



Arborea



Winter 2015

Newsletter of The Tree Council
Tiakina Rākau • est 1986

New Board Member David Smith

I'm from Birmingham, England, and arrived here via Kyoto, Japan, where I lived for nine years, teaching English. I learnt about wilderness, deep ecology and voluntary simplicity in the Wind River mountains, Wyoming, USA, where I was mountaineering in 1981. In 1986, I became involved with the Wilderness Society in Tasmania, which led to direct action in a camp at a place called Farmhouse Creek, an area of old growth native forest that was set for clear felling. We had an encampment in the path of a



proposed logging road, with a man sitting high in one of the old gum trees, who we supported for two weeks until we got arrested. The clearfelling went ahead but we raised publicity for wilderness protection and felt empowered through our actions.

When I hitch-hiked around New Zealand and walked from Wanaka through Mt Aspiring National Park, it made me connect with this wonderful country that I now consider my spiritual home. I bought a house in Western Springs, Auckland, and it had a garden full of native trees and ferns, so I started reading books about them because I didn't want them to die. That turned into a passion and I enrolled on Unitec's Diploma in Landscape Design, where I learned to identify the main natives and better understand how forest processes work.

The reason I want to help the Tree Council is that trees are so important on so many levels and with recent changes to the RMA, they are almost entirely unprotected in Auckland. Other cities such as Adelaide are moving forward with ambitious plans to increase the size of their urban forests, while the New Zealand government has made it illegal for Auckland to protect its trees because it will inconvenience property developers. Meanwhile, New Zealand is number 1 in the world for the proportion of endangered species and it's business as usual while the effects of climate change threaten to be more disastrous and

continued overleaf...

AGM



The Tree Council 2015 Annual General Meeting

When: Thursday 7pm
8 October 2015,
followed by a free lecture on
Auckland's Heritage Trees
by Dr Mike Wilcox, author of
Auckland's Remarkable Urban Forest.

Where: Lynfield Room, Fickling
Convention Centre, 546 Mt
Albert Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland.

Put it in your diary NOW!

Hear Mike Wilcox speak at the Tree Council's AGM 'Auckland's Heritage Trees'



Mike will speak about some of Auckland's most notable trees and what qualifies them to be called heritage trees. Examples will cover a wide range of taxonomic plant groups as well as individual native and exotic trees which reside in groves, line streets or cover entire properties. Some of these trees will be viewed on the bus tour on Saturday 10 October.

More about Mike overleaf...



the chance to limit the temperature rise to two degrees slips away. All of these things are connected. I think we can only achieve change by mobilising and acting collectively at grassroots level. The environmentally destructive planning system that we now have seems to work for developers and against the environment because most people don't understand it. It is a complicated beast, but knowledge is power and I hope that by learning more about the work of The Tree Council I can be more effective at protecting the natural environment because it needs all the advocacy it can get. The Tree Council are attempting to do on a shoestring what needs to be done.

I am interested in keeping native forests in good health, including our urban forest. With like-minded friends, I've removed pest plants around west Auckland, particularly woolly nightshade and moth plant. I am involved with Friends of Oakley Creek, the beautiful stream that runs behind Unitec, and earlier this year was part of the very successful Western Springs Pohutukawa Savers group. My other interests include cycling, computer flight simulation, and hanging out with my wonderful 15 year old son, Kaito.

David Smith

Mike Wilcox



Mike Wilcox is a retired forestry consultant and scientist. He has many botanical affiliations including Honorary Research Associate at Auckland Museum, member of the Auckland Botanical Society, Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, International Dendrology Society, Forest &

Bird, Auckland Tree Council, and New Zealand Institute of Forestry. He also serves as a tree guide at Cornwall Park.

Mike has a BSc in Botany from Auckland University, an MA in Forestry from Oxford University, and a PhD from North Carolina State University. He researched the genetics of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), leading to a career in quantitative genetic research and plant breeding of forest trees at the Forest Research Institute (now Scion) in Rotorua.

Mike undertook multiple international assignments as a consultant in China, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Fiji, Samoa, Vietnam, Spain, Turkey, Australia and South Africa, specialising in forestry plantations. He recently compiled a full record of the plants in West Lynn Garden, New Lynn and an account of the native and naturalised plants in the Ahipara-Kaitaia area in Northland. He has also surveyed the flora of Auckland's forests of the sea – the seaweeds.

A little bit about Mike Wilcox's book: 'Auckland's Remarkable Urban Forest'

Published in 2012, Mike's book gives an overview of the city's treescape, including heritage trees. Mike has made detailed assessments of the tree flora in many of Auckland's parks and campuses, including the Domain, Cornwall Park/One Tree Hill, Monte Cecilia, and Unitec, and also of Rangitoto Island.

