



A TRUSTEE'S VIEW - THE LAUNCH OF O TĀTOU NGĀHERE

Written by Ian Brown

As humans, we are not well equipped to confront unpleasant truths. Our natural response, when faced with the great self-inflicted crises of our time - the steady disintegration of our biotic and geological heritage, and the gathering storms of climate change - is to be numbed into inertia, and put them out of mind.

We face a global crisis, and a global crisis clearly demands a global response. However the response of the world's leaders to Covid vaccines, in which they have retreated into bubbles of nationalistic self-interest, rather than engage with the world community, gives little grounds for confidence. Recent initiatives on climate change from the US, which appears to be returning to a condition of sanity, are encouraging, but still deserve a suspension of judgement. However we have seen among the world governments a widening gap between rhetoric and performance. This leaves an open stage for a host of private individuals and groups to play a part. On the local scene, Pure Advantage has taken a prominent role among them.

Pure Advantage was founded in 2011 by a group of prominent business leaders who share concerns over an environment under growing pressure. They bring with them an impressive portfolio of talents derived from successful business careers: a willingness to think big, follow the evidence, and trust their instincts. They have backed their initiatives with financial support. Pure Advantage have engaged in battle on several fronts. A recent campaign, Regenerative Agriculture, has received much attention.

A new initiative, O Tātou Ngāhere, links Pure Advantage and Tāne's Tree Trust in a campaign aimed at integrating native forests into our rural and urban landscapes. Our role is to provide the expertise derived from 20 years of research and practical experience in native forest establishment.

O Tātou Ngāhere is a serious and ambitious campaign, and demanded a serious presentation. The inaugural event took place at Te Papa, in a packed venue, on 25 May, in association with the NZ Farm Forestry conference. Peter Berg, representing Tāne's Tree Trust, chaired the event. It featured three stellar presentations (*continue to next page...*).



One of the campaign adverts featuring Trustee, Warwick Silvester.

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Dame Anne Salmond, professor, anthropologist, historian and conservationist, set the scene with an eloquent account of New Zealand forest history, from its origin in ancient Gondwanaland, its unique evolutionary trajectory through deep time, and the corrosive impact of human occupation. As our leading authority on the exchanges between Maori and the first Europeans, she is uniquely qualified to explore the differing world views between the two cultures, and to chart a pathway toward reconciliation between them.

Brought up in Gisborne, Dame Anne has her roots in the East Cape district, where she has observed at close hand the destructive impact of deforestation, and of inappropriate forest planting on those fragile soils. She is a hand-on forester, and with Jeremy Salmond has established a native forest on their property, the Waikeru Ecosanctuary. They have pioneered an approach to assisted natural regeneration employing the use of seed islands, a method advocated by Tānes Tree Trust and based on the work of David Bergin.

Sir Stephen Tindall has a lifelong passion for native forests, which began as a small boy. He delivered a powerful speech, in which he defined the many values of native forests, and advocated for an ambitious program of forest establishment.

As a businessman notable for innovation and a record of public service, Sir Stephen has taken a leading role in

establishing Pure Advantage, and initiated Trees That Count and the Tindall Foundation has supported a range of research projects conducted by Tānes TreeTrust. While engaged in broad strategy, he maintains a keen interest in the details of management, for example in exploring the application of direct seeding as a method of large scale forest establishment.

The third contribution is one with which we are now all familiar, a brilliant documentary which covers one man's personal odyssey from farmer to conservationist. On his livestock farm on the hills near Cambridge, Ian Brennan had his epiphany when he became aware of the effect of deforestation on soil retention, and on water quality in his streams. His native plantings, on what is now a showpiece property, have demonstrated how native forests can be woven into a farm landscape, with great aesthetic and environmental outcomes. Ian brings to the film a quality that will ensure a wide appeal, and that is authenticity.

While sharing a common passion for conservation, all three contributors have shown that a life experience derived from quite disparate backgrounds can bring in fresh insights and offer novel solutions; that while the world's governments procrastinate and flounder, individuals can make a difference, and act as catalysts for change. And that strong leadership is best exercised not by instruction, but by personal example.

