

PINETOWN HISTORIC TREES IN EXISTENCE

PINETOWN MUSEUM

1. Old fig tree in Old Main Road, between Orange Grove Motors and MacDonalds.
(*Ficus Natalensis*)

This tree was in the grounds of Mr and Mrs George Dales property "Orange Grove". It was brought to Pinetown in approximately 1897 by Mr W. Wright who broke a small branch of a tree in the Umlaas District to use as a whip. Once Mr Wright reached Pinetown the branch was stuck into the ground where it grew into a beautiful shady tree.

Ref. Pinetown Women's Institute. Annals of Pinetown

2. Old fig tree in Ivy Road (*Ficus Natalensis*)

When the Elvolac Paint Factory was built in Ivy Road in 1951 the fig tree was old and established. It was later threatened by proposed road widening. Mr Justin Dales and Mr Draper joined forces to protect the tree, until they were assured of its safety by the Town Council of Pinetown. Currently the road curves around the tree.

Ref. Museum records - Information from Mr Rod Draper.

3. Camphor tree - Metro Water - Scott Road (*Tarchonanthus Trilobus*)

When Pinetown Regional water moved its offices to Scott Road in 1952-1953, blue gum trees were removed. Mr J.E.L. Hampton, the Resident Engineer at the Corporation planted some camphor tree seeds in pots. These seedlings were transplanted in front of the Scott Road building. During alterations in 1956 and 1964 the tree remained unharmed. Although not covered by conservation laws, the beautiful trees are an integral part of Pinetown's green heritage.

Ref. Information provided in 1993 by Mrs Power of Pinetown Regional Water and Mr Jack Hillhorst, a retired corporation employee.

4. Paper Bark trees - St John's Church, Payne Street, Pinetown (*Commiphora harveyi*)

These trees were growing in Pinetown during the Garrison Period 1879-1887. Members of the Guild of Loyal Women used the bark for making the inner soles for soldiers boots. The trees are within the fenced area of the church and cemetery.

Ref. Pinetown Women's Institute, Annals of Pinetown.

5. Avenue of Mango trees, Paradise Valley Nature Reserve, Eden Road Pinetown
(*Mangifera indica*)

In 1887 the Umbilo Waterworks situated on the Umbilo River near Pinetown was opened. For 18 years it supplied water to the residents of Durban until it was destroyed by the 1905 floods. A caretaker's home was built on the side of a hill overlooking the reservoir which was beautified with an avenue of mango trees. The house has been removed but the old mango trees remain. The plaque erected on 26-06-1987 reads.

"This avenue of mango trees lined the road to the residence of the caretaker".

Ref. Larkan P and Redmond E. an illustrated history of Water Conservation and Purification in the Durban-Pietermaritzburg area.

List of plaque provided for Centenary Celebrations from Mr Clive Serrurier. P.R.O.
Pinetown Borough 1987.

6. The Memorial Avenue of Silky Oaks (*Grevillea Robusta*)

Originally 114 silky oaks were planted in Old Main Road by the Guild of Loyal Women to commemorate the soldiers who died in Pinetown during the Anglo Boer War. Most of the trees were demolished in 1968-69 to widen the road.

A sole tree remains on the island opposite to Oakmead Flats, no.77 Old Main Road. (It is the middle tree of the three on the island). The plaque is in the Pinetown Museum.

This avenue was planted by the Pinetown Branch of the Guild of Loyal Women in memory of the soldiers who fell in the Boer War 1899-1902.

Ref. Pinetown Women's Institute - Annals of Pinetown

7. Pinetown Bamboo (*Bamboo Vulgaris*)

Pinetown bamboo was used by early farmers as fencing posts, by wagon drivers for whips and fishermen for bamboo fishing rods. It was grown by Mr Davidson in the 1850s and the Javanese Bamboo. (*Bamboo Vulgaris*) was probably introduced by two Dutch indigo planters. Mr von Preen and Mr Colenbrander who came to Pinetown in 1854 from Java. Bamboo rods were used for beating the fermenting indigo plants in water vats, to release their valuable dye. Javanese bamboo is found throughout Pinetown and its conservation is monitored by the Parks and Gardens Section of the Inner West City.

