

George Fuller 9.5.01

Tree Care Policy NPDC

There are many large tree species in Taranaki in general, but within New Plymouth in particular I believe that by next century they could be the major tourist attraction. It is however very naive to believe that since they are already there, they will simply look after themselves. Already, mainly because they develop relatively slowly at any given time, maintenance can be justifiably be " put off until tomorrow" or "put off until it can be afforded " Many are now in serious need of attention, particularly where dense stands are involved. Notable amongst the species is the kauri. Sadly it is prone to develop the impediment of multiple leadership in the formation of the main trunk. An illustration saves a thousand words=====

Demonstrate with the two diagrammatic models the conical juvenile kauri (rikker) habit, then by splitting the the models from the top, dramatise the consequence of multiple leadership in advancing age. Leave no doubt of the consequence by holding the up the 30° branched limb & by separation, split it down the middle.

In the Wahine storm 1968 both a totara & a native beech in Pukekura Park were lost in this manner ,& in Cyclone Bola a giant redwood beside the pavilion met the same fate, with the added drama that a large portion landed on an unoccupied vehicle parked beneath.

Because administrators over the last 50 years, including myself, have been very mindful of the serious need for major maintenance, yet unable to take action, it is imperative that specific legislation be enacted to ensure that an early start is made on a long term provision for maintenance for our major trees.

If anyone is in any doubt over the importance of our tree heritage, I suggest the following one day expedition. There are two important requirements . One is a knowledge of how very large a kauri tree will become, and the other, a sense of imagination which will take one to the year 2301. You will be taking part in a vintage car rally, driving a three hundred year old vehicle, on a tree trail in search of the giants.