

# RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND UNITS

## THE ALBANY MUSEUM

### Director

Manzi Vabaza

### Assistant Director

Vacant

### Department of Entomology and Arachnology

Curator: J. Midgley

Curator Emeritus: S. Gess, BSc, MSc, PhD(Rhodes)

### Department of Freshwater Invertebrates

Curator: H.M. Barber-James, PhD (Rhodes)

Assistant Curator: M.C. Mlambo

Curator Emeritus: F. C. de Moor, PhD (Wits)

### Department of Earth Sciences

Curator: R. Prevec, PhD (Natal) , PhD (Wits)

Curator Emeritus: W.J. de Klerk, PhD(Rhodes)

**Herbarium:** (staffed jointly by Rhodes University and the Albany Museum)

Curator: T Dold

Assistant Curator: P.V. Cimi

### Department of Archaeology

Curator: C. Booth

### Historical Anthropology

Curator: P Mntonintshi

### Department of History

Curator: A. Van Wezel

Curator Emeritus: W.F. Way-Jones

Exhibitions Officer: P. Janse

Education Officer: L. Mahlasela

Mobile Museum: N Madinda

Communications and Marketing Officer: L. Snam

Visitor Services: N. Mtyobo

Technical Services: H. Köhl

The Albany Museum, the second oldest museum in southern Africa, was founded in September 1855. The Museum acquired its own building in 1902 when the core block of the present Natural Sciences Museum was built. The palaeontological and geological collections have their origins with the collections of Andrew Geddes Bain and Dr W Guybon Atherstone; Dr Schonland built up the herbarium and the library.

With Dr Schonland, came the historic ties which the Museum has with Rhodes University. He addressed the Cape Parliament, speaking for the establishment of a university in Grahamstown, and persuaded the trustees of Cecil Rhodes's estate to pledge funds for the establishment of Rhodes University College. When the College was established in 1904, the

Director, Dr Schonland became its first professor of Botany. Dr Schonland was succeeded as director by Dr John Hewitt.

John Hewitt's research lay in the fields of vertebrate zoology and archaeology. During this period Grahamstown's longstanding affaire with fishes started. In 1930 Dr JLB Smith, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Rhodes, identified and catalogued the Museum's marine fish collection.

On 6 September 1941 the Museum was burnt down. The library and most of the collections were saved but there was a great loss of exhibited material. The Museum was rebuilt and the displays were reconstructed.

In 1952 the Museum's collection of fishes was loaned to the University 's Department of Ichthyology. Three years later the Museum celebrated its centenary and, in 1957, its staff became Provincial employees. Dr John Hewitt retired the following year, and was succeeded by Dr TH Barry.

During Dr Barry's tenure of five years the Hewitt and Rennie Wings were added to the Natural Sciences Museum and the 1820 Settlers Memorial Museum was built.

The period between 1965 and 1977, the directorship of Mr CF Jacot Guillarmod, was one of consolidation. The National Collection of Freshwater Organisms was transferred from the CSIR to the Museum. Fort Selwyn was restored by the Province and handed over to the Museum in 1977.

Under Mr Jacot Guillarmod's successor, Mr B Wilmot, the Museum entered a new period of growth. De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited purchased and restored the Observatory and the Priest's House and donated them to the Museum. The Old Provost was restored by the Province.

The freshwater fish collections of the Transvaal and Cape Nature Conservation authorities, the Natal Museum and the South African Museum were transferred to the Albany Museum. Museum staff started teaching short courses at the University and, in 1983, the Museum became an Associated Research Institute of Rhodes University.

The Museum's close relationship with the University was expanded with the consolidation of the herbaria of the two institutions and the formation of the Selmar Schonland Herbarium, housed in the Museum.

The Museum has a staff complement of 68. The Museum falls under the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture in the Eastern Cape government.