Ref. Pinetown Women's Institute - Annals of Pinetown

Russell G. Easton - Durban

8. Jack fruit tree at Highway Christian Academy, 18 Bishops Road, Pinetown (*Artocarpus Integrifolius*)

In 1929 a Government Indian School was opened in Stansfield Lane. Transferred to Bishops Road in 1932 the school served pupils from Cliffdale, Gillitts, Wyebank and Motala Farm. A jack fruit tree was planted behind the school building to provide shade for cooking facilities. In the 1950-1960s a boxing ring was established under the tree. The fruit was in demand for traditional meals and leaves are used in Hindu prayers. When the last pupils moved to the newly opened Motala Farm School in 1995, the Bishop Road school closed. Reputed to be over 60 years old the tree still provides both shade and fruit for its present owners.

Ref. Wright D.B. History of Education in Pinetown

Naidu S. Information provided to the Museum.

9. Frara's Pine trees, Pinelands

Mr Frara bought Caversham Farm in 1882 and settled there with his family. His daughter Mrs Mary Gillings born in 1882, remembered planting the pine trees in Frara Road as a young girl. The 100 year old trees were the reason for naming the surrounding suburb Pinelands.

Ref. Caversham farm girl celebrates 90 years in Highway Mail 14-02-1972 p.2

Pinetown Women's Institute - Annals of Pinetown.

10. Sarnia School Palm trees - 244 Underwood Road

In 1939 the Albers family moved to Sarnia. Their property is currently the site of the Sarnia Primary School.

Known as Flowerwood, the Albers garden attracted local visitors and tourists. Today only the 59 year old palm trees and a row of Eugenias remind us of the rural days of Sarnia.

Ref. Information supplied to the Pinetown Library by Mrs Barbara Narrowway.

11. Natal Mahogany (*Trichelia dregeana*) Garden of No.7 Windsor Road. (the tree covers the pavement in Breightmet Avenue)

During the late 1930s Mr Hayman bought the property and built a house, which was later purchased by Dr Morton. It was Mr Hayman who planted the red mahogany tree, which dates it as over 50 years of age.

Ref. Mr Denis and Mrs Pat Charlton, who were associated with Charlton's Chemist.

Information supplied to the Museum.

12. Palm Trees (*Roystonea Regia*) - Servi Star 153 Old Main Road

The original hotel was built in 1871 and run by Mr Murray. From 1879-1882 it was called Turners Hotel and accommodated many famous guests. Destroyed by fire in 1889, the new hotel built on the site known as the Rugby Hotel and served Pinetown until 1984. Four well established palm trees can be seen in 1955 photograph of the hotel, which dates them as over 50 years of age.

Ref. England ... Early Buildings of Pinetown. Pub. Pinetown Museum 1995

Pinetown Brochure - Favoured for the Future - 1955

13. Mango Tree (*Mangifera Indica*) at Paragon Paints, 15 Monaco Place Westmead

Mr Mphathwa kaSivilibane Phewa, the induna of the Amanganga people lived on the Mariannahill Mission land at Emmaus. He inherited his portion as Induna (headman) from his ancestor Sivilibane who served both Chief Manzini and Chief Lokothwayo. Tribal courts were held under an Indaba tree which was an Umthombe or Wild Fig tree. Other trees in Mr Phewa's gardens were 2 Pine trees and a large Mango Tree. Emmaus was sold for a Grand Prix Racing Track which was a financial failure. The land was declared Westmead Industrial area in 1969. First the Pine trees were cut down for development, followed by the Wild Fig in the 1990s. The only reminder of Induna Phewa's home is the Mango tree.

14. Neem Tree at Nirvana Hills Temple. (*Azadirachta Indica*)

Saplings from the Temple at Windsor Golf Course were taken to Northdene Indian Settlement Temple in 1939, which makes the tree 60 years old. Neem trees are greatly respected by the Indian community as the leaves have strong antiseptic properties, so they were used for preventing insects getting into rice storage containers. Leaves, bark, seeds and wood have been used in traditional Indian Aya Vedic medicine for over 2,000 years.

Ref. The Priest at Nirvana Hills Temple

Mrs Soobie Naidu of the Nirvana Hills Library

15. Wild Fig Tree next to the grave of Chief Manzini KwaNdengezi.

There is no formal street address so please contact Mr Leech at Inner West City Parks and Gardens.

