

TreeMatters

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▶ IN THIS ISSUE

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Menno Kluiters

P. 16

WATCHING TREES FALL

Joe Bennett

P. 24

2021 NZ ARB HUSQVARNA AUCKLAND TCC RESULTS

P. 44

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's branch P. 06

Editor's leaf P. 09

5 minutes with Richie Hill P. 10

The customer is always right? P. 12

Mark Roberts

What's in a name? P. 16

Menno Kluiters

Watching trees fall P. 24

An outside perspective on a residential arborist job

Joe Bennett

Notable Tree Stories: GR/1467 P. 28

The Fred Naden Tree

Metrosideros excelsa (pōhutukawa), Tokomaru Bay

J. G. Naden

What tree climbing competitions bring and expect from us P. 32

Tiago Miranda

Book Review P. 36

The Tree Experts – A History of Professional Arboriculture in Britain, by Mark Johnston

Review by Dominic Williams

Photos: P. 40

Trees that survived the storms

Asher Bowyer

NZ Arb Husqvarna Auckland TCC P. 44

2021(take 2) Regional Tree Climbing Competition summary and results

Craig Webb

Clippings P. 53

2021 Young Horticulturist of the Year

Latest NZ Arb Approved Contractor: Tree King

An invitation from the Executive Committee

The new Husqvarna 592 XP®

Inspiring the future

NZ Arb Approved Contractors P. 56

Upcoming Events & Job Listings P. 57



**THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS
RIGHT? / P. 12**



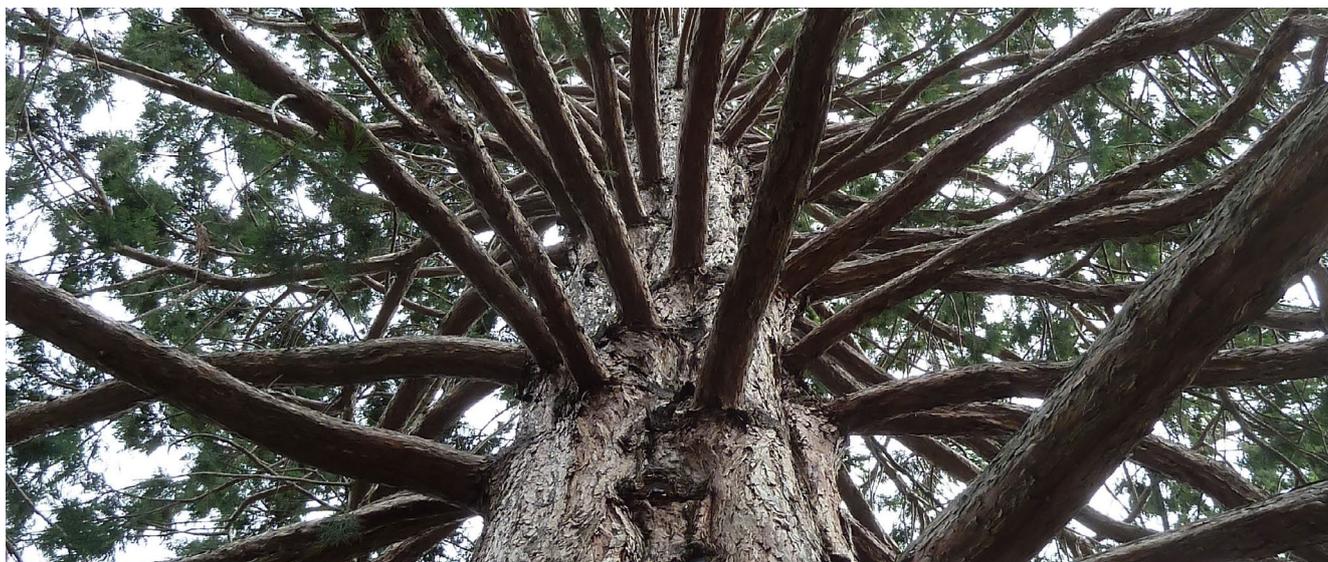
**WHAT'S IN A NAME?
/ P. 16**



**WATCHING TREES FALL
/ P. 24**



**NZ ARB HUSQVARNA
AUCKLAND TCC / P.44**



PRESIDENT'S BRANCH

Howell Davies

Kia ora koutou katoa – I hope you are all safe and well. I am the newly appointed President of NZ Arb and thank you for being a member of NZ Arboricultural Association. I really didn't expect to be putting pen to paper when I started working with trees and tree people 30 years ago. I started work as a groundsman for two older gentlemen who owned a tree care company on the island of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA in 1991.

I had great experiences of working with the tree men in the USA and enjoyed dragging brush and digging holes, planting trees and looking after them each summer to ensure they grew. It was a great couple of years for me. I enjoyed the great stories the tree men told. They had both worked up and down the eastern seaboard of the USA for over four decades. They were both skilled climbers who

seemed to have suction cups on their hands and feet when they scampered around the trees.

I look back now on my career and think about the awesome experiences I have had along the way, digging holes, planting trees, cleaning up after the climber had finished and then learning to climb safely myself, learning to use a chainsaw safely, and working with some cool machines. I turned to the pen and library to study for my qualifications in arboriculture. As a mature student, working full-time and studying part-time, I took just over a decade to work my way through the various grades and levels of horticulture, arboriculture, to graduate finally in 2007 with a Level 6 Diploma Arb + Distinction. I also took out the best research thesis for the class and received recognition from The Specimen Tree Company who sponsored the award.

Receiving my certificate and award at graduation confirming I was a qualified arborist was an immensely proud moment for me. I had seen that vision in 1995 when I got a start as a trainee arborist in City Parks Services, Auckland. My initial training involved a block course at Wintec when John Wakelin and Paul Wynen were tutors. We had a great time over two weeks and I was hooked. During my time at City Parks Tree Team I was lucky enough to work with Andrew Harrison who had just qualified at Wintec.

I was based in the Tree Team's depot in Auckland Domain for almost three years and even today when I walk past the old depot buildings, I smile and think back to the many stories that would have been told in those buildings over the 15 years or so the Arb Team operated out of the Domain.

I have worked in a range of jobs over my career and have enjoyed the camaraderie among those in the industry. I have cooked the BBQ for several years now at the regional TCC in Auckland and at the national TCC and every time I am amazed at how we all pull together to help and support each other and to cheer on the competitors. In the recent Auckland event it was no different and although the faces were new, the camaraderie was just as strong as ever. To those who have made a career working with trees and to those of you who are just embarking on your career, I look forward to representing and supporting you over the next two

years. I believe I have a talented team on the executive who are all looking forward to helping on the mahi to ensure our membership is actively represented and to help build on NZ Arb's reputation as the national body that represents the tree care industry in New Zealand.

I was gutted when we had to cancel the conference in Palmerston North. We all look forward to this annual event as a time to see old friends and catch up with colleagues who all share a collective passion for the tree care industry. It is a small setback, but we plan to come back with a roar in November when we are holding the conference at Te Papa and our NTCC in the grounds of Parliament. It's going to be awesome and I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope that the next few months go well for you, knowing the current situation is challenging as we now see COVID in our communities. Please think about the safety of you and your family. Ask your immediate friends and relatives to help should you become sick.

If you don't have anyone, please sing out to NZ Arb and we will do what we can to help put the word out. We must look after each other over the next few months to ensure we all get through this challenging time. We are a close community of tree people, and the association is here to help foster and encourage. If you need advice or help, let us know. My phone is always on.