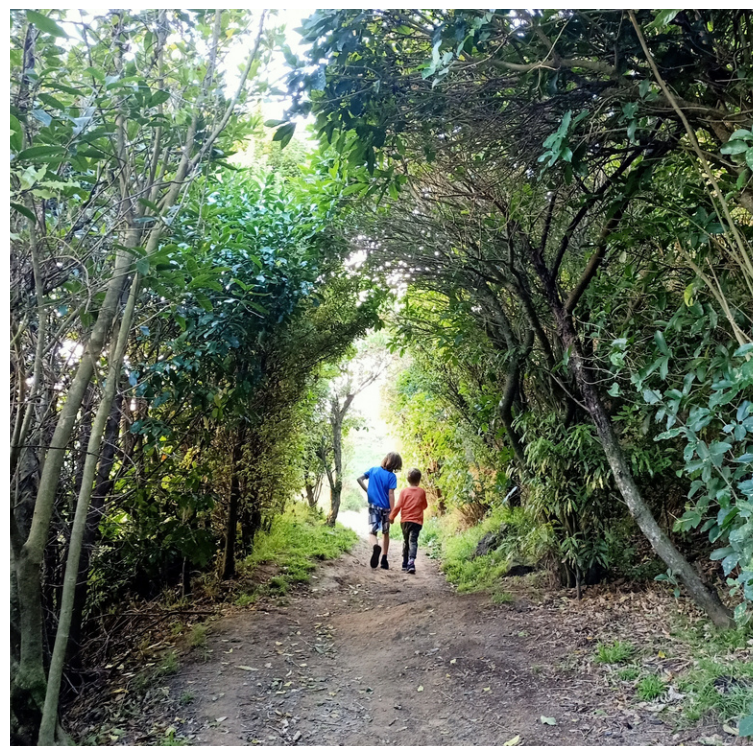
Visit www.pureadvantage.org/o-tatou-ngahere to view all the project work, including the documentary and replays of the webisodes.

WHY URBAN TREES ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Written by Jacqui Aimers

Investment in urban forest makes economic sense. There are a myriad of benefits related to the environment, cultural values, community health and well-being. Urban trees help counteract the negative effects of urban intensification and are fundamental to the environmental, social, and economical sustainability of urban areas. And tree cover is particularly important in an era of climate change.

Auckland has a moderately low canopy cover relative to comparable international cities, and its urban ngahere is under threat. The loss of a grove of 46 mature native trees at the Canal Road site in Avondale occurred earlier this year despite vigorous protests. *How can this happen?* Changes to the Resource Management Act in 2012, led to the removal of blanket tree protection of trees in 2015. This means that trees without formal protection on private land can legally be removed, regardless of their age or their biodiversity values. Developers have rushed to take advantage of this across Auckland, leading to the loss of many trees (*continue to next page...*).



Legislative changes are needed to protect urban trees, particularly mature trees and native species with high biodiversity values. Central and local governments need to make sure that urban trees are included in housing developments, for human well-being and environmental sustainability. This includes prioritising retention of existing mature trees, establishing new plantings where needed, and protecting or creating green infrastructure.

Priority areas for urban forest are identified for Auckland, which also have relevance to other urban areas. Retention of existing, larger-growing trees is a major priority, particularly in densely built-up areas where the associated benefits are high, and opportunities are limited for new plantings.

Want to find out more? Check out the full article on our website at www.tanestrees.org.nz/resources/bulletins/

THE HUNT FOR LARGE NATIVES

Written by Kevin Barker

My brother, Phil Barker and I have both loved native trees and trees in general since we were children and have always discussed native trees. Phil and Euan Mason (Professor of Forestry at Canterbury and fellow astronomer) used to take astronomers on tree sighting trips around Mt Peel when South Island Stargate was on.

In 2019 Phil spoke to an ex-teacher who told him about a giant matai tree near Lake Kanieri. As a teacher in the 1990's I have been at a dozen or so school camps nearby so I know this area well. Phil searched systematically and found the big matai tree (WCR/1562) and a couple of others near Lake Kanieri lodge.

