

Report on “The Seven Pines” at Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park, Brown Hill Creek, South Australia 5062.

Submitted to the City of Mitcham on the Formal Nomination of “The Seven Pines” to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia – South Australia (July 2012).



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DEDICATION:

This Report is dedicated to the life and work of **Margaret Elizabeth “Maggy” Ragless (b. 10th May, 1952 – d. 27th March, 2012)**, the late Local History Officer/Community Historian at the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre. This Report acknowledges all the volunteers who continue the good work at the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre.

“Maggy’s” passion for researching history and heritage brought to light the August 1891 Minutes of a Mitcham Council Meeting. These Council Minutes recorded George Prince’s donation of seven young Stone Pines which he suggested to be planted at the “*Brown Hill creek reserve*”.

This significant primary historical document was the foundation of an intensive historical search from June to July 2012 which followed leads as far as Longworth, Berkshire, England, in order to substantiate the social, cultural, historical and botanical significance of “The Seven Pines”.

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INTRODUCTION:

This Report is composed for the City of Mitcham on the formal nomination of “The Seven Pines” to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia. It is envisaged that this report is used as a source of information in order to facilitate a fuller understanding of the significance of a group planting of Stone Pines or *Pinus pinea* which have become colloquially known as “The Seven Pines”. The purpose of this report is for the City of Mitcham to acknowledge the historical, cultural, social and scientific significance of these monumental arboricultural assets.

This report contains botanical, historical, cultural and social information. Some of the historical and cultural information is presented here **for the very first time and is based on newly discovered primary and secondary historical documents**. This new historical documentation deconstructs a misconceived origin story of “The Seven Pines”. What does emerge from this deconstruction **is the real story of origin and its deep roots in Longworth, Berkshire, England, early Mitcham Village in nineteenth century South Australia, the life of George Prince and his family heritage in agriculture and horticulture**. This real story is embodied in George Prince’s “The Seven Pines” and is now entering its one hundredth and twenty-first year within the City of Mitcham. This rich historical and cultural heritage should be acknowledged by Council and all members of the community, both local and beyond.

Some of the information contained in this report is borrowed from a basic and early document the tree nominator prepared entitled: “*The Pinus pinea Report*” and the initial Nomination Report to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia (South Australia). At the time of the composition of these early reports the new historical documents **were not** available. There are, therefore, historical and cultural account inaccuracies. This new Report for the City of Mitcham now **supersedes** these previous reports. An updated Nomination Report to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia (South Australia) was completed and submitted in July 2012. This Report for the City of Mitcham also borrows information from this new Nomination Report.

“The Seven Pines” **fulfil six out of ten categories for nomination**. These categories are used by the tree nominator to assess the worthiness and level of nomination to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia. These ten categories are listed below and those highlighted in bold indicate the categories which “The Seven Pines” fulfil:

1. **Any tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock, including specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or exposure.**

2. **Any tree which occurs in a unique location or context and so provides a contribution to the landscape, including remnant native vegetation, important landmarks, and trees which form part of an historic garden, park or town.**
3. Any tree of a species or variety that is rare or of very localised distribution.
4. Any tree that is particularly old or venerable.
5. **Any tree outstanding for its large height, trunk circumference or canopy spread.**
6. **Any tree of outstanding aesthetic significance.**
7. Any tree which exhibits a curious growth form or physical feature such as abnormal outgrowths, natural fusion of branches, severe lightning damage or unusually pruned forms.
8. **Any tree commemorating a particular occasion (including plantings by Royalty) or having associated with an important historical event.**
9. Any tree associated with Aboriginal activities.
10. **Any tree that is an outstanding example of the species.**

SECTION 1: THE BOTANICAL DATA.

The Latin description of the species:

Pinus pinea Linnaeus., Sp. Pl. 2: 1000. 1753. Type: Illustration: “*Pinus ossiculis duris, foliis longis*” in Bauhin & Cherler, Hist. Pl. Univ. 1 (2): 248. 1650 (lectotype).

Etymology:

The species name: *pinea*, is a Latin adjective (in feminine gender) which translated means “of pines” and refers to the “pine nuts” or the edible seeds. The masculine form of the adjective is *pineus*.

The Botanical Nomenclature for the species:

Family: Pinaceae

Genus Name: *Pinus*

Species Name: *pinea*

Subsection: Pinaster

Common Name/s:

Mediterranean Stone Pine / Italian Pine / Stone Pine / Umbrella Pine / Italian Stone Pine / *Pino da Pinoli* (Italian) / *Pino Pinonero* (Spanish) / *Pinheiro-manso* (Portuguese)

Natural Habitat and Natural Distribution:

Pinus pinea is native to Mediterranean Europe and the Near East. It is doubted by many authorities to be native in many areas of the Eastern Mediterranean. These doubtful areas with scattered populations include east to the Pontiac Mountains south-east of the Black Sea in north-eastern Turkey. Such scattered populations may have been planted by man in ancient times for seed production. This species usually grows in pure stands most often near the sea, as an emergent tree above shrubs (*maquis*), in low open forests, with Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and in Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) *maquis*-woodland.

Morphology:

Despite a long history of planting by man there is considerable genetic differentiation among different populations as enzyme studies have shown. There is also less than usual genetic variation within scattered populations. This reflects the scattered distribution of small populations typical of this species of pine. Morphologically it is quite a distinctive species and all attempts to hybridize it with other species of pine have failed. This is why it is placed in the subsection *Pinaster* since it shows close relation to other Mediterranean pine species with in its natural habitat range like Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*).

Name of the Particular Specimen/s:

The correct original name of this planting of Stone Pines from the late nineteenth century is “The Seven Pines”. The name: “The Seven Sisters” is not supported by any historical documentation or by living local memory. The name for this planting of Stone Pines as “The Seven Sisters” **only** appears in the State Government document: “Department for Environment and Heritage (2003) *Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Management Plan*, Adelaide, South Australia”, **and is erroneously applied.**

SECTION 2: SPECIMEN LOCATIONS, IDENTIFICATIONS AND MEASUREMENTS.

Location:

“The Seven Pines” are located within Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park, Brown Hill Creek Road, BROWN HILL CREEK, S.A. 5062. Their distinctive dome shaped canopies tower above the Brown Hill Creek Road as one travels south-east into the park along the road from the 1950’s Stone Monument at the Main Entrance to the Park. The Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park is located in the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, approximately eight (8) kilometres south of the City of Adelaide in the Council District of the City of Mitcham. This Park is in the Adelaide Region of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and is one of sixteen (16) parks in the Sturt District.

