

TreeMatters

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE
NEW ZEALAND ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC.

Edition 80
Summer 2019
ISSN 1174-4715



IN THIS ISSUE

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and NTCC was our
biggest yet*

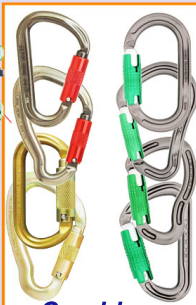
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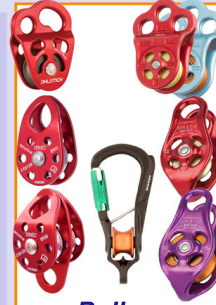
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New Zealand **Arboricultural** Association Inc.

New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc.,
PO Box 1193, Nelson, 7040, New Zealand nzarb.org.nz

Mission statement: *To encourage, foster, improve and educate members and others in all aspects of arboriculture throughout New Zealand.*

BECOME A MEMBER OF NZ ARB

Membership is open for professional arborists, tree managers, arboricultural trainees, and/or any person interested in amenity trees. To join NZ Arb contact any Executive Member listed on this page or you can find application forms online at the NZ Arb website: nzarb.org.nz

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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

NZ Arb would like to thank the following organisations for supporting the Association through allowing their employees the time and resources to serve on the NZ Arb Executive Committee:

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*Tree Matters is the official publication of the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZ Arb) and is distributed free to members as part of their annual membership benefits. Limited copies per issue are available for purchase from NZ Arb. For subscriptions or specific issues please contact comms@nzarb.org.nz. Advertised price does not include shipping.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Please feel free to contact any of the Executive Committee regarding ideas, questions or concerns.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Will Melville (Wellington)
Team Manager Arboriculture
Wellington City Council
113 Russell Tce, Newton, PO Box 2199
Wellington Office: 021 227 8220
Mobile: 021 227 8220
president@nzarb.org.nz

Vice-President: Jaiden Palmer
(Auckland)
Managing Director
Franklin Tree Services Ltd
PO Box 125, Tuakau 2342
Office: 0800 272 624
Mobile: 021 343 745
jaiden@franklintreeservices.co.nz

Treasurer: David Spencer
(Wellington)
Consultant
Manager Arborlab
PO Box 35 569 Browns Bay
Auckland 0630
Office: 04 384 5117
david@arborlab.co.nz

Secretary:
Mark Roberts (Dunedin)
Director / Consultant
Roberts Consulting
Mobile: 021 508 255
mark@robertsconsulting.co.nz

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Craig de Denus (Wellington)
Project Manager
Arb Innovations Ltd
Wellington
Office: (04) 212 6366
Mobile: 021 810 540
craig@arbinnovations.co.nz

David James (Blenheim)
Consulting Arborist
David James Tree Services Ltd
247 Vickerman Street,
RD 3, Blenheim 7273
Office: (03) 577 5430
Mobile: 021 459 139
david@davidjames.co.nz

Erika Commers (Auckland)
Auckland Council
Mobile: 022 012 3037
erika.commers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Howell Davies (Auckland)
Senior Advisor Urban Forestry
Auckland Council
Mobile: 0274 484 993
Howell.Davies@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Craig Taylor (Christchurch)
Consultant Arborist
SimplyArb Ltd
Mobile: 021 220 0661
craigtaylor@simplyarb.co.nz

James Fletcher (Auckland)
Chief Executive Officer
Treescape®
Mobile: 021 773 715
jamesf@treescape.co.nz

Toby Chapman (Christchurch)
Consultant
Arborlab
Christchurch
Mobile: 027 495 7441
tobychapman@hotmail.com

SUB-COMMITTEE/PORTFOLIO CHAIRS, LIAISONS & REPRESENTATIVES

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Magazine enquiries

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EDITOR

Erika Commers
editor@nzarb.org.nz

COPY EDITOR

Terry Snow
editor@nzarb.org.nz

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ian Lawson
editor@nzarb.org.nz

PUBLISHER

NZ Arboricultural Association (NZ Arb)

PRINTING

Pivotal Print

LAY-OUT

on-cue.co.nz

COVER PHOTO

Te Matua Ngahere- Steve Krebs



www.nzarb.org.nz

PUBLICATION: Tree Matters is published quarterly by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc., PO Box 1193, Nelson 7010, New Zealand. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Tree Matters is delivered free to all NZ ARB members residing in New Zealand. Membership rates detailed within this magazine. DISCLAIMER: Tree Matters intends the content to provide a news and reference source for the arboriculture-related industry in New Zealand. While we aim to ensure that information is accurate and correct at all times, any individual or organisation making use of information from this publication does so at their own risk. The opinions expressed in Tree Matters are not necessarily supported by NZ ARB. Nothing printed within may be construed as policy, or an official announcement, unless so stated and NZ ARB accepts no liability for any material in Tree Matters. COPYRIGHT: Tree Matters is subject to copyright in its entirety. The content may not be reproduced in any form, either in whole or in part, without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved in material accepted for publication, unless initially specified otherwise. All letters and other material forwarded to the magazine will be assumed intended for publication unless labelled 'Not for Publication'. Although every care is taken with advertising, no responsibility whatsoever can be accepted for any material advertised and the magazine shall not be liable for any inaccuracies, errors, or omissions.

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PRESIDENT'S BRANCH

This year's annual conference and national tree climbing competition were a great success and I really enjoyed catching up with so many of our members and sponsors over the five days in Dunedin. With over 340 people in attendance and 22 trade exhibitors at the events it was our largest turnout ever and Dunedin was an amazing host. The association has already received a lot of positive feedback about both events which is in no small part thanks to On-Cue and David James for organisation of the conference and tree climbing committees respectively. Their tireless efforts both before, during and after the event is what made such an all-round great success.

I left Dunedin feeling excited and enthusiastic about arboriculture, trees and the future of the association and I hope that others in attendance felt the same way. I am always so impressed by people's commitment and passion for our industry which is evident in skills displayed at the National Climbing Competition and the professional delivery of so many outstanding presentations. If you did not attend I am sorry that you missed out as it was cracking.

One key theme throughout the conference was the strength of volunteers who keep the association running and allow us to advance as an industry. I would like to thank all of you who have volunteered towards any projects over the last year and encourage those who have

not to visit the NZ Arb website and register your interest in getting involved in any projects or committees that interest you.

At the conference we asked people to give us their thoughts on three questions that were put up. We had over 60 people comment on the following:

1. What are the key issues for the industry right now?
2. What do you want NZ Arb to focus on in 2019?
3. What membership benefits would you like to see?

Common themes in the answers were on promoting arboriculture as a career and promoting the value of trees. Skills shortages and lack of public awareness also rated highly as key issues for the industry. These comments were also consistent with the results of the survey sent out to members last year. NZ Arb has been working to increase our industry's public profile over the last 12 months and will continue to do so over the coming year. We will start to work on ways we can address the skills shortage and retention of people in our industry over the next 12 months and I would like anyone who has got to the end of this piece to contact me if you have any ideas or solutions you want us to explore.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou





Greetings and Happy New Year! As we return to our post-holiday responsibilities, it is a fine time to take stock of our 2018 successes and set our direction for the year ahead. We had a remarkable annual conference in November, three new members joined the Executive Committee, and plenty of event organising is already underway for 2019.

It was decided to delay publication of this summer issue by a bit so that we could include some post-conference highlights; I imagine that among the holiday fanfare and summer break activities little notice of this was taken.

Trees feature prominently during the holidays; I expect you enjoyed a decorated pine in the living room, garden trees lit up with strings of colour, and the iconic NZ Christmas tree (pōhutukawa) in its full glory.

As I sat down to begin penning my editorial for this issue I was alerted to an article in Stuff titled "It's summer, so that must mean it's time to slaughter some poor trees". Being conceivably dramatic at face value, it certainly caught my attention so I continued to read on. Fiona Barber makes reference to the felling and poisoning of pōhutukawa. We are certainly all too familiar with "blame the tree" when it comes to coastal real estate. My immediate thoughts drew me to the many insurmountable pressures pōhutukawa and other native tree species are continually under. Just as human introduction has halved the native terrestrial bird diversity in New Zealand, we are well on our way to diminishing the indigenous tree diversity as well.

Although inadvertent, species decline continues as a result of indirect as well as direct human behavior. What can we do about it? I suggest taking a stewardship role; the next time you're asked to quote for the removal of a mature and healthy native tree, think again and provide some good alternatives. As an arborist, by definition, being tree-knowledgeable is expected; don't succumb to client lop-and-top demands, provide a more professional service. Just imagine if you were to hire a builder to construct your house, you wouldn't stand there and tell him how to do it, and if you did just imagine the house you'd end up with?