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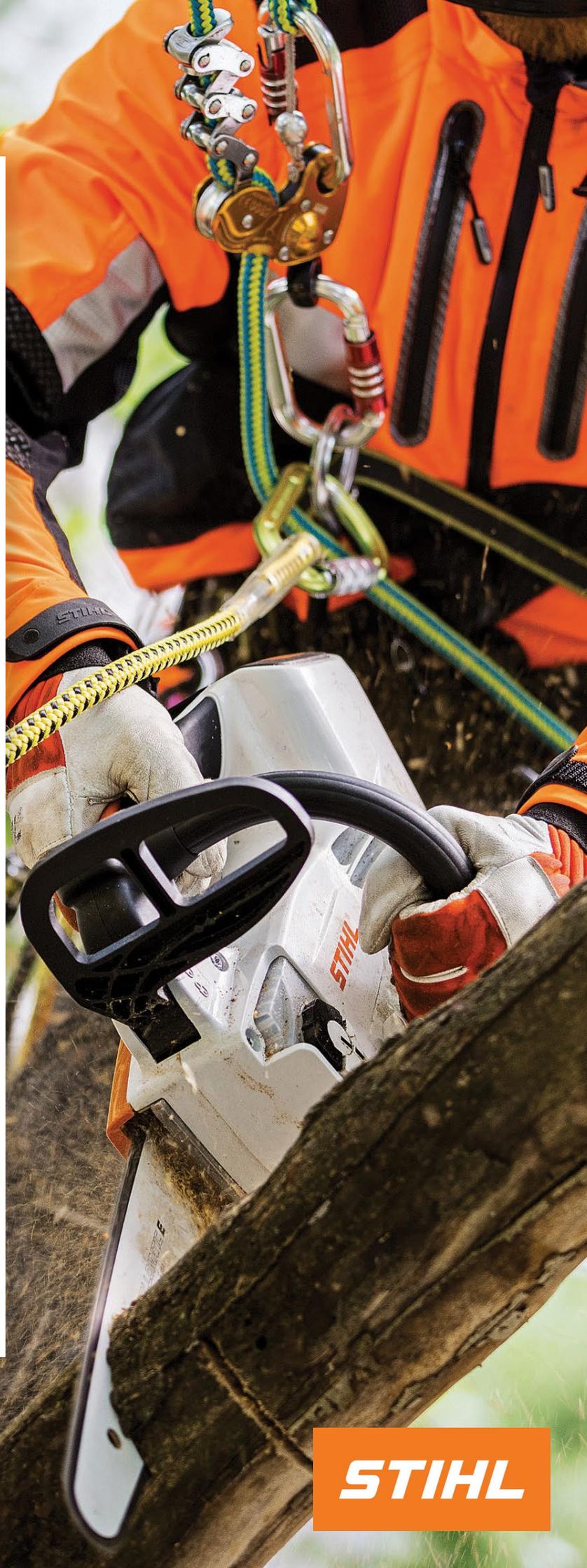


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EDITOR'S LEAF

Mark Roberts on behalf of the Editorial Team

I have a Twitter account and I used to tweet. Not much, not very often, and never about food. Things happened and I became bored with Twitter and indeed the entire platform that it was on. But over the weekend, I found myself opening it and looking in. On the face of it, nothing had changed, the tweets had become longer but the food pics remained. But as I scrolled I came across a function that asked me if I wished to see all the comments in the comments section. It was basically a parental advisory note, a content warning. Of course, I accepted it and into the rabbit hole I went. It was disgusting. I thought I knew what hate speech was, but I did not. I thought that I had thick skin, that I had heard it all before, but I had not. The anger was outrageous, the hate repulsive. Clearly, Twitter has moved on from

140 characters and here's what I'm having for lunch. I'd be lying to say that this made me think, that I had a moment of clarity, I just closed Twitter and moved on; it was raining outside. Thinking about it now I'm amazed how quickly the differences of opinion went straight to personal attacks – whatever the opinion was, the comments had very little to do with them. The comments really didn't say much about the quality or knowledge of the person making them – maybe it will be different in few years' time when I'm next brave enough to go back on Twitter.

But what if you can't just close the app and move on? There is always going to be differences of opinion in this world. Within workplaces, families, and friend groups there is often a level of peculiar. There will be thinking that you may consider strange, opinions

that you do not hold, actions that you wouldn't do. Some of it is harmless, some of it is not, and some of this makes us who we are. Looking at the crazy that is currently all around us let's focus on the opinion and not the person. It's okay to disagree. Have the conversation, conversations are good and it's important to be able to express yourself but be realistic about the outcome; is one side suddenly going to embrace the other side's point of view; 'sorry, I see now that I was completely wrong, silly me,?' It's okay to have a different point of view, and it's okay to express that view but do it once and keep it on topic

As always, read, enjoy, and share this late summer edition. The team behind Tree Matters has worked hard on it and I am grateful to have been involved in bringing it to you.



5 MINUTES WITH RICHIE HILL

An interview with an NZ Arb Executive Committee member

What inspired you to pursue a career in arboriculture?

I was a menace when I was younger and reached a point of not knowing what to do, or point of no return, depends of how you look at it. When my friend next to me asked "What would you like to do?" I said flamenco or climb trees. Reached out a grabbed the paper in front of me that someone left behind and in the job section (yes that's how we did it back in the day – proper) was a job for an arb apprentice, and I've been making poor decisions ever since.

What is the best part of your current job?

I think it's bringing informed opinion that leads to a collaborative change which is sustainable. It's difficult and challenging and rarely happens, but when it does it's incredibly rewarding

for all involved and, if I want to, I can wear a cape.

What is the best job you have had in arboriculture?

Sometimes I miss the simplicity of the time when I started. I was lucky to work with some great people who never made it feel like work, and there were lots of laughs. But I think what I'm doing now, I don't know many other jobs where the more you do, the less you know. It makes me think of Lynne Boddy (if you don't know who Lynne is go get her book on Fungi and Trees, lots of images so we're safe. Lynne presented at the conference a few years back, held some workshops and is a champ). Lynne would often say "we don't know". But it just highlights how complex it can be, and that there is nothing wrong in saying I don't know and trying to find out.

What motivated you to volunteer for NZ Arb?

I think it's the same reason why everyone else does and that's to contribute to the circus, pick up the baton and do some lifting. We all have something to contribute. The association represents all of us; we all contribute to it and get some stickers, but if you feel you're not represented get involved. If you're a contractor take a look at the approved contractor scheme but get in touch, even if you think it's a wet dog. Things won't change if you don't get involved – Be the change you want to see in the world.

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

Whether Spencer will eat all the biscuits, or the COVID apocalypse. Or combining the two – no biscuits then get COVID. I think with challenges comes a lot of opportunity and it's how we position ourselves to not only inform the public about trees but each other to raise the standard and foster better connections. So I think it is an exciting time to be in the industry. (I think Buzz Lightyear or Gandhi said that, both ahead of their time).

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

Petrified of arborists / developers / anyone from the National Party / dogs / kaka / Gary who has just brought a 66 off Trade Me.

But, what is my favourite tree? (yes it's a list, strap in):

1. LARGEST recorded girth kahikatea in the world measured by (who's got two thumbs) this guy. It's my favourite because Brad refutes this as in his opinion it's a double leader (it is a double leader but I can't give him the satisfaction) so it's not a true single stem to qualify. Also Rob Lucas says he has seen bigger, but provides no measurements of one (put up or shut Rob). As we all know haters are gonna hate.
2. LARGEST ribbonwood ever recorded, a true ancient. Measured by you know who. These trees are on the Notable Tree Register (www.notabletrees.org.nz). Go and have a look, and if you know of some interesting ones put a tree on and contribute to a great resource where we all need to chip in to make it sustainable.
3. Matai and Bodhi. These are the names of my two little parasites, I mean boys, who have crushed all my hopes and dreams, I mean filled me with purpose and...j...joy. There is a Bodhi tree in Auckland University for those who are interested, a wee one but it was going well the last time I looked. Go check it out.



THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT?

Mark Roberts

I was inspired to write an article on what the customer wanted. Basically, I just wanted to vent.

My current annoyance is the response, "it's what the client wanted." This is possibly one of the most pathetic excuses in the arborist phrasebook. "Weak" and "feeble" are words that come to mind; "inept" is another. When someone defends their actions by blaming the client, you know it's not good and they know it too. But of course one can't write an article expressing one's displeasure at the ineptitude of others; that's the realm of social media. I had even planned to blame my lack of tolerance on COVID fatigue or old age. But then I had to question if I had tolerance to lack in the first place – can one lack something one never had?

My issue is/was that some arborists do work that they know is not good for the tree and/or the client. They do the work anyway and justify their actions by saying they did it because it was what the client wanted. In these situations, the arborist who is supposed to be the knowledge expert is taking advice from someone who doesn't know what they are talking about (the client), and then doing what that person said. There are fifty things wrong with that including damage to the reputation of the entire industry. Hence my wanting to vent.

But sometimes the client is actually right, which is awkward. As arguments

go, "sometimes" is not a great position to start from, unless you're on social media where rules are optional and alternate facts exist – "inexcusable" and "pitiful" are words that come to mind. So I had to change the direction of my article. Ethics. Is it ethical to do what the client wants...if you know that what the client wants is wrong?

Fantastic, I could now vent about arborists without morals and principles – "shameful" and "contemptible" are words that came to mind.

But sometimes it's not that simple, sometimes people do things because they have to; they do what they have to do to feed the whanau or pay the rent. And then sometimes people are just horrid; they know what they are doing is wrong and they do it anyway. And then, what if the client is right? So I find myself wanting to write an article about the ethics of doing or not doing what the client wants while acknowledging that sometimes there may not be a choice, that sometimes people are horrid, and that sometimes what the client wants is the right thing to do – "problematic" and "difficult" are words that come to mind.

So here we go, but we are going to exclude the horrid crew as there are bigger issues in their lives.

Many young arborists set up for themselves with the knowledge that "the customer is always right." This reputed and often-recited piece of knowledge is the sum total of their

business knowledge. There are of course many other problems if this is their sole understanding of business but let's just focus on the customer/client relationship. The customer has to be always right because that is what business people and pushy customers say. But the reality is that customers are often wrong, and sometimes not just a little bit wrong, but absolutely wrong.

