



The fund purchased 53 hectares of salt marsh sandspit and bush at Te Matuku Bay, Waiheke Island. The mixed kauri, tanekaha and kanuka forest contains some large pohutukawa and a kowhai stand.

agencies, national umbrella organisations, as well as private landowners can all bid for assistance.

One of the challenges facing the fund is to be proactive in identifying opportunities for protecting significant forested areas, instead of relying on what the mail bag brings. DoC is considering a proposal by the fund that reconnaissance-style accelerated assessments be done of private forest within each conservancy. These surveys would be less comprehensive but faster than those involved in the Protected Natural Areas programme. Di Lucas says they would put the fund's committee in a better position to judge the significance of individual applications.

THE PERFORMANCE of the Forest Heritage Fund to date in removing around 48,000 hectares of forested land from the effects of grazing by stock and the blades of bulldozers and chainsaws has been impressive. It has faced an extraordinarily difficult working environment with the Indigenous Forest Policy in limbo until the Forests Amendment Bill was introduced last July.

By announcing in November 1990 that it would move to control clearfelling and then doing nothing until mid-1992, National breathed life into a dying native timber milling industry and unleashed an

orgy of forest destruction. Logging contractors were quick to approach private landowners scare-mongering about lost opportunities for a financial return unless cutting rights were sold smartly.

The fund's resources have been stretched because landowners have based their asking price on what they would earn by clearfelling whole blocks for timber. Under a regime of sustainable forest management the costs of protection to the fund would only be the loss of the sustained yield. The Forests Amendment Bill purports to establish such a regime. But at the time of writing, loopholes such as allowing landowners to appeal to clear coupes of up to 20 hectares of beech forest, mean the legislation falls well short. A comprehensive ban on the export of sawn native timber, as well as sawlogs and chips, is also vital. Without it the fund is effectively competing with overseas interests in the market for native forests as timber.

It is unrealistic to expect the fund to be able to answer all the problems which exist in protecting our dwindling forest legacy. When the Resource Management Bill was being debated, Forest and Bird's calls for the Indigenous Forest Policy to be linked to the Bill were ignored. The legislation treats water but not native forests as a public resource. Any individual or organisation wanting to discharge into water or take or divert water from a river or lake requires the consent

Tena koutou nga uri o Tanemahuta, kahikatea
Mai rano i tu koutou i tenei takiwa o Tainui
I runga i te kopu o Papatuanuku
I tu koutou ko o tuakana, o teina hoki, ara pukatea, matai, pokaka,
totara me era atu
Engari - i tenei ra
Tu ana koutou - mokemoke ana
Nga morehu o tana wa
He tauira mo matou nga tangata
No reira kahikatea - tenei te mihi atu
E tu E tu E tu

(Denis Marshall, Minister of Conservation, at the dedication ceremony for the purchase of Yarndleys Bush, 17 July 1992)



Yarndleys Bush, Te Awamutu, a 14.5-hectare remnant of emergent kahikatea forest which once clothed extensive areas in the Waikato Basin. It was purchased from the Yarndley family by the Waipa District Council and the Forest Heritage Fund and is the first application from a local authority approved by the fund.

Greetings kahikatea - descendants of the God of the Forest
Long ago you stood in your thousands in this area of the Waikato
On the belly of Papatuanuku
You stood with your other relatives pukatea, matai, pokaka, totara
Alas - in these times
There you stand - a lonely reminder
A few survivors of those wonderful times
A glimpse (of that splendour) for mankind
Therefore - kahikatea - I pay homage to you
Greetings