



Pittosporum pimelioides

Photo Mark Bellingham



Scientific reserves in kauri forests are inadequate. The Waipoua forest sanctuary should be extended west to include the Wairau river forests shown here including kauri forest zoned for management. This would protect mature kauri growing on sand dunes, coastal kauri forest and a colony of the endangered shrub *Pittosporum pimelioides*.

acquisition for pine planting continues at the expense of the acquisition of threatened native forests and the shrublands in which kauri is regenerating. There is wide-spread clearance for pine planting of the shrubland areas in which regenerating kauri could form great forests of the future.

Although the 1973 Kauri Policy was set up to allay the public fears for the small area of mature kauri forest that remained, mature kauri logging continued until 1981. Kauri logging at Puketi State Forest was finally stopped in 1979 when a large kokako population was discovered. Logging contracts were transferred to Herekino State Forest near Kaitia until they expired in 1981.

A moratorium was placed on all logging in Puketi while a study of kokako was undertaken and this moratorium expires this year. However, some salvage logging operations have still gone on in Puketi despite the moratorium. Over 100 kokako have now been found in Puketi and this is one of the largest single populations of this species found anywhere in New Zealand. Half of the kokako in Puketi have territories outside the ecological reserve in areas zoned for forest management where they



Photo Guy Salmon

Kauri forests extend south of Auckland into the Coromandel and Kaimai Ranges. These young kauris are growing in the Hot springs road production zone of Katikati forest. Bay of Plenty people have been seeking permanent protection for this and other Kaimai-Mamaku forests for 11 years.

are vulnerable to any resumption of logging operations.

Today most State Forest kauri comes from regenerating kauri forests in Russell State Forest. Trees are felled and logging sites are cleared to aid visibility for the helicopter that usually lifts the whole log from the forest. This operation is only feasible with small sized kauri light enough for a helicopter lift.

1983 Kauri Management Review

The 1983 Kauri Management Review has put more emphasis on timber production. The 1973 Policy allowed 870 m³ per annum of kauri to be cut in State Forest. The 1983 Review wants the cut to equal the calculated growth throughout the forests zoned for management. This would mean a 14 fold increase in the current cut to 12,500 m³ per year.

Kauri management also involves planting kauri seedlings, a practice that evokes much public sympathy. But there are many places in which kauri have been planted where there is already good kauri regeneration and also in areas where kauri doesn't grow naturally. All the seedlings planted to date come from a few trees at Waipoua. Whether these seedlings will grow fast have straight trunks or thrive in climatic and soil conditions different to Waipoua is anybody's guess.

In the first four to five years of growth, kauri seedlings are "released" from the surrounding vegetation. Competing low vegetation is cut back and near by large trees are ring-barked. These include totara, rimu, tanekaha and many other forest canopy species. Natural forests are manipulated to produce an unnatural kauri mono-culture. The effects of this manipulation on nutrient recycling, tree health and growth, and wildlife is unknown, yet this unmonitored experiment is being carried out in thousands of hectares of forest. Obviously from a scenic and recreational viewpoint kauri management does change the character of the natural forest dramatically.

Towards representative kauri reserves

The 1983 Kauri Forest management Review fails to recognise the inadequacies of present reserves or timber management



Northland's native forests offer tremendous scope for recreational and tourism use compatible with their preservation. Provision of recreational facilities in the new Northland State Forest Park will be a major challenge to the Forest Service because few tracks presently exist. Most travel in kauri forest is along the easiest natural routes. River crossing, Waipoua stream, Puketi Forest.

Photo Ewen Cameron

practices. Our Society is currently documenting opportunities for a more representative kauri reserve system. We have already identified a range of areas as being of importance including the following:

Waipoua:

An extension to the west would give a continuous tract of protected forest from the top of the Tutamoe Range to the Tasman Sea. This extension would include mature kauri growing on old sand dunes, a colony of the endangered shrub *Pittosporum pimelioides* and coastal kauri forest.

Puketi:

The whole of Puketi Forest should be a sanctuary. This would protect the kokako population and preserve the giant kauri (including Te Tangi o te Tui, the fourth largest) which are in a proposed production zone.

Russell:

A larger reserve is needed here to represent the lowland and regenerating kauri forest associations of eastern Northland that have all but disappeared from this region.

Reserves are also needed with coastal and lowland kauri, and the various vegetation types associated with