

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°3.

"Fernery - Fred Parker Lawn kauri" p16

NATIVE TREE: 3

SPECIES: *Agathis australis*.

COMMON NAME(S): Kauri.

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

ORIGINAL READINGS

LOCATION: Fernery, Pukekura Park.

DATE MEASURED: 1969

HEIGHT: 55 ft (16.8 m)

CANOPY SPREAD: -

DBH: 19 in (48.3 cm)

BURSTALL'S NOTES: Planted on 17th October 1929, by the Mayor, H.V.S. Griffiths, to commemorate the handing over of the park to the Borough Council.

CURRENT READINGS

UPDATED LOCATION: Pukekura Park, sited on a corner of the lawn opposite the Fernery entrance.

DATE MEASURED: 19th of October 2001

HEIGHT: 23.5 m

CANOPY SPREAD: 9.1 m

DBH: 90.1 cm

REMARKS: The tree has a distinct lean to the north, probably due to its planting on a reclaimed swamp and shading from large pines on its southern side up to 1965. The body language displayed by the trunk indicates a degree of compensation. Nevertheless, this lean may become a threat as bulk increases, particularly in view of the fact that in winter the surrounding area becomes extremely waterlogged.

Regardless of these facts, this Kauri is a good specimen (**Fig. 4**).

(*Medbury, 1986: Ht = 20.8 m; dbh = 71 cm).

To emphasise the great significance of the planting ceremony, the handing over of administrative authority was from the autonomous Pukekura Park Committee whose successive lay members had been responsible for the park since its inception in 1876. Robert Clinton Hughes, chairman throughout the period made a moving speech. He dedicated over 50 years of his life to the welfare of the park up to the time of his death in 1935, so this tree is in effect a living memorial to his vision and dedication.

(Last paragraph written by G. Fuller)