

## 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 6+  
"Western Hillside" p28

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

NATIVE TREE: 6 +

+The group of kauri on the western hillside of the Main Lake, Pukekura Park (**Fig. 14**) have an interesting story: After the pines were removed this planting was undertaken, firstly by placing, then igniting half a stick of gelignite in each site and then backfilling the hole which was created with rich soil. This process has been a great success, when one considers these large, healthy trees were only planted in 1964. The Forest Research Institute (FRI) has a great interest in their development and takes regular recordings, monitoring different aspects of growth and health.

The specimen measured is one of the better out of 16 trees and is positioned 43 m from Scalan Walk on the upper-side (western) of the path that leads down from the Victoria Rd car park.

15.5.02: Height = 16.5 m; spread = 6.2 m; dbh = 55.7 cm.

This is comparable to the Horton Walk trees (1925).

A very vigorous tree with a large amount of branch work forming a dense canopy. For something to contemplate the tree was 1.5 m (Medbury, 1986) when planted, the dbh would be approximately 1 cm. That reveals a yearly growth rate in height of 41.7 cm and an increase in diameter of 1.52 cm. It is not known which tree Medbury recorded, although it is likely to be the same one.

(\*Medbury, 1986: Ht =13.1 m; dbh = 35 cm.

Planting hole was blasted into hillside. Tree was 1.5 metres when planted, 22.7.64).