

## Excerpt from "The Notable Trees of New Plymouth", 2002

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Based on a review of S.W. (Bob) Burstall's Mensuration Report # 19, 1973.

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Notable Tree N° NT 35

"Kowhai " p73

NATIVE TREE: 35

SPECIES: ***Sophora tetraptera.***

COMMON NAME(S): Kowhai.

B.B CATEGORY: Not categorised.

### ORIGINAL READINGS

LOCATION: Rhododendron Dell, Pukekura Park.

DATE MEASURED: 1973

HEIGHT: 42 ft (12.8 m)

CANOPY SPREAD: 38 ft (11.6 m)

DIAMETER AT 1 ft: 27 in (68.6 cm)

BURSTALL'S NOTES: Being one of many affording shade for the rhododendrons.

### CURRENT READINGS

UPDATED LOCATION: Pukekura Park, on the main track through the Rhododendron Dell. At the curve closest to Brooklands Drive is a cast-iron sewer cover on the upper edge of the track. The kowhai is 15.5 m towards Brooklands Bowl from this cover.

DATE MEASURED: 30th January 2002

HEIGHT: 14.5 m

CANOPY SPREAD: 10 m

DIAMETER AT 30 cm: 83.1 cm

REMARKS: Divides into two main limbs at 75 cm.  
Dbh of the Brooklands Park side leader = 50.6 cm.  
Dbh of the Pukekura Park side leader = 35 cm.  
A tree of moderate health, which has developed a very irregular canopy.

+A larger tree that is nearby (**Fig. 59**) is recorded by Medbury and may have been ignored by Burstall because of its unconventional and vulnerable structure. It is located on the other side of the track and closer to Pukekura, being only 3 m from the cast-iron sewer cover. A healthy tree consisting of three main, strongly angled, divergent limbs that arise from just above ground level. Two large branches grow into the canopy of a neighbouring rimu. With this branching structure it is doubted that this tree will be very long lived, however Burstall probably thought the same 30 years ago.

10.3.02: Height = 20.2 m; spread = 21.2 m;  
diameter at 1m on northerly leader = 62.7 cm, (Pukekura side);  
diameter at 1m on westerly leader = 50.9 cm, (Brooklands Dr. side);  
diameter at 1m on easterly leader = 61.5 cm, (Brooklands Park side).

(\*Medbury, 1986: Height = 19.1 m; dia. @ 1 m on northerly = 58.3 cm, dia. @ 1m on westerly = 42.4 cm, dia. @ 1m on easterly = 55.1 cm.  
Possibly one of the earliest of W.W. Smith's plantings)