Map Reference:

2012 Adelaide UBD & Gregory’s Reference: Map 143, B5 & B6.

Number of Specimens:

The picnic reserve, located 1.4 kilometres south-east from the Main Entrance Stone Monument, is the site where seven (7) Stone Pines were planted. Six (6) were planted equally spaced around the Brown Hill Creek border of the picnic reserve. The seventh specimen was planted across the creek on the opposite slope facing its six companions. Out of these seven (7) specimens **only four (4) specimens are alive and are in excellent health. There are three (3) dead specimens on the creek border.** One dead specimen is only a cut stump, another dead specimen is still standing upright but a co-dominant trunk is lying on the ground and the third dead specimen is still standing near Specimen 1 (the largest specimen). The “Department for Environment and Heritage (2003) *Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Management Plan*, Adelaide, South Australia” document on page 22 **is incorrect when it states: “Of the original seven, only five remain, three of which are living”.**

Access:

Public access is unrestricted. These four (4) specimens can be accessed by driving, walking or cycling along Brown Hill Creek Road. The picnic reserve is a popular place for recreational activities.

Identification:

For identification purposes the remaining living specimens are numbered 1 – 4 and their satellite (Longitude/Latitude) locations are given to assist in identifying them. Each specimen was measured and photographed by the writer of this report and an assistant on Friday, 27th April 2012. A second visit on Saturday, 28th April 2012 was required to take more photographs. The height of the specimens was measured with a Haglof AB Electronic Clinometer and the girth and canopy spreads were measured with a 60 metre soft reel tape-measure. The girth was measured at 1.4 metres above ground (at breast height).

Measurements:

Specimen 1: (Approximately 1.4 kilometres from the Main Entrance 1950's Stone Monument travelling south-east along the Brown Hill Creek Road).

Long/Lat: - 34.990871, 138.633205

Girth: 6.8 metres

Diameter: 2.16 metres

Height: 32.2 metres

E-W: 38.5 metres

N-S: 27 metres

Specimen 2: (Approximately 1.4 kilometres from Stone Monument travelling south-east along the road. This specimen is located across the creek on the slope opposite its six companions).

Long/Lat: - 34.99058, 138.632682

Girth: 5.6 metres

Diameter: 1.78 metres

Height: 24.3 metres

E-W: 33 metres

N-S: 30.5 metres

Specimen 3: (Approximately 1.4 kilometres from the Stone Monument travelling south-east along the road. This specimen is located on the picnic reserve perimeter closest to the creek).

Long/Lat: -34.990605, 138.633749

Girth: 4.7 metres

Diameter: 1.49 metres

Height: 35 metres

E-W: 27 metres

N-S: 29 metres

Specimen 4: (Approximately 1.4 metres from the Stone Monument travelling south-east along the road. This specimen is located on the slope close to the road and creek on the picnic reserve perimeter).

Long/Lat: -34.99081, 138.633884

Girth: 4.56 metres

Diameter: 1.45 meters

Height: 32 metres

E-W: 29 metres

N-S: 30 metres

Age of Specimens:

These specimens were planted in August 1891 and are currently 121 years old.

SECTION 3: THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STONE PINE IN EUROPE.

The Stone Pine or *Pinus pinea* has a long association with European civilization and culture. This pine is one of twelve (12) species in the world that produces edible seeds. This species produces the “pine nuts” or “pine kernels” used in European cuisine like pasta dishes, pastries, in the pesto sauce of Italy or are simply eaten raw. The large oily seeds have an average oil content of 47.7% and a protein content of 34 %. The high oil content of its seeds makes this species economically valuable and has been planted since ancient times due to its seeds. This long association as a food source and planting for this purpose has blurred the natural range of the species. Many present-day stands located around its Mediterranean habitat are the result of historic plantings, some of which date back to Roman times (Farjon, p.738). The Stone Pine cone takes up to three years to mature. This is longer than any other pine species. This species’ resin contains turpentine which is used as an antiseptic to treat skin conditions. The same resin yields a substance called rosin. Rosin is rubbed onto violin bows and on the soles of ballet shoes for grip. It is used in varnishes and for water-proofing. A green dye is extracted from its needles. The quality of its wood is poor, being resinous and coarse in texture and seldom straight enough for any length for commercial uses. In Europe it has been used to make furniture and for firewood. In its native habitat the Stone Pine is slow growing and this has reduced its use for commercial timber plantations. Its empty cones generate a hot burning fuel and have long been used in bakeries. The ornamental value of the cones is also utilized by florists.

The Greek peripatetic philosopher, Theophrastus (c.372 - 287B.C.E), in his *Peri Phyton Historia* recorded the Stone Pine as the “domestic pine”. This is echoed much later by the Roman author, naturalist and natural philosopher, Pliny the Elder (c.23 - 79C.E.), in his work: *Naturalis Historia*, who also referred to it as the “domesticated pine” due to being planted for its edible seeds. Pliny the Elder however drew a distinction between the “domesticated pine” and the “wild pine” - the Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*). The Roman Poet, Ovid (43B.C.E. – 17C.E.) in his famous *Ars Amatoria* or “The Art of Love” provides a list of aphrodisiacs to increase the sexual potency of man including: “*the nuts of the sharp-leafed pine*”. A second century C.E. Graeco-Roman papyrus (*Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 1211*) records sixteen (16) pine cones or *strobeilon* among the numerous items supplied to a distinct governor for sacrifice to the River God – Nilos. Apicius, a Roman celebrity, who enjoyed good food and recipes, (such as walnut-stuffed dormouse), which were used up to the Middle Ages, recommended a mixture of pine nuts, cooked onions, white mustard and pepper to increase the sexual virility of men. Dante Alighieri (1265 – 1321C.E.) in his *Purgatorio* (*Canto XXVIII, verse 1*) described the famous Stone Pine forest that extends along the shoreline of the Adriatic near Ravenna as “*...la Divina foresta spessa e viva*” or “the divine forest green and dense.” This forest still extends 26 kilometres along the coast and 1.5 kilometres inland.

Roger Spencer in his work on conifers: *Horticultural Flora of South-Eastern Australia. Ferns, Conifers & their Allies. The Identification of Garden and Cultivated Plants*, (p. 261) notes that **Stone Pines were possibly the first trees used for avenue planting in Australia.** They were planted as the approach to Government House along Bridge Street (and elsewhere) in Sydney. They were also used as a signature tree specimen in many townships in New South Wales. *Pinus pinea* was widely planted throughout temperate Australia during the nineteenth century.

SECTION 4: THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BROWN HILL CREEK RECREATION PARK.

Present day Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park is a linear shaped reserve consisting of 130.96 acres (53 hectares) in area. It has an average width of 200 metres and follows the Brown Hill Creek for approximately 4 kilometres. The Brown Hill Creek gives its name to the park. It is located in the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, approximately 8 kilometres south of Adelaide in the Council District of the City of Mitcham. Brown Hill Recreation Park is in the Adelaide Region of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and is one of sixteen (16) parks in the Sturt District.

