

The Magazine of the Friends of Pukekura Park

Volume 11, Number 2
June 2016



Promises of Spring
in front of Autumn colour.
A wonderful time of change in the Park.

Photo Derek Hughes

This Magazine is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Graphix Explosion

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Tall Trees

Adrienne Tatham

Those tall trees towering head and shoulders above others are visible from many parts of our city, and point to the location of our precious park. They dominate the skyline with their superior height and grandeur.

When the first settlers arrived in New Plymouth in the 1840's they brought with them seeds and cuttings of plants which they thought would be useful in their new life. Amongst these seeds were those of gorse (furze) which in England made useful hedge plants. Little did they realise what a pest it could become in this benign climate. It was not many years later that the gully which is now our treasured Pukekura Park was infested with gorse, tutu and other undesirable weeds. The decision was made to turn this area into a recreation area and in 1876 when the official opening of the grounds was held the Chairman of the Recreation Board, Thomas King invited Jane Carrington, daughter of surveyor Frederic Carrington to plant the first pine tree, *Pinus insignis*, (now *radiata*) on Cannon Hill. Other trees planted that day were an oak, a puriri and a Norfolk Island pine. More pines were planted here later, my mother (Mrs D.M.King) is recorded as having taken part in one of the Arbor Days and also planted one there, probably just after the first World War.

Later that year the Park Board received some 200 plants from Canterbury with many pines amongst the order. It is thought that some were planted along the western side of Hughes Walk, for this was the first area to be developed. Some were stored for later planting and the following year more pines were planted parallel with the northern and eastern boundaries of the Grounds and seed beds were established to raise more.

Pines were planted on the Eastern hillside in 1885 no doubt to cover the area which was formerly Breindeckers' vineyard. This range of pines was varied and included Corsican and Maritime pines as well as *Pinus radiata*. These were probably sourced from James Mitchinson's nursery as at that time he advertised these species for sale. The lakes and pathways were developed and pines were planted for their quick growth. Voluntary labour was often used in the early days of the Park's development and some measure of this source of labour has been used throughout the years. Gifts of plants were also made so soon the hillsides and valleys were clothed with young plants.

The government provided some seeds of the Torrey pines – *Pinus torreyana* and in 1888 three seedlings were planted. Of these only one precious worldfamous one remains near the Playground. One other had been growing near this survivor but was struck by lightning and was removed in 2004. The other was behind the Bellringer Pavilion, and it too suffered the same fate and was taken out in 2006.

Newton King in 1890 planted the pines at the Kaimata Street end of Brooklands for shelter, as he did the *Cupressus lawsoniana* further along that boundary. The plantings provided very necessary shelter and with their quick growth rate were able to outstrip the gorse. The skyline in the valley of the Park was soon transformed and a microclimate established.

However, trees grow and there came a time when some were removed, the earliest being taken out during the 1890's, with others being managed so that those near Smith Walk were thinned while others on the west side of Cannon Hill were removed altogether and replaced with natives. The Sportsground had pines crowning the eastern terrace and in 1929 some of these were removed and replaced with pohutukawa trees. Other removals include those below the former curator's house which were replaced with natives and some exotics. The ridge along the Victoria Road frontage had pines replaced with pohutukawas and Norfolk Island pines in 1931.

Pines towered above the track to Shortland Street, giving great shelter and a forest ambience but these were replaced during the 1963-4 period with deciduous trees for autumn effect and with some natives such as kauri. Holm oaks had first been established so that there already was shelter provided in this area by the time the pines were felled. Taking trees out of our park always stirs controversy and the removal of these trees was no exception.

More pines were removed from the Eastern hillside and from near the Fred Parker lawn and on Arbor Day in 1965 Forest and Bird folk planted these areas with natives and exotics. The Japanese Hillside was planted in 1993 with suitable Japanese maples (*Acers*), *Cryptomeria* and hinoki cypress following the removal of pines from that

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area. The Brooklands Bowl skyline pines were removed in 1994 but the pinetum had been established in 1961 so that pines would still be in the area, for the first festival in the Bowl was named The Festival of the Pines.