The old argument of 'if I don't someone else will' isn't a sound excuse either. Of course someone else may, and the decision of a tree's fate may have already been made, but a professional doesn't race to the bottom of the ethics ladder. There is plenty of honourable tree work and opportunity to carry out good practice. We can't rely on government rules to protect all of our trees; we must also participate in contributing our knowledge to sound decisions that benefit our environment and valued tree population.

Arborists understand that trees in the urban environment bring vast underappreciated value; let's continue to make it our mission to share our knowledge with others. Draw on the additional tools and resources Ed Gilman, Ted Green, and the many conference speakers provided to help us do so. I am grateful that I can make my living as a custodian for the trees, and what a great life it is. Put no better than by my favourite tree care company; 'preventing stumps since 1976'. We can, and should, use our skills, passion and knowledge to do just that.

MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Five minutes with... David James.

Owner Manager David James Tree Services, Thoughtplanters Trainer, NZ Arb Exec Committee member, NTCC and Membership Committee Chair, APTCC Chair and ISA CoR Chair



What inspired you to pursue a career in arboriculture?

When I was a young horticulture and gardening apprentice, my immediate boss one day said to me, 'anybody can be a gardener David, you need to find your area of speciality'. This coincided with Blenheim Borough Council employing its first-ever 'tree surgeon'. As I moved around the various apprentice postings, tree surgery was one of

these stops. That was when I first climbed a tree and the rest, as they say, is history.

What is the best part of your current job?

These days I wear numerous hats. One of these hats is 'trainer'. Part of what I teach is helping arborists to be safer in what they do. I like to think of my students leaving a little better and safer than when they started, and through this contributing to a safer industry.

Wearing another hat, in my own business David James Tree Services, I love the fact that I still get to work regularly with two of my favourite things, people and trees.

What is the best job you have had in arboriculture?

At the recent International Tree Climbing Competition (ITCC) I had the privilege, as an unpaid judge, of watching and judging the world's best climbers, including our own New Zealand climbers.

What motivated you to volunteer for NZ Arb?

To give back. It's a generational thing; as you get to your 30s and 40s you start to seek out ways to 'give back' and contribute to those things that have given to you. When I volunteered for NZ Arb I was already involved as a volunteer in New Zealand tree climbing and in ITCC.

I also volunteer for the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) as the Chair of the Council of Representatives.

What do you think is one of the biggest challenges facing arboriculture in New Zealand?

Educating 'Joe and Josephine Public' about good tree care and having enough qualified and experienced staff to do the job.

If you were a tree what tree would you be and why?

I would be a Quercus (oak) for what they represent in relation to civilisation. For thousands of years oaks, have flourished anywhere

MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Five minutes with... Craig Taylor.



What inspired you to pursue a career in arboriculture?

My background and training was originally in horticulture in the 90s in the UK. I was self-employed, and the demand was such for tree technicians that a career in arboriculture was a natural progression for me and so I went back to college to study arboriculture. I have always enjoyed being outside following my passion for the hills, mountains and countryside, so a career in arboriculture has suited my long-term vision of where I wanted to be.

What is the best part of your current job?

Working and liaising with like-minded people who are passionate about the industry and the work we do. The diversity of the work is awesome as is problem-solving and seeing jobs through to fruition. Some projects I am involved with can take months to work through so it's extremely rewarding and satisfying when projects come together. Working alongside developers, engineers, architects, local authorities, planners, tree

contractors and landscape architects etc. can have its challenges as we all have our jobs to do and our issues and concerns to deal with but at the end of the day we all want to get the job done to the highest standard.

What is the best job you have had in Arboriculture?

My best job would be my current role as a consultant arborist. Having worked in the UK in the horticulture/arboriculture industry, worked for a local Christchurch-based tree contractor and worked at the Christchurch City Council as a council arborist, I have gained much knowledge and experience in all facets of the arboricultural industry. To be able to take this knowledge and experience and apply this in a technical and advisory capacity as a consultant arborist is well, fantastic!

What motivated you to volunteer for NZ Arb?

Being involved in different aspects of arboriculture over the years in NZ I've seen some of the challenges that our industry faces such as nursery standards, stock supplies, health and safety, damage created by contractors, awareness, and appreciation of the value of trees. Rather than just talking about the issues and not doing anything about it I decided to get involved at a national level to see if I was able to engage to make a difference. In order for changes to happen you have to take people on the journey with you. Just producing a document of standards for example doesn't work. We need to engage with other professions such as the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA), and New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI) so that we can get an understanding

of the issues from their perspective so that we can all move forward.

What do you think one of the biggest challenges facing Arboriculture in New Zealand is?

Skills shortage in the industry. At the moment we have arborists coming through to fill roles in NZ and it has been like that for the last 10+ years. Talking to contractors in Christchurch this is one of the biggest challenges that they face. In order to encourage people into the industry we need to make people aware of the benefits of trees from a young age at the moment. Education is key at a young age and so one of my focuses is to go into schools, colleges etc. and talk to students and pupils on the benefits of trees. In order to engage with people at this young age it's also important to give them something tangible to do which makes the day memorable and engaging. So part of the exercise is taken up going outside and planting trees. Allowing the students to do it for themselves is important so that they get an understanding of the basic principles of tree growth such as photosynthesis, how roots take up of water and nutrients from the ground etc. and how the whole process works collaboratively.

If you were a tree what tree would you be and why?

Something that grows well on the hills and mountains of NZ like the Mountain Beech - *Nothofagus solandri* as I love spending my spare time in the hills and mountains isolated from daily life, usually on my mountain bike.





Wicked planting

I bet builders hate home-renovation shows. They must cringe as DIY celebrities Buff and Fluff [skills not included] randomly wave power tools around with seeming disregard to the rules and regulations that professionals must comply with. I also cringe at home-renovation shows. My issue comes not from Buff and Fluff [taste optional] creating indoor-outdoor toilet spaces that appear bigger through the use of mirrors or hitting ceiling beams with a chain to give them a distressed look – no, my issue comes when Buff and Fluff go into the garden. I become distressed when Buff or Fluff plant plants – or more so, set plants out to die at a later date.

Recently I was asked to visit a site to work out why the trees were dying. In my experience determining the reason for plant death is either easy or stupidly complicated, there doesn't seem to be an in-between ground. You turn up on site, and there is a neon sign flashing 'reason', 'reason', 'reason' or there is a list of variables spanning an ill-defined timeline involving tree species that you've not seen before.

New Zealand's Prime Minister (Jacinda Ardern) has referred to these types of situations as 'wicked problems'. Admittedly she was talking about world peace and global poverty – but let's not define the situation too specifically. According to Jacinda, a wicked problem is a problem that is difficult or impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory and changing requirements that are often difficult to recognise. I do like a good wicked problem, but this was a neon-sign situation; my plants had been killed at the time of planting, it just took a few years for them to die.

This particular site had a hint of complexity; it was a little bit wicked before the neon switch was thrown. The property was a show home; the first house on the estate, the vision of the developer, the skill of the builder – an example of potential and possibilities. In creating the illusion, the developer had removed the

top-soil, and the builders planted to a generic planting plan designed for a non-specific site in an environment far, far away, yet the garden was green – too green.

Yes, the plants had been killed at the time of planting, but before they died the house was sold, and the owner had taken advice from DIY garden celebrities Stock and Sturdy [no horticultural knowledge required]. On Stock and Sturdy's advice and winning smile, the owner had purchased every weed-killing, plant-boosting, moss-removing, window-cleaning hose attachment that was on offer and applied them in the similar way that a three-year-old child applies paint; thick, mixed, random and only to the bits they can reach.

In the end, it was not how the plants were killed, but who actually killed the plants that was the wicked problem. If I were to apportion blame, I'd say that death was a collective effort, Buff, Fluff, the Developer, the Builders, Stock, Sturdy and the Owner all had a hand in it...

But back to the root of the problem – what happened and how hard is it to plant a plant?

The plants were planted too deep, except for the ones that were planted too shallow. And they were planted into clay. By planting too deep, soil covered the base of the trunk and within a few short years collar-rot set in; the trees were effectively ring-barked and died. The clay soil had drainage issues; the planting holes effectively became water collecting pits – little swimming pools for each plant to die in, and die they did. For plants in the deeper pools, death was quick – they drowned. For plants in the shallow pools root-rot set in, the tops of the trees started to die; plant growth slowed, root-rot sped up – death wasn't pretty. And for the plants that were not planted too deep or too shallow? I suspect they will die at a later date. The clay planting holes have become clay pots, or clay coffins if you like, the trees will eventually become root bound, stunted (due to root restriction) and die; except for the ones that don't blow over first because

they've not been able to set down structural roots. Death will get them in the end!

