



Kauri 2000

THE NEWSLETTER OF KAURI 2000 CHARITABLE TRUST

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A wonderfully generous gift at Christmas

A generous and very welcome donation was received just before Christmas from an anonymous donor with the proviso that it be spent to plant kauri trees on the land at Ferry Landing covenanted into a QEII National Trust by the late Jo McNeil shortly before she died in 2005.

"The gift is a recognition of similar generosity and foresight on the part of the McNeil family", Kauri 2000 chairwoman Alison Henry, says. Planting in the region of 700 young Kauri trees on the land will be a two-year project with a planting plan drawn up in consultation with the McNeil family.

"The first thing we want to do is find the right place to plant a memorial grove to mark the life of Jo McNeil."

Planting is planned to start in autumn 2007. ■

Adventure Racing Coromandel & the Spirit of Coromandel Trust

On a clear, sunny Sunday 20 November last year 123 runners and 18 walkers took part in Adventure Racing Coromandel's (ARC) Kauri Run, a 25 kilometre off-road mountain run, mostly through bush in the Coromandel Ranges, starting at Waikawau Bay and finishing at Coromandel Area School.

This is the second year ARC has organised this event and a Kauri sapling has been planted by the Spirit of Coromandel Trust for each entrant. In the future, it is hoped that competitors will be able to run down an avenue of Kauri trees.

The event was won this year, in a record time of 2:33:15, by Thomas Owens from England who had seen kauri trees for the first time in Kerikeri only two days before the race. He thought the 600 year old kauri trees were amazing and liked the idea that the race helps regenerate a forest. Second placed Colin Earwaker (last year's winner) loves the bush and says the kauri planting is part of the Kauri Run's appeal.

The walkers (winner: Sheila Hart 4:30:22) start two hours before the runners over the same course and next year a 12 kilometre option is planned for those who don't want such a tough run. ■

Pictures: Trudi Hayde



Top: from left Thomas Owens, Colin Earwaker and Gordon Blythen. Below: Sheila Hart.

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KAURI PERSONALITIES

Nathan Hills

Nathan Hills, who has done wonderful work releasing young Kauri trees from weeds and bracken, will spend four months full time with Jatan Sacha, a non-profit conservation organisation, on San Cristobal island in the Galapagos Islands and in the Bilsa coastal rain forest in Ecuador. He and other volunteers will live and work for two months in each location from the beginning of May to the end of August.

The Galapagos are known for their isolation (1000 kilometres west of South America) yet all islands have major weed and pest problems due to the high rate of plant imports from mainland South America. Weeds arrive daily and tropical Cedar and cinchona are particularly invasive. Much of the project will be weed control and revegetation using the fragment of native



vegetation which is left, developing native habitats and using technology to help locals with agriculture, - but Nathan looks forward to walks and snorkelling during any free time.

Ecuador has a similar land area to New Zealand and Bilsa biological station is part of a 3000 hectare ecological reserve in coastal north

west Ecuador, so remote it takes three days travelling by bus, truck and donkey to reach from the capital, Quito. Ranked third in the world for conservation priority it boasts very high endemism, approximately 90 trees per hectare, 330 bird species, at least 2000 plant species (30 new to science) and at least 20 species of mammal. Howler monkeys and poison frogs are among the locals! Nathan's work will involve experimental silviculture of tropical trees; seed and data collection; reforestation of 175 hectares using natives; fernology and individual projects including trips to local communities to promote eco tourism. Nathan, we wish you an exciting trip and look forward to hearing about it on your return.



Become a 'Friend of Kauri 2000'

FEB 2006

This season we will plant the 20,000th Kauri sapling - a milestone we can all be proud of. Maintaining our existing plantings is an ongoing task but this year, too, we anticipate the saplings planted in our first year will be high enough to stand on their own - yet another milestone. Your continuing support of \$20 (\$30 per family) per year will help us maintain the trees on our 34 existing sites. We will send you our newsletter, an integral part of the Kauri 2000 programme, and keep you abreast of activities and developments. Help us to achieve the goal of recreating the Kauri forests of the Coromandel

To The Secretary, Kauri 2000 Charitable Trust, PO Box 174, Whitianga

My donation is enclosed for the following:

- I have enclosed my \$20/\$30 subscription fee to become a 'Friend of Kauri 2000' Total \$ _____
- (insert number) seedlings @ \$10 to be planted on public land Total \$ _____
- (insert number) Kauri 2000 Gift Certificates at no extra cost (only available with tree donations as above)
- (insert number) commemorative aluminium tags to be placed, on the above trees @ \$10 per tag Total \$ _____
tag inscription (no more than 25 characters)

- I would also like to make a donation towards land clearing and other running costs of the Kauri 2000 Trust Total \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT (ENCLOSED) \$ _____

Please make sure you complete the address details at the side

Name	
Address	
Daytime Phone	
Email	

Kauri History: Great Barrier Island

Great Barrier Island was once covered in kauri forests, most of which were logged between the mid 19th and mid 20th centuries.

