

9. SIGN OF THE KIWI – TREE REMOVAL

Officer responsible Regional Parks Manager	Author Di Carter, DDI 332-5627
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The purpose of this report is to request approval from the Board to remove a mature pine tree, and one macrocarpa tree at the Sign of the Kiwi this winter, and removal of the remaining six macrocarpa trees in three to five years time.

BACKGROUND

A landscape plan has been drawn to redesign the steps at The Sign of the Kiwi to improve access to the café and facilities. The existing steps are irregular in size and uneven in surface creating a health and safety issue, particularly for older patrons. The steps will be reformed and paved in Halswell Quarry stone, the stone walls rebuilt and a handrail and lighting installed. The gardens will be replanted in local species to keep the natural values of the area, including tussocks, flax and two species endemic to Banks Peninsula. There are seven conifer trees in front of the existing garage at the Sign of the Kiwi. The pine tree and one macrocarpa tree closest to the steps to the entrance to the Sign of the Kiwi café shade the steps in winter creating a health and safety issue with slippery steps when conditions are icy.

CURRENT PROPOSAL

The current proposal is to remove the pine tree and one macrocarpa tree closest to the café steps this winter. The removed trees will be replaced by kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), flax (*Phormium tenax*) and tussock (*Poa cita*).

The remaining six macrocarpa trees will also be underplanted with kohuhu, flax and tussocks so that screening of the garage and stabilisation of the bank will be effective before the remaining conifer trees are removed in approximately 5 years time.

The replacement species are shorter and will not cause shading to the steps, but will provide the necessary screening of the garage and protection of the bank from erosion.

This proposal is supported by the Summit Road Society and the lessees at the Sign of the Kiwi café.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the pine tree and macrocarpa tree nearest the Sign of the Kiwi café steps be removed this winter to reduce immediate health and safety issues caused by shading.
 2. That the remaining six macrocarpa trees be limbed this winter to improve their shape and appearance and to improve underplanting establishment.
 3. That the remaining six macrocarpa trees be removed in approximately three to five years time when the replacement vegetation is of sufficient height to screen the garage and the root systems area established and protect the bank.

Chairman's

Recommendation: The proposals outlined will gradually enhance this part of the Sign of the Kiwi, and a local group could be offered the firewood for distribution to the community.