So, what should have they done?

- Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Holes should be 2-3 times wider than the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.
- Remove the bag or container. Inspect root ball for circling roots or densely matted roots (straighten, cut, or remove them – don't be afraid to tease them out a bit)
- Identify the trunk flare. The trunk flare is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree, just before the roots appear.
- Place the tree in the hole. Make sure the trunk flare will sit partially above the finished soil level.
- Straighten the tree in the hole. Before backfilling, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm it is straight.
- Fill the hole gently, but firmly using the same soil taken from the hole. Pack soil around the base of the root ball to stabilise it. Fill the remainder of the hole, firmly packing the soil to eliminate air pockets. Avoid fertilisation at the time of planting
- Stake the tree, if necessary. Studies have shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked at the time of planting.
- Mulch over the planting hole. Mulch is organic matter spread around the base of a tree to hold moisture and reduce grass and weed competition.
- Water the tree

Done.

A really good resource for planting and more can be found at the ISA's '[trees are good.org](https://treesaregood.org)' site – well worth the click.



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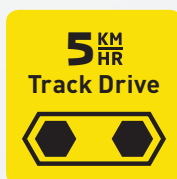


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INDUSTRY NEWS

2018 Ron Flook Award - Rob Graham

2018 is the 25th year that the NZ Arb Ronald Flook Award has been presented. Each year the successful nominee receives the loan of the Ron Flook trophy and a cheque for \$500.

NZ Arb has named this award in honour of Nelson-based landscape architect Ron Flook for his tireless contribution to arboriculture in New Zealand through the former Notable Trees Scheme and as a firm supporter of this association since its inception in Hamilton in 1989. He will be known by many of you for his hand in the development of STEM, the Standard Tree Evaluation Method, now the most widely used and respected heritage tree assessment method in NZ. The award also recognises the high standard of his professional work and the way he used trees as significant features in his landscape designs.

This year the NZ Arb community is pleased to present the Ronald Flook Award, recognising high standards of practice in arboriculture and broader endeavours involving tree management in New Zealand – and specifically on this occasion within the field of arboricultural education – to Robert Graham of Hamilton and Wintec.

Rob has been part of the arboriculture industry since the mid 80s, working in the UK and New Zealand. During his career he has worked in a variety of roles and this award recognises his contribution and dedication to the mentoring and training of arborists in New Zealand for the past two decades.

Rob trained as an arborist in the UK, where he attended Merrist Wood in 1987 and gained a Tree Surgery for Craftsmen certificate before returning to New Zealand and working for Wellington City Council. I am personally able to look around me and see his legacy of tree planting, management and amenity tree care still evident across the city.

Rob moved to Auckland in 1993 and started work as a project manager for Treescape where over the next three years he was involved in the formation of Arborlab, which at the time was a consultancy wing of the company.

In 1996 Rob began his tenure at WINTEC working with Martin Herbert where they developed New Zealand's first full-time arboricultural training programme. In his role as the arboriculture programme coordinator he has been influential in ensuring that modern climbing techniques and tree care practices have been taught to more than 500 students who have passed through WINTEC since he started there 22 years ago. Many of his former students are among us and we owe Rob a debt of gratitude for providing them with a solid foundation on which to set up their professional careers.

Skills shortages and professionalism are two of the key issues facing our industry today and Rob has dedicated himself to education and training. Diligent and committed educators like Rob are key to training the next generation of arborists and his commitment over the last 20 years has contributed in a significant way to securing the future of our industry.

His former students have gone on to be many things including, world tree climbing champions, successful managers, tree climbers, consultants, business owners and one maybe even to earn a doctorate, which is a credit to his wide breadth of skill and knowledge passed on to so many arborists over the years.



2018 Volunteer of the Year - Mark Way

The Volunteer of the Year was introduced last year to celebrate the dedication and tireless commitment of some of the industry's long-standing volunteers. The New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZ Arb) is driven by the hundreds of volunteers, who donate many hours of their time to the industry.

Without volunteers our association would not function; volunteers make it possible for us to host tree climbing competitions, conferences, workshops and seminars, or actively represent the industry on issues that affect us all.

This year's volunteer fits this description perfectly and is playing an important part in ensuring the effectiveness of our association. I am proud to announce that Mark Way is the winner of 2018 Volunteer of the Year award.

Mark has volunteered on the Utility Arb Committee for six years and is the current chair. During this time Mark has been instrumental in helping to coordinate and produce the new Best Practice Guide for utility arboriculture which will be available on our website soon. This is looking at creating a nationally recognised approach to the management of trees near powerlines in forestry plantations. The committee under his leadership is busy throughout the year and Mark always gives feedback to the association on their progress and achievements. For the last two years he has organised the Utility Arboriculture stream of the annual conference, which has consistently been among the most popular talks. His dedication to improving arboricultural practice around powerlines often goes unnoticed but is valued by both us and the utility industry.

On behalf of NZ Arb, thank you Mark.

President's Award - Chrissy Spence

The President's Award honours NZ Arb Members or professionals in our industry who have represented or contributed towards the betterment of arboriculture in New Zealand and internationally.

This year's winner has achieved at the highest level of our profession consistently for over a decade. She has been an inspiration to me and to many people both here and overseas. I am delighted to present the 2018 President's Award to Chrissy Spence.

Chrissy has been in arb for 16 years, beginning her career at Treescape Hamilton in 2002. She conducted her initial training in Steele Park in Hamilton with her now long-standing arborist mates. Her enthusiasm to improve her climbing skills in those early days meant that she sometimes took her gear travelling. I've been reliably informed that while holidaying in a remote part of the South Island, she decided to do a bit of throwline practice when suddenly some tourists turned up behind her, asking her if she was trying to hide food from the bears... Like the true world-class athlete she was soon to become, it seems she always found time for practice.

From the beginning of her career, Chrissy enjoyed competing in tree climbing competitions, a sign of both her natural skill and enthusiasm for tree climbing. She won her first nationals in 2003 and competed at her first International Tree Climbing Competition (ITCC) in 2004, where she burst onto the international climbing scene by coming 2nd. And only one year later, in 2005, she won her first International Climbing competition. She went on to be the world champion another four

times in 2007, 2011, 2016, and 2017. She has also been awarded the New Zealand Rural Sportswoman of the year for two years running now.

Chrissy's climbing career has its roots in New Zealand, but she broadened her skills and experience internationally. After leaving Treescape Hamilton, she travelled in New Zealand, before heading to Europe, America and Australia, working as a contract climber. Marlise Laser has shared a story with me about Chrissy's time in Australia that I'd like to share with you: while travelling in Australia in 2006 they stumbled across the Western Australian TCC competition in Perth where no one believed that there was such a thing as a female tree climber. Thirty seconds into the work climb (that she won) she got her first job offer and later at the prize-giving she got to take away the chainsaw as the first place prize for beating every other competitor in every event (except maybe the footlock).

Chrissy has worked for many companies in New Zealand and as a self-employed contract climber. Throughout this time she has been a great example for our industry and when I've seen her climb in both competitions and at work, her climbing is fearless, strong, and determined. She is a leader also in spirit and someone who embraces the spirit of training and improving others. While she may shy away from the limelight, Chrissy has always looked out for and encouraged others around her in the arb industry. She has helped them tirelessly through climbing, mentoring, and coaching them in comps.

Congratulations Chrissy and thank you for all that you do.





Photo Credit: Force Majeure

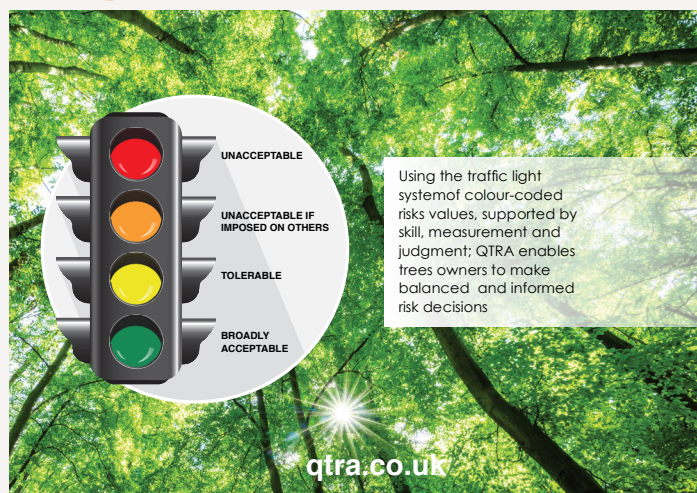


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South Island Tree Climbing Competition



This year's South Island Tree Climbing Competition was held in the heart of the Christchurch Botanical gardens on the 29th of September, and what an event it was...

