



te matua ngahere
father of the forest

The mighty kauri, symbolic tree of the north, 190 years after Europeans first started to exploit this stately tree, reducing it in that time to about 4 percent of its former extent, plans are underway to bestow national park status on the north's kauri forests. Te Matua Ngahere (Father of the Forest) in Waipoua Forest has the greatest girth (16.41 metres) — of any living kauri.

Photo: Gerard Hutching



Kauri forest understory Photo: Brian Enting



The rare orchid *Yoania australis* was not described until 1963. This elusive orchid is found under taraire trees within mixed forests of kauri, taraire and nikau. Photos: Brian Enting