As an arborist talking to a potential client, telling them that they are wrong isn't always the best approach. But luckily you're not alone. The principles behind selling tree work are exactly the same as selling any service, be it selling cosmetic surgery, or travel to the islands, or even study at university. It's just business, the business of selling and the internet is full of helpful hints

1. Don't make the client feel wrong. All of us make wrong assumptions about things we don't fully understand, but nobody wants to have them pointed out. Customers want answers, not criticism.

More often than not the client doesn't actually know what they want or why they want what they think they want. Your job is to assist them, so they get the best outcome. Your job as someone selling a service is to help the customer become right.

2. Give examples. In tree work, this one is easy – direct them to examples of bad pruning or needless removals. Know your local area so you can point out factual situations and/or real examples.

3. Ask questions. Ask them what the objective is. Often they are so focused on the task they forget the outcome. Sell the outcome, not the doing.
4. Make recommendations. There may well be more than one way that they can get the outcome they want (hence needing to know their end goal). Give them options, and don't be afraid to break up the work to help them in achieving their goal.
5. Add extra value. You're selling a service. If you have to remove a tree then arrange for the replanting work, or at the very least the stump removal. If you are spending half a day in the backyard, then maybe there is work in the front yard too.
6. But remember you're working for the customer. Any additional services you sell have to be of value to them.
7. Build relationships. Good service sales are about selling a foundation of trust backed up by the quality of doing. If the client doesn't need anything done, then sell them that. Sometimes selling nothing can be very productive in the end.

And lastly...

8. Stay true to yourself. You are selling a service not your soul. If you can't look back on the work that you have done with a sense of pride then start doing things differently or get another job.

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Bronze statue of Carl Linnaeus in front of his family home, Uppsala. Photo: Menno Kluiters

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Menno Kluiters

Common tree names have long been bugging me.

For instance, the name mountain ash. In North America it's known as a *Sorbus americana*, a small sub canopy tree. What the Australians call a mountain ash is something entirely unrelated: *Eucalyptus regnans*. Its namesake is not a small sub canopy tree, it's only the tallest flowering tree known worldwide, reaching heights of over 100 meters! Oh, and might I add, neither of these is related to the ash family (*Fraxinus*).

Sycamore. Don't get me started. Here in New Zealand, we know it as a locally invasive species *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Its species name literally means "false plane." What the North Americans call a sycamore is exactly that, their plane tree: *Platanus occidentalis*. One is in fact a maple, the other a plane tree. It's just that someone at some stage decided it looked somewhat like a sycamore as described in the bible; *Ficus sycomorus* that has a wide heart-shaped leaf. I once saw a *Ficus sycomorus* in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens and based on that I find it a bit far-fetched, but that's just my opinion. Probably an English person went to the Holy Land and started calling *Acer pseudoplatanus* a sycamore. Subsequently, when English settlers moved to North America and encountered a plane tree, they decided it had some resemblance to what they knew from home and the name stuck.

When first settlers arrived in New Zealand, they also gave names to trees that resembled what they knew back home. For instance, the name white pine was given to kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) and brown pine to miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*). Fortunately, we have all but forgotten these settler names and call them by their Māori names. One common name has stuck though, and I cannot think of a more generic name for a particular tree; broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*)! I find its Māori name kapuka by far more graceful.

Common names, how confusing.

Enter Carl Linnaeus.

We have to thank Linnaeus (1707-1778) for the classification system we use. This system, otherwise known as binominal nomenclature, categorises related species under a genus name followed by the species name, as I have done. Sure, Linnaeus was not the first to give Latin names to flora and fauna but he devised the system that we know today. He first presented this system in his work *Systema naturae* when he was only 28 years old.

Pre-Covid, I was fortunate enough to do some work in Sweden, and one weekend took the opportunity to visit the Linnaeus Museum in Uppsala. This was the original botanical garden that was established before Linnaeus's appointment there as a professor in 1741, when he took up residence in a house on-site. Here he expanded the



The Linnaeus garden today. Photo: Menno Kluiters



collection of plants and these were arranged according to his new classification system. At the garden he received students as he was a particularly popular teacher, reportedly much to the annoyance of his colleagues. Perhaps somewhat like Indiana Jones? His improvements made it one of the world's foremost gardens. Today his house is a museum, with personal belongings and scientific artefacts. The garden has been restored to the way it was in Linnaeus's time, and only species known to have been cultivated in that time are allowed. Most plants are arranged in neat rows with small white signs that give it a unique atmosphere, unlike any other botanic garden that I have visited.

Humans appear to have the need to organise their surroundings in systems to understand them. I for one, am one of those. Carl Linnaeus's system was originally based on how the sexual system of a plant is arranged, loosely how many stamens a flower has. We have long since surpassed this idea and currently we follow an evolutionary tree model. Linnaeus's binominal system is still successful as it is standardised and relatively easy to remember.

Twenty-first century botanists have a new tool: rapid DNA sequencing. Indeed, DNA sequencing has been around since the 70s, and its contribution to science cannot be denied. With rapid DNA sequencing botanists

now have a relatively low-cost tool at their disposal to extract the DNA from a plant and therefore have another means of classification. Morphology, in biology, is the study of the size, shape, and structure of animals and plants and this has long been the method for classification. The key in tree identification books is a good example of this. There you look at bark (colour, texture etc.), leaf arrangement (alternate, opposite etc.) and leaf form (lobed, palmate etc.) to determine the species. With the advent of rapid DNA sequencing all this is changing. Subsequently, in recent years many plants have been reclassified. Let's have a closer look at a few examples

Nothofagus

Nothofagus, our southern beeches, were initially described as *Fagus* and it wasn't until 1851 that botanists (Blume) reclassified it under its own genus. *Nothofagus* are trees known to grow in southern South America, Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea. *Nothofagus* has long been used as a perfect example of our links to the former supercontinent Gondwana and in understanding continental drift. It was previously subdivided into three subgenera, namely *Fusca*, *Menziesii*, and *Brassii*, based on how the pollen looked under a microscope. In 2013 it was proposed that *Nothofagus* be subdivided into four subgenera: *Nothofagus* (exclusively in South America), *Fuscaspora* and *Lophozonia* (represented in South America, Australia and New Zealand), and *Trisyngyne* (tropical beeches surviving in the Highlands of New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea).

Kānuka

Our kānuka, initially described as *Leptospermum ericoides*, was renamed *Kunzea ericoides* in 1983. In the past kānuka, alongside mānuka had a bad reputation with farmers for being invasive in grassland. Even today, whole hillsides can be seen that have been cleared of kānuka and mānuka. In 2014 Peter de Lange completed a study of *Kunzea* species in New Zealand. It concluded there are actually ten *Kunzea* species as opposed to just one. I was fortunate enough to attend a presentation by de Lange, and I must say that his findings are undeniable, not just because of DNA sequencing but also through mātauranga (Māori traditional knowledge) and historical scientific facts.

Macrocarpa

What we know here in NZ as a macrocarpa, is no longer classified as a *Cupressus*. Through DNA sequencing it has been found that the New World species of *Cupressus* are actually not closely related to their Eurasian counterparts and are now classified as *Hesperocyparis*.

Kohekohe

And lately our kohekohe, once known as *Dysoxylum spectabile*, has been renamed *Didymocheton spectabilis*. Yes, its species name has changed somewhat too. Kohekohe is the most southern member of an otherwise tropical family of trees, stretching from New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands to South East Asia, India and Sri Lanka. Once again through DNA sequencing it was found that kohekohe is closely related to species from the South Pacific islands.

