

Nicola Mason Crane

## My Favourite Trees

As a child living on Rothbury Riverside in the early/mid 70s, I had a fantastic imagination. Dad would often tell us stories from his youth and do nature quizzes at bed time, but my regular reading material was "The Far away Tree" by Enid Blyton. I loved the book and would imagine myself accompanying Silky and Moon Face on their many adventures. The Riverside was our playground and totally different from what it is today

Every day, I would cross the stepping stones laden with goodies and head along to my magical tree. I took presents, picnics, cards, and anything else I could lay my hands on. I happily chatted with visitors and locals alike, telling them all about Silky and Moonface and the adventures they had. I specifically remember borrowing an alarm clock from my Dad so that I could sneak along in the middle of the night to see if Silky and Moonface were out on the Riverbank playing. I was heartbroken when I didn't see them.

My tree is still in situ but has been cut back a lot over the years. The patterns on the tree and the areas where the branches had fallen over the years, looked to a 6-year-olds eyes as if they were windows and doors into untold secret lands within the tree.

I love this tree and I love the memories and the feelings that all come flooding back.