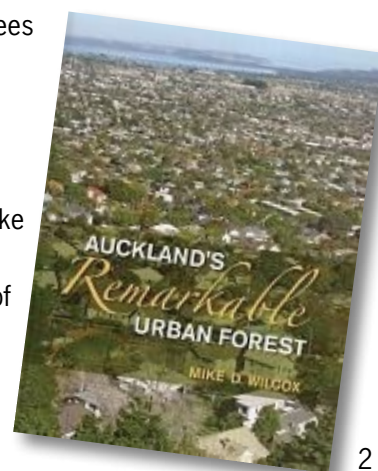
Mike's book describes and characterises Auckland's urban forest with the hope that it will help those who care and manage its trees. It is an analysis and a synthesis of the city's trees. He observes that cities are made up of roads, buildings, traffic, people, transmission lines and poles, and underground pipes and cables - and trees. Trees have a connection with all the other components. We all have a role to play in managing the forest.

The urban forest comprises the trees within a city – in parks, gardens, streets; single trees or trees in groups, native and naturalised. The resource has multiple owners yet is a shared community asset. The benefits are many: beauty,

shade, cooling, shelter, recreation, carbon absorption, noise mitigation, wildlife habitat, stream protection and increased property values. Trees also bring problems: leaves falling and blocking gutters, broken branches or the tree falling over; shading; roots cracking or lifting pavements; effect on underground services; entanglement in overhead wires.

There is a varied public attitude to trees. Some citizens don't care, some don't like trees (especially their neighbours'), some only want native trees to be planted and others are passionate about protecting trees from being felled to make way for development.

Mike notes that the care of Auckland's future trees is in many hands.





News in brief

Auckland's trees found to be vulnerable to housing intensification

Auckland's trees have little protection against urban intensification and of those that are left, only a few are listed for preservation, a new study has found. The research, by Senior Lecturer Dr Margaret Stanley and Research Fellow Dr Sarah Wyse from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland, found the Auckland isthmus has just six percent of urban forest left.

Of that, well over half (63 percent) is on private land where just 15 percent of trees are protected through Auckland Council's Schedule of Notable Trees. The Schedule is the only remaining tool for tree protection after changes to the Resource Management Act in 2012.

The study found the spread of protected trees across the city was highly uneven, with older suburbs having relatively high numbers of protected trees while other areas had very few. The range of protected trees on the Schedule was skewed towards more popular species while a threatened species native to Auckland, tawapou, was represented by just a single specimen.

Along with providing food and habitat for native birds and insects, trees contribute significantly to the wellbeing of city residents but relying on the Schedule alone to protect them may not be enough, Dr Stanley says. "Given the housing challenges Auckland faces and calls for housing intensification, further pressure is likely on the remaining urban forest in Auckland and individual trees", she says.

The study also found plenty of weeds on the protected list such as Phoenix palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), radiata



pine (*Pinus radiata*) and camphor laurel tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*). Some trees on the Schedule were also listed under Auckland Council's Regional Pest Management Strategy. "The study shows the Schedule is failing to adequately protect unique native tree species and we need to do much better if we are to protect what is left of the city's urban forest," Dr Wyse says.

The study used a light detection system called LiDAR which creates a topographical map from GIS data. The system works by using remote sensing satellite technology to measure distance and height through reflected light. The latest data layer for Auckland dated 2008 was used in the study, which mapped tree cover within the old Auckland City Council boundaries.

Auckland does have special ecological areas where significant vegetation cover is protected but these areas represent just 5.5 percent of the Auckland urban area.

*For enquiries, please contact Anne Beston –
a.beston@auckland.ac.nz*

Graham's Bush

Meanwhile in South Auckland more trees are under threat from an Auckland Transport roading project. The Mill Rd – Redoubt Rd project is a huge and enormously expensive proposal costing a projected \$800 million to build a four lane expressway within sight of the Southern Motorway. The idea is to serve the new housing areas planned between Flat Bush and Papakura, but it is a duplication of the motorway route and seems overkill compared to upgrading and tweaking the existing roads.

In the way of the road is a small piece of bush owned by Graham Cheesman and known locally as 'Graham's Bush'. It is a very special place. Cloaking a gully it is a piece of mature puriri and tairare forest full of king ferns and native birds, without a weed or pest in sight, that has been lovingly restored and cared for by Forest and Bird and Graham for many years. It is a treasure.

