

# Climbing Accident Tragic Reminder of Risk

News of a tree climbing fatality in the US has brought the risk of sectionally felling large stems to the attention of New Zealand arborists via the NZ Arb Association.

The climber was dismantling a main stem using his climbing spikes and lanyard. While cutting one of the sections, it appears that the remaining stem barber-chaired (split apart). The climber was on his lanyard which was attached from one of his hip attachments around the spar to his other hip attachment. The force of half the stem springing away pulled the climber against the upright portion of the stem.

The pressure created by the climber being pulled against the upright half of the stem by his lanyard resulted in significant internal injuries, leading to cardiac arrest. He later died in hospital.

This is a reminder of the hazards of undertaking this work. The risks of barber-chairing should be carefully assessed prior to starting the job, including size, lean, canopy, species, physical characteristics of the tree.

Always ensure correct cuts are made and sections being removed are of an appropriate size (not too big!!) to minimise the risk of barber-chairing. Preventative action may need to be taken to mitigate the stem splitting (chain or load-bind the remaining stem). Always ensure safe access and rigging is provided for the arborist carrying out the sectional felling work so that in the event barber-chairing occurs the arborist is kept safe.

This US fatality will be discussed at our next work safe committee meeting and recommendations will be forwarded onto the branches.

## Good Things Come in Spades



Hamilton branch found that good things come in spades when they delivered a donation of bark mulch to Hamilton East School. Hamilton manager Phil Brink organized the drop and the children had the job of moving the mulch to their kitchen garden.



As a thank-you gesture, the school delivered a batch of cup cakes which very quickly disappeared.

# Hawkes Bay Job Swings Into Gear

**Treescape has recently been awarded a 16 month contract on the Centralines Network in the Central Hawkes Bay.**

Centralines is a mainly rural network that services 8000 customers and is based out of Waipukurau. They have their own in-house tree team but were looking for a bit more horse power to tackle six high priority feeders. There are 4000 tree sites that need to be cleared within the first six months with a projected

total of 9000 over the next two years.

The contract required the right kind of gear so Treescape has placed a six-wheeler, 55-foot Altec boom on the job which is operated by Nick Sprott. Nick and Rob McCarthy from NU have already cut two of the most fault-causing tree sites on the network. Nick says the Altec's boom reach is outstanding and having new gear with an awesome truck makes the work much easier.

Business manager Kevin Birdsall sends out a big thanks to Rob and the workshop team for getting the truck ready and delivering on time. Also to Wade Cummings for helping get all the gear and kit.

There is a position available on this contract so anyone who is interested contact Kevin in the Wellington office, 04 5695813.



Nick Sprott makes the first cut on the contract by taking on a Cypress tree on Nichols Rd Road.

SAFETY  
+ QUALITY  
AWARDS

The **Safety + Quality Awards** encourage all of us at Treescape to think and act safely and to take pride in the quality of our work. Nominations are made each month by Area Managers, Project Managers and Training Officers.

Apologies to **Willie McIvor** whose NU safety nomination of late last year was overlooked in our last issue of Safety First. Willie McIvor is a very experienced utility arborist with some 20 years in the industry. He has been with Treescape for a several years and took over from Colin Gerrard as liaison officer mid last year. Willie received the nomination for his patience and abundant Irish Charm in dealing with an exacting

customer who wrote a letter of thanks saying, "I have my own small business and I understand how important customer service is – Willie McIvor was the perfect Liaison Officer."

The NU nomination for January goes to **Jade Ryder and Simon Harmer** who completed a fortnight's hazardous work on Auckland Council Phoenix Palms in Orewa/Parakai for City Care.

After that, they were out in the Gulf trimming trees around power lines on Waiheke Island for two weeks.