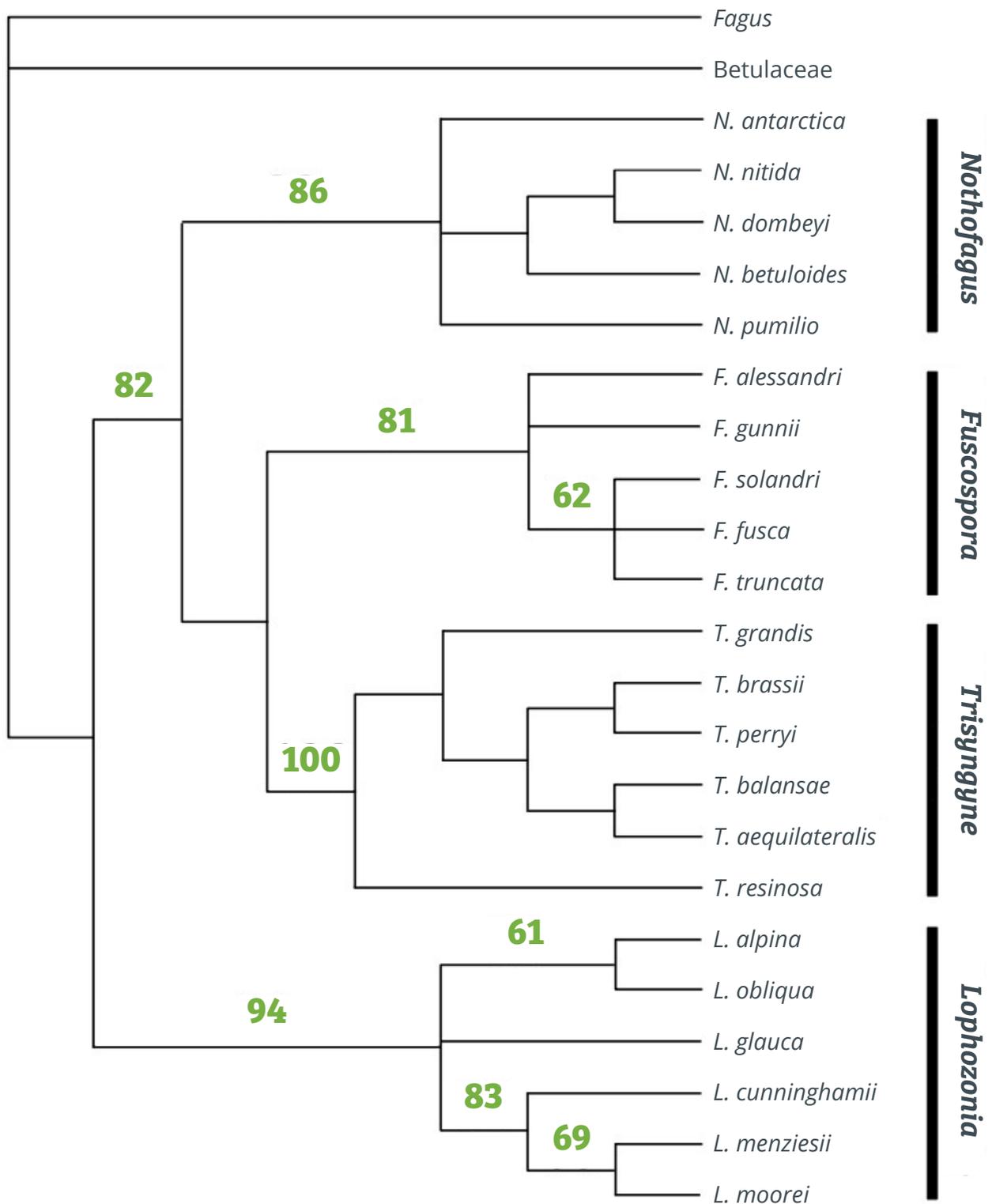


Figure 1. Strict consensus of most-parsimonious trees from heuristic search of morphological character data (Analysis 1) for *Fuscospora* (*Nothofagus* subgenus *Fuscospora*), *Lophozonia* (*Nothofagus* subgenus *Lophozonia*), *Nothofagus* (*Nothofagus* subgenus *Nothofagus*), and *Trisyngyne* (*Nothofagus* subgenus *Brassospora*). Numbers above branches are bootstrap values from 100 replicates where these are >50.

Name changes are a funny one. Names are authorised by taxonomy, the practice and science of categorisation or classification, following international guidelines as described in the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. Personally, when I become aware of a name change, it intuitively annoys me, shaking the foundations of my botanical knowledge. However, when you dig a little deeper, the accompanying DNA sequencing proof makes sense. I do hope the botanists can drip-feed us in terms of name changes though, just so my brain can keep up. I guess, we will have to learn more about what we already know.

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Photo: Joe Bennett

WATCHING TREES FALL

AN OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE ON A RESIDENTIAL ARBORIST JOB

Joe Bennett

***They're gone.
After four days.
The tree surgeons.
And the trees.***

Where last week there was a stand of pines, tall and fat enough to reach and crush my house and everything within it, there is now only sky and a litter of logs and slash. The fifteen trees fell to two men.

As a boy you climb a tree to be a king. 'Hey,' you call from the highest branch that your courage will take you to, 'look at me.' And the scuttling little people look up to see you waving from the sky and you know they admire and envy you. From down there they can see only to the end of the street. From up here you can see to the curve of the world and beyond, to the horizon.

Climbing's a young man's game. How old was Hillary on Everest? Twenty something, I'd imagine. It gets harder to haul yourself up. And self-knowledge plays a part. When you know you'll never be king of the castle, there's less point in pretending. When you know you won't walk to the far horizon, why bother to climb up to stare at it?

But arborists keep climbing. They must be among the most-watched workers in the world. Up they go in defiance of

forces to be silhouetted against the sky in the world of birds. How could we not look at them?

Janet Frame wrote of watching a lineman at work and being reluctant to look away even for a moment. 'You see,' she wrote, 'I was waiting to see him fall.' It is thus too with arborists. Their peril is attractive, to us and to them.

I spent hours watching them over the last four days, sometimes sitting in the open with coffee and just plain staring, but also spying from windows, peeping round curtains. They were spectacle. I watched how they hitched themselves up on ropes, or bound themselves to a trunk with hoops and spiked boots. A small chainsaw dangled from the waist by a length of rope, to be hauled up and started in the sky and put to work until there was a crack and another branch fell thirty, forty, fifty feet and hit the earth below with the sort of bang and snap and bounce that would thrill the heart of any boy.

They pruned each pine from bottom to top till it was a Cleopatra needle, narrowing from six foot across to less than one and crowned with a final tuft or two of branches. They referred to this not as a trunk but as a stem, as if the trees were grass and they the mowers.

Felled trees are our species' signature. We have hewn and burned and built with wood for millennia. We have cleared land for us to grow stuff. Were it not for us most of the planet would be forest. Arborism is among the first professions.

Once they'd stripped the stem, they left a rope on its tip and ran that rope up the hill and round the base of another tree the better to guide the angle of the felling. And they cut out a wedge from one side of the stem, then went at the back with the saw, and then into the saw cut they drove metal wedges and you could sense the weakening of the wood and it was quite impossible to look away and suddenly there was a crack as the spine snapped and then the tree was done for, toppling, gathering speed then thundering into the land with a great bass percussion that shuddered the house and the world. They did that fifteen times.

I'd lived in the shadow of those trees for close to twenty years, had watched them double in height, had seen them tossed and bent by southerlies, had noted how their mat of roots crept ever further down the hill towards the house, gripping the underlying rock like a great splayed hand, and wondered how out of this thin soil they'd found the sustenance to grow gigantic.

And now they lie as torn, dismembered corpses. Some I'll burn. The rest I'll leave to rot, to leech into the soil to feed whatever grows in their stead. Meanwhile the arborists have left me sky I did not have before, and light, and room to spread myself, and they've packed up their simple gear, the saws and ropes and axes, and have gone elsewhere to climb and fell and to be watched. They seemed contented men.





Photo: Joe Bennett



GR/1467 – the 'Fred Naden Tree', 31 Mar 2018. Photo: Adelaide Brooking

NOTABLE TREE STORIES

THE FRED NADEN TREE GR/1467 METROSIDEROS EXCELSA (PŌHUTUKAWA), TOKOMARU BAY



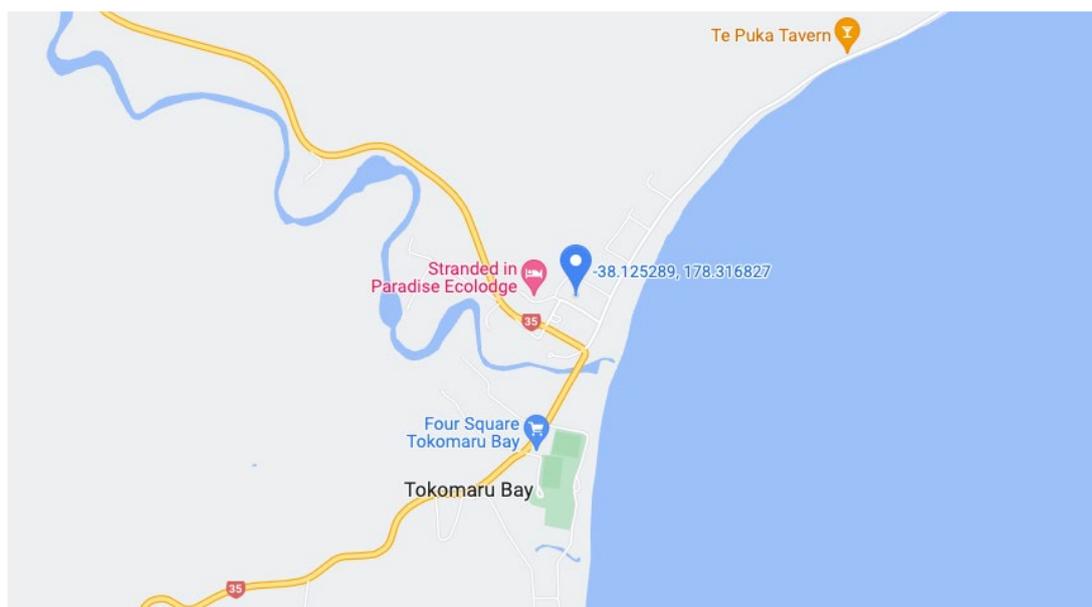
J. G. Naden, M.A. (Hons)

Notable Tree Stories: In each edition of Tree Matters we will endeavour to feature trees from the New Zealand Tree Register. The idea is to highlight a specimen or group with outstanding attributes and/or a tree with an especially interesting history.

