



KAURI

THE TREE AND THE PEOPLE

A SHORT DOCO ABOUT THE ENIGMATIC KAURI OF COROMANDEL AND THE VISIONARY PEOPLE WHO ARE FIGHTING TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE OF THIS NATIONAL TREASURE.

KAURI are the giant of the forest. An ancient natural wonder of New Zealand. They once dominated the landscape and now the remaining trees have become icons for locals and tourists who come to see the legend that is Kauri. On the Coromandel Peninsula a long running project has re-established Kauri forest and restored heritage to the hills. Many thousands of young Kauri are planted each year, making a new Kauri forest for future generations to enjoy. However they are not safe. A disease has emerged that is killing Kauri with a rampant sickness, startling

scientists and hunters at its appearance and sudden onset. Kauri dieback is now a major threat to Coromandel Kauri. Sick and dying trees are turning up across the peninsula and efforts to control the disease seem futile. With the future of the magnificent old trees and the hopes for the young Kauri forest at stake we explore what makes Kauri special to the Coromandel and how we are going to save it. This film investigates the natural history of the Kauri through the eyes and voices of those who are connected to the tree.

With stunning Natural History Footage and compelling personal stories we explore what makes Kauri unique to this ecosystem following its journey from seed to forest giant and meeting the insects and animals that live with it. Driving the story behind the Kauri of Coromandel are Kaumatua, Conservationists, Pig Hunters and Scientists who all share a connection with Coromandel's Kauri. They speak about the folklore, conservation, peril and inspiration that define this tree. This is a true documentary film that weaves natural

and human history into an informative, inspiring and real story. It is a way of capturing a slice of Coromandel and New Zealand history that can be watched and enjoyed by people all over the world. This film aims to educate and motivate people to enjoy the outdoors, to understand people and nature, to protect Kauri and to appreciate more of the adventure that is in Coromandel. The amazing scenery, the fascinating people and the unique nature will all make this film a captivating watch and a brilliant piece of art for the world to

This film will be produced by Coromandel Film Collective (CFC). We are a not for profit group of professionals who aim to educate and foster filmmaking talent in the young people of Coromandel. CFC was set up by James Muir film Producer, Director, Cinematographer and Editor. James is a Natural History Cameraman and has worked for National Geographic and Natural History NZ. Recently James has also been running successful film workshops with students of Whitianga. The outcome of one of the latest workshops is the film 'I am Kauri' which

has inspired the idea to develop this documentary (See link above). Joining James is Expert Drone film pilot Pete May and Producer/Editor Chris Twemlow. We aim to expand CFC by inviting students with a talent for filmmaking to come aboard and give them the opportunity to work on a professional production close to home. This is a rare opportunity where students will get to develop skills and experience that is otherwise unavailable through local education or industry. CFC aims to mostly operate within the Northern Peninsula area.

Integrating arts, education, science and community into a purely Coromandel based production has the potential to further local and international understanding and interest in the region. This film is supported by Creative Mercury Bay (CMB) and Mercury Bay Area School (MBAS). Previous collaborations between James Muir and CMB, MBAS have provided an introduction to filmmaking and revealed some outstanding talent among the students of MBAS. We believe that these talents can be fostered here instead of having young people move away to get skills and experience in the film industry. This production will also serve to establish a unique film identity for Coromandel and encourage future film and TV industry to the region.

James Muir operates a mobile film unit for all the production requirements of a high quality professional documentary film. Students get to learn using professional equipment and find their strengths in the different roles of a production crew. Social media, marketing and distribution are also part of the production learning experience. We aim to build and maintain excellent communication to have a strong media identity for the film. We recognise that this gives us an audience, builds momentum to provide for our audience and gives excellent exposure for our supporters and partners. This is an integral part of working in current film and TV production and will make up part of our production education model.



Filming for 'I am Kauri' short

We are currently in pre-production and aim to begin producing (shooting, editing) this film in July, August, September 2015. Our outlook for completion and distribution is December 2015. The reason for the 6 month time frame is because we (CFC) and the students will only be able to work part time on the production and because it is a low budget film. The timeframe also works in our favour, allowing us to capture changes in the Kauri over the seasons. We are looking for interested partners/sponsors to help fund this film production in order to afford the time to get it made. CFC does not profit from the production funding but will meet a

budget to pay key contributors for their time on the production. We aim to reward students by giving them film equipment such as cameras and tripods, hence we are seeking a camera sponsor as well. A film like this does not need to be expensive. We will keep our budget to a minimum but we will need help to get it off the ground. We are seeking monetary assistance, great or small in exchange for wide reaching and ongoing marketing exposure for your brand or business. Through social media, websites, crowd funding campaigns and even on the film credits themselves. We welcome anyone to be associated and support this film.

To make a contribution or find out more contact James Muir at...

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COROMANDEL FILM COLLECTIVE

CREATE, EDUCATE, INSPIRE