

ORAL HISTORY AGREEMENT

This Agreement is designed to protect your interests and privacy.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED: Recording of a walk around the	
ADDRESS: perimeters of Pukekura & Brooklands Parks, New Plymouth conducted by G. Fuller	
DATE: 21/11/99	
NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Recorder George Fuller	
ADDRESS: 6 Torbay St New Plymouth	
DATE: 21/11/99	
DATE & PLACE OF INTERVIEW: //	
1. REPOSITORY: I understand that the recording/s of my interview and accompanying material will be made available to bona fide researchers within the Taranaki Museum and copies held at _____	
2. ACCESS: I understand that the recordings and accompanying material will be made available for research within the Taranaki Museum at the above location or at a location approved by the commissioning organisation/person, subject to item 3 in this agreement.	
3. RESTRICTED TAPES AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIAL: I require that there be no public use without my consent to the following numbered tapes before the release date indicated:	
TAPE No	DESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTION RELEASE DATE N/A.
I understand that after the release date, access, provision of copies and use of the above recordings will be at the discretion of the Taranaki Museum	
4. PUBLIC USE: I understand that the recording/s of my interview and accompanying material may be quoted in published works or in full and that recordings may be broadcast or used in public performance in full or part, subject to any restrictions specified in item 3.	
5. COPYRIGHT: Copyright for the recording/s and accompanying material will be held by Taranaki Museum.	
6. RIGHTS TO AMEND THIS AGREEMENT: This agreement may be revised by mutual consent of the person recorded and the Taranaki Museum.	
INTERVIEWER: George Fuller.	DATE: 21/11/99
INTERVIEWEE:	DATE:

Walk organised by Friends of the Park.



CATALOGUE	OH/GEN/347
NAME	FULLER George
ADDRESS	6 Torbay Street, New Plymouth
DATE	21 November 1999
ABSTRACTER	LAMBERT Floss
COPYRIGHT	Taranaki Museum
RESTRICTIONS	nil
TAPE	one of three

TOPIC: Pukekura, Brooklands Perimeter Walk

00.1 Details of recording technique given by George Fuller with several problems highlighted. E.g. one being the complication of a portable 'back chat' being used in conjunction with a tape recorder.

01.7 **Welcome; Instructions; the circuit.**

Welcome offered on behalf of the Friends of Pukekura Park. Wishing to emphasise some unusual topics, the group is keeping off the main perimeter track; the direction being is north/south towards the mountain with the racecourse on the left. Some walking instructions are given. It is an easy walk towards the Upjohn Street area. One change noted by George in the '80s was the advent of the jogger or walker. As there was no circuit track at that stage, George, with the assistance of periodic detention workers had a track cut through the macrocarpas from List Street, to behind Highlands School. Hardly a house can be seen during the whole circuit, this being unique in a central city walk. Hopefully, there are some places the group has not been before.

07.2 **The Sports Ground; King or 'Horse shoe' ferns**

The group walks over to the southern terrace. There is a wonderful, quite unique view from the top of the terrace. In 1876, Pukekura Park was a derelict valley, with no trees, no flat land and no water. All have been introduced and man-made. In spite of this, it is a magical, natural looking park. (Anyone may join the friends). Also in 1876, the sports ground track was a swamp but was drained in the 1880s. Unfortunately, the sports ground track is not international (4 laps to the mile). George points out a dell of King or horseshoe ferns, a native, and the largest in NZ.

16.4 **John (Darby) Claffey; A Native Grass; Horton Walk**

The group is now on a walk which extends from the top of the eastern terrace to the top of the southern terrace – the Claffey Walk, named after the first custodian of the Park, a skilled turfer, who first turfed the park terraces. The finest, excellent native lawn grass under the pohutukawas is pointed out. Unfortunately, it does not produce much seed.

The Group now crosses Horton Walk near the band room overlooking the fernery complex, built in the 1920's on the shady south side to house the New Zealand native ferns. Thomas Horton was Park curator from the 1920s to the 1940s. The lower limbs of

the native trees on the Horton Walk have been removed to let the light through to the fernery.

21.2 Stainton Dell; Some Interesting Trees;

A sidetrack from the fernery leads into the Stainton Dell. George would like to see a park entrance built here to lead to the kiosk. On the right is a woodland garden planting. The end of the racecourse walk features some beautiful magnolias and a camellia collection, including rare types. On the western hillside towards the outlook over the lake is an area of cold sensitive plants and an idesia tree. In 1964/65 there was a stand of pines here. With a view of the fernery there are also some kauris planted by Thomas Horton in the 1920s.

26.2 A Jogger track; Kauri and rimu

On the left towards the racecourse is a track used by joggers and walkers which emerges near the Bowl of Brooklands. Above are some excellent examples of *Pinus nigra* (Corsica pines). And the Sea can be seen also, as can lake activities just above the kiosk. Big stands of *pinus radiata*, planted on the east and west hillsides in the 1870s have been removed and their places taken by a stand of kauri, rimu and exotics in 1965. One pine planted by Carrington in 1876, remains.