Today, remaining pines are old, some of them senescent and removing them is something of a nightmare for park management. Some have already fallen, taking valuable trees with them and damaging others in the process. Recently one on the Kaimata Street boundary died as it stood there. Some arborists refused to attend to it for health and safety reasons but another group agreed to do the deed and have left a large stump there, ripe for wood carving. The question remains about just how we manage the remaining pines. Removing them with the help of a helicopter to reduce the damage to surrounding trees is prohibitive. With each tree removal by arborists costing in the region of \$10,000 -15,000 there is food for thought. However, nature will continue to make some of the decisions for us as is evidenced by the recent partial fall of one from the Kaimata Street stand. After our exceptionally windless summer more storms are liable to damage more trees. We can continue to monitor and manage but in the end nature will prevail.

Meanwhile let us look at these giants with awe for they've stood for so many years and are full of character. Most pines of this species today are planted in managed forests, pruned to order. Our specimens have been allowed to do their own thing and have stood the test of time. Let us enjoy them for their time is coming. They have done their job and accomplished the shelter the Park needed. We should salute our lofty pines.

With thanks to Ian Hutchinson for his help.



Signage and rubbish bins **Adrienne Tatham**

Recently rubbish bins within the Park were replaced and relocated. This action caused a rush of comment which is usual when changes are made to our Park. With the bins now made of corten steel they should last for many years. If they are defaced it will be easy enough to grind off the offending material and that area of the bin will soon revert to the rusty look. Numbers have been reduced from 30 bins to 21 in line with the current policy in the District Council of reducing some services. This has caused some locations to change in the process. They merge well with the plants in the Park, some say too well! Time will tell about their longevity.

Signage renewal has been on the agenda for Pukekura Park for some years and new signs are currently being installed at the main entrances to our lovely Park. Again controversy is part of the process. Being made of the same metal as the rubbish bins means uniformity and these signs should last many years. How long ago were the others built and what were their maintenance costs? The corten steel product is built to last and should be easy enough to maintain by removing any graffiti and letting the rusty look re establish. There is room for temporary events to be signalled in the spaces beside the maps, and rules regarding the park users are obvious alongside. As with all new developments, fine tuning of some kind will be inevitable. In some cases it could be said that the notices blend too well with their surroundings.



Photos Derek Hughes

The Great Beebe Balloon Ascent

Between 1910 and 1914 the Beebe Balloon Company - along with its larger-than-life American manager, Mr Vincent M. Beebe - barnstormed around New Zealand attracting immense crowds.

Beebe's two hot-air balloons - *King Edward VII* and *President Roosevelt* - were accompanied by 'The World's Most Sensational Aeronauts' - Australian, Albert Eastwood and Spaniard, Christopher Sebphe.

Fetchingly clad in red tights, Eastwood and Sebphe made daring 'folded parachute' descents from trapezes beneath the balloons. Sometimes they used three 'chutes of different colours (red, white & blue), the first two of which they cast off as they were opened in turn during the descent. Each balloon also had a lead weight sewn in the top so after the 'aeronaut' jumped, the balloon turned over and the hot air was released. (Ewing & Macpherson, 1986)

Firms such as Hayward's Pickles, Hudson's *Balloon Brand* baking powder and Whittome, Stevenson & Co's jams and pickles fought to sponsor the popular carnivals and the balloons were then used as aerial advertising hoardings.

The publicity and hype surrounding the 'sensational balloon ascent' would not be out of place at a present-day Rugby World Cup....

'The public are reminded that the ballooning exhibitions given by the Beebe Company are entirely different from anything of the kind previously seen in New Zealand.and to watch them preparing for an ascent is about as exciting and interesting an entertainment as one could possibly wish for, to say nothing of the scientific and educational features of these preparations.' (TH 23 Nov 1910)

A tour of several North Island towns - promoted by Suratura Tea - was made in late 1910. Taranaki's programme included a single ascent in both Hawera and New Plymouth. Admission was one shilling for adults and sixpence for children - but free entry was allowed if people brought along an empty Suratura Tea packet.

Hawera's ascent was made from Bayly Park on 16 November and the 'aeronaut', Sebphe, landed in "the show grounds in close proximity to a boxthorn hedge." (H&NS 17 Nov 1910)

On 24 November, *King Edward VII* - the larger of the two balloons - was taken to the Pukekura sports ground where it was inflated with hot air from 'a specially constructed furnace' and with members of the public assisting to hold down the balloon.

Watched by five or six hundred people from terraces, the inflation began and 20 minutes later, *'like a living thing, the balloon was straining at the ropes, and at a preconcerted signal - a pistol shot - all hands let go and up she rose...'* The 'aeronaut', in this case Christopher Sebphe,

**Ron Lambert
Senior Researcher Puke Ariki**

BALLOONING EXTRAORDINARY!
SURATURA TEA BALLOON
CARNIVAL.
SPORTS GROUND, NEW PLYMOUTH
TO-DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24.

