



Arborea



Spring 2019

Newsletter of The Tree Council
Tiakina Rākau • est 1986



Pohutukawa from Avanda site. Photo by Suzanne Caron.

Proposed Margan Reserve Land Exchange denied and Pohutukawa saved

A long campaign to preserve the three parallel rows of mature pohutukawa growing in reserve land along Margan Avenue in New Lynn has been successful for the time being. This successful outcome means that six pohutukawa threatened by removal for the construction of a road will remain standing as part of this greenbelt planted in the early 1960s.

This sweep of mature trees lies adjacent to a dense housing complex of 1800 units which includes the future construction of several multi-storied apartment buildings. During Stage One of the development, the developer removed fourteen mature pohutukawa in this same greenbelt and was allowed to do so because of ownership rights as they were on private land.

Over a period of three years, additional road ingress into the development was sought by the developer and plans presented to the Whau Local Board (WLB). Each of these proposals involved making use of the public reserve land known as Margan Reserve and involved, at one stage, the destruction of up to a third of the remaining trees in the Reserve, through the construction of a central road. A public campaign, supported by The Tree Council, was launched for the retention of the trees and to make Council planners and members of the WLB aware of the need to respond to wide-spread public support to save the trees.

continued overleaf...

Message from Sean Freeman

Tree Week 2019

Tree Week will take place from 5 to 13 October 2019 and we have some exciting events planned for you, which will also be part of the Auckland Heritage Festival.

SOLD OUT

Our annual guided tree walk will be in Symonds Street Cemetery on Saturday 5 October from 10am – 12pm with historian John Adams and tree expert Dr Mike Wilcox. We will explore the journey Auckland's earliest colonial settlers made to Aotearoa, what trees they brought with them and who these people were.

There is a waiting list, so there are no more places available. Sorry to disappoint anyone who was keen to come along.

Annual General Meeting

When: Thursday 10 October, 7pm

Where: Lynfield Room, Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Rd

Following the AGM there will be a lecture by Dr Mike Wilcox, author of Auckland's Remarkable Urban Forest, who will tell the story of the journey of Auckland's heritage trees to Aotearoa. All are welcome, free event, refreshments will be provided. A koha to cover the venue hire is appreciated.

This Newsletter is published by **The Tree Council** PO Box 60-203, Titirangi,
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None of these proposals eventuated in a resource consent application until in October 2018, a proposal for a land exchange to swap the eastern end of the Reserve for the developer's land, in order to construct a road, was sought by the developer and notified by Auckland Council. This application was supported by Council as the land is unclassified recreation reserve held in fee simple by Council. However, there was a requirement to proceed to full public hearing under the Reserves Act 1977. The hearing was held on 8 March 2019.

The proposed land exchange would have involved the exchange of 295m² of Margan Reserve and the loss of six pohutukawa for a long (66m) and narrow (6.2m wide) strip of the developer's land adjacent to Margan Avenue that would form part of the Reserve. There would have been a marked deficit both in ecological value, (tree loss) and visual amenity, plus fragmentation of the ecological unit of the existing reserve, and this is what was argued by The Tree Council at the public hearing. Another seventy seven submissions were received in opposition to the land exchange proposal.

With regard to the loss of ecological value, The Tree Council had sought and secured an arboricultural report undertaken by the WLB. This showed clearly that only weed growth was prevalent in the development land to be exchanged. It alluded to two significant pohutukawa on the private development land but did not conclude that these trees would be preserved in any land exchange. Despite this, it was the position of Council up to the morning of the hearing that "There are two Pohutukawa and a Mexican pine on the land proposed to form part of Margan Reserve" (Hearing Submissions Form, Oct 2018).

This, in fact, proved to be untrue: "The vegetation in this area contains dense woody weed species, understory and mid-canopy weed species" and Council listed the attributes of trees to potentially be brought into the Reserve as two groups of Privet. (Supplementary Background Report for the Independent Commissioner on the Proposed Margan Avenue Land Exchange (tabled at the hearing)).

Council and the developer also argued that the case for a road through the Reserve was supported by the New Lynn Precinct Plan, which in fact, as pointed out by the Independent Commissioner at the hearing, only allowed for a lane (3-4m wide) and not a road (26m wide) in this location. The Commissioner also questioned why there were no detailed plans for the proposed road construction and that the prerequisite for a land exchange proposal rested on an application for this consent which should be deemed necessary only by Auckland Transport.

The Environment and Planning Committee of Council considered the Independent Commissioner's recommendation to decline the proposed land exchange on May 14 and this was carried. It also recommended that the WLB undertake formal classification of Margan Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. The formal classification of the Reserve would serve to put a management plan in place and also to attach additional protection to the status of Margan Reserve. The Tree Council hopes that in this way, the pohutukawa growing there will continue to provide amenity to the community in the years to come. We await in anticipation for the WLB to action this recommendation made by Council Committee.

Suzanne Caron



News in brief

Blockhouse Bay Monterey Pines gone

It is always sad when a group of heritage trees are lost from the city skyline and the removal of the row of Monterey Pines in Blockhouse Bay village on 11 July was no exception.