The Group is now travelling south parallel with the main lake. (George here recalls Percy Stainton, a voluntary secretary of the Pukekura Park Committee)

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TAPE	two of three

Topic: Pukekura/Brooklands Perimeter Walk continued

01.8 Radiata Pines; Archaeological site; Regenerating Bush

The Group is now almost in line with the Poet's Bridge where a stand of pines has recently been removed. George relates an (almost) horror story as regards an archaeological site which was nearly destroyed. Fortunately the Friends of the Park keep a constant watch. Pines are replaced to keep the picturesque skyline on what were originally cleared hillsides. However, small puriri and totara trees have grown naturally along with the pinus radiata.

07.0 Tracks; Rhodos and Redwoods; The Bowl Sound System

The Group has descended to intersect the main track from the teahouse to the Brookland's Bowl. Three parallel tracks were formed here in the early days when Sunday walks were popular. Paths were (are?) swept a week. The group is now at the dam forming the Bowl lake. The rhododendron dell was established in the mid-1930s and now, almost behind the soundshell, near the lower end of the water lily lake, George indicates the unusual deciduous Chinese redwoods. In the late 1950s the Soundshell system was unique in the world. Now performers bring their own 'sound' in large trucks, so the turning area has been created at the rear of the sound shell. The trucks are thus not seen by the audience.

13.5 Maranui Gully; Paths; Loop track

Behind the sealed roadway at the southern end of the Bowl facilities is the Maranui Gully. George points out a huge copper beech, which was shifted successfully from the Bowl seating area. The paths here (Moyes' Walk) were developed by the High School boys. A eucalyptus tree and List's garden on the right are pointed out. List (a horticulturist) was also owner of the Daily News. On a circuit or 'loop' track connects with Moyes' Walk, a Chinese maidenhair tree, an American hickory (fantastic autumn colouring) and more King ferns are noted. Rubbish dumping is a problem here.

20.9 Gingko Tree; Macrocarpa plantation; 9 ton vehicle

The group is back where the four tracks intersect. A big puriri and a gingko can be seen where the track leads up to List Street and the entrance to Brooklands Park. A Chinese gentleman used to worship daily under the gingko, which has an eastern religious significance. A big macrocarpa plantation was felled here a few years ago and

the tangle of non-commercial logs remains. Paths were re-developed in the area. An immense regeneration of native bush occurred naturally here food trees like flowering cherries were planted for the birds. A stand of pukatea on the other side is noted. To George's horror, a 9-ton vehicle was introduced to accomplish the paths' project but it was the only way to lay a really wonderful track.

30.1 Highlands Swimming Pool and a Puka

The group has reached the last bridge across the stream just below Highlands School swimming pool. The tree to the left is the finest specimen George knows of a puka, a tree which, in its seeding and growing method, eventually strangles its host. This is described.

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TAPE	three of three

Topic: Pukekura/Brooklands Perimeter Walk continued

00.1 Tracks; Significant trees

The group is now near UpJohn Street and Junction Road. George describes the circuit track followed, along which there is no sign of habitation. The furthest point from Pukekura Park has been reached. A stand of kohekohe, titoki, tawa and puriri is noted near the tennis courts. The track system was finished by George after retirement. Part of the circuit track (unfinished) was done by PD workers. Trees up toward Somerset Street are mentioned – also the giant puriri at Brooklands.

06.0 Brooklands/List area; George Huthnance

The group is back to the Maranui Gully intersection and has crossed the bridge leading up to List Street. Cultivated terraces once covered with rhododendrons are seen. George Huthnance, the last List gardener was responsible for these. Standing by the big puriri in Brookland's Park, George tells of the friendly controversy between Newton King and List as regards the ownership of the puriri. When the two properties were first opened, the racecourse was included as well.

10.7 Pinus Radiata; Post 'stations'.

George indicates a high pine tree with the biggest diameter in this part of Taranaki. They are now at the Kaimata Street entrance to Brooklands Park where a nature trail has been laid out. Pines were planted 20 or 30 years after Brooklands was established in 1841. Another glade of kingferns is pointed out; also the numbered posts (stations) along the nature trail. Yet another stand of pinus radiata including an original hedgerow of lawsoniana is indicated.

14.6 Ambush Valley; Native plantation

Macrocarpas were felled in Ambush Valley and maples planted instead. George explains the meaning of ambush valley during the Land Wars. At this point, down the western side and beneath the zoo, is an unusual plantation of native trees, a unique stand planted by Thomas Horton which will last for hundreds of years.

18.9 Brooklands' Drive

The group is now at the Brooklands Drive intersection. 7.3km have been travelled so far. It is possible to walk out to Brooklands Road here. The group has now reached Goodwin dell (Park

Superintendent 1947 – 1977). He kept areas such as the Children's Playground and the Hatchery Lawn open by introducing smaller plants. He also had access to azalea molluses, a new plant in those days. The Truby King Dell is sited on the other side of the road.

22.9 The Lakes; Hughes Walk

The main water source for the Pukekura Park lakes has been reached. In the early days (from photos) this area was open with very few trees. The group then reaches the southern end of the main lakes and Hughes Walk. Robert Clinton Hughes set aside this area as a reserve in 1875/76. Because it is so level, it was once used as a tram route to Vogletown.

26.7 The Waterfall; The kiosk

The waterfall on Hughes Walk has been reached and the group is now walking on the dam which creates the lake and changed the area forever. The walkers, now numbering about 16 from the original 40 have been travelling three and a half-hours and 9km. All have enjoyed the afternoon and George reminds them that they have never been more than 100 metres from civilisation but even so, they can get a sensation of being lost in the bush