When the Trappist monks purchased Mariannahill Farm, [Zeekoeigat], in 1882 the indigenous Zulu people settled across the Umlaas River, were ruled by the Chief Manzini of the Amanganga Shozi people. Although his children attended Mariannahill Monastery school and became Christians, Chief Manzini did not. On his death he was buried on his traditional land next to a wild fig tree. No date of death could be found. The grave is covered by the Heritage Act and the tree is protected.

Ref. Mr Solomon Phewa, Induna (headman) of the Amanganga Shozi
Records at Mariannahill Mission.

4

16. Old Tree at Christianenburg Church, Clermont

A gnarled root and trunk with a small branch is all that is left of this very old tree. It is situated next to the Christianenburg Church which is a National Monument.

Ref. Photographs of the old church and tree

New Germany Women's. Annals of New Germany. 1968.

H. ENGLAND : CURATOR

12-10-1998

92-5154 THE HIGHWAY MAIL P 3 28.05. 1954

28, 1954

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local Bodies Warned: Look Before Leaping

SIR—It would appear to be a great pity that the appeal the local branch of Toc H has made to the Council and to Pinetown public bodies in connection with the native location received so much publicity, especially as some of the members do so much good work, and say so little as a rule.

As there have been so many changes in Pinetown over the last eight years, and it looks as if development is just beginning, it would be a pity to take a step now that may embarrass the town for all time.

The inference that Councillors are being influenced by a few ratepayers is incorrect. Actually the executive committees of two ratepayers' associations have expressed their views and certain councillors appear to have ignored them completely.

INADEQUATE

The present beer hall was probably built on the outskirts of the township and has served a useful purpose, but it is now as inadequate as a £30,000 housing scheme may well be in the not too distant future. In ten years the present site will probably be in the centre of the residential area.

I do not claim to be an expert but humbly suggest that before rushing into print, any other public bodies or organisations should get acquainted with all the facts.

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Mkhuhlu' Trees Planted At Lahee Park

PINETOWN, Monday.—To commemorate the silver jubilee of the Pinetown Women's Institute, members of the Institute's Garden Club have planted 12 "Mkhuhlu" trees at the entrance to Lahee Park. "Mkhuhlu" is a Zulu name meaning "thunder tree." The name was given to this particular evergreen, evergreen of the heavy shade it casts.

Present at the ceremony were the president of the institute, Mrs. Grace; the convenor, Mrs. F. Gray, and Mrs. N. Dales. Members were addressed by Councillor R. Gray.

The caretaker of Lahee Park, Mr. Purves, was presented with a white bourgeonvillea as a token of esteem for his assistance in planting the trees. Each member of the institute gave the trees their blessing by throwing a spade of earth on to them.

They Will Stage "Macbeth"

PINETOWN, Wednesday.— Fifteen-year-old Gillian Ramsden, of Gilgitts, will take the part of Lady Macbeth in the production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," which pupils at Kearsney College and St. Mary's School for Girls are jointly producing next month.

This will be the first time that the two schools have collaborated in the production of a play. Public performances will be held at Kearsney College on June 3 and 4, and at St. Mary's on June 11 and 12.

Other members of the cast include Pierre du Toit, of Pinetown; Vernon Davies, of Cowie's Hill; Fay von Sorgenfrei, Joan Benningfield and Ken Brazier, of Kleaf. William Schermbrucker takes the part of Macbeth. Tickets for the performances may be

ELECTION NEWS

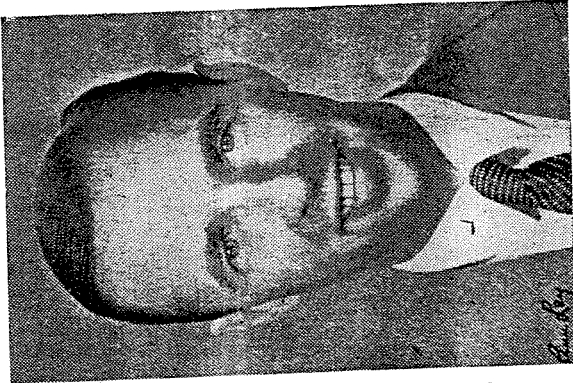


MRS. PHYLLIS ARGO

Don't Be Misled By Propaganda, Says Mrs. Argo

HILL CREST, Monday.—Speaking at a meeting in the Hill Crest Sports Club last Friday night, Mrs. Phyllis Argo, Federal Party candidate for Pinetown in the forthcoming Provincial elections, appealed to her hearers not to be misled by propaganda to the effect that there was no Federal support in the rest of the country.

