

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 N° NT 2

"Monument Hill" p15

NATIVE TREE: 2

SPECIES: ***Agathis australis.***

COMMON NAME(S): Kauri.

B.B CATEGORY: Native Historic Tree - Local Interest.

ORIGINAL READINGS

LOCATION: Foot of Monument Hill, Pukekura Park.

DATE MEASURED: 1969

HEIGHT: 66 ft (20.1 m)

CANOPY SPREAD: -

DBH: 24 in (61 cm)

BURSTALL'S NOTES: The following is from a letter by W.W. Smith, a well-known natural historian and custodian of Pukekura Park, 1908 to 1921, to the Parks and Reserves Department dated 4th May 1936: "The young tree, when seven years old was presented to the park by the late Captain Waller in 1909. It grew for two years in the lawn where the larger of two Puriris are now growing. In March 1911 it was planted where it now grows. I attribute its rapid and vigorous growth to its being planted in the rich black soil with which the walk was made. This soil was thrown out from the bottom of the extension of the lake above the upper bridge, by a gang of Maori's who completed the work. The tree is growing in a warm and sheltered valley, which also greatly favours its growth."

CURRENT READINGS

UPDATED LOCATION: Pukekura Park, 65 m from the upper, smaller, bridge on the track heading towards Brooklands through the Rhododendron Dell.

DATE MEASURED: 30th January 2002

HEIGHT: 24.3 m

CANOPY SPREAD: 13.3 m; only one reading possible as the east to west canopy is overhanging the lake.

DBH: 86.9 cm

REMARKS: A healthy, superb specimen (**Fig. 3**) that when recorded had large quantities of gum dripping down the lower trunk. It is not altogether typical of a kauri due to formation of strong branches at a low level.

(*Medbury, 1986: Ht = 22.8 m; dbh = 77 cm. 1928: Ht = 10.2 m.

1938: Ht = 15.2 m; dbh = 34 cm. 1950: Ht = 16.9 m; dbh = 49 cm.

1982: dbh = 73 cm.

Said to be the largest kauri outside it's natural range). +This observation is not valid and cannot be sourced.

It is not recorded where the 1928 and 1938 measurements were sourced. The 1950 measurement was supplied by J. W. Goodwin and the 1982 by G. Fuller.