



**ANNUAL ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK EVENTS:
8-15 May 2026**

Friday 8 May, 10:00-12:00: Online talk: Prof. Andre Odendaal: Archives for Justice

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service as we launch Archives Week with renowned historian and author Prof. Andre Odendaal talking on this year's theme "**Archives for Justice**", on Friday 8 May 2026, 10:00-12:00.

André Odendaal is the vice-chancellor's writer-in-residence and honorary professor in history and heritage studies at the University of the Western Cape. He was active in 1980s struggle politics, including a local UDF area committee and SACOS and the National Sports Congress, being one of a handful of white first-class cricketer to join the non-racial SA Cricket Board during the apartheid years. He spent thirteen years at UWC, where he started and directed the pioneering Mayibuye Centre for History and Culture in South Africa which built up a rare multi-media archive on the freedom struggle. He was the founding director of the Robben Island Museum. He subsequently became CEO of the Western Province Cricket Association (2004-2015) and served as the chairperson of Cricket South Africa's first Transformation Monitoring Committee. After 25 years of running organisations, he started working full-time as an independent researcher, writer and publisher. His latest book is *The Early Writings of Alex La Guma* (2025).

To receive the link, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/FEaLZ2xzbkKp2EkZA>

Monday 11 May, 13:00-14:00: Online talk: Mr. Moegammad Tahier Kara: Tracing family history through memory and archive

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service and Stellenbosch University researcher and storyteller, Mr. Moegammad Tahier Kara for an **online talk retracing the Kara family's history through archival records and oral memory** on Monday 11 May 2026, 13:00-14:00, during National Archives Awareness Week.

The talk will explore the interplay between the written record and living testimony, showing history as a dialogue, rather than a fixed account; and the recovery of fragments of the past as a way of restoring dignity and belonging to those whose lives might otherwise fade from view.

To receive the link, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/3vuEhnDsDDaAp2fq5>

Tuesday 12 May, 13:00-14:00: Online talk: Dr. Nick Simpson: Climate change and heritage adaptation as intergenerational justice

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service and Dr. Nick Simpson from UCT's Climate Risk Lab for an **online talk exploring how, as climate change accelerates, archives, museums and heritage sites face rising risks** from sea level rise, coastal erosion, heat, fire and floods.

The talk, on Tuesday 12 May 2025, 13:00-14:00, during National Archives Awareness Week, will show how safeguarding collections, sites and living traditions today protects dignity, memory and choice for those who come after us. Attendees will leave with simple, practical steps for risk-aware stewardship, community co-custodianship and climate-smart operations aligned with the Archives for Justice theme.

To receive the link, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/h77jEZtuy84ofMKX7>

Wednesday 13 May, 9:30-10:30: In-person talk: Mr. Larramie Damstra: Julie's Secret: Unpacking a memory box of family history

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service and the Centre for Conservation Education/Education Museum for a **free pop-up Archives Week event at 9 Aliwal Road, Wynberg.**

The morning will start with Mr. Larramie Damstra unpacking "**Julia's Secret**", a memory box held in the **District Six Museum collection**. He will introduce you to Julia, his grandmother, and take you on a journey of discovery, unravelling her family history. From oddments left behind, he is connected with the past. Mr. Damstra feels it's up to the living to make their forebears part of the present.

After the talk: **Visit the Western Cape Archives display for more info on doing your own research and take a walk round the Education Museum and explore the classrooms of yesteryear.**

Space is limited so be sure to book: <https://forms.gle/ASi8PZTJbBtmwBR37>

Thursday 14 May, 13:00-14:00: Online talk: Mr. Verne Harris: Madiba and memory for justice in an age of AI

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service and Mr. Verne Harris, Nelson Mandela Foundation, for an **online talk entitled: "Madiba and memory for justice in an age of AI"**, on Thursday 14 May 13:00-14:00, during National Archives Awareness Week.

Mr. Harris brings his extensive experience to this topic as Mandela's archivist from 2004 to 2013, and director of the Foundation's archives programme. He also helped transform South Africa's apartheid archival landscape, and is a renowned author and academic.

To receive the link, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/FkkLxeCTHVg9NW9o6>

Thursday 14 May: 10:00-12:00: In-person workshop: Dr Gustav Henrich: Family History for Beginners Workshop

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service for a pop-up **in-person Family History Workshop for beginners** at The Memory Centre, Cape Medical Museum, Old City Hospital Complex, Portswood Road, Green Point, during National Archives Awareness Week.

Dr Gustav Henrich, Archivist at the WC Archives, shares his expertise on where to start when in doing archival research to uncover family histories.

Space is limited so be sure to book: <https://forms.gle/qAq9DhejxTRFst3QA>

Friday 15 May: 13:00-14:00: Online talk: Ms. Khumo Magano: KGANG KGOLO: Reimagining the Archive

Join the Western Cape Archives and Records Service and researcher, curator, and storyteller Ms. Khumo Magano, for an online talk **reimagining the archive through engagement with letters, dreams, oral histories, and alternative knowledge systems**, on Thursday 14 May 13:00-14:00, during National Archives Awareness Week.

Using her grandmother as point of departure, Ms. Magano sees the archive as not merely as a repository of documents, but as a living, ethical, and relational space where imagination, consent, and care shape meaning. Ms. Magano's work explores memory, identity, and archival practice in Southern Africa.

To receive the link, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/zNHESBkA6sAX9ZAm8>