The pines, which were protected for their visual amenity as scheduled trees by Auckland Council, had stood in the centre of the village on Gittos Domain for close to ninety years. Originally composed of eleven trees, the group of pines was believed by many to have been planted by the original settler to the area as either a border planting or a windbreak.

These heritage pines became a focal point of a campaign in the local area in 2015, when a decision by Auckland Council to remove them without public consultation through a non-notified resource consent was imminent. The campaign to retain the trees was based on their value as a local landmark, that they were protected trees as



Monterey Pines in Gittos Domain, Blockhouse Bay.

part of a reserve and as scheduled trees and the fact that commissioned arborist reports did not give evidence to support the removal of all of the trees. Responding to public pressure to either publicly notify this decision, or to rescind the resource consent, Auckland Council chose to do the

latter. The trees were allowed to remain but were the subject of additional maintenance to support their health.

Unfortunately, during the extreme autumn storm event of April 2018, two of the pines at the end of the row succumbed to the strong winds and branches were lost. An updated arborist report highlighted the areas of decline in the remaining trees and a new consent application to remove them was publicly notified this time so that submissions could be received. The Tree Council opted to support the removal of the remaining trees for public safety reasons but made a strong case for reinstatement of the original number of trees through the planting of natives. This was taken up by the independent commissioner at the hearing and a comprehensive replanting scheme was put in

place including the use of kaiwaka (the North Island cedar) and rewarewa. It is hoped that in fifty years, these trees will attain a height similar to the pines that were lost and provide a green backdrop for Blockhouse Bay village. The stumps of the pines that were taken down have been retained to mark the places where these trees stood.

So the history of the Monterey pines will always contain a short, final chapter which highlights the need for an open, public notification process to be applied to all trees protected under the Schedule of Notable Trees which become a subject of a resource consent for removal. After all, these trees are owned by all of us and therefore we have a right to a say on their fate.

Suzanne Caron

Paturoa Road Kauri update

It looks like the end of the long legal road to protect this kauri tree on private land in Titirangi has finally arrived. Despite four years of battling through a High Court judicial review, an Environment Court case and a High Court appeal of the decision the tree now has no protection whatsoever.

The Environment Court judge decided in April to lift the interim protection order and the appeal to the High Court on that decision has just been dropped by the Save Our Kauri Trust team led by neighbours Winnie Charlesworth and Andrew Mehrl.

Winnie and Andrew have had costs awarded against them by the Environment Court of \$30,000 on top of their own substantial legal costs in fighting the case. They simply cannot afford to keep on fighting.

The Tree Council's Mels Barton together with Greenpeace activist Steve Abel and Chris Pairama (Te Taou/Ngati Whaatua) made an oral submission to the Auckland Council



Planning Committee in June to ask Council to reinstate the Significant Ecological Area status removed from the land in 2015 at the request of the developer. However, Council had already issued a Certificate of Compliance to the developer in April and informed the team that any protection cannot be applied retrospectively. So even if the SEA had been reinstated, or if the tree had been listed as Scheduled it would still not have protected the tree from removal.

Mels Barton

Please donate...

Winnie and Andrew are currently considering whether there is any further action they can take and have launched a fundraising campaign to help cover their legal costs. If you can afford to donate to help this brave couple who have

done everything they possibly could to save this tree please go to the Givealittle page at: givealittle.co.nz/cause/save-our-kauri and come along to the Tiki Taane fundraising concert – details on back page



The Meaning of Trees

If you want a good book to curl up with by the fire for the rest of winter then look no further than this beautiful new publication by Robert Vennell. Robert contributed some articles to Arborea in 2014-15 and has been writing a blog for many years, so we were delighted to see a book produced from his highly informative research into the uses of our native plants.

The book is a delight to read with bite sized sections describing the biology, ecology, cultural medicinal (rongoā) and practical uses of trees by both Māori and Pākehā. It is far more than a book on trees, but a journey through our history as well. With historical illustrations sourced from the archives every page is a feast for the senses. We guarantee it will find its way onto your list of books to buy for your friends as well as for yourself.

Available now from all good bookstores.

Mels Barton

Mediated settlement of the appeal over 2 Waikowhai Road, Waikowhai

The Tree Council had been pleased by the original refusal of the original resource consent application to undertake a four-lot subdivision and development proposal at 2 Waikowhai Rd, Waikowhai, Auckland. When the owner-developer (the appellant) appealed that decision in October 2018, we joined the appeal as a Section 274 party opposing the relief being sought by the appellant.

At the original hearing we had argued that the owner-developer was trying to cram too much into this site. The very steep slopes included areas of vegetation designated as Significant Ecological Area (SEA), the original development proposal would destroy virtually all the existing vegetation on site and threaten the SEA in the adjacent reserve. To make matters worse the original layout of the subdivision meant the very few trees that had been identified for retention and protection would be unlikely to survive the construction.

On the day of the court assisted mediation there were long, frank and heated discussions in an honest effort to find middle ground between what the appellant was willing to compromise on and what the other parties to the appeal felt were critical.

Inevitably if you agree to enter into mediation you are acknowledging that you are willing to make some compromises from your original position, if you are not willing to do so then you might as well proceed straight to the appeal in court.