It all began on Friday morning with the arrival of Andy Neverman, Hiro Ikeno and Will Melville who all flew in from the North Island to provide some much-appreciated assistance with the setup. Before long we had a throng of people from both Islands including the Otago Polytechnic students mucking in to get everything in place for the big day. Several competitors turned up to check out the trees and have their gear checked allowing them (and the organisers) a less frantic start for Saturday morning. By the time the sun set we had everything ready and a beer in hand, bracing ourselves for the big day ahead.

Saturday morning, we started early with bleary eyes and eagerly awaiting 9am for the café to open and start serving coffee. It was panning out to be a big day with 41 climbers registered to compete. The competitors began arriving from 6.30am and by 7.30am we had all gear checked and were ready for walk through by 8am, AWESOME!!! (I'd also like to say a special thank you to Seb Bainbridge for using his turn at the rescue climb as the demonstration for the walkthrough).

All of the trees utilised were arranged around the main path that led from the carpark to the city, with the Work Climb, Speed Climb and Ascent event having pride of place outside of the Ilex Café.

Kask's work climb was set up in a *Cedrus atlantica* which provided a quick and technical climb for the experienced whilst also giving the less-experienced an achievable and enjoyable event. The tree had an open canopy which made for a great spectator event. Seb Bainbridge took this out followed close behind by Dom Ritter.

AB Equipment's speed climb event was set up in *Fagus sylvatica* which had more names carved into the trunk than competitors. The fastest time was 25.86 seconds recorded by Thomas Bourdin with a second and third nipping at his heels with less than a second behind.

The MetroGreen throwline was in a *Quercus robur* which was away from the other events with a great team of judges who pulled through for me at the last minute (thanks again Chelsea, Jak and Kate). Leith Thompson showed the young 'uns how it's done, scoring a whopping 23 points and taking out the event. Zane Wedding then arrived in the afternoon looking like the beginning of the zombie apocalypse and scored an impressive 20 points.

Donaghys Ascent was held in a large *Cupressus macrocarpa*, (or more accurately *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) and it was the first time most of the competitors had been involved in the event. In saying that, only three competitors didn't give it a go which already shows that it is much more popular than the gruelling footlock event (it was always gruelling for me anyway).

The Silky Rescue event was held in a *Tilia x europaea* and involved power lines lying on the ground with the accident-prone Woody requiring rescuing once again. The event was challenging with lots to think about and a larger than normal ascent (so I was told). The times spoke for themselves with only 14 of the climbers completing the event (Dan Bares managing to get Woody down right on the 300-second buzzer).

We also held a kids' climb sponsored by Treetools which was great and continually had children going up, the largest of which was well-known to us and goes by the name of David James. The Hansa and Treehub New Arborist competition had a good turnout with all getting some quality time with the ever-knowledgeable Mark Roberts.

We managed to have all climbers done with the prelim events by 4.30pm and it wasn't long after 5pm that everybody was sat down eagerly awaiting the results and prizes (which covered two large trestle tables and the ground around it). We announced the winners and everybody left with a prize. The two special draws of the Treemotion harness (supplied by Treetools celebrating their ten-year anniversary) and the Husqvarna saw (supplied by Husqvarna) were randomly drawn and both went to volunteers (James McDuff received the chainsaw and Chas Kent received the Treemotion harness).

This year was also the first time which we ran a masters climb event. This was run on the following Sunday and included the top woman climber and the top four men (one from out of region and the rest in-region). Once again Hiro and Andy were back in the tree getting ready so that we could get underway first thing.

We were back onsite bright and early (it was also daylight saving time so it felt extra early) and began after a slightly awkward start deciding the order of competitors. Each of the climbers gave it their all and put on a great show and before long there were a good number of spectators standing in the bitter cold. Dan Bares put on a brilliant show with plenty of talking, including taking the time to tell us all how important it is to keep hydrated.



Husqvarna Top Ten Men

Position	Name
1st	Dan Bares
2nd	Seb Bainbridge
3rd	Troy Sircombe
4th	Andrew Smyth
5th	Jack Taylor
6th	Mik Winstanley
7th	Yohan Willman
8th	Sam Turner
9th	Dom Ritter
10th	Alvar Del Castillo

Husqvarna Top Women

Position	Name
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout
2nd	Samantha Baker
3rd	Candace Matthews

Treotech and Arb Innovations Master's Climb

Position	Name
1st	Dan Bares
2nd	Seb Bainbridge
3rd	Andrew Smyth
4th	Stephanie Dryfhout
5th	Mik Winstanley

Once again the help provided by the volunteers was very humbling and the attitude of the climbers was great. The out-of-region climbers were particularly fantastic this year. They came in with a positive attitude and were happy to take the lead in the events to help keep things moving and also give those trying to qualify the opportunity to see someone go first. The sponsors were also excellent with no shortage of prizes for the climbers and Husqvarna were onsite throughout the whole day.

All in all a great event and one to remember by all accounts.

I would like to say a special thanks to all involved; without the volunteers, sponsors and climbers these events would not happen. These events are often the only chance we get as an industry to share ideas and to mingle and I truly believe they are worth all the effort.

AB Equipment Men's Speed Climb:

Position	Name
1st	Thomas Bourdin
2nd	Ollie Stevenson
3rd	Dan Bares
4th	Yohan Willman
5th	Sam Turner

AB Equipment Women's Speed Climb: Donaghys Women's Ascent

Position	Name
1st	Samantha Baker
2nd	Stephanie Dryfhout
3rd	Candace Matthews

Donaghys Men's Ascent:

Position	Name
1st	Troy Sircombe
2nd	Sam Turner
3rd	Seb Bainbridge
4th	Zane Wedding
5th	Jordan Tukapua

MetroGreen Men's Throwline

Position	Name
1st	Leith Thomson
2nd	Seb Bainbridge
3rd	Dan Bares
4th	Jack Taylor
5th	Yohan Willman

MetroGreen Women's Throwline

Position	Name
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout
2nd	Candace Matthews
3rd	Samantha Baker

KASK Men's Work Climb

Position	Name
1st	Seb Bainbridge
2nd	Dom Ritter
3rd	Mik Winstanley
4th	Zane Wedding
5th	Dan Bares

KASK Women's Work Climb

Position	Name
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout
2nd	Samantha Baker
3rd	Candace Matthews

Silky Saws Men's Aerial Rescue

Position	Name
1st	Jack Taylor
2nd	Alvar Del Castillo
3rd	Andrew Smyth
4th	Mik Winstanley
5th	Troy Sircombe

Silky Saws Women's Aerial Rescue

Position	Name
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout
2nd	Samantha Baker
3rd	Candace Matthews



NZ Arb / Husqvarna National Tree Climbing Competition 2018

Venue: Otago Museum Reserve, Dunedin

Date: 9 - 10 November 2018

The New Zealand national tree climbing competition this year was held in the Otago Museum Reserve, Dunedin, which proved to be a great venue for public exposure to our event, despite the weather threatening to make us cold and wet.

Thirty climbers, including five female competitors attended the competition, having qualified as returning NTCC Masters, via regional competitions or as wildcards. It was a world-class field.

Massive thanks to all those involved in the setup of the events on Wednesday, which included climbers from Otago Polytech and Treotech under the expert guidance of Andy Neverman (NZTCCC Head Technician) and subtle supervision of David 'Mo-Go' James (NZTCCC Chairman).

The competition was set up in a majestic group of lime trees (*Tilia x europaea*) and one ash (*Fraxinus*) for the Throwline event. These were not massive trees, but they proved to be adequate for all events, allowing the set-up to include technical aspects befitting a National competition.

Day one, Friday 9 November, saw the Aerial Rescue, Work Climb and Throwline events completed. Day two, Saturday 10 November, we completed the preliminary events with the Belayed Speed Climb and Ascent events. Over the two days, the scores were flawlessly collated by Paulette James and Tessa Downes, whose dedication to the task meant that the announcement of Master's Event qualifiers followed soon after conclusion of the preliminary events. The judges, technicians, timers and other volunteers all did a sterling job of adjudicating, scoring and assisting the climbers to safely and efficiently get through the events.

The kids' climb was as popular as ever on the Saturday, thanks to the climbers and volunteers that spent time assisting the kids to get up the tree.