The Brown Hill Creek flows generally towards the north-west directly through the park and its riparian landscape. Native vegetation in the park is sparsely distributed and its riparian flora includes River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Swamp Wattle (*Acacia retinodes* var. *retinodes*) and Swamp Club Rush (*Isolepis inundata*) along the creek flats. Drooping She-oaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) grow on the hill slopes along with Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) woodland in the north-west portion of the park. Grey Box is rated as uncommon in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges and has been accorded a high conservation rating. South Australian Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) woodland remains over much of the remaining hill slopes.

Brown Hill appears as a trig point on the survey maps dated from 1839 which were published by the British Parliamentary House of Commons in 1841. The Brown Hill Creek Reserve was set aside originally in 1841 for “public purposes” by the Colonial Governor, George Grey, after a sample of freestone was obtained from a quarry that was opened near Brown Hill Creek. By 1858 it was clearly defined on survey maps as a public reserve. This makes it significantly older than the first declared National Park in the United States (Yellowstone, 1872), or in Australia (Royal National Park, Sydney, 1879 or Belair National Park, Adelaide, 1891). **It is the earliest declared recreational reserve in South Australia and possibly the world.**

Brown Hill Creek Reserve was close to the first sheep station in South Australia which was operated by the South Australian Company. Many early colonists also camped in Brown Hill Creek to avoid the dust of Adelaide. The existing “*Monarch of The Glen*” remnant River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is a historically and culturally significant tree of the Kaurna Aborigines which inhabited the region. This giant fire-stained hollowed River Red Gum trunk was a ceremonial and spiritual tree for the Kaurna. The Brown Hill Creek area was a winter hunting ground and ceremonial place for the Kaurna Aborigines. It was a corridor of movement into the hill country which were referred to as “*Wirraparinga*”. There were many Kaurna families which still camped in the area as late as 1901. This giant River Red Gum trunk was also used by at least two pioneer families as a temporary home in the 1840s and at least two babies were born in it. Many colonial artists painted this famous tree and captured the presence of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Colonial South Australian painter Alexander

Schramm, (b.1814 – d.1864), probably captured such a scene in his oil: *An Aboriginal Encampment in the Adelaide Foothills 1854*.

Up creek from the reserve many market gardens flourished from the 1850s onwards. This market gardening activity resulted in the construction of stone and pug pits to store horse manure collected from the streets which was used as fertiliser for local market gardens. The manure pits prevented manure washing down and polluting the Brown Hill Creek. These were built in 1891 by Mr Alf Terry on behalf of the Mitcham Council after lobbying by concerned market gardeners in the area. They were among the first environmental protection measures in South Australia. The remaining manure pits are now State Heritage Registered.

Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park has a long history of pre-European occupation by the Kaurna Aborigines. Colonial uses in the nineteenth century included temporary residence for colonists, quarrying, timber harvesting, recreation, swimming, market gardening and orchard growing and many other uses. The twentieth century saw some of these activities continue. Its long 170 years of intensive public use reflects the changing lifestyles and needs of South Australians. Today, it is primarily a recreational park for local and visiting people to enjoy its natural, cultural and historical assets. Many plantings of both exotic and native trees, shrubs and various plants reflect the changing attitudes towards the environment by the community.

SECTION 5: THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF “THE SEVEN PINES”. THE HERITAGE OF GEORGE PRINCE (1811 – 1891).

There is a history specific to “The Seven Pines” which is now able to be written based on the newly discovered primary historical documents and supported by various secondary historical documents. These documents were brought together in late June 2012. The following account is the result of this intensive research.

The seven Stone Pines were believed to be a commemorative planting and therefore considered part of Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park’s cultural heritage, (“Department for Environment and Heritage (2003) *Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Management Plan*, Adelaide, South Australia”, p.22). This Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) document states that these pines were planted by dignitaries to commemorate the Federation of Australia in 1901. **This is erroneous and is over-turned by these documents which highlight the correct historical and cultural origin.**

George Prince (also known as H. Prince or H.G. Prince) was born in the Village of Longworth, Berkshire, England, on the 13th April 1811. He was the eleventh child of thirteen children born to William and Jane Prince. George’s father and grandfather were both farmers and were of strong agricultural heritage. The system of primogeniture in nineteenth century England ensured that father left his property to his eldest son so ensuring it remained in the family. The other siblings had to find their own path in life. This is why William Prince and his young wife moved from his birth Village of Hinton Waldrist to the countryside of Longworth in order to establish their own farm. William and Jane rented a house from the Bouverie Pusey family who lived outside the village of Longworth. William was successful in his farming business as local records reveal a land holding of approximately 110 acres. When young George was eleven years old his mother, Jane, died on 28th March 1822. His father, William, lived to his eightieth year and died on 29th April 1845.

George’s health was not as robust as his other brothers. It was clear that he was not suited to the physicality of a farming life. George was able to read and write. By 1830 he was living and working in Hampstead, Middlesex, which was an outlying precinct of London. By the 14th July 1833 George Prince married the widowed Sarah Duly at St. Andrew Holborn, of which both were resident. After their marriage they lived in High Street, Hampstead. One of the businesses left to Sarah was her father’s grocery business. George Prince was recorded as a grocer from then onward. Sarah had two children from her first marriage to John Duly. On the 6th April 1834 her daughter Elizabeth died aged two years. By the 3rd August 1834 she gave birth to William Prince – George’s first son. The young couple’s business was growing and Hampstead was an upper class area with many nobility, gentry and clergy. On the 23rd July 1836 Ellen Prince was born. James Duly Prince was born on 28th February 1839. In 1841 a business directory recorded George Prince as a China and Glass Dealer in High Street, Hampstead. This same directory also listed him as a grocer. Either George inherited both businesses when he married Sarah or inherited the grocery and built up the china business.

Esther Turner Prince was born on 28th July 1841. Eliza Prince was born on 9th August 1844, but died before her second birthday. After this tragedy, Edward Prince was born on 10th March 1847.

