

The cultural historical significance of Pretoria's jacaranda trees

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Abstract

Pretoria is well-known for its jacaranda trees, which has earned the city the nickname "Jacaranda City". Jacarandas, however, are alien trees, which were brought to South Africa during the 19th century. The trees are frequently in danger when development projects are undertaken, usually resulting in a public outcry, as these trees have a special meaning for the people of this city. The aim of this article is to investigate this issue to determine whether jacarandas have cultural heritage significance. In order to do this the history of these trees, with specific reference to Pretoria, was studied. Background research related to heritage management was also done in order to be able to measure the possible cultural significance of these trees. The National Heritage Resources Act (no 25 of 1999), as well as international heritage protocols, refer to natural features and specifically those of cultural significance. Thus, natural heritage issues are considered as well, in drawing a conclusion. Historical research shows that jacarandas were imported to South Africa round about 1830 and that the first ones were planted in Pretoria in 1888. They were first planted as street trees in the town during 1906, and only after 1911 this was done on a larger scale. Over the years there have been many interventions, to either protect or remove these trees. Jacaranda trees are believed to have cultural, historical, aesthetic and social values for the inhabitants of Pretoria.

Keywords: Jacarandas; Pretoria; Cultural; James D Clark; Frank Walter Jameson; Jacaranda Jim.

Introduction

A poem by Sydney Richfield¹ describes the beauty and ambiance of jacaranda trees. Written in 1929, Richfield dedicated his poem to Pretoria:²

In Jacaranda Time

Jacaranda Blue,
Fresh with morning dew.
Ev'ry eye alluring
With its grave enduring.

1 The composer, Sydney Richfield was born in London on 30 September 1882 and came to South Africa in 1920. He settled in Pretoria in 1928, where he died on 12 Apr 1967.

2 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. pride of Pretoria* (Pretoria, Be My Guest Publishers, 2006), pp. 26; 29.

To a fairy call,
Petals softly fall.
For the idler treading
A magic carpet spreading.

Azure blossoms ev'rywhere
Resplendent in their beauty,
Balmy Spring is in the air.
Filling nature's duty.

Birds are singing in the trees,
Happy in their freedom.
Fragrance is in ev'ry breeze,
In Jacaranda time.

“Jacaranda” is the common name of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don. The tree forms part of a larger family of plants called *Bignoniaceae* and is indigenous to the tropical and subtropical regions of Mexico, Central America, South America, Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica and the Bahamas.³ The Jacaranda was brought to South Africa during the 19th century. There is a vast number of jacaranda trees in South Africa, but they are found specifically in the Gauteng Province, mainly located in the metropolitan cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane. The administrative capital of the country, Pretoria, forms part of the City of Tshwane.

Due to the largely urbanised nature of the province, jacarandas are frequently in danger when development projects are undertaken. The placement of these trees along streets means that they are sometimes regarded as being in the way of necessary road upgrading. The removal of jacarandas has often led to a public outcry, especially in Pretoria, which is also known by its nickname the “Jacaranda City”.

3 L Henderson, “Jacaranda”, *Farming in South Africa*, 30 (Pretoria, The Government Printer, 1990), pp. 9-10.

Image 1: A typical Pretoria streetscape showing jacaranda trees in bloom



Source: *Culture trip*, “What to know about South Africa’s majestic Jacaranda trees” (available at <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/south-africa/articles/what-to-know-about-south-africas-majestic-jacaranda-trees/>, as accessed on 31 March 2020).

Since jacarandas are not indigenous to South Africa, there is a tendency nowadays to rather plant indigenous species. The question thus arises whether the jacaranda trees should simply be removed. Conversely, the public outcry when a jacaranda tree in Pretoria is in jeopardy, creates the notion that it has a specific meaning for the people of the city. Therefore, the need to investigate whether jacarandas indeed have heritage significance emerged. The National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999), referred to as the NHRA, provides for the protection of natural as well as cultural heritages. Therefore, the applicable sections of the NHRA have been applied in order to determine whether these natural features of the jacaranda are of cultural significance or not.

A historiography of the jacaranda in social science literature

The most informative sources on the jacaranda tree so far identified are a published booklet (2006) on jacarandas (*Jacaranda. pride of Pretoria* by E Bolsmann) and an archival file.⁴ The booklet seems to be the only published source on the history of jacaranda trees in South Africa. Although enlightening, it remains a popular publication that requires verification of which some

⁴ National Archive of South Africa (hereafter NASA), Transvaal Repository (TA), Archive of the Town Clerk, Pretoria (MPA), Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897 - 1975).

could be done via this research.

The archival inquiry that delivered one file with information, as mentioned earlier, contains a variety of sources, such as commemorative programmes of Pretoria Jacaranda Festivals, official records of the City Council of Pretoria on jacarandas, personal memoirs of Pretoria residents and newspaper clippings which provided relevant information to this study. The file was kept by the Office of the Town Clerk of the city council, perhaps indicating the importance of jacaranda trees to the city. Apart from the mentioned file, there are only 74 other archival documents related to jacaranda trees. Most of these merely refer to photographs of jacaranda trees and to places named 'Jacaranda', for instance streets and buildings.⁵ Only three of these documents are located in the Natal Archives and refer to complaints from people about jacaranda trees or a request to have more of these planted.⁶ The remainder are all correspondence or programmes related to the Jacaranda Festival in Pretoria between the years 1939 and 1953.⁷

Other secondary sources that were consulted are mostly internet-based and provided contextual information on specific aspects of the jacaranda, such as discussing its association to green environments, heritage, use, its social legacy or scientific features thereof. Of specific note is that the issue of alien trees is a worldwide phenomenon. Just as is the case with jacarandas in Pretoria, it leads to conflict between environmental groups and those in favour of planting (or at least retaining) such plants.⁸ In the latter study, jacaranda trees are included but this article will also emphasise the ornamental nature with relation to jacaranda trees in Pretoria.

Literature informs that the distribution of the jacaranda tree globally and in Africa is wide-spread. Some examples observed in the research mention Australia, New Zealand the United States, Rwanda, Zambia and Hawaii as well as the planting of jacarandas in African cities such as Harare, Cairo and

5 NASA, South African Repository (SA), Archive of the Public Works Department (PWD), Vol. 2654, Reference 9740: Correspondence files (1949-1952); NASA, SA, Howick Museum, Photo 05/4269/2: Castle Hotel with Jacaranda tree (no date).

6 NASA, Natal Repository (NA), Archive of the town of Pietermaritzburg (3/PMB), Vol. 4/3/228, Reference 1111/1937: Correspondence files (1937).

7 NASA, TA, P545: Pamphlet (1939).

8 C Kuruneru-Chitepo & CM Shackleton, "The distribution, abundance and composition of street trees in selected towns of the Eastern Cape, South Africa", *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 10(3), 2011, p. 252 (available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866711000434>, as accessed on 5 February 2021).

