

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.

EXOTIC TREE: 58

SPECIES: ***Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'***.

COMMON NAME(S): Copper Beech.

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

ORIGINAL READINGS

LOCATION: Main Lawn, Brooklands Park.

DATE MEASURED: 1969

HEIGHT: 86 ft (26.2 m)

CANOPY SPREAD: 77 ft (23.5 m)

DIAMETER At 2 ft: 48 in (1.219 m)

BURSTALL'S NOTES: An excellent colourful tree planted in the 1890's.

Beside the amphitheatre, Bowl of Brooklands, is a tree 36 in (91.4 cm) at 1 ft (30.5 cm) x 44 ft x 44 ft (13.4 m x 13.4 m) in 1973. This tree is of particular note because it was "in the way" when it was decided to construct the Bowl in 1956-7. It was shifted to the east and is now a feature on its new site.

CURRENT READINGS

UPDATED LOCATION: Brooklands Park, Main Lawn, 28 m from nature trail entrance sign.

DATE MEASURED: 4th September 2001

HEIGHT: 25.9 m

CANOPY SPREAD: 27.6 m

DIAMETER At 60cm: 1.815m

REMARKS: Outstanding example of an English beech, with excellent health (**Figs. 116 and 117**). The larger lower limbs sweep down to within 50 cm of the ground. This specimen would have to be regarded as the current main focal point on the Brooklands lawn area with an unrestricted scope.

(*Medbury, 1986: Ht = 23.15 m; spread = 24.5 m.

Mrs Fookes, daughter of Newton King, recalls 'leap frogging' over this tree as a child. She was born 1902).



Fig. 116



Fig. 117

&The tree now located at the base of the access drive and spreading over the toilet block of the Bowl of Brooklands was originally located in the centre of what is now the open air auditorium (**Fig. 118**). When this location was chosen in 1957 as the site for an open-air theatre, removal of this already large tree was essential. Transplanting was carried out by Tom Wagstaff and parks staff and undertaken during J. W. Goodwin's absence in the U.K. on study leave. To transplant such a

large tree successfully with the rudimentary equipment then available represents a tremendous arboreal achievement and few would now credit that this fine specimen has been in it's present location for only 45 years.

It has been recorded that it marked the burial site of Newton King's favourite racehorse (Paritutu), which died within hours of Newton King, but this cannot be confirmed and is most unlikely.
(Written by G. Fuller and verified by J. W. Goodwin).

17.10.01: Height = 19.25 m; spread = 21.1 m; diameter at 30 cm = 1.35 m.



Fig. 118