

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### *Special-purpose species*

Sir, — I read with enjoyment John Purey-Cust's excellent report on the special-purpose species workshop which appeared in Vol. 24 (2) of the *Journal*.

However, it is quite apparent that he is an inhabitant of the deepest south, for despite that fact that kauri grows quite well in Dunedin, Invercargill and even Stewart Island, most South Islanders tend to grossly underestimate its potential.

John lists seven fields for which special-purpose timbers are required. He concludes that *P. radiata*, with careful selection, can fill 5 of these and then blithely relegates kauri to one use! I would be interested to know which one?

Of the seven special uses listed, kauri is a premium timber for: (i) Furniture and cabinet work. (ii) Turnery. (iii) Decorative veneer and plywood.

It is suitable for exterior joinery and poles. With careful selection it can be used for ladder construction and low impact handles.

Kauri can thus fill all seven of the uses listed in John's paper and should be regarded as the premium special-purpose timber for the northern part of the North Island.

Some may think it grows too slowly, but, of the special-purpose species listed in the paper, properly managed, kauri has a growth rate better than or equal to silver, red and hard beech, Douglas fir, rata, tawa, black walnut, kanuka and mangao.

To John I extend a sincere invitation to "come north young man".

I. L. BARTON  
Forester,

*Auckland Regional Authority*

P.S. Kauri is also quite useful for building boats.

### *Wilderness areas*

Sir, — In an earlier issue (Vol. 24, No. 1) Les Molloy had comments about recent decisions on indigenous State forests, particularly the zoning and gazettal of wilderness areas.

Over the years Mr Molloy has contributed to the advancement of mountainland recreation, putting a lot of effort into Federated Mountain Clubs in particular. Regarding him as a man of cautious but generally reasonable views as far as the environment goes, I am surprised and disappointed by the attitude he adopts in the *Journal*.

The substance for argument in Mr Molloy's articles is the justification for wilderness especially wilderness over and above those existing areas set aside in National Parks and State Forest Parks. I do not think there is much point in taking detailed issue with Mr Molloy's "... résumé of . . . . . attempts to achieve a compromise between local and national interests". Obviously he deplores the postponement of the decision on the Tasman Wilderness Area.

Wilderness areas are commonly represented as parts of the country where the individual can slip the traces of modern society because all