Maputo.⁹ Another issue addressed by literature, is that alien trees in different countries are considered to be heritage. In one study reference is made to heritage trees in China and emphasis is placed on the measurements needed to improve the management and conservation thereof.¹⁰ The issue of regarding such trees as heritage is thus not limited to South Africa (Pretoria). In at least one case study, namely in Rwanda, jacarandas street trees are specifically mentioned as having heritage value.¹¹

In South Africa, only one specific heritage impact assessment report¹² related to jacaranda trees could be identified. It considers the possible impact of a proposed transport development in Pietermaritzburg on jacarandas and concludes that the trees should not be removed as it has heritage value. It will also be shown below that these trees are considered as having heritage significance in Gauteng. In another publication, jacaranda trees are classified as a beneficial alien species, due to its iconic status in Pretoria,¹³ whereas another source indicates its usefulness.¹⁴ All of these matters will be further addressed in this article.

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- 9 Invasive Species Compendium, "Jacaranda mimosifolia (jacaranda)" (available at <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/29212>, accessed on 5 Feb 2021); S Bella, G Mazzeo & L Süß, "First record for the European fauna of *Phytoliriomyza jacarandae* Steyskal & Spencer, 1978 (Diptera:Agromyzidae) leaf miner of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don. (Bignoniaceae)", *Bolletino di Zoologia Agraria e di Bachicoltura*, 39(1), p. 75 (available at <https://www.cabi.org/ISC/abstract/20073153222>, as accessed on 5 February 2021); JL Seburanga & O Zhang, "Heritage trees and landscape design in urban areas of Rwanda", *Journal of Forestry Research*, 24, 2013, pp. 561-570; NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas. The inner history of how Pretoria became famous for its Jacaranda trees, and other interesting notes about Jacarandas both in Pretoria and elsewhere* (no date), pp. 29-32.
- 10 C Kuruneru-Chitepo & CM Shackleton, "The distribution, abundance and composition of street trees in selected towns of the Eastern Cape, South Africa", *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 10(3), 2011, p. 253 (available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866711000434>, as accessed on 5 February 2021).
- 11 JL Seburanga & O Zhang, "Heritage trees and landscape design in urban areas of Rwanda" *Journal of Forestry Research* 24, 2013, pp. 565.
- 12 D Wheelan, "Heritage impact assessment: Removal of the *Jacaranda mimosifolia* trees at the intersection of West and Burger Streets, Pietermaritzburg, for the alignment of the Msunduzi Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network" (Unpublished report, Mayors Walk, Archaic Consulting, 2017), pp. 1-13.
- 13 T Zengeya, P Ivey, DJ Woodford, O Weyl, A Novoa, R Shackleton, D Richardson & B van Wilgen, "Managing conflict-generating invasive species in South Africa: Challenges and trade-offs" *Bothalia - African Biodiversity & Conservation*, 47(2), 2017 (available at http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0006-82412017000200020, as accessed on 5 Feb 2021).
- 14 JM Fitchett & HA Fani, "Advance in Jacaranda Blossom Phenology in the South African Highveld interior: A preliminary analysis" (Proceedings of the Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers, Bloemfontein, 2018), p. 4.

From the Cape to Pretoria: The jacaranda tree in South African history

The name “Jacaranda” originated in 1789 when the French botanist Antoine de Jussieu¹⁵ first described and named these trees as such in Brazil. It has been mentioned earlier that jacaranda trees are indigenous to South America. It is believed that the trees came to South Africa somewhere between 1805 and 1847 when the horticulturalist, Baron Carl Ferdinand Heinrich von Ludwig¹⁶ introduced them to the Cape.¹⁷ Von Ludwig emigrated from Germany to the Cape in 1805 and was responsible for the establishment of a botanical garden. Bolsmann and Otto¹⁸ specifically indicate that von Ludwig brought the first jacaranda trees to the Cape in approximately 1830.

According to FW Jameson, jacaranda trees were specifically imported from Brazil and planted by JH Wylie in Durban in 1879.¹⁹ Wylie was a curator of the Durban Botanical Garden between 1904 and 1916.²⁰ Jameson was town engineer in many cities in South Africa, including Pretoria (see section on the legacy of jacaranda trees in Pretoria). He further indicated that his father, Robert Jameson,²¹ who was the chairman of the Parks and Estates Committee of the Town Council of Durban, as well as Chairman of the Horticultural Society of Durban, planted jacaranda trees in the Durban suburb of Berea in 1887.²²

Bolsmann,²³ however, states that jacaranda trees were first imported to Durban by the curator of the botanical gardens in Durban, John Medley

15 Antoine Laurent de Jussieu (12 April 1748-17 September 1836) was a celebrated French botanist, notable as the first to publish a natural classification of flowering plants in AL Jussieu, *Genera planetarium secundum ordines naturales*, 1789.

16 Von Ludwig was a keen horticulturist and for his work he received the knighthood of the Order of the Royal Crown of Wurtemberg. He also received a PhD from his native country, Tubingen. He died at his Cape Town residence, Ludwig's Burg in 1847.

17 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas...* (no date), pp. 22-23; E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 13.

18 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, pp. 13-14; E Otto, “Ecological resilience and the interaction between the freshwater ecosystem services and built environment in the City of Tshwane” (MA, UP, 2015), p. 83.

19 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas...* (no date), p. 14.

20 Anon., “Curators Timeline 1849-present”, *Woodiana*, (2), 2013, p. 18.

21 Robert Jameson was born in Scotland in 1832 and came to South Africa in 1856. He was a town councillor here for many years and served as mayor between 1895 and 1897. He died in 1908 (available at https://www.gerbera.org/robert-jameson/?doing_wp_cron=1612443270.8691151142120361328125, accessed on 4 Feb 2021).

22 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas*. The inner history of how Pretoria became famous for its Jacaranda trees, and other interesting notes about Jacarandas both in Pretoria and elsewhere, (no date), p. 29.

23 Eric Bolsmann is German born and worked in the hospitality industry in Pretoria since 1977. He also is an artist, publisher and amateur historian. He has written at least 5 books related to different Pretoria topics.

Wood, in 1885.²⁴ A timeline of curators of the Durban Botanical Garden²⁵ indicates that Medley Wood was appointed as curator of the gardens in 1882²⁶ and is attributed with planting what today is believed to be the oldest living jacaranda tree in South Africa in the Durban Botanical Gardens in 1885.²⁷

It should be noted that Wylie was an assistant of Medley Wood and first mentioned only came to South Africa in 1882.²⁸ Bolsmann, however, called Wylie the ‘Jacaranda Jim’ of Durban,²⁹ an indication that Wylie is believed to have contributed the most to the planting of these trees in Durban. There is, however, no proof that Wylie was ever given this nickname, as it seems to be used by Bolsmann only.

The mentioned timeline of curators of the Durban Botanical Gardens indicates that Medley Wood was the curator until 1903 and that Wylie succeeded him in 1904 remaining in that position until 1916.³⁰ It is therefore reasonable to accept that Wylie was the assistant to Medley Wood between 1882 and 1903 and that he in his term as curator likely have planted many jacaranda trees in Durban. He could, however, not have planted any in 1879 as Jameson earlier stated because Wylie only came to South Africa in 1882.

There are different accounts on the import of jacaranda trees into the interior of South Africa. These accounts seem to be totally on hearsay. It is for instance believed that several farmers brought seeds with them from the Cape and planted oak, walnut and jacaranda trees.³¹ Another account is that, even before the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1886, jacaranda trees were planted on farms in that area.³² Johannesburg also has large numbers of jacaranda trees and some sources indicate that these are even more than those

24 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 14.