By Special Arrangement with
THE BEEBE BALLOON COMPANY,

The World's Most Sensational
Aeronauts.

"KING EDWARD VII." and "PRESI
DENT ROOSEVELT,"

The Largest Hot-air Balloons on Earth
GRAND BALLOON ASCENT AND
FOLDED PARACHUTE
DESCENT.

The monster balloons will be INFLAT-
ED from a specially constructed furnace
in full view of Patrons, and is the most
exciting and intensely interesting feature
of the performance.

Admission: Adults 1s, or FREE on pre-
sentation at gates of an empty 1lb Surata-
tura "D" Tea Packet. Children under
12, 6d or ½lb Suratura "D" Packet.
Gates open at 2 p.m.

Advertisement:

Suratura Tea Balloon Carnival
(Daily News 24 November 1910)

THE "SURATURA" TEA
BALLOON CARNIVAL
at
NEW PLYMOUTH,
on
THURSDAY, 24th NOVEMBER.

You need to be right on the
ground. Then you can witness
the inflation and really see

The Great Balloon Ascent

The Public are
NOT CHARGED FOR ADMISSION
provided they present at the gate an
empty package, with label intact,
which has previously contained
"D" QUALITY
of
SURATURA TEA.

For Adults :: Empty 1lb "D" Pkt.
For Children, Empty ½lb "D" Pkt.
REMEMBER SURATURA "D"
Then you get in free.

The Great Balloon Ascent
Taranaki Herald 23 November 1910

rose to 4400 feet (1340 metres) then jumped with a 'beautifully designed and gaily coloured parachute' to land in the racecourse near the deflated balloon. (DN 25 Nov 1910)

'The whole proceeding was a complete success, and, on returning to the [sports] grounds, Sebphe was accorded a salvo of applause.' (DN 25 Nov 1910)

The *Taranaki Herald* reporter did, however, record that '...Mr Sebphe can tell some thrilling stories as he points to the numerous patches on his structure, but he seems fairly to revel in the work.' (TH 25 Nov 1910)

Reference: Ewing, Ross & Ross Macpherson *The History of New Zealand Aviation*, 1986



King Edward VII being inflated at the Sportsground, 24 November 1910.
Suratura Tea is prominently advertised.
(Note the members of the public assisting by holding the bottom of the balloon.)
Photograph: T D Charters
PHO2009-328, Puke Ariki Collection

Volunteering with the Friends of Pukekura Park

Julie Hunt

Gardening at The Gables

*“How many kinds of sweet flowers grow in an English Country Garden,
We’ll tell you now of some that we know, those we miss you will surely pardon,
Daffodils, heart’s ease and phlox, meadowsweet and lady smocks,
gentian, lupin and tall hollyhocks, roses, foxgloves, snowdrops, and blue forget-me-nots,
In an English Country Garden.”*

So goes the first verse of this popular old English song that was frequently played on the radio years ago, particularly on the Sunday request session. I loved this song and always wanted to have the quintessential English Cottage Garden surrounding a beautiful old house with roses climbing around the front windows. I now have one – albeit borrowed on a weekly basis and shared with a group of volunteers who look after the garden around the Gables. Each Thursday morning (weather permitting) a group of volunteers from the Friends of Pukekura Park meet on the Gables lawn at 9am and after a discussion and walk around the garden (usually led by Adrienne Tatham) we decide what areas of the garden require our attention. We are frequently joined at this stage by Rose of the Pukekura Park staff, who may have a particular area she would like us to concentrate on or she may have new colourful annuals to be planted out. Rose is always encouraging and complimentary of our efforts in the garden. The seasonal changes make this an interesting and varied job. With annual events such as WOMAD, the Taranaki Garden Festival and of course a regular wedding venue during the summer, The Gables is a busy and much visited garden by locals and tourists alike. Not forgetting that the Gables is the home of the Taranaki Art Society and its members meet weekly and host regular art exhibitions in the historic building. Of course it is not all work on Thursday mornings and as we garden there is plenty of chat about current events, local politics and the latest holiday destination. As with any group of keen gardeners there is always discussion on what would look best where and what plants are deserving of a continued place in the garden or should be replaced. By 11am we are peeling off our gardening gloves, packing up the tools and have wool packs of weeds ready to be collected by the park staff.



