



Arborea



Spring 2013

Newsletter of **The Tree Council**
Taikina Rākau • est 1986

The Tree Council's two new board members

Cheryl Lawton

Cheryl joined The Tree Council in 2010, and was co-opted onto the Board in 2013. Cheryl chose to join the Board because of her concern about the possible impact the Auckland Unitary Plan might have on the city's trees. As well as campaigning for the protection of existing significant trees, she is passionate about urban forests, particularly food forests, and the provision of public space for the planting of larger specimen trees in regions of building intensification.

Sean Freeman

Sean moved to Australia from the UK in 1988 and spent 14 years as a qualified Horticulturalist living and working in North Queensland before specialising in trees, completing a diploma of Arboriculture in 2004.

With an increasing focus on consulting rather than tree surgery Sean moved to Southeast Queensland in 2007 where stricter vegetation protection rules demanded more detailed and documented tree inspection and assessments.

Sean has been very fortunate in the past six years to have had the opportunity to provide management advice for some of the most significant historical trees in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Sean is a founding member of the Veteran Tree Group Australia and is passionate about increasing the understanding of how to better manage trees and to enhance the appreciation of all of the diverse values that trees can provide.

Sean has presented numerous talks and slide shows highlighting the critical importance of the stable long lived habitat that trees provide to a host of other living organisms many of which are cryptic (hidden) and poorly understood. The remarkable relationship between trees and fungi is a particular obsession for Sean and as an active member of the Queensland Mycological Society he has given talks on the co-evolutionary links between some wood decay fungi and the trees which support them.

In 2013 Sean moved to Titirangi Auckland to live with his partner Dr Mels Barton.

AGM

The Tree Council 2013 Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday 16 October 2013, 7pm followed by an address by Sean Freeman on the 'Value of Trees in the Urban Environment' as mentioned in this newsletter.

Where: The Fickling Centre, corner Mt Eden and Mt Albert Roads, Mt Roskill

Put it in your diary NOW!

Election of board members

Have you considered standing for the Board? Now is your time!

Over the past year we were able to co-opt three members of The Tree Council to the Board which was great. One of the co-opted members has had to resign unfortunately but the other two members have included their CV's below. They are available for election as are the four current Board members.

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Roland O'Driscoll as Chair of the Board. Roland is unable to continue in this role but we thank him sincerely for the year of energy and effort he did give us.

The Tree Council Board is very keen to seek further members to join them and to even consider taking on the Chair's position. Please contact Hueline on 09 425 9246 or at w.massey@clear.net.nz if you would like to be involved. It is certainly the way to learn about what is going on in the world of tree protection!



News in brief

Proposed Childcare Centre embracing our beloved Oak and Pohutukawa trees



Dr Darius Singh and his wife Nikeeta are proposing this 'Chrysalis' childcare centre on the site of our victorious Oak and Pohutukawa at Rosebank Road, Avondale. The Tree Council are very pleased to have been invited to be part of the proposed concept and future landscape plans that have been submitted to Auckland Council.



Local Board elections

The Tree Council Board is contacting all the main parties seeking election of their candidates in the upcoming Auckland Council and Local Board elections. We are requesting from them their policies, attitude and response to the removal of tree protection (with the exception of

Scheduling of trees) within our urban environment. We will email out the results of our 'research' as soon as we have some results and hope this may assist you in making a good and urban friendly choice of candidate for your particular area.

NEW TREE COUNCIL INITIATIVE!

Tree Week – 13 to 20 October 2013

Following the changes to the Resource Management Act over the past four years and the unknown content of the still to be revealed Auckland Council Unitary Plan with regard to future tree protection of urban trees The Tree Council is keen to improve Auckland residents understanding of the role that trees play in our urban environment.

As a way of achieving a wider audience and better understanding of the role of trees in the urban environment we are promoting a special Tree Week to be held from 13 to 20 October 2013. This is a first try at this type of promotion so we are starting small but have plans to increase the weeks' activities each successive year. Below are the first of our activities:

Tree Week lecture

'Value of Trees in the Urban Environment'.