On advice from his doctors to move to a better climate George decided to immigrate to Australia. He sold his businesses and probably kept and packed all his crockery stock. He chartered one whole side of the ship *Louisa Baillie* and brought with him his own windows, doors, roofing, skirting and kit home, his carriage and a saddle for each of the children, packing cases made of fine wood which could be converted into household furniture and had to pay for the ship's provision. He brought with him many seeds, cuttings and propagation material for his future garden in the new "semi-savage" land. He brought with him his wife and five children, servants, tradesmen and their families. The ship sailed from London on 29th April 1849 and **arrived in Port Adelaide on 3rd September 1849.**

In Adelaide George and his family rented a house in Rundle Street, but due to the size of his family, he and his daughter Esther boarded with a Mrs Whitby who ran a school in Carrington Street. Adelaide was founded in 1836 and by 1840 Mitcham Village was laid out by the South Australian Company. It was named by its Manager, William Giles, after his home town in Mitcham, England. George selected a block of land in Mitcham Village facing what became Albert Street. In November 1849 he purchased Lots 49 and parts of Lots 50 and 51 for £270 from Mr Hugh Foulkes. A house of about seven or eight rooms with a verandah all round was built within three months. It was composed of materials brought out from England. A scullery, stable and some furniture was built from the wood of the packing cases. This home George Prince built was known as '*Kallawar*'. In May 1850 he purchased another portion of Lot 51 for £100 from Mr Daniel Ledgard. Sarah gave birth to their sixth child, Henry (Harry) Greenwood Prince in Mitcham on 29th August 1851. By February 1859 George purchased Lots 63, 64 and the remainder of Lot 51 for £600 from Mr Thomas Edge. In total George owned 71/4 acres of land with the Brown Hill Creek meandering through the property. In 1849 George was described on the Title papers as a "Merchant". By 1859 he was described as a "Gentleman".

George established two successful crockery businesses in Adelaide, one in Currie Street and one in Hindley Street. He was well known in Mitcham as "Crockery Prince". He also built three business houses at the corner of King William and Grenfell Streets. He bought and sold various metropolitan and rural properties throughout his life. He owned properties at Carrington Street, Gawler Place, Albert Park and other land holdings in Mitcham. In July 1858 he established the Permanent Albion Building Society, on the corner of King William and Hindley Streets, of which he was a Trustee along with William Townsend and George Robert Debney. George began the first Midday Prayer Meetings at his Currie Street business where George Fife Angas often attended. His first wife, Sarah, died on 8th January 1859 aged 49 years. Ten months later, George married Honor Ann Palmer on 3rd November 1859. They had two children: Emily Palmer Prince, born on 18th October 1860 and Lloyd Prince, born 28th July 1862. Both were born in Mitcham. Honor died on 25th January 1886 at 63 years of age.

With the building of George Prince's home 'Kallawar' in 1849 near the eastern corner of Albert Street and Muggs Hill Road the extensive garden was well under way by c.1850. The various seeds, cuttings and other plant material he brought out from England to his new home finally found a new garden to grow in. George established a very large garden. It was full of English Cottage plants and trees. Well noted was his vast orange plantation ("orangery"), garden beds full of various perennials, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and annuals. Fruit trees, vegetables, rows of ornamental deciduous, evergreen and coniferous trees and a vast collection of rose species and cultivars were collections that captured the eye. Two large aloes were well noted and admired by people visiting the garden. A feature was a long vine covered trellis, probably Chinese Wisteria, through which family and friends could promenade and have afternoon tea. He employed three gardeners and local people visited the garden to see various seasonal displays.

George Prince had an agricultural and horticultural heritage in England through his family. His older brother, James (b.1799 - d.1877), took over the family farm from their father and became highly successful in growing crops. As England's urban sprawl expanded new markets and high demands enabled James to diversify into other crops. He grew other crops like flowers, which included roses. These were very popular at Covent Gardens and the Oxford Colleges and their gardens. He bought a shop at 14 Market Street in Oxford to sell his vegetables which was very successful. James Prince's eldest son, George (b. 1831) moved to Market Street in Oxford in c.1855 to run his father's shop. When James Prince died in 1877 George was in his mid-forties and was well established in rose growing in Oxford. This George Prince was the nephew of George Prince (in Mitcham, S.A.). He expanded his father's vegetable and rose growing business with land around Longworth and in Marston, near Oxford. George developed a wide range of vegetables for the Oxford and London markets. He also produced an extensive catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds and root collections based on plants grown in Longworth and Marston. His focus on expanding the rose side of the business was instrumental in developing and introducing many rose species and cultivars into England. Since his wife, Sarah Annette, was fluent in French he was able to import many French bred rose cultivars into England. 'George Prince's Oxford Roses' became highly respected and well known both nationally and internationally among the colonies. As this increased more fields of roses were planted out. A mail order business was also established and increased quickly in popularity and demand.

George Prince (Mitcham, S.A.) went to England in 1866. It is likely that he brought back rose material and seeds of many cottage garden flowers from his nephew for his garden in Mitcham. It is likely that roses were also acquired for his garden from his nephew via the mail order service. An anonymous garden observer published an article: "*Rambles Round the Gardens. Parkside and Mitcham*", *South Australian Register*, dated Tuesday 11th November 1884, who was invited by George Prince to see his garden in Mitcham. George was exhibiting at a school Flower Show in Parkside where this anonymous garden observer filled in as a judge at the show. This anonymous person described all aspects of the garden in detail. In regard to George's extensive rose collection this observer noted: "...He has a hobby for roses, **and possesses some that cannot be obtained perhaps even in the nurseries.**" In

this 1884 article is recorded the cultivar names of the roses which appealed to this garden observer: ‘La France’, ‘Village Maid’ (now known as ‘Unique Panachee), and ‘La Marque’, which were all French rose cultivars. There were also French climbing rose cultivars such as: ‘Cloth of Gold’ (now known as ‘Chromatella’) and ‘Leopoldine d’Orleans’ (now known as ‘Adelaide D’orleans’). These French bred rose cultivars are a strong indication that he imported roses from his nephew in Oxford. New French and other foreign rose cultivars and species were very rare in England in the nineteenth century.

This same article gives a clue as to how old the garden was by 1884. It describes a couple of old gum trees in front of the house which were smothered by English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and stated: “The ivy is over thirty years old”. This is very significant in reference to what is growing behind the house:

“Behind the house is the largest stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) I have seen in this colony. This one produces very large cones, and the seeds are large and very sweet - like almonds. Some people are very fond of them, and there was never a boy known who would not fill all his pockets if he got a chance. This tree is so large and tall and difficult to climb that there is trouble in getting the seeds at their best, and when they finally fall they are not so nice.”

