



Arbor Day in New Plymouth was marked with the unveiling of the 1991 Founders Plantation plaque yesterday. New Plymouth District Mayor David Lean and Merrilands Lions project convener Dan Horsley (right) uncover the plaque watched by about 80 people.

Photo: ADRIAN MALLOCH

Plaque unveiled

THE 1991 FOUNDERS Plantation commemorative plaque was officially unveiled on Arbor Day yesterday watched by about 80 people.

New Plymouth District Mayor David Lean congratulated Merrilands Lions project convener Dan Horsley for his initiative.

In reply Mr Horsley said the plantation was a place where dreams could be realised. "We're not finishing something, we're starting something."

Valerie Cunninghame, the daughter of landowner and herbalist Abraham Salaman said her father would have been thrilled to see what has been done with the area. Mr Salaman died in 1941.

An historic spade from the Taranaki Museum was used to plant three kauri on the site yesterday. The spade was used by Jane Carrington, daughter of Frederick Alonzo Carrington, when the first trees were planted in Pukekura Park on May 29, 1876. It was used again for the park centennial in 1976.

The bulk of the 1991 native trees, including totara and rimu, will be planted at the weekend.

1991 theme to planting

The sponsored trees will be marked with a plaque.

Clearing of the Salaman Reserve site, between Govett Ave and Waimea St, was started last year by the Lions and other groups.

District council community services manager Alan Jellyman said the plantation would be typical of urban forest plantations to be set up in the city.

The plantations would offset the treeless landscapes caused as housing became denser. The "lungs" of the city would be replaced through the green belts along valleys and steep slopes which would enable trees of some stature to grow to replace those removed in the more intensively developed urban areas, Mr Jellyman said.

Further plantations, which meant a significant maintenance commitment, would be developed probably on a yearly basis, he said.

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