



## McGregor Museum Kimberley

### Botany Department: Community Services & Educational Programmes

#### Herbarium Volunteer Training

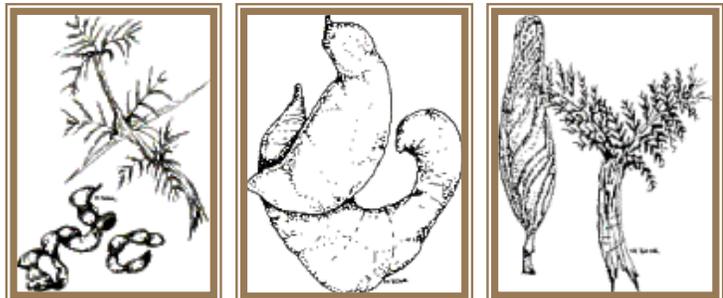
The Botany Department offers training for volunteers willing to assist in the herbarium and with other departmental activities. Volunteers are taught many of the techniques used in herbarium maintenance and specimen preparation, as well as other tasks of a botanical nature. This is one way in which the Botany Department promotes an interest in our natural heritage. Furthermore, training volunteers is of mutual benefit to the herbarium and the volunteers, and promotes public participation in caring for our natural heritage. One of our recent volunteers contributed to a booklet we produced for the McGregor Museum tree and shrub trail.

#### Educational Programmes

Our department offers courses for the public and schoolteachers on an ad hoc basis. Topics include "common trees and shrubs of the Northern Cape", "common grasses", and "how to identify plants". Lectures on a diversity of topics such as "trees and shrubs of the Kimberley area", "edible plants", "the ecology of Benfontein Game Farm", "Arbor Day", "vegetation types of the Northern Cape" and "rare plants of the Northern Cape" are presented to learners and the public. Interactive field lectures are also undertaken on request.

#### Educational Resources

We aim to educate the public and learners about the plant diversity of our province through pamphlets and booklets, as well as contributing to the resource material of the McGregor Museum Education Department's Resource Centre. The news and radio media are also used to get the message across. Recent pamphlets produced include *Rare plants of the Kimberley, Prieska, Griquatown and Hopetown areas*; *The McGregor Museum Tree and Shrub Trail*; *The KMG Herbarium, McGregor Museum, Kimberley, Northern Cape Province*; *Common trees and shrubs of the Kimberley area*; and *Common poisonous plants around Kimberley, Northern Cape Province*.



### Museum Displays

These form part of the education of the general public. Displays aim to reflect the plant diversity, conservation and value of the flora of the Northern Cape. A new section of the EnviroZone has been planned, which will reflect the natural history of the Succulent Karoo areas of the Northern Cape once funds are available. An interesting natural history display of the central Karoo can be seen at the Victoria West Museum, Victoria West.

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