

Obituaries



Lorraine Kettley
(Photograph: The Natal Witness)

Lorraine Kettley ('Joanna') (1920–1999)

Lorraine, or Joanna as she named herself, died peacefully in Pietermaritzburg on 19 August 1999. She was a renowned gardener and the chairman of the original group of local gardeners formed in 1983 to discuss the possibility of opening privately-owned gardens to members of the public. Her garden at Rosehurst became famous as the perfect town garden, small but artfully designed. Her talent with mixed borders, shade gardens, topiary and herbs created a unique garden, delighting all visitors alike. Lorraine gave freely to other gardeners, ideas and often plants. Her love of gardens inspired her writing of *Rosehurst Ramblings* (1995) followed by *More Rosehurst Ramblings* (1996). She described her first book as a 'personal look at gardening rather than another "how to" manual.' It is a book of gardening philosophy, as much about people as it is about plants.

Lorraine was a well-known figure in Pietermaritzburg, particularly as a member of the Concerned Citizens Association, and was committed to the preservation of the City of Pietermaritzburg and its heritage. In 1997 she made a formal announcement that she would henceforth be known simply as 'Joanna'. This was the result of a spiritual change in which she stepped back in time to the Victorian age, and turned her home into a place of peace and tranquillity. She disposed of all modern gadgets, and Rosehurst became a haven of serenity where anyone was welcome who wished to spend time away from the rush and pressures of modern life.

Joanna is survived by her husband David, children and grandchildren.

SHONA WALLIS