

HIGHWAY HERITAGE SOCIETY



P.O. Box 1295
3640 KLOOF
Tel/Fax 031 7644721
roweam@telkomsa.net

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

To those of you who I have not seen recently, I trust that 2018 will be a good year for you and I hope that you had a happy time over the festive season.

Our Outings & Talks Co-ordinator, Jenny Sessions, has been hard at work and has already pencilled-in meetings for the next six to nine months! For your advance warning we expect to have talks on the following dates: 24 March, 26 May, 29 September and 3 November, over and above the one in February. There will also be an outing probably in July/August.

This is the 100th Newsletter since I first became a committee member at the end of 2001 and it would be greatly appreciated if members could supply articles for inclusion in future Newsletters.

TALK AND SLIDE PRESENTATION ON 3 FEBRUARY 2018

Subject: "Farmhouses of Old Natal"

Speakers: Dr Jackie Kalley & Hugh Bland will speak about the contents of their recently published book of the same title.

Date & time: Saturday 3 February 2018 at 14h00 (2.00 p.m.). Please ensure that you arrive at least 15 minutes before this time in case you have to sign-in at the gate and for the collection of meeting fees.

Venue: High School Staff Lounge, Thomas More College, Sykes Road, KLOOF. (directions, if needed, may be obtained from Marie)

Meeting Fees: Members R15; Visitors R20; which, as usual, includes refreshments and eats. (N.B. Please try to bring the correct money as no change will be given for R100 & R200 notes!)

If you know of any friends who may be interested in joining our Society, please invite them to come along.

R.S.V.P. to Marie Gurr on 031-7053122 (or marinev.gurr@gmail.com) by 18h00 on Thursday 1 February 2018, to facilitate catering. Booking is essential as we will only put out seats for those who have given us their names. If you do book and are unable to attend, please let us know in good time as otherwise you may be requested to pay, to cover the Society costs (catering, venue & speaker honorarium).

AGM IN NOVEMBER

The following nominees for the Committee were elected by those present at the A.G.M. and are listed below together with their **after hours** contact numbers:

Adrian Rowe – Chairman	031 7644721
Marie Gurr – Secretary	031 7053122
Tony Livingstone – Treasurer	084 9587097
Jenny Sessions - Outings & Talks Co-ordinator	031 7643846
Milly Rowe – Membership officer	031 7644721
Allan Chandler – Public Relations	031 7641826

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due w.e.f. 1 November and our thanks to those of you who have already paid. If it has slipped your mind, please send the Treasurer your R30-00 as soon as you can, or pay at the upcoming meeting. You can also make a direct deposit into our ABSA 32 day Call account No. 91 2843 5403. **PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF ON THE DEPOSIT SLIP SO THAT IT CAN BE CREDITED TO THE CORRECT PERSON!** Whilst we value your membership, regrettably in terms of the Constitution, if your Subs have not been received by **31 March**, it will be assumed that you do not wish to renew your membership and you will be removed from the database.

CHANGE OF PERSONAL PARTICULARS

If you move or change any of your contact details, please let us know. You may contact us at the above address or email Milly Rowe at roweam@telkomsa.net or phone her on 031 7644721. If you receive your Newsletter by post and have an email address please inform us, as this helps to keep our costs contained.

REPORT-BACK FROM OUR LAST MEETING

"Selling The Great War: European Propaganda 1914-1918" – presentation by Prof. Franco Frescura Saturday, 4 November 2017

Propaganda (defined in The Concise Oxford Dictionary as "information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view") was very evidently rife during these war years and used convincingly to persuade the public of all ages into believing it was their duty and an honour to fight to defend their kingdom/country at all costs.

Prof. Frescura has an impressive collection of printed British propaganda ranging from children's comics and annuals, Christmas cards, postcards, posters, newspaper graphics to German regimental ribbons which illustrate what were perceived to be appealing visions of bravery/heroics, even romance and glamour! Charities raised funds for the wounded and even God was deemed to be on "your side".

