



## McGregor Museum Kimberley

### Education Department: Projects

- [Museum Outreach](#)
- [Beginner's Guide to Plants of Kimberley and Surrounds](#)
- [Beginner's Guide to Animals of Kimberley and Surrounds](#)
- [Beginner's Guide to the EnviroZone](#)
- [Women's Day Project](#)
- [SET Week Project](#)
- [200 Years of Steam Project](#)
- [Time Capsule](#)

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#### Museum Outreach

##### Warrenton

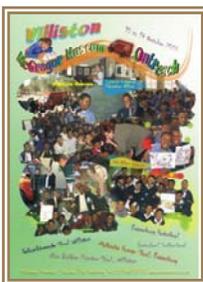
Vida Allen (historian) and Suzanne Erasmus (Education Officer) undertook an outreach project at Rolihlahla Primary School in Ikhutseng, in conjunction with the staff of the [William Humphreys Art Gallery](#). We travelled to Warrenton on 27 and 28 March 2006 in the museum bus, loaded with specimens and teaching resources. The Art Gallery put up an exhibition of graphics in the school and ran a programme of art workshops. We selected the theme of our programme from one of these works, depicting a family tree. We



presented workshops on family trees and the ecology of trees with grade 4 and 5 learners and lessons on "Animal Clothes" (fur, feathers, scales etc.) for grade 1 - 3 learners.



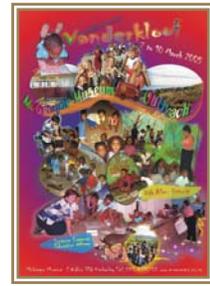
##### Williston



Vida Allen (Historian) and Suzanne Erasmus (Education Officer) worked with the staff of the [William Humphreys Art Gallery](#) and Mrs Elna Marais of the Williston Museum on an outreach project in Williston. The programme was worked out to include as many as possible of the schools in the Karoo Hoogland District. We visited Nico Bekker Skool and the Gekombineerde Skool in Williston and also presented a programme to visiting schools in the Museum in the afternoons.

## Vanderkloof

An outreach programme was undertaken with the staff of the William Humphreys Art Gallery to Vanderkloof from 7 to 10 March 2005. We ran a programme of workshops in the Community Centre in the small township of Keurtjieskloof.



## Women's Day Project



Women's Day commemorates the march of 20 000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 9 August 1956, to protest the oppressive pass laws of the time. Their chant was "You strike the woman, you strike the rock". In spite of new movements and laws towards gender equity, many women still bear the brunt of poverty, exploitation and abuse. Yet women are the rock on which family life and our society depends. One sure way a woman can ensure a secure future for herself and her family is through education.

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this day, the female staff of the McGregor Museum presented a special **Role Modeling Programme** at the museum on 10 and 11 August 2006. The main objective of this project was to expose girl learners (Grade 9) to female role models and careers in science and technology at the museum. A total of 120 learners of eight schools (Thabane, Tlhomelang, Tetlanyo, Redirile, William Pescod, Tshireleco, Floors and Girls High Schools) took part. They visited 8 museum departments where museum staff shared their work experiences and offered career guidance to the learners.

This project was generously sponsored by the [South African Agency for Science & Technology Advancement](#).

A similar **Women's Day Programme** was presented on 9 August 2005, to a group of 72 girl learners of four local schools, namely Pescodia, Homevale and Tshireleco Secondary Schools and Girls High School.



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## SET Week

From 9 to 13 May 2005 the museum took part in the **Science, Engineering and Technology Week** of the **Northern Cape Department of Education**. As our contribution to celebrating the World Year for Physics we presented a similar programme, entitled "See a Scientist – Hear a Scientist" to five groups of approximately 60 learners.



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## 200 Years of Steam Project

Suzanne Erasmus worked with Carien Viljoen of the Transport Museum on this Heritage Month project. Learners in grades 4 to 9 were invited to submit posters on the theme "Transport in South Africa" and learners in grades R to 3 were invited to submit a model of a steam train, made of recycled materials.

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## Time Capsule

A Time Capsule is a container used to store for posterity a selection of objects representative of life at a particular time. It is usually a sealed container designed to hold cultural material, to be opened some time in the future. Time capsules have the purpose of causing participants to think about their own cultural era, as well as those to come in future.

The Botany and Education departments of the McGregor Museum are preparing a time capsule which will be sealed on 24 September 2007 as part of our museum's centenary, to be opened in 2107 on the museum's bi-centenary.

We have invited local schools to take part in a special competition to find the most original items, write essays or make posters to be included in this time capsule. Entries for the competition must be submitted by 31 May 2007. The prize-giving will be held on 22 June 2007. There will be wonderful prizes to be won, including a weekend for a family of four at the new National Park near Kimberley, gift vouchers for the Diamond Pavilion Mall and others, and cash prizes.

*Anyone interested in sponsoring items to be included in the Time Capsule or prizes for the competition please contact us:*



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or Fax

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Benefits of sponsoring a prize include:

- Media coverage at the prize-giving and advertising in an exhibition of the items submitted for the competition;
- Long term advertising in a permanent display alongside the time capsule and on a plaque in the Alexander Hall McGregor Museum in Chapel Street;
- A list of participants and sponsors will be included in the time capsule itself, recognising them for valuing our cultural era through their contribution towards preserving a representative collection of thoughts on life, items and how we perceive the future in 2007.
- Advertising on a billboard at the McGregor Museum for a year.

It will be our pleasure to welcome you on board as a participant in this exciting project!

**Why contribute to the Time Capsule?**

A tradition as old as cave art, one of the most primal human traits is the need for self-expression. We make drawings and paintings, take photos, sing songs, write stories and poems, keep blogs, build and decorate houses, buy and wear clothing, write memoirs. We do these things to become individuals, to fight anonymity and the passage of time.

These days, life is lived in short bursts. As we dash through our days, expressing ourselves in countless ways, leaving thick trails of footprints, we seldom stop and think about those footprints. We rarely consider the legacy we are leaving behind. But what if we did? What if we were each to choose a small handful of precious thoughts and artefacts to represent our life – a few words, a few pictures, perhaps a drawing or two – and were to put them away somewhere safe, as keepsakes for the future? It is this ability to shape the way we will be remembered that makes time capsules so appealing.

What makes our time capsule special is that it is unique to Kimberley and will represent our culture today, to be revealed to our grandchildren and great grandchildren in 2107.

The presiding message of the Time Capsule is: **“valuing our heritage for the future”**

*What will you save and what will you share? Your self-portrait. A Top 10 list of predictions for the future. Perhaps the single photograph you could never live without. A list of what makes you angry. A special letter to yourself or to your children – just in case. The URL of your favourite blog, web site, or podcast. Perhaps it will be something banal. Perhaps it will be something beautiful. This is your time capsule.*