

Introduction Tui Glen Park is a reserve of 5.42 hectares located some 800m (by road) to the North of the commercial centre of Henderson and 3 kilometres from the Te Atatu turn-off from the Auckland-Kumeu Motorway. The park is within 18km of the Auckland Central Post Office and is one of very few camping grounds relatively close to the city centre.

Location, Area.

Present Use The park's position within the West Auckland area, together with the nature of the facilities provided, attracts a large and growing number of users :-

1971-1972	-	2680 visitors
1977-1978	-	3053 visitors

Neighbourhood Function In addition to its role as a Motor Camp, Tui Glen is used as a neighbourhood park by those people living in the locality. It performs both aesthetic and recreational functions, providing a visually attractive area of open space and an area for passive recreation.

Adjoining Land Uses Tui Glen is bounded to the West by the Oratia Stream, to the North by residential development on Chilcott Road and to the East and South by residential development on Edmonton Road.

Access Vehicle access is provided by Claude Brookes Road, a short access street off Edmonton Road. Pedestrian access is by way of a walkway along the stream bank reserve from Falls Park and by a R.O.W. from Chilcott Road. The park is one of a number of reserves within the Borough to be linked by stream bank walkways. Eventually these walkways will provide tranquil and attractive alternatives to road access. As part of its reserve development plan, Council intends to improve the streambank path from Falls Park to Tui Glen and to build a footbridge across the Oratia Stream. The bridge will connect Tui Glen and the proposed Community & Recreational Centre at the end of Ratanui Street.

History Mr Claude Brookes an engineer of Auckland "discovered" the land now known as Tui Glen in 1911 when he and his family were on a boating excursion to the upper reaches of the Waitemata. He was very attracted to the area and in 1912 bought the land from a Mr Broughton for a summer residence. The Brookes family cleared and planted the land and later decided to transport a cottage to Tui Glen. The house was taken in two sections by barge up the Henderson Creek.

Transportation of the home was not easy. At Shelly Point off Te Atatu the barge carrying part of their house sank. Despite this misfortune the family eventually established their home "Glen Haven" at Tui Glen.

In 1915 Mr. Brookes purchased an adjoining 7 acres - Glendale from a Mr. Carter and the Brookes family moved into the Carter home. (This is now the Manager's house at Tui Glen).

The planting and clearing then began in earnest and today the number and beauty of the mature trees at Tui Glen are a tribute to the foresight of the Brookes family. The development of the camping ground was begun when Mr. Brookes realised that the scenic attractions of Tui Glen, which was within easy motoring distance from Auckland, would make an ideal site for camping and picnicking.

7 acres of the property were made into picnic grounds and in the early 1920's accommodation was provided in a unique form.

The Brookes purchased ships' cabins, barged them to the camping ground and rented them out to holiday makers. This unique type of holiday accommodation was the origin of the term cabin accommodation

The first cabin which was purchased in 1921 was the Masters' cabin from the Union Steam Ship Company freighter the 'Wainui' and this cabin is still at Tui Glen.

Later, cabins were built by the Brookes family largely out of packing cases and tar paper.

The costs of developing Tui Glen were subsidised by the sale of apples from the orchard on the property. Mr. Brookes took the apples by launch to the coolstores at Freemans Bay on his way to work in Auckland.

In 1925 Tui Glen made history as the first camping ground to be registered in New Zealand. By this time Claude Brookes had developed a wide range of facilities for day visitors and occupants of the picnic and camping ground. During the 1920's the use of the park was restricted to motorists and motor cyclists.

Visitors to the park were able to play many games and sports including tennis, cricket, quoits, skittles, deck bowls, football, etc., to go swimming, boating, to ride donkeys (if the visitor was under 12 years of age) and to enjoy picnicking "amidst native trees and shady nooks". One very popular shady nook was Tui Glen Dell which Mr. Brookes had transformed into a "Japanese" garden complete with ponds, fountains lit by coloured lights, secluded walks and ornamental bridges. The Dell which is on land retained by a descendant of Mr. Brookes is now a wilderness although part of the rock foundations can still be seen.

Before World War II Henderson Creek was a relatively unpolluted waterway and launches could navigate the river up to Falls Park. Improvements made to Tui Glen in the 1930's included the creation of an artificial sandy beach on the river bank (the sand being barged to Tui Glen from Shelly Point) and the construction of bathing and boating sheds.

The 1933 booklet of the Henderson School and District Committee produced this somewhat quaint eulogy on the Glen.

"Tui Glen - situated in Edmonton Road, Henderson, but a few miles from the heart of the city, is declared by motorists to be the finest motor camp in the Dominion. Beautifully lawned and shrubbed on the banks of a picturesque stream, the natural contour of the ground is ideal for either peace and quiet or joyful revelry. Some of the special features are 40 varieties of games, canoes, donkeys, beautiful birds and curious animals, goldfish, trout, beautiful flowers and gardens, cosy corners (expensively seated), up-to-date refreshment accommodation, sanitary and dressing rooms of modern order, and a method of management which is rarely equalled and never surpassed.