

# *Streblus banksii* (turepo, milk tree)

Twenty-nine turepo trees, collected from six different locations, were planted at this site in October 2014 by volunteers of Whareroa Guardians and staff of Otari Native Botanic Garden.

Whareroa Farm provides an ideal location for planting turepo. The pest control programme here will significantly improve their survival. The forest here is also being constantly improved by the hard work of the Whareroa Guardians Community Trust.

The plants were collected and grown at Otari. Staff grow regionally threatened plant species for 'insurance stock' and to contribute towards restoration in the wild.

Next year, more turepo trees will be planted here and soon a healthy seed source will be available.



*Streblus* are members of the mulberry family, Moraceae.

They were once quite widespread, but its distribution is now sparse. Their leaves are browsed by goats and possums and rodents eat the fruit and seeds.

Turepo are dioecious, meaning they have male and female flowers on separate plants. These trees have all been grown from cuttings. This is called asexual propagation (without sex) and each tree is essentially a clone, genetically identical to its parent. This enables us to know which plants are male and female and we can avoid planting the site entirely with plants of the same sex. The plants have come from various remnant trees around the Kapiti region.