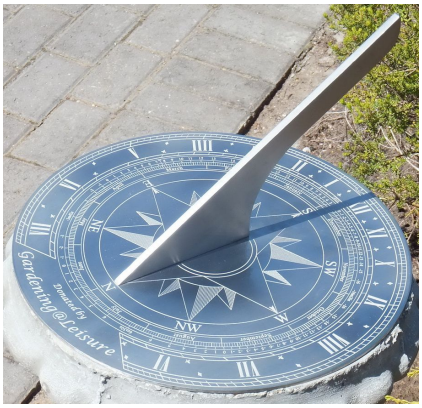
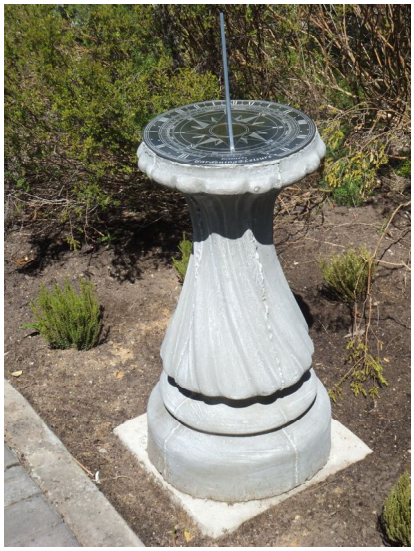
SUNDIAL IN THE INDIGENOUS GARDEN





On 22 March 2016 a new sundial sponsored by Gardening@Leisure was installed on the west side of the concrete path running through the Indigenous Garden of the Reserve.

The origins of sundials are lost in the mists of time but written records of them exist from at least 1500 BC. It was invented in the northern hemisphere and our sense of clockwise comes from this fact. The shadow on a northern hemisphere sundial travels across the dial plate in a clockwise rotational direction. This is the opposite on a southern hemisphere dial. When the first clocks started to appear around 1300 AD the sundial was used to calibrate them. It had to be, there were no other accurate time-tellers available.

As man and mathematics developed further so did the sundial and its use in astronomy and navigation continues till this day. As late as the Second World War (1939 – 1945), solar compasses, a specialised form of sundial, were extensively used in desert and polar navigation, the magnetic compass being of very little use in such places.

Today it is largely used as a decorative garden ornament but its teaching capabilities for old and young alike are great. The timeless peace and tranquillity it brings is a pleasure to any observer and obtaining accurate time from it an achievement for all.

The new sundial in the Indigenous Garden of the Reserve was sponsored by Gardening@Leisure, a garden club of social and charity minded locals who have a love of gardening. The dial is inscribed acknowledging that donation.

The dial is of 316 stainless steel throughout and 300mm in diameter with a 6mm thick gnomon (pointer). It is site specific and calibrated exactly for its global position. It is also longitude corrected for that site. The Equation of Time which is the difference between solar time that the dial reads and Mean Time in which we live is expressed as an integer around the Gregorian calendar for each day of the year thus the dial is accurate to less than a minute of South African Standard Time. It was made by Malcolm Barnfield of Johannesburg. www.sundials.co.za | sundials@sundials.co.za