

## Michelle Evans

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**From:** Milly & Adrian Rowe <roweam@telkomsa.net>  
**Sent:** 07 May 2013 10:02 PM  
**To:** Michelle Evans; Bernadetp  
**Cc:** Jean Lindsay; Hazel England; arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za  
**Subject:** Re: Historical significance of trees  
**Attachments:** Pinetown Cricket stumps.JPG; Pinetown Market Square 2.jpg; Pinetown Market Square.jpg; Pinetown Central 1967 description.jpg; Pinetown Central 1967.jpg; Pinetown Central 1954 description.jpg; Pinetown Central 1954.jpg

Hi Michelle

My apologies for the tardy response, however I still work full-time and regrettably my hobbies have to take second place in my life!

With the help of Hazel England we have put together as much as is possible in the short time available and I am including photos of Pinetown central and descriptions of same dated 1954 and 1967 and an article on the Pinetown Market Square which covers the whole of the area in question.

As far as the 3 trees are concerned, as previously stated 2 of them are *Tristania* (which can be confused with *Eucalyptus*, but are not) and one is a *Ficus Natalensis*. With the aid of the photos supplied and private research it is my opinion that the 3 trees date back to about 1920 to 1935.

I am also attaching a photo taken by me showing the cricket stumps on what was the cricket pitch with the trees in the background.

It will be seen in the 1954 photo that the 3 trees, now in the centre of the road, used to stand on the northern side of Old Main Road when it was the Main Road to the interior. As the present regime do not wish to recognize the importance of our history and have elected to change the name of a road with an historical significance it is unlikely that they will recognize the history of the old Market Square and the trees which were an integral part of it. Furthermore it is evident from the statement in your first email that the environmental planning department of the eThekweni municipality, which stated that they are not protected and may be cut down, are not aware of the ecological value of trees.

I apologise for the size of the attachments and hope that our research will be of assistance.

kind regards

Adrian Rowe

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Michelle Evans  
**To:** Milly & Adrian Rowe ; Bernadetp  
**Cc:** Jean Lindsay ; Hazel England ; arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2013 7:42 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Historical significance of trees

Hi Adrian

Further to my email below, is there any information that you can provide me with regards to the three trees in the centre island? Our client is having a meeting about the trees and requires any significant information about them. Two historical events were brought to my attention, do you have any information regarding them? In Josiah Gumede road, one of the trees may be the location of the signing of a historical document. In addition, the land across the road, Pinetown Civic Centre, Erf 2097 Pinetown, previous bowling green, also has some historical significance (important cricket match played there).

Thanks for all your assistance.

Kind regards,

MICHELLE EVANS MSc. Env. Sci  
Environmental Consultant



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**From:** Michelle Evans  
**Sent:** 06 May 2013 10:12 AM  
**To:** 'Milly & Adrian Rowe'; Bernadetp  
**Cc:** Jean Lindsay; Hazel England; [arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za](mailto:arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za)  
**Subject:** RE: Historical significance of trees

Hi Adrian

Thank you for all the correspondence regarding the significance of the trees. Your last email indicated that the trees that have been the topic of conversation were in fact the incorrect trees. As previously stated in my email, the trees in question are "along Josiah Gumede (Old Main) Road, between School Road and Crompton Street in the centre island of the road". I took samples of the trees and they were identified as 2 eucalyptus and one ficus natalensis.

These three trees in the centre island are the trees in question, I apologise for the confusion, but could you please assist with the historical significance of the three trees named in your last email.

Kind regards,

MICHELLE EVANS MSc. Env. Sci  
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**From:** Milly & Adrian Rowe [<mailto:roweam@telkomsa.net>]  
**Sent:** 03 May 2013 06:28 AM  
**To:** Michelle Evans; Bernadetp; Milly & Adrian Rowe  
**Cc:** Jean Lindsay; Hazel England; [arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za](mailto:arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za)  
**Subject:** Re: Historical significance of trees

I wish to apologize for my incorrect statement in the email below.