The Gables Garden in June - a credit to the work of the volunteers.

Our weekly 2 hour stint at the Gables enables Rose and the other Park gardeners to concentrate on other areas and gives the volunteers from the Friends of Pukekura Park a real sense of satisfaction and ownership of this lovely garden.

Plant Sales at the Band Rotunda

The regular plant sales organized by the Friends of Pukekura Park have become a popular event at the Band Rotunda and raise valuable funds for the organization. Members are encouraged to pot up cuttings, seedlings and other suitable plant material for sale well before the event, thus ensuring a huge and diverse range of plants for sale. Lots of the plants supplied by members are lovely old fashioned favourite perennials not so easily found in the garden centres today. This event starts earlier in the week with plants being dropped off by committee members from those who cannot bring them to the Band Rotunda on the day. On the morning of the event volunteers set out all the plants for sale around the picturesque Band Rotunda and start selling to enthusiastic customers from 10.30am through to

mid-afternoon. A wide variety of people come to buy plants including very experienced gardeners looking for something different or special, through to novice younger gardeners just establishing a garden who need help and advice from the volunteers. It is always great fun meeting and talking to members of the public about what they buy and where they are going to plant it. As always, the volunteers make time to browse the selection of plants for something interesting to purchase and take home themselves. There is a huge array of plants contributed to the sale and any excess plants not purchased at the Band Rotunda have been later sold at a "Garage Sale" held at Adrienne's home. In 2015 the plant sales raised \$3000. A busy and fun activity to be involved in, with lots of interaction with the public and a good opportunity to talk about Friends of Pukekura Park and sign up some new members.

Guided Tours of Pukekura Park and Mobility Vehicles

The guided walks which are held every other week are evidence of public interest in learning more about Pukekura Park. Because they are free and advertised in the local paper, we are finding a number of new faces during our 90 minute walks. It is great to see how the people enjoy learning more about different areas and the plants within the Park. The Friends are sometimes asked to host and guide various groups around the Park. As always the volunteers are keen to show off our lovely park to any groups who would like a personalized guided tour. This is a great way to meet some really interesting overseas travellers or tourists from other areas in New Zealand. There is a charge of \$8 per head for this and all money raised goes towards various projects being undertaken by FoPP. A group from Auckland has recently made contact and organized a date and time for an escorted walk through the park. Along with guided tours there are mobility scooters (situated outside the Tea House) which are available free of charge for people who are not able walk long distances around the park. Also the larger mobility vehicle catering for up to 10 people is available on request. It is driven by FoPP volunteers who are able to give an explanation and commentary about different facets of the park as they drive around which enhances the experience of seeing both Pukekura Park and the Brooklands Bowl area. A donation of a coin or more is required and contact can be made to Veronica Bailey at 758 8089 for this service. Sometimes this buggy can be made available for a wedding party.



Festival of Lights – Custodians in Fernery and Display Houses

Every alternate year during the Festival of Lights the Fernery and Display Houses are open to the public. The staff put on a magnificent display all year round, but with the Christmas and Festival of Lights theme, they go into overdrive and the Display Houses look even more magnificent. During the festival FoPP volunteers spent fifty evenings from mid-December to the end of January watching over the huge numbers of people who throng through both the Fernery and Display Houses admiring and gasping with delight at the fabulous show. Two volunteers were required each evening from 8.00 to 10.30 pm, meeting and greeting people and moving about the Display Houses answering any questions and pointing people in the right direction. The volume of people who took advantage of a night visit to the Fernery and Display Houses was phenomenal. It was particularly lovely and so rewarding to see so many extended family groups comprising grandparents, children and grandchildren, from all walks of life and nationalities. These visitors were so appreciative of the free event and gazed wide eyed in wonder and delight at what was on show and asked many questions so that the 2 ½ hours spent "on duty" just flew by. I personally look forward to being involved again in 2017.

Familiarity Breeds Contempt

The late George Fuller

George Fuller in Solitary Confinement.

I couriered the impressive *Lycaste Capricorn* plant to and from the August meeting of the Taranaki Orchid Society, an act which initially appeared to have no complications. It transpired that it evolved into an intrepid and potentially highly embarrassing journey.