Auckland Transport want to put the road through the bush on a 'bridge' supported by huge clay embankments that will destroy the gully and requires the trees to be 'topped' so they fit under the road deck. Despite their

assurances it is clear that the middle section of the bush will be destroyed to create the embankments and the trees are unlikely to survive the topping.

The Tree Council has engaged an ecologist to write an independent ecological assessment of Graham's Bush and prepare evidence for the hearing on the Notice of Requirement that has been lodged to secure the route for the road. Submissions have been made and we await the date of the hearing.



Mels Barton

What does The Tree Council do?

We are a team who include qualified arborists and landscape architects. We:

- visit sites to gather information about trees that we are concerned about
- write submissions
- liaise with individual property owners, property developers, community groups, NGOs, Auckland Council, the general public and the media

- attend court hearings
- advocate for notable trees, trees in urban areas and areas of ecological significance
- provide education to interested parties



Some of the cases that the Tree Council has been working on in 2014-2015 Results and decisions pending

Central Auckland

Pohutukawas, St Lukes – trees saved following an intensive campaign.



Richard Farrell Ave – consent to fell trees declined – this case will proceed to the Environment Court.

Large oak and other large specimen tree, 107 Campbell Rd – concerns that underground car parks would endanger these trees – this case has been appealed by the applicant.

Totara, Pentland Ave, Mt Eden – saved from being felled.

Fowlds Park – concern about removal of trees and landscaping for new sports ground – submissions recently lodged.

Pohutukawa, Milton Rd, Mt Eden – tree saved.

North Shore

Two Pohutukawa, Minnehaha Ave, Takapuna – concern about scheduled trees leaning over historic building – consent for removal has been denied. Applicant appealing to the Environment Court

Pohutukawa, Browns Bay subdivision – hearing is yet to occur
Avenue of 16 Plane trees, Orewa College – application to prune by 50% – successful outcome.

West Auckland

Pohutukawa and Oak, Rosebank Road – trees saved. (see article on page 7)

Kanuka & Manuka, Waikumete Cemetery – The Tree Council provided an opinion on the draft management plan for the reserve.

South Auckland

Norfolk Pine, Station Rd, Otahuhu – submission made – Chair's Direction to explore impact of roots on house before decision will be made.

Beautiful mature Puriri and Taraire, weed-free bush with predator control and king ferns at Graham's Bush – submission made on Notice of Requirement application. Ecological assessment performed in preparation for hearing awaiting date.