25 Anon., “Curators Timeline 1849-present”, *Woodiana*, (2), 2013, p. 15.

26 Y Singh, “Here’s to a legacy” *Woodiana*, (2), 2013, p. 5.

27 A Vergou & J Willison, “Communities in nature: Growing the social role of botanic gardens”, *Woodiana*, (2), 2013, p. 12.

28 The S2A3 Biographical Database of South African Science, “James Wylie” (available at http://www.s2a3.org.za/bio/Biograph_final.php?serial=3208, accessed on 27 Mar 2020).

29 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 18.

30 Anon., “Curators Timeline 1849-present” *Woodiana*, (2), 2013, p. 18.

31 Johannesburg City Parks, “Joburg’s jacarandas – a quick history” (available at <https://www.jhbcityparks.com/index.php/tree-planting/tree-planting-updates/1322-joburg-s-jacarandas-a-quick-history>, accessed on 30 Mar 2020).

32 “In your pocket essential city guides, Johannesburg” (available at https://www.inyourpocket.com/johannesburg/jacarandas-in-joburg_73995f, accessed on 30 March 2020); C Kahla, “Jacarandas in bloom: where to view” (available at <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/lifestyle/jacarandas-in-bloom-where-view/>, accessed on 30 Mar 2020).

found in Pretoria.³³ The history of jacarandas in Johannesburg, is however, much hazier than that of Durban and Pretoria. Jacaranda trees seem to also have an important place in the history of Johannesburg though, with the first being planted in Doornfontein. It is said that the tree entrepreneur William Nelson, whose business was known as Nelsonia Nurseries, planted around 106 kilometres of trees along the streets of the then newly established suburb of Kensington, Johannesburg in 1896. The task took around six months to complete, which is a feat in itself. It is believed to be the first time in South Africa that street trees were planted on such a large scale.³⁴ This too could not be confirmed, but even Jameson who was involved in the extensive planting of jacaranda trees in Pretoria, stated that the jacaranda trees at the Killarney Club in Johannesburg are some of the best examples of these trees.³⁵

Jacarandas were also planted as street trees in other South African cities, and urbanised spaces such as Pietermaritzburg, Rustenburg, Barberton and East London.³⁶ In Pietermaritzburg they were for instance planted in 1900 and again in 1929 when College Road received jacarandas as part of an extensive street tree planting scheme.³⁷ However, this was not done on the same scale as in Pretoria.

The legacy of jacaranda trees in Pretoria

According to Bolsmann and Otto, jacaranda trees first came to Pretoria in 1888. A travelling nurseryman called Tempelman sold two jacaranda seedlings to Jacob Daniël (Japie) Celliers, who resided in Sunnyside, Pretoria.³⁸ Venning³⁹ confirms this transaction, indicating that these were the first two jacaranda trees in the town and that they were originally planted in 1888 in the garden of Myrtle Lodge owned by Celliers. This property is presently

33 C Kahla, "Jacarandas in bloom: Where to view" (available at <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/lifestyle/jacarandas-in-bloom-where-view/>, accessed on 30 Mar 2020).

34 Johannesburg City Parks, "Joburg's jacarandas – a quick history" (available at <https://www.jhbcityparks.com/index.php/tree-planting/tree-planting-updates/1322-joburg-s-jacarandas-a-quick-history>, accessed on 30 Mar 2020).

35 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, Jacarandas..., (no date), p. 20.

36 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, Jacarandas... (no date), pp. 29-32.

37 D Wheelan, "Heritage impact assessment: Removal of the Jacaranda mimosaefolia trees at the intersection of West and Burger Streets, Pietermaritzburg, for the alignment of the Msunduzi Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network" (Unpublished report, Mayors Walk, Archaic Consulting, 2017), pp. 3-4.

38 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 14; E Otto, "Ecological resilience and the interaction between the freshwater ecosystem services and built environment in the City of Tshwane" (MA, UP, 2015), p. 83.

39 JH (Tom) Venning was a former Director of Public Gardens in Pretoria.

known as the Sunnyside School in Sunnyside, Pretoria (146 Celliers Street).⁴⁰

In 1939 these trees in the Myrtle Lodge garden were fenced in as a protective measure.⁴¹ A plaque was also placed at the site to commemorate the event, and was unveiled by the Mayor of Pretoria, Ben Swart, on 8 November 1939. This is an indication of the importance of the jacaranda trees to the city. It is further indicated that many of the jacaranda trees in the city originated from these two so-called “parent trees”. Mrs Celliers stated that many of their friends took seeds from these trees to the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces, Wellington and Uitenhage. JD Celliers have also provided seeds⁴² for jacarandas to be planted in Groenkloof in the 1890’s.⁴³

Celliers secured this concession from the government to plant trees in Groenkloof in 1898.⁴⁴ The seeds were ordered through a Pretoria businessman, James D Clark, who had established a nursery in 1895 in what today forms part of the Riviera suburb in Pretoria. It is said that Clark received jacaranda seeds with his consignment of eucalyptus seeds imported from Australia in 1898. As a result of the beauty of these trees, Clark donated 200 jacaranda trees for the 51st anniversary of the founding of Pretoria on 16 November 1906.⁴⁵ This was the start of the planting of jacaranda trees along the streets in Pretoria, the first of which were along Koch Street (now Bosman Street) and in Arcadia Park. Most of the trees were planted by school children on 16 November 1906. The two trees on the corner of Koch and Boom Street were planted by the Mayor (JJ Kirkness) and his wife.⁴⁶ Although many of these trees died shortly thereafter, Clark had them replaced.⁴⁷

40 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), JH Venning, “History of Pretoria’s Jacarandas”, Official souvenir Jacaranda Festival, Pretoria, 4-11 Nov 1939, p. 7.

41 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/1: Correspondence files (1897-1975), M Nicolson (Office of the Town Clerk), Report on the jacaranda trees at Myrtle Lodge, 5 Jun 1939.

42 This likely was in 1898 as he then secured a concession for the planting of trees (not only jacarandas) in Groenkloof. It is unlikely that he relied on only the two trees in his garden for this purpose. He therefore probably imported the seeds/seedlings. Nevertheless it can be noted that jacaranda trees take 3 years to start blooming (and thus provide seeds) if grown from a seedling. When grown from seed it takes 14 years. See <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/old-jacaranda-tree-bloom-81378.html>, accessed on 4 Feb 2021.

43 NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), [no initials] Celliers, “History of Pretoria’s Jacarandas”, (1939), p. 2; E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 17.

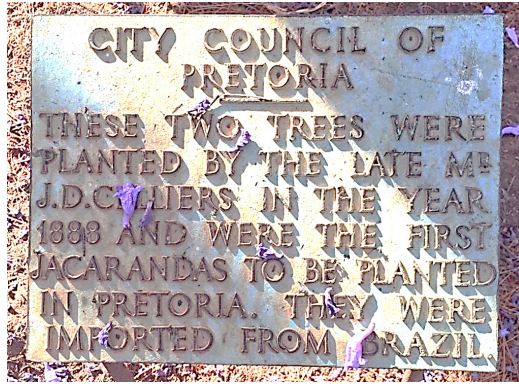
44 E Otto, “Ecological resilience and the interaction between the freshwater ecosystem services and built environment in the City of Tshwane” (MA, UP, 2015), p. 83.

