

The first part of the book is rather dry, as it is simply an account of the many different types of indigenous forests that exist in Hawke's Bay. The 11 chapters go into considerable detail describing the forests and even the individual trees in the distinct areas or zones of Hawke's Bay. Photographs of landscapes, forests, and specimen trees illustrate the chapters and there are several examples of "now and then" photographs and paintings showing what the forest was like in the past compared to what it is now. For example, Figure 31 shows a painting of Waipatiki Beach done in 1855 compared to a photograph taken in 1976. The surprising feature of this comparison is that virtually nothing has changed since 1855!

Having set the scene in the first 100 pages, the book gets much more interesting as Dr Grant explains some of the factors influencing the forests of Hawke's Bay. The author presents his own "climate model" in Figure 62, which he developed by "combining his erosion-period chronology with the palaeotemperatures derived from speleothems and tree cellulose". Unfortunately many readers may put the book down before they reach this section, but in many ways, this is where the book really started for me.

Having discussed the various factors that can influence forest change in Hawke's Bay, the author then goes on to analyse these factors in more detail. His

conclusions are fascinating and they refute explanations that others have presented concerning the role of Maori in shaping the landscape of the area. I won't spoil the book for others by giving away the ending, but no doubt some readers will find his conclusions controversial.

The book will be of particular interest to those interested in the history of Hawke's Bay and New Zealand, and also to those fascinated by the effects of natural processes on forest succession. It will also lay the foundation for many new studies on the natural history of Hawke's Bay, and because it is so well illustrated, will provide an excellent photo (and painting) record of the area.

WJ Dyck

Next Annual General Meeting

Next year's AGM of the Institute is to be held in Wellington. The proposed theme is indigenous forest policy, covering conservation, production and the Forest Amendment Act. Resource description aspects might also be covered.

Growth models that account for seasonal differences

Research at CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products suggest that forest growth models that take account of differences between growth seasons can have practical applications. Peter Snowdon and colleagues are developing hybrid models based on traditional empirical growth models coupled with growth indices reflecting changing conditions for growth. The best indices found to date are based on process-based models developed on the effects of water and nutrient availability on the growth of radiata pine. Typically, the error in predictions of stand growth can be reduced by 30-50%.

These hybrid models have application in predicting the effect of climate change and interpreting growth data from experimental plantings where the climate may not have been like the long-term average. Probably the biggest potential is to update earlier forest inventory measurements to make more accurate estimates at harvesting.

(Extracted from "Onwood" - research updates of CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products).

'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'

by
Lindsay Poole



The greater part of Lindsay Poole's working life, or for that matter his whole life, has been geared to forestry one way or another — by forestry is meant the use of forests for multiple purposes, including especially protection of soil and water, and the growing of trees and the selling of wood. This life is traced in his new book, 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity'.

His comments about the relationship between short-term changing Governments and the long life of a tree have special significance, and his story will be of considerable interest especially to professional foresters, farm foresters, tree lovers generally, and politicians!

The 144 page casebound book includes 32 pages of colour and black and white photographs — many taken by noted forestry photographer John Johns — and they have informative captions.

Copies of 'Trees, Timber and Tranquillity' are obtainable from the publisher:

C. Rex Monigatti Publishing, PO Box 3541, Wellington, and from the author at 22A Waru Street, Khandallah, Wellington.

The \$35.00 price includes GST and packaging and postage within New Zealand.

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust predator-proof fence

The Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust was formed in 1995 to develop the 252 ha Karori Reservoir Valley in Wellington into a native wildlife sanctuary. A key to the project was construction of a 9 km predator-proof fence around the boundary of the valley. Three years' research was undertaken to come up with a suitable design, this research being supervised by Rod Hitchmough of Victoria University. The final fence design, for which a patent has been applied for, will keep out cats, possums, stoats, rats and even juvenile mice. It consists of three components; a wall of 2.2 m using 6 mm galvanised woven wire, a hat to prevent climbing animals entering and a basal skirt to prevent burrowers going under the fence.

The Trust expects to begin construction of the boundary fence in 1998. Further information on the fence is available from the trust at PO Box 28107, Wellington.