lucy Williams, should you wish to contact or offer them your assistance. Queries or comments regarding this project can be directed to Lisa Combrink on 021 481 3952.

- Lisa Combrink, Senior Educator for Natural History, EPP



L to R: Mphumzi Biyana, Zintle Malla and Jason Spannenberg.



L to R: Zizo Bulana; Neziswa Veyi; Zukisa Dlaku and Zikhona Baba.

Iziko Star



Marcia Marais

I would like to nominate Marcia Marais as the August Iziko star, in fact, superstar! Marcia is truly a loyal, dedicated and committed Iziko member. I am always amazed at the way she is able to focus and prioritise her tasks. She ensures that both the *e-news* and the *What's On* are designed,

proofread and produced on time, every time. Marcia is also responsible for assisting to ensure that the Annual Report is produced and presented to Parliament by the deadline. This is no mean feat and involves more than one party, including the auditors! She often works long hours to ensure all her deliverables are met, and this while studying for her Masters degree.

Marcia's quiet strength and unexpected, wicked humour makes her an integral part of the IA team. She is truly an asset, not only to IA but to Iziko Museums.

- Merle Falken, Manager: Marketing and Communications, IA

Herzlich Willkommen, Julia!

Iziko draws its vibrancy from more than our wealth of collections. Ours is an organisation made up of dynamic and interesting individuals. Volunteers and interns often join us from all corners of South Africa, and on rare occasion we even welcome talent from abroad.

Julia Strysio is one such exciting addition to the Iziko family. All the way from Hamburg, Germany, she has already, in her short time here, brought invaluable creativity and enthusiasm to the IA department. Driven by her passion for contemporary art and with an education in Art History and International Marketing, Julia has also traveled to Poland and America. She will be volunteering at Iziko until the end of October, during which time she hopes to learn as much as possible about contemporary African art as well as South African history.

We hope that while she is here she will also *fall in love* - with our city, our people and of course, our *museums!*

- Zyaan Davids, Media Officer, IA



Julia makes some feathered friends in the Company's Garden.

Digitising our scientific heritage

The Iziko South African Museum Library, together with publisher, Taylor and Francis, embarked on a digitising project of the journal, *Transactions of the South African Philosophical Society*. Covering volumes 1-18, the journal was digitised in its entirety between May and July 2010.

The Cape Town-based South African Philosophical Society, founded in 1877 with the objective of promoting original research about South Africa, published the journal from 1878. Since 1908 - with the inception of the Royal Society of South Africa as the successor of the Philosophical Society - the impressive *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa* has appeared regularly, showcasing the best significant original research from the sub-continent and adding to the body of knowledge. After 100 years of continuous publication, this journal represents a history of science in South Africa.

I was amazed by the speed at which the journal was digitised. A win-win situation from the outset, Iziko is now the only institution in the country with a complete set of the journal. We see this as a platform Iziko Libraries could

build upon for the future survival of rare library collections that risk deteriorating daily upon their shelves. Importantly, a professional relationship with a large publishing house was established and with their help we were able to digitise an entire journal collection for the benefit of everyone in the South African scientific and heritage sectors - at no cost to Iziko.

Libraries and archives that serve the museum and heritage sector have a solemn responsibility to preserve the cultural record. What these institutions do (or fail to do) will have an impact not only on society, but will adversely affect the 'publication cycle', in which converting and preserving scholarly materials may be regarded as the final steps.

Taylor and Francis has generously granted Iziko Museums indefinite electronic access to the digital content of the journal, which can be found at: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t921956030~db=all>

- Sadeck Casoojee, Natural History Librarian

Iziko scientist on the loose in Europe

In the name of science Simon van Noort unfortunately missed the "gees" of the World Cup, but had the pleasure of riling the Europeans on their home turf. A month-long trip combined research visits to the Natural History Museums in London and Vienna and attendance of the 7th International Congress of Hymenopterists, held in Hungary. He presented two papers on his recent research on African wasps. The trip was funded by an external National Research Foundation grant.

Simon detailed his rediscovery of a tiny, bizarre wasp that is a parasitoid of spider eggs in the inter-tidal zone. This wasp is known from a single locality on the Cape Peninsula and cannot be found anywhere else in the world - a special South African species and one of a handful of insects that manage to live in the marine environment.

He is currently spearheading the production of a book on the African and Madagascan wasps, bees and ants, which will see the comprehensive coverage of 65 families, incorporating 2000 genera and 18,374 described species (see www.waspweb.org).