45 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 17; E Otto, “Ecological resilience...”, pp. 83-84.

46 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), [no initials] Celliers, “History of Pretoria’s Jacarandas”, (1939), p. 3.

47 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 18.

Image 2: Plaque commemorating the planting of the first two jacarandas in Pretoria



Source: Photo by AC van Vollenhoven, 2020.

Image 3: One of the first two jacaranda trees in Pretoria



Source: Photo by AC van Vollenhoven, 2020.

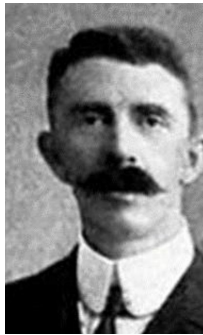
Pretoria's "Jacaranda Jim's"

For his contribution, Clark was nicknamed "Jacaranda Jim". Little is known about Clark except that he came to Pretoria from Grahamstown in 1879 and started a business as a florist, nurseryman and seedsman in Church Street, Pretoria. He was regarded as a successful entrepreneur, serving on the boards of various financial institutions and welfare societies. He died on 2 January 1956 at the age of 92 and is buried under a jacaranda tree in the Heroes' Acre

in Pretoria. His headstone is inscribed with his nickname, “Jacaranda Jim”.⁴⁸

There was, however, someone else with this same nickname of “Jacaranda Jim”: Frank Walter Jameson, mentioned earlier. More biographical information is known about him. He is famous for his contribution to the planting of jacaranda trees in Pretoria and received the nickname as a result of his influence in the planting of these trees in the town.⁴⁹ He not only planted the most jacaranda trees in Pretoria, but he also planted these trees in Kimberley and Nairobi.⁵⁰

Image 4: Walter Jameson, also known as “Jacaranda Jim”



Source: “Kimberley City info”, (available at <https://www.kimberley.org.za/tag/frank-walter-jameson/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

Born in Durban in 1873 Jameson received his education in a private school and by means of tutoring. From 1891 until 1894 he studied under the Borough Engineer of Durban, John Fletcher, and was an assistant engineer in the Durban Council from 1894 to 1896. In 1896 he was appointed as assistant engineer to WH Radford in Nottingham, England, and took a course at the Technical University in Nottingham at the same time. In 1897 he was the Resident Engineer of the Bridgeford Development Scheme in England and in 1898 the assistant Resident Engineer for the Walton-on-Thames sewage scheme. He returned to South Africa in 1899, working for the Durban Corporation as the waterworks engineer. Thereafter, he was appointed the

⁴⁸ E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 18.

⁴⁹ It has been indicated earlier that Bolsmann called John Wylie the “Jacaranda Jim” of Durban. Both James Clark and Frank Jameson are called “Jacaranda Jim” by Bolsmann as well as other sources. (Regarding JD Clark, see NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), newspaper clipping, *Pretoria News*, 3 January 1956. Regarding FW Jameson, see “Kimberley City info” (available at <https://www.kimberley.org.za/tag/frank-walter-jameson/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

⁵⁰ City Council Kimberley, “Kimberley City info” (available at <https://www.kimberley.org.za/tag/frank-walter-jameson/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

Borough engineer of Pietermaritzburg in 1902.⁵¹

His link to Pretoria started in 1905 when he was seconded and appointed as the Technical Commissioner by the governor of the Transvaal to investigate problems encountered with the Pretoria Sewage Scheme.⁵² In 1909, he was appointed the Town Engineer of Pretoria until 1920. He also established a nursery in the town for the propagation of jacarandas and other trees. This nursery for many years provided trees for the city's streets.⁵³ Mrs Celliers indicated that Jameson told her that it was after he saw the beautiful trees in their garden that he decided more jacaranda trees should be planted in Pretoria.⁵⁴ According to Bolsmann it was indeed Jameson who suggested that jacaranda trees be planted along all Pretoria's streets.⁵⁵ He indicated that one of the reasons for planting the jacaranda trees was because of their adaptability to local conditions, especially in the cold winter months. This led to natural pruning, requiring less effort from the city's Parks Department to keep the trees in shape.⁵⁶

A newspaper article in *Die Vaderland* indicated that in 1909 alone Jameson planted 40 miles of jacarandas in the city.⁵⁷ However, this date is incorrect as Jameson himself said that in 1911 his department was engaged in a big scheme to plant 40 miles of jacaranda trees in the city.⁵⁸ He stated further that the City Council had donated two jacaranda trees to all residents who allowed them to remove other large trees with big roots that threatened the town's sewage system. Jameson believed that it was this scheme which eventually persuaded most of Pretoria's inhabitants to adopt a positive attitude towards the jacarandas.⁵⁹

51 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), [no initials] Celliers, "History of Pretoria's Jacarandas", (1939), p. 3; "Kimberley City info" (available at <https://www.kimberley.org.za/tag/frank-walter-jameson/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

52 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), [no initials] Celliers, "History of Pretoria's Jacarandas", (1939), p. 3.

53 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), [no initials] Celliers, "History of Pretoria's Jacarandas", (1939), p. 3; E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 21.

54 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), [no initials] Celliers, "History of Pretoria's Jacarandas", (1939), p. 3.

55 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 21.

56 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas...*, (no date), pp. 15; 20.

57 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), newspaper clipping, *Die Vaderland*, 14 Feb 1955.

58 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas...*, (no date), p. 13.

59 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas...*, (no date), pp. 16-18.

When Jameson left Pretoria and moved to Kimberley, no fewer than 6 000 jacarandas had been planted in the city. The City Council's policy to plant jacarandas, however, remained and encouraged by Jameson, by 1939 the number of trees had risen to 17 000.⁶⁰ By 1957 this number had increased to 25 000.⁶¹

Between 1920 and 1931, Jameson was Kimberley's City Engineer. In 1920, he was also appointed a technical member of the Central Housing Board in the Department of Public Health, Kimberley. After 1931, Jameson was appointed the Town Engineer of Krugersdorp. Thereafter he worked for the Central Housing Board until 1948 and for the National Housing Commission between 1948 and 1951.⁶² As the City Engineer, Jameson had an influence in all of the towns where he worked, thus making him an important historical figure. He died on 16 February 1956 and was laid to rest in the Rebecca Street cemetery in Pretoria West, which hosts a large number of jacaranda trees. Although Jameson wished to be buried underneath a jacaranda tree, his grave is underneath a stinkwood tree.⁶³

Pretoria became the most famous city for the purple flowering trees and was known as "the Jacaranda City". As a result of Jameson's influence, the popularity of the jacarandas resulted in approximately 37 000 of the trees lining many streets throughout Pretoria. It is also estimated that the figure may be as high as 65 000, but that includes trees in the outlying areas of the city.⁶⁴

The white jacaranda

There are also almost 100 rare white jacarandas that can be found in Herbert Baker Street in Groenkloof, as well as some in the Wonderboompoort area. The white jacarandas were presented to Pretoria by Dr Wm S Stewart, the Director of the Arboreta and Botanical Garden in California, USA.⁶⁵ Windhoek and Harare have several white jacaranda trees. Some sources even

⁶⁰ E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 21.

