

AILA Urban Tree Management Forum
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**FUTURE URBAN TREES
- the Biological and Political Life Cycles**

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A sustainable future for Urban Trees is becoming more tenuous. New strategies for effective management of mature trees, and the establishment of future 'green city' concepts are required due to increasing urban density, shorter political and fashion 'cycles', and highly modified urban soils.

It is accepted that trees are important in urban landscapes (for many reasons) and they potentially span many generations. The large 'heritage' urban trees seen today are probably the last large trees, ever. When designing cityscapes continuing to regard these and younger trees as 'appendages', rather than primary elements, will lead to stark unfavourable outcomes. Also, with the increased transference of space and responsibility for trees from the private to public realm, means a concerted, integrated, non-political, long-term, well-funded 'organisation' is required to sustain a 'productive' tree population.

Trees (or greening) require the highest priority in the urban planning and design process. This involves specific spatial decisions, generous implementation processes and effective ongoing management to meet design, technical and biological parameters that can sustain growth to achieve the fourth dimension over long periods. The cooperative, professional approach to urban design creates the opportunity to achieve these integrated strategies and economical management. Ecological corridors, green fingers, urban forests, park 'plantations', street tree 'islands', broad shady avenues, residential shade, exotic and indigenous species amongst other things - all have design merit.

The illustrated presentation will review historical and current approaches to urban trees and recommend a future direction to achieve productive 'living heritage', designed for comfortable, healthy city environs.

BIOGRAPHICAL

Chris Williams is a Landscape Architect in private practice. He has a long-standing passion for trees for production and amenity. He studied horticulture and practiced as a landscape contractor before studying LA in Melbourne. His experiences and observations regarding urban trees has at times been focused, including research identifying the effects of 'urban design' on trees (at Melbourne City), and the supposed structural damage to roads caused by trees. As a past member of the Tree Council (Auckland) he has advocated for tree protection, and advised on tree educational programs. He has undertaken management planning for tree collections including Eastwoodhill Arboretum. He designed the Ponsonby Road Mainstreet Development Plan and other public open space concepts, detailed design development, prepared reserve management plans, and overseen the tree program at Manukau City. His extensive travels have often included tree study in urban, productive and natural contexts. He is a member of the International Dendrology Society and other tree forums