A photograph of ‘Kallawar’ taken c.1880 (from the Scotch College Collection) showing George and Honor Prince on the front verandah of their home shows a distinctive umbrella shaped pine canopy on the right hand side to the rear of the house. This photographic image is further backed by a photograph from c.1880 taken from the upper floor of the *Torrens Park Estate* homestead looking south/south-east over George Prince’s garden, orangery and homestead, (Preiss & Oborn, *The Torrens Park Estate*, Fig. 4-11, p.30). Another photograph from c.1879 taken from the southern aspect of Muggs Hills Road looking north depicts George Prince’s house and extensive orangery. It shows a silhouette of a Stone Pine to the west of the rear of the house, (Preiss & Oborn, Fig. 21-12, p.209). These late nineteenth century photographs and the article from the 11th November 1884 **allude to a tree of great size and height of approximately 30 years of age. At this age it was taller than the two-storey home of George Prince. This indicates a Stone Pine specimen of great vigour and size. This tree was planted c. 1850 when the garden had its origins.**

This Stone Pine specimen in George’s garden **was among the earliest specimens planted within the colony of South Australia.** The Director of the Government (Adelaide) Botanic Garden, Dr Richard Schomburgk, in the *Catalogue of the Plants Under Cultivation in the Government Botanic Garden, Adelaide, South Australia*, (Adelaide: W.C. Cox, Government Printer, North-Terrace, 1871, page 122), noted *Pinus pinea* as a species under cultivation in the Government Botanic Garden in 1871. It was most likely located in the *Pinetum* which was planted along the banks of the creek with coniferous trees, (Aitken, R., Jones, D. & Morris, C. *Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study. Prepared for the Board of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide.* June 2006, page 114). In Dr Schomburgk’s *Report of the Director. Adelaide Botanic Garden, 1871.* (Adelaide: W.C. Cox, Government Printer, North-Terrace, 1872), he recommended *Pinus pinea* as one of the species of evergreen trees to be

planted around the new reservoir to protect it from the heavy winds which blew from its exposed eastern and northern aspects. But earlier than these official government documents is an article from *The Adelaide Observer* entitled: “*Bailey’s Garden*” dated 13th February 1869. It mentions that a “shapely stone pine” was growing in Bailey’s garden. This garden was established by John Bailey, a “Colonial Botanist and Keeper of Botanic Gardens”, from the late 1830’s. When the Stone Pine in this garden was planted is not known, but was notable by the time the 1869 article was written. By 1869 Bailey’s Garden was owned by a Captain Ellis who was noted as owning large estates in the colony. This garden was one of many sites that were trialled before the present location of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens was established.

George Prince had a shade house and growing areas in his garden where he propagated and grew many plants and trees for his own garden, friends and others. **Towards the later stage of his life he germinated some Stone Pines from his own specimen tree and what transpired with these saplings is recorded in the official Mitcham Council Minutes of the Council Meeting entry for the 4th August 1891,** (*District Council of Mitcham, Council Meeting Minutes. Entry for 4th August 1891: “Mr H. Prince”, page 288. State Records of South Australia, F.F. 02.0743.1 Governance. Committees. Initiated by Council. Full Council. February 1888 – 1893*):

“Mr H. Prince offered to the Council **seven young stone pine trees. He suggested they should be planted in the Brown Hill creek reserve** – it would be necessary to fence them and as the fence round the lower triangle near Mrs Gardiner’s store was not required for the protection of the trees and as the fence is very dilapidated it was unanimously resolved that this fence be removed and used for protecting the trees given by Mr Prince.”

The official Mitcham Council acknowledgement of this gift of seven Stone Pines from George Prince was dated 4th August 1891. It is likely that the trees were donated before the 4th August, probably sometime in late July. The Council Minutes of the 4th August were read and confirmed by the Chairman on the 8th September 1891. Taking advantage of the cool wet weather of winter 1891 it is most likely that the seven Stone Pine saplings were planted sometime in August. This was not the first time George Prince donated trees to the Mitcham Council for planting in public reserves and parks. On the 5th June 1888 George donated six trees to the Mitcham Council for planting in the Mitcham Reserve. The Council Minutes in this instance do not record what type of trees they were or where on the Mitcham Reserve they were to be planted. The 1891 donation of seven Stone Pines was specific in details in the following ways:

1. The type of tree: Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*).
2. The number of trees: Seven trees.
3. Where they are to be planted: “The Brown Hill creek reserve” (the picnic reserve by the creek).
4. The need to be fenced off to protect them.

5. There is no mention of the planting of the Stone Pines in the Mitcham Council Records. **This may indicate George was involved in the layout and planting of these Stone Pines with assistance from Council workers and/or his own gardeners.** George was 80 years old by this stage.

The Brown Hill Creek Recreation Reserve (Park) at the time was very denuded and over grazed by the South Australian Company, various quarrying exploits and agricultural activity. George was very concerned by this and used his garden as a source of tree material for “greening” up an increasing blight in the skyline of Mitcham. The anonymous garden observer described this stark hill view when visiting George’s garden in 1884:

“Immediately to the south, and almost toppling over the garden apparently – though half a mile off – is the curious conical hill (half of which has been quarried away) that strikes the attention of every visitor to the neighbourhood.”

The seven Stone Pines and the dilapidated fence erected to protect them from grazing animals, which was removed from the Lower Triangle of land near Mrs Gardiner’s General Store, were described less than two years later by a freelance journalist named Edward H. Hallack, (1846 – 1916). In 1893 he meandered through the Adelaide Hills describing the natural environment and the various garden and agricultural endeavours which people had undertaken. It was a typical hot summer day in February when he arrived at the Brown Hill Creek area. He described the denuded scenery and provided an interesting observation, (*“Farm and Station. The Toilers of the Hills.” The Adelaide Observer, 13th May 1893, pages 3 & 4*):

“All along the road the scarcity of trees is most noticeable, **but there are pines planted within substantial and ugly square railings. The majority of them look as if they were frightened of their guards or the cattle. Anyhow, their growth is the reverse of vigorous.** Had a few willows been planted and fenced nearer the creek the results might have been today the more appreciative.”

This critical observation indicates that “The Seven Pines” were struggling during their early days of life at the picnic reserve. George Prince died on 10th October 1891 at the same age as his father – 80 years. **He passed away less than two months after donating and planting “The Seven Pines” at Brown Hill Creek.** If the critical freelance journalist, Edward H. Hallack, had lived for another ten years after his own death (d.1916) those “*reverse of vigorous*” Stone Pine saplings would have shocked him with their vigorous growth rate and immense size!

On the 2nd October 1926 a young school girl named Mary Thomas was composing a school project about the Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park and the various activities in the area. On this day she took a photograph from the opposite slope across the Brown Hill Creek Road from “The Seven Pines”. This very clear small black and white photograph (which she glued

into her project book) shows the seven Stone Pines **with immense dense umbrella shaped canopies**. It also shows the lone specimen across the creek. The photograph interestingly shows a landscape as denuded and treeless in 1926 as it was in Hallack's time. The six specimens planted equally spaced around the creek border in the picnic reserve had grown higher than the road level. This height would need to be in excess of 20 metres. By 1926 "The Seven Pines" were 35 years old. At this age they were similar in height and size as their "Mother Tree" in George Prince's garden, as seen in the c.1880s photographs.

There is a distinctive planting style of six specimens equally spaced along the creek perimeter of the picnic reserve. This picnic area is located down a slope from the Brown Hill Creek Road and is approximately 1.4 kilometres south-east from the Main Entrance Stone Monument. Another lone specimen is located across the creek on the opposite hill slope facing its six companions. **The specific number and planting pattern of six equally spaced specimens and one specimen on the opposite bank of the creek** has intrigued many locals and visitors to the area for over one hundred years. There is no specific mention in the 1891 Mitcham Council Minutes concerning this matter.