The appellant (the owner-developer) had come with a slightly different layout for their proposal, repositioning the entrance driveway away from the eastern edge of the section to a central position through the middle of the site. This

change was positive in that it would minimise construction impacts on one of the largest trees on the site, a Rimu.

Prolonged discussions centred around building sizes, building locations, the location and alignment of services, the size of replanting areas and the area of SEA to be retained and protected. In the end the mediation did result in small but positive alterations to the location of some of the new dwellings, the location and alignment of retaining walls and in ground services, the size of replanting areas and the extent of SEA to be protected within the site.

The small concessions that (together with the other parties to the appeal) we were able to gain will reduce the extent of damage to the SEA vegetation not just within the site but in the adjacent reserve. Those alterations will give the very few trees being retained on the site a better chance of surviving the construction process, we were also able to slightly increase the size and quality of the replanting areas on the site.

It should be remembered that what appeared to us to be very obvious problems with the owner-developer's original plans were not the result of an attempt to exceed the permitted density of development in this location. It seems inevitable that as Auckland intensifies the competition for space also increases, locations that have been considered marginal or less desirable are now being developed.

The final agreed memorandum signed by all parties to the appeal submitted to the court cannot be said to contain all the matters we had hoped for, we had to make concessions but I do feel that it is a better outcome for the environment both in and around 2 Waikowhai Road than the original proposal.

Sean Freeman

Proposed plan change to Notable Trees Schedule

You might be forgiven for forgetting that back in March 2017 the Planning Committee of Auckland Council directed that staff report on a plan change to the Auckland Unitary Plan to amend errors identified in the Schedule of Notable trees – Schedule 10.

It is now more than two years later and we understand that the report and the proposed plan change are almost ready to be presented back to the Planning Committee. There are fewer things that move quite as slowly as Auckland Council.

The proposed plan change aims to improve Schedule 10 and the corresponding mapped overlay by doing the following:

- Correcting errors and anomalies in the Schedule text (these include incorrect/anomalous species names, mismatched numbers of described trees, duplicated listings, incorrect address etc)
- Re-organising the Schedule into a more legible structure so that users can search by Auckland district and then by

street name in alphabetical order (currently the Schedule is organised by consecutive ID number)

- Update the mapped overlay to indicate the physical location/s of trees or groups of trees it is our understanding that the individual trees have been GPS located (currently the overlay denotes a green triangle in the middle of the land parcel to indicate the presence of a listed tree or trees but this does not correspond to their location).

It is yet to be seen if this plan change actually does result in improvements in the way Auckland's Scheduled trees are managed. It was very frustrating to us and a huge missed opportunity that the following aspects were not considered under this review and audit:

- the addition of new trees to the Schedule
- any change to the objectives, policies or rules relating to the Schedule of Notable Trees.

We continue to wait (hopefully) to see just what specific details are within the proposed plan change.

Sean Freeman

Auckland's worst weed?

Moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*) is probably Auckland's worst established weed. The good thing about it is that the seeds are contained in pods, so they can't do any mischief while they're inside. The bad thing is everything else.

It is currently exploding across Auckland. When the seed pods burst, from June till September, hundreds of tiny parachute seeds are released (like a dandelion), which blow around far and wide on the breeze and are capable of growing quickly into a plant that can climb six or seven metres into a suitable host tree, before eventually stealing all of its light and killing it, by which time it will have released millions more seeds. It kills trees, hedges and potentially forests. The milky sap is toxic and will create a rash on your skin, and the pods, which look a bit like light green avocados, are poisonous to dogs.

Auckland Council is well aware of the harm it can do to the urban ecology and endeavours to control it on public property. In two special areas, the Waitakere and Hunua Ranges, it is officially a total control plant pest, where property owners are legally obliged to remove it. In the remaining area of Auckland, the Council can do nothing to force private residents or businesses to control it, which means your neighbour might have let it get completely out of control and you will need to spend a lot of time trying to keep it out of your garden. Small plants can be simply pulled out of the ground but larger ones need to be cut and pasted with weedkiller (or completely dug out).

Moth plant, which originally came from South America, is the only weed (that we know of) that has its own Facebook page, – Society Totally Against Moth Plant, where people can report sightings and hopefully, a volunteer or group of volunteers will show up to tackle it.

This year, a new Regional Pest Management Plan was produced, which increases Auckland Council's power to require property owners to control it, but only within 500m



of a Special Ecological Area (SEA), leaving large areas of the city where it continues to be uncontrolled. This could result in a situation where one person has an uncontrolled infestation without the possibility of enforcement, and their next-door neighbour, who is just inside the 500m zone, is legally required to eliminate it from their own property. Also, it will certainly mean that the dedicated but overwhelmed moth plant volunteers will continue to spend thousands of hours every year trying to keep it in check on properties where the absentee landlord just doesn't care about it because they don't have to.

A number of people are launching a legal appeal so that this control can be extended across the city in order to gradually reduce the problem. As a last resort, Council contractors would carry out the removal and this would be charged to the property owner along with administration fees. A biocontrol has also been developed and tested, in the form of a beetle, and it is hoped that this will soon be able to be released on large infestations. Hopefully, these measures will eventually reduce this threat to our urban forest.

