

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.

NATIVE TREE: 6 +
SPECIES: ***Agathis australis***.
COMMON NAME(S): Kauri.
B.B CATEGORY: Native Notable Tree - Local Interest.

The "Professor McGregor kauri" is located 42 m down the vehicle access road from the racecourse toward the Bowl of Brooklands and 5 m on the upper-side. Protecting this specimen from the southerly wind and sited 7 m from the tree is a well-proportioned rimu planted on the same day.

Professor W. R. McGregor was a lecturer at the Auckland University and wrote serial articles about trees in the Auckland Weekly. In 1985 the N.Z. Native Forest Restoration Trust raised funds by public subscription and added finance came from the Queen Elizabeth 2 National Trust. With this money they purchased 146 hectares of land at Waipoua (kauri forests, Northland) and dedicated it to Professor W. R. McGregor on the 30.11.85. In 1988 a further block of 101 hectares were purchased and added making a combined land mass of 247 hectares.

This is a fitting memorial to Professor William Roy McGregor "*the man who did the most to save the kauri forests of Waipoua*".

There is an irony in this commemorative planting/replanting. It was originally planted in the then newly established zoo compound at Brooklands, by local members of Forest and Bird, in recognition of the Professor's great dedication to native flora and fauna. Paradoxically it's future came under great threat from, of all things, deer!! It was therefore transplanted to its present ideal site and surroundings.

Original planting c. late 50's early 60's.
Replanted on this site c.1970.

(Last paragraph written by G. Fuller).

17.10.01: Height = 13.4 m; spread = 3.15 m; dbh = 30.3 cm.