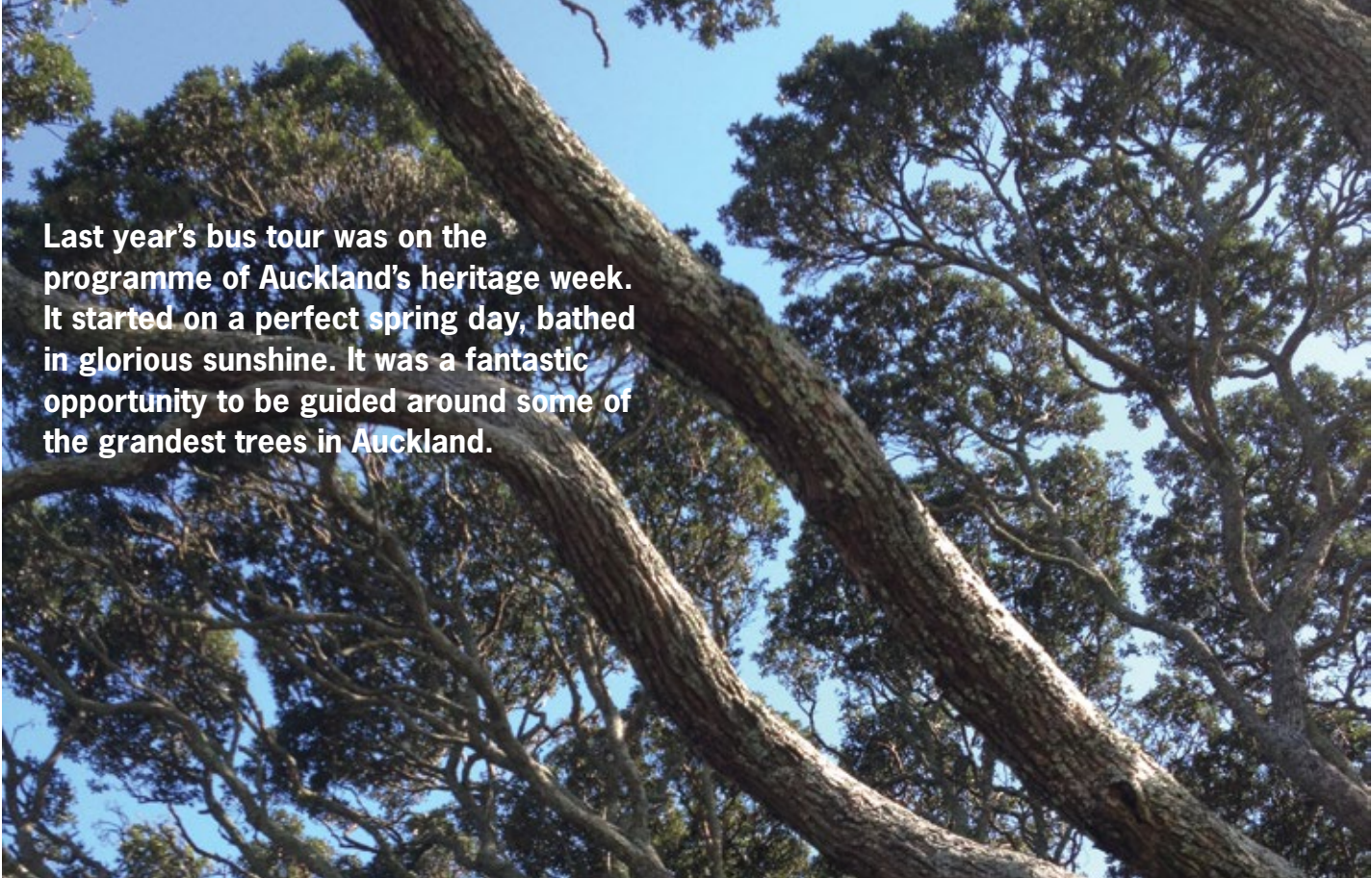


East Auckland

Totara, 149 Jeffs Rd, Flatbush – consent conditions changed to include two sites instead of four proposed sites for development and mitigation of planting in reserve – totara saved.

Totara, kanuka and other native trees, 42A Codrington Crescent & 58 Comins Crescent, Mission Bay – proposed development – evidence to support residence at hearing – awaiting decision.

The Tree Council's Bus Tour



Last year's bus tour was on the programme of Auckland's heritage week. It started on a perfect spring day, bathed in glorious sunshine. It was a fantastic opportunity to be guided around some of the grandest trees in Auckland.

The bus was at full capacity, attended by 50 people. It was a privilege to listen to the expertise of Penny Clifflin, a senior lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Unitec Institute of Technology,

The bus tour started at Unitec Arboretum, previously the grounds of the Whau Lunatic Asylum built in 1867. While the old buildings have been spruced up and have new purposes, the large ginkgo and coral trees alongside building 48 provide a therapeutic backdrop of trees as a impressive remnant of the past. We walked around a circuit of impressive lines of magnificent mature native trees such as pohutukawa, totara and puriri.

The bus travelled to Western Park, next to colourful Ponsonby Road, where we learned that the planting of trees in the gully was the result of a public design competition. We discovered that this was Auckland's first large public arboretum, which houses a remarkable group of exotic trees including elms, pals and a tall radiata pine.

The next stop was Myers Park which has a rather exotic feel with its mixture of native and exotic trees, including a line of tall palm trees. The vista is beautiful as we walked down the steep steps, past grassy slopes and sculptures leading to the upper part of bustling Queen Street.

Lunch was in the rotunda under the gaze of Queen Victoria in Albert Park, who stands in bronze overlooking its visitors. Located up on the ridge, it's one of New Zealand's best preserved Victorian parks. We meandered around its

formal layout as Penny pointed out historic exotic trees of distinction.

The last stop of the tour was the Government grounds of The University of Auckland as we explored the abundant tree life around the campus clocktower. It was a memorable outing to be able to tap into Penny's abundant knowledge of Auckland's trees, which she was so generous in sharing. The Tree Council's bus tour took us to hidden gems of Auckland, where we could admire the splendour of these fine trees and consider how best to care and protect them.

The Tree Council's bus tour is not to be missed so book a place on 10 October 2015.



Preview To The Tree Council's Bus Tour On 10 October 2015

Summarised excerpts from *Auckland's Remarkable Urban Forest* by Mike Wilcox

Monte Cecilia Park

One of Auckland's newest public parks on 15.6 hectares, Monte Cecilia was established in 1846 by William and Mary Hart. The Pah Homestead was built in 1877 and is now the TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre. There are numerous trees of distinction of up to 130 years old such as giant Moreton Bay figs, huge small-leaved figged trees and since specimens of common fig, Norfolk Island hibiscus, brush cherry, Mediterranean hackberry, camphor laurel, Turkey oak, bunya, Norfolk Island pine, Queensland kauri, Chilean wine palm, Chinese holly and atlas cedar. There are a wide diversity of species of native trees, largely planted in the 1990s.