In 1906 young Fred (Frederick Nehu) Naden transplanted a pōhutukawa seedling to a site in front of his family home in Tokomaru Bay. In 1917 at the age of 19 he went off to the First World War.

He was wounded but returned to duty to fight in the Battle of Passchendaele in which he was awarded the Military Medal. He was a runner whose survival rate in battle was four days. After the war, he was part of the victory force in Germany with the Auckland Regiment

followed by a period in hospital in England. On his return to New Zealand, Fred vowed never again to leave Tokomaru Bay. Prior to the war he had been employed in the Auditor-General's office in Wellington and was looking forward to a career in law or commerce but upon his return he resigned his position and returned to Tokomaru Bay. He found solace in the company of the thirty or so veterans of Tokomaru Bay at the local tavern who helped him forget the terrible sights he had seen at La Basse-Ville and Passchendaele. He suffered from what



Location of GR/1467 – the 'Fred Naden Tree'. <https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/1467>

we now know as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and received no treatment for his problem. He died at the early age of 51 in 1950.

In the year prior to his death Fred told his son Joe the story of the pōhutukawa tree that stood on the front lawn of their once stately villa in Potae Street. He recounted how he had followed a party of men around the northern end of Tokomaru Bay to gather parengo, an edible seaweed. When they reached a spot where the sea came into the cliff and he was unable to run across in time he decided, with the men yelling at him, to go home. It was then he spied the pōhutukawa plant growing in a crack in the cliff. He carefully extracted it, shoved it down his shirt, and carried it back home. His aged mother, a very keen gardener, whose flowers, shrubs, and fruit and decorative trees have all disappeared since she died in 1937, helped him plant the tree in the front lawn where it still stands today.

Locals remark that the Naden pōhutukawa is easily the best-known tree in Tokomaru Bay, almost rivalling its more famous relative at Te Araroa, the pōhutukawa named Te Waha o Rerekohu.

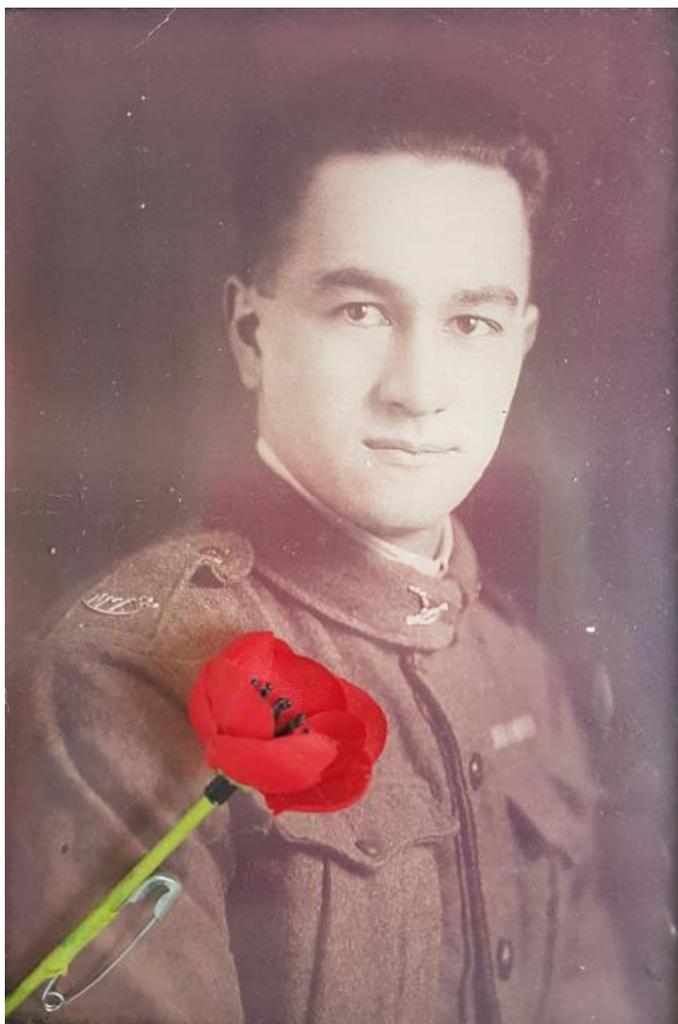
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Originally published as: *Childhood reflections* – J.G. Naden, M.A.(Hons)

Acknowledgement: *The author appreciates the editorial assistance of Brad Cadwallader in the writing of this article.*



Private F. Naden, S.N. 34409, 20th Reinforcements E Company NZEF. Photo: Naden family records

NZ NOTABLE TREES TRUST



The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust manages a free public database containing details of many notable and significant trees in this country. The database is constantly being updated. New trees may be entered online at any time, by anyone willing to measure and record the appropriate details (see the website for simple-to-follow instructions). Please feel free to become a tree recorder – your name will be attributed to any tree records and images you submit. The trust welcomes any contributions of information or support. View online at www.notabletrees.org.nz

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YR Youngman
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Climber: T. Miranda 2015

WHAT TREE CLIMBING COMPETITIONS BRING AND EXPECT FROM US

Tiago Miranda

I was fortunate enough to win the 2019 New Zealand National Tree Climbing Competition. Some say it is 'luck'; others say 'deserved' or even those more competitive say 'see you next year'.

I was fortunate enough to win the 2019 New Zealand National Tree Climbing Competition. Some say it is 'luck'; others say 'deserved' or even those more competitive say 'see you next year'. Tree climbing competition is a branch of tree climbing less explored by many, who consider it separate from what tree work is and nothing like what we do daily. I might disagree, but it also depends on how you see and do things at your regular job.

As a climber, I see advantages of the throw-line where accuracy plays a role in your readiness and tiredness and defines the time frame. Aerial rescue can be a show of skills and a gear-freak-bustle. Yet, it includes scenarios that could eventually happen in real life with a specific artificial time frame, pushing you to finish with an urgency that could determine the victim's life or death.

Speed climb, I guess, is a motivation to muscle up and achieve fitness, which above all is essential to our daily life. A tree climber wouldn't ask for anything more important than to be fit and ready for work every day. Work climb defines itself pretty straightforwardly:

the ability to move around the crown, reaching the bells smoothly in a way that not only demonstrates balance, energy, proficiency and focus but also work position and a keenness to get out on the limb.

The Ascent event, in other ways, is a moment of technique and ascent demonstration, which might be essential in some scenarios in tree work, either to show how quickly you can get to the top or how prepared you are to commit to the job ahead.

And finally, the Masters' Challenge climb – an end-of-the-pole event where everything is on the line and all the skills are ready to shine at once.

I do think tree climbing competitions have a purpose: improvement and the intention, in the hands of those who are keen, to expand their skills in their daily work as a climber.

Although some rules can be faulty and unnecessary, a competitive environment can provide a foundation for different thinking and individual assuredness. It is not just for the sake of winning but to show that an investment in fitness, dedication, focus and skills can lead you to a better career and confidence in daily life.

The point here is not just about winning – losing is winning because you tried. Considering the development of tree climbing and how it changed from the first introduction into Western society by scientists in

the 1920s, defining nature's beauty and the commercially driven formal gardens, up till today where it is a sport – we are doing pretty well.

