



Figure 1. The Awhitu pohutukawa, December 2002.

escapes measurement. Each of its spreading branches is a large tree in its own right.

I am not convinced that the famous Te Araroa tree at Hicks Bay, East Cape which has a far greater diameter at breast height due to its cluster of 22 separate trunks, is necessarily a larger tree. Separate clustered trunks with *Metrosideros* are generally caused by drifting sand burying the base of the tree sometime in the past. The Te Araroa tree has a height of 20.3 metres, a girth of 20.3 metres and a branch spread 40.3 metres.

It may be the year 2003 and a few hundred years after the commencement of scientific discovery but I expect that not many of the people who have seen the Awhitu tree would actually have recognised it as one of the greatest *Metrosideros excelsa* trees on earth. Tragically in one of the worst acts of dendrological misadventure that I have had the misfortune to witness, this magnificent pristine

tree of eight years ago is now doomed. Its previous owner in his absence left cattle running unattended on the land that were starving due to the lack of adequate grass, forcing them to strip the bark off the trees in an effort to survive.

The large amounts of bark that has been stripped off the Awhitu tree has destroyed the cambium layer over a very large part of the tree that was within reach of the cattle. This has already resulted in two of the massive branches snapping through where they have been weakened and the whole tree entering a state of decline. Previously this tree was a national treasure with hundreds of years of potential life remaining, but it is now a tortured wreck.

Trees of Pah Farm Park and environs, Hillsborough

Mike Wilcox

This property, now an Auckland City Council park ("Premier Hillsborough Park") of 8 ha, was once part of Pah Farm, which originally included what is now the Masonic Village, the Saint Francis Friary, Marcellin College, Monte Cecilia, Monte Cecilia School, Liston Retirement Village, and the demolished Marcellin Hall. In earlier times there was a Maori pa known as Whataroa on the hill top. The soil is a reddish-brown volcanic loam derived from basaltic deposits from nearby volcanoes, overlying Waitemata Sandstone. In Hillsborough Road near the entrance to Saint Francis Friary can be seen a well-exposed tuff bed – layers of fine volcanic air-fall deposits from the Three Kings Volcano which erupted 16 000 years ago.

Pah Farm was established in 1846 by William and Mary Hart, who also had farmland on the northwestern slopes of One Tree Hill. It seems that William Brown and John Logan Campbell managed the property for

the Harts, who went to live in California, and eventually Brown bought it c. 1852. The Hon. James Farmer lived there from 1855 to 1866, with various tenants occupying different pieces of land. Thomas Russell, who owned stock and lands as far south as Canterbury, purchased the farm in 1866, and subsequently sold it to James Williamson and family in 1879. Williamson ran a market garden here, and it was he who built the mansion that is now called Monte Cecilia. The stately home was sometimes known as "Williamson's Castle".

The farm and mansion and expansive terraced pleasure grounds during 1870's - 1880s were at the centre of powerful corporate businesses associated with agricultural production -stock (cattle, horses), crops, horses, and town milk supply that stretched from Gisborne the Auckland. There were various subsequent owners, with the Sisters of Mercy of the

Catholic Church taking it over about 1912. Saint Francis Friary (50 Hillsborough Road) is still maintained and used by the Catholic Church, and is not part of the City Council's park.



Monte Cecilia

Many of the trees were planted from 1847 to 1888 (when Williamson died), mostly sourced through Australia and California. Some of the biggest trees on the property get a mention by Burstall & Sale (1984). Among the numerous trees of distinction here may be mentioned the giant camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) – New Zealand's biggest specimen of this species, huge Illawarra figs (*Ficus obliqua*) – unknown elsewhere in Auckland, a huge Norfolk Island hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia*), the Chilean wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) – otherwise known in our region only at Kawau Island, several enormous holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*), two large Turkey oaks (*Quercus cerris*), towering trees of the Araucariaceae - Queensland kauri (*Agathis robusta*), hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*), and Norfolk pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), the giant Moreton Bay figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), three particularly fine Atlas cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*), a pair of Mediterranean hackberry or nettle trees (*Celtis australis*), and English elm (*Ulmus procera*), and a big tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) (Wilcox 2000). Unusual trees here, not

