

GEORGE FULLER
6 TORBAY ST.,
NEW PLYMOUTH, N.Z.

RATAPEHIPEHI RESERVE

COMMEMORATIVE KAURI

PLANTED 7th October, 1936, W.H. SKINNER Esq.

by whose efforts this land was reserved in 1906.

This Reserve was the last known area near the City from which the Kokaka or North Island Crow was reported.

There are some large native trees including Rimu and Nikau Palm.

This Area is controlled by N.P. Scenic Reserves Board.

Recorded by
J.W. Goodwin
Director- P & R.
New Plymouth

18/1/71

GEORGE FULLER
6 TORBAY ST.,
NEW PLYMOUTH, N.Z.

3rd July, 1936.

Memorandum for -

HEADTEACHERS.

copy for your information

Arbour Day - August 5th, 1936.

A KAURI TREE FREE TO EVERY SCHOOL.

The Taranaki District Council of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Mr. J. C. McDowall, Hon. Secy.) will present for Arbour Day celebration to every public or private school making application, a pot-size kauri tree to be planted in the school grounds. It is important that the position chosen for planting will be, as far as can be foreseen, one where building extension or other future works will not necessitate the cutting down or removal of the tree.

I shall be pleased to receive application for a tree up to Tuesday, July 14th. Please include instructions as to best means of delivery. Trees might be picked up from centres, such as Hawera, Stratford, Opunake, New Plymouth (Education Office Store) and Ohura, to minimise cost of distribution, but where such arrangement is not convenient, other means of delivery will be found.

Planting Instructions. Mr. T. Horton, F.R.H.S., Council President, gives the following instructions:

"Like every other baby, this tree will need gradual hardening to the sterner conditions of life. Choose a position sheltered from severe winds and where hard frosts occur give the tree some light brush or scrim protection. In planting cultivate to a depth of 18 inches, an area three feet in diameter. If the soil is poor replace some of it by good soil. All this should be moderately firmed. Open a hole in the middle of this area just big enough to take the unbroken ball of earth. Plant the tree erectly to the level of the soil in the pot. Hand firm the soil about this ball and continue the surface cultivation of the soil within the circle from time to time."

The Board is heartily in accord with the aims of the Institute of Horticulture to inculcate a love of trees and forest nature generally. The majority of our schools has always given due place to Arbour Day celebration. The Board, is however, desirous that this celebration be extended to every school and to every child and the attention of teachers is specially directed to Paras. 146 to 156 of the Board's Rural Science Handbook, with the object of developing in their charges a healthy tree sentiment, and of showing how patriotic motives should stir us all to action to conserve existing native forest, to protect parks and to plant trees, native and exotic, as much for their beauty as for their economic value as timber, shelter and harbour for the birds.

Further Planting. Several schools have succeeded in interesting their ex-pupils in the beautifying of their school grounds to the extent that they each presented a tree or shrub. This is to be commended and what better commemoration of a school jubilee or other historic occasion than the planting of trees.

Here a plea is made for some exotic shade trees, leafy in summer to exclude the sun's rays and bare in winter to admit them. Most of our schools are lacking in shade trees. Planes, sycamores, oaks, chestnuts, silver birches, etc. should be planted wherever grounds and conditions of growth permit.

Pohutukawa trees could be utilised to greater advantage by coastal schools. Small self-sown seedlings could be transferred to the school nursery and I have saved a supply of pohutukawa seed for distribution, with directions for growing, to schools desiring them.

An entry should be made in every school Log book, noting how Arbour Day was observed.

(Sgd.):- D. Mackay,

Senior Instructor in Agriculture.

*These plants were supplied by
Mr N. B. Davies of Duncan & Davies
Ltd. confirmed by Mr N. B. Davies, 14/6/73.*

E. F.