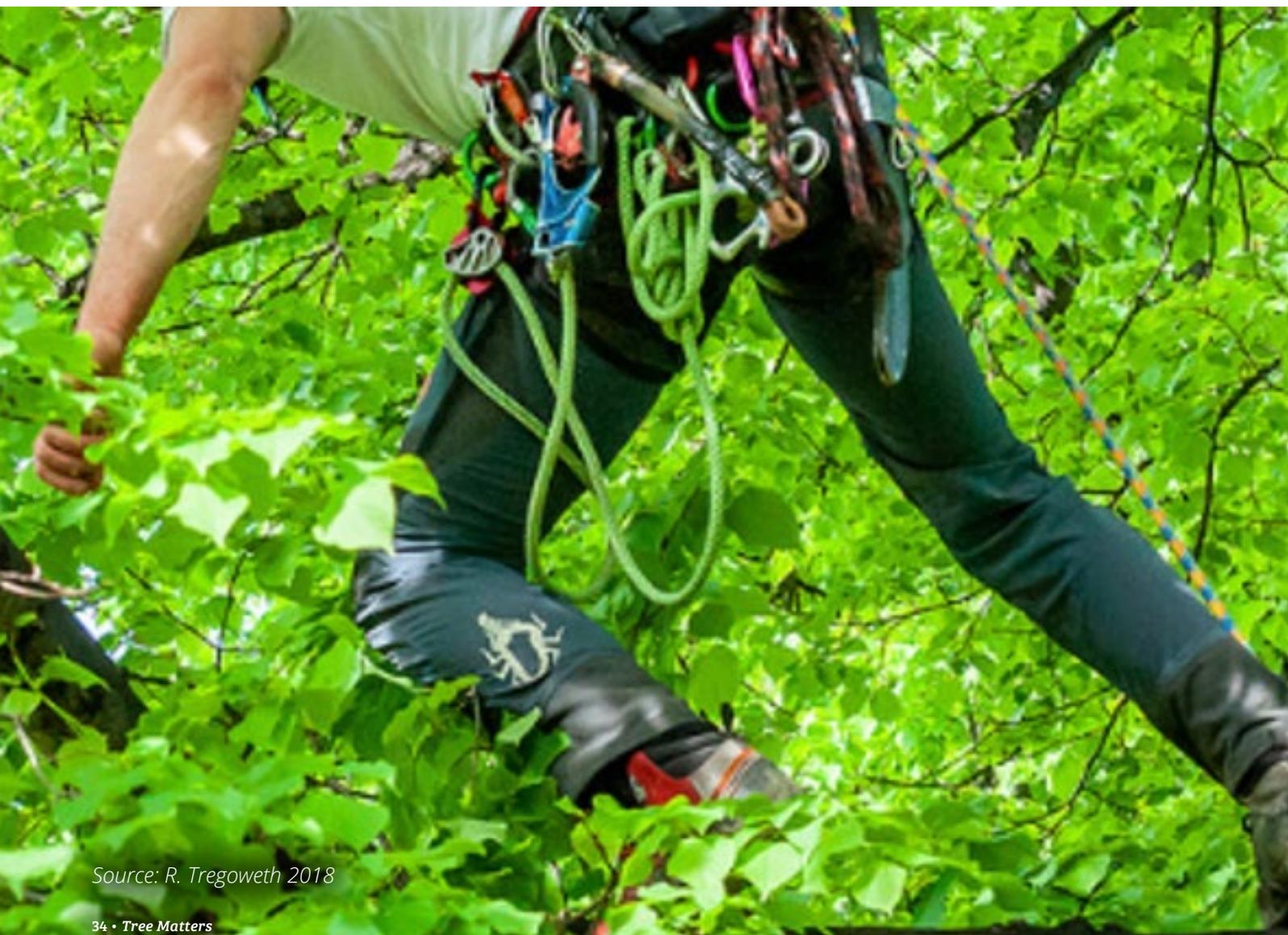
The question is: what has tree climbing to offer, and how can you deal with the psychology behind it?

A perfectionist like me works on improvement almost daily – from breakfast to dinner. No, I don't sleep with a carabiner under my pillow or dream about climbing every night. I meant about attitudes to daily life and the eagerness to get better and achieve, even after ten years of training, to conquer something that I've never thought could be possible among a fantastic bunch.

Psychologists define a certain level of awareness as selective attention, the ability to focus on something without a competitive stimulus.

According to sports psychologists, professional athletes – like us – would never get anything done without it. Several techniques differ within individuals, though.

Getting geeky about it, specialists call meta-attention a kind of awareness of the factors that influence one's attention. Apart from imagery, motivation and attentional focus, professionals begin from a specific principle of creating a conscious feeling to improve optimal performance, well-being and social aspects of sport participation.



Source: R. Tregoweth 2018

Understanding how to compete and what to achieve at a particular moment may define the way ahead and your motivation to try harder each time. According to Scott Forrest, current World Champion, “visualisation is big for me, working through a plan in mind, repeating the steps, over and over”.

In this case, imagery as a technique plays a role in Scott’s mantra towards a better understanding of what to expect; it makes you ready for the consequences. Moreover, Scott refers to a classic but flawless martial arts saying, “...repetition makes you good, I think we all start here. Doing the basics over and over again. The 10,000-hour rule is something I’ve referenced in the past. But...having the experience and the confidence to make a move and complete it well can make you great”.

Ultimately, tree climbing can be your tunnel vision, your pleasant moment, your social environment, and you know there’s always space for improvement and innovation by anyone keen enough to participate and share. Beyond any profound explanation, I wouldn’t be able to achieve anything, and neither would Scott, if there were no inclusion, partnership, empathy, compassion and motivation from others also involved.

However, one thing is for sure, a champion can be the object of jealousy in the eyes of some, but they have the results to be so. “You’ve got to be able to make sacrifices”, says Scott, who confirms that dedication needs awareness and makes demands if the result is to be success.



Source: R. Tregoweth 2018



Source: T. Miranda 2016

THE TREE EXPERTS

A History of Professional
Arboriculture in Britain



Mark Johnston

BOOK REVIEW

THE TREE EXPERTS – A HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL ARBORICULTURE IN BRITAIN BY MARK JOHNSTON

Review by Dominic Williams

Mark Johnston is a professional arborist, historian, and former Head of Arboriculture at Merrist Wood and Myerscough Colleges. He has written two earlier arboricultural texts; Trees in Towns and Cities: A History of British Urban Arboriculture, and Street Trees in Britain: A History.

Johnston's latest book is an academic history of arboriculture in Britain, spanning the past 2000 years through to the present day.

The book is divided into eight chapters covering Roman occupation, the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the eras of grand formal gardens and widespread street tree planting, through to the establishment of an arboricultural industry and profession currently employing more than 22,000 Britons.

The Romans ruled Britain for roughly 400 years from 43 to 410 CE and are considered the first in Britain to plant and maintain trees for amenity purposes, rather than for food, fuel or construction.

The Romans had established standards for tree work and regarded their arborators (specialist tree workers) as slightly superior to their other slaves. They also had solid

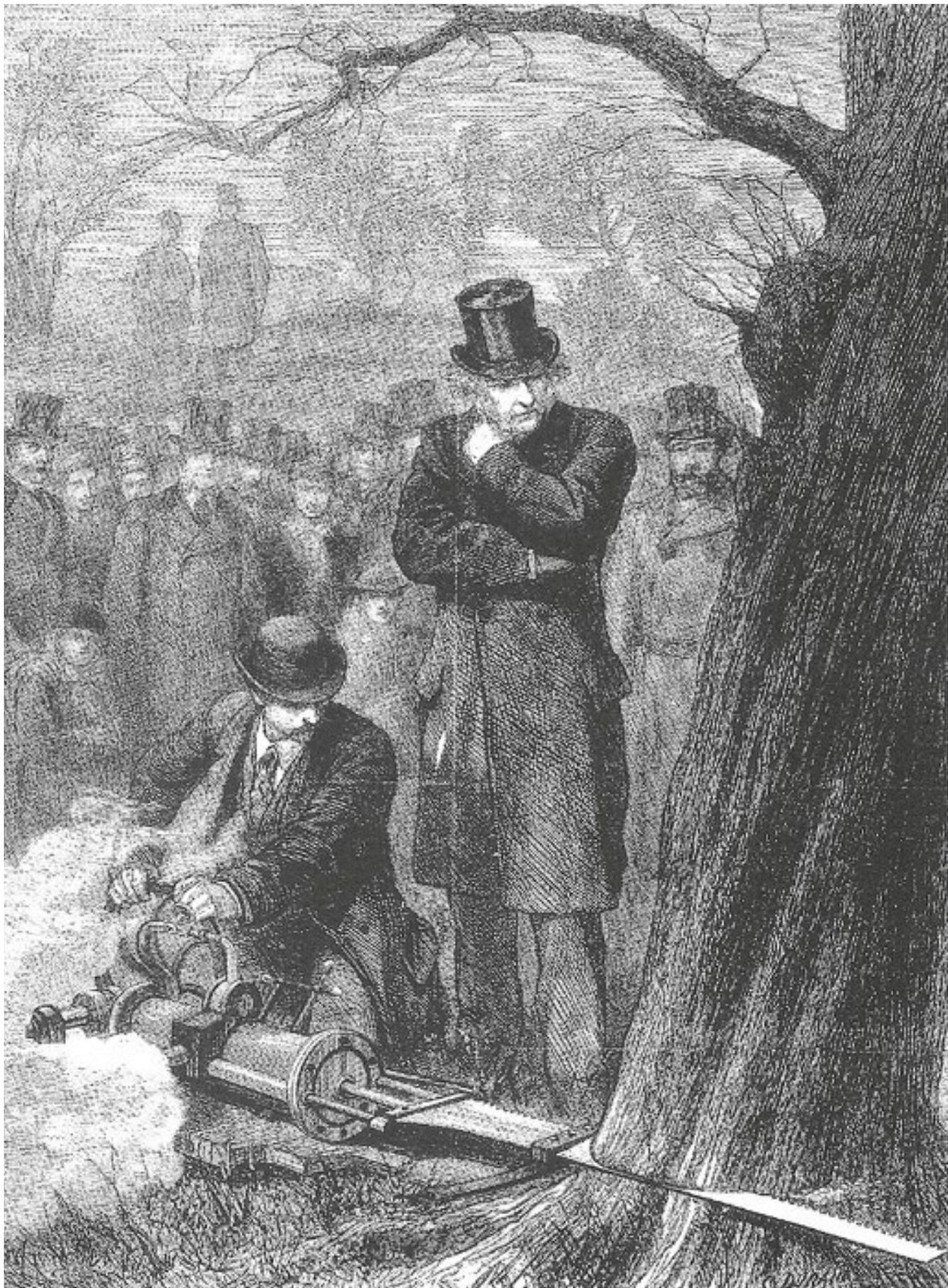
municipal tree protection rules, with cutting or removal of wood from a sacred grove being punishable by death.

