

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° ET 114

“Kermadec Nikau ” p196

EXOTIC TREE: 114

SPECIES: ***Rhopalostylis cheesemanii***, (likely to be ***Rhopalostylis baueri*** var. ***cheesemanii*** - Jones. D,1993).

COMMON NAME(S): Kermadec Nikau

B.B CATEGORY: Exotic Notable Tree - National Interest.

ORIGINAL READINGS

LOCATION: Beside the Cricket Pavilion, Pukekura Park.

DATE MEASURED: 1973

HEIGHT: 37 ft (11.3 m)

CANOPY SPREAD:

DBH: 10 in (25.4 cm)

BURSTALL'S NOTES: A vigorous specimen growing in a very sheltered position.

CURRENT READINGS

UPDATED LOCATION: Behind the Cricket Pavilion, Pukekura Park.

DATE MEASURED: 31st August 2001

HEIGHT: 12.6 m

CANOPY SPREAD: -

DBH: 21.6 cm

REMARKS: A healthy specimen in a moist sheltered site. Hidden behind the Cricket Pavilion (access is from the Fountain Lake). It is unknown how Burstall obtained a larger dbh reading. The current reading was taken on two separate occasions.

(*Medbury, 1986: *R.hopalostylis baueri* var. *cheesemanii* age unknown, likely to be at least 50 years old. Recorded as a notable tree under R.N.Z.I.H register. Not mentioned on Thomas Horton's 1936 listing of adjacent trees).

"*Rhopalostylis cheesemanii* - is often regarded as being closely linked to *R. baueri* from Norfolk Island and sometimes included as a variety of that species". - Palms In Australia, David Jones, 1993.

“The most obvious distinguishing feature compared to *R. sapida* (nikau) is cylindrical rather than bulbous leaf bases”. – G. Fuller.