There are many recorded plantings of trees around the Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park and other Reserves which state that the Mitcham Council planted the trees. The lack of a mention that the Council planted the young Stone Pines points to an involvement of George Prince in their layout and planting. It is possible and plausible that the number "seven" reflects the **seven children** George Prince biologically fathered with his first wife, Sarah Duly Prince. **There were six living children: William, Ellen, James Duly, Esther Turner, Edward and Henry (Harry) Greenwood Prince.** The six Stone Pines planted equally spaced around the creek perimeter of the picnic reserve may have been a *memorium* to these Prince children. **The seventh child was Eliza Prince, (b. 9/8/1844 – d. 22/7/1846), who died before her second year of life.** She was the child between Esther Turner and Edward Prince. The seventh Stone Pine across the creek from its six companions may be a *memorium* to Eliza Prince.

SECTION 6: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF “THE SEVEN PINES” AGAINST FORMALLY REGISTERED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPECIMENS OF *PINUS PINEA*.

There are four (4) specimens of Stone Pine or *Pinus pinea* classified on the Significant Tree Register of the National Trust of South Australia. These four specimens are located 150 metres west of Panalatinga Road, between Lantana Road and the Field River in Old Reynella, (Registration Number: 153). They were planted by Walter Reynell c.1880 to mark the site of his father’s first house which was built in 1839.

The writer’s late June 2012 visit to Adelaide made possible the measurement and photography of these Reynella specimens. They were measured and photographed on Monday, 18th June 2012.

The tallest specimen is the South-East (S-E) Specimen at 19.6 metres. The North-East (N-E) Specimen is 17.1 metres tall and similarly the North-West (N-W) Specimen is 17.2 metres tall. At 16.6 metres the South-West (S-W) Specimen is the shortest of the four. The tallest “Seven Pine” specimen at 35 metres tall **is over double the height** of this (S-W) specimen. It is between 15.4 – 18 metres taller than the (N-E), (N-W) and (S-E) specimens.

The girth measurements of the Reynella specimens are very similar for all four. Girth measurements are currently measured at 1.4 metres above ground at breast height (gbh). The girths only vary 10cms (100mm) between them. The (NW & SW) Specimens are 3.6 metres in girth. The (SE) Specimen is 3.7 metres in girth and the (NE) Specimen is the largest at 3.8 metres. At 6.8 metres the largest “Seven Pine” **is a massive 3.0 -3.2 metres larger in girth**. The smallest “Seven Pine” girth is 4.56 metres and is 76cm (760mm) larger than the largest Reynella specimen girth, (N-E: 3.8 metres).

The canopy spreads of the Reynella specimens are as follows, (East-West x North-South measurements): (N-E): 21 x 15 metres, (S-E): 25.5 x 22 metres, (NW): 24 x 17 metres & (S-W): 25.5 x 11.5 metres.

These canopy spreads are dwarfed by the massive spread of “The Seven Pines.” Their comparative canopy spreads are as follows:

(Specimen 1): 38.5 x 27 metres, (Specimen 2): 33 x 30.5 metres, (Specimen 3): 27 x 29 metres & (Specimen 4): 29 x 30 metres.

As an alternative comparison the largest *Pinus pinea* specimen at historic “*Beaumont House*”, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont, was measured on Thursday, 21st June 2012. This specimen is **not** on the Significant Tree Register of the National Trust of South Australia. It measured 21.6 metres in height, 3.78 metres in girth and has a canopy spread of: (E-W) 26 metres x (N-S) 28.5 metres. **Its height is 2.7 metres shorter than the shortest “Seven Pine” (Specimen 2: 24.3metres). It is 13.4 metres shorter than the tallest (Specimen 3: 35 metres).**

Its girth of 3.78 metres is 3.02 metres smaller than Specimen 1 (6.8 metres). **It is 78cm (780mm) smaller in girth than the smallest “Seven Pine”** (Specimen 4: 4.56 metres). Its canopy spread is 500mm – 1mtr shorter than Specimen 3 (27 x 29 metres) which has the smallest canopy spread of the “Seven Pines”. Specimens 1 (38.5 x 27 metres), 2 (33 x 30.5 metres) & 4 (29 x 30 metres) dwarf the canopy of the “*Beaumont House*” Specimen.

The Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Victoria has currently eight (8) specimens listed. A comparison against these classified Stone Pines in Victoria highlights the significance of the Brown Hill Creek specimens within a broader national context.

Specimens (**T11458**) are the remaining five (5) Stone Pines located at the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens in Victoria. They are trees of **Regional** significance. The average measurement of the largest specimen is 30 metres in height, 4.4 metres in girth and a spread of 23.5 metres. **These specimens may have the greatest height of any Stone Pine in Victoria.**

Specimen (**T11942**) located at the historic Chaffey homestead *Rio Vista* in Cureton Avenue, Mildura, is a tree of **State** significance. It is 20 metres tall, 3 metres in girth and has a canopy spread of 21.5 metres.

Specimen (**T12083**) located at 7 Hammerdale Avenue, East St. Kilda in Melbourne’s east is a tree of **State** significance. It is 18 metres tall, 3.6 metres in girth and has a canopy spread of 18 x 20 metres.

Specimen (**T12158**) located at River Bend Historic Park, Heaths Road, Werribee, in Melbourne’s west is a tree of **State** significance. It is 17.5 metres tall, 4.2 metres in girth and has a canopy spread of 29 x 27 metres. **This specimen currently has the most massive canopy spread of any Stone Pine in Victoria.**

Specimen 3 from “The Seven Pines” **has the smallest canopy spread.** Its canopy spread is 29 x 27 metres. **This is equal to (T12158) which has the greatest canopy spread of any Stone Pine in Victoria.** Yet this specimen is the tallest of the Brown Hill Creek specimens at 35 metres tall. It towers 5 metres above the tallest in Victoria. **Specimen 3 could be the tallest specimen of the species known in Australia and among the tallest in the world.**

The vast canopy spreads of **Specimen 1:** 38.5 x 27 metres, **Specimen 2:** 33 x 30.5 metres, **Specimen 3:** 29 x 27 metres and **Specimen 4:** 29 x 30 metres **dwarf all Victorian specimens.** These Brown Hill Creek specimens **may be the widest spreading Stone Pines in Australia.**

The girth measurement of the largest on the Victorian Register is 4.4 metres for (**T11458**). This is dwarfed by all four nominated specimens. **Specimen 1** with its massive 6.8 metre girth is 2.4 metres larger. This Brown Hill Creek specimen **has the largest girth of any Stone Pine in Australia.** Its trunk diameter at 1.4 metres above ground is 2.16 metres. **It is 1.15 metres greater than the botanical description for the species (Farjon, p. 737). It**

could be one of the most massive Stone Pines in the world. Specimen 2 with its girth of 5.6 metres also exceeds the botanical description for trunk diameter (1.78 metre) by 780mm.