Following the Romans' departure, Britain and Europe descended into the Dark Ages, later the Middle Ages; this was a roughly one thousand-year period which historians used to regard as one of stagnation and ignorance that was largely unremarkable apart from some nice tapestries and the bubonic plague.

One of the few benefits of the plague was that with its roughly 40% mortality rate, an acute labour shortage developed, and savvy labourers (including orchard & forestry workers) realised they could break out of indentured servitude and command higher wages and better conditions.

The people of Britain eventually grew tired of the Dark Ages and in the late 15th century the Renaissance dawned, bringing with it frilly collars, topiary mazes and grand Royal Gardens.

Royal gardens were major employers of specialist horticulturalists and as printing and literacy increased, so did the number of specialist horticultural texts available – further increasing levels of understanding and common practices regarding plant propagation, care and maintenance.



Pruning equipment during this time was still rudimentary and tended to involve axes, large knives, chisels and shears – but toothed handsaws began to appear, resulting in less brutal-looking bad pruning (and nothing a good covering of tar wouldn't hide).

Around the mid-1700s, with slavery in the new world channelling vast wealth back to Britain, elegant parkland estates with tree-lined avenues became a must-have for the monied classes.

Designers and engineers, including the likes of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, were in high demand for transforming vast natural areas into highly ordered parklands with long views, engineered lakes and mature relocated trees. These were the first to be called landscape gardeners.

The Industrial Revolution of the mid-1800s saw radical change to the British landscape, including a need to remove a lot of large trees. Given the technology of the time, it must have seemed entirely plausible to create

a coal-fired steam-powered portable felling saw. While not an enduring success, it marked the beginning of the modern portable power saws used today.

Johnston's book goes on to track the history of British arboriculture, with particular attention given to mature tree measurement, transplantation and management, eventually reaching its first photographic image on page 322.

Beyond this are a further 200+ pages of equally detailed text tracing the history and challenges of modern arboriculture up to and including the time of Covid-19.

Johnston's book is not a light, coffee-table read. There are no stories of likeable rogues doing bold and radical things up trees or with machinery. Instead, it is an extremely well-researched, well-written, informative but an absolutely no-thrills history of arboriculture in Britain.

Recommended.

PHOTOS: TREES THAT SURVIVED THE STORMS

Asher Bowyer



Figure 1: A large West Coast elm





Trees never cease to surprise me. Here is a small plantation of macrocarpa in the Wellington district that blew over in Cyclone Bola in 1988. They were mature trees then, situated in an established garden of mixed variety.

There is also a picture of a large elm that blew over near the West Coast of the South Island (figure 1). It displays perfect form for shade and is unlikely to fall down again.

Just because trees blow over or fall down shouldn't always mean the end if allowed the chance to regenerate.









Photo: Richard Tregoweth



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AUCKLAND 2021 TCC (TAKE 2)

REGIONAL TREE CLIMBING COMPETITION – 19/2/22

Craig Webb

Sunrise was greeted with heavy rain on the morning of the Auckland Regional Tree Climbing competition for 2021.

While some much-needed precipitation was a welcome relief to the region's trees, climbers making their way to the park were hopeful that the rain wouldn't impact on the competition. Fortunately, the rain stopped and the final preparations for the day's event were completed, under brooding clouds that threatened all day to unleash another downpour.

The set-up was completed on Friday, thanks to a massive commitment from a small team of dedicated volunteers. Shaun Hardman and Andy Neverman provided the bulk of the expertise, with ground support from newbie Kim Adams. I managed to get my mostly desk-bound self to the top of a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) to set up the Belayed Speed Climb.

A small turn-out of 15 climbers, including two female competitors were registered for the competition. With the aroma of animal dung and the occasional siamang outburst from the zoo next door piercing the air, the

climbers set about their first events. Later the aroma was improved by the scent of sizzling sausages, with great thanks to Howell Davies and Auckland Council, who made sure all involved at the event were well fed throughout the day.

The venue, provided by Auckland Council, was an awesome location for a tree climbing competition. Two majestic and beautifully formed London plane trees (*Platanus X acerifolia* 'Hispanica') provided expansive canopies for the TreeHub Work Climb and Treescape Throwline events, along with the unofficial Masters' Challenge competition. Pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*) supported the Silky Saws Aerial Rescue and AB Equipment Speed Climb, while an upright gum (*Eucalyptus*) provided the height for a highly visible Donaghys Ascent climb. A large number of passers-by enjoyed the spectacle of competition tree climbing while using the playground and amenities of this large inner-city park.

Following the preliminary events an unofficial Masters' Challenge event was set up for four of the top men qualifiers to give them a chance



Photos by Richard Tregoweth



to practise this event in a semi-competitive atmosphere. This was also a chance for apprentice judges to have a go at scoring this event under expert coaching from Zane Wedding. Tree climbing was the winner on the day (well actually Sam Turner officially won the unofficial event, just ahead of Ryan Robinson).

LEVIN SAWMAKERS / YALE CORDAGE WOMEN'S OVERALL PLACINGS			
1st	Hannah Luypers	59.67	NTCC ✓
2nd	Brianna Uivel	43.98	

Note: Brianna Uivel had already qualified for NTCC during the Waikato Bay of Plenty 2021 TCC event.

TREETECH MEN'S OVERALL PLACINGS			
1st	Richie Homes	161.88	NTCC ✓
2nd	Sam Turner	161.42	NTCC ✓
3rd	Sam Smith	155.65	
4th	Daniel Campbell	135.56	
5th	Ryan Robinson	133.17	NTCC ✓
6th	Wah Ling Lin	127.39	NTCC ✓
7th	Seb Bainbridge	116.32	
8th	John Almazan	113.72	
9th	Jack Streat	108.61	
10th	Conor Gaire	93.80	

Note: Sam Smith is a returning Masters climber from 2020 and gains automatic qualification for NTCC 2021. Daniel Campbell is an out of region climber.

Competition coordinator:
Craig Webb, Chelsea Robertson

Head technician:
Andy Neverman

Head judge: Craig Webb

Scorer: Erica Commers

Work Climb judges:
Shaun Hardman, Bernardo Santos, Gerald Collett

Work Climb technicians:
Kim Adams, Zane Wedding (in-tree tech)

Aerial Rescue judges:
Graeme Shore, Nick Errington, Peter Weir

Aerial Rescue technicians:
Ron Gardner, Kane Prior (in-tree tech)

Ascent head judge:
Andy Neverman

Ascent timekeepers:
Nicky Gibbs, Rick Jobbitt, Andrew Benson, John Walker

Speed Climb judges/timekeepers:
Rick Jobbitt, Andrew Benson

Throwline judges:
Craig Lamb, Daniel Hair

Runners: Niccolo Giachetti, Nick Harrison

Sponsor liaison:
Jess Hiscox

Catering: Howell Davies

Thank you for putting your hand up to support your industry.

I would like to say a massive thanks to our major TCC sponsor, Husqvarna. A huge pool of prizes ensured that all competitors and volunteers were rewarded for their efforts on the day.

AERIAL RESCUE				
	MEN'S PLACINGS		WOMEN'S PLACINGS	
1st	Richie Homes	48.67 pts	Hannah Luypers	14.33 pts
2nd	Sam Smith	44.67 pts	Brianna Uivel	9.33 pts
3rd	Sam Turner	44.33 pts		
4th	Daniel Campbell	41.33 pts		
5th	Wah Ling Lin	41.00 pts		

DONAGHYS ASCENT EVENT				
	MEN'S PLACINGS		WOMEN'S PLACINGS	
1st	Sam Smith	24.00 pts	Hannah Luypers	1 pts*
2nd	Sam Turner	22.44 pts	Brianna Uivel	0 pts*
3rd	Matt Eden	21.97 pts		
4th	Seb Bainbridge	19.84 pts		
5th	John Almazan	17.03 pts		

*Timed out

TREESCAPE THROWLINE				
	MEN'S PLACINGS		WOMEN'S PLACINGS	
1st	Sam Turner	20 pts	Hannah Luypers	7 pts
2nd	Wah Ling Lin	19 pts	Brianna Uivel	6 pts
3rd	Richie Homes	18 pts		
4th	Seb Bainbridge	16 pts		
5th	Conor Gaire	16 pts		

Note: Seb Bainbridge recorded a better final time to take 4th place.

