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At the time of printing some of these trees are listed on the Architecture, Urban Planning and Environment Council's catalogue of remarkable trees of Réunion Island. Others are sure to join them in the near future ...

We would like to thank: Priscilla Hippolyte, Bruno Lepertier, Léditia Hoareau and Anne Kernel from the municipality of Le Port; Priscille Labarère, Antoine Nouvellon, Sylvio Lervain and Jean-René Jaldoran of Grand Port Maritime de La Réunion.

An exhibition of photographs and texts was held to mark the occasion.

Workshops were conducted by the Architecture, Urban Planning and Environment Council (landscaper Clément Aquilina and documentalist Gilberte Labache), photographer François-Louis Athénas, and the author Joëlle Ecomier.

Pupils from three classes of Le Port schools took part in creating it:  
- Year 5 & 6 classes of Camille Macarty Primary School and their teacher Mr Fayette  
- Year 9 classes of Collège Titan Junior Secondary School and their teachers Ms Lundt and Ms Catouaria  
- Year 11 classes of Lycée Jean Hinglo Senior Secondary School and their teacher Mr Sira

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**Well-known and lesser-known trees of Le Port**

Self-guided walks in Le Port



8 ILE DE LA RÉUNION - POINTE DES GALETS - Bureau des Docks

RÉUNION ISLAND - POINTE DES GALETS - Dock offices

Remerciements à l'attention de la Réunion  
Échelle: print (horizontal) - 9x14 cm - 175x11 - 1 photo

Le Port docks office, now a club house for Grand Port Maritime de La Réunion staff

Le cactus et ses quatre puces prennent le bus pour Venus.

Dattier - Date Palm  
Le dada du dattier joue aux dames dans le quartier.

Eucalyptus - Gum Tree  
Eureka ! Leucalyptus euthanasie ses puces avec du jus de cactus.

Frangipanier - Frangipani  
Un Français franc et blanc porte un panier à côté d'un frangipanier.

Girimbelle - Gooseberry Tree  
Girimbelle ! mang' bringelle dan' ciel.

Jacquier/Juube - Jackfruit/Juube  
Jadis, le premier jacquier nettoyait la jupe du juube.

Manguiet/Mahot - Mango Tree/Mahot  
Le mahot mangeur de mangues s'est rendu malade.

Neem - Neem  
Sur la cime du neem il y a un nid qui fait des rimes.

Paria Biglobosa - African Locust Bean Tree  
Le big paria biglobosa avec ses yeux bigleux fait un parcours au parc dans un parka.

Sang-dragon - Narra  
Le sang-dragon sans pantalon joue avec cent papillons.

Siam - Siamese cassia  
Le siam et la cigale font du siam dans la savane.

Zépinar/Zorey café - Mesquite/  
Elephant-ear  
Un rat dans un pied d'épinar regarde le spectacle d'un canard sous un zoreil cat.

Written by Year 5 & 6 pupils of Camille Macarty Primary School.



**1** \* **Mesquites - *Prosopis juliflora* (Sw.) DC.**  
Rue Renaudière de Vaux

The trunks of these small trees are twisted and almost look like they are moving. Mesquite, known locally as zépinar, is an invasive species in Reunion. However it is unusual to see such old specimens, especially in town. At one time dock workers could come to collect their wages under these trees. Maybe some lost coins are buried beneath your feet?



**2** **Néré - *Parkia biglobosa* (Jacq.) R. Br.**  
Car park in front of Sainte Jeanne d'Arc church

Also known as a locust bean, this tree is uncommon in Reunion but well-known in Le Port because when it flowers at the end of the year it seems to be decorated with big red Christmas baubles.

It is native to Africa, and its fruit pulp can be used to treat certain diseases (it has antineuralgic, diuretic, fever-reducing, tonic and antiseptic properties), as well as to make a nutritious 'flour' and even a type of plant-based 'cheese'.



**3** **Siris tree - *Albizia lebbbeck* L. Benth.**  
Place des Cheminots

Siris trees have been planted in Reunion since 1767, when they were introduced to shade coffee plantations.

This particular one seems to have been here for a long time. A large branch has been pruned giving the tree its distinctive shape, but its shade is still much appreciated in Le Port.

It is located Place des Cheminots, where large houses and gardens could be found in days gone by. Could it tell us stories about them?