David Smith

RMA update

The latest word from the Government is that the Resource Management Act will undergo a two stage reform process. The first tranche reform will deal only with urgent errors and anomalies and will take place within the next 12 months. The second tranche reform will be more substantial and will include proposals to reinstate general protection of urban trees.

Obviously this is good news, but The Tree Council believes there is not sufficient urgency to replace general tree protection and that we risk losing significantly more of our urban forests across the country before this change takes place. The current timescale means this work will not begin until after the next general election –

and then only if Labour are re-elected to government. We have not seen a draft of the proposed changes relating to trees since we sent our comments to the government over a year ago.

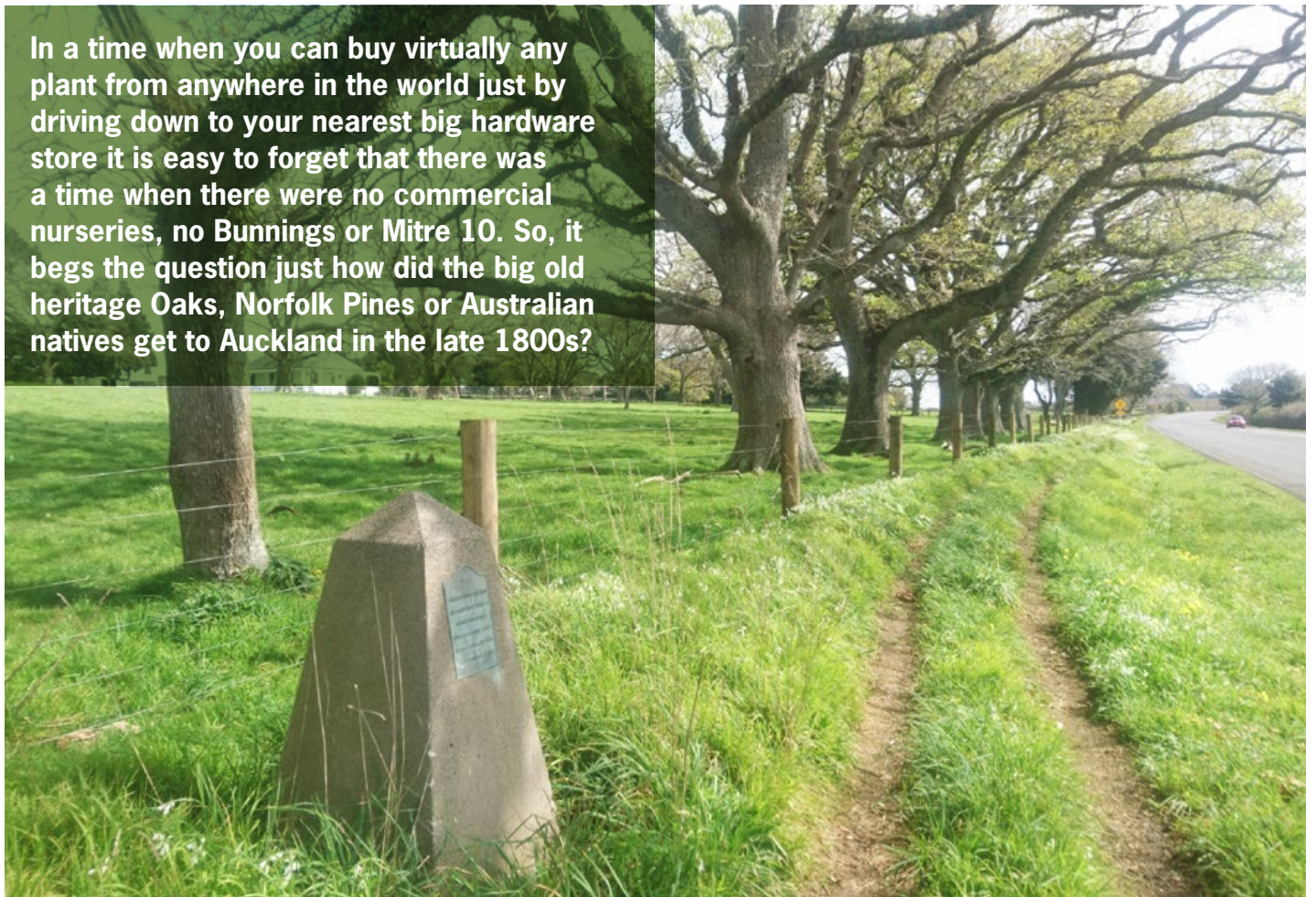
We have been approached by concerned locals in other cities such as Upper Hutt equally concerned that they are losing their mature trees far too quickly. This is not just an Auckland problem.

If you want to encourage the government to move more quickly on this issue we recommend you email Environment Minister David Parker on david.parker@parliament.govt.nz

Mels Barton

How did these big old exotic trees get here?

In a time when you can buy virtually any plant from anywhere in the world just by driving down to your nearest big hardware store it is easy to forget that there was a time when there were no commercial nurseries, no Bunnings or Mitre 10. So, it begs the question just how did the big old heritage Oaks, Norfolk Pines or Australian natives get to Auckland in the late 1800s?