WORK CLIMB				
	MEN'S PLACINGS		WOMEN'S PLACINGS	
1st	Richie Homes	71.60 pts	Hannah Luypers	22.33 pts
2nd	Ryan Robinson	67.00 pts	Brianna Uivel	17.67 pts
3rd	Sam Smith	64.72 pts		
4th	Daniel Campbell	63.23 pts		
5th	Sam Turner	62.04 pts		

BELAYED SPEED CLIMB				
	MEN'S PLACINGS		WOMEN'S PLACINGS	
1st	Ra Singh	15.00 pts 22.58 sec	Hannah Luypers	15.00 pts 45.55 sec
2nd	Conor Gaire	13.00 pts 24.58 sec	Brianna Uivel	10.98 pts 49.58 sec
3rd	Sam Turner	12.61 pts 24.98 sec		
4th	Richie Homes	11.08 pts 26.50 sec		
5th	Daniel Campbell	10.34 pts 27.25 sec		

Photos by Richard Tregoweth





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CLIPPINGS

2021 YOUNG HORTICULTURALIST OF THE YEAR

NZ Arb wishes to congratulate Rhys Hall, winner of the 2021 Young Horticulturalist of the Year held last week in Auckland! Hall represents the viticulture sector and competed against finalists from other horticulture sectors, including arboriculture, for the title.

NZ Arb's representative Martin Manea, took away a \$500 Countdown Award along with the other finalists for perseverance and commitment to the competition.

NZ Arb is an industry partner of The Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition and each year we send a finalist to represent arboriculture to compete for the ultimate title. The annual event brings together all sectors (e.g. Master Landscapers, NZ Plant Producers etc.) of the wider horticulture industry in a celebration of our industries.



LATEST NZ ARB APPROVED CONTRACTOR: TREE KING

Congratulations to Tree King on becoming the latest addition to the NZ Arb Approved Contractor Programme. You can find a full list on NZ Arb Approved Contractors in this magazine (page 56) or online at www.nzarb.org.nz/find-an-arborist.



AN INVITATION...

The NZ Arb Executive Committee wish to extend an invitation to affiliated organisations and industry interest groups to participate in future NZ Arb Executive Committee meetings.

A 30-minute slot has been set aside in upcoming online and face-to-face meetings monthly from May for scheduled individuals to join a meeting and share ideas and opportunities with the Executive Committee.

Please get in touch with Nicki at comms@nzarb.org.nz if you'd like to register your interest.

THE NEW HUSQVARNA 592 XP® IS HERE!

Want to be the first to get your hands on a new 592 XP® Chainsaw, plus get the opportunity to WIN* 1 of 5 Husqvarna XPLOER Soft Shell Jackets worth \$299 RRP ea.?

Our first 592 XP® shipment is arriving, so don't miss this golden opportunity to take delivery from your local dealer in March!

What makes the new Husqvarna 592 XP® Chainsaw so special?

- Best in Class Cutting Capacity
- Best in Class Power-To-Weight
- New Reliable Starting Technology
- Fit for any Heavy-Duty Challenges

Ready to experience completely new levels of productivity for even the most demanding tree work?

Get in quick. Limited stocks available.

*Applicable to 592 XP® chainsaw purchases during March and April 2022.



INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Do you want to help inspire the next generation of arborists?

All you need to give is three or four hours out of your year to go back to school and talk about your job.

Inspiring the Future Aotearoa is a new programme where volunteers from the world of work show young students all of the careers and pathways out there.

We're putting the call out for people in our industry to sign-up to be these role models, to make our tamariki aware of the great careers in our industry, and help to future-proof arboriculture.

Find out more and sign-up <https://www.inspiringthefuture.org.nz/>

Have you started saving yet?



Being a member of NZ Arb now gives you and nominated staff members access to dozens of savings on everything you need to run your business at a lower cost.

From fuel to insurance cover, tyres to health & safety products, your NZ Arb Membership now saves you more!

To make this possible, NZ Arb has partnered with the n3 discount programme – a business buying network with over 15,000 members. Their scale gives them the ability to negotiate exclusive pricing with NZ's leading suppliers, which we can now pass on to you.

Visit n3.co.nz/nz-arboricultural to see a full list of available discounts and sign up (NZ Arb member ID required, contact NZ Arb if you need assistance).

Reward your team at no additional cost to the business.



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n³ **Business
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APPROVED CONTRACTORS OF THE NEW ZEALAND ARBORICULTURE ASSOCIATION

An Approved Contractor is an arboricultural contracting business that has met, and maintains, a minimum stand of professional knowledge and practical ability with a certain level of client service – as required in the NZ Arb Approved Contractor Programme. For more information, visit nzarb.org.nz/approved-contractor-programme.

Auckland

Treescape® Ltd	Auckland	info@treescape.co.nz	(09) 259 0572
Treesafe Arboriculture contractors	Auckland	nick@treesafe.co.nz	0800 873 3769
Tree King	Auckland	quotes@treeking.co.nz	0800 873 354

Waikato / Bay of Plenty

Treescape® Ltd	Hamilton	waikato@treescape.co.nz	(07) 857 0280
Arbor Care Ltd	Tauranga	info@arborcare.co.nz	(07) 543 1775

Manawatu

Vertical Arborists	Palmerston North	hello@verticalarborists.co.nz	0800 967 528
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Central / Wellington

Bark Ltd	Wellington	enquiries@bark.co.nz	0800 227 558
Treetech Ltd	Wellington	office@treetech.co.nz	0800 873 378
Treescape® Ltd	Wellington	central@treescape.co.nz	(04) 569 5813
Arb Innovations	Wellington	enquiries@arbinnovations.co.nz	(04) 2126 366
Wellington City Council Parks & Gardens	Wellington	treeteam@wcc.govt.nz	(04) 499 4444
Downer	Wellington	trees@downer.co.nz	(09) 251 0340

Nelson/Tasman

Treescape® Ltd	Nelson	south@treescape.co.nz	(03) 544 0588
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Canterbury

Treetech Ltd	Christchurch	office@treetech.co.nz	0800 873 378
The Tree People	Christchurch	info@fourseasonstreecare.co.nz	0800 4 SEASONS
Fulton Hogan Christchurch	Christchurch	www.fultonhogan.com/contact-us	03 357 1400

UPCOMING EVENTS

(2022) NZ ARB HUSQVARNA WAIKATO/BOP REGIONAL TCC	22–24 APRIL 2022 / LAKE KARAPIRO DOMAIN
ISA TRAQ COURSE (SOUTH ISLAND)	25–27 MAY 2022 / CHRISTCHURCH
(2021) NZ ARB HUSQVARNA NATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPS	27-29 MAY 2022 / RISINGHOLME PARK, CHCH
TREE OF THE YEAR NEW ZEALAND	MAY–JUNE 2022 / NATIONWIDE
BE WITH A TREE 2022	4–12 JUNE 2022 / NATIONWIDE
ISA TRAQ COURSE (AUCKLAND)	15–17 JUN 2022 / AUCKLAND
INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022	9–11 SEP 2022 / FÆLLEDPARKEN, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE CONFERENCE 2022	11–14 SEP 2022 / MALMO, SWEDEN
ISA TRAQ COURSE (WELLINGTON)	21–23 SEP 2022 / WELLINGTON
NZ ARB INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2022, IN ASSOCIATION WITH ASPLUNDH	3–5 NOV 2022 / TE PAPA, WELLINGTON

For more info please visit nzarb.org.nz/events

JOB LISTINGS



ROLE: ARBORIST
EMPLOYER: HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL
LOCATION: HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND



ROLE: UTILITY ARBORISTS
EMPLOYER: ARB INNOVATIONS LTD
LOCATION: MASTERTON, NEW ZEALAND



ROLE: ARBORIST
EMPLOYER: ARB INNOVATIONS LTD
LOCATION: LOWER HUTT, NEW ZEALAND



ROLE: ARBORIST
EMPLOYER: NELMAC KŪMĀNŪ
LOCATION: NELSON AND BLENHEIM, NEW ZEALAND

For more information, or to list your job, please visit nzarb.org.nz/jobs

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90cc worth of unparalleled power in an easily manoeuvred and lightweight package. An X-Torq® engine with outstanding torque and acceleration and, to top it off, a razor-sharp X-CUT® chain perfectly in tune with your saw. The end result is best in class cutting capacity, making you better, faster, and providing you with unparalleled levels of productivity. In short, a better cutting experience. Read more about new Husqvarna 592 XP®, cutting capacity tests and register your interest in the lead up to the launch in New Zealand, at husqvarna.com/90cc