Remaining forests are now protected and are regenerating.

An area of original kauri forest survives at Hiramimata (Mt Hobson) summit.

The picture shows Ron Creed, Graham Clow, Cathy Creed and Glynis Skinner under a historic structure, described in the Department of Conservation notice as being "...part of a



hauling operation which was in use during Great Barrier's kauri logging era.

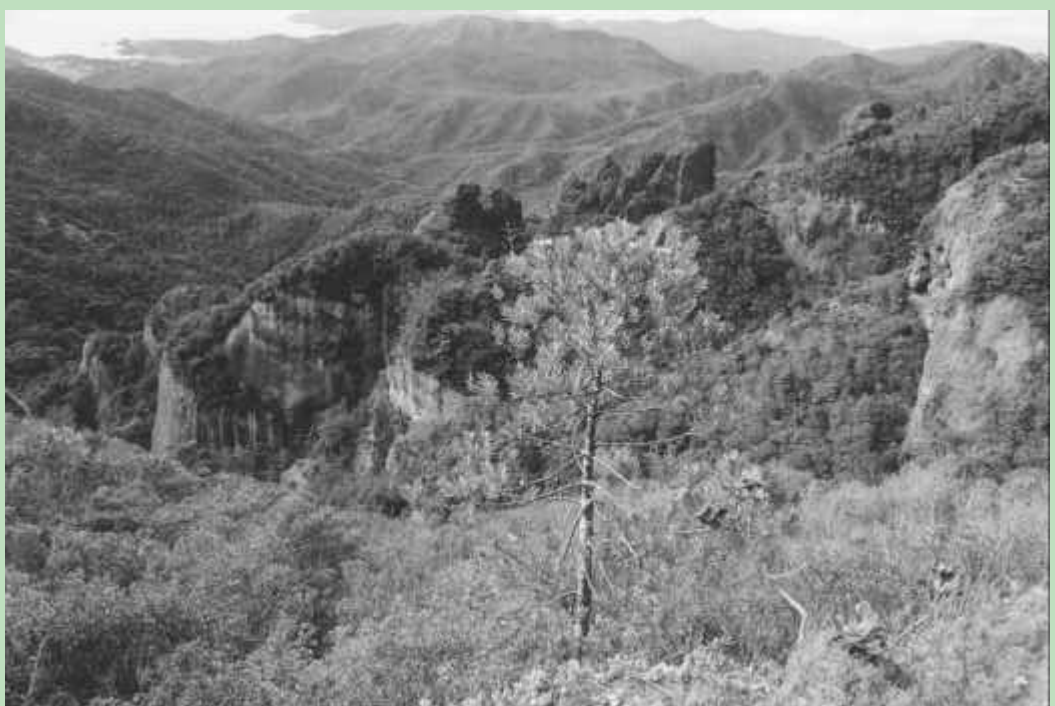
A steam-driven log hauler was sited in the valley below and used to haul logs over the ridge from the upper reaches of the Awana Stream. This frame held a pulley which kept the wire ropes off the ground and directed the logs over the ridge.

The logs were hauled to skid sites and then by bullock teams to the Whangapoua Harbour. They were roped together into rafts and towed by steam tugs to the mills in Auckland.

The logging operation was established by the Parker Lamb Timber Co Ltd, who were given a two year lease in 1924 to transport logs overland from the eastern side of Mt Hobson to Whangapoua Harbour."

Pictures: Trudi Hayde

One of Great Barrier Island's young, regenerated kauri trees with flowers just visible in its top twigs.



The Hamon Kauri

Taking advantage of the run of dry weather this summer a group of trampers visited the Hamon Kauri growing in the hills towards the source of the Kaimarama stream.

This Kauri is named for Rei Hamon, a former bushman, an artist and a tireless campaigner for the preservation of the Coromandel Kauri forests in the 1960s.

The reward of seeing this tree is well worth the effort of three hours tramping, crossing and re-crossing the stream with a near vertical climb out of the stream bed, then three hours retracing your steps.

The area was declared a forest sanctuary in February 1971, to preserve all Kauri and indigenous natives in the Manaia block on the Coromandel.

Rei Hamon was unsatisfied with the decision and still strongly opposed the forestry policy of thinning out old Kauri.

He also continued to campaign for stronger action to eradicate or to keep in check animal pests in the forests, opossums, deer and goats.

Pictures: S Cooper

Information on Rei Hamon taken from "Kauri, a king among kings" by J.G. Adams, a Wilson & Horton Group publication)



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