

Kauri

Rickers, young Kauri and their use.

The Wairere Boulder valley was once populated by many majestic Kauri trees. Today there are many young trees, that will eventually reach the splendour of old.



Picture: Group of young rickers

The Kauri logging period of Northland started in the 1840s and reached its peak at the turn of the last century. The demand for building timber increased with the level of immigration and the gum trade was encouraged by a rise in prices from 1865. The Kauri trade was instrumental in the development of Auckland but more so for the upper Northern provinces. Gum stores, saw mills, and logging ports became centres of settlement. Bigger stands than at Wairere Boulders can be found at the Waipoua Forest, Omahuta Kauri Sanctuary, Warawara Forest and Puketī Forest. The young Kauri trees are called "rickers". In the mid-19th century, the timber

blanks for masts and spars were called rickers by British seamen, a corruption of 'Riga', the Baltic port that traditionally had been the chief export port for such timbers. Kauri were put to the same use shortly after the British colonisation of New Zealand.

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