Cornwall Park and One Tree Hill Domain

Auckland's largest and most popular park on 229.9 hectares, has a pleasant and dramatic treescape, intermingled with open fields. The trees here have great historic and amenity value. The combined parks are not a botanical garden but nonetheless contain a wide range of both native and introduced trees and shrubs, providing a great outdoor classroom for the study of trees and splendid recreational walking. The eucalyptus arboretum is of special value, containing some 40 species of eucalyptus and corymbia, several of which have reached massive size and some which are not known elsewhere in New Zealand.

Sir John Logan Campbell started planting trees here in the 1860s and the oldest trees such as Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and the famous grove of olives date back to this time. Twelve trees species dominate the landscape. These are pedunculate oak, holm oak, olive, Moreton Bay fig, Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, Norfolk Island pine, karaka, pohutuakawa, monkey apple, totara and puriri. There is a noble specimen of Algerian oak, one of Auckland's most notable trees.

In spring the most popular trees in the park are undoubtedly the splendid grove of Awanui cherry. These attract people en

masse, creating a favourite place for picnics and for wedding photos. Other native trees present include rimu, kahikatea, tanekaha, pohutukawa and taraire. There is a line of Canary Island date palms, several monkey apples and tree rhododendron. Wonder tree and common lime can also be seen in this part of the park.

In the main body of the park there are tree riches aplenty. There are groups of Chang's sweet gum (*Liquidambar acalycina*), sweet gum, London plane, tulip tree, red oak, sessile oak, persian lilac, black walnut, ginkgo, Sierra redwood, coast redwood, dawn redwood and Mediterranean cypress and just some that stand out. Native trees have been planted singly and also in impressive groups, the latter including kauri, rims, totara, tanekaha, kohekohe, taraire and rewarewa.

**The Tree Council's guided bus tour of Auckland's heritage trees
UNITEC, CORNWALL PARK & MONTE CECILIA PARK
Email: thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz to reserve your seat**

Led by:

PENNY CLIFFIN

Senior Lecturer at
Department of
Landscape Architecture
Unitec

AND

DR MIKE WILCOX

Author of
"Auckland's Remarkable
Urban Forest"

**SATURDAY
10 OCTOBER 2015
Tour starts 9.20am
& ends 3pm at Unitec**

Meet at:
Entry 3 on NW side of
building 48
Carrington Rd
Pt Chevalier

**Learn about the history and value of some of
Auckland's finest trees**

Reasonable standard of fitness required

www.thetreecouncil.org.nz

Numbers limited

Members \$20, Non-members \$25
Children under 16 \$10

A short history of the Rosebank Road Oak & Pohutukawa

Late February 2010 an ACC independent Commissioner granted consent for the removal of the 80 year old Pohutukawa. He also granted consent for the neighbouring 80 year old Oak tree to have its roots trimmed and damaged for an access road and parking, and infrastructure incursions. This decision was made without notification of the application and without any specific arboricultural assessment of either tree.

March 2010 TTC registers its High Court Injunction against Connell Place Ltd after the developer was given controversial and non-notified permission to fell the Pohutukawa. The subsequent negotiated legal agreement required relinquishing of the tree felling consent and that if the developer were to reapply TTC would be notified.

9 July 2010 Connell Place Ltd reapplied to fell the Pohutukawa, the same day that the Council agreed to give both trees long term protection through scheduling them in the District Plan. As the Council had not yet publicly notified its intention to schedule the trees, the application to fell the Pohutukawa took precedence.

August 2010 TTC and Avondale Community Groups sought from Council an agreement to purchase the Lot on which the Oak and Pohutukawa were growing and turn it into a small reserve to form a more pleasant environment for the wider residential neighbourhood and passers-by, to ensure a lasting legacy recognising the market garden heritage of the Peninsula and to create a green gateway to the Rosebank Road Industrial and business areas. This purchase was supported by the ACC Arts, Culture and Recreation committee and the Avondale Community Board, and referred to the Finance and Strategy Committee. The Auckland transitional Authority refused the request on the basis it was "unbudgeted expenditure".