Oaks at Titi Farm. Photo by Mels Barton.

In this short article I want to give you an insight into the role played by some of the movers and shakers of late 1800s North Island New Zealand in creating the living landscape of majestic trees that we can still glimpse today, if you know where to look and what to look for.

It needs to be remembered that much of Auckland in the 1800s was a very barren and almost tree less landscape, due to settler's own clearing activities and in no small part to the repeated burning of the low scrubland during intensive Māori occupation and land use over several centuries, which had destroyed the original forest that would have grown there. Having gained a foothold in this strange new land the European settlers looked beyond simply surviving and began to transform the environment around them with architecture and landscaping that reflected their origins and their ambitions.

The pattern of colonial development was pretty well tried and tested. In Auckland the Government Garden (now known as the Domain) was producing seedlings by 1842 and early photographs clearly show that new settlers were planting trees for shade and shelter on their farms. With increasing commercial and trade developments successful entrepreneurs were able to purchase larger allotments, build grand houses and create impressive landscapes including

large ornamental trees. Having the first avenue of Morten Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) or Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*) in Auckland said a great deal about just how important you were.

However, the stories behind how some of these non-New Zealand trees got to Auckland is more interesting than simply the workings of a grand scheme of the colonial authority.

Norfolk Island Pines – *Araucaria heterophylla*

It is likely that some of you have heard of the historical connection believed to exist between the oldest Norfolk Island Pines in Auckland and Bishop George Augustus Selwyn, first Primate of the Anglican Church in New Zealand. The diocese of Bishop Selwyn included the Islands of Melanesia and together with Bishop Patterson they brought boys from the Solomon Islands in the 1850s to Auckland to be taught at the new Melanesian Mission College built at Mission Bay. Unfortunately, a combination of poor sanitary conditions and the colder Auckland climate forced the relocation of this Melanesian missionary school to Norfolk Island by the late 1860s.

Native pines dominate coastal landscape on Norfolk Island and these unique trees would have made a big impact on Bishop Selwyn, indeed on anyone visiting Norfolk Island

for the first time. The planting of three Norfolk Island Pines before 1860 is documented at the Auckland Mission Bay site (sadly only one now remains), and through the late 1880s Norfolk Island Pines were planted around numerous Anglican Churches across Auckland (many of these have been removed in the last 10 years). Norfolk Island Pines of similar vintage to those at Mission Bay (circa 1860) can be found on coastal promontories along both coastlines of the North Island where they were used as navigation aids and whilst there is no documented evidence that Bishop Selwyn provided either the seed or the seedlings, without the connection to Norfolk Island this species would have remained unknown and unused for many decades.

'Royal' pedunculate Oaks – *Quercus robur*

There is a less well-known connection thought to exist between Bishop Selwyn and some of Auckland's older Pedunculate Oaks and the royal Oaks of Windsor Park in London. This connection is based on some historical facts and some historical supposition.

After graduating from theological college Bishop Selwyn's first appointment was Rector of Windsor Parish London and with that as Chaplain to Prince Albert at Windsor Castle. The story goes that whilst waiting for an appointment one day he collected acorns from the Oaks in the great park and brought these same acorns to New Zealand later in his life. It is said that in Auckland the then Bishop Selwyn gave some of these acorns to Sir George Arney who was New Zealand's second Chief Justice from 1858 to 1875. Judge Arney is said to have grown Oak seedlings from the acorns given to him by Bishop Selwyn and to have planted some of these seedlings along what is now called Arney Road in Remuera.

There certainly are some well established oaks along Arney Road which could be of the right vintage to have been planted around 1860/70, sadly many of the Oaks in this area of Remuera have been visibly declining for some years. Interestingly there is another historical link which can be formed between Judge Arney, his Oak saplings of royal heritage and Oaks planted on a property on Titi Hill, Waiuku.

The second owners of Titi Farm the Hill family planted a single avenue of Oaks according to local council records to commemorate the lives lost in the Titi Hill Battle (October 23rd 1863) part of the New Zealand Land Wars. The Oak trees are said to have been a gift from Judge Arney to Henry Hill and his son Walter, both of whom were respected solicitors working out of the Auckland Court. Family sources record that Henry Hill knew Judge Arney from their shared time in London law circles, there is no question that Judge Arney would have known Henry and Walter Hill. Another one of 'Selwyn's Royal Oaks' is said to be growing in the grounds of St Brides Church not far from Titi Farm.

It should be clear that in the rapidly developing settler society of Auckland the currency of grand ornamental

landscape trees was highly sought after. Possession and cultivation of these emblematic species spoke volumes of your importance and influence in emerging Auckland.

Monterey Pines – *Pinus radiata*

It is actually quite hard to imagine a time when Monterey pines were uncommon and highly sought after, yet that was the case in the 1800s. Seeds from Kew Gardens in London were brought to Auckland by Sir George Grey and around the same time an early Auckland nurseryman David Hay was selling seedlings to settlers also from England.

Some of the earliest plantings of Monterey pines were in Potters Park, Balmoral (these specimens have almost all been removed in the last two years due to their declining health) although it remained a very popular species for shelter belt plantings and as a forestry timber across Auckland.

