

we get a surge of new members, but we should be prepared to meet extra demands for information and advice.

Colin Ogle

1. Technical Advisory Group. 1986. The New Zealand Protected Natural Area Programme : a scientific focus. Editors: G C Kelly and G N Park. DSIR Science Information Publishing Centre, Wellington. 68 p.
2. New Zealand Biological Resources Centre. 1987. Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand; 3rd revised edition in four 1:50,000 maps. Editor: W M McEwen. *Biological Resources Centre Publication No. 5 (in 4 parts)*. New Zealand Department of Conservation. 326 p + 4 maps.

More Advice from the Past

Geoff Rogers (Rotorua)

Quotations (abridged) from pp 42-43 of *Waipoua Kauri Forest, its demarcation and management* (Department of Lands and Survey, 1918), by D E Hutchins.

Some lateral thinking on kauri forest management produced this advice, which was never heeded.

“Timber-hauling — when the forest at Waipoua comes to be worked, with Kauri and the good timber so much scattered, the choice of a good log-hauling animal is a matter of the first consideration.

Where the good timber is scattered, animal haulage is by far the most economical if the requisite animal is there. Oxen are difficult to beat. While the ordinary farmhorse is the most expensive animal for timber-hauling, it is the one most largely used at present.

The mule does the most work of its keep, but mules are not bred in New Zealand, and, like the horse, it wants artificial feeding. Why donkeys are not run on the scrub lands, and jennets bred, I have never heard satisfactorily explained. With no bad wild animals the scrub lands of New Zealand should be a donkey's paradise!

It is desirable, therefore, at once to think of the best animal for hauling timber — one that can feed itself. Buffaloes and elephants are both used largely for hauling timber, and both would be quite at home in the climate and with the feed of the Waipoua Forest.

Elephants — There is much to be said for and against elephants at Waipoua. It would be possible, but not easy, to catch a pair of young ones, let them run wild in the forest at Waipoua, and catch and put the surplus animals to work. The old ones would be useful in forming costless paths and keeping down the undergrowth. Once tamed they would make all the inspection paths required at little or no cost, and they would be an attraction to tourists.

Buffaloes — Buffaloes, however, are on quite another footing. They should be introduced without delay.

The “Sword-grass”, the Kiekie and coarse herbage eaten off, and the soil “wounded” by the heavy tread of the buffaloes, would be an aid to natural regeneration.”