⁶¹ NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), HPH Behrens (Public Relation Officer, Pretoria)/ Mrs FJ Stewart, 18 Dec 1957.

⁶² "Kimberley City info" (available at <https://www.kimberley.org.za/tag/frank-walter-jameson/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

⁶³ E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 21.

⁶⁴ AC van Vollenhoven (Personal Collection), E-mail: S Paul (City of Tshwane)/ AC van Vollenhoven (Researcher), 26 Apr 2019.

⁶⁵ NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), H Bruins-Linch (Director of Parks and Recreation, Pretoria)/Dr Wm S Stewart (Director of Arboreta and Botanical Garden, California), 2 Nov 1965.

suggest the existence of a legend claiming that the white jacaranda tree was cultivated in Windhoek.⁶⁶

Image 5: Some of the white jacarandas in Groenkloof, Pretoria



Source: *Culture trip*, "What to know about South Africa's majestic Jacaranda trees" (available at <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/south-africa/articles/what-to-know-about-south-africas-majestic-jacaranda-trees/>, as accessed on 31 March 2020).

Contemplating the cultural value of the jacaranda tree

Various interventions have been made over the years to protect Pretoria's jacaranda trees, which is an indication of their importance to the city. In 1948, the trees were infected by a plague and the City Council took measures to protect them.⁶⁷ In 1953, many of the trees showed signs of deterioration as a result of the tarred streets and concrete paving. The Director of Parks, Henri Bruins-Lich, engaged in a programme of carefully pruning the trees, which resulted in their survival.⁶⁸ Bruins-Lich also succeeded in developing the trees so that their trunks grew long and upright, making them perfect for

66 A Schoeman, "Nature notes – the exuberant jacaranda", *Travel news Namibia* (available at <http://www.travelnewsnamibia.com/news/stories/featured-stories/nature-notes-the-exuberant-jacaranda/>, as accessed on 31 March 2020); Anonymous, "Tree society of Zimbabwe" (available at <https://treesociety.org.zw/discover-trees/white-jacarandas/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

67 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), H Bruins-Linch (Director of Parks and Recreation, Pretoria)/Dr Wm S Stewart (Director of Arboreta and Botanical Garden, California), 2 November 1965; W Jameson, *Jacarandas*.... (no date), pp. 24-25.

68 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas*... (no date), p. 13.

street planting, as they were also fast growing, frost resistant and resistant to many plant diseases.⁶⁹

Jacarandas have become such a large part of Pretoria's culture that a local radio station has been named Jacaranda FM. The tree has also given rise to a folk tale. The peak of the flower season is the month of October which is incidentally also the time when final exams are written in South Africa. Students from the tertiary institutions in Pretoria believe that if a jacaranda blossom lands on your head, you will pass all your year-end exams.⁷⁰ This is perhaps the strongest indication that the jacaranda tree has become part of the social culture of the capital.

Furthermore, various songs and poetry have been written about jacarandas. The musical score, 'In Jacaranda Time' was composed by Gilbert Strang in the 1920s and in 1929 Sydney Richfield set words to the music⁷¹ (see this poem, quoted in the introduction). Many Afrikaans songs with references to jacarandas were also written. These include "Pretoria Jakarandastad" by Koos du Plessis, "Jakaranda Jy" by Anneli van Rooyen and "Jakarandastrate" by Valiant Swart. Some of the paintings of the famous South African artist, JH Pierneef, contain jacaranda trees. Nowadays the city has adopted these trees by instituting the official Jacaranda Routes in the City of Tshwane.⁷² The importance of jacarandas for Pretoria is further emphasised by the way in which these trees have been drawn into the town culture. For many years, a festival was held in Pretoria which was known as the Jacaranda Carnival. In the 1939 programme⁷³ of the carnival a poem, 'An Ode to the Jacaranda' was published.

These festivals seem to have been nothing more than a general celebration of the town and its jacarandas. It would include activities such as a ball, street parade, flea markets and the crowning of a Jacaranda Queen. Decorations would mainly be in purple to carry the jacaranda theme, but the carnival sometimes would not even have been held in jacaranda time (October-November).⁷⁴

69 NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), W Jameson, *Jacarandas...*, (no date), p. 22; newspaper clipping, *Pretoria News*, 4 Dec 1956.

70 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 26.

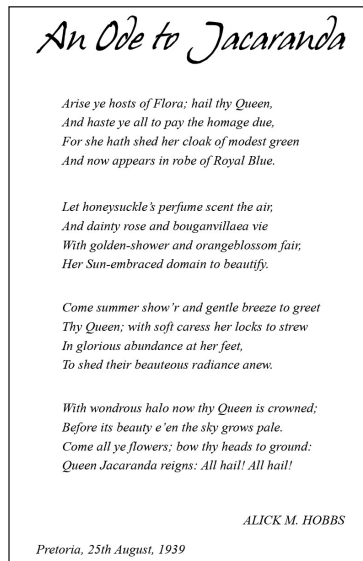
71 E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, pp. 26; 29.

72 City of Tshwane, Department of Housing, City Planning, Land and Environmental Planning, "Jacaranda routes", printouts provided on 19 March 2019; E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, pp. 41-47.

73 NASA TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), Official souvenir Jacaranda Festival, Pretoria 4-11 Nov 1939.

74 NASA TAB, P545: Pamphlet, Official souvenir Jacaranda Festival, Pretoria (1939-1949); NASA TAB, P546: Pamphlet, Official souvenir Jacaranda Festival, Pretoria 1950-1953.

Image 6: An Ode to Jacaranda



Source: NASA, TA, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2, Correspondence files, 1897-1975, AM Hobbs, "An Ode to Jacaranda", *Official souvenir Jacaranda Festival*, Pretoria, Nov 4-11, 1939.

The importance of jacaranda trees to Pretoria can furthermore be seen in the numerous newspaper articles which have been written over the years.⁷⁵ They refer to the beauty of the trees, their history and the fact that people who chopped down jacarandas without permission received fines. The public outcry when such trees were removed or merely damaged, stresses the importance of these trees to the inhabitants of the city. An article in the *Pretoria News* of 3 February 1956, for instance, serves as specific proof in this regard, and even the well-known South African artists, JH Pierneef⁷⁶ and Walter Battiss, voiced their opinions on the protection of jacarandas. Pierneef later retracted his view only based on the fact that the jacaranda is not indigenous to South Africa.⁷⁷ Due to a complaint by a citizen, G Orsmond, the Town Clerk, had to send out a reminder on 15 September 1966 to the City Engineer instructing him not to damage the trees while working around them.⁷⁸ The latest outcry took

⁷⁵ See for instance various newspaper clippings, such as NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897 - 1975), newspaper clipping, *Pretoria News*, 30 Feb 1956; *Pretoria News*, 30 Nov 1956.

⁷⁶ NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), newspaper clipping, *Pretoria News*, 30 Nov 1956.