Simon estimates that we still need to collect and describe another 100,000 species of wasps from Africa. Willing volunteers to help with this daunting task are more than welcome!

His museum visits focused on photographically documenting type specimens of African wasp species. Many of our scientific types are housed in European Museums; a result of biological exploration of Africa during the 19th and 20th centuries by European entomologists. Collected specimens were taken back to Europe, new species described and the type specimens deposited there. Simon imaged 300 specimens comprising 1600 photographs that will be made universally accessible on WaspWeb, which now comprises over 10,000 pages, providing a unique resource to wasps of Africa.

Read more about the maritime wasp at: [http://www.figweb.org/Research/Laboratories/van_Noort/pdfs/Maritime_platygastrid_3\(40\)skaphion_05October2009.pdf](http://www.figweb.org/Research/Laboratories/van_Noort/pdfs/Maritime_platygastrid_3(40)skaphion_05October2009.pdf).



Natural History Museum, London



Natural History Museum, Vienna



Simon van Noort imaging types at the Natural History Museum in London.



One of the thousands of unnamed species of African wasps.

Familiar face in an exciting new role

The Human Resources department is delighted to welcome Nomthandazo "Thandi" Mkonjiswa to its department. Iziko members may know Thandi as the previous safeguard to the executive office in her role as PA to Executive Director and CEO (Designate). But it is her new role as Workplace Relations Coordinator that has Thandi excited.

Having obtained a diploma from Varsity College in Human Resources Management and worked as HR Assistant for Young Designers Emporium, she is well-equipped to handle the challenges of Iziko. Thandi's responsibilities include learning and development; career planning; mentorship; performance management; employment equity; health and wellness and labour relations.

Thandi is a people's person, with a bright smile and infectious laugh, and appreciates "meaningful conversations and constructive criticism". "I disrespect people that forget where they come from once they have reached the top", she says emphatically. Her personal motto is: "I would like to earn my success based on service to others, not at the expense of others".

Thandi's ambition is also illustrated in her ability to speak five languages fluently, also a sign of her thirst for knowledge. "I'm very inquisitive, I always want to know *why*", she says.

In her spare time Thandi says she loves playing the guitar, "although it's been a long time", reading and yoga.

Welcome Thandi, we look forward to engaging with you with regards to our learning and development requirements.

- Leon Jamarie, Assistant Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator, IA



Thandi looks forward to new challenges at Iziko.

Iziko Social History Centre update

During the last few months Social History Collections and Conservation staff has once again been shifted into 'move mode' - a task the team knows very well by now and one which they perform with precision. The interim storage space in the basement of the South African Museum has been cleared out and collections of ceramics; glass; historical archaeology; maritime objects; architectural fragments; tools and many more, were moved to various storerooms at the newly refurbished and renovated Social History Centre, located on Church Square.

It is of historical significance that the collections from the African Studies department in the South African Museum were also moved, to be physically united with the rest of the Social History collections and to be integrated where feasible. These collections were separated in the 1960s, when most of the colonial history collections in the South African Museum were transferred to what was then known as the South African Cultural History Museum. By reuniting the collections in the new building, the artificial separation of these collections - the cause of which is historically rooted in the Apartheid era - has once and for all been eradicated.

Another highlight has been the installation of new signage at the Social History Centre. The building's new name was painted on the big wall which faces upwards into Plein Street. The installation was executed by sub-contractors using rope access from the sixth floor balcony. A stencil outlining the signage artwork was first used to plot the way. The building's name, the Iziko logo and accompanying design were then hand-painted onto the wall, thus identifying the site as an Iziko Social History space. Signage was also installed at the back of the building in Plein Street, providing information about the resources available at the centre and also making reference to Art and Natural History collections at Iziko.

The main contractor is still on site to attend to a number of minor issues and finishing touches, including the installation of signage on some of the new glass panels on the Church Square façade.

We also welcomed our first interest group, the Historical Society of Cape Town, for a guided tour of the building on Saturday 17 July.

We wish to thank everyone at Iziko who has helped and supported us during our various moves, as well as those who endured parking challenges and other inconvenience. the future holds for this courageous woman!

- Esther Esmiyol, Curator: Social History Collections



Sub-contractors scale the ISHC building to complete signage installation.

Celebrating

2010 THE HEARTH OF OUR HERITAGE



So far 2010 has been a very exciting period for all South Africans. People from different parts of the world have descended upon us in their droves, to celebrate the biggest event on this year's international sports calendar. At Iziko Museums of Cape Town we will continue celebrating our diverse cultural, social and natural heritage during the remainder of 2010.