**4** **Neems - *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss**  
Place des cheminots

Neem trees originated from India. In Reunion their wood is used to make chairs and musical instruments, and their leaves are hung in Tamil temples like garlands. They provide shade for market stalls, and create an attractive view of the marketplace with the banyan trees in the background.



**5** \* **Banyans - *Ficus benghalensis* L.**  
Rond-point de la glaçaire

This is not just one but actually three banyans that were planted in 1974 by three politicians: one each from Mauritius, Madagascar, and Reunion (Paul Vergès). The banyans came second in the 2015 'Most Beautiful Tree of the Year' competition organised by a French magazine and the National Forestry Office. Large banyans can be seen elsewhere in Le Port at the 'Danseuses' roundabout (Route du Coeur Saignant).



**6** **Mango - *Mangifera indica* L.**  
Rue Amiral Bosse

This mango tree is located outside the former Central Labour Office. Dockworkers used to arrive here every morning seeking employment for the day. Rail tracks are still visible in front, a sign of the strong link that once existed between the port and railway. The mango tree's roots stick out of the concrete that is choking them.



**7** **Banyan - *Ficus benghalensis* L.**  
At the dock

This banyan is growing in the wharf wall. It gets to see sailors from all over the world when their ships dock here, and to watch crews painting in the boatshed. But it won't be able to stay here forever as its roots will end up damaging the quayside. Why not take a cutting and plant it somewhere in Le Port where shade is needed?



**8** **Jackfruit - *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.**  
2, rue Évariste de Parry

These trees are located just outside the offices of Reunion's 'Grand Port Maritime' authorities. You could say it's a case of Jumping Jack Flash: their fruit grow on the trunk and as they are much appreciated by locals they are generally gone in a flash ...

Port workers' demands are traditionally discussed underneath these two jackfruit trees, which has given rise to an expression "meet you under the jackfruit", meaning that negotiations are about to take place.



**9** **Avenue of coconut palms - *Cocos nucifera* L.**  
Avenue de la commune de Paris

Coconut trees arrived in Reunion at some point between 1654 and 1669. At 1.8 km long and with more than 300 specimens, this avenue of coconut trees must be the longest on the island. It follows the exact route of Reunion's former railway.



**10** **Frangipani - *Plumeria alba* L.**  
In the cemetery

Also known as Plumeria, the more common name of Frangipani comes from an eponymous Italian marquis who invented a plumeria-scented perfume.

In Reunion frangipani are often found near temples and in cemeteries, as the whiteness of their flowers is associated with divine purity.

Frangipani are extremely hardy trees: they easily withstand lack of water, and can grow back even if a cyclone breaks their sturdiest branches.



**11** **Mesquite - *Prosopis juliflora* (Sw.) DC.**  
Rue de Caen

Mesquite were introduced to Reunion in 1920 as livestock fodder.

This one has managed to grow with its roots encased in concrete and its branches pushing through a sturdy wire fence. It goes to show how these trees are able to colonise even seemingly hostile environments.



**12** **Elephant-ears - *Enterolobium cyclocarpum* (Jacq.) Griseb.**  
Avenue Georges Politze

"Ten large elephant ear trees  
Listen to the sound of the breeze  
Listen to the birds  
In its broad branches  
Listen to the sound of car wheel  
And pétanque balls of steel  
To people walking down the street  
And to the town and its beat".



**13** **Narra - *Pterocarpus indicus* Wild.**  
Rue Maryse

"The Narra's foliage is scattered  
If pierced its bark weeps blood.  
Woe betide the family  
That cuts it down".



**14** **Gooseberry tree - *Phyllanthus acidus* L.**  
Allée Franz Kafka

"The gooseberry tree reaches the eaves  
With its lacy leaves  
With the gooseberry tree  
I am totally free  
(it's such a hoot!)  
To gather its fruit  
and devour those that are sour".



\* Tree on the list of Reunion Island's remarkable trees

Photographs taken by the pupils. Text written with the pupils.  
Poems written by the pupils of Camille Macarty Primary School. Translation by Catharine Cellier-Smart.

Text sources: Peuples du banian - Brigitte Croisier, Flore de Bourbon - Roger Lavergne,  
www.mi-aim-a-ou.com