Mrs. Argo said there were people in other provinces who were only waiting for a lead from Natal. The Federal Party was already



MR. LESTER HALL

United Party's Record In Natal

HILL CREST, Tuesday.—Mr. Lester Hall, United Party candidate for Pinetown, told a meeting at Hill Crest last night that during the past five years as much had been achieved for the Pinetown constituency as for any other constituency in Natal. Four new schools had been established at a cost of £112,000; and £40,000 had been spent on roads. The Natal Housing Board had provided £1,300,000.

Mr. Hall said that during the past

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es are: (six months) or sent to: MAIL etown

ETOWN

11 Sept 1959 THE HIGHWAY MAIL

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY ON SETTLERS' DAY

MONDAY, Settlers' Day, was marked in Pinetown with an impressive tree planting ceremony, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. J. F. Dales, Town Councillors and their wives; and those who had organised the ceremony, the S.O.E., the Caledonian Society, the Victorian Old-Time Dancing Circle, the Moths and the Toc H.

The company gathered in Memorial Park, where Mrs. Gertrude Allsopp, a descendant of the 1820 Settlers, planted a magnolia tree.

The company then walked across the road to the new civic gardens, where 13 further trees (Australian flame) were planted to commemorate the occasion. The Mayor planted one in remembrance of the 1820 Settlers and then the following members of old Pinetown families continued the planting:—

- Mr. E. W. Kirk on behalf of the Kirk family.
- Mr. Cliff Gillitt on behalf of the Gillitt family.
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- Miss Lucy Baytopp on behalf of the Baytopp family.
- Mr. Sid Scott on behalf of the Drake family.

WITH A FIRM HAND

The oldest in the gathering was Miss Baytopp, who is in her 89th year. Despite her advanced age Miss Baytopp did her tree planting with a firm hand.

LAHFF PARK CLUB

The sole decoration for the occasion was a line of 25 flags—24 of them for countries who are members of the United Nations. The other flag was that of the old Colony of Natal.

The welcome to the company was by Mr. Dave Higgs, president of the S.O.E. for the borough, and a short address was given by the Mayor, who said he was pleased that the various bodies had introduced to Pinetown such a delightful ceremony in memory of the early settlers—the men who had fought and brought civilisation to South Africa. Pinetown had had its early settlers, of whom it was proud and he thought they would all go home with the kindest affection for the beautiful trees which had been planted.

FROM GRAHAM'S OWN

The Mayor then told the company that the trees had come from one of the strongholds of the 1820 Settlers—Grahamstown. They had been carefully nurtured during the past three years by the municipal parks and gardens supervisor, Mr. Reynolds, for such an occasion as the one they were holding that day.

Letter to the Editor

STONE AGE VISITING CARDS

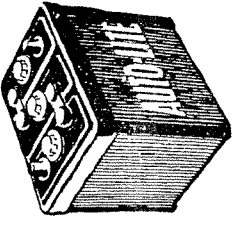
PINETOWN has done it again! You can always rely on us to supply the comic relief you need to liven up your stone age visiting cards.

Please imagine the pride in the procession of Pinetown's stone age town clerks and councillors as they arrive with their stone age visiting cards.

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Also included in the programme is the maximum use of laymen where ministers are not available. This has been proved beneficial at Sea View where a congregation of more than 70 has been built up by two elders. At Newcastle a similar success has been experienced.

The Apostolic Faith Mission has two big churches in the Durban area and the Bluff and church halls at Sea View, Montclair, Amanzimtoti and Hillary.

The Pinetown Church, meanwhile, will continue under the direction of Pastor Poggenpoel with the assistance of Mr. Coward, a student minister.

