

What do soldiers, wives, poets, Women's Suffrage, University of Otago deans, professors, lecturers, students, vice-chancellors and secretaries, have in common? Memorial or commemorative trees have been planted for these people or groups, at appropriate sites on the University Campus. In some cases however, a tree has been substituted by a plaque or a seat, such as the Robin Irvine Seat on the lawn in front of the Clocktower Building in memory of Sir Robin Irvine, Vice-Chancellor from 1973-93.

Robert Scott, University of Otago Grounds Officer, guided our group on a two hour 'short version' of many of the 41 existing items on the magnificently bound and presented Commemorative Register, giving insight into why each person, or their contribution, has been commemorated. This was most interesting. Many of us expressed intentions to return independently to spend a longer time not only to look at the remaining trees, shrubs and items of interest, but to see the large number of Northern hemisphere trees at different times of their yearly cycle eg *Fraxinus oxycarpa*, 'Raywood' claret ash. A wonderful sight in Autumn, with its stunning rich purple to claret red leaves. This tree is growing between the Gregory Wing and Archway to commemorate a New Zealand cyclist and student, James Faulding (1979-2001) who was killed while training.

Many will be familiar with a magnificent tree, particularly in early September when it is covered in large, pink flowers, growing in the Courtyard behind the Clocktower. This is *Magnolia campbellii*, Charles Raffill pink tulip tree, planted by Professor Geoff Baylis, Head of Botany 1945-78. Professor Baylis died in 2003, with some of his ashes and a plaque placed close to the tree.

NZ natives also have their place as commemorative trees. Near the Computing Services Building is the 'Charles Brasch Kauri', *Agathis australis*, kauri (Charles Brasch 1909-73 poet, literary figure and University benefactor). Another of the same species is nearby, commemorating Ana Louise North (1981-2001) a student killed in an accident in Baldwin Street, Dunedin. Dr Hamish Godfrey (1958-2002) a Department of Psychology staff member is commemorated by three *Metrosideros umbellata*, Southern Rata found on the South side of Mellor House.

The Commemorative Register, started in 1980, is displayed in the Science Library, Hocken Collections, Information Services Building, Clocktower and Property services Buildings. An excellent pamphlet of this Register showing a location map is available from locations on Campus. It is saddening to realise that this Register and the pamphlet will occasionally become temporarily outdated as further trees are planted to commemorate those who are no longer part of the University and in many cases who are no longer living due to sad or unfortunate circumstances. To end on a brighter note, it was heartening to see the result of successful relocation of some large and established trees to make way for the ever-expanding Campus building programme. Several *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, dawn redwood growing outside Student Health Services are testimony to this.