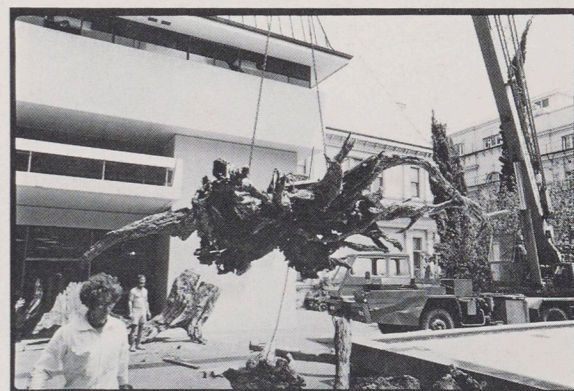
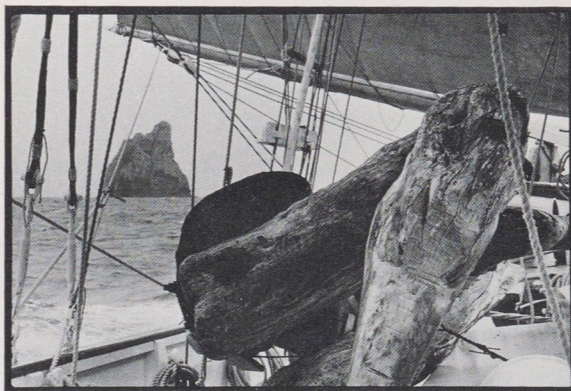
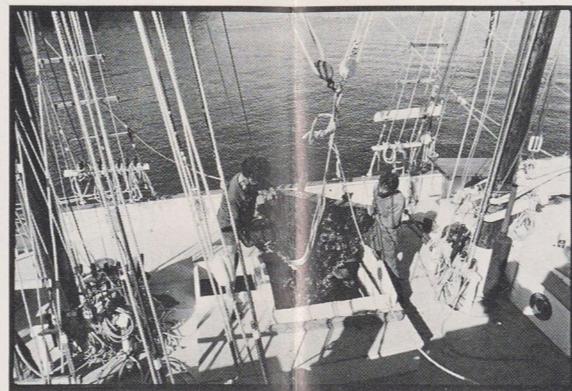
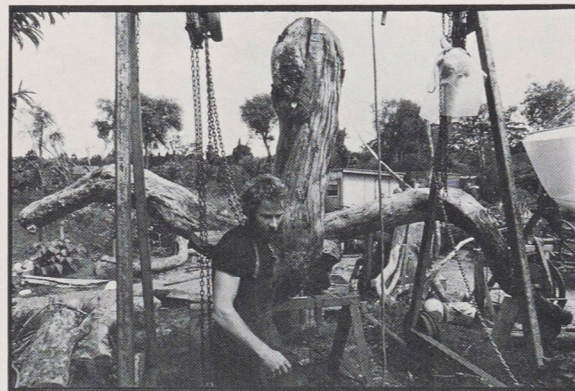
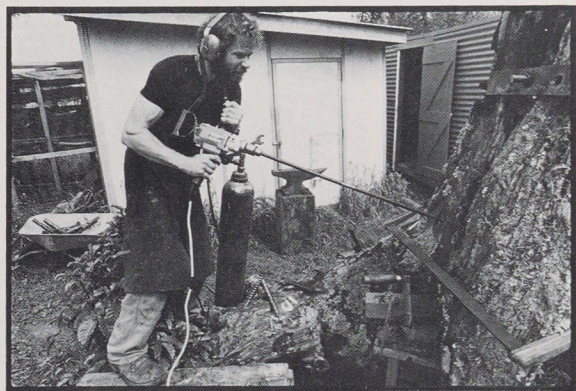
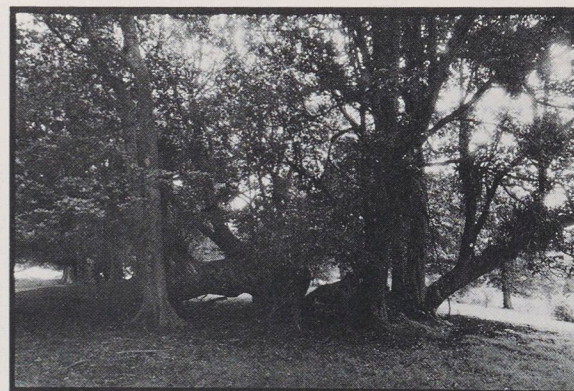
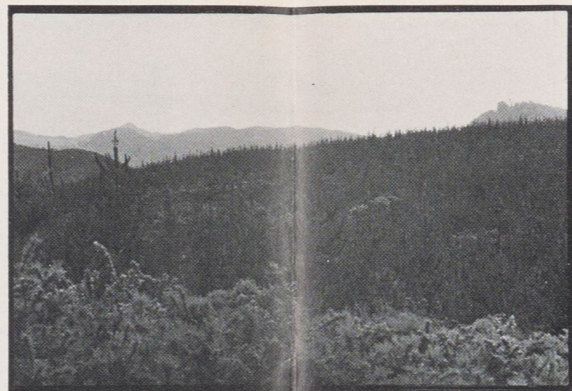