Results of the preliminary events:

Silky Saws Aerial Rescue

Men's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Sam James	30.67
2nd	Tiago Miranda	28.33
3rd	Dan Holliday	27.00
4th	Dan Bares	26.33
5th	Jeremy Millar	26.00

Women's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout	28.33
2nd	Nicala Ward-Allen	8.33
3rd	Denim Livingston	6.33
4th	Samantha Baker	6.00
5th	Abby Wilkinson	4.33

AB Equipment Belayed Speed Climb

Men's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Jeremy Millar	27.71
2nd	Zane Wedding	29.53
3rd	Scott Forrest	30.44
4th	Tiago Miranda	31.45
5th	Seb Bainbridge	33.44

Women's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout	49.95
2nd	Samantha Baker	55.05
3rd	Nicala Ward-Allen	60.22
4th	Denim Livingston	118.57
5th	Abby Wilkinson	140.54

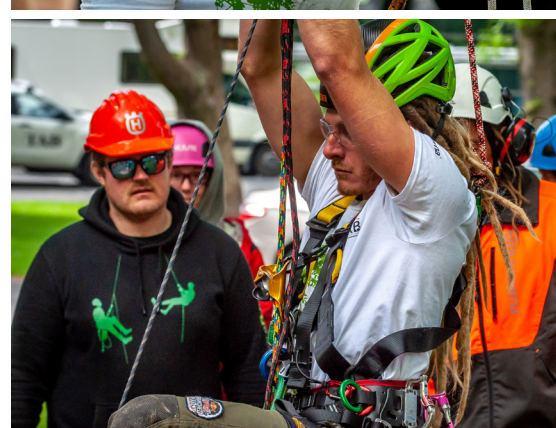
MetroGreen Throwline

Men's Events

Position	Name	Score
1st	Scott Forrest	19
2nd	Tony Bennett	17
3rd	Sam Smith	17
4th	Andrew Smythe	16
5th	Tiago Miranda	14

Women's Events

Position	Name	Score
1st	Abby Wilkinson	12
2nd	Nicala Ward-Allen	11
3rd	Samantha Baker	11
4th	Denim Livingston	4
5th	Stephanie Dryfhout	0





KASK Work Climb

Men's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Scott Forrest	62.00
2nd	Dan Holliday	59.48
3rd	Matt Glen	59.37
4th	Seb Bainbridge	58.86
	Clay Winter	58.60

Donaghys Ascent

Men's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Jeremy Millar	24.00
2nd	Troy Sircombe	23.43
3rd	Noel Galloway	22.81
4th	Zane Wedding	21.02
5th	Seb Bainbridge	21.00

Preliminary Results

Men's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Scott Forrest	133.77
2nd	Jeremy Millar	128.68
3rd	Zane Wedding	128.03
4th	Tiago Miranda	127.73
5th	Seb Bainbridge	126.99
6th	Matt Glen	125.70
7th	Noel Galloway	120.06
8th	Sam Smith	118.23
9th	Sam Turner	116.35
10th	Dan Bares	114.32

The Masters Challenge event was set up in the large *Tilia* that was also used for the Work Climb and Belayed Speed Climb events. This was a challenging climb, with just three of the seven climbers completing all stations and retrieving all gear from the tree within the 20-minute time limit.

Masters Results

Men's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Scott Forrest	233.33
2nd	Jeremy Millar	214.00
3rd	Tiago Miranda	213.00
4th	Seb Bainbridge	164.00
5th	Zane Wedding	108.67

Women's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Nicala Ward-Allen	60.67
2nd	Stephanie Dryfhout	57.53
3rd	Samantha Baker	17.33
4th	Denim Livingston	14.67
5th	Abby Wilkinson	12.00

Women's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout	24.00
2nd	Nicala Ward-Allen	7.33
3rd	Samantha Baker	6.00
4th	Abby Wilkinson	4.00
5th	Denim Livingston	0.00

Women's Events

Position	Name	Score
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout	124.86
2nd	Nicala Ward-Allen	97.20
3rd	Samantha Baker	52.79
4th	Abby Wilkinson	32.33
5th	Denim Livingston	25.00

Women's Event

Position	Name	Score
1st	Stephanie Dryfhout	154.67
2nd	Samantha Baker	DQ

Congratulations Stephanie and Scott for your outstanding performance. Good luck at ITCC next year, we're all behind you. Thanks again to our sponsors for making this event happen.

Please continue to support the fantastic organisations that sponsor our tree climbing competitions.

I look forward to next year's RTCC circuit and another super NTCC competition in 2019.

PS – I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank David James for his dedication and commitment to his role as (now outgoing) TCCC Chairman. The New Zealand tree climbing scene is in a strong position, within New Zealand and worldwide. This is due in part to having a committee of volunteers that have been supported, encouraged, subtly prodded and tactfully harassed in the nicest possible way by DJ. We have achieved great things for the New Zealand tree climbing community and this is largely down to DJ's management. On behalf of the NZ tree-climbing committee, NZARB and all involved in our sport - a big thank-you DJ.





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NZ ARBORICULTURE

Councils show preference for approved arborists Leading arborists talk about the benefits of the NZ Arb approved contractors programme

An increasing number of councils and organisations around the country are preferring to use NZ Arb approved contractor arborists, according to a number of leading figures in the industry.

Approved contractors meet quality assurance standards and the high level of professionalism required by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZ Arb).

At present there are 13 approved contractors in Auckland, Waikato, Tauranga, Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch. A further six companies are in the process of applying for the approved contractor status.

To become an approved contractor companies first express their intent to do so to NZ Arb. They then go through an assessment of their knowledge of the industry, arboriculture and legislation. Practical ability as well as proven client service and business systems must also be presented to assessors.



William Melville

The president of NZ Arb, William Melville, likened the approved contractor programme [ACP] to the Master Builders' scheme.

"The approved contractor programme is an industry-created assessment programme to show your company as being better than other companies around you," he said.

"[You're] showing that you're training your staff, you're following health and safety and best practice guidelines for modern arboricultural practice."

A business manager at Treescape, Kevin Birdsall, said the difference between being an approved contractor or not was understanding what the various arborist qualifications meant when it came to sending staff to jobs.

"There was quite a bit of preparation that we needed to do. Looking at our staff training - we make sure that we've got the right staff on site and also that they've got the right knowledge.

"After we became an approved contractor - it put a lot more emphasis on what guys you need to send to the jobs and what training and qualifications you need to have. So there was a lot of emphasis on having full qualifications rather than just part of a qualification."

He said the ACP was a means of driving the arboriculture industry towards a higher degree of professionalism.

"We need to promote it more as an industry trade and get some more knowledge and experience into our guys.

"Then we can work together so it helps the industry build on the health and safety culture and build on the staff training and make it like a real professional industry."

The majority of arboriculture companies in New Zealand were not yet approved contractors, but Birdsall said it wouldn't take much for most of them to get there.

"The process is relatively easy and the Arb Association supports you getting into it. The process is not too daunting, whether that comes across that way I'm not too sure. To be an approved contractor you do need to be at a certain standard ... I think some of the guys might not be at that standard or they might just need some help to get to that standard.

"Probably promoting the idea a little bit more to them might get them over that hurdle to become an approved contractor."

The founder and managing director of Treetech in Wellington and Christchurch is Chris Walsh. It's been eight years since his company first became an approved contractor.

"It's quite good to be an approved contractor because you're sitting there with your peers, you're being judged and checked out to make sure you are doing what you say you do and you are performing at the best and the way that every other [approved] contractor is."

The programme also meant arboriculture companies were able to have their practices scrutinised by an official body, Walsh said.



Kevin Birdsall

"It gets some feedback and checks and measures into your systems and your processes. It also helps with your principles - being able to say that you've got a health and safety programme, you've got a drug programme - all that type of thing is really good."

One thing is certain for approved contractors - they are at the front of the queue for contracts from councils and Government. It is now becoming common for councils to opt for NZ Arb approved contractors.

"At the moment we have Wellington City Council tendering our work," said Julian Emeny, the Parks Operations Manager at Porirua City Council. "We are looking at revisiting that and will be opening it up only to approved contractors.

"What's important to us is that the arborists are safe, are qualified and follow all the current health and safety practices."

Queenstown District Council are about to make it a prerequisite to be an approved contractor to work on their trees and it has also been discussed at Horowhenua District Council.

The arboriculture manager at Bark in Wellington, Richard Moore, had noticed recent signals from councils showing a preference for approved contractors.

