

John William Hall ARBORETUM AND WALK

History

This Arboretum was one of the first to be established in New Zealand. Arboretum in its narrowest sense means a collection of trees only.

John William Hall observed first-hand the effect rains had on the denuded hillsides of Thames; the trees on the surrounding hillsides had been cut for pit props for the mines. However, he also planted for habitat provision and research. Mr Hall was an amateur naturalist in the best tradition of the Victorian era.

Prior to Mr Hall's plantings in Thames, the Government passed the Forest Trees Planting Encouragement Act in 1871. The Government of that period was concerned about the large loss of trees being felled throughout New Zealand, with

no sustainable planting taking place to preserve the environment. The Act was economically driven; no research had been done previously on New Zealand natives and so the Act was geared toward encouraging the planting of exotic trees.

Mr Hall, a local Chemist, started planting his three acre property in Parawai, Thames in 1872. About 100 of his trees survive today and form an eclectic collection of plants from around the world. Many of them are of New Zealand natives. He fastidiously recorded the progress of all his plantings and the Hall's Totara is named in his honour.

For more information on Mr Hall's recordings and the trees in the arboretum see www.thetreasury.org.nz/Hall

Walking

The arboretum has four entrances – Brunton Crescent, Korokoro Crescent, Currie Street and Mount Sea Road. A small car park is provided for arboretum visitors at the top of Mount Sea Road.

Upon arriving at the car park, you can view the arboretum by doing a full circuit (40 to 60 minutes depending upon walking speed) or in two halves. The best way to start is by heading downhill from the car park.

The track links directly to Currie Street which is approximately 100m downhill from the car park. Thanks to a generous grant from the Thames Branch

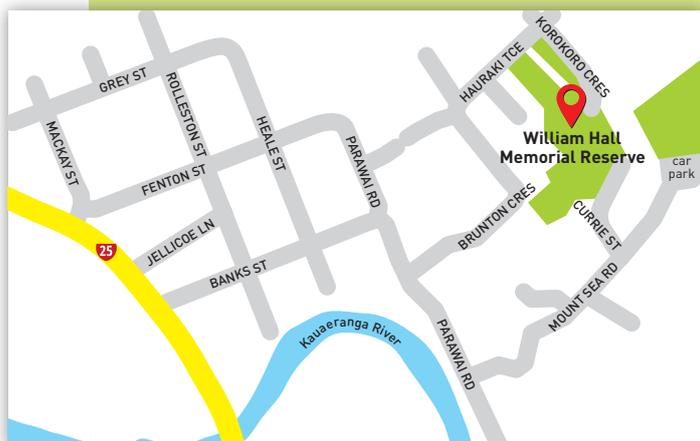
of Forest & Bird, the track was constructed in 2015 and links the lower and upper areas.

As you walk through the arboretum, look for trees of note identified by tags which match the table below. (Please look up high for some tags)

Descending, you will see two Hall's Totara on your left (#82) and a notable eucalyptus on your right (#81).

At the bottom of the descent you will note an in ground channel. This is a remnant of the old Thames water race, which is a historic feature that brought water into Thames from the Kauaeranga Valley via a series of tunnels and viaducts. As well as being used for domestic purposes, the water was taken by Prices Foundry and numerous mining claims.

Leading downhill from here the track continues the journey through the arboretum. However before heading off you will see a large Totara (#28) on your right and a large Norfolk Island Pine to your left (#29). It is 40m tall, with a D.B.H. (Diameter @ Breast height) of 1.18m and possibly the oldest example of this species in New Zealand.





A magnificent macrocarpa (#30) can be seen at this point. It is 21m tall and is an impressive 2.9m D.B.H.

The track through this section of the arboretum will complete one half of the circuit back to Currie Street in approximately 20 minutes.

At number 55 (a totara) you will see severe possum damage at the base of the trunk. Upon reaching the level track you will see across the stream on the right two large oak trees (#15 and #16) and a magnificent puriri (#14).

After tree #10, the lowest point in the arboretum is indicated by a small bridge. To complete the lower arboretum circuit veer left and head uphill via the steps. At the top on your left is a line of Hall's totara (#27), about which Mr Hall wrote in 1901, "Surrounding part of my plantation is a well-established totara fence grown exclusively from cuttings".

When you reach Currie Street, veer left along the road, and return on the track uphill to the Mount Sea Road car park.

At this point, the upper section is reached by continuing via the uphill track behind the sign. The track climbs past recent school plantings to a seat under a magnificent pohutukawa (#104). Along the way you will see on your left a fine specimen of kauri. Continuing uphill, you

will reach fine views of Thames, the Firth of Thames, the Waihou River and the Hauraki Plains.

The track as constructed to its current standard finishes shortly after the lookout. The easiest route back to the car park is to retrace your steps back to the Mount Sea Road car park.

An unmarked and unformed route that continues on should not be attempted without prior knowledge of the outdoors. It does lead eventually back to the Mount Sea Road car park via an old re-vegetated bulldozed track. There are multiple hazards on this portion of the arboretum including old fences, numerous trip hazards and slippery surfaces.

Help us to stop the spread of Kauri Dieback Disease; no entry should be undertaken beyond this point without previously cleaned footwear, nor should any trekking be done off the formed track.

ALWAYS

CLEAN YOUR GEAR

Remove soil **BEFORE** and **AFTER** forest visits - clean your shoes, tyres and equipment

STAY ON THE TRACK

AND off kauri roots

Tagged trees of note

#	Common Name	Species	#	Common Name	Species
# 82	Hall's totara x2	Podocarpus hallii	# 21	white cedar	Cupressus lusitanica
# 81	eucalyptus	Eucalyptus citriodora	# 20	puriri	Vitex lucens
# 28	totara	Podocarpus totara	# 18	tanekaha	Phyllocladus trichomanoides
# 29	Norfolk pine	Araucaria heterophylla	# 17	matai	Prumnopitys taxifolia
# 30	macrocarpa	Cupressus macrocarpa	# 16	oak	Quercus robur
# 41	oak x2	Quercus robur	# 15	oak	Quercus robur
# 43	oak x2	Quercus robur	# 14	puriri	Vitex lucens
# 50	puriri	Vitex lucens	# 19	puriri	Vitex lucens
# 51	rimu	Dacrydium cupressinum	# 12	puriri	Vitex lucens
# 53	totara	Podocarpus totara	# 11	kahikatea	Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
# 54	puriri	Vitex lucens	# 10	matai	Prumnopitys taxifolia
#55	Hall's totara	Podocarpus hallii	# 7	pohutukawa	Metrosideros excelsa
# 56	rimu	Dacrydium cupressinum	# 6	totara x2	Podocarpus totara
# 57	totara	Podocarpus totara	# 4	red cedar	Cryptomeria elegans
# 58	kauri	Agathis australis	# 2	Norfolk pine	Araucaria heterophylla
# 59	matai	Prumnopitys taxifolia	# 1	eucalyptus	Eucalyptus globulus
# 60	puriri	Vitex lucens	# 27	totara 23 hedgecuttings	Podocarpus totara
# 61	puriri	Vitex lucens	# 104	pohutukawa [uphill]	Metrosideros excelsa
# 62	western cedar	Thuja plicata			
# 23	plane tree	Platanus X hispanica			
# 24	plane tree	Platanus X hispanica			