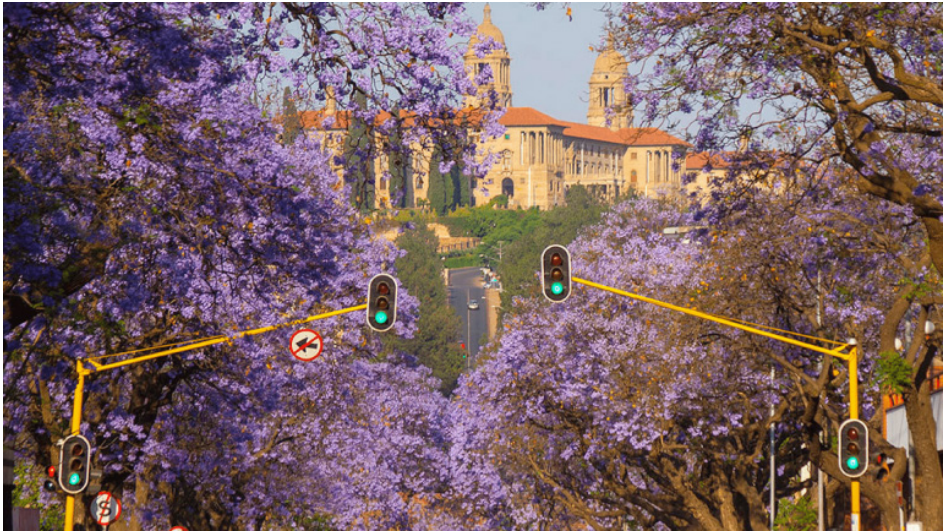
⁷⁷ NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), newspaper clipping, *Pretoria News*, 3 Feb 1956.

⁷⁸ NASA, TAB, MPA, Vol. 3/4/1670, Reference 132/2/2: Correspondence files (1897-1975), Town Clerk, Pretoria/ Town Engineer. Pretoria. 15 Sept 1966.

place as recently as 2013, when the city was removing trees to make way for the Bus Rapid Transit System. The Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of Gauteng (PHRA-G) intervened and instructed that the jacarandas had to be replanted elsewhere.⁷⁹ This is in line with the earlier mentioned heritage impact assessment done of jacaranda trees in Pietermaritzburg, recommending that the trees should rather not be removed.⁸⁰

Furthermore, thousands of tourists flock to Pretoria every year to see the jacarandas in bloom, mainly in October and November. During this time, the hills around the city is transformed into a glowing purple mass when the trees are in bloom.

Image 7: A magnificent view of jacaranda trees in Pretoria with the Union Buildings in the background



Source: *Culture trip*, “What to know about South Africa’s majestic Jacaranda trees” (available at <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/south-africa/articles/what-to-know-about-south-africas-majestic-jacaranda-trees/>, as accessed on 31 Mar 2020).

Cultural heritage significance and positioning the jacaranda in Pretoria

The theory regarding cultural heritage management needs some explanation as this serves as the broad baseline in the determination of the cultural

79 Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of Gauteng, “Report of the HIA Adjudication Committee December 2012 – November 2013”, p.1.

80 D Wheelan, “Heritage impact assessment: removal of the Jacaranda mimosaeifolia trees at the intersection of West and Burger Streets, Pietermaritzburg, for the alignment of the Msunduzi Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network” (Unpublished report, Mayors Walk, Archaic Consulting, 2017), p. 13.

significance of any possible heritage site, feature or object. It usually consists of three phases but this has been dealt with in detail in previous publications,⁸¹ and therefore only issues applicable to this study will be discussed.

During any development project (mining, housing, infrastructure etc.) heritage resources are identified and the possible impacts determined.⁸² In order to rate identified resources and to determine their cultural significance, further research is required.⁸³ Thus decisions can be made about the preservation, utilisation or demolition of such heritage features. Cultural heritage resources classified as being of high significance are most likely to be preserved *in situ* and to regulate the sustainable preservation and utilisation thereof, a Cultural Management Plan is drafted.⁸⁴

It is of the utmost importance that the cultural significance of a place be understood before any decision about its preservation or destruction can be made. In the process of determining cultural heritage significance, international protocols such as the Burra Charter and Venice Charter, need to be taken into consideration. The significance of cultural sites, structures, features and artefacts is determined by means of their cultural, historical, social, aesthetic and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential.⁸⁵ Cultural significance is specific to the site, feature or object in question and relates to the content and context of the cultural resource.⁸⁶

Conservation and preservation refer to the criteria for keeping the historical character of a cultural resource intact, including the actions necessary for the preservation of these resources.⁸⁷ From this stems the sustainable utilisation

81 See for instance AC van Vollenhoven, *Guidelines for heritage management in South Africa* (Norderstedt, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2018); "Die veranderende betekenis van die Voortrekkermonument: Erfeniswins of –verlies?", *LitNet Akademies (Geesteswetenskappe)*, 14(2), 2017, pp. 214-237.

82 Republic of South Africa (RSA), "Cultural heritage survey guidelines and assessment tools for protected areas in South Africa", *The Government Gazette* (Pretoria, The Government Printer, 8 December 2017), p. 115.

83 JS Kerr, *The conservation plan. A guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance* (Sydney, The National trust of Australia (NSW), 2013), p. 8; AC van Vollenhoven, *Guidelines for heritage management...*, pp. 30-31; J Deacon, "Cultural resources management in South Africa: Legislation and practice", G Pwiti & R Soper (eds.), *Aspects of African archaeology* (Harare, University of Zimbabwe Publications, 1996), p. 846.

84 South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), "Site management plans: guidelines for the development of plans for the management of heritage sites or places" (Unpublished document, 2013), pp. 1-2.

85 ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance (the Burra charter)* (Burra, ICOMOS, 2013), p. 2; JS Kerr, *The conservation plan...*, p. 11.

86 JS Kerr, *The conservation plan...*, p. 12.

87 ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS charter...*, pp. 2-3.

of cultural resources in order to also preserve them long-term for instance for tourism purposes. The latter should always be inferior to conservation and preservation principles.⁸⁸ Thus the monitoring of cultural sites is necessary to ensure their proper implementation, management and maintenance.⁸⁹ It is thus necessary to relate these to the example of the jacaranda trees in Pretoria.

It may seem as if the jacarandas have no other attributes than their beauty as they are described as being ornamental trees.⁹⁰ However, the bark and roots have been noted to have some use in the treatment of syphilis and the leaves are used as a vulnerary,⁹¹ although there is no evidence that they were used for this purpose on a large scale in South Africa. One source indicates that it was planted to address dust pollution from the mines and as source of wood for mine supports in Gauteng.⁹² It is also possible that the trees may have been used as a screen or windbreak, and it might be for this reason that jacarandas were planted on some farms and as street trees. Jameson certainly made no mention of such a use but did indicate that apart from their beauty, there was a practical consideration for planting jacarandas along streets as they are frost resistant and their natural pruning made maintaining streetscapes easy. Nevertheless, from the history of jacaranda trees above, it is clear that the tree has become a symbol of Pretoria not only because of its beauty. This is explained further below.

