



FIGURE 10. In the Waipaua Block of Pitt Island Scenic Reserve, May 1997.
(Above) The densest Chathams nikau forest left on earth - between Cabbage Tree and the Half Chain. Intact though this forest looks, it is fast becoming a shattered shell of its former self.
(Below) To the south-west of Cabbage Tree, the forests have already been reduced to woodlands. Exclosure Plot 14 is sited in the centre of the picture.

Photos Geoff Walls.





FIGURE 11

What's happening in the nikau woodlands. The palms, now far more exposed than they ever would have been naturally, are having their heads blown out or are being pushed over by wind. Meanwhile, feral sheep and pigs are preventing any tree regeneration and are turning the place into grassland.

Photos Geoff Walls.





FIGURE 12

Nikau Bush Conservation Area, Chatham Island, March 1993. Fenced since the early 1980s, this pocket remnant of nikau forest is rapidly returning to health. As the tree seeds fall, they regenerate in a profusion of young on the ground. This is how the nikau forests of Pitt Island would look if relieved of browsing animals.