The heights of Specimen 1 at 32.2 metres, Specimen 4 at 32.0 metres and Specimen 3 at 35 metres **exceed the heights of all Victorian specimens.** The botanical description height is given at 20 – 25 metres for this species, (Farjon, p.737). On average these three super-giants exceed the average height of 20 metres by 12 – 15 metres. They stand taller than the Victorian specimens by 14.5 – 17.5 metres, except (T11458) by 2 – 5 metres. **This is an outstanding character** since they are growing in open conditions and not in a forest situation.

It is appropriate at this point to draw a comparison against the largest recorded specimen of *Pinus pinea* in Italy. This specimen is recorded in the *Monumental Tree Register of Italy for the Region of Calabria.* It is growing near Scuto, Calabria, Delianuova, Reggio Calabria. This specimen is recorded as 35 metres tall, with a girth of 6.4 metres and a diameter at breast height (dbh) of 2.04 metres. **The height of this champion specimen is matched by Specimen 3 at 35 metres. Its girth is dwarfed by Specimen 1 with its massive 6.8 metre girth and 2.16 metre diameter at breast height.**

The Stone Pines at Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park are rare “Living Monuments” which have grown to proportions beyond the botanical description for the species. **Their size makes them very significant and notable examples of the species at a national and international level.**

SECTION 7: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF “THE SEVEN PINES”.

These specimens of *Pinus pinea* make a significant aesthetic contribution to the immediate landscape of Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park. The planting of six (6) specimens equally spaced along the creek border of the picnic reserve with a seventh (7) specimen planted across the creek on the opposite hill slope **are linked** to a prominent nineteenth century Mitcham Village identity, George Prince, and his English agricultural and horticultural heritage. Their immense size is an outstanding and note-worthy feature of these specimens of the species. **They are the most massive examples of the species in Australia from the late nineteenth century still in existence.**

They are significant from botanical, historical, cultural and social perspectives. The genetics of these trees in regard to their size characteristics and growth rate has botanical significance. Their girth-spread-height dimensions make them outstanding examples of this species within Australia from the late nineteenth century. From these perspectives and their aesthetic contribution to the surrounding landscape makes them very significant for the State of South Australia. Specimen 1 **is possibly the most massive example of the species in Australia and among the most massive specimens in the world.**

“The Seven Pines” have been nominated to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia (South Australia) because they fulfil the following nomination criteria:

1. **Any tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock, including specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or exposure.**
2. **Any tree which occurs in a unique location or context and so provides a contribution to the landscape, including remnant native vegetation, important landmarks, and trees which form part of a historic garden, park or town.**
3. **Any tree outstanding for its large height, trunk circumference or canopy spread.**
4. **Any tree of outstanding aesthetic significance.**
5. **Any tree commemorating a particular occasion (including plantings by Royalty) or having associated with an important historical event.**
6. **Any tree that is an outstanding example of the species.**

These criteria highlight the following levels of significance:

1. They are **significant as outstanding examples of the species**. Their immense canopy spread, height and girth measurements exceed any specimens known in Australia. Two specimens equal and exceed in various dimensions specimens overseas, (See Comparison). Their size factor just cannot be ignored – it is simply *de facto*, too

imposing to go unnoticed and demands admiration from scientific, historical and social perspectives.

2. The **representative genetics of these specimens is of scientific/horticultural interest**. The growth rate and size of the specimens is very similar to their “Mother Tree” from which George Prince germinated them (See Prince History). The growth rate within a 30-35 year period for both “The Seven Pines” and their parent tree in the original Prince garden is very similar and very noteworthy. Therefore, from which wild population within the natural geographic range the “Mother Tree” was sourced is interesting from a scientific view point.
3. As specimens **the remaining “Seven Pines” have a high aesthetic significance and contribute to the landscape of Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park**. The high cultural, social and historical significance of South Australia’s earliest declared park embodies the nineteenth century story behind George Prince’s donation of the seven Stone Pine saplings, (See History of Park). Each generation of people have left their imprint on the Park’s landscape. The Stone Pine is ancient symbol of European civilisation and the new colony of South Australia was greatly influenced by European “civilisation” during its colonial development.
4. “The Seven Pines” is deeply **linked to a prominent member of early Mitcham Village and his contribution to Adelaide in the nineteenth century: George Prince**. This man’s English agricultural and horticultural heritage was a very important part in the development of early colonial gardens, rose collections, orange groves for fruit production and vegetable growing. His close family link and access to plant material and seeds brought into the colony a varied array of horticultural and botanical diversity, (See Prince History).
5. The “Mother Tree” from which George Prince germinated “The Seven Pines” **was one of the earliest specimens of the species in the colony of South Australia**. Planted c.1850 it was approximately 30-34 years of age when described as the largest specimen in the colony in 1884, (See Prince History).

SECTION 8: THE FUTURE OF “THE SEVEN PINES” AS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL “LIVING MONUMENTS”.

The remaining four specimens of “The Seven Pines” are in good health and exhibit the typical silhouette of *Pinus pinea*. They exhibit the typical broad umbrella or mushroom-shaped canopy and the attractive orange coloured patchwork bark for the species. Yet three of these four living specimens exhibit an atypical trunk length and height for the species.

Storms over the years have damaged some minor branches in the canopies but have not wrecked the overall canopy silhouettes. Specimen 1 has one minor co-dominant trunk which cracked in a storm many years ago (See photos). Its integrity has not been compromised by this fracture. Specimen 2 has a main lower horizontal branch fracture from storm conditions many years ago (See photos). **All four (4) specimens need a pro-active maintenance programme.** Appropriate dead wooding needs to be undertaken during the winter dormancy period when sap flow is slow. Any fractured limbs need to be cut back to the branch collar as required by Specimens 1 and 2. This would greatly improve their silhouettes, aesthetic value and help reduce canopy loading. An excellent example of how magnificent a Stone Pine looks when it is well maintained and dead wooded can be seen at historic “*Beaumont House*”, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont. **Their massive canopy spread should be preserved at all cost since these specimens are some of the most massive examples of the species in Australia and the world.**

It should be noted that Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park is classified as a “Natural Monument” (IUCN category III), under the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* which recognises “an area containing one, or more, specific natural or natural/cultural features of outstanding or unique value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities or cultural significance”, (“Department for Environment and Heritage (2003) *Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Management Plan*, Adelaide, South Australia”, page 6).

This Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) document acknowledges that management of Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park needs to be consistent with the following IUCN Category III management objectives:

1. To protect or preserve in perpetuity specific outstanding natural features because of their natural significance, unique or representational quality, and/or spiritual connotations.
2. To an extent consistent with the foregoing objective, to provide opportunities for research, education, interpretation and public appreciation.
3. To eliminate and thereafter prevent exploitation or occupation inimical to the purpose of designation.