Cultural value

This refers to the value that a heritage asset holds for the community or a section of the community and is based on the assessment of the other four values. Cultural value is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places, and related objects.⁹³

88 ICOMOS, *International Cultural Tourism Charter (Managing tourism at places of Heritage significance)* (Mexico, ICOMOS, 1999), pp. 2-4.

89 RC de Jong, "Cultural resources and how to manage them: The research factor", J van den Bos & M Moolman (eds.), *Methodology in research* (Sunnyside, Transvaal Regional Branch SASCH, 1995), p. 26.

90 Bio-net Eafri-net, "Jacaranda mimosifolia (Jacaranda)" (available at [https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Jacaranda_mimosifolia_\(Jacaranda\).htm](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Jacaranda_mimosifolia_(Jacaranda).htm), accessed on 18 Nov 2020); Invasive Species Compendium, "Jacaranda mimosifolia (jacaranda)" (available at <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/29212>, accessed on 5 Feb 2021).

91 "Useful tropical plants, 'Jacaranda mimosifolia'" (available at <http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Jacaranda+mimosifolia>, accessed on 18 November 2020).

92 JM Fitchett & HA Fani, "Advance in Jacaranda Blossom Phenology in the South African Highveld interior: A preliminary analysis" (Proceedings of the Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers, Bloemfontein, 2018), p. 4.

93 ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS charter...*, p. 2.

The cultural value of jacaranda trees for the residents of Pretoria has been clearly illustrated above. This inter alia refers to the first of these trees being regarded as sufficiently important to warrant the erection of plaques in 1939 at the two oldest jacaranda trees in the city. It further refers to its tourism value, interventions in instances where these trees have been threatened and as inspiration for poems, songs and other cultural products. In fact, jacarandas have been described as part of the identity and 'sense of place' of the city.⁹⁴

Social value

Social value is considered the most important factor in determining cultural significance. It refers to the embracement of qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiments to any group. The value is influenced by factors such as how well-known a resource is, the state of its preservation, or its scientific importance.⁹⁵

Research regarding invader plant species has for instance shown that the emotions of people influence people's perceptions and attitudes towards invasive species.⁹⁶ This is indeed the case with Pretoria's jacaranda trees, where the social significance forms an important aspect. Not only is the city nicknamed "the Jacaranda City", but it is also embraced by the installation of tiles depicting jacaranda trees in Tshwane House. Furthermore, naming a local radio station after the tree and the folk tale about students passing their exams if a jacaranda flower falls on their heads, emphasises its social significance to the city. The emotion related to jacarandas, as seen in the public outcry when some of these trees are being threatened, and the cultural products produced in honour of these trees, are further testimony of its social value.

94 T Zengeya, P Ivey, DJ Woodford, O Weyl, A Novoa, R Shackleton, D Richardson & B van Wilgen, "Managing conflict-generating invasive species in South Africa: Challenges and trade-offs", *Bothalia – African Biodiversity & Conservation*, 47(2), 2017 (available at http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0006-82412017000200020, as accessed on 5 Feb 2021).

95 SAHRA, "Site management plans: ...", p. 5; ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS...*, p. 3.

96 RT Shackleton, A Novoa, CM Shackleton & CA Kull, "The social dimensions of biological invasions in South Africa", BW van Wilgen, J Measey, DM Richardson, JR Wilson & TA Zengeya (eds.), *Biological invasions in South Africa* (Cham, Springer, 2020), 2012, p. 716 (available at https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/39577/2020_Book_BiologicalInvasionsInSouthAfri.pdf?sequence=1#page=706, as accessed on 5 February 2021).

Image 8: Image of Jacaranda tiles in Tshwane House



Source: <https://uk.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images=Tshwane+house>, as accessed on 19 Jun 2020.

Historic value

This value recognises the contribution a place makes to the achievements and knowledge of the past. The condition of the heritage resource is evaluated, and questions asked include whether it is a typical or well-preserved example of a specific style, whether it is unique or has unique characteristics, or if it can be associated with a specific important individual.⁹⁷

This value definitely is applicable to the jacaranda trees of Pretoria. The history of the trees is linked to various historical figures, including but not limited to JD Clark, FW Jameson and certain mayors of the town. The specific planting of these trees as street trees on such a large scale and the fact that the first two trees planted in Pretoria have survived are therefore of specific historical value and thus included under this category.

Scientific value

Scientific value refers to the potential of a place to provide knowledge. It is closely associated with rarity, quality and representativeness.⁹⁸ This is the only value that does not fit the jacaranda trees. However, further research into aspects such as its possible medicinal value, may prove this category valid in future.

⁹⁷ SAHRA, "Site management plans: ...", p. 6; JS Kerr, *The conservation plan...*, pp. 14, 58; ICOMOS, *International charter...*, pp. 1-3; ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS charter...*, p. 3.

⁹⁸ SAHRA, "Site management plans: ...", p. 6; ICOMOS, *International charter... (the Venice charter)* (Venice, ICOMOS.1996), p. 2.

Aesthetic value

Aesthetic value has to do with the beauty of the design, ambience, association, and mood of a place. It includes the style, artistic development, and level of craftsmanship.⁹⁹ Setting in general also refers to the place itself while the visual setting includes views to and from the place. A reference to the setting may even include aspects such as smells and sounds, historical and contemporary relationships, for example certain activities, social and spiritual practices, and tangible and intangible associations with other places.¹⁰⁰

Clearly the jacaranda trees have aesthetic significance. Many references are made above about the beauty of these trees. This includes the reference by Jameson as one of his reasons for planting them on such a large scale and the mention of the views of jacaranda trees in spring making Pretoria a popular tourist destination.

The jacaranda trees as natural heritage

Another aspect is that of a natural resource being considered as heritage. Just as there are international conventions relating to the protection of cultural resources (for instance the Burra charter, the Venice charter, the Conservation plan of JS Kerr, the International Finance Corporations' performance standard for cultural heritage and the Equator Principles),¹⁰¹ there are also international charters related to the protection of natural resources. In some cases a specific link is made to cultural heritage. Furthermore, it is also mentioned in South African heritage legislation.¹⁰²

International conventions for the protection of natural resources for instance include the Florence Charter (Historic Sites and Landscapes)¹⁰³ and the Washington Charter on Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas.¹⁰⁴

99 SAHRA, "Site management plans: ...", p. 6; JS Kerr, *The conservation plan...*, p. 15; ICOMOS, *International charter ... (the Venice charter)*, pp. 2-3.

100 ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS charter... (the Burra charter)*, p. 3.

101 ICOMOS, *The Australia ICOMOS charter... (the Burra charter)*; *International charter...*; JS Kerr, *The conservation plan...*; The International Finance Corporation, "Overview of performance standards on environmental and social sustainability. Performance Standard 8: Cultural Heritage" 2012 (available at http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/dd8d3d0049a791a6b855faa8c6a8312a/PS8_Englisgh_2012.pdf?MOD=AJPERES, as accessed on 1 Sept 2017); Anon., "Equator principles", 2013 (available at <https://equator-principles.com/>, as accessed on 10 Mar 2018).

102 RSA, *National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)* (Pretoria, the Government Printer, 1999), p. 15.

