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Vandalised kauri park worse than Penn path



ALL those people who condemned Tony Penn's bulldozing act should take a trip to Kauri Glen in Brooklands Park (just to the right of the zoo road).

Penn's actions destroyed "vegetation which has taken many years to form", said one letter (June 17). But the trees in Kauri Glen were planted in 1935 and the kauri is one of our national emblems.

On the advice of a bunch of so-called experts, who talked a lot about the extra growth that you get if you thin them out, the whole place now looks like the aftermath of a suicide bombing in the Gaza Strip.

The person who marked these trees for destruction was an employee of the same council that is condemning Tony Penn for bulldozing a track on his own land.

We know that Tony shouldn't have done it, and he probably does too. But this is nothing compared to an official decimating a stand of beautiful and thriving kauris, lovingly tended for almost 70 years, just on the ill-advice of a bunch of so-called experts who want us to grow these trees commercially instead of under park conditions for all of us to enjoy.

There was talk of the danger from forked trees splitting and one fork falling. Lesser trees may do this, but I am an ex-kauri bushman and only overly mature trees are likely to do this. So, yes, there was a risk — but not for the next 1000 years.

BRUCE BABE
New Plymouth