The Wellington nomination goes to **Peter Van Gosliga**. Pete operates the PC130 excavator removing trees and mulching scrub from the Wellington hills, alongside the motorway and also the rail. Pete was the site foreman of a recently completed project for the Department of Corrections. This involved clearing blocks of Eucalpt and Pine trees ranging in age from 40 to 80 or more years old. The client was extremely impressed with the skill and safety of the work on site which Pete maintained for the three-month project. Pete also received great feedback from the regional council on a recently completed Willow mulching project which required him to track down the rivers and

mulch back the overhanging trees. Pete had to constantly monitor rising water levels as he was working at the base of the Tararua ranges where rain fall can cause river levels to rise significantly in the space of an hour.

The PV nomination goes to **Mike Tidswell and Tahae Turie-Wall**, based at Kumeu. They were on a job for high-profile Auckland clients who wrote a letter of thanks. "As always, a lovely job, friendly chaps and a 'nothing is too much trouble' attitude. My neighbour also commented how nice and respectful they both were. I cannot say enough about how professional Treescape always is and will of course continue to recommend far and wide. You guys might cost a little more but it is always well worth it for peace of mind and a job well done."



Willie McIvor



Jade Ryder and Simon Harmer



Peter Van Gosliga



Mike Tidswell and Tahae Turie-Wall



This is the latest high rail sprayer to join our fleet. It has the most up-to-date technology with an on-board computer that provides the spray operator with all the information required to get the spray on the weeds safely and effectively, plus a GPS system that maps the areas being sprayed. It will be based in Levin with operators Shane Moran and Peter Bramley.

# View From the Top

## CEO'S REPORT

Recently I was invited to be part of a peer review team assessing the management plan of a new high country park in the South Island. It was a great trek through some beautiful country with the extra plus of me coming across "Edwards

Valley". It gave me great satisfaction that there was a majestic valley out there with my name on it and made me think that all things are possible!!! They say the older you get the faster time goes, and I have to

agree. Last year seemed to disappear before my eyes and before you know it you're wishing everyone happy New Year again. Last year was a big one for Treescape with the company now employing more than 400 personnel across all branches. Our Queensland operation now employs a 150 personnel and is well on its way to becoming bigger than NZ in the not too distant future. A lot of hard work has gone on over the year

from the whole Treescape team on both sides of the Tasman, whether you work in the field, work shop, administration or management. A big thanks from me, Brandon and the senior management team to you all, we couldn't do it without

“...there are opportunities out there as long as you are prepared to look.”



you and you should be very proud of what Treescape has achieved to date. I know I am.

Even though we are in a recession and things in Europe and the US don't look that great, I am pleased to say this year is looking like another big one with a lot of opportunities on the horizon both in NZ and Australia. The thing

with recessions, I find, is that you have to work harder and smarter to keep your business healthy but there are opportunities out there as long as you are prepared to look.

With your support I am sure we will have a great year and turn some of these opportunities into reality.

## Approved Contractor Status

Treescape has been working with the industry to have all our offices become New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZAA) approved contractors. This has now been achieved for Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington. We are listed on the NZAA web site [www.nzarbor.org.nz](http://www.nzarbor.org.nz) and can now advertise the ACS logo on any marketing material such as the yellow pages. Nelson will be audited later this year

The Wellington audit took place on a very cold windy Wellington day when NZAA auditors, John Wakeling and Richard Wanhill, arrived at the Hutt Park office to

see if we met the requirements of a very detailed audit inspection, including two field visits.

They visited a very precarious job in Seaton where a macrocarpa tree had to be rigged down over a house (pictured). The crew of Alvar Costello, Tiago Miranda and Joe Nunn had their arboriculture knowledge and skills well tested. They then went to a line clearing job where Phil Warin and Phil Stretton took the auditors through their paces.

The auditors reported back saying the Wellington crews performed very well and commenting on their very professional approach. Well done to all Treescape staff involved in the day's events.

Congratulations to Auckland-based contract supervisor **Michael Willoughby** who recently graduated with a business degree from Auckland University, seen here in the full graduation regalia, with wife Karol.

Despite having to fit in study with full time work, Mike managed to achieve straight A's – a huge effort.

Michael passes on his thanks to senior staff "for allowing me to interview you over the past three years for various papers and helping me out with days off to attend examinations."