In the afternoon of the day before our monthly club night, I had to drive into New Plymouth to renew the warrant of fitness on our trailer. I decided that on the way home I would take the opportunity to inspect the collateral damage caused to surrounding younger trees by the recent toppling of a massive 130 year old pine tree in Pukekura Park. This would also give me an opportunity to see if the specimen *Lycaste* plant on display in the Fernery was still in a fit enough condition to justify seeking permission to display it at our meeting the following evening. If it was, I could make arrangements to uplift it the next afternoon to minimise the length of absence. Theoretically it seemed to be the perfect arrangement.

The Fernery closes at 4.00pm and I didn't get to the Park until 4.15pm so abandoned the orchid idea and continued in search of the pine. However, in passing the rear exit of the Fernery compound I noticed that the gate was still wide open. The orchid was in the nearest glasshouse. With my advantage of 'inside intelligence' I calculated in my wisdom that the person with the keys with whom I would be able to make enquiries about the loan of the plant, would be down at the lower level locking up the main entrance. It would be simple for me to check on the *Lycaste* in the nearest glasshouse then continue down the mostly one-way route and meet that person who would be working his or her way upward ensuring that there was nobody in the complex before locking the top glasshouse door and fernery compound exit gate as the last act before going home.

With the benefit of hindsight the idea was riddled with potential flaws, but seemed to be working when I was able to confirm that the *Lycaste* was still worthy of the effort. I should have stopped and waited there, but full of confidence proceeded downward. The shine wore off when I reached the main entrance door at the bottom without meeting anyone! The door was locked.

I hastened with full throttle geriatric haste, back up to the glasshouse door to find it locked. From there I could see that the gate in the compound fence was securely chained and padlocked. Not only was I a prisoner within the compound, but I was also locked within the glasshouse complex which precluded any sight or contact with the outside world. Any normal human being would have had a cell phone, wouldn't they?

I pondered on my surroundings in relationship to overnight accommodation. Spectacular décor and ornamentation, but service lacking and sleeping facilities sub-standard. Cuisine angled toward vegetarian tastes, but ample availability of water. Toilet arrangements primitive. I didn't want to spend the night in this facility. I pondered deeper and foresaw the prospect of an even more nightmarish scenario if emergency measures had to be taken to gain my release. It would be possible that the Press would find out and this would be an irresistible opportunity to exploit the situation.

I have a very favourable rapport with the local daily, especially since the mileage they gained from my week-long lunchtime on-site vigil in Pukekura Park in 2009, to draw attention to the fate of a couple of dozen native trees if an existing access road was to be re-aligned in a certain way. There was an alternative and the volumes of publicity generated helped to ensure that a modern technology was researched and found ideal for upgrading the existing road. Implementation required a reversal of a council decision and, despite earlier skepticism, the project was completed on time and under budget. It is now a greatly admired entry for thousands of patrons annually attracted to the Bowl of Brooklands concerts. In what must be a rare outcome, all the protagonists emerged from the fracas smiling at each other and smelling like roses. Well, perhaps in my case it was vanilla, because just before New Year, the Daily News voted me Taranaki Person of the Year for 2009.

With the greatest respect, I think the paper may now tend to look upon me somewhat as a form of 'cash cow' and in the stress of my present predicament I had a vision of what the banner headlines might be: 'George Fuller – Tree Hugger, Silly Old B.....- Locked in Fernery.'

The prospect was real and daunting, but I had to turn my thoughts to escaping – and quickly. Fortunately I found a door with a mortise lock which is activated with a key on the outside, but a latch on the inner. That left only the boundary fence between me and freedom. In the interests of security, I cannot disclose how I eluded the security

sensors and negotiated my way to the outside, but give assurance that no bribes were involved and there will be no costs to the ratepayers!

That left me with enough time to locate the fallen pine tree before the Park gates closed! To my dismay, I found that the ancient giant which had been leaning precariously and probably in terminal senescence, had taken down with it several perfect rimu, miro and kahikatea planted close by about 70 years ago. Perhaps if I had been aware of the inevitability of its fall, I would have staged another vigil under the natives to draw the Council's attention to the threat and encouraged the controlled removal of the pine. Lucky I wasn't there when it fell, eh?

P.S. I had parked the car outside the Park boundary and know that many of the fences are in need of repair. At least I got one thing right.



