

If there is no future control of possum or wallaby in this area it would be fascinating to do a longitudinal study to measure the evolutionary processes occurring in this forest as it experiences these particular selective pressures.

The dilemma for Kawau Island is in its future management. Do we try to restore the habitat so as to reflect a more indigenous situation or do we leave it to reflect its history of plant and animal introductions?

References

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Notable Trees of Mansion House, Kawau Island

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A number of the trees located around Mansion House and within the surrounding grounds are notable due to their historic association, age and species. Many of these were either planted by Sir George Grey during the mid 1800's or remain as descendants to these original specimens.

The following trees are only a sample of the diverse tree population found at Mansion House. They are mostly uncommon species which have developed into large specimens and have historical significance or botanical importance.

Australian fan palm *Livistona australis* - family Arecaceae (Palmae)

Located around the ponds to the south of Mansion House is a large stand of Australian fan palms. In their native origin the species grows well in swampy situations, forming dense populations. This niche is recaptured here at Kawau and features as a most impressive collection. The fan palm grows well in temperate zones and is resistant to frost. Fine examples grace the many parks and gardens throughout New Zealand.

Bloodwood *Baloghia inophylla* - Euphorbiaceae

A native of the Pacific Islands, this species has naturalised on Kawau and has formed a small stand on the hillside to the west of Mansion House. At first appearance the species looks like a karaka but its distinct foliage is oppositely arranged; it exudes a clear sap when severed. Bloodwood is not commonly found in New Zealand except in sporadic locations such as a specimen on the lower slopes of One Tree Hill.

Bunya pine *Araucaria bidwillii* - Araucariaceae (Section Bunya)

This fine specimen is located just to the east of Mansion House. The Bunya pine originates from Queensland Australia and is best known for having the largest cone in the world (30-40cm diam). There are numerous examples of this species throughout New Zealand due to their attractive form and stature.

Chilean wine palm *Jubaea chilensis* - Arecaceae (Palmae)

Mansion House boasts two of the largest and best-formed specimens found in New Zealand. The pair of wine palms are located just west of the house and dominate the formal garden. *Jubaea* being a monotypic genus of palm is endemic to Chile where it is now rare. The name 'wine' palm refers to the distilled beverage (palm honey) which is extracted from the trunk after felling the tree. Another fine example of *Jubaea* is found at Monte Cecilia in Hillsborough (Auckland).

Cook's pine *Araucaria columnaris* - Araucariaceae (Section Eutacta)

Specimens of this tree can be found along the northern cliff edges on Kawau Island - typical of its natural habitat in New Caledonia. The few examples found around Auckland are often mistaken for Norfolk pines, but differ visually in having a more compact spire-like canopy and often forming a distinct curvature of the main trunk. The species can attain heights exceeding 60 m with only a 3-4 m spread. The largest in New Zealand, which has reached 29 m, is located in Western Park (Auckland)

Flame tree *Erythrina caffra* - Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

In front of the main house stands the remains of what was a spectacular flame tree. Since storms decimated the main branch framework, new growth has begun and a canopy is beginning to re-establish. The species originates from South Africa and has stunning red flowers which form in late winter to early spring when the tree is void of foliage. The Kawau tree was a similar size to the specimen, also planted by Sir George Grey, found in Old Government House (Auckland).

Hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* - Araucariaceae (Section Eutacta)

Located beside the Bunya pine, this fine example stands almost 30 m tall and is one of the largest of its kind in New Zealand. The tree is given its name by the bark formation around the trunk which develops into distinct 'hoops'. The species originates from Australia and can obtain heights of up to 70 m.

Moreton Bay fig *Ficus macrophylla* - Moraceae

The specimen positioned on the beach frontage at Mansion House is one of the original plantings. Although over one hundred years old the fig does not boast the typical massive dimensions, which is due to its destruction by fire after the turn of the century. The Moreton Bay Fig has now re-developed into a fine tree and is a focal point of the gardens. Originating from Australia, the species thrives in the more moist conditions of New Zealand where it forms colossal examples, the largest of which is located at Monte Cecilia.

***Streblus smithii* (*Paratrophis smithii*)**

Vic May

This is an update on the story in ABS Journal of July 1988. The locale was Huia. It is now Point Chevalier, Auckland. In our garden at Point Chevalier we have three close-planted seven-year old *Streblus smithii* trees (family Moraceae). In the wild there is only one known locality worldwide where these trees are found, and that is on the remote Three Kings Islands 53 km NW out from Cape Reinga in the Far North where they were first discovered in 1887 by the botanist T.F. Cheeseman 1846-1923.

We moved to our present address at the end of 1991 and proceeded to establish a garden on the usual unfriendly bare earth of a recently vacated building site. The *Streblus* came with us as seedlings, progeny of two female trees planted one hundred years ago on the Cheeseman property at Remuera, and hand pollinated (probably 1989) using pollen from catkins off the Geoff Baylis male at Campbells Bay. It is interesting to note that at Remuera the different growth forms represented by just those two trees, one sprawling and low-lying*, the other with a single, almost bare trunk, 2-2.5 m high, surrounded by a circle of top branches weeping to the ground. These are similar characteristics noted by Cheeseman when comparing *Streblus smithii* growing on South West Island with those growing on Great Island (1889). (Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand vol.2 revised text & Plate 99)

It is a comparatively rare event to see these trees in cultivation on mainland New Zealand, and an even rarer event to see the females bearing drupes either green or ripe red. There are several possible reasons for this. The drupes develop and ripen in winter and are taken very readily by birds and rodents, so that most times the fruit is stripped at the green stage - the birds taking the flesh and the rodents taking the seeds. Like many New Zealand native species, the sexes are displayed on separate trees. In the absence of male and female trees growing together in the same immediate vicinity one has to resort to hand pollination using the pollen from catkins of a male