12 November 2010 TTC and developer Connell Place Ltd present opposing arguments for the felling of the Pohutukawa. In preparation for this hearing TTC with support from Avondale Community gardeners and local resident Nina Patel gathered 1200 signatures on a petition against the felling of the tree, and had prepared alternative building outline layouts which would not compromise the trees existence nor their visibility from the very busy main road.

10 December 2010 The application to remove the Pohutukawa was refused by the planning commissioners. Connell Place Ltd immediately said they would appeal that decision to the Environment Court.

17 December 2010 Connell Place Ltd appealed to the Environment Court against the AC decision to decline resource consent for the removal of the Pohutukawa.



2 May 2011 Hearing of a Public Plan Change to Schedule the Oak and Pohutukawa within the Auckland City Isthmus Section District Plan by Auckland Council was held. There was a great turn out of submitters supporting The Tree Council in their promotion of the trees for inclusion in the Schedule of Notable Trees. The decision of the Hearings panel was to accept the nomination of both trees for addition to the Schedule of Notable Trees. This decision was also taken to appeal by Connell Place Ltd.

December 2011 Connell Place Ltd applied to the Court for a pause in the hearing of both the cases before it while the company did further work on the development opportunities of the site with the trees in place.

February 2012 a meeting of TTC, CPL and AC agreed to the next stage of action. The consultant arborists from each party agreed on site to the limitations of work within the root systems of both trees that would be prudent. Once this was established CPL could then carry out their site planning possibilities with greater accuracy. Subsequent discussions went on for nearly six months until all parties were satisfied that the resource consent applications for two schemes did all that they could to fulfil the demands of all parties.

August 2012 Connell Place Ltd gained consent for the development of the site and they were now able to put the site, with development consents in place, on the market.

March 2013 The Tree Council had a call from Mr Darius Singh who was interested in purchasing the Rosebank site for a childcare centre and he wanted to know how TTC would feel about that. Mr Singh kept TTC informed on developments and asked for our input to the proposed concept and future landscaping plans for the centre. The design of the centre allowed a view of the crowns of the trees over the roof line of the building which meant they could still be viewed by the passing traffic and the urban neighbourhood.

TTC expressed considerable concerns over the landscaping of the play areas for the children as this was concentrated in the space under the crowns of the trees and appeared to intrude quite considerably into the root zones. It was now over to AC to supervise the

construction of the playground in the manner of their consent conditions and we just have to hope that during construction due respect for the root systems of both trees were wholly upheld.

Time will tell if this manner of including Scheduled trees into a development will be successful. We hope it proves to be so. Now in early 2015 the current positive outcome is that this owner was able to develop the site and still enable the community to view the trees with relative ease.

What a battle! After four years of working doggedly for the retention of these two beautiful trees TTC feels the demanding effort was well worth it.

Hueline Massey

Saving the St Lukes Pohutukawas

Recently members of The Tree Council's Board were recognised by the Waitemata Local Board with a "Good Citizens" award for the roles they played in the "Pohutukawa Savers" community group that saved the St Luke's Pohutukawas. It was a proud moment in humbling company during an evening that honoured so many great people working voluntarily to serve their community.

The campaign to save the St Luke's Pohutukawas was an interesting one that brought together activists from around the city and forged new relationships that will undoubtedly be long lasting and productive. A huge array of talent and skill was brought to bear on attracting the attention of the public to the threat to the six trees opposite MOTAT from Auckland Transport. This included dressing the trees in homemade banners and knitting, writing blogs and newspaper articles, radio interviews, a petition, online letters to the CEO and Board of Auckland Transport and intense activity on social media. The public imagination was captured and media interest in the campaign exploded, putting a huge amount of pressure onto the Auckland Transport Board

of Directors. They caved in at a Board meeting when faced by a room full of protestors and overturned their staff's recommendations to remove the trees, sending them back to the drawing board to come up with a better solution that saved the trees.

In the end Auckland is the winner. The St Luke's junction will now be redesigned to incorporate cyclists and pedestrians as well as keeping the trees and improving the situation for cars. This solution should have been produced in the first place we would all say, and hopefully the campaign has been a turning point for Auckland Transport in its approach to future projects where trees, cars, pedestrians and cyclists can all be accommodated. We live in hope.

Unfortunately the Waitara Riverside Pohutukawas were not so lucky. Despite the Pohutukawa Savers sending our lucky banners and knitting down to Waitara for the protestors to use in their campaign the trees were removed this week and Waitara has lost a valuable resource along its riverbank it is sure to regret in the future.

