

# Conservation update

## Still clearfelling in '93 . . .

AT YOKOHAMA, Japan, last November, New Zealand was welcomed as the 50th member of the International Tropical Timber Organisation. New Zealand's inaugural address to the ITTO made the proud claim that "We have found our own solution to the problem of deforestation. The seven million hectares of remaining natural forest are now almost completely protected."

Sadly, with this statement New Zealand has joined the ranks of international hypocrites in pulling a green curtain over the clearfelling and deforestation of our ancient rainforests.



URLICH WALTHER

*This is 1993, not 1973: recently felled tracts of dense rimu in Ianthe forest, South Westland. Inset: Rimu logs from South Westland forests at the Ruatapu Mill near Hokitika owned by Carter Holt Harvey.*

Since coming to office with a manifesto that said "the clearfelling (of native forests) will end", the National government has let loose the chainsaws in the beech forests of Southland where export woodchipping has resumed, in the kanuka forests and shrublands of the East Coast by making government subsidies

available for clearance, and in the rain-drenched rimu forests of South Westland.

Under the West Coast Accord the clearfelling of rimu in South Westland was to have ended last December. However, the government has extended the clearfelling undertaken by the state-owned West Coast Timberlands for

two more years which will see the logging of up to 50,000 rimu trees, each several centuries old.

Pleas to the government by Forest and Bird and local residents to end the felling have been ignored. As the Malaysians, the Brazilians and North Americans know, clearfelling rainforests with no

thought for the future is an easy way to make a quick buck.

In the 1990s New Zealand has gone from being one of the leading countries in the world on forest conservation to one of those that has to resort to international deception to conceal the awful reality of the destruction of its rainforests.

Kevin Smith

## More marine reserves

IN A FLURRY OF activity, timed for the Wellington Central byelection, three new marine reserves were approved by the government late last year – at Cathedral Cove near Hahei on the Coromandel Peninsula, Mayor Island in the Bay of Plenty, and Long Island in the Marlborough Sounds. All reserves were actively supported by Forest and Bird.

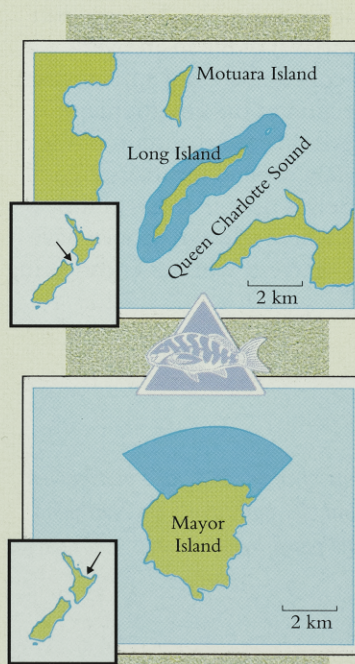
The Hahei reserve has been in the pipeline for some time (see *Conservation Update* August 1992) and has been gazetted without any of the major reductions in size that were feared. Hahei is significant in

that it is the first "mainland" marine reserve after Leigh.

The Mayor Island reserve, on the northern side of the island, began with a Maori initiative and had the active support of MAF Fisheries. It adjoins a restricted fishing area and includes underwater hot springs and areas of black volcanic glass.

The Long Island reserve, extending out half a kilometre right round the island, was proposed originally by Marlborough dive clubs and enjoyed strong local support.

While three new reserves in one hit is encouraging (and it is even *more* encouraging that the



government sees the announcement as "good" political news), the proportion of the coastline protected in no-take reserves remains under a pitifully small one percent. In many respects they remain an orphan in coastal and marine policy and are barely mentioned in the recent fisheries task force report and the draft national Coastal Policy.

It is essential that the reality of marine reserves as an insurance against greed and ignorance are built into both fisheries legislation and coastal policy.