There's a lot of councils and institutions that put the work out there that allows you [as an approved contractor] to quote for the jobs. It

raises the standard overall of the work that you're doing," he said.

"There's a really strong sense with the Arb Association that you really need to use ... [approved] contractors. It's really good to see New Zealand sort of following suit and it becoming more important to the councils and to these institutions that are using us."

Melville said NZ Arb had been getting more interest from organisations such as Kiwirail and NZTA as well as other large Government organisations.

He said the approved contractor programme was a way of standing out in an often-competitive arboriculture market.

"In Wellington alone for example if you go into Yellow Pages there are 60 arboricultural companies.

"People can go and do a qualification and there's no form of future vetting and or regulatory requirements from Government for you to be an arborist. It's growing in momentum and we keep getting more and more interest from NZTA and Kiwirail and other large government organisations."

For more information on becoming an NZ Arb approved contractor, visit www.nzarb.org.nz.

*Jacob McSweeney is a journalist with NZME and the Whanganui Chronicle. In 2019 he will be attending Otago Polytechnic's arboriculture programme.



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Plant Health Care Case Study

Thirst is Creepy: Managing Essential Flavours of Palms

By virtue of height, the management of palms is considered the domain of arboriculture but, it is fair to say, treated by many arborists with apprehension due to accessibility. However, there is another reason why the palm is treated with ambivalence; the risk of being asked to engage in the 'dark arts' of diagnosing a physiological disorder, or worse – the deficiency.

It was, therefore, with unease when the *(Crime)SceneNZ* was asked to investigate the mystery decline of a *Howea forsteriana* (kentia palm) which had been recently treated for boron and manganese deficiency (refer photograph 1). No pressure, the palm was one of several providing screening around a large swimming pool for an important client, and oh, did I omit to mention the apical meristem was suspected to have joined the recently departed?

The Scene

On arrival, we found the situation was worse than expected. Located in an exposed area noted for expansive clays, the kentia was one of several palm species (*Chamaedorea costaricana*, *Dypsis lutescens*, *Phoenix reclinata* and *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) planted in a series of stepped concrete planters separated by extensive tiling, framing a large swimming pool characteristic of the 1990s 'low maintenance' oasis designer brief. Muttering to myself that it was a pity no one had reminded the designer of the adage, 'right (palm), right place' or the basic requirement to provide sufficient soil volumes, I tried to collect soil samples amongst bromeliads, fortnight lily, tanika grass and giant leopard plant. Root activity was such that no cores were to be gained. Not a good start but a vital clue.

Flaccid petioles of the giant leopard plant and fungal activity on bromeliads and tanika grass indicated that the irrigation was both potentially inadequate and that 'mist' emitters should be replaced for

'drippers'. More clues, perhaps?

Most palms had symptoms consistent with nutrient deficiencies and physiological disorders, including tip and marginal necrosis, yellow-orange bronzing, wind burn and excess light. Annular rings were reduced on the kentia and pencil pointing was evident on other palms, indicating that limitations to growth had existed for some time. Interestingly, axial cracks were observed on some of the kentia, which has been associated with excessive rehydration.

The Path Well Trodden

There are several common deficiencies associated with palms, including, boron (B), iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), nitrogen (N) and potassium (K). Each essential nutrient is required to complete certain physiological processes and when a state of deficiency exists, it results in characteristic symptoms.

It is often tempting to treat the symptom, not the cause and, in this instance, the cause is an overlooked fundamental.

In The Beginning

Make like a palm or any plant this summer – find water (dig deep, far and wide).

Water cools and provides the building blocks for photosynthesis and relevant to the case at hand, transports many essential nutrients in *soluble* form through the xylem to sites of assimilation under the influence of transpiration.

Active management of the ion gradient is required to maintain osmotic potential. This requires essential nutrients in *soluble* form...

As indicated, the subject site is characterised by stepped concrete



Photograph 1: Subject *Howea* sp. death of the terminal leaves evident attributed to Mn deficiency, K deficiency also evident.



planters, retaining walls, large tiled areas, limited soil volumes and dense planting. Such conditions promote elevated soil temperatures, rapid drainage, extended evapotranspiration rates and competition for plant-available water. Soil samples from the subject kentia were bone-dry. Feeling thirsty...

However, this was only half the story (aka the path well trodden).

Essential Flavour (K)

A number of the palms, including the kentia, had necrotic tips consistent with potassium (K) deficiency (refer photograph 2).

Highly mobile, K is moved from older leaves to younger leaves, resulting in tip and marginal necrosis (abandonment) and graduated yellow/orange bronzing from distal leaflets towards the frond rachis. K deficiency may be distinguished from Mg deficiency by necrosis – although both deficiencies may co-exist (Broschat, 2011).

While K does not form a component of chemical structures in plants, it is integral to the maintenance of osmotic gradients, stomata responsiveness (turgor), regulation of cellular pH (electroneutrality), and is a cofactor in over 40 enzymes involved in plant development. Deficiency is associated with reduced rates of photosynthesis, adenosine triphosphate (ATP), starch synthesis and transport (Taiz and Zeiger, 2010, Prajapati, 2012).

Essential Flavour (Mn)

Other than necrotic terminal leaf stubs on the subject kentia, several palms had necrotic spots and streaks on their leaflets consistent with Mn deficiency. Symptoms are typically most evident at the base of leaflets, allowing Mn to be distinguished from Mg deficiency (Broschat, 2011).

As with K, Mn is involved in a number of critical physiological processes, including splitting water associated with photosynthesis, biosynthesis of chlorophyll, ATP, amino acid synthesis, assimilation of nitrate, hormone activation and oxidative stress responses (Millaleo et al., 2010).

The availability of Mn decreases with alkalinity. Significantly, the soil samples had a pH of 7.0.

Assessment

It is assessed that the primary limitation to growth was the limited availability of water resulting from insufficient soil volume, planting density and effects of thermal mass relative to the rate of irrigation.

It is believed that the deficiencies identified may have both contributed to and exacerbated the decline of the subject palm, impeding the efficiency of physiological processes associated with absorption,

conduction and production of assimilate.

Further deficiencies, masked by the condition of the palms cannot be discounted, particularly where plant-available nutrients have been exhausted.

Treatment

As a result of the investigation, the following recommendations were made:

- Planting density be reduced, soils reconditioned and replacement smaller palm or shrub species selected on the basis of soil volume, conditions present and cultural requirements;
- Irrigation emitters be replaced with drippers and delivery rates determined using a Time-Domain Reflectometry moisture meter relative to soil texture;
- Subject to soil analysis, initial application of potassium sulphate and kieserite at a ratio of 3:1 at a rate of 70g/m², with specified repetitions, until a balanced maintenance fertiliser (8-2-12+4Mg) may be applied (Broschat, 2011); and
- Subject to soil analysis, application of manganese sulphate at a rate of 225g/m² (to be repeated on a similar basis), which would be reviewed (Broschat, 2011).

In An Exocarp....

This summer, think of plants as a 'pump'. Reduced plant-available water = reduced essential nutrients in *soluble* form. Reduced absorption = reduced transpiration. Reduced transpiration = reduced photosynthesis. Reduced photosynthesis and, well... the pump stalls and may stop. Death.

Remember, like the Fresh Up (2010) campaign taught us, *Thirst is Creepy*.

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Photograph 2: Tip necrosis and curling attributed to K deficiency (Dipsys sp.).

SPECIES PROFILE

Tree Species Profile *Tilia x europaea*

Compiled by Craig Webb, Consultant Arborist
Contact: craig@cwca.co.nz

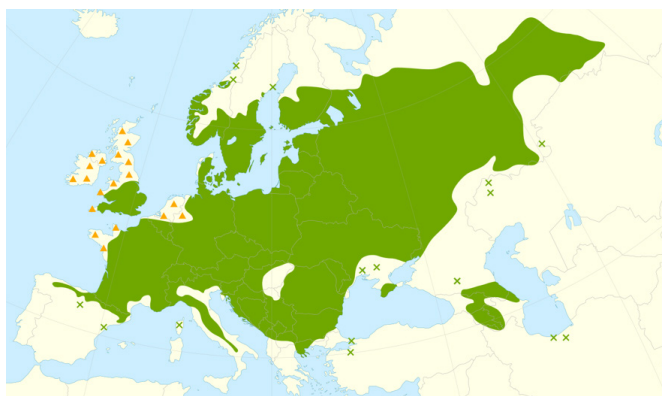


NOMENCLATURE:

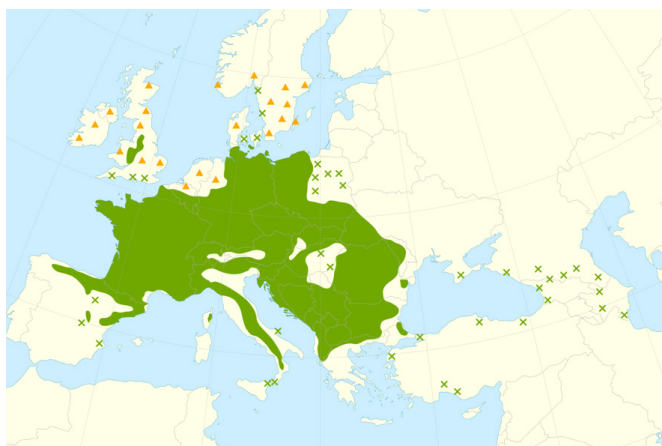
Tilia x europaea L. (Malvaceae); synonym: *T x vulgaris* Hayne
Was formerly categorised in family Tiliaceae
Common names include: common lime, common linden, basswood (American)

DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT:

Common lime is a naturally-occurring hybrid between *Tilia cordata* (small-leaved lime) and *Tilia platyphyllos* (large-leaved lime). It occurs across Europe and Britain, wherever the two parent species occur.