Mels Barton



Our Featured Species by Robert Vennell



**Rimu –
*Dacrydium cupressinum***

Culture and History

The mature Rimu tree towers over the canopy with its weeping leaves and shedding bark. If not uprooted by strong winds or felled for timber, it can live to over 1000 years old and grow up to 50m tall. It is a member of the ancient Podocarp family whose lineage stretches back to a time when the New Zealand landmass was still part of the supercontinent Gondwana.

Rimu has long been considered one of New Zealand's finest timbers, perhaps second only to Kauri. South of the Waikato where Kauri did not grow, Rimu or "Red Pine" was the dominant building timber used by European settlers. Because of extensive logging however, its range was greatly reduced and Government policies now prevent it from being logged on public land. Specialty items are still made from wood scavenged from stumps and roots of trees felled many years ago.

Maori used Rimu fruit as a food source, particularly in abundant mast years. The fruit only forms at the very end of branches, which made harvesting a dangerous task and serious injuries were common. The fruit has a constipating effect when eaten in large quantities and a juice made from Tutu flowers was drunk to counteract it.

Rimu plays an integral role in the mating cycle of the Kakapo – an extremely endangered, flightless, nocturnal parrot. The periodic mast-seeding of Rimu every couple of years helps synchronise Kakapo mating efforts. Unripe Rimu fruit acts as 'kakapo viagra' stimulating birds of both sexes into breeding, whereas the ripe fruit contains the perfect combination of nutrients and energy for growing chicks. However if temperatures are not suitably warm the Rimu crop will fail, with devastating consequences on the tiny kakapo breeding population. In the past, conservationists have attempted to boost Rimu fruiting frequency by spraying the trees with plant hormones, but the results were inconclusive. Today, work is focussed on developing supplementary diets and pills that mimic the benefits of Rimu fruit.

Uses

Rimu is a superior building wood, and was commonly used by early colonists in constructing houses, cabinets and furniture. Maori found a variety of uses for the wood as well; as spears, canoes, torches and a host of other tools and implements.

The gum is bitter but edible and was applied to wounds to stop bleeding. A decoction of the bark was used to treat wounds, and was also bruised into a pulp and applied to burns, cuts and ulcers. It has been used to make brown, black and blue dyes. Ngapuhi would mix soot from burning Rimu wood with shark-oil to make a black paint for their canoes.

On his second voyage to New Zealand, Captain Cook brewed Rimu beer to help prevent scurvy amongst his crew, and presumably to keep morale high as well. The beverage was a great success, well appreciated by all on board. Cook wrote down the recipe in his journal and made another batch when he arrived in New Zealand again years later.

Thank you to Robert Vennell for providing the text about our native rimu. Robert is a Masters student in Biosecurity & Conservation at the University of Auckland. He writes The Meaning of Trees blog about the history and culture of native plants at www.meaningoftrees.com

Tree Protection



June 2015

Open letter to:

His Worship The Mayor Len Brown and Auckland Councillors, Waitakere Ranges, Whau and Henderson Massey Local Boards, West Auckland MPs Hon David Cunliffe, Hon Phil Twyford, Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Rt Hon John Key, Hon Paula Bennett, Minister for Conservation Hon Maggie Barrie, and Minister for Environment Hon Dr Nick Smith.

On Thursday 16 April 2015 a public meeting was held in Kelston, West Auckland to discuss the issue of tree protection, following a number of high profile cases where significant trees have been threatened with removal in the city and have caused widespread public concern.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public about the current legal situation regarding tree protection rules with reference to the Resource Management Act, Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act, relevant District Plans and the Proposed Auckland Council Unitary Plan. The meeting was hosted by Forest and Bird Waitakere, The Tree Council, Titirangi Ratepayers and Residents Association and Waitakere Ranges Protection Society and supported by the Environmental Defence Society.

The speakers were Madeleine Wright (Environmental Defence Society Lawyer), Douglas Allan (Partner, Ellis Gould and Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Legal Advisor) and Sean Freeman (Arborist and Chair of The Tree Council).

The meeting was well attended and supported the following resolution:

"This meeting expresses its concern about the lack of sufficient tree protection provided by Auckland Council. The meeting supports a request to Auckland Council to:

1. Improve the tree protection provisions within the Unitary Plan to the extent that is possible within the current law, in particular by:
 - a. Introducing a second tier to the scheduled list of trees comprising those trees achieving 80% of the score required for scheduling under the current provisions; and
 - b. Continuing to support the proposed protections in the Unitary Plan regarding trees and forested areas within the identified Significant Ecological Areas;
2. Invite the public to submit nominations of further trees for scheduling in either the primary or proposed secondary tier so that assessments can be done with the minimum impact on Council resources in advance of any future plan change; and
3. Lobby the Government to review and relax the RMA statutory constraints on tree protection through its forthcoming proposed RMA reforms".

