

Some of you might be aware that I was invited to present a couple of papers at the International Society Australian Arboriculture Conference in Sydney in 2004, where I had the pleasure of catching up with Rick Thomas of ArborCulture Pte Ltd, Singapore again. These presentations seem to have gone down rather well and Tree Logic in Melbourne invited me back in April of 2005 to present on their Urban Tree Risk seminar tour.

During both trips the interest expressed in being trained and licensed to use Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) was enormous, and Mike Ellison and I are planning to come over to Australia in March 2006 to deliver QTRA licensing training workshops. Additionally, we will be running the highly acclaimed advanced visual tree assessment two day workshop, teaching delegates how to map decay with the Thor 710 Acoustic Hammer and assess tree failure thresholds. Rick tells me that you guys in Singapore might also be interested in these and has kindly offered to post this on the ArborCulture website, and help with organisation.

Since my April trip things have moved on a lot and QTRA has been published in the ISA's Journal of Arboriculture and Arborist News. The methodology has also undergone some important developments since publication. Training and licensing has been going great guns over in the UK with little more than a word of mouth approach so far; which has resulted in well over 100 license users trained in 2005, with other interest from Australia, Ireland, Netherlands New Zealand, and USA. A number of Municipalities are beginning to incorporate the core concept of QTRA into their tree policy and levels of interest are escalating after recent coverage in national trade magazines and regional press involving some very high profile case studies.

We now have an International and Singapore page on the QTRA website so that we can compile a database, and then email you direct. Would you kindly visit the site via the link provided on this webpage and then hit the appropriate link to register your area of interest, so that we can crunch numbers and then keep you updated.

The QTRA website is continually developing and you might be interested in accessing and downloading some of the QTRA publications under the 'Resources for QTRA License Users' and 'Resources for Tree Managers' folder on the Nav bar. I look forward to catching up with you next year.