Wednesday 16 October at 7.30pm

Sean Freeman will give an address on this topic at the Fickling Centre, corner of Mt Eden and Mt Albert Roads, Mt Roskill. This is a free lecture and open to the public. All are welcome.

Tree Week bus tour

Sunday 20 October 2013

\$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Bus departs 9.20am from Unitec Entry 3 on NW side of Building 48.

This is a bus tour of Auckland's great trees lead by Penny Clifflin, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture, at Unitec Institute of Technology. The tour will commence at Unitec at 9.30am visiting Western Springs, Western Park and Myers Park before a lunch stop in Albert Park and then across the road to the University collection returning to Unitec by 3pm. Numbers are limited so please reserve your place by emailing thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz

Update on tree protection rules – Resource Management Reform Bill 2012

In February The Tree Council wrote a submission to the Select Committee, followed by a short presentation to those members of the Select Committee who travelled to Auckland.

The Committee listened to our presentation, but no questions were asked on matters of substance. Photos of significant trees recently removed or severely pruned were circulated during the presentation and did evoke sympathetic comment and a few questions.

The Select Committee reported on 11 June 2013. Some 278 submissions were received and 110 submissions were heard from interested groups and individuals. The changes to the Act effectively mean that the only form of tree protection will be by scheduling.

The Select Committee modified Section 76 (by majority decision) which now reads (see right):

The examples taken from the Environment Court decision have been deleted. This modification means that the protection of groups of trees is now allowed, though the trees still have to be identified by street address. This in effect is still protection by scheduling only. Despite amendments which recognise a group, cluster, grove, or line of trees, the tree protection provisions are unwieldy and therefore will be costly and time consuming.

Both the Labour Party and the Green Party included their minority views in the report, rejecting the changes and citing The Tree Council submission.

It would seem the only hope for sensible tree protection is a change of government at the next election!

Replace section 76(4A) and (4B) with:

“(4A) A rule may prohibit or restrict the felling, trimming, damaging, or removal of a tree or trees on a single urban environment allotment only if, in a schedule to the plan,-

“(a) the tree or trees are described; and

“(b) the allotment is specifically identified by street address or legal description of the land, or both.

“(4B) A rule may prohibit or restrict the felling, trimming, damaging, or removal of trees on 2 or more urban environment allotments only if-

“(a) the allotments are adjacent to each other; and

“(b) the trees on the allotments together form a group of trees; and

“(c) in a schedule to the plan,-

“(i) the trees are described; and

“(ii) the allotments are specifically identified by street address or legal description of the land, or both.

Consent and scheduling submissions update

Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Pine) at 125 MacLeans Road, Bucklands Beach



The Tree Council wrote a submission opposing the removal of this *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Pine) which was protected under Schedule of Notable Trees 6B of the Auckland Council District Plan (Manukau Section) for its historic value. This Norfolk Pine is of a similar age to the large trees in the adjoining Murvale Reserve. The

applicant wanted the tree removed as they felt and were advised by an arborist that the tree was causing the

cracks in their garage, yet when the Commissioner and Auckland Council arborist visited the week before the hearing the cracks had disappeared obviously due to Auckland's dry summer.

The Tree Council are astounded that the representative of the Howick Historic Society supported the removal and gave evidence at the hearing commenting that “the tree has no historic value”. In the Commissioners' decision she states that the historic significance of this particular tree is “principle issue of contention”.

The Tree Council feels strongly that this tree should have been assessed as it stands in the Schedule and not as The Howick Historical Society *feel* or in the Commissioner's opinion and therefore have lodged an Appeal with The Environment Court.