In September 2019, Phil and Euan went on the hunt and measured WCR/1562 (2.05m d.b.h. and 29.4m tall) and realized it was a New Zealand champion. A couple of hours later they discovered WCR/1563 nearby which was even bigger, nearly 32m tall and about 2.16m d.b.h. Euan duly added these to the NZ Tree register. Phil kept searching and found a huge matai WCR/1564 (2.32 m d.b.h. and 30.2m tall) which was also added to the registry, a new champion.

At the end of the school year, I visited Phil in Hokitika. I took some local friends to view WCR/1564 and stumbled on a nearby tree which was even bigger. A huge matai with a d.b.h of 2.80 m, 24.7 m tall (recently height checked again by Phil and it is likely over 26m).

Glenn Johnston, an ex-tree grader/cruiser told Phil about some huge matai trees near Lake Brunner, including one with a girth larger than his 7.5m forest service tape. Phil organized a hunt with Euan and I (Kevin) in December 2019. We were after big podocarps and immediately found immense kahikatea. In fact, we found a NZ equal champion WCR/1601 within 10 minutes and later another even bigger tree WCR/1600.

We have plans for a few other searches, there is a rumored giant miro near Fox, a Milltown giant Rimu near Lake Kanieri, an even bigger matai (up to 3.0 m d.b.h) near Haast. Lots of tree stories are coming out, Phil and I love following them up and searching West Coast forest for notable specimens.



WCR/1601 is 42.7m tall and girth of 752cm.

These Giant Kahikatea are the 1st and 3rd biggest Kahikatea trees on the NZ Tree register. Images by Euan Mason, Professor of Forestry at Canterbury.



WCR/1600 is 49.2m tall and girth of 788cm.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP REVIEW

Written by Anna Manning

Tāne's Tree Trust hosted its first student internship last summer. We were lucky to have Anna Manning who had just finished her first year in Forestry Engineering. Anna was a joy to work with, enthusiastic, quick to learn and mature beyond her years. Here is short review from Anna about her experience.

My name is Anna Manning and I am currently a student at Canterbury University studying Forest Engineering. Over the summer, I held an internship with Tānes Tree Trust as an Indigenous Forestry Technician. This internship opportunity was provided to me by the Ministry for Primary Industries, through the Ngā Karahipi Uru Rākau Scholarship. Throughout my time working with Tānes Tree Trust, I was provided with numerous opportunities to learn about our indigenous forests and the opportunities they can provide us.

This internship allowed me to travel to places around New Zealand that I have never been to before and gave me the opportunity to learn from those who have already worked in the forestry industry. I was also able to apply what I have learnt from my studies so far and relate them to my work. Working with Tānes Tree Trust not only provided me with opportunities to learn, grow and develop my skills in the forestry industry but also opened my eyes to the many opportunities we have to greater our indigenous forests for both environmental benefits and social benefits.

Getting to meet, work, and learn from everyone at Tānes Tree Trust was an amazing experience and I am so grateful for all I have learnt.



Measuring totara in Northland.



Forest restoration site in Ngongataha, Rotorua.

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Membership renewal notices have been sent via email or post. Your contribution goes towards supporting projects and our operational costs. In return you receive updates on our work and industry news via a four-monthly newsletter and the collective benefit of joining a growing network of over 300 members.

You may also opt to make an additional donations which are eligible for a 33.33% tax rebate on your income tax. Any additional donation amounts are placed in a designated research fund to enable the Trust to continue research and information transfer.

Email is our preferred method of communication, please email us your details office@tanestrees.org.nz.

We thank you for your continued support of Tānes Tree Trust.

DONATIONS: A note from the Treasurer - all members should be aware that all donations (but not subscriptions), are eligible for a 33.33% tax rebate on your income tax. If required, we can send a receipt of donation for you to submit to IRD with your tax return.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Membership renewal notices are sent annually on April 1st via email or post. Members can access all resources at www.tanestrees.org.nz/resources. If you need to update your contact details, simply email us office@tanestrees.org.nz.