The Tree Council has been and is currently involved in planning decisions regarding various stands of Monterey pines most notably Gittos Domain, Blockhouse Bay and Western Springs Park. The sad reality is that many of these stands of Monterey pines are declining in health rapidly and requiring decisive management intervention.

There are a great many other tree species that have intriguing and interesting histories explaining just how they travelled from their natural ranges to come to call Auckland home. I hope that this short exploration of the journeys of these three species will encourage you to ask yourself whether that old Oak tree in your street might have royal blue sap running through its phloem.

Sean Freeman



Mission Bay Norfolk Pine. Photo by Sean Freeman.

Kauri Dieback update

The total mess that is the National Kauri Dieback Management Programme continues to get worse.



Infected kauri. Photo by Dr Ian Horner.

The Tree Council made damning submissions to the Environment Select Committee in May 2018, along with many other groups, about the appalling management of this programme by the Ministry of Primary Industries over the last decade.

The Select Committee has just released its report and said that it shares our concerns. This should be the last straw for MPI's future with management of this issue, but we still have no certainty about what will happen to the programme now.

The recent budget did not include any funding for MPI, DOC or any other agency for operational management of kauri dieback, which leaves the programme unfunded and in limbo as of 1 July.

MPI have been running a national consultation on the National Pest Management Plan (NPMP) and the future Management Agency for kauri dieback but at present no decision has been made on this. The final proposals for the new agency included a government department (ie the status quo) or a Crown owned company. Neither of these options will solve the main problem that the programme has had for the last decade of a lack of transparency and inadequate governance that excluded iwi and community.

The draft NPMP also excluded Māori and had no role for DOC, so this also has significant and major failures that risk legal challenge if it is passed as proposed.

The Tree Council's position remains that the governance group in the new agency needs to contain all parties (iwi, community, landowners, Councils and government agencies) and ideally would be a community trust model.

If you wish to lobby the government to fund an effective new agency for kauri dieback we urge you to write to Jacinda Ardern on jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz and stress our comments regarding the make-up of the governance group above.

The good news is that the recent budget contained an additional \$20 million for the National Science Challenge for research into kauri dieback. This is on top of the \$8.75 million awarded last November for kauri dieback and myrtle rust for urgent research. This is extremely helpful and The Tree Council has been consulted by the National Science Challenge on the priority questions we see as important for the research programme to answer. We anticipate that a new research programme will be released soon.

Mels Barton



Kauri Rescue Update

The Kauri Rescue project is being funded by Auckland Council in 2019 to work with landowners in the Auckland Region on treating and monitoring their kauri trees infected by *Phytophthora agathidicida* (kauri dieback). For the previous two years the project was funded by the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge.

During the first two years over 500 people contacted the project about kauri dieback issues. Of these 250 wanted an inspection of their trees and 50 were recruited as project participants to begin treatment, treating over 800 trees. Since January 2019 the project has handled 115 enquiries, enrolled 25 new participants and treated over 500 more trees on private land.

Supporting landowners with large properties to treat and monitor their trees in a timely manner has become a cornerstone of the project's public engagement as it enables those without kauri on their own land to help others who do. The project also finds many landowners who have completed treatment of their own trees are willing to help others do the same. The project has run four of these "blitzes" since January and it enables new Ambassadors to be trained in the methodology by other participants so they can help others in the future.

Providing education and outreach to the public is an important part of the Kauri Rescue project. Since January the team have delivered 35 events including presentations, panel debates, stalls, workshops and media articles on kauri dieback in general as well as the Kauri Rescue project.

Mels Barton

From top:

New participants John and Sarah Peacock of Muriwai.

Kauri Rescue team member Mels Barton and Ambassador Sean Freeman at the Kauri Karnival with Waitakere Ranges Local Board PA Sharon Davies.

Kauri Rescue Ambassador Ngairé Kingsbury leads a treatment workshop "blitz" on Colleen Pilcher's property at Te Henga.



The Tree Council's Oral History Project

In May this year, we applied to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for a grant to begin an Oral History project on the Tree Council. Oral histories are a method for gathering valuable information about the past, recording an interview with someone who speaks from their personal experience.

In an oral history interview what is recorded is what happened in the past, and as well as what the person being recorded remembers thinking and feeling at the time.

The Tree Council has not yet pursued an oral history project with its founders and this project aims to capture the formation and the history of the Tree Council and the people who have been so committed and involved over the years.

For the inaugural interview of the project we propose interviewing Hueline Massey. Hueline has been involved in the Tree Council for three decades and as such has a unique knowledge of the history and battles for tree protection. She is one among a group of founding members.

Hueline joined The Tree Council while managing Palmers Gardenworld St Lukes branch back in the late 1980s.

Hueline will be able to recall the focus of the founders of The Tree Council to establish tree protection across the Auckland Region within the various District Plans, and the different ways they interpreted the protection required across the region.

When Hueline retired from Palmers Gardenworld in 1996, she became a lot more active, joining the Board of The Tree Council; running a Community Tree Adviser course (run through Unitec); inspecting protected trees that residents were wanting to have removed; writing submissions to the resource consent applications and attending the hearings of these applications.

