

## ŌRĀKEI SCHOOL CASE STUDY: AN A+ IN TREE CARE SERVICES, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

Nestled in the beautiful Auckland suburb of Ōrākei, Ōrākei School has spacious and picturesque grounds with an abundance of native trees including an on-site forest which was planted by the very first year of students more than 80 years ago.

The Ōrākei School vision is “Nurturing Excellence with Kindness” and their natural surroundings very much embodies this. The on-site forest provides natural shade for the kids to cool down, food, protection and homes for native birds and will aid the next generation of students by producing oxygen and cleaning the air by absorbing odours and pollutant gases.

Given their 80 year investment in developing the on-site forest as a key pillar of the school, it's not surprising that their school logo is a Pohutukawa and that maintaining and caring for their trees is a top priority.

Two years ago Ōrākei School engaged Pro Climb as their contract arborists. School Principal Michael Earl initially heard about Pro Climb through one of his teachers, he was having issues securing a regular arborist and felt that other arborists he worked with would often push out the school's jobs in favour of bigger accounts at other places. Michael reached out to Pro Climb owner and director Andreas (Rossy) Ross to discuss the school's tree care and maintenance needs and was impressed with the offer of a free audit.



The 80 year old on-site forest at Ōrākei School.

“ Rossy was very responsive and proactive. He came on-site to the school, provided a free audit and from there a detailed property maintenance plan. It was immediately obvious that he really cares about trees, its not just a job for him, it's his life. ”

Feeling that Rossy's vision sat well with the school's values and vision, Michael didn't hesitate to contract Pro Climb as their regular arborists. A key outcome for Michael from Rossy's detailed planning and the way he works is the ability to budget correctly and consistently to ensure there is always funding provision for ongoing tree care.

### Tree educators and advocates

As the relationship between Pro Climb and Ōrākei School developed over time it became apparent that Rossy could offer far more to the school than just tree care and maintenance. The Pro Climb team have now become educators and tree advocates to the students, by running safe tree climbing workshops and sessions on safety and conservation. Michael shares,

“It's great that the kids now have an understanding and insight into what arborists do as well as why it's so important to make sure trees are healthy, Rossy and the team are helping them to make better, more educated choices. What Rossy is able to offer is best practice in his industry.”





A magnificent Pohutukawa tree frames the entrance to Ōrākei School.

### Safety is always a key consideration

Safety is key in a school setting and Michael is highly complimentary of the Pro Climb team in this regard,

“They always clean everything up as much as possible and the team is totally professional whilst on-site and they certainly know how to work in a school environment. The service that Pro Climb have provided has made the school safer for our students and on top of that, Rossy ensures work is undertaken

primarily in the school holiday times to reduce any potential safety risks or harm to the children. If there's an emergency job, a clear safety plan is always in place which gives me total piece of mind. Rossy will do everything he can to keep the children safe.”

The relationship with Pro Climb has enabled Ōrākei School to become proactive rather than reactive when it comes to their tree management and Michael couldn't be happier.

**“I have no hesitation in recommending them. I would say to others who are looking for a regular arborist – just do it! Meet with Rossy and you won't be disappointed, he will over deliver. If you expect an 'A' he will give you an A+.”**

Pro Climb provide an all-inclusive service for your property including management and maintenance. Our company was founded to deliver high-quality tree care to all tree owners in Auckland.

Our team will work closely with you to ensure that your trees are an asset that enhances your school. From the planning of your landscape, through to the management of veteran trees, we have the knowledge, passion and experience to ensure that your needs and the needs of your trees, are met.

We believe that trees are an essential part of our landscape and deserve the utmost respect and care. Pro Climb will always go the extra mile to take care of them for you.

**PROCLIMB AUCKLAND WIDE –  
PROFESSIONAL ARBORISTS  
FULLY QUALIFIED AND INSURED**

**If you have a query about tree  
work at your school – please  
call the team on 09 300 1422**

**info@proclimb.co.nz**



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