

Museum celebrates 120th year

THEMBA KHUMALO

MUSIC, cakes and gift hampers added to the occasion when the Natural Science Museum recently celebrated its 120th birthday.

The day's first visitor, Zwelithini Mabaso, was presented with a hamper of goodies to mark the occasion.

A delighted Mabaso, 18, of Clare Estate, said: "I am very happy to know I have become part of the history and heritage of the museum. I did not expect this."

Museum Director Guy Redman said the museum was established thanks to efforts by the Natural History Association of Natal, which was formed in 1868.

The museum opened its doors to the public on 23 July 1887, at 11am.

Redman said in its early days the museum simply laid out specimens with a label with the name of the specimen. "This limited the value of the collection as the visitor was not provided with any explanatory information," said Redman.

"The museum is at a stage now where we are trying to further break down the barriers between science and the public.

"We are introducing alternative systems of knowledge that are in some ways related to science such as indigenous knowledge systems in relation to the processing of medicinal plants," said Redman.

Great

Mabaso, who had just completed writing exams on the day of his visit, said the museum was a great institution where he had learned a lot. "People should visit the museum so they can learn about all the things they read about in school and see on TV," he said.

Redman said the museum would continue to come up with innovative ways to help educate people.

"We want the museum to be the leading natural science museum on the continent in terms of scientific output and education.



PROUD MOMENT: The Natural Science Museum recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. Zwelithini Mabaso was the first visitor to the museum on the day and was presented with a hamper and a certificate to mark the occasion

Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

"It must be accessible to all sectors of our community, including the illiterate, the disabled, and people of all ages. We believe this can be achieved."

Redman said it was awe-inspiring to be part of the

heritage and history of the museum.

"Consider the great people who have been part of this institution in the past and the unstinting support they have given to keep it going.

"One cannot help but want

to maintain the impetus and not surrender, no matter how bleak the situation may be at times. It's an honour to be in the driving seat of such a dynamic institution with so much potential and such a rich history," said Redman.

Drag racing returns

KEN MCHUNU

IT'S all systems go for this year's installment of the First Avenue drag racing event, taking place this weekend.

Event organiser Kas Moodley has promised a breathtaking programme.

About 270 powerful racecars and bikes from KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, including two national record holders are expected to make the line-up.

Moodley said there would also be some spectacular burnouts and a performance by PWA, a company that belongs to the American WWE wrestler, King Booker.

The event is part of efforts to discourage dangerous and illegal street-racing, by providing a safe and entertaining alternative.

First Avenue will be closed for the event from 2pm on Saturday until midnight on Sunday.

Tickets are available at all Autozone branches in KwaZulu-Natal, Spa Motors in Phoenix, FS Auto in Springfield Park and Watson Motors at the corner of First Avenue and Kolling Street.

Tickets can also be bought at the entrance on the day.

For information, call Kas Moodley on 082 399 8172 or 031 462 6343.

DURBAN DIARY:

Your guide to entertainment in the city

MUSIC

Orchestra 2007
N-Shed, Durban Harbour
29 August
Tel: 031 202 6174

Jazz Concert
Suncoast Casino
26 August
Call: 031 328 3161

Ensemble Hans Gal
Durban Jewish Centre
14 August
Call: 031 201 3922

Christian Rock Festival
Kearsney College
17 August
Tickets R40
Call: 083 9188 551

The Best of Brazilian Jazz
Kearsney College
17 August
Tickets R40
Call: 083 918 8551

Rock Band Festival
Kearsney College
18 August
Tickets R60
Call: 083 918 8551

Mary J Blige - Live in concert
Westridge Park Tennis Stadium
19 October
Tickets: R160 to R280
Call: 083 915 8000

Live entertainment by Murphy (Music Unlimited)
The Deck at Badgers
Davenport Square
Every Friday



TOP TRIO: Violinist Katalin Kertesz, pianist Mark Nixon, and Shelly Levy on clarinet will perform during the Friends Music Recital, presenting works by Debussy, Khachaturian and Bartok. The 14 August concert starts at 7.45pm

Call: 082 259 3743
New Light International
Every Saturday
Call: 082 259 3743

Celine Dion - Live in concert
Absa Stadium
20 February 2008
Call: 0861 121 333

Live Jazz
Centre for Jazz
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Durban Campus
Every Wednesday
Call: 031 260 3385

Jazz on the Deck
Bat Centre
Every Sunday
Call: 031 332 0451

Friends Music Recital
Durban Jewish Club
14 August



Tickets: R20 - R70
Call: 031 202 7730

DANCE, THEATRE AND COMEDY

The British Invasion
Kearsney College
18 August
Tickets R60
Call: 083 9188 551

The Boys are Back in Town
Barnyard Theatre
14 August - 23 September
Call: 031 566 3045

The Buddy Holly Story
Barnyard Theatre
Until 12 August
Call: 031 566 3045

Master Class
Playhouse Loft Theatre



Until 11 August
Tel: 031 369 9555

The Caucasian Chalk Circle
Catalina Theatre
Until 26 August
Tel: 031 305 6889

Dorf
Heritage Theatre
14 - 16 September
Call: 031 765 4197

Jomba International Contemporary Dance Festival
Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre
15 - 26 August
Tel: 031 260 2296

Rory Rootenberg
Rhumbelow Theatre
18 - 19 August
Call: 082 499 8636

Porgy & Bess

Courtyard Theatre, DUT
25 - 31 August
Tel: 031 204 2194

Masters of Rock Volume 3
Dockyard Theatre
Until 11 August
Call: 031 201 9147

Africa Umoja - The Spirit of Togetherness
Kearsney College
17 - 18 August
Tickets R40 and R50
Call: 083 9188 551

Whackhead & Friends
Kearsney College
18 August
Tickets R60
Call: 083 9188 551

Improv Express Comedy
Kearsney College
18 August
Tickets R60
Call: 083 9188 551

Magic Mania Show
Kearsney College
18 August
Call: 083 918 8551

VISUAL ART

Durban South Project Photographs of the South Durban Basin
Durban Art Gallery
Until 21 August
Call: 031 311 2265

Art Amongst the Roses
Off the Wall Gallery, Heritage Market
Every Sunday
Call: 031 765 7606

Art exhibitions for charity
The Village Green, Umhlanga
Every Sunday
Call: 031 337 0208

Solo exhibition
By Anton Benzon
Crouse Art Gallery KZN
Call: 031 312 2315

Peter Rippen
Mezzanine Gallery, KZNSA
21 August - 9 September
Call: 031 202 3686

OTHERS

KZN Conservation Services guided walks
Krantzkloof Nature Reserve
Every first and third Sunday
Call: 031 764 3515

South African Women's Arts Festival Conference
Playhouse Drama Theatre
Ends 12 August
Call: 031 369 9540

Test Driving the Arts
Playhouse Grand Foyer
14 - 28 August
Tel: 031 369 9555

Marc Salem
World-renowned mentalist
iZulu Theatre, Sibaya
Until 26 August
Tickets: From R50 to R90
Call: 031 580 5555

☐ Compiled by Premilla Hariganesh. To have your show or event included in the Durban Diary, e-mail hariganeshp@durban.gov.za or fax 306 4603.