Auckland City Art Gallery
Artist's Project No 6
November 1983 – January 1984

Nga Tamariki a Tane
Chris Booth



Nga Tamariki a Tane — the children of Tane, god of the forests. This sculpture is a strong statement about the result of our continuing exploitation of native forests and bush, and the need for action to prevent this destruction.

The logging of Northland forests and the demolition of scrub and second growth bush has a devastating effect on all links in the ecological chain. When forest and bush are destroyed, erosion occurs, rivers become silted up and the habitat of birds and fish which live in estuaries is devastated.

The three estuarine birds in the sculpture — two shags and a heron — are made from puriri logs and stumps; relics of turn-of-the-century logging.

The tree stumps which surround the birds are the remnants of kauri, puriri and totara which were once common in forests throughout Northland. The stumps are the skeletons of these forests. The trees were cut and burnt by pioneer New Zealanders, and the remnants of the forests are still under attack today. The recovering areas of scrub which nurtures future forests are also being flattened and destroyed, and scrub is often seen as dispensable and worthless rather than the vital growing base for larger trees.

Under the Forestry Encouragement Grant scheme individuals and forestry companies are heavily subsidized with public money to clear native vegetation and establish plantations of timber trees (monocultures).

As New Zealanders it is time we took pride in our native environment and stopped these abuses.

Ewen K. Cameron
Botany Department
University of Auckland



Chris Booth transported his large sculpture to Auckland on the sailing ship *Breeze*. He is a member of the Breeze Sailing Club Charitable Trust.

It seemed to him appropriate that his sculpture which is a plea for conservation of Northland's forests, bush scrubland and native ecology should be transported to Auckland by sea. Sailing ships are a basic form of transport which waste little energy. They were for many years the principal means of communication between Northland and Auckland; and the road and rail connections which are now most often used have in themselves contributed to the destruction of native plants and birds.

The *Breeze* was loaded with sculpture at Kerikeri wharf by the Stone Store. It was the first load of cargo out of Kerikeri for Auckland for many years.

Chris Booth was born in Kawakawa in 1948. He studied at the Ilam School of Fine Arts, then went to Europe where he worked with several British and European sculptors. He returned to New Zealand in 1970 and established a workshop and foundry in Kerikeri.

He has had several commissions and has works in many private and public collections.

In 1982 he was Frances Hodgkins Fellow at the University of Otago, Dunedin. He is now living and working in Kerikeri.

Special thanks to family and friends and the *Breeze* Club for their generous assistance with this project.

Chris Booth