As a result of Jean Lindsay's email yesterday I have re-looked at the photo which was sent to me by Bernadet of AMAFA, and have realized that the 3 trees in question are, as stated, actually in the centre island of Old Main Road next to the Pinetown Library. They are 2 Tristaniae and one Ficus.

I have taken more photos from further back so that one gets a more comprehensive view of the area. If anyone would like to see these, please let me know.

My apologies again for misleading you.

all the best

Adrian

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Milly & Adrian Rowe](mailto:roweam@telkomsa.net)  
**To:** [Bernadetp](mailto:Bernadetp) ; [Michelle Evans](mailto:MichelleEvans)  
**Cc:** [arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za](mailto:arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za) ; [Hazel England](mailto:HazelEngland)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2013 2:50 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Historical significance of trees

Hi Bernadet

Thank you for forwarding Michelle's query to me.

I can tell you that the location in question is not the "centre island" of Old Main Road, Pinetown. I have looked at the photo which you attached to your second email and can confirm that the island in question is between School Road and Crompton Street, but in fact is between the carpark/taxi rank adjacent to the Pinetown Library/Museum and Old Main Road (from an historian's point of view I will always know the road by that name!).

The tree nearest the camera is a Tristania and is endemic to eastern Australia. The second tree is a Natal Strangler Fig (Ficus Natalensis) and is a fine specimen of an indigenous tree to Natal, and is probably about 100 years old. The third tree is an African Tulip tree (Spathodia Campanulata) and is endemic to central Africa. I have

requested Hazel England, the retired curatrix of the Pinetown Museum, to comment on the historic significance of the Ficus tree, as I do not have this knowledge. I must admit I am very surprised at the environmental department of the eThekweni Municipality being unconcerned about the demolition of the Ficus tree. Surely the "station", whatever this may be, can be built to incorporate this fine old tree.

Unfortunately it seems that in this day and age money speaks and the environment takes second place!

kind regards

Adrian Rowe

Chairman, Highway Heritage Society

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Bernadetp

**To:** 'Michelle Evans'

**Cc:** roweam@telkomsa.net ; arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 3:00 PM

**Subject:** RE: Historical significance of trees

Hi Michelle

Please contact Adrian Rowe of Highway Heritage Society at [roweam@telkomsa.net](mailto:roweam@telkomsa.net) and Arthur Gammage of Ethekeeni City Architecture Department at [Arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za](mailto:Arthur.gammage@durban.gov.za) for assistance .

Kind regards

Mrs. Bernadet Pawandiwa

Archaeology : Permits

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Website: [www.heritagekzn.co.za](http://www.heritagekzn.co.za)

*Before printing, please think about the environment*

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**From:** Michelle Evans [<mailto:MichelleE@sivest.co.za>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 12:43 PM

**To:** [bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za](mailto:bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za)

**Subject:** Historical significance of trees

Hi Bernadet

I have tried calling you but cannot get through. I have a query with regards to the historical significance of three trees in Pinetown.

I am working on the Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network (IRPTN). There are 3 trees located along Josiah Gumede (Old Main) Road, between School Road and Crompton Street in the centre island of the road. This is the proposed location for a station which forms part of the IRPTN. The environmental planning department of the EThekweni municipality have stated that the trees are not protected and can be cut down. However, our client has brought it to our attention that the trees may have some historical significance. In Josiah Gumede road, one of the trees may be the location of the signing of a historical document. In addition, the land across the road, Pinetown Civic Centre, Erf 2097 Pinetown, previous bowling green, also has some historical significance (important cricket match played there). I have included a picture of the three trees just for your reference.

Could you please assist me in obtaining a way forward with regards to obtaining clarity on this matter? Are the trees of historical significance? If they are, what does this mean for removal of the trees? I greatly appreciate your assistance.

Kind regards,

MICHELLE EVANS MSc. Env. Sci

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