

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.

Notable Tree 6+
"Kindergarten Gully" p25

NATIVE TREE: 6+
SPECIES: *Agathis australis*.
Kauri Grove

NATIVE TREE: 6 +

+Burstall refers to “*Thomas Horton being responsible for random planting (better described as ‘random distribution’) of mixed native species in rows 8 x 6 ft, in which kauri was well represented*”. This group is now called Kauri Grove and borders on Brooklands Rd and Brooklands Park Dr.

The stand has a healthy appearance, but like many of the others in N.P. individual trees display co-dominant leaders. This group of trees are suppressed, displaying huge differences in trunk diameters that range from a minimum of 13.5 cm up to 38.2 cm.

One of the better specimens is located 48 m from the kerb of Brooklands Park Dr and 7 m up from the track on the left-hand side (up-side). An outstanding example of kauri still in its younger stages of growth (ricker). It has excellent branch distribution and is maintaining strong apical growth. This specimen has an advantage as its canopy is not suppressed by surrounding vegetation and it has been able to develop relatively undisturbed. Nearby species include native beech, rimu and tanekaha.

28.8.02: Height = 20.5 m; spread = 2.9 m; dbh = 32.8 cm.

25.5 m further along the track from the above tree and on the right-hand side (down-side) edge of the track is a tree with a dbh = 38.2 cm. In the next row 6.8 m on the down-side is a tree with a dbh = 13.5 cm.

(The N.P.D.C has acknowledged public concern, accepted that action must be taken over time on all trees in need and has begun to implement a management plan (**Fig. 12**) starting with the stand of kauri along Brooklands Rd. (Kauri Grove)). Information received from the Pukekura Park, Friends of the Park committee on the 28th March 2002.

(30.9.02: The N.P.D.C has organised a public workshop detailing the proposed future care this stand will receive. The workshop will comprise illustrated presentations by several specialists, discussion and a field visit to the Kauri Grove site. Work on this stand could commence as early as the end of October!!).

(30.10.02: In a conversation with Mr J Goodwin he recalled that a thinning of approximately 50% was carried out in about 1950 as the stand was already displaying signs of suppression. The logs responded to treatment (tanalising) about the same as *Pinus radiata* and some were used to form the entrance pergola at Brooklands zoo).