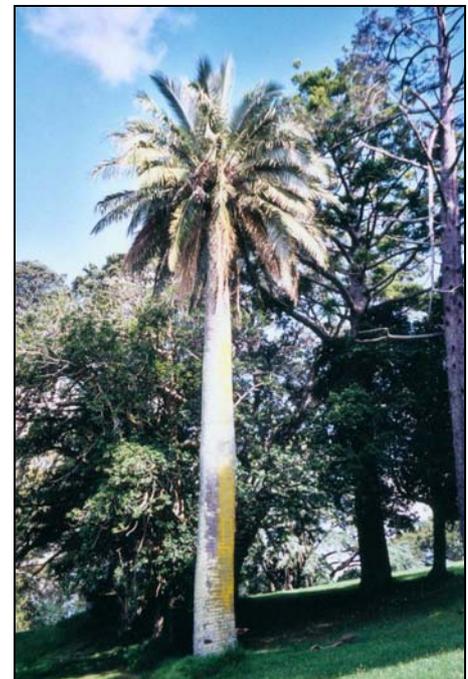


known elsewhere in Auckland, are white silky oak (*Grevillea hilli*) and blue lilly pilly (*Syzygium oleosum*), and there is an exceptionally large bush nut (*Macadamia integrifolia*). In the immediate environs of Monte Cecilia is a group of large bay laurels (*Laurus nobilis*), and a fine specimen of Chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta*).

There are several Chinese junipers (*Juniperus chinensis*), including one with three separate trunks, at Saint Francis Friary. Other trees of note in the Friary grounds are a large Mexican bald cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) and a very impressive walnut (*Juglans regia*). There is a specimen of hiba (*Thujopsis dolabrata*) on the adjacent Marist Brothers land at the end of Budock

Road, and Liston Retirement Village has a fine Shamel ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*).

In addition to the old trees there are numerous planted native trees and shrubs of more recent origin. A few weedy shrubs, notably tobacco weed (*Solanum mauritianum*), Jerusalem cherry (*Solanum pseudocapsicum*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus x reflexa*) and Japanese spindle tree (*Euonymus japonicus*) have become naturalised in the park, mainly in the shade of old trees.



The Auckland Natural History Club, (2/3/03) in front of a Moreton Bay fig (left) and a Chilean wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) (above)

Schedule of trees and shrubs in the Pah Farm Park and environs

Latin name	Common name	Family	Origin
<i>Abelia xgrandiflora</i>	hedge abelia	Caprifoliaceae	China
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Tasmanian blackwood	Fabaceae	Australia (felled c. 1997)
<i>Acca sellowiana</i>	feijoa	Myrtaceae	Brazil
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese maple	Sapindaceae	Japan
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	Sapindaceae	Europe
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	lilly pilly	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Actinidia deliciosa</i>	kiwifruit	Actinidiaceae	China
<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri	Araucariaceae	New Zealand
<i>Agathis robusta</i>	Queensland kauri	Araucariaceae	Australia
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Western Australian peppermint	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Alectryon excelsum</i>	titoki	Sapindaceae	New Zealand
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	mignonette vine	Basellaceae	South America
<i>Araucaria bidwillii</i>	bunya pine	Araucariaceae	Australia
<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	hoop pine	Araucariaceae	Australia
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk pine	Araucariaceae	Australia
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	wineberry	Elaeocarpaceae	New Zealand
<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	tarairé	Lauraceae	New Zealand
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch	Betulaceae	Europe
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	Asteraceae	New Zealand
<i>Callitris macleayana</i>	brush cypress pine	Cupressaceae	Australia
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	japonica camellia	Theaceae	Japan, cultivar
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	sasanqua camellia	Theaceae	Japan, cultivar
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	native broom	Fabaceae	New Zealand
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta	Carpodetaceae	New Zealand
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas cedar	Pinaceae	Morocco
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Mediterranean hackberry, nettle tree	Ulmaceae	Turkey
<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonii</i>	cows tail pine	Cephalotaxaceae	Japan, China
<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	Queen of the night	Solanaceae	West Indies
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's cypress	Cupressaceae	USA
<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>	tagasaste, tree lucerne	Fabaceae	Canary Islands
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	camphor tree	Lauraceae	China
<i>Citrus xparadisi</i>	grapefruit	Rutaceae	cultivar
<i>Citrus xsinensis</i>	sweet orange	Rutaceae	cultivar
<i>Coprosma crassifolia</i>		Rubiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Coprosma macrocarpa</i>	coastal karamu	Rubiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>		Rubiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata	Rubiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	Rubiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	Lomandraceae	New Zealand
<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>	marri	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	flowering gum	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Corynocarpus laevigata</i>	karaka	Corynocarpaceae	New Zealand
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Japanese cedar	Cupressaceae	Japan
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> 'Elegans'	weeping Japanese cedar	Cupressaceae	cultivar
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	macrocarpa	Cupressaceae	USA
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea	Podocarpaceae	New Zealand
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu	Podocarpaceae	New Zealand
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe	Meliaceae	New Zealand
<i>Elaeagnus xreflexa</i>	elaeanus	Elaeagnaceae	Japan
<i>Embothrium coccineum</i>	notro	Proteaceae	Chile, Argentina
<i>Entelea arborescens</i>	whau	Tiliaceae	New Zealand
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	loquat	Rosaceae	China
<i>Erythrina xsykesii</i>	coral tree	Fabaceae	cultivar

<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	yellow gum	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Japanese spindle tree	Celastraceae	Japan
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'	copper beech	Fagaceae	Europe
<i>Ficus carica</i>	common fig	Moraceae	Western Asia
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay fig	Moraceae	Australia
<i>Ficus obliqua</i>	Illawarra fig	Moraceae	Australia
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	rusty fig	Moraceae	Australia
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> 'Raywood'	claret ash	Oleaceae	cultivar
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Aurea'	golden ash	Oleaceae	cultivar
<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i>	tropical ash, Shamel ash	Oleaceae	Mexico, Cent. Amer.
<i>Grevillea hilliana</i>	white silky oak	Proteaceae	Australia
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	silky oak	Proteaceae	Australia
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	broadleaf	Griselinaceae	New Zealand
<i>Hebe parviflora</i>	mountain koromiko	Scrophulariaceae	New Zealand
<i>Hebe stricta</i>	koromiko	Scrophulariaceae	New Zealand
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood	Monimiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	lacebark	Malvaceae	New Zealand
<i>Hoheria sexstylosa</i>	narrow-leaved lacebark	Malvaceae	New Zealand
<i>Howea belmoreana</i>	kentia palm	Arecaceae	Lord Howe Is
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	hydrangea	Hydrangeaceae	Japan
<i>Idesia polycarpa</i>	wonder tree	Flacourtiaceae	China
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English holly	Aquifoliaceae	Europe
<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese holly	Aquifoliaceae	China
<i>Impatiens sodenii</i>	shrub balsam	Balsaminaceae	East Africa
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	jacaranda	Bignoniaceae	Argentina
<i>Jubaea chilensis</i>	Chilean wine palm	Arecaceae	Chile
<i>Juglans regia</i>	walnut	Juglandaceae	Asia
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Chinese juniper	Cupressaceae	China
<i>Juniperus x media</i> Pfitzerana 'Glauca'	blue Pfitzer juniper	Cupressaceae	cultivar
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	Proteaceae	New Zealand
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka	Myrtaceae	New Zealand
<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i>	Norfolk Island hibiscus	Malvaceae	Norfolk Island
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea	Monimiaceae	New Zealand
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	bay laurel	Lauraceae	Mediterranean
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka	Myrtaceae	New Zealand
<i>Libocedrus plumosa</i>	kawaka	Cupressaceae	New Zealand
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	tree privet	Oleaceae	China
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet	Oleaceae	China
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweet gum	Hamamelidaceae	USA
<i>Liriodendron tulipiferum</i>	tulip tree	Magnoliaceae	USA
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeao	Lauraceae	New Zealand
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama	Myrtaceae	New Zealand
<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	bush nut, smooth macadamia	Proteaceae	Australia
<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>	Queensland nut, rough-shelled macadamia nut	Proteaceae	Australia (felled)
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i> subsp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa	Piperaceae	New Zealand
<i>M. excelsum</i> subsp. <i>peltatum</i>	Poor Knights kawakawa	Piperaceae	New Zealand
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	laurel magnolia	Magnoliaceae	USA
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	pink magnolia	Magnoliaceae	cultivar
<i>Malus pumila</i>	apple	Rosaceae	cultivar
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree	Meliaceae	Asia (Liston Village)
<i>Melicope ternata</i>	wharangi	Rutaceae	New Zealand
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe	Violaceae	New Zealand
<i>Meryta sinclairii</i>	puka	Araliaceae	New Zealand
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	pohutukawa	Myrtaceae	New Zealand

<i>Metrosideros kermadecensis</i>	Kermadec pohutukawa	Myrtaceae	Kermadec Islands
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou	Myrsinaceae	New Zealand
<i>Nothofagus menziesii</i>	silver beech	Nothofagaceae	New Zealand
<i>Persea americana</i>	avocado	Lauraceae	Central America
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	phoenix palm	Arecaceae	Canary Islands
<i>Photinia serratifolia</i>	Chinese photinia	Rosaceae	China
<i>Pisonia brunoniana</i>	parapara	Nyctaginaceae	New Zealand
<i>Platanus xacerifolia</i>	London plane	Platanaceae	Europe
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka spruce	Pinaceae	USA (felled Feb.03)
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood	Pittosporaceae	New Zealand
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu	Pittosporaceae	New Zealand
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>	Hall's totara	Podocarpaceae	New Zealand
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara	Podocarpaceae	New Zealand
<i>Pouteria costata</i>	tawapou	Sapotaceae	New Zealand
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel	Rosaceae	Turkey, Georgia
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	ornamental cherry	Rosaceae	Asia
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	plum	Rosaceae	cultivar
<i>Pseudopanax arboreum</i>	five-finger	Araliaceae	New Zealand
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey oak	Fagaceae	Turkey
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holm oak	Fagaceae	Europe
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	Fagaceae	USA (Liston Village)
<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak	Fagaceae	Europe
<i>Rhododendron</i> Sir Robert Peel'	rhododendron	Ericaceae	cultivar
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau palm	Arecaceae	New Zealand
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> Frisia'	golden black locust	Fabaceae	cultivar
<i>Schinus molle</i>	pepper tree	Anacardiaceae	South America
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	poroporo	Solanaceae	New Zealand
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	tobacco weed	Solanaceae	Brazil, Uruguay
<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>	Jerusalem cherry	Solanaceae	South America
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	kowhai	Fabaceae	New Zealand
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	firewheel	Proteaceae	Australia (felled)
<i>Streblus banksii</i>	large-leaved milk tree	Moraceae	New Zealand
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	turpentine	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	brush cherry	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Syzygium oleosum</i>	blue lilly pilly	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Taxodium mucronatum</i>	Mexican bald cypress	Cupressaceae	Mexico
<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Cape honeysuckle	Bignoniaceae	South Africa
<i>Thujaopsis dolabrata</i>	hiba	Cupressaceae	Japan
<i>Toona sinensis</i> Flamingo'	pink toon tree	Meliaceae	cultivar (Liston Village)
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Chinese windmill palm	Arecaceae	China
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	kanooka	Myrtaceae	Australia
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English elm	Ulmaceae	Europe
<i>Ulmus glabra</i> Lutescens'	golden wych elm	Ulmaceae	Europe
<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>	Japanese snowball	Caprifoliaceae	China, Japan
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	puriri	Verbenaceae	New Zealand

Dedication

This paper is dedicated to Ken Camden, Editor of the Journal, 1997-2002, and former resident of "Marist Hill" adjoining Pah Farm Park.

Acknowledgement

For historical information I thank John Adam, and also Ken Camden (Brother Bosco) who planted many native trees within the park in the 1980's and 90's. Thanks to the Guardian, Father Lucian, for permission to visit the grounds of the St Francis Friary and record the trees.

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