4. To deliver to any resident population such benefits as are consistent with the other objectives of management.

On page 22 of the same 2003 Park Management Plan it is noted that these Stone Pines “...are now senile” and could be replaced “with a more appropriate species, for example River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).” This mention about the Stone Pines is in the context that this document was issued two years after the 2001 centenary celebrations of the Federation of Australia. This is a **misguided understanding** of this species of pine. “**The Seven Pines**” currently show an inter-mediate growth habit in their canopy because of the dense umbrella or mushroom shaped silhouette. The canopy silhouette of mature or “senile” specimens in Europe is very distinctive – a thin layer of pine shoots (candles) on the outer-most perimeter of the branching system. This characteristic makes the canopy look thin and extremely flat. **“The Seven Pines” are far from mature, let alone senile, even though they have grown exceptionally fast in 121 years.** Limb collapse from severe storms is not a sign of tree weakness or old age – *de facto* it is simply storm damage. This species is reported to grow to 300 years (Farjon). Fortunately, this same document goes on to state that some non-indigenous trees are considered significant and protected under the *Development Act 1993 (S.A.)* and any replacement of “The Seven Sisters” (*sic*) has to take into account the requirements under this Act.

There are various controls and heritage listings which cover Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park. It has a high classification as a “**Recreation Park (RP)**”. This means it is an area of significance under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1972 (S.A.)* managed for public recreation and enjoyment in a natural setting. It is covered by various Commonwealth and State legislation in regard to its significant historical, cultural, environmental, archaeological and development aspects. The following Commonwealth and State legislation are applicable:

1. *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1972 (S.A.)*
2. *Wilderness Protection Act 1992 (S.A.)*
3. *The Crown Lands Act 1929 (S.A.)*
4. *Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*
5. *Heritage Places Act 1993 (S.A.)*
6. *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (S.A.)*
7. *Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)*
8. *Development Act 1993 (S.A.)*
9. *Natural Resources Management Act 2004 (S.A.)*

The historical, cultural and social heritage of a community is a highly valued asset. This multi-level heritage usually includes significant trees which a community comes to identify, acknowledge and accept as part of its story. Significant trees in a community transcend

considerable periods of time and human generations. In their silent presence human history is locked and preserved for a future time. It is only the endeavours of historians who seek this “locked history” that a glimpse of the past can be pieced together. “The Seven Pines” contain a specific “locked history” about one of South Australia’s earliest village settlements, Mitcham Village (1836), and one particular English immigrant whose donation of seven exotic trees gives us a glimpse into nineteenth century Mitcham, the colony of South Australia and what the community valued. These Stone Pines are now in their one hundredth and twenty-first year. Their historical and cultural significance as “living monuments” needs to be recognised, preserved and secured for the future. The significant trees of South Australia as part of a community’s history and culture was poignantly expressed by Ruth Ivens in 1981 when she commented: **“...the tangible and visible history of our “state”, in the form of man-made monuments will take us no more than 150 years, but trees are living monuments capable of transporting us 400 years into the past.”**

CONCLUSION:

George Prince's "Seven Pines" are undoubtedly a "Living Monument" of great historical, cultural and social significance for the City of Mitcham and the State of South Australia. This level of significance goes beyond the City of Mitcham and the State of South Australia. **As specimens of *Pinus pinea* they have botanical and scientific significance of a National and International level.** Their nomination to the Register of Significant Trees of the National Trust of Australia will give formal significance status to these "Living Monuments" at these appropriate levels. Both community and scientific interest in these specimens of Stone Pine has already spread far and wide. This interest reflects how much importance various sectors of the community places on trees which embody their historical and cultural identity.

It is hoped that the full historical, cultural and social history of George Prince's "Seven Pines" is acknowledged by the appropriate government authorities. It is these government authorities who have a duty of care for the historical and cultural heritage of Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park and its assets. **"The Seven Pines" are among the most significant botanical assets of State, National and International significance located within Brown Hill Creek Recreation Park. These Stone Pines need diligent care so future generations can have an opportunity to marvel at their size and the historical, cultural and social heritage they represent.**

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APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIMEN 1.



Photograph 1.1: View of Specimen 1 from Brown Hill Creek Road looking across into the picnic reserve (below). Height: 32.2 metres & Canopy spread: (E-W): 38.5 metres x (N-S): 27 metres.



Photograph 1.2: Specimen 1 viewed from the south-east with a human comparison next to the trunk (left side). Height: 32.2 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 38.5 metres x (N-S): 27 metres and Girth: 6.8 metres. **Note:** A fourth minor co-dominant trunk fractured by past storms is visible from this perspective.



Photograph 1.3: The massive trunk of Specimen 1 with a human comparison next to the trunk. Girth: 6.8 metres & Diameter: 2.16 metres. **This specimen has the most massive girth and diameter of the species in Australia and among the most massive in the world.**

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIMEN 2.



Photograph 2.1: A view of Specimen 2 with a human comparison next to the trunk (left side). Height: 24.3 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 33 metres x (N-S): 30.5metres and Girth: 5.6 metres.



Photograph 2.2: A close-up view of Specimen 2 with a human comparison next to the trunk (left side). Height: 24.3 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 33 metres x (N-S): 30.5metres and Girth: 5.6 metres. **Note:** The lower axillary branch destroyed by storms in the past and the volume of dead wood in the lower canopy.



Photograph 2.3: A view of Specimen 2. Height: 24.3 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 33 metres x (N-S): 30.5metres and Girth: 5.6 metres. The massive lateral limb on the left of the photograph is **not** fractured but has lowered close to the ground and is self-supporting. This shows the great power and strength in this vast canopy spread.

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIMEN 3.



Photograph 3.1: A view of Specimen 3 against a human comparison (bottom right).



Photograph 3.2: Specimen 3: Girth: 4.7 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 27 metres x (N-S): 29 metres. Its height at 35 metres makes it the tallest Stone Pine in Australia and equal to the height of the tallest Stone Pine in Italy. It is one of the tallest in the world.



Photograph 3.3: Specimen 3: Girth: 4.7 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 27 metres x (N-S): 29 metres. **Note:** The removal of the dead stubs of old branches from along the main trunk would improve this specimen's aesthetics and accentuate its lofty height.

APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIMEN 4.



Photograph 4.1: A view of Specimen 4 from the Brown Hill Creek Road.



Photograph 4.2: A view of Specimen 4 from the picnic reserve looking south-east. Height: 32 metres, Girth: 4.56 metres, Canopy spread: (E-W): 29 metres x (N-S): 30 metres.



Photograph 4.3: A view of Specimen 4 with a human comparison.