103 ICOMOS, *The Florence Charter (Historic Sites and Landscapes)* (Florence, ICOMOS, 1982), pp. 1-5.

104 ICOMOS, *The Washington Charter (Charter on the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas)* (Washington, ICOMOS, 1987), pp. 1-3.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage¹⁰⁵ is perhaps the most important.

Apart from mentioning both the cultural and natural heritage, it is also concerned with countries' general policies to ensure the effective measures for their protection, conservation and presentation. Thus, it aims to give cultural and natural heritage a function in community life and integrates the protection of heritage into comprehensive planning programmes. Moreover, definitions regarding cultural heritage also include natural phenomena.¹⁰⁶

Heritage legislation in South Africa is inter alia based on the abovementioned conventions, and the National Heritage Resources Act refers to its natural features. In section 3(2) of the Act it states that natural features of cultural significance are regarded as part of the national estate as a whole. It further explains that once cultural significance can be attributed to a natural phenomenon, it can potentially be of cultural significance. Thus, natural features can be considered as heritage resources, especially when these have cultural meaning.

The word 'natural' is also used in section 3(3) of the NHRA where the requirements for being regarded as part of the national estate are listed. Reference is made to unusual, rare or endangered aspects of the natural heritage and the understanding of natural heritage.¹⁰⁷ In many cases, this cultural value is linked to the social value, such as what a natural feature has for a community. Examples of this are Lake Fundudzi for the Vha-Venda¹⁰⁸ people, or for other cultural groups, the trees in which the ancestors sleep.¹⁰⁹ What is important, however, is that these natural phenomena should have cultural significance. The jacaranda trees of Pretoria therefore also need to be assessed in terms of this clause. It is believed that this has been illustrated sufficiently above.

105 UNESCO, *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (Paris & Merida Yucatan, UNESCO, 2005), pp 1-16.

106 AC van Vollenhoven, *Guidelines for heritage management...*, p. 12.

107 RSA, *National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)*, p. 15.

108 G Anyumba & M Nkuna, "Lake Fundudzi: A sacred lake in South Africa that is not open for tourism development", *African Journal of Hospitality Tourism and Leisure*, 6(4), 2017, p. 1.

109 AC van Vollenhoven, C de Bruyn & Z Collins, "A report on a cultural heritage impact assessment done for the Anglo American Platinum and African Rainbow Minerals Modikwa Platinum Mine South Shaft 2 Project, close to Burgersfort, Limpopo Province" (Unpublished report, Groenkloof, Archaeos, 2014), p. 42.

For years, this led to controversy as environmental groups wanted the jacarandas to be removed, whereas others, as indicated above, wanted them to remain. Many people and institutions during the 1970's and 1980's called for the removal of the jacaranda trees as they threaten the natural environment. In 1983 they were declared invasive plants, but were placed under Category 3, meaning that although new ones may not be planted, those already planted may be left to die of natural causes.¹¹⁰ The jacaranda trees are not unusual in this regard as many alien tree species lead to conflict between those for and against such trees worldwide.¹¹¹

Public intervention in later years led to a change in this legislation regarding jacarandas which was brought about by the specific public resistance to their removal and to regulations preventing replanting.¹¹² As a result, the current Alien and Invasive Species List for fauna indicates that jacaranda trees are not listed for urban areas in five provinces, namely Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West.¹¹³ They are, however, listed for other areas. Thus, although jacaranda trees are not indigenous to South Africa, they have become accepted as part of the environment. In fact, jacarandas are classified as being acceptable even in areas within 50 metres of the main house on a farm in the abovementioned provinces. Thus, even environmental legislation accepts that these trees are not regarded as being unacceptable in an area which includes Pretoria, purely due to their perceived cultural significance.

Furthermore, some jacaranda trees may even be considered to be so-called "Champion trees" which is a concept used by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) which initiated a project to identify and protect trees worthy of special protection throughout South Africa. "Champion trees" are trees of exceptional importance deserving of national protection because of their remarkable size, age, aesthetic, cultural, historic or tourism value. They

¹¹⁰ E Bolsmann, *Jacaranda. Pride of Pretoria*, p. 32.

¹¹¹ IA Dickie, BM Bennett, LE Burrows *et al.*, "Conflicting values: Ecosystem services and invasive tree management", *Biological Invasions*, 16, 2014, pp. 705-719 (available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-013-0609-6>, as accessed on 5 Feb 2021).

¹¹² T Zengeya, P Ivey, DJ Woodford, O Weyl, A Novoa, R Shackleton, D Richardson & B van Wilgen, "Managing conflict-generating invasive species in South Africa: Challenges and trade-offs", *Bothalia – African Biodiversity & Conservation*, 47(2), 2017 (available at http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0006-82412017000200020, as accessed on 5 Feb 2021).

¹¹³ RSA, *Government Gazette*. Regulation Gazette no. 10244, Vol 590, No. 37885: National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No 10 of 2014), *Alien and Invasive Species Regulations* (Pretoria, The Government Printer, 2014), p. 19.

can then be protected under the National Forests Act (Act 84 of 1998).¹¹⁴ The jacaranda trees in Celliers street could also therefore be protected under this legislation.

Currently, the City of Tshwane (which includes Pretoria) is indeed implementing the above. Any tree that has died of natural causes is being replaced and those that have to make way for development are being replanted elsewhere in the city.¹¹⁵ As mentioned above, the jacaranda tree is seen as a symbol for the city. Tiles on which jacaranda trees are portrayed were installed in Tshwane House, the administrative centre of the municipality.

Conclusion

Pretoria's jacaranda trees are important cultural heritage resources and therefore need to be conserved, preserved and protected. The main principle in the trees' cultural heritage significance is the importance it has for the residents of the city. As emphasised above, the trees conform to four of the five values indicated in determining cultural significance, namely, cultural, social and aesthetic value, and in some cases, historical value.

The most important values are the social and cultural values the jacaranda trees hold for Pretoria and its residents, giving rise to the city's nickname, 'the Jacaranda City'. This is further illustrated by indications of the emotional responses such as a folk tale, poems and songs, and public outcry in the event of a tree being damaged or removed. From an aesthetic point of view, when in bloom the jacaranda trees of Pretoria create a striking setting. This is especially due to the hills around the town creating appealing vistas. From a historical point of view jacaranda trees are utilised as street trees as was done in Pretoria since 1906. Many of the trees are older than 60 years of age, including the first two jacaranda trees planted here in 1888.

The mere fact that environmental legislation has been adapted to be less strict about jacarandas illustrates the cultural importance of these trees. This cultural importance outweighs the fact that jacaranda trees are invaders. Although the trees were initially merely planted for their beauty, they gradually became a symbol of Pretoria and inhabitants of the city have an emotional connection with them. The past association of Pretoria with these trees has been recognised even in a new dispensation, with the City of Tshwane embracing jacarandas

¹¹⁴ RSA, *National Forests Act* (No 84 of 1998).

¹¹⁵ AC van Vollenhoven (Personal Collection), E-mail: S Paul/AC van Vollenhoven (Researcher), 1 Nov 2018.

as a symbol of the capital. There can thus be no doubt that jacaranda trees, at least in Pretoria, should be regarded as natural features of cultural significance.