

Obituaries

Daphne Margaret Child (1920–1998)

Daphne Child died in Durban on 23 December 1998, when *Natalia* 28 was already with the printers. She is best remembered for exposing the reading public to the lives and thoughts of a number of Natal's nineteenth-century settlers through the editing of their diaries and letters.

Ms Child was educated at Durban Girls' College and showed an early leaning towards art and poetry. After leaving school she studied art for four years and gained the National Art Teacher's Certificate.

Initially she taught art, but in about 1966 changed to freelance writing. *The saga of the South African horse* (1967) and *Yesterday's children* (1969) were her first publications. Thereafter she devoted herself to editing Natal settler writings, viz. *Charles Smythe, pioneer, premier and administrator of Natal* (1973), *The Zulu War Journal of Colonel Henry Harford* (1978), *A merchant family in early Natal: diaries and letters of Joseph and Marianne Churchill 1850–1880; with a narrative of pioneering travels to Potchefstroom and the Soutpansberg* (1979), and *Portrait of a pioneer: the letters of Sydney Turner from South Africa 1864–1901* (1980).

SHELAGH SPENCER



Daphne Child