

timber from its description? "White, firm, strong and of great elasticity, and is suitable for a great variety of purposes requiring strength, toughness and elasticity with light weight" (Howard 1948). No it is not hickory or ash but mangleo (*Litsea calicaris*). As far as is known no research has ever been carried out into the management potential of mangleo.

Because of their timber quality, many native timbers are quite valuable. A recent examination by myself of the potential returns from a sustainably managed kauri forest, planted with a blackwood nurse crop, for the purpose of timber production suggests that after 80 years it could return almost 8% on the investment. From then on, managed as a continuous cover forest on a selection system. It would return about 18% per cycle.

- The final reason for re-establishing sustainably managed indigenous forests are the non timber values. Of these carbon sequestration may be the most important, for forests managed in this way could be between 26% and 46% more effective than *P radiata* as a long-term carbon sink. Biodiversity enhancement is another important consideration. A study involving kauri grown with a range of exotic nurse species showed that after 28 years a total of 46 indigenous species had invaded the site – originally in pasture and blackberry. Of these nine were timber species, only one of which had a seed source adjacent to the trial (Barton & Steward 2002). A plantation of native species will encourage the invasion of further indigenous species and, because the new forest will be actively managed – including animal control, there should be little doubt that such forests will be extremely valuable as sites of species diversification.

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Footnote:

If anyone can inform the Trust of the whereabouts of old indigenous trials, records etc we would be pleased to hear from you.

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The world's biggest *P. coulteri*?

Sir

I enclose a photo of a very large *Pinus coulteri* (big



cone pine) near Gore. Ted Ramsay and I measured it in October 2002 for a mean height of 41.5 metres and breast height diameter of 1.5 metres. Like all tall trees it is difficult to photograph. The small brown thing at its base is me, which gives some indication of the tree's size. It is quite a well-formed tree though well studded with large dead branches and with a very small

crown. It appears healthy despite that.

It grows, along with other large trees of other species, on the old Waimea homestead site at Longridge on SH 94 just west of Riversdale. The exact age of the tree is uncertain but the homestead, a palatial affair of 21 rooms and made of dressed stone, was built in 1867. The gardens and ornamental plantings look to have been laid out at about the same time.

The homestead burnt down many years ago and is now a gothic ruin, surrounded by laurels and woodland, in what is otherwise a rather arid and windswept countryside.

My experience of *coulteri* is that it is not a large tree, and it occurs to me that we might here have the world's tallest specimen. Can anyone help me on that?

John Purey-Cust