When the National Government began to talk of removing General Tree Protection through changes to the RMA in the years around 2009, Hueline actively worked on a hard hitting and difficult campaign to convince the National Government that the effect of the proposed

changes would mean the deforestation of our urban environment. She can recall that battle and the subsequent loss of protection of mature urban trees. Hueline can talk equally well on the history of environmental policy change as she can on the specifics of particular urban trees – many of which were planted with historical significance attached [memorial trees].

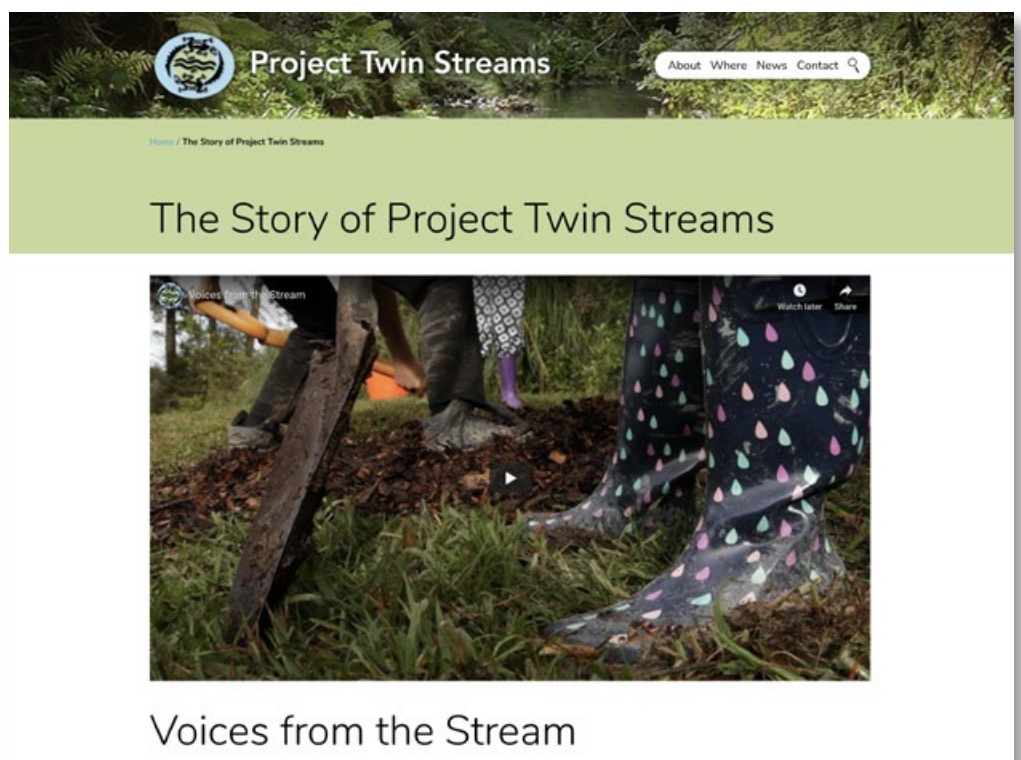
She is a passionate elder on the role of trees in urban landscapes “It hurts to hear of the removal of a healthy tree which has grown for many generations and can be gone in an hour without recourse and most often for pecuniary interests”.

My background in oral history practice originated with the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society. I managed the Society's Oral History Project from 2011, undertaking training and completing 16 interviews that have been lodged with the Auckland Libraries and the Alexander Turnbull Library. I am a member of NOHANZ (the National Oral History Association of New Zealand). Other Oral History projects I have completed include “Voices from the Stream”, a DVD created from 25 interviews that tell the story of Auckland Council's Project Twin Streams <http://projecttwinstreams.com/the-story-of-project-twin-streams/>.

Unfortunately we were not successful with the application to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage but we will be pursuing other options to fund this Oral History Project for The Tree Council. The completed interviews will be lodged with Auckland Libraries as part of their Oral History collection.

Anna Fomison

“Voices from the Stream, the story of Project Twin Streams” can be found on Project Twin Streams website projecttwinstreams.com/the-story-of-project-twin-streams/.



The Tree Council casework report

Our hardworking Board members have a heavy workload of cases that each of them takes on to try and save the trees that have resource consent applications for removal across the city. We are very aware that these cases are the tip of the iceberg of removals as they only relate to publicly notified consent applications for protected trees (either scheduled, on public land or in a Significant Ecological Area) and do not include all the trees on private land that have no protection and can be removed without consent. However, we feel it is vitally important for The Tree Council to advocate to save these special trees given the overall situation and lack of protection. If you would like to help us with this work we would love to hear from you. Get in touch on info@thetreecouncil.org.nz.

Here is a brief update on the cases we have worked on so far during 2019:

Margan Reserve, New Lynn

Land exchange proposed between developer and Local Board that will affect reserve, independent commissioner recommended decline, recommendation supported by Environment & Community Committee who recommended classifying reserve.

Paturoa Road, Titirangi Kauri

Developer successfully applied to have enforcement order lifted by court. High Court appeal dropped. Provided oral submission to Planning Committee to reinstate SEA but Council had issued Certificate of Compliance already. Tree no longer has any protection. Wrote letter insisting on enforcement of kauri dieback protocols for removal.