Distribution map of *Tilia cordata*. By Giovanni Caudullo - ECaudullo, G., Welk, E., San-Miguel-Ayanz, J., 2017. Chorological maps for the main European woody species.



Distribution map of *Tilia platyphyllos*. By Giovanni Caudullo - Caudullo, G., Welk, E., San-Miguel-Ayanz, J., 2017. Chorological maps for the main European woody species.

Legend:

- Native range.
- × Isolated population.
- ▲ Introduced and naturalized (synanthropic).

As common lime has a broad geographic distribution, it grows in a variety of climatic and soil conditions, preferring fertile lowlands and lower slopes of hill country.

ASSOCIATED SPECIES:

Generally associated with oak and beech woodlands.

DESCRIPTION:

Large deciduous tree up to 40m in height and 2.5m trunk diameter. Conical to rounded crown form with open branch habit. Leaves are alternate, heart-shaped, with cordate base and serrated margin, 6-15cm long x 6-12cm broad. The fragrant flowers are produced in clusters of four to ten in early summer, borne on a leafy yellow-green subtending bract. Monoecious and hermaphrodite. The fruit is a dry nut-like drupe 8mm in diameter.

PESTS & PROBLEMS:

Susceptible to aphid infestation, which may result in copious honeydew and sooty mould.
The trunk often has burrs and masses of epicormic sprouts.

USES:

Widely used as a street or avenue tree and park specimen. Some of the earliest uses of lime wood includes bows and shields, as well as 'bast', which is a tough fibrous material derived from the inner bark and used for rope and clothing. Honey from the flowers of lime trees is also much valued.

WOOD PROPERTIES:

Wood is light in colour and soft. Lime wood is much valued for carving, as it is soft and resistant to splitting. Traditionally used for musical instruments, clogs, beehives, kitchen tools and cuckoo clocks. Heartwood durability rating: fungus 5.

CULTIVATION:

Propagation by seed, cuttings, grafting and layering.

OTHER FACTS:

Coppicing has been a common form of management for limes, as they produce long straight poles and can be very long-lived (>2000 years) in this form.

A tea made from the flowers has long been thought to have anti-inflammatory properties.

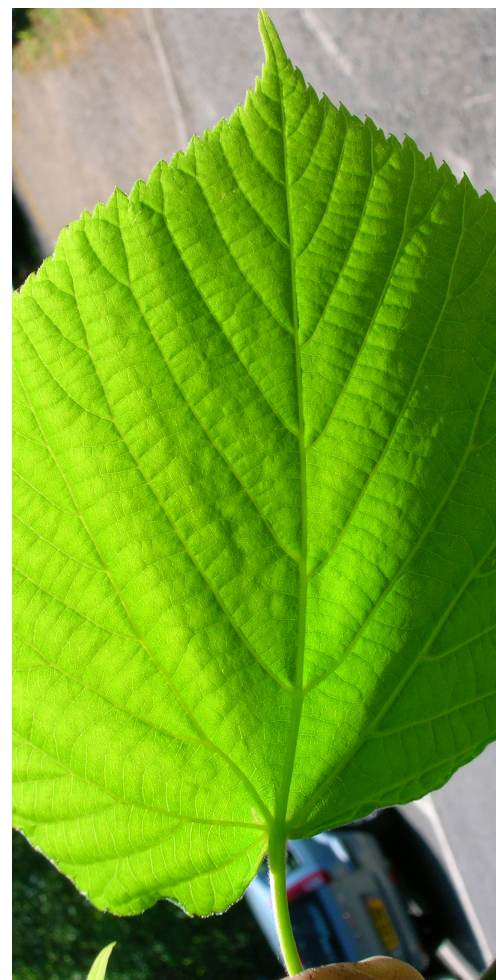
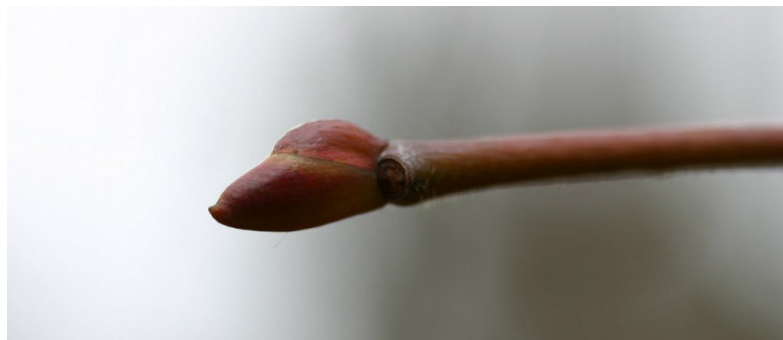
Seasonal bumblebee death has occurred in Otago Museum Reserve, Dunedin, every year since 1974, which is linked to the flowering of the lime trees. Several theories exist around the link between the flowering of limes and the bumblebee death, which is a phenomenon reported world-wide. The nectar has been found to be non-toxic.

Tilia trees in Otago Museum Reserve have a NZ native mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus* growing on them.



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Wageningen University: Tree Factsheet https://www.wur.nl/upload_mm/b/f/f/6ca6b907-b65f-4810-9ca5-7cd72f21cc19_tilvulf.pdf
<http://www.tree-guide.com/common-lime>



Mark Chisholm Downunder

STIHL brand ambassador, Mark Chisholm, talks to David James about valuing trees and top handled chainsaw use, during his recent visit to New Zealand.



Mark Chisholm is a third-generation arborist with Aspen Tree Expert Company a family-owned business based in New Jersey, USA. His reputation with trees has taken Mark around the world several times in the capacity as brand ambassador, consultant, climber, and speaker.

Mark visited NZ recently as part of the STIHL arborist workshop series. At the completion of the series Mark and his partner travelled to Marlborough to catch up with friends and taste some local Sauvignon Blanc. David James caught up with him there and asked him a few questions.

Chisholm now runs the family business, Aspen Tree Expert Company, with his brother Steve and his parents, but spends many weeks each year travelling the world to attend industry events as speaker, ambassador or trainer. When asked what motivates him to invest so much time and energy in this sort of work and away from his own business, Chisholm says, 'it's the connection with the people in the industry, including those I've learned from. It's also about helping people, helping them to make the tough jobs easier and increasing the level of safety across our industry'. He also talks about a sense of responsibility to share the importance of trees and their value, and about encouraging people to make good choices when considering the professionals to care for them. Within the industry Chisholm believes in the importance of raising the level of professionalism right across

the industry. 'It affects us all,' he says, 'especially in the US, as we've not always been professional.'

With a business to consider in New Jersey, Chisholm gives careful consideration to international speaking, consulting and training opportunities as they arise. First, he considers if he is able to fulfil the brief and do what is asked of him, 'who am I doing it for and can I achieve what they want me to do'. Once satisfied, he'll then ask himself if he can check off a few of his own goals in the process.

Chisholm is a big advocate for the arboriculture industry and his choice of professions, "I like telling people it's great to be a tree guy and what it takes." He emphasises though it is 'not something that everybody can do and there is risk involved', but goes on to say, "that if correct techniques and gear are used and we all learn well, then we can make it safe as well as fast".

Having someone with a global perspective of the arboriculture industry provides an opportunity for us to find out his thoughts on some of the issues we face here in New Zealand.

David first asked Mark how he thinks we should encourage new people into our industry. His response zones in on the social media opportunities that our industry is ripe for. He cites 'helmet cam video posting' as a great way to draw young people and make them think 'this is something I want to give a go.'