Forest and Bird Waitakere, The Tree Council, Titirangi Ratepayers and Residents Association, Waitakere Ranges Protection Society and the Environmental Defence Society look forward to hearing from you with regard to progressing this matter.

Notes of the meeting and presentation slides are available at www.thetreecouncil.org.nz

Thank you on behalf of these groups

Dr Mels Barton

Secretary The Tree Council, Chair Titirangi Ratepayers & Residents Association

melsbarton@gmail.com

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CC. Media

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www.thetreecouncil.org.nz



Membership renewal reminder

Membership subscriptions are now due. Your 2015/2016 yearly membership is now due. Many of you have paid but there are still some outstanding. Please complete the form and email it back to thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz. Alternatively, if you received a printed version of this newsletter just cut out the renewal form and post it to us at the address below.

We also welcome new members!

Name:

Address:

Address: Postcode:

Tel (h): Mobile:

Email:

Can you access attachments? (eg PDFs) ☐ No ☐ Yes

Area(s) of interest:

Expertise: (that may be able to be utilised by The Tree Council)

I wish to help with the work of The Tree Council ☐ Yes

Membership Status

☐ New member ☐ Membership renewal

Membership Category

☐ Individual Members / Incorporated Societies / Charitable Trusts \$ 20.00

☐ Students / Beneficiaries \$ 15.00

☐ I wish to make a donation to assist with The Tree Council's work \$

TOTAL \$

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For Direct Credit payment Bank Account:

Branch – ANZ Cnr Queen & Victoria Sts

Account No. – 11 5462 0230022 11

Post this form with your membership fee to:

The Tree Council

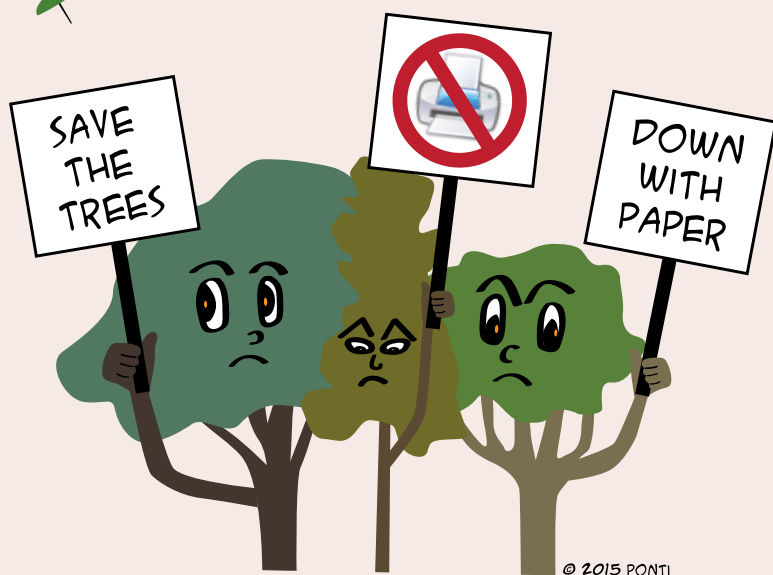
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Election of board members

**Have you considered standing for the Board?
Now is your time!**

This year the following people are standing for the
Tree Council Board:

Chair – Sean Freeman

Secretary – Mels Barton

Field Officer – Hueline Massey

The Tree Council Board is very keen to seek further
members to join them.

Please contact Hueline on 09 425 9246 or at
thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz if you would like to be
involved. It is certainly the way to learn about what
is going on in the world of tree protection!



Our People

Chair

Sean Freeman – 021 0837 1202

Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Acting Field Officer

Hueline Massey – 021 150 3385

Secretary

Mels Barton – 021 213 7779

Members

Sherylle Scott – 09 523 1647

Lili Ng

David Smith

Community Tree Advisors:

Auckland Sherylle Scott – 09 523 1647

North Shore Roland O'Driscoll – 09 410 5456

Erica Gilchrist – 09 445 3302

Waitakere Sean Freeman – 021 0837 1202

Mels Barton – 021 213 7779

Rodney Hueline Massey – 09 425 9246

Stephen Rose – 09 412 5668



Dates for your diary

Thursday 8 October

The Tree Council's 2015 AGM, 7pm,
Lynfield Room, Fickling Convention Centre,
546 Mt Albert Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland.

Saturday 10 October

Tree Week Guided Bus Tour of Auckland's
Heritage Trees

Bus departs: 9.20am from UNITEC