

The background features abstract green geometric shapes. On the left, a single green triangle points downwards. On the right, a complex arrangement of overlapping green triangles and polygons in various shades of green creates a dynamic, layered effect.

Whau

What is it?



The Whau Tree

Facts about the Whau tree!

- ***People used the sap of the whau tree to preserve the bodies of the dead.***
- ***They even used it to wrap newborn babies in the leaves.***
- ***The Whau tree is the fastest growing native tree in New Zealand.***
- ***The Whau tree was traditionally used by the Maori's to make rafts and floats for fishing nets.***
- ***The Maori name of Mt Eden in Auckland is Maungawhau because it was once cover with Whau trees.***

The Flowers



The Seeds



The Leaves



The Branches



Properties

1. Fastest growing New Zealand native
2. Life span is about 10/15 years
3. Nursery tree for other natives
4. Drought resistant
5. Likes coastal frost-free areas
6. Grows up to six meters high
7. Self seeds that lie dormant for years
8. Trunks up to 25 cm diameter

- ▶ *Entelea arborescens*
- ▶ COMMON NAME whau
- ▶ SYNONYMS *Apeiba australis* A.Rich.
FAMILY Malvaceae
- ▶ AUTHORITY *Entelea arborescens* R.Br.
- ▶ FLORA CATEGORY Vascular - Native
- ▶ COMMON NAMES Paper Mulberry;
Corkwood or New Zealand Cork Tree

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings, North (including Little and Great Barrier Islands) and South Islands.

In the North Island, whau is locally common from Te Paki to about Kawhia and Mahia Peninsula. South of there it is known from a few sites in the northern Taranaki, eastern Wairarapa, Cape Palliser, at Paekakariki and Wellington.

In the South Island it is confined to the Golden Bay area of North-West Nelson.

Whau naturalises easily and has become established in many places, especially around baches and urban plantings.

The Light Wood

- ▶ Whau is a very light wood with a density similar to balsa wood. Whau wood is about half the weight of cork.
- ▶ Density of Cork 0.235 g/cubic cm
- ▶ Density of Balsa wood 0.11/0.14 g/cubic cm
- ▶ Density of Rimu wood 0.55 at 12% moisture

Used for: -

The seeds and wood could be used as floats for fishing nets and marker buoys.

The sticks for stick games were sometimes made as were pois for dancing.

“

*Let the tongue of everyone be free to speak,
but what will be the end? Our sayings will
sink to the bottom like a stone, but your
sayings will float light, like the wood of the
Whau tree and will always remain to be seen.* ”

Whau is the Maori name for Avondale in Auckland.



Acknowledgements and Sources

The internet and various web sites and picture sources.

The Meaning of Trees by Robert Vennell.

Eagles Complete Trees and Scrubs of New Zealand by Audrey Eagle.

Maori Place Names by A W Reed.

My inspiration for this: -

A recent visit to Mana Island where I saw it growing and mistook it for a chestnut (edible) tree.