During his stay in Pinetown, Pastor Poggenpoel has taken great interest in the affairs of the town. He is

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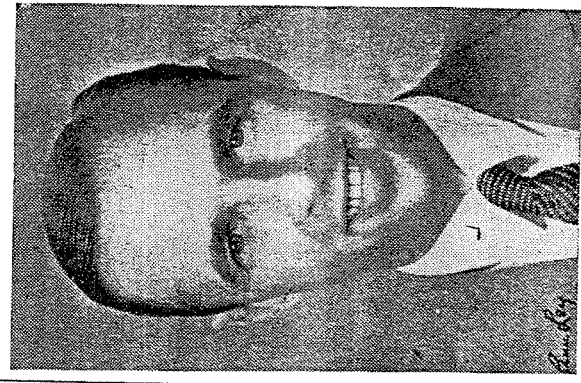


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Please imagine the trouble and expense of procuring of stone age visiting cards for town clerks and school teachers to arrive with them.

There were prayers of dedication by the Mayor's Chaplain, the Rev. A. P. Clark. He said that if they were going to be true to the early settlers who had dared much for the country they loved they must also be true to that part of their love below the surface and dedicate themselves to God from whom strength for the future came.

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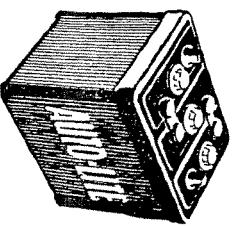
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Durban among the first to sign up as protector of natural treasures

TONY CARNIE

DURBAN has become one of the first cities in the world to make a firm commitment to protecting the fast-disappearing treasure store of natural and biological riches that sustain humanity.

Durban mayor Obed Mlaba was one of 21 city leaders from around the world who signed the "Durban Commitment" at uShaka Marine World last night during an international workshop on urban biodiversity being held in the city.

The Johannesburg, Cape Town and Ekurhuleni metro councils also pledged their commitment to the pioneering green cities initiative, which also includes Paris, Amsterdam, Bonn, Seoul, Seattle, Sao Paulo and Barcelona.

In signing the document, the 21 cities acknowledged their responsibility to protect biological diversity, which provides "the foundation of our existence".

Each city will be required to publish regular reports on the state of biodiversity in their boundaries and to state what progress they have made to protect their natural riches.

These documents would stand as a matter of public record, and the cities would also be required to include biodiversity issues in all partnerships and projects with the public and private sectors.

It will promote public procurement strategies that favour "eco-certified" goods and services, along with a

commitment to rehabilitate degraded natural areas, and to control the spread of alien invasive species of plants and animals.

Each city would also be required to raise awareness about the value of "biodiversity", a term that remains poorly understood in many parts of the world.

Earlier in the day, Bob Burns, of the city of Seattle and neighbouring King County, United States, noted that most people understood the concept of protecting iconic species like the bald eagle or salmon, "but they are generally not familiar with the concept of biodiversity".

Political will

Burns said there was a lack of political will in his metropolitan area, while the national government also provided no leadership at all on the question of global climate change.

Opening the international workshop on Local Action for Biodiversity, eThekweni municipal manager Michael Sutcliffe observed that short-term economic profits of the capitalist system invariably dominated most societies.

Ami Koo, representing Seoul (Korea), reported that rapid urbanisation in her city during the 1970s led to the almost complete disappearance of green refuges. Rivers and streams were turned into open sewers and there was so little left of the natural

environment, that city officials were now reclaiming garbage dumps or building artificial parks on city rooftops.

Elsabeth van der Merwe, of the Ekurhuleni council, said it was sobering to hear that Seoul had resorted to reclaiming rooftops as green lung areas, at a time when many South African cities were still "selling off their parks left, right and centre to developers".

Gary Hunt, of the city of Joondalup (part of Perth, Australia) said high school pupils were stencilling images of bright green frogs on to the pavements next to stormwater drains, as a reminder that toxic pollutants from the city eventually ended up in a nearby wetland area.

Representatives of Nagoya (Japan) reported that the average temperature in the city had risen by almost 3C over the past century as a result of the urban "heat island" phenomenon.

Nagoya was now planning several projects to counter the problem, including the restoration of degraded forests.

□ The 21 cities that have signed the Durban Commitment are: Durban, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Bonn, Cape Town, Curitiba, Edmonton, Johannesburg, Joondalup, Nagoya, Tilburg, Zagreb, Ekurhuleni, Ile de France (Paris), Seattle, Leicester, Liverpool (in Australia), Walvis Bay, Sao Paulo, Seoul and Waitakere (New Zealand).