Almost a full decade after Iziko was established, amalgamating 12 national museums under its governance and leadership, the unfolding narrative of Iziko's vision of African Museums of excellence reach a new highpoint in 2010. Continuing in the spirit of national pride that was built during 2010, we invite you all to encourage your family, friends, associates and acquaintances to join us as we keep brandishing the Iziko flame high, with our outstanding array of exhibitions currently on display at our various locales.

As leaders in the heritage sector we aspire to empower and inspire all people to celebrate and respect our diverse heritage. We are proud to ignite connections between our shared history, our heritage, and each other. So, let's spread the news to everyone, especially our learners and educators, that they are always welcome to come and see things differently.

Keep a look-out, as we will be launching a fresh micro-site in cyberspace, which is currently under construction. For those who are curious, check out www.izikomuseums.com

Snapshot reminder of our key 2010 exhibitions:

Ghoema and Glitter: New Year Carnival in Cape Town is on display until 31 January 2011 at the Iziko Good Hope Gallery, Castle of Good Hope.

African Dinosaurs is a permanent exhibition at the Iziko South African Museum.

Mandela: Leader, Comrade, Negotiator, Prisoner, Statesman, on display at the Iziko Slave Lodge, celebrates the life and times of the father of our nation and highlights South Africa's epic struggle against apartheid.

1910-2010: From Pierneef to Gugulective, at the Iziko South African National Gallery, highlights the history and diversity of modern and contemporary South African art over the last 100 years.

Virtual Earth - our future attraction, scheduled to open at the Iziko South African Museum later this year, will be an absolute must for all to experience.

So gather, feel, share and celebrate with us for the rest of 2010, at *the Hearth of our Heritage* - Iziko Museums of Cape Town.

- Durie Mohamed, 2010 Marketing & Communications Coordinator, IA

Hot & Happening

Be sure to see *The Lie of the Land: Representations of the South African Landscape*, curated by Prof Michael Godby, before the exhibition closes on 11 September. At the Iziko Old Town House.

Friends of Iziko South African National Gallery invite you to **meet critically acclaimed artists:**

Hank Willis Thomas will be at the Goodman Gallery Cape, 176 Sir Lowry Road, Woodstock on Friday, **3 September** at 11h00.

Zander Bloem will be at the Michael Stevenson Gallery, 160 Sir Lowry Road, on Friday, **10 September** at 11h00.

Members and non-members pay R20. Please contact Lizzie O'Hanlon for booking enquiries. Details in the *Iziko What's On*.

Friends of the Michaelis Collection present a Sunday evening concert on **12 September** at 18h30. Well-known mother and daughter duo, **Beverley Howman (piano) and Jacquie Davies (cello)** will perform at the Iziko Old Town House. Members R60, guests R70 and students R40. For booking enquiries please contact Colin Stevens. Details in the *Iziko What's On*.

Visit the newly renovated **Iziko Social History Centre** with Friends of Iziko South African National Gallery, on Wednesday, **15 September**. Meet for coffee at 6 Spin Street Restaurant from 10h00. A walkabout of the Iziko Social History Centre will commence at 11h00. Members R40, non-members R50, including a cup of coffee. Please contact Lizzie O'Hanlon for booking enquiries. Details in the *Iziko What's On*.

Two exciting shows open at the Iziko Planetarium on **24 September:**



Bring your children to join in on our furry little hero, Morris Mouse's adventures in **Tick Tock - the Mouse & the Clock**. Perfect for the school holidays!



Dinosaurs, including a 10-minute sky talk, explores the wonder and diversity of these creatures that once dominated our earth.

Show times available in the *Iziko What's On* or call Lungi Mvimbi on 021 481 3823.

Join the Friends of Iziko South African Museum at the TH Barry Lecture Theatre on Tuesday, **28 September**, for their **monthly lecture with speaker, Mary Patrick**. Refreshments will be served from 18h30. For more information please contact Maxine Davies. Details in the *Iziko What's On*.

Friends of Iziko South African National Gallery invite you to a talk by **Angela Zehnder**, where she will show the courier work of *Strengths and Convictions*, the exhibition installation and the programme before its opening. At the Iziko South African National Gallery on Thursday, **30 September** at 10h30. Members R20, non-members R30, including a cup of tea. Please contact Lizzie O'Hanlon for booking enquiries. Details in the *Iziko What's On*.