Cheryl Lawton, Community Tree Advisor

***Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Pine) at 48 Karaka Road, Beachlands**



The Tree Council put in a submission opposing a Resource Consent Application to remove this mature Norfolk Pine (on left). Resource Consent was required because the property on which it is growing does not

meet the definition of 'an urban environment' (see below) under the Resource Management Act 1991 because in this case there is no reticulated water supply.

Norfolk Pine are considered to be a character tree on our eastern coastlines in greater Auckland. These trees

have one of the greatest visual catchments for their appreciation due to their stature and distinctive linear pyramidal form.

The Tree Council were astonished at some of the Commissioner's comments eg "I believe that the 6C Schedule is more appropriately used as a sieve to enable assessment of significance when any works to such a tree are proposed", "I do not agree that the subject tree is significant in terms of species, age or size", and "So while Beachlands may technically comprise an urban environment for the propose of 76 (4A) it is little different from most suburban environment to which those provisions apply". The Tree Council felt that the Commissioner had assessed the Application on her version of the law not the actual.

The Commissioner stated that "three natives (including cultivars) of a similar or potential size and form to Kapuka (*Grisilinia littoralis*) or Tarata (*Pittosporum eugenoides*)" would be adequate mitigation planting.

Sherylle Scott, Community Tree Advisor

***Magnolia grandiflora* – Scheduled at 82 Great South Road, Papatoetoe**

Status: Commissioner Refused Consent. Applicant has appealed to The Environment Court. The Tree Council has

filed a s.274 – Notice of Person's Wish to be Party to Proceedings. No update on this one as we went to print.

Recent resource consent application scenarios

Highbury, Birkenhead – A very big redevelopment proposal was put forward for resource consent for a site bordered by Mahara Street and the Highbury Bypass. On the site are two very beautiful mature trees (a Pohutukawa and a Ginkgo biloba) growing in positions that The Tree Council considered could have been successfully incorporated into the development, plus a large area of regenerating bush protecting the watercourse at the back of the development. Our Community Tree Adviser for that area, Erica Gilchrist, presented a great oral submission to the hearing against the removal of these two trees

in particular but also about the bush and its ongoing maintenance. Unfortunately consent was granted for the development with no consideration for the retention of the Pohutukawa or Ginkgo. Those trees are a substantive presence on the site and would have been a huge asset to the completed development but when the developers require such intensive building development plus parking and infrastructure there is little room for trees of this size. These trees would most likely have outlived the life of any new building being sited there today.

Definition of an urban environment

Urban environment as defined in the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Act 2009 is:

An allotment no greater than 4000m²:

- That is connected to a reticulated water supply system and a reticulated sewerage system; and

- On which a building is used for industrial or commercial purposes, or a dwelling house.

A lot which does not meet all of these criteria is not defined as an 'urban environment' and therefore, where relevant, any tree on that site will still be subject to the relevant general tree rules from 1 January 2012.

Auckland Council media release

15 July 2013

Auckland on watch following Dutch elm disease outbreak

More than 200 elm trees on the privately-owned Kingseat site near Drury have become infected with Dutch elm disease, making it the largest outbreak of the disease since its discovery in New Zealand in 1989.

Dutch elm disease is spreading further south, with diseased trees recently destroyed near Appleby and Drury Hills Roads, Drury. Further outbreaks have been identified in South Auckland including: Rogers Park, Bucklands Beach; Lloyd Elsmore Park, Pakuranga; and the Manukau Memorial Gardens, Mangere. Diseased trees were identified as the result of regular annual monitoring and reports from members of the public and contractors.

Auckland Council Arboriculture and Landscape Advisor, Simon Cook, says they assisted the property owner and manager at Kingseat to ensure the elms were safely cleared.

Kingseat is a historic character site with elms initially planted in the 1930s. It's a shame that they will be losing such a significant number of trees. However, this demonstrates just how devastating the disease really is.

Dutch elm disease is usually spread by the bark beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus*) carrying fungal spores from tree to tree, or through the transfer of diseased tree materials, but can also spread directly through root grafting between neighbouring trees. All affected trees will be treated and removed safely and all equipment used will be disinfected to ensure the disease does not spread.