There was obviously no mention of the reality of being involved in an atrocious and bloody war. Maybe there is something to be said for living in an age of so-called "transparency" and "instant news" after all.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

CHARLTON'S PINETOWN PHARMACY
(Established 1910)
DAILY DELIVERIES
Westville - Kloof - Hill Crest
Northdene - Mariannhill
New Germany
Crompton Street, Pinetown
Phone 71253 P.O. Box 8

The Bottle Store at Kloof charges Durban prices and will deliver to your house
PHONE 77304

Highway Mail
CIRCULATING IN WESTVILLE, COVENS HILL, SARNIA, PINETOWN, NEW GERMANY, MANORS, WYEBANK, KLOOF, GILLITTS, EMBERTON, HILL CREST, BOTHA'S HILL, ALVERSTON, DRUMMOND, INCHANGA, HARRISON, CATO RIDGE, CAMPERDOWN, MOSELEY

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PINETOWN LAND VALUATIONS SOAR

NEW BOROUGH OF PINETOWN COUNCIL

Rising Tide of Critical Opinion

Deputy Mayor's Official Statement

MANY people are unaware of the tremendous developments which are taking place under their very noses," said Councillor "Jock" Young, Deputy Mayor of Pinetown, and Chairman of the Council's Finance Committee, in an interview with regard to the recent increases in land valuations. He was replying to the charges, made by many ratepayers, that the increase was grossly unfair and that the Council had done nothing in the interests of the ratepayers to warrant such an increase.

Interviews with several property owners revealed that the chief complaint appeared to be that ratepayers were not given sufficient warning of the revaluation. Notices did appear in the Press, but they maintain that there are not many people who read the advertisements in the city papers, and the greater majority of the people affected were unaware of the increase until it was too late to appeal.

RATEPAYERS WARNED
Mr. E. E. L. Woolridge, member of the late Town Board, said in a

they have to pay double, and in some cases triple or more, in their rate assessments, than when Pinetown was a township. A large number of ratepayers did not appeal against the excessive revaluation of the land for the reason that they knew nothing about it.

"Some buyers of property, with probably more money than they know what to do with, have paid inflated prices for land. These are exceptional cases, and certainly no reason why others of the public should, by the stroke of the pen,

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE PRESS

Above is the front page of the first edition of The Highway Mail dated 11 February 1949.



The above photograph comes from the Pinetown Museum and was kindly supplied by the past Curatrix, Hazel England

Pinetown Central Photo

This photo was published in the Highway Mail on 18 June 1954 and also as a postcard. This black and white aerial photo was taken by photographer Trevor Crozier looking south west over the intersection of Old Main Road and Crompton Street.

In the foreground running left to right (east to west) is Old Main Road. On the lawns in the immediate foreground can be seen the cricket oval (did you know that the commemorative stumps are still there?) and also the tennis courts.



Photo by Adrian Rowe

This piece of property was where Airfield House used to stand and on which the Pinetown Civic Centre was built and opened in 1959.

Immediately opposite on the south east corner of Old Main Road & Crompton Street can be seen the Pinetown Town Hall which was built in 1912. Alongside it can be seen some Natal Mahogany trees which were mutilated by a contractor in 2014 on behalf of the eThekweni Municipality to improve the visibility for the pole top traffic camera. The camera was removed in early 2015 as it was in the way of the new road alignment for the IRPTN, Go Durban!



Photo by Adrian Rowe

To the bottom left of the photo the War Memorial Cross can be seen in the Memorial Garden which originally commemorated those locals who lost their lives in World War I. This whole site was originally known as Market Square and many of the trees which can be seen were used by farmers to tether their horses whilst off-loading their produce for sale at the Market.

After the demolition of the white-ant invested old Town Hall in 1969, the property remained vacant until a water feature was erected in the late 1970s. The Library and Museum were built and occupied by 1982. On the south west corner of Old Main Road & Crompton Street was the Crossroads Tearoom, above which were the first flats in Pinetown. Many of us will remember this tearoom as, living in Kloof in the early 1980s, this was the nearest after-hours establishment, where milk and bread could be purchased! The tearoom and the tree covered area to the west were later (in about 2000) purchased by McDonalds for a drive-in eatery. Continuing south along Crompton Street to the first intersection on the right, which is Dales Avenue, on the far corner can be seen the single storey Barclays Bank. Just past Barclays Bank going towards the next intersection, which is Hill Street, can be seen Hough House, the home of the Hill family with its stables and kennels for hunting dogs. It was later owned by the Dales family and in October 1964 was demolished to make way for the United Building Society office block.

Just across Hill Street one can see the multi-storey Nichols Arcade above which were flats and, dwarfed just past it, was the single storey Wareings Bakery and tearoom, a household name in the area. Opposite Nichols Arcade was Morrison's Department Store.

Other buildings of note in Crompton Street just south of the Town Hall are the Gaiety Cinema building built by Mr Maurice Nichols in 1938, with its silent films and a pianist to play the accompanying music for a film or a show. It was sold in 1975 and replaced by the Volkskas Bank. The building still stands to this day.

Behind and to the east of the Gaiety can be seen the Park Lane Hotel, a well-know watering hole!

My thanks to Hazel England who supplied much of the above information.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on 3 February **2018**. **PLEASE remember to book early!**