Sunshine Boulevard, Sunnyvale

Continue to follow up enforcement of consent conditions for development.

Watercare Huia Water Treatment Plant Replacement

Attended 2 years of Community Liaison Group meetings re consent to remove trees in SEA. Submission made on consent applications.

Kauri Dieback

Numerous media opportunities and advocacy to remove MPI from management of programme and closure of all kauri forests including meetings with Ministers and submissions to Environment Select Committee which reported in July 2019. Fully supportive of Waitākere rāhui put in place December 2017 by Te Kawerau ā Maki, lobbied Council to enforce rāhui with full closure, achieved in Feb 2018. Continue to advocate for effective enforcement, have run two volunteer audits of the closure.

Americas Cup Development

Submission made to relocate trees threatened by proposal. Application withdrawn and sent direct to Environment Court.

Waikowhai Road, Hillsborough

Decision declined consent, was appealed by developer, attended mediation, agreement made, consent order signed.

Western Springs Pines

Decision supporting consent, was appealed by Grey Lynn group, we will not be joining appeal.

Gittos Reserve, Blockhouse Bay

Submission made, decision to remove trees on safety grounds, will be implemented in July 2019.

Taiapa Road clean fill (Goldie Bush)

Submission made on original consent application which has expired. New consent application anticipated, discussed with concerned locals.

Saunders Reserve, Avondale

Opposed proposal by Whau Local Board to remove reserve status from part of reserve, made submission and wrote to Department of Conservation. Local Board decided to go ahead but no approach to DOC yet been made by Auckland Council.

Waikumete Cemetery

Attended consultation meeting on proposals. Opposed tree removal to expand cemetery.

McEldowney Road Macrocarpa, Titirangi

Scheduled tree subject of concern by neighbours re road safety. Defended tree and its progeny remaining, supported by Council arborists. Have discussed practical ways to enhance declining tree health.

Hebron Road, Waiake

Illegal removal and damage to scheduled tree being investigated by Council enforcement.

Regional Pest Management Plan

Submission made, plan been appealed.

Argyle Street, Herne Bay

Illegal removal of scheduled tree being investigated by Council enforcement.

Brick Bay Drive, Sandspit

Consent application for accessway through SEA, wrote letter for inclusion in submission by affected neighbour (limited notification) opposing. Gave evidence at hearing. Consent declined, but has been appealed. We will join appeal.

The Back Page

Our people

Chair: Sean Freeman – 021 0837 1202

Treasurer: Anna Fomison – 021 163 7492

Secretary: Mels Barton – 021 213 7779

Board Members:

Hueline Massey – 021 150 3385

Suzanne Caron – 021 175 6994

David Smith – 021 214 9195

Community Tree Advisors:

Auckland Suzanne Caron – 021 175 6994

David Smith – 021 214 9195

North Shore Roland O'Driscoll – 09 410 5456

Waitakere Sean Freeman – 021 0837 1202

Mels Barton – 021 213 7779

Anna Fomison – 021 163 7492

Rodney Hueline Massey – 09 425 9246

Stephen Rose – 09 412 5668

Why we love trees...



Georgia O'Keeffe, *The Lawrence Tree*, 1929, Oil on canvas. (Ponderosa pine)

I often lay on that bench looking up into the tree, past the trunk and up into the branches. It was particularly fine at night with the stars above the tree.

Georgia O'Keeffe

Send in your 'Why you love trees'

We are asking you to send in photos, drawings, paintings, poems, quotes, cartoons to show why you love trees!

Send to our designer, Vic – vic.segedin@gmail.com

An exhibition to interest you

Chervelle Athena: A Fragile Ecosystem

17 Sept – 3 Nov

Official opening:

Tuesday 1 Oct

The Pah Homestead,
72 Hillsborough Rd

Chervelle Athena's A
Fragile Ecosystem is

a photographic tribute
to Aotearoa's kauri,

focusing on how
photography can

strengthen human
connections with the indigenous flora of Aotearoa.



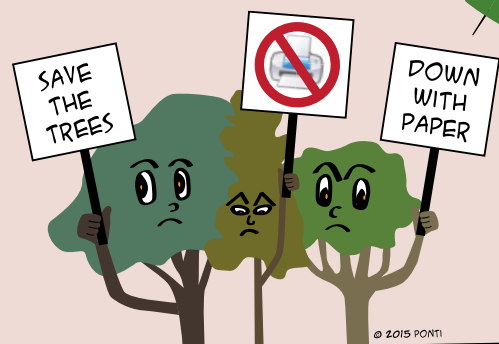
Tiki Taane live in Concert

Saturday 5 October, 8pm

Titirangi War Memorial Hal

Tickets: www.undertheradar.co.nz

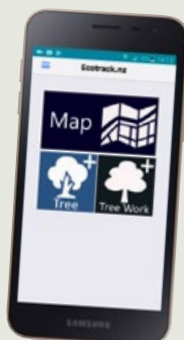
'Save Our Kauri' Charitable Trust is very proud to present Tiki Taane's One Man Band Show live in concert; in Titirangi for the first time on Saturday 5 October.



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