

# Update on WWI Memorial Forest

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**TO** Economic Development Committee  
**FROM** Ben Dunbar-Smith - Economic Development Programme Manager  
**DATE** 18 May 2015  
**SUBJECT** Update on WWI Memorial Forest

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## 1 Purpose of Report

This report is to update the Economic Development Committee (EDC) on the progress in relation to the WW1 Memorial Forests projects, in particular in connection with the official launch on Arbor Day.

## 2 Background

By the time of this 9th June EDC, it is planned that the Minister of Conservation, Hon Maggie Barry, will have officially launched the WW1 Forest project on June 5th Arbor Day. This launch is programmed for the Gallipoli forest which is based on Department of Conservation land above Cathedral Cove.

The aim is to plant 2779 trees on this (and related sites) to commemorate Gallipoli. As the attached planting plan shows the site immediately above Cathedral Cove will host approximately 1250 specimen trees (mainly Pohutukawa, with some Puriri). The remaining trees will be planted along the track - under the supervision of TCDC Parks staff, and with the assistance of Waikato Institute of Technology's horticultural students.

As regards other commemoration launch sites, there are plans for an official planting of the 249 trees to commemorate the Thames war dead. This is planned for TCDC land adjacent to the Rhodes park.

As regards other sites, the Stella Evered Trust (which owns the land at Purangi over which the Coastal Walkway is planned to go) has agreed to host a WW1 Memorial Forest. This forest, which is likely to represent the Battle of the Somme, will also be assisted by Wintec students.

In Coromandel, work will commence after Arbor Day on:

- WRC land at Albert Street – Honouring the Coromandel war dead with 39 trees to be planted.
- TCDC land at Hauraki Road treatment plant – “Supreme Sacrifice” forest (1000+) There is a potential walkway along the Whangarahi Stream linking the two sites could prove a valuable tourist asset to the town. This linkage will need to be planned and implemented by local community groups.

In Mercury Bay, TCDC’s new cemetery will host the “Battle of Passchendaele” (2000 trees)

In Pauanui-Hikuai, the Tangitarori Lane is proposed to mark the Sinai-Palestine campaign (640).

In Tairua, work is continuing on the plantings around the Tairua cemetery.

### 3 Discussion

Trees plantings occurred on ANZAC at three sites around the Peninsula. The ceremonies at Tairua, Whangamata and Whitianga were all well attended. Memorial plantings of initial trees were made, but there were under the supervision of RSA groups - and the official launch of the WW1 Forests project was deliberately delayed until the Minister's visit on Arbor Day.



*Dawn ceremonial planting of WW1 Forest to honour Tairua war dead.*

### 4 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the "Update on WWI Memorial Forest" dated 18 May 2015.

### References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

**Attachment A** *Cathedral Cove Memorial Trees*

**Attachment A - Cathedral Cove Memorial Trees**