Photo Derek Hughes

My Favourite Trees

Val Smith

Favourite (1) preferred to all others
 (2) specially favoured



Above: Flower of *Backhousia citriodora*

How can I choose a tree above all others, when I love them all – except for invasive privet, buddleia, wildling pine and the like? However, I do have a favourite with specific properties that I find irresistible. In Pukekura Park near the top of Brooklands Drive a small, rather ordinary-looking tree brings back childhood memories of the gardens of my parents and grandparents.

The tree is *Backhousia citriodora*, commonly known as lemon myrtle, from the tropical rainforests of central and southern Queensland, and I cannot walk past it without being tempted to embrace again the strong lemon smell of a crushed leaf.

The genus was formally described in 1845 by British botanists William Jackson Hooker and William Henry Harvey, and named after James Backhouse (1794–1869), a naturalist and Quaker missionary. Born into a well-known business family of Durham, England, Backhouse developed tuberculosis while apprenticed to a chemist and regained his health with outdoor work in a Norwich nursery, where he became acquainted with Australian plants. Deeply concerned about the effects of transportation and convict colonies, and of the welfare of the

Below: Flower of *Syzygium anisatum*

Aborigines, he visited Australia in 1832–1838, making observations of Australian flora and fauna and writing about Australian Society.

The Aboriginal people have long used lemon myrtle for healing and food flavouring. Today it is a cultivated ornamental plant in tropical and warm temperate climates, and also in cooler districts if protected from frost when young. In cultivation it grows to about 5 metres, usually with a dense canopy, after going through a shrubby, slow juvenile growth stage. It is attractive to gardeners for both the foliage and the clusters of creamy-white flowers, which I



photographed in the park in April. New Plymouth nurserymen Duncan & Davies listed *Backhousia citriodora* in their 1950-1951 catalogue of trees, shrubs and climbers, but fashion is fickle, and like many popular old-fashioned garden plants, lemon myrtle may not be readily available in New Zealand now. In plantation cultivation in Queensland and northern New South Wales, plants are cutting grown and maintained as shrubs by regular harvesting from the top and sides, and the leaves dried and flaked for culinary use or distilled for essential oil.

Near the lemon myrtle at Brooklands is another rainforest tree with aromatic foliage and a fascinating history. *Syzygium anisatum* (formerly *Backhousia anisata*), native to the Indonesian islands of Maluku, is the source of the dried, aromatic flower buds we know as cloves, now cultivated commercially in many parts of the tropics. The leaves, which are 6-12 cm long with wavy margins, have a rich aniseed fragrance when crushed, and from them are produced essential oils, flavouring spice and herbal tea ingredients. The single cluster of almost white flowers I saw in January was rather insignificant. Apparently the fruit matures about nine months after flowering. The long red ovary of the flower gradually turns a reddish-purple and swells to the size of an olive, but more oblong, with the sepals covering where the flower once was. The fruit contains one, or rarely two, seeds and is often referred to as the 'mother of cloves' – but cultivated clove trees are rarely allowed to reach the fruiting stage.

Both *Backhousia citriodora* and *Syzygium anisatum* are members of the Myrtaceae family, to which the Australian eucalypts and bottlebrushes, our rata and pōhutukawa, mānuka and kānuka and waiwaka/swamp maire (*Syzygium maire*) belong, and this can be seen in the form of their flowers. The fruit divides the family into two groups. One type is a hard dry capsule with numerous seeds, as in pōhutukawa and mānuka; in the second group, which includes *Syzygium*, feijoa and guava, the fruit is a fleshy, often edible berry.



Foliage of *Syzygium anisatum*

Browse a multi-use tool for zoo animals

**Jolene West
Keeper**

At Brooklands Zoo the Keepers provide the animals with safe tree branches (browse) for many different purposes. Some animals use browse for eating, hiding under, as bedding, making nests, for shade or just to pull it apart.

Keepers present browse in different ways. Some of our primates have pulley systems in their enclosures where we hang browse at different heights to make it more challenging for the animals. Keepers also use hollowed out ponga logs as browse holders in enclosures. At different times of the year some browse will have berries and flowers present, which adds variety. All the animals have their favourite browse, but Coprosma is at the top of the list for most animals except the Bolivian squirrel monkeys as they would prefer Kawa Kawa.

From time to time the staff at Pukekura Park and Hobson Street bring to the zoo any suitable branches of browse that they cut down from other areas, which the animals and keepers appreciate a lot.



Boo the Capuchin monkey nibbles on some leaves from a branch that is hanging from a pulley in his enclosure at Brooklands Zoo.