Following on from this, Mark shares his thoughts on keeping out the 'cowboys' and promoting high standards of tree management. He explains his belief that the solution lies with helping them to see the value of doing it a better way. 'A lot of the cowboy mentality in New Jersey has been beaten down in Licenced Tree Experts (LTE) and Licenced Tree Operators (LTO) process.' In New Jersey to be a Licenced Tree Experts (LTE), an individual has to have Workers Compensation Insurance, Proof of Insurance, and demonstrate ongoing training and education. similar to CEUs. The programme is run by Board of Certified Tree Experts, under the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

When asked about tree preservation and the importance of keeping large trees in the landscape, Mark's response is unreserved. 'Large trees are the most underappreciated things in the world. What they give us in terms of beauty is of value to everyone. What they give us in terms of root system and mass is seen by arborists, but not necessarily seen by the public.' Giving an international perspective to the situation he says that 'some countries value trees more than others, it's cultural but also historic. For example in the UK and US arboriculture has been a profession for a long time.'

With Arbor Day events sparse throughout New Zealand, David was keen to ask Mark's thoughts on ways to encourage climbers to engage in Arbor Day events and plant trees. Mark spoke of the two annual events they run in New Jersey. The climbers feel the excitement of those who've participated earlier and take up the opportunity to try different equipment. Some of the guys enjoy showing their abilities and they feel good being part of something and proud to share their work.'

He says that 'it reminds them that they're good at what they do. Everyone feels good about giving a hard day's work and going out and enjoying a beer at the end of the day.'

Finally, Mark gets to the topic of one-handed top handle chainsaw. His response 'one-handed chainsaw use is for one-handed people' he says jokingly, then is quick to add, 'I'm not an advocate, they have two handles for a reason'.



TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

Does a figure 8 anchor knot need a stopper knot?

This question was raised at the NTCC in Dunedin during the work climb event.

In the work climb event, the climber has the option to climb double rope or stationary rope technique, relevant to their preferred climbing method. A stationary rope technique requires an anchor knot to secure the climbing line to the anchor placed at the top of the tree – in this case it was a DMM Riggging Hub.

The International tree climbing championship rule book, Appendix 7 shows the preferred method for attaching a climbing line to a rigging hub, and this was the method chosen for the work climb event. It is a retraced figure-8 knot.

The retraced figure 8 knot is also used in industrial rope access industries, rock climbing, caving and mountaineering. When tied correctly, it is a very secure knot, that doesn't require connectors like a carabiner. Unfortunately, under heavy load the retraced figure-8 knot can be difficult and time-consuming to untie.

But does the retraced figure-8 require a backup?

An additional double overhand "backup knot" can be tied with the tail of the retraced figure-8. This is not required for the knot's integrity, but it does ensure that adequate tail length has been included, and it gets excess tail out of the way. It also gives the climber a sense of security knowing that it is backed up for extra safety.

There is no recommendation to do this within other rope industries, or within arboriculture practices.



Figure 1. Moving: A Single rope passed through the anchor in a moving rope setup.



Figure 2. Single Stationary: A single rope attached using a retraced figure-8 knot in a stationary rope setup.



Figure 3. Double Stationary: Double ropes attached using retraced figure-8 knots in stationary rope setup.



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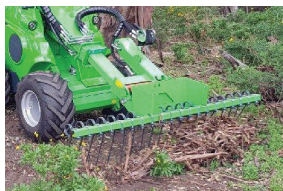
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Ramarama, A perspective.

This article takes its root from a recent visit to 'The Meeting of the Waters Reserve' near New Plymouth. It's a relatively small Department of Conservation (DOC) reserve with remnant forest containing tawa, matai, totara and kahikatea as its main canopy trees that line both sides of the Waiwhakaiho river. It is under this canopy where something curious occurs.

The genus *Lophomyrtus* is endemic to our country and it contains two species. They are Rōhutu (*Lophomyrtus obcordata*) and Ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*).

Initially they were placed under the genus *Myrtus* but were eventually reclassified into their own genus in 1941. In the early 1900s there was a debate amongst our most notable botanists that there was a third species: *Lophomyrtus ralphii*. It was thought that it was closely related to *L. bullata* and *L. obcordata*. To this day you can still find both *Lophomyrtus* parents at the reserve and their hybrids in all their different forms. But this is not where the story ends.

Since the arrival of myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) in New Zealand in May 2017, *L. bullata* has been found to be very susceptible. In reality the infected host plants that have been found are predominantly found in urban areas, or at least this is what we call it. It is actually New Plymouth nurserymen that have propagated this small hybrid tree (from the Meeting of the Waters Reserve) that shows many different leaf shapes and colours to the degree that there are now numerous varieties. Ramarama now adorns many New Zealand gardens in all its

colourful varieties. Actually this small tree has been exported all over the world, and in fact, *Lophomyrtus* is the main affected host of myrtle rust in Tasmania (Biosecurity Tasmania, 2017).

But what does the future look like for this tree and how will it adapt with the presence of the fungal disease, myrtle rust, and since it's proven to be so susceptible, will we lose *Lophomyrtus* altogether?

Curiously, a very similar incursion happened in 1973, when poplar rust (*Melampsora Spp*) first reached New Zealand. Both are fungal diseases and both arrived here on trans-Tasman wind currents from Australia. Although not native, poplars have a long cultural history in New Zealand where they are planted to control erosion and create shelter. Poplar rust proved to be devastating to some of the cultivars present in New Zealand (A.G. Spiers, 1989). On the bright side, resistant cultivars were identified and propagated. Poplars continue to be a great asset to the agricultural industry. Furthermore, trees do have the ability to adapt and create resistance to some degree. It is proven, however, that myrtle rust (or at least the strain that is present in NZ) is sexual and not clonal, suggesting that the fungus can adapt to New Zealand hosts and environmental circumstances (McTaggart et al. 2017). Also, historically it is proven that a disease will not kill all its hosts in order to survive itself. Hopefully there is natural resistance to Myrtle rust present within the species, that in turn may be propagated.

Truthfully *Lophomyrtus* does not have the grandeur of our kauri or pōhutukawa trees. As a sub-canopy tree it has its niche in our unique ecosystem and it would be sadly missed. How the story will unfold for *Lophomyrtus* remains to be seen.



Figure 1. *Lophomyrtus bullata*



Figure 2. *Lophomyrtus obcordata*



Figure 3 A *Lophomyrtus* hybrid at the meeting of the Waters Reserve near New Plymouth



Figure 4. Symptoms of myrtle rust on *Lophomyrtus*.

PLANT ID CHALLENGE

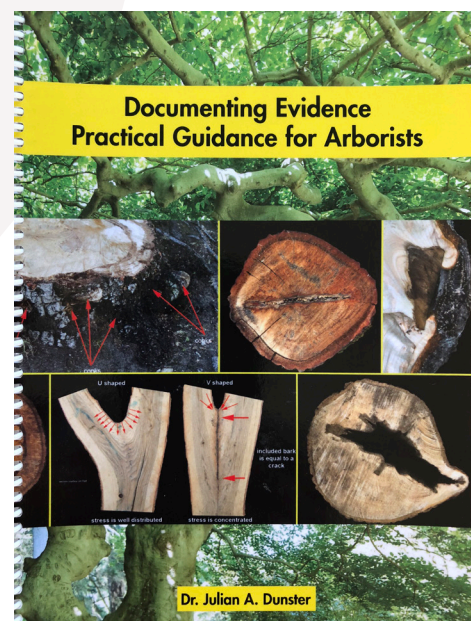
WHAT AM I?

- I am a shrub or small tree.
- I am light demanding.
- I am part of the Malvaceae family that includes hibiscus, lacebarks and ribbonwood
- I am short-lived, only around ten years.
- I have been used by Māori to make fishing floats.
- I am an endemic genus of just one species.
- I have a river and a mountain named after me.
- Māori name and Latin name required.

Test your troubleshooting and identification skills by submitting your answer to editor@nzarb.org.nz. Accurate answers go in the draw to win a copy of **Documenting Evidence Practical Guidance for Arborists** by Dr Julian A. Dunster, courtesy of TreeScape®. The correct answer and book winner will be published in the next issue of Tree Matters.

Congrats to Ian Lawson for answering correctly and winning the draw for the Spring Quiz. The correct answer was Fig Psyllid, *Mycopsylla fici*.

Flower photo
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whau_\(Entelea_arborescens\)_flower.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whau_(Entelea_arborescens)_flower.jpg)



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2019 NZ ARB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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