

## Ode to Pinelands

**John Carroll, Pinelands**

Oh Pinelands we love thee – our suburb sublime  
You were built in an era of a gentler time.  
All hail to your founder, he built to a plan  
Mr Howard, let's face it – he was quite a man.

There are churches galore for worship and prayer  
Conveniently sited near Central Square  
On Forest Drive our own Irish vet  
Provides, with a smile, first class care for your pet.

There's Valkenberg, if you are out of your mind,  
There's Helen Keller, if you're female and blind.  
There's Riverside Manor if you're ancient and dotty,  
And if seriously ill, then there's Vincent Pallotti.

Our library's the best in the city, it's rumoured,  
The Staff? So efficient, and always good-humoured  
Be sure to return all your books when they're read  
Our post office? Well, I don't know – enough said!

On Links Drive, the houses have lovely thatched roofs  
Of' times, one can hear the clip-clopping of hooves  
There's The Bend, The Crescent, The Crossing, The  
Dell,

And on Union Avenue there's Patricia de Lille.

South-east of us, lies the Athlone Power Station  
Occasionally causing some quiet consternation  
There's a golf club (of course) with the strange sobri-  
quet  
Although it's in Pinelands they call it "Mowbray".

The Athlone Sewage Works upsets our repose  
On warm summer nights when the South Easter blows.  
If your home is in Martindale, Pleasant Place or The  
Dell  
You sometimes can't help but notice the smell.

At nesting time, the maddening honking of geese  
On Links Drive, some evenings you don't get much  
peace  
For twitchers, there's Robindale, Egret Way, Linnet  
Way.  
There's "Five Ways" and "Day's Walk" (by the way, who  
was Day?)

There's "La Provence", "Leeuenhof", "Uitvlugt",  
"Lanquedoc",  
And genteel English names like "Kingfisher's Walk".  
Good reader, I'll leave it for you to decide  
What could be more English than "Alice's Ride"?

Outside Pick'n Pay in our neat shopping mall  
Sometimes, some dear ladies set up a book-stall  
There are shops that sell clothing and shops that sell  
shoes  
There's an ABSA, a Standard and a Nedbank for  
queues.

There's a Click's, Pick 'n Pay and a Pies  
take-away  
There's also a Spur (if you relish that  
grub)  
But there's one thing you won't find,  
by night or by day  
Forget it, Dear Reader, you won't find  
a pub.

North-West there's Coneway, Wood-  
side Drive and Dagbreek  
With views of the mountain and of  
course, Devil's Peak,  
So if you don't live here, then it's you I  
must pity  
For there's no place quite like the  
Cape's Garden City.