Mr Cook says: Given the speed at which Dutch elm disease can spread, and the fact that it's nearly always fatal for affected trees, we are taking every precaution to ensure we remove the trees safely and contain the threat within Auckland.

The disease has caused a huge loss to the landscape in those areas affected by Dutch elm disease over the last

season. If the disease moves into the Waikato, where elms are prevalent in urban and rural zones, then this landscape will also be depleted of these large and significant specimen trees.

I call on Aucklanders to check elm trees on their property, especially those around the Bombay Hills and Pukekohe, and report any suspected cases of Dutch elm disease they see in public places. New cases will become evident during spring, with elm either not coming into leaf or wilting rapidly after bud burst.

It is critical that elm wood is not carried outside Auckland, especially as logs or firewood. Elm material that is diseased will often harbour or attract bark beetles - it must be buried, mulched or burnt.

Elms are deciduous northern hemisphere trees distinguished by their large leaves, which feature serrated edges, symmetrical veins, and an asymmetrical base. Residents are asked to watch for signs of wilting, curling, or yellowing leaves; or dying or dead branches and trees.

Dutch elm disease was first discovered in Myers Park, Auckland in 1989. Following an information campaign and ongoing monitoring, it has been contained within the Auckland region. The most recent outbreak was in October last year which saw 50 elm trees in Whitford removed to contain the disease.

Controls prohibit the movement of elm material in and out of the Auckland area between the Bombay Hills and Albany. Storage of elm wood is also prohibited under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Elms cannot be brought into Auckland nor sold at Auckland nurseries.

For more information on Dutch elm disease, please visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or call 09 301 0101.

How to recognise Dutch elm disease – some of the tell-tale signs of infection.





The Back Page

Membership renewal reminder

Membership subscriptions are now due. Your 2013/2014 yearly membership is now due. Many of you have paid but there are still some outstanding. We have made it easy for you here to renew. Just cut out the renewal form from this newsletter and post it to us. We also welcome new members!

Name:

Address:

City: Postcode:

Tel (h):

Mobile:

Email:

Can you access attachments? (eg PDFs) No Yes

Area(s) of interest:

Expertise: (that may be able to be utilised by The Tree Council)

I wish to help with the work of The Tree Council Yes

Membership Status

New member Membership renewal

Membership Category

Individual Members / Incorporated Societies / Charitable Trusts \$ 20.00

Students / Beneficiaries \$ 15.00

I wish to make a donation to assist with The Tree Council's work \$

TOTAL \$

Payment Details

Please make cheques payable to The Tree Council.

For Direct Credit payment Bank Account:

Branch – ANZ Cnr Queen & Victoria Sts

Account No. – 11 5462 0230022 11

Post this form with your membership fee to:

The Tree Council
c/- Treasurer
PO Box 28272, Remuera, Auckland 1541

Receipts are sent out with the next mail-out following receipt of payment.





Our people

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Hueline Massey – 09 425 9246

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Pip Mules – 09 624 3732
Mels Barton – 09 816 8337
Cheryl Lawton – 09 527 8101
Sean Freeman – 09 816 8337



Like our facebook page!



We have 263 'likes' so far and everyone is welcome to share their stories and photos about trees on the page. There have been some interesting discussions and sad tales of lost trees, as well as good advice on what to do and how to look after your trees.



So if you're on Facebook please 'like' our page and join in the fun – and don't forget to tell your friends about us too!

www.facebook.com/TheTreeCouncil.



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 16 October

The Tree Council's AGM at Fickling Centre, Mt Roskill – starts at 7pm.

13 to 20 October

TREE WEEK

- Wednesday 16 October, 7.30pm
Lecture by Sean Freeman
- Sunday 20 October
Tree Week Bus Tour

This Newsletter is published quarterly by

The Tree Council

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For more information about what we do please go to www.thetreecouncil.org.nz