

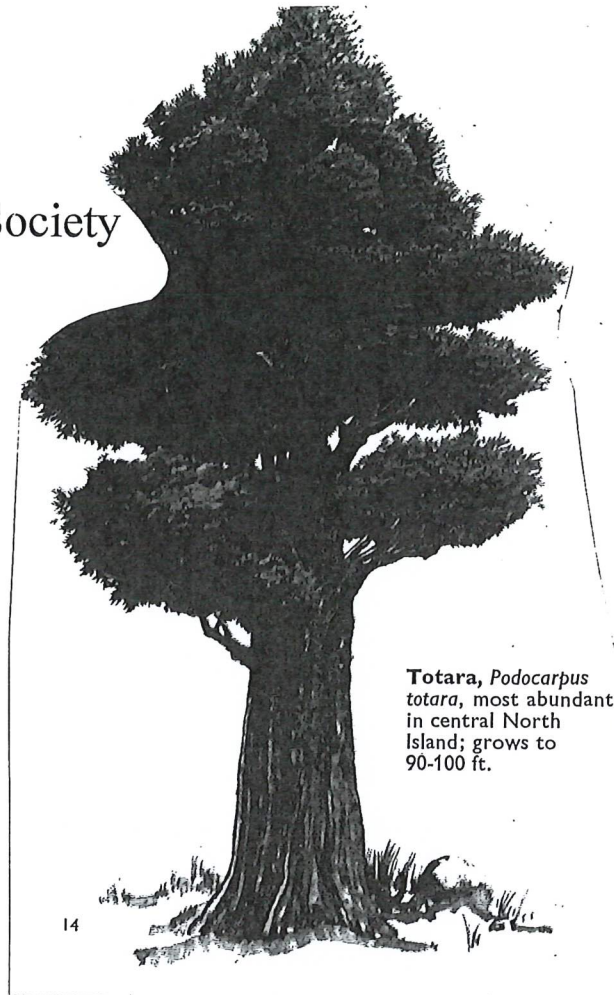
# Protect Private Ownership Of Trees Society

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Tena koutou, tena koutou, koutou katoa. Haeremai.

He aha te mea nui? He tangata – he tangata – he tangata.

Tutira mai nga iwi kahore rakau.

(Greetings to all. What is the most important? It is people – people.  
Stand for people not trees.)

**The removal of a Pin Oak (T666) growing at 27 King Street, Mosgiel, from the Dunedin City Council heritage schedule.**

“The source of the people’s rights is that like a Kauri we are grounded here.”

“The key issue with ‘property rights’ is that it is not the property that is owned it is the right to use the property.”

Mr Bruce Jesson, the former chairman of the Auckland Regional Services Trust 2001 said:

“My own direct experience of local body politics was variety and pomposity dominated decision making more than rational consideration of the issues.”

This submission notes that two tree experts differ in their opinion about the safety of T666. One is the council hired arborist and the other a private business tree specialist. POTS hypothetical question is; who predicted the tree falling to the wind to almost falling on the Hocken museum?

**ANZAC Avenue trees blown over** (Otago Daily News, 30/10/25)  
Up rooted Elm trees, some more than a century old, were blown over. The fallen trees could be made into firewood. One crashed into the Hocken Library.

**Significant tree schedule 25.3 of the Dunedin District Council plan:**

(1) The avenue Elm trees were planted in the 1920s to commemorate World War One.

(2) Hearings do not come cheap. There is the cost of the hearing commissioners, attending council staff distracted from their usual duties, the cost of the venue, lighting, heating.

(3) The official hearing members total 8 whereas the applicant to remove T666 is a rate paying Bain family of two adults unpaid or compensated for their work to have the T666 removed. There were a number of written submissions in favour of T666 being removed, but none wanted to be heard. POTS, is the only one, firmly of the opinion, based on 20 plus years of similar hearings, that the city environment would not be adversely affected by the loss of T666. Members have wondered how such a tree became listed in the schedule.

(4) The Resource Management Act (RMA) is to have some substantial changes. Geoffrey Palmer and Simon Upon planned to save the environment with the RMA, As democratic events have illustrated they were working in the light of an evening star.

POTS would continue to support the Bain family to have T666 removed because members believe it should never have been included in the DCC plan schedule. The lack of ratepayers wanting it to remain support that view.

### **A Pin Oak poem.**

A large tall Pin Oak with its roots prest in Mosgiel soil.

It looks to the sky all day and night at the owner's cost.

Despite its beauty its branches lie close to human habitat.

A fallen trunk or branch by a storm alone could damage the owner's house and home.

Passers would see it all. No cost to them as the DCC would still collect the rates. c