

Accession No ARC2005-153

Name/Title Fuller, George

Brief Description Oral history. George Fuller with the Friends of Pukekura Park taking a guided tour through Brooklands Park and the Maranui gully, talking about significant trees and Captain Henry King who was the first European settler to farm in the area and C.T. List who owned the area adjacent to the Maranui Gully. Recorded: 9 May 1999
Recorded: 9 May 1999
Narrator: George Fuller

Department Archives

Number of Parts 4

Parts

1: **Part Id** 1

Part Name Part 1

Part Description Research tapes.

Tape 1 Side 1. Tour through Brooklands Park with the Friends of Pukekura Park. Captain Henry King. Gifting of Brooklands by Newton King 1933. Monterey Cypress, native Kohekohe and Puriri. The dismantling of Brookland House.

Tape 1 Side 2. Tour continues. Sweet Chestnut, Norfolk Pine, Copper Beech. Kauri, Pine Trees, Magnolia and the Maranui Stream as a source of water.

Tape 2 Side 1. Tour continues. Maranui Gully, epiphytes, supplejack, Pukatea and Gingko trees. Talks of C.T. List. Tape ends abruptly.

Tape 2 Side 2. Blank?

Recorded: 9 May 1999

Narrator: George Fuller

Abstraction: Floss Lambert

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Restrictions: none

2: **Part Id** 2

Part Name Part 2

Part Description Abstract.

3: **Part Id** 3

Part Name Part 3

Part Description Master tapes

4: **Part Id** 4

Part Name Part 4

Part Description CD-R. Migrated from analog tape. 4 October 2007

Restrictions

Restriction Open access

Usual Location

1: **Part 1 - Part 1**

Location Oral history/Archives/Level 2/South building/Puke Ariki/New Plymouth/Taranaki/New Zealand

2: **Part 2 - Part 2**

Location Folder/Oral history/Archives/Level 2/South building/Puke Ariki/New Plymouth/Taranaki/New Zealand

3: Part 3 - Part 3

Location Oral history - Master copies/Archives Level 3.5 Photo Store

4: Part 4 - Part 4

Location Research CD/Oral history/Archives/Level 2/South building/Puke Ariki/New Plymouth/Taranaki/New Zealand

CATALOGUE	OH/GEN/323
NAME	FULLER George
ADDRESS	6 Torbay St New Plymouth
DATE	9.5.1999
INTERVIEWER	-
ABSTRACTION	LAMBERT Floss
COPYRIGHT	Taranaki Museum
RESTRICTIONS	nil
TAPE	one of three

00.3 TOPIC: BROOKLANDS PARK

An explanation of the tape is given to the group by George Fuller. Because of the mild climate, there is little autumn colour here. Browns predominate rather than golds. The group as at the entrance to the park.

04.5 THE MAIN LAWN; A PLAQUE; CAPT HENRY KING

The group moves to the main lawn looking down at Brooklands Bowl. Deciduous conifers are pointed out and their 'knee' root system is described. Horse chestnuts and planes are commencing to 'colour'. A 1933 plaque commemorates the previously privately owned park's acquisition into the New Plymouth Park system. A short history of the 1841 Plymouth Company town is given followed by a biography of Capt Henry King and his production of the first cheese in New Zealand.

09.9 THE 1860 LAND WARS; MR CUTFIELD; NEWTON KING; GARDENS OPENED

Brooklands was abandoned during the land wars. When Capt Henry King died, Mr Cutfield and Newton King respectfully purchased the property which was opened occasionally to visitors in conjunction with Pukekura Park and the racecourse over the Maranui Gully. Newton King gifted Brooklands to New Plymouth in 1933.

13.4 EARLY TREES; A MONTEREY CYPRESS; ONE SPECIAL TREE

Progressing, the group is shown a rhododendron elegans, Norfolk pines and an early rhodo from which the mollis group was hybridised. A monterey cypress, sadly deteriorating, has had much tree surgery performed in an attempt to save it. An amusing cherry tree story involving heavy cart grease is related to the group by George.

17.6 A NATIVE KOHEKOHE; THE 'LOOK ALIKE' PURIRI

The native kohekohe, a member of the mahongany family has beautiful wood and most unusual lily of the valley flower racemes growing out of the main trunk. It also has walnut like fruit and resembles the puriri tree. George explains the difference.

20.8 A LARGE MONTEREY CYPRESS; THE TARANAKI KAURI

Near the zoo is a Californian Monterey cypress. The largest anywhere, it is beginning to rot. Although its life-span is 120-130 years it is disappointing as a timber tree. George explains this fact. Macrocarpas (Taranaki kauri) are recognised as good timber trees and George gives details of the especially as regards fencing.

25.5 EUROPEAN LANDSCAPING; HISTORICAL HOUSE DETAILS

A large copper beech on the main lawn is mentioned. European landscaping (extensive lawns with wide spacious trees) has been practised at Brooklands. George now gives many details of this previously remote spot and the houses built on it. The glasshouse now at Pukekura Park ferneries was originally shifted there from this site.

In 1933, because of financial up keep problems, the Council dismantled the two storied house. These were also the depression days, as was the case with Pukekura Park in the 1870s. (Ron Lambert here adds some local history of the 1930s)

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00.2 OUTSTANDING TREES

The group is at the site of the famous sweet chestnut. A 40m span ensures that it was the biggest in the world. (1840s planting, died in 1977) More details are given. A magnolia too, is one of the largest in the country. Brooklands' lawns were once famous. There is a line of native bush with a foreground of deciduous trees. Liquid ambers, not spectacular here as regards their true autumn foliage.

06.7 LAWNS: LIFE SPAN OF TREES; NORFOLK PINES

A large circular lawn is enhanced by carpet bedding. One walnut tree and a large maple have died; they were past their 120 year life span. Norfolk pines were planted in the 1950s. George informs as regards early mission stations and their plantings of Norfolk pines which has the characteristic cross. A camellia japonica is also an 1850 planting and two fan palms are mentioned. Unfortunately one was backed into by a utility.

11.4 THE OLD FIREPLACE; AN EARLY SETTLERS' TREE; COPPER BEECHES

The group is now in front of the old fireplace with its explanatory plaque. An early settlers' tree (rhodo 'Sir Robert Peel') is pointed out, as is a scarlet oak - again there is unspectacular autumn colouring. Several copper beeches are mentioned and details given of their various types

16.9 THE TREE TEA PLANT: SITE OF THE HOUSE; PREHISTORIC TREES

Moving north towards Pukekura Park, the group is shown a camellia, the true tea plant. Green tea and dried tea is described. The second two storeyed house was sited on this large expanse of lawn looking into the Bowl of Brooklands. George points out north of the fireplace, some palm - like plants with massive cones. They are extremely expensive and prehistoric, like yucca in growth and propagation. Microchips have been implanted in them in Auckland, to stop thieves with bull dozers from removing them.

22.4 UNUSUAL KAURI; PIGEONS; THE YUCCA-LIKE TREES

George mentions an uncharacteristically - branched kauri and the reason for it. Magnolias are loved by pigeons. Nine have been seen in one tree. (Alan Jellyman is mentioned here). George is now questioned about the yucca - like trees and he gives a history of their planter, Fred Parker, Mrs Elliot King and Russell Matthews and planting in the 1970s.

26.3 the tape appears to have accidentally cut out here

29.0 PINES; HUATOKI VALLEY; POSSUMS

Various pines and their different characteristics are seen here - also a magnificent magnolia. (Another area with magnolias is the Huatoki Valley near the Radio Station). The area where the group is now is surrounded by native bush, a favourite spot for dozens of possums .

31.5 MARANUI GULLY; A WATER SOURCE

The group is standing on the main path from the Bowl which carries on up to Upjohn Street. This stream is one of the main sources of water to Pukekura Park lakes. Retention dams could be built here to retain the water.

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00.6 MARANUI GULLY; PURIRI; NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS HIGH

The group is now down in the Maranui gully - the position and location is described by George. Side tracks were constructed here by New Plymouth Boys' High School pupils in the 1960s and 1970s. Unusual puriri standing here with 5/6 trunks all coming from the ground are pointed out. A huge canopy has been formed and kahikatea, rewarewa and tawa grow through this canopy. A particular giant puriri here could be one tree or two.

05.5 EPIPHYTES; SUPPLEJACK

Upward towards the racecourse stabling area is a puriri trunk weighing tons. Epiphytes growing on it must weigh 100s of kilos when it rains. There is no explanation for the spectacular trunk which has split into two like trousers. Coming back towards the Maranui track is a bunch of supplejacks. Every vine climbs the same way, resulting in twisted ropes of as many as 15 strands.

09.6 A REMARKABLE PUKATEA; GINGKO TREE; NPBHS CADETS

150 metres up the Maranui Gully is a palisade - rooted pukatea. The roots have adapted in this swampy area so that they can breathe. Thousands of seedlings are coming up. Over a kauri beamed culvert is a side path to a ginkgo tree. George gives a short explanation as to the reason for the New Plymouth Boys' High School (NPBHS) assistance in this area. Previously 'gumboot trails', paths were raised by the boys above the wet swampy area.

16.0 TOWARDS THE RACECOURSE; C T LIST; HICKORY TREE

The group is now over the second culvert towards the racecourse. Also now part of Brooklands is another property, that previously owned by editor C T List. It adjoined King's garden. Rhodoman George Huthnance was employed by List. He originated the NP Beautifying Society. The property was taken over by the Council in 1933 - also the Wilkinson property. Up towards List st is a magnificent hickory tree clothed in its autumn splendour.

21.4 THE HICKORY TREE; THE GINGKO TREE

On the loop track towards the Ginkgo tree is the North American hickory tree, 20 metres in height. Golden yellow now, it is of the walnut family. The ginkgo (maidenhair) originates from China. George gives a detailed life-history of this tree. Covered also with epiphytes, it was planted by Govett in the 1880s.

27.6 THE MARANUI GULLY AGAIN

Across the bridge towards Brooklands is a dell where List's rhodos were sited